

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

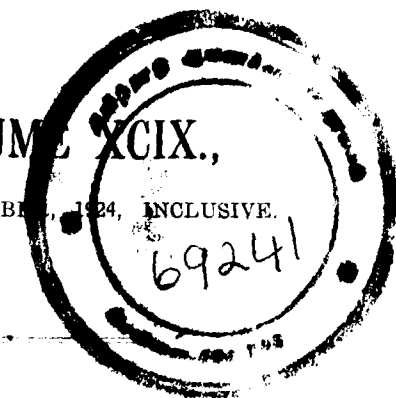
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

"Were all nations to follow the liberal system of free exportation and free importation, the different States into which a great continent was divided would so far resemble the different provinces of a great Empire. As among the different provinces of a great Empire the freedom of the inland trade appears, both from reason and experience, not only the best palliative of a dearth, but the most effectual preventative of a famine, so would the freedom of the exportation and importation trade be among the different States into which a great continent was divided."—ADAM SMITH.

56
Xm 56/12/6
1924.9.1

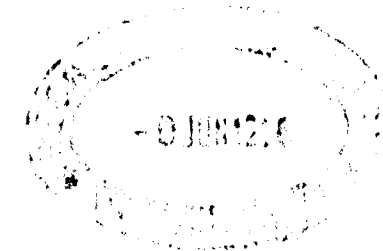
INDEX TO VOLUME XCIX.,

BEING FROM JULY TO DECEMBER, 1924, INCLUSIVE.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED AT THE ECONOMIST OFFICE,
3 ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

MCMXXIV.



INDEX TO THE ECONOMIST

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1924.

(L) = LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(R) = REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

Abbati, H., 351 (R), 823 (L)
 Abbontiakoon, 97
 A B C's of business, 540 (R)
 Aerated Bread Co., 816
 Aeroplane manufacture, 46
 African and Eastern Trade Corporation, 270
 African Selection Trust, 782
 Agar, Cross and Co., 928
 Agricultural adversity and diversity, 610
 Agricultural and General Engineers, 122
 Agricultural Conference, 908
 Agricultural Economics. Introduction to, 1019 (R)
 Agriculture :—
 Acreage and crop conditions, 309
 Conditions, 417, 959
 Conference, 908
 Home crops, 566
 Liberal land policy, 762, 806
 Potato and root crops, 773
 Wages, 267, 1009
 Wheat, 144, 187, 341
 World crops, 12, 228
 World production of cereals, 764
 Alcohol Fuel Corporation, 1022
 Aldershot Gas, Water, and District Lighting, 660
 Alliance Trust Co., 1039
 Allsopps' year, 1011
 Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, 794
 Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust, 959
 Amalgamated (Rubber) Finance Co., 742
 Amalgamated Press, Ltd., 363
 Amari Tin Mines, Ltd., 660
 America. U.S. of :—
 And the debt problem, 1008
 Automobile output, 54, 612
 Ballot complexities, 813
 Bank clearings, 1012
 Bankers' Convention, 612
 Banking, 233, 346
 Banking profits, 13
 Bonds, 54, 147, 383, 419, 920
 Branch banking, 44
 Budget idea, 13
 Building trade, 147, 312
 Business revival, 233, 346, 817
 Canadian notes, 532
 Coal output, 612
 Commodity prices, 147, 313, 454, 612, 817, 1012

America. U.S. of (continued) :—
 Coolidge and Europe, 915
 Coolidge and the Jingoists, 1053
 Cotton, 12, 16, 53, 98, 189, 228, 342, 383, 417, 454, 489, 567, 692, 770, 817, 865, 1054, 1060
 Cotton-Growers' Exchange, 731
 Cotton-seed oil, 382
 Credits. Foreign, 870
 Crops, 492, 734
 Crude oil and gasoline, 419
 Customs inquiries abroad, 811
 Davis, J. W., 50
 Dollar and the pound, 856, 907
 Dye production, 383
 Election, 266, 481, 720, 817
 European loans, 694
 Farm earnings, 383
 Foreign financing, 419, 492
 Foreign trade, 191, 492, 694, 961
 French loan, 920
 German loan flotation, 651
 German sugar credit, 272
 Gold exports, 1060
 Government bond issue, 1012
 Government crop report, 147
 Grain prices, 191
 Immigration, 98, 136
 Income-tax publicity, 734
 Industry, 312, 346, 734, 870
 Inter-Allied debts, 955
 Investment demand, 532
 Iron and steel statistics, 311
 Loans abroad, 774
 Maine election, 454
 Money, 16, 54, 147, 233, 346, 383, 532, 870, 1060
 Money policy, 267
 New issues, 346
 Oil, 12, 98
 Oil scandals, 7
 Panama Canal, 961
 President Coolidge and Europe, 915
 Presidential campaign, 266, 481, 563, 689
 Public debt, 16
 Railroad consolidation, 312, 694
 Railroad earnings, 454, 774, 1012
 Railway merger, 311
 Reserve banks and German trade bills, 272
 Rubber trade, 375, 694
 Scandinavia Customs, 770
 Securities, 233, 817

America. U.S. of (continued) :—
 Silver, 145, 651
 Steel Corporation, 272, 492, 774
 Steel industry, 147, 651, 817, 1060
 Stocks, 147, 383, 870, 920, 1060
 Sugar companies' merger, 734
 Textiles, 383, 454
 Trade, 54, 312, 346, 532, 734, 870, 920
 Treasury surplus for fiscal year, 16, 98
 U.S. and Foreign Securities Corporation, 694
 Wages, 54
 American view of Dawes' report, 91
 Analytical digest of the general election, 1923, 486
 Anglo-African Exploration, 782
 Anglo-Argentine Tramways, 938, 1064
 Anglo-Austrian Bank, 363
 Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 938
 Anglo-Continental Guano Works, 291
 Anglo-Dutch Plantations, 96
 Anglo-Egyptian conversations, 487, 565
 Anglo-German commercial treaty, 908
 Anglo-Ontario Mines, 155
 Anglo-Persian Oil, 813
 Anglo-Polish Bank, 363
 Anglo-Russian negotiations, 50
 Anglo-Siam Corporation, 509
 Anglo-South American Bank, 631
 Anglo-Spanish Construction Co., 928
 Ansell's Brewery, 751
 Antofagasta Nitrate, 700
 Antwerp Water Works, 674
 Apollinaris and Johannis, 73
 Aramayo Tin, 147, 612
 Arbitration. Commercial, 866
 Argentina :—
 Balance of payments, 821
 Banking, 315
 Banking law, 103
 Budget, 821
 Congress, 103
 Crops, 617, 821
 Currency, 16, 103, 315
 Exchange, 617, 1064
 General conditions, 496, 1064
 Gold shipments, 617
 Great Britain and, 956
 Great Western Railway, 674
 Harvests, 1064
 Income-tax, 315
 Land legislation, 496
 Markets, 821
 Money, 1064
 Public finance, 103, 315, 496, 1064
 Railways, 496, 631, 643
 Trade balance, 315

Dawes Report, 3, 18, 43, 83, 91, 100, 219, 305, 351 (R)
 Dawes Scheme appointments, 379, 416
 Dawes Scheme. Coal under the, 805
 De Beers Consolidated, 814
 De Bordes, J. van Walré, 182
 Debt Clearing Office, 648
 Debts, Inter-Allied, 955
 Democracy. A testing time for, 948
 Denaby and Cadeby Main Collieries, 592
 Denmark:—
 Agricultural exports, 577, 739
 Bank Troubles, 316
 Commodity prices, 739
 Crop prospects, 151, 316
 Economic situation, 144
 Exchanges, 151, 577
 Foreign trade, 316
 Government exchange scheme, 924
 National accounts, 739
 Prices, 924
 Security prices, 151
 Trade balance, 577, 924
 Unemployment, 924
 Dennis Bros., 938
 De Trey and Co., 74
 Development Commission, 770
 Diblee, G. B., 390 (R)
 Disarmament, 657 (R)
 Discounts and advances, 609
 Distillers Company, 14, 603
 Djasanga Rubber and Produce, 794
 Dollar and the pound. The, 856, 907
 Dorman, Long, 868
 Dudley, Stourbridge, &c., Electric Traction Co., 108
 Dumont coffee, 74
 Dunlop Rubber Co., 232, 452

East Indian Palm Oil, 649
 East Indian Railway, 123
 East London railway absorption, 867
 East Rand Proprietary, 97, 815
 East Worcestershire Waterworks, 108, 743
 Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire, 779 (R)
 Economics. National and International, 319 (R)
 Ecuador, 230
 Ecuadorian exchange, 867
 Edinburgh Corporation stock, 781
 Education. The Purpose of, 1019 (R)
 Egypt:—
 Anglo-Egyptian conversations, 487, 565
 Cotton crop, 730
 Crisis, 855, 914
 General situation, 804
 Great Britain and, 855, 914
 Public debt, 413
 Election, General, 1923, 486, 605
 Election, General, 1924, 519, 526, 559, 639, 683, 690, 719, 723, 727, 768, 809
 Election statistics, 690, 723, 809
 Electric supply Progress, 958
 Electrical unions, 306
 Electrolytic Zinc, 650
 Elements of Land Economics, 619 (R)
 Ely, Richard T., 619 (R)
 Emigration from the British Isles, 376
 Employment figures, 143, 308, 450, 607, 647, 812, 1008
 Employment of women, 264
 Emsley, H. H., 320 (R)
 Engineering trade, wages in, 865
 English, Scottish and Australian Bank, 794
 English Sewing Cotton, 95
 Equitable Trust Co. of New York, 170
 Einoid, Limited, 711
 Esperanza, 270

Estonia, 45
 Eulambio, M. S., 926 (R)
 European Bankruptcy and Immigration, 658 (R)
 European instability and British trade, 1007
 Exchequer Bond conversion result, 1008
 Factory costing, 320 (R)
 Farmers' Loan and Trust Co., 674, 989
 Finance:—
 America and the debt problem, 1008
 Bank rate, 49, 619 (L), 657 (L)
 Capital issues at home and abroad, 602
 Conference, 54, 83, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305
 Currency problem, 105
 Discounts and advances, 609
 Dollar and the pound, 856
 Exchequer bond conversion result, 1008
 German loan, 600, 608, 621, 651
 Gold standard, 23 (L), 59 (L), 142, 198 (L), 240 (L), 907
 Half-year's accounts, 527
 Inter-Allied debts, 955
 Loans for public works, 610
 London Agreement, 305, 313, 335, 347
 Monetary improvement in Europe, 561
 National income. Another estimate of, 692
 National income and taxation, 520
 Nation's savings, 640
 New capital, 4, 523
 Quarter's revenue, 9
 Reparations, 3, 18, 43, 54, 55, 83, 91, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 235, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305, 313, 335, 347, 348, 385, 419, 479
 Reparations commission, 272, 379, 416
 Silver standard, 278 (L)
 South African loan, 700
 State Theory of Money, 967 (R)
 Finance accounts, 307
 Financial Times, 107
 Finnish trade and finance, 869, 1056
 Fishing industry, 190, 1055
 Folkestone water works, 500
 Foreign trade (see Overseas trade)
 Foster, Wm., 878 (R)
 Foundation Co., 500
 France:—
 American loan, 871
 Amnesty Bill, 99
 Autumn session, 735
 Bank of France, 871
 Banking and the German loan, 419
 Bank rate, 1013
 Bank's policy, 455
 Borrowing, 533, 1013
 Bread, the price of, 696
 Budget, 384, 419, 455, 493, 533, 613, 652, 696, 818, 871, 921
 Capital tax, 774
 Civil servants' pay, 572, 613
 Coal deliveries, 419
 Coal output, 493, 572, 921
 Coke supplies, 234
 Commercial treaties and British industries, 347
 Commodity prices, 272, 613
 Cost of living, 54, 493
 Credit National, 148
 Devastated areas, 148
 Economic condition, 373
 Employment, 234
 Exchange, 419
 Export taxes, 652
 Financial Situation, 460 (R), 962
 Floating debt, 17
 Foreign trade, 148, 234, 313, 613, 818, 1013

France (continued):—
 Franc and French Public Finance, 10
 Franco-German Commercial Treaty, 774, 921
 Franco-German Steel Trust. Proposed, 735
 Government and Bank of France, 871
 Government of France, 153 (R)
 Herriot, M., 54
 Index numbers, 962
 Inter-Allied Conference, 54, 83, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305
 Inter-Allied debts, 313, 921, 955
 Investment of legal reserves, 652
 Iron and steel output, 234, 384, 572, 735
 London Agreement, 305, 313, 335, 347
 National finances, 17
 New committee, 54
 New loan, 652, 696, 734, 735, 1013
 Payment by cheque, 384
 Potash agreement, 347
 Prices, 493, 613, 696, 774
 Railway strikers, 818
 Reconstruction finance, 17, 1013
 Reparations, 3, 18, 43, 54, 55, 83, 91, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 235, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305, 313, 335, 347, 348, 385, 419, 479
 Revenue, 99, 272, 455, 613, 818, 1013
 Russian debt, 1047
 Russian overtures, 234
 Socialists and strikers, 99
 Socialists and the budget, 696
 Sugar, 384, 572
 Taxation, 533
 Tax evasion, 493
 Trade, 455
 Treasury bonds. New, 871
 Wheat, 384, 572, 613, 962
 Frederick Hotels, 592
 Frederick Sage, 938
 Free Trade, 225, 318 (L), 639
 Free Trade Conference, 491
 Freights, 51, 229, 342, 379, 490, 528, 729, 916
 French coupons, 817
 Fuel oil, 96
 Furness, Withy and Co., 145

Galicia Nitrate Co., 880
 Gas Light and Coke Co., 471
 General Election, 1923, 486, 605
 General Election, 1924, 519, 526, 559, 639, 683, 690, 719, 723, 727, 768, 809
 General Steam Navigation Co., 319 (R)
 Geneva discussions, 371
 Germany:—
 Agrarian duties, 274
 Agriculture, 456
 Anglo-German Commercial Treaty, 908, 963
 Banking, 348, 963
 Bourse, 55, 100, 314, 348, 385, 456, 494, 573, 614, 653, 736, 776, 819, 872, 1014, 1061
 Budget, 1014
 Cabinet, 1014, 1061
 Company finance, 1014
 Credit, 18, 100, 149, 494, 534, 573, 653, 921
 Crops, 55
 Currency, 55, 100, 235, 274, 385, 420, 573, 614, 653, 736, 776, 819, 872, 921, 1014, 1061
 Debt Clearing Office, 648
 Elections, 646, 954
 English trade policy, 1061
 Finances, 18, 55, 149, 235, 274, 314, 348, 385, 420, 456, 494, 534, 573, 653, 697, 736, 776, 819, 872, 921, 963, 1061

Germany (continued):—
 Food duties, 100
 Foreign speculation, 274
 Foreign trade, 18, 149, 235, 314, 385, 534, 697, 736, 819, 921, 1061
 Housing, 573
 Industry, 18, 100, 149, 235, 274, 348, 385, 420, 456, 494, 534, 573, 614, 653, 697, 736, 776, 819, 872, 921, 963, 1014, 1061
 League of Nations, 494
 Loan, external, 600, 608, 621, 651
 Loan collapse, 534
 Loans, currency, and, 736
 London agreement, 305, 313, 335, 347
 Outstanding loans, 314
 Politics, 420, 456, 534, 614, 697, 736, 776, 819, 872, 921
 Price policy, 456, 494
 Prices, 100, 314, 534, 614, 693, 1014
 Reichsbank's return, 697
 Reparation Coal Deliveries, 389 (L), 419
 Reparations, 3, 18, 43, 54, 55, 83, 91, 100, 135, 186, 193, 219, 235, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305, 313, 335, 347, 348, 385, 419, 479
 Reparations bonds, 1014
 Responsibility for the war, 336
 Stocks, 274
 Tariff policy, 18, 149, 494, 573, 614, 776
 Trade, 348
 Unemployment statistics, Supp., October 25
 Gillette Safety Razor Co., 580
 Glasgow Corporation Tramways, 95
 Glass Houghton and Castleford Collieries, 201
 Glass trade progress, 725
 Godfrey Phillips, Ltd., 928
 Gold Fields. Rhodesian, 734
 Gold Mines Investment, 869
 Gold standard, 23 (L), 59 (L), 142, 198 (L), 240 (L), 907
 Gordon, A., 60 (R)
 Gordon, E., 319 (R)
 Government and cost of living, 803
 Government and Protection, 915
 Government control of investments, 261
 Government service. Remuneration in, 769, 877 (L), 925 (L)
 Gramophone Co., 674
 Grand Trunk Pacific, 270, 349
 Gray, Lewis C., 1019 (R)
 Gray, Dunn and Co., 621, 660
 Great Northern Investment Trust, 742
 Great Western of Brazil, 35
 Greece:—
 Banks, 698
 British capital in public works, 58, 923
 Budget, 343
 Building agreement, 923
 Cost of living, 197, 698
 Declaration of Soviet representative, 58
 Electricity contract, 923
 Exchanges, 58, 577, 698
 Foreign trade, 698
 International Financial Commission, 197
 Loan, 864
 National Bank of Greece, 926 (R)
 Political situation, 197, 577
 Public finance, 577
 Public works, 698
 Refugee loan, 577, 618 (L), 698, 928, 955
 Watering of Athens. American proposals for, 923
 Greece. Economic and Financial, 824 (R)
 Guaranty Trust Co., 674, 989
 Guayaquil and Quito Railway, 1039
 Guinness (Arthur), Son and Co., 232
 Guyot, Yves, 153 (R)

Half-year's accounts, 527
 Hambling, Sir Herbert, on unemployment, 768
 Harland and Wolff, 155
 Harrison and Crosfield, 570
 Hastings Corporation stock, 155
 Hawtrey, R. G., 619 (L), 657 (L)
 Heiliges Geld, 926 (R)
 Hereford (Travancore) Tea, 62
 Herne Bay Gas Co., 970
 Herne Bay Waterworks Co., 881
 Hettlinger, Albert, 878 (R)
 Hewins, W. A. S., 153 (R)
 Hide and Co., 782
 Hoare, A. 23 (L)
 Hoare and Co., 124
 Holland:—
 Anglo-Russian agreement, 350
 Banking position, 150
 Bank rate, 1063
 Budget, 496, 655
 East Indies and the Budget, 655
 Exchange, 874
 Foreign trade, 350
 Gold standard, 19, 874
 Government economy, 19
 Import duties, 19
 National Debt, 1063
 Need for economy, 496
 New issues, 1063
 Next year's estimates, 350
 Parliament, 496
 Rotterdamsche Bankvereening, 150, 874
 Signs of recovery, 19
 State finances, 150
 Taxation, 496
 Wages, 19
 Hong Kong (see also China):—
 Conditions, 7, 569, 728
 Financial conditions, 277, 1017
 Metal stocks, 277
 Opium monopoly, 152
 Public works, 1017
 Taxation, 152
 Trade situation, 277, 1017
 Horden Collieries, 795
 Hosiery trade, 641
 Hotel Cecil, 752
 Hotel companies' profits, 912
 Housing at home and abroad, 859
 Hudson's Bay Co., 252, 752
 Hukuang Railway default, 1009
 Hungary:—
 Austro-Hungarian pre-war debts, 310
 Commercial treaty with Czechoslovakia, 779
 Crop prospects, 59
 Currency, 497
 Finance, 497
 Foreign trade, 59
 General conditions, 497, 1056
 Loan, 10, 25
 Reconstruction plan, 520, 861
 Trade outlook, 59
 Unemployment, 497
 Hurd, A., 1019 (R)
 Ilford, Limited, 939
 Illingworth, Morris and Co., 434
 Illinois Central Railroad, 674
 Imperial Airways, Ltd., 363, 712, 939
 Imperial Bank of India, 363
 Imperial Bank of Persia, 35
 Imperial Ottoman Bank, 123
 Imperial preference, 863
 Import and export prices, 739 (L)
 Ind, Coope's progress, 1011
 Index Number, 6, 222, 374, 522, 722, 910

India:—
 British trade, 866
 Capital. Supply of, 1055
 Cement production, 522
 Coal production, 103
 Cotton Excise duty, 615
 Cotton mill production, 1015
 Cotton profits and losses, 238
 Crop forecasts, 103
 Currency, 238, 422, 615, 685, 1050
 Currency Commission, 1015
 Exchange, 238, 422, 615, 685
 Foreign trade, 446, 483
 Government loan, 107
 Government stores, 615
 Industrial finance, 238
 Jute crop, 238
 Match manufacture, 103
 Mercantile marine, 422
 Problems, 143
 Railways, 103, 488, 615
 Steel bounty, 1015
 Sugar production, 422
 Tariffs and nationalisation, 103
 Tea prices, 1015
 Trade prospects, 422, 615, 730, 1050
 Wagon manufacture, 422
 India and Emigration, 278 (R)
 India-rubber, Gutta-percha, 816
 Indian Fiscal Reform, 241 (R)
 Industrial Bank of Japan, 328
 Industrial profits, 85, 601
 Industrial Tea and Rubber Trust, 826
 Industrial welfare, 233
 Industries. Safeguarding of, 949, 999
 Inland Revenue report, 308
 Innes, A. M., 23 (L)
 Insurance:—
 Assurance Companies Act inquiry, 190
 Clerical and Medical, 570
 Consolidated Assurance Co., Ltd., 959
 Costs and profits, 721
 Lancashire and Cheshire, 509
 Life Association of Scotland, 14
 Misrepresentation, 51
 New Zealand, 399
 Royal Exchange, 96
 Salvation Army, 592
 Sickness, for middle classes, 807
 Single premium assurance with loans, 1049
 Standard Life, 96
 State, 96
 Sun Life of Canada, 399
 United Insurance (Australia), 844
 Western Alliance Re-insurance Co., 959
 Insurance Supplement, July 12th
 Inter-Allied Conference, 54, 83, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 259, 299, 305
 Inter-allied debts, 955
 International cotton statistics, 528
 International Law Conference at Stockholm, 447
 International Sleeping Car, 928
 International Tea Co., 74
 International trade, Supp., August 23, 530
 Inveresk Paper Co., 795
 Investment; a New Profession, 967 (R)
 Investments. Government Control, 261
 Investment Trust Corporation, 752
 Iraq boundary dispute, 607
 Iraq, Turkey, and Britain, 526
 Irish Free State:—
 Affairs, 143, 769
 Boundary problem, 11, 226, 266, 378, 415, 449, 487, 519, 565
 Compensation, 567
 Currency, 269
 Finance and trade, 10
 Government, 92
 Political crisis, 565
 Irish linen, 910

Iron and Steel in the Industrial Revolution, 926 (R)
 Iron and steel production, 92, 268, 450, 608, 771, 957
 Iron ore and ironstone, 52
 "Is Unemployment Inevitable?" 740 (R)
 Italo-Belgian Bank, 1039
 Italy:—
 Banca Commerciale Italiana, 844
 Capital increases, 421
 Crisis, 11
 Economic position, Supp., November 29
 Fascist corporations and class federations, 964
 Foreign trade, 964
 General position, 761
 Political uneasiness, 421
 Slump in Stock Exchange quotations, 421
 Trade unions' movements, 964
 Wheat crop, 421

Jagersfontein Diamond, 232
 Jagtiani (H. M.), 390 (R)
 Jamaica sugar, 25
 Japan:—
 Conditions, 233, 651
 Financial position, 50
 Foreign trade, 239
 Historical Relations, 105 (R)
 Import tariff, 239
 New protocol, 525
 Reconstruction, 378, 732
 Jenson and Nicholson, 26
 Johannesburg Cons. Invest., 490
 John I. Thornycroft, 990
 Jordan, Herbert W., 23 (R)
 Joshua Hoyle, 815
 Jugoslavia:—
 Business conditions, 1063
 Exchange, 317, 1063
 Export, 1063
 Finance, 656, 1063
 Foreign trade, 317
 Government. Change of, 1063
 Government's programme, 317
 Harvest, 317, 656
 Progress, 569
 Trade, 656
 Treaty with Italy, 317
 Juvenile employment in London, 958

Kaffirs and the gold premium, 773
 Kamuning (Perak) Rubber, 592
 Kamunting Tin, 869
 Kayser, Ellison, and Co., 592
 Kazarine, S. M., 459 (L)
 Kelly's Directory, 24 (R), 968 (R)
 Key, Helmer, 658 (R)
 King's speech, 947
 Kintyre Tea, 592
 Knapp, Georg Friedrich, 967 (R)
 Knowles, L. C. A., 779 (R)
 Kuala Lumpur Rubber, 1039

Labour:—

Agricultural wages, 267, 1009
 Annual conference, 526
 Building strike, 340
 Communism and the Labour Party, 5, 565
 Cotton trade short time, 268, 647, 770, 865
 Emigration from British Isles, 376
 Employment figures, 143, 308, 450, 607, 647, 812, 1008

Labour (continued):—

Employment of women, 264
 Government, 559
 Immigration in the U.S.A., 136
 Juvenile employment in London, 958
 Miners' wages and coal profits, 11
 Population and labour supply, 337
 Railway men's demands, 956
 Sheltered and unsheltered wages, 657 (L)
 Stabilisation of wages, 341
 Strikes, 306
 Trade Union Congress, 377
 Trade unions, 860, 916
 Wages, 341, 527, 562, 609, 657 (L), 865
 Wages in Great Britain, 302
 Wages in 1924, 1053

Labour Party's programme, 606
 Lagunas Nitrate, 74
 Lagunas Syndicate, 712
 Lancashire and Cheshire Insurance, 509
 Land policy, 966 (L)
 Land Value Policy, 352 (R)
 Laski, H. J., 780 (R)
 Latvia, 89
 Laum, Von Bernhard, 926 (R)
 Lautaro Nitrate, 25
 Laverigne, Bernard, 540 (R)
 Lavington, F., 739 (L)
 Lawes' Chemical Manure, 399
 Law Relating to the Reduction of the Share Capital of Joint Stock Companies, 540 (R)
 Leach's Argentine Estates, 510
 Lead market, 731
 League of Nations:—
 And British Government, 185
 Arbitration, security, and armaments, 453
 Assembly, 340, 345, 410, 453, 491
 Austria, 100, 268, 453, 457, 488
 Balance of payments, at home and abroad, Supp., September 27
 Chamberlain at Rome, 954
 Council and Turkey, 727
 Covenant, 443, 479
 Disarmament, 657 (R)
 Geneva discussions, 371
 Hungarian loan, 10
 Hungarian reconstruction, 520
 International trade since the war, Supp., August 23
 Mosul question, 453
 Protocol, 479, 491, 525, 571
 Leather adulteration, 389 (L), 459 (L)
 Leatherhead Gas and Lighting Co., 660
 Le Bon, Gustav, 240 (R)
 Leicester Corporation stock, 782
 Les Co-opérative de Consommation en France, 540 (R)
 Letchworth. Progress at, 960
 Levy, Hermann, 319 (R)
 Lewis's, Ltd., 825
 Liberal land policy, 762, 806
 Liberal Party's programme, 606
 Life Association of Scotland, 14
 Lima Railways, 426
 Lipton's, Ltd., 14
 Liquid Air, 929
 Lisbon Electric Tramways, 752
 Lithuania, 138, 269
 Liverpool Nitrate, 795
 Liverpool Operatives' Union, 306
 Loans for public works, 610
 Lombardy in Transition, 199 (R)
 London agreement, 305, 313, 335, 347
 London and Rhodesia Mining, 869
 London Conference, 54, 83, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 259, 299, 305
 London County Council, 700
 London, Midland, and Scottish Concession Trust, 310, 452, 510
 London property companies, 448
 London Restaurants, Ltd., 929
 Looking Ahead, 60 (R)

Macdonald, Greenlees, and Williams, 426
 Maidstone and District Motor Service, 783
 Malayalam Plantations, 123
 Malayan Tin, 270
 Manchester Corporation bills, 425
 Manchester Liners, 592
 Manchester North Borneo Rubber, 73
 Manchester Ship Canal, 124
 Marconi International Marine, 171
 Marconi's Wireless Telegraph, 231, 795
 Marshall, Dr Alfred, 90
 Martin, Germain, 460 (R)
 Mason, D. M., 59 (L), 198 (L), 240 (L)
 Mason, George J., 969
 Massey's Burnley Brewery, 1022
 Matthew Brown and Co., 742
 Maughan, C., 109 (R)
 McKee, H. S., 540 (R)
 Mecca. The fall of, 646
 Medina, J., 822 (L)
 Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways, 461
 Melhuish (Proprietors), Limited, 108
 Merchant Navy. The, 1019 (R)
 Mersey Docks and Harbour, 733
 Metal price movements, 452
 Mexican Corporation, 919
 Mexican Eagle Oil, 52, 1011
 Mexican problem, 913
 Mexican Railway, 960

Mexico:—

And Great Britain, 416, 691, 864
 Crisis, 228
 Oil industry, 381
 Mid-European Corporation, 782
 Mid Kent Water, 970
 Midland Uruguay Railway, 751
 Mill, J. Stuart. Autobiography of, 780 (R)
 Millom and Askam Hematite Iron, 1049
 Miners' wages and coal profits, 11
 Mini Mini Tea, 783

Mining:—

Abbottiakoon, 97
 Amari Tin Mines, Ltd., 660
 Anglo-Ontario, 155
 Aramayo Tin, 147, 612
 Bingo Gold, 919
 British-American Nickel, 570
 Broken Hill Prop., 290, 382, 694
 Broken Hill prosperity, 733
 Burma Corporation, 814
 Cam and Motor, 650
 Chartered Co., 95
 Consolidated Gold Fields, 815
 Copper Outlook, 223, 772
 De Beers Consolidated, 814
 East Rand Prop., 97, 815
 Electrolytic Zinc, 650
 Esperanza, 270
 Gold Fields. Rhodesian, 734
 Gold Mines Investment, 869
 Jagersfontein Diamond, 232
 Johannesburg Cons. Invest., 490
 Kaffirs and the gold premium, 773
 Kamunting Tin, 869
 Lead market, 731
 London and Rhodesian, 869
 Malayan Tin, 270
 Mexico Corporation, 919
 Modder East, 491
 Mondego Tin, 542
 Mount Morgan, 382
 Naraguta, 453
 New Modderfontein and others, 531
 Non-Ferrous Metal group, 1010
 North Broken Hill, 650
 North Ropp River Tin, 783
 Nus River Gold, 26
 Oroville group, 191
 Pahang Consolidated, 919
 Pig Lead, 53, 268

Mining (continued):—

Porcupine-Davidson, 418, 869
 Rand. December dividends, 1010
 Rand. Improved methods, 97
 Rhodesia Broken Hill, 191
 Sabiwa Gold, 970
 Santa Gertrudis and Camp Bird, 960
 Selayang Tin, 970
 Sherwood Starr, 694
 South-West Africa Co., 938
 Spelter market, 816
 Sulphide Corporation, 1059
 Tanganyika, 146
 Tin and tinplate control, 649
 Tin dredging in the East, 1058
 Tin dredging results, 53
 Tingha Hydraulic Tin Mines, 1022
 Tin-plate industry, 139, 866
 Tin position, 13, 380, 532, 917
 Transvaal G.M.E., 146
 Transvaal output, 53, 271, 380, 418, 612, 773, 961
 Vah Ryn Gold, 919
 Welsh tinplate trade, 866
 West Australian, 15
 West Springs, 233
 Mitchells and Butlers, 211
 Mitsubishi Bank, 794
 Mitsui Bank, 631
 Modderfontein East, 491
 Moffat, F. M., 389 (L)
 Mocambique. Companhia de, 844
 Mondego Tin, 542
 Mond Nickel Co., 35
 Monetary improvement in Europe, 561
 Monnai et les Phénomènes Monétaires Contemporains, 878 (R)
 Montevideo Telephone, 712
 Moorhouse, Edward W., 619 (R)
 Morocco, 196, 379, 538, 568, 648, 770, 1000
 Morris, S. T., 199 (R)
 Motor trade statistics, 268
 Moulton, H. G., 351 (R), 699 (R)
 Mount Morgan Mining, 382
 Municipal elections, 727

Naraguta Tin, 453

National Bank of Australasia, 123, 592
 National Bank of Austria, 100, 574
 National Bank of Scotland, 989
 National Bank of South Africa, 35, 269
 National City Bank of New York, 938
 National Cotton Printing Works, 500
 National Discount, 751
 National income. Another estimate of, 692
 National income and taxation, 520
 Nation's health, 300
 Nation's savings, 640
 Netherlands East Indies, 105 (R)
 Neuchatel Asphalte Co., 928
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation loan, 969
 New Dimbula Co., 592
 New Modderfontein, 531
 New South Wales Government Railway, 989
 New South Wales Year-Book, 105 (R)
 New World: Problems in Political Geography, 424 (R)
 New York Trust Co., 170
 New Zealand:—
 Auckland loan, 500
 Australasian exchange and currency, 343
 Banking, 388
 Debt position, 22
 Exchange problem, 765
 Foreign trade, 616
 Imports and exports, 388
 Land tax, 616
 Public finance, 318, 445

New Zealand (continued):—

Railway strike, 388
 Revenue surplus, 22
 Taxation Commission, 388
 Taxes, 616
 Trade, 318
 New Zealand Insurance, 399
 Niemeyer, O., 618 (L)
 Niger Co., 434
 Nippon Yusen Kaisha, 123
 Nitrate position and results, 47
 Nizam's Gtd. State Railway, 591
 Nobel Industries, 417
 Nogaro, Bertrand, 878 (R)
 Non-Ferrous metal group, 1010
 North Broken Hill, 650
 North Hummock (Selangor) Rubber, 123
 North of Scotland Bank, 711
 North Ropp River Tin Co., 783
 Northern Banking Co., 631
 Norway:—
 Bank failure, A, 698
 Bank inspection, 351
 Bank troubles, 925
 Budget, 351
 Cabinet and prohibition, 196
 Christiania's new name, 196
 Crops, 351
 Den Norske Handelsbank, 695
 Dockers' strike ended, 196
 Exchange, 925
 Finance, 230
 Labour position, 58
 Loan in New York, 351
 Money and stocks, 58, 351
 Money rates, 925
 New parliament, 698
 October elections, 538
 Price movements, 351, 925
 Public debt, 538
 Real trade balance, 58
 Trade, 230, 351, 538
 Wage settlement, 538
 Nourse Mines, 531
 Nus River Gold Mines, 26

Observer, 876 (L)

Odhams Press, 98

Oil:—

American scandals, 7
 American situation, 12
 Anglo-Persian, 813
 Changed outlook, 730
 Coastal Oilfields of Columbia, Ltd., 1067
 Dallas Dome Wyoming Oilfields, 660
 Depression, 230
 East Indian palm oil, 649
 Fuel, 96
 Half-year's trade, 145
 Mexican Eagle, 52, 1011
 Mexico, 381
 Phoenix Oil and Transport Co., 1059
 Russian industry, 528
 Scottish American, 490
 Shale oil, 952
 South American, 958
 Steana Romana (British), 75, 1059
 Tankers, 490
 Turkish Petroleum Co., 309
 Venezuelan Oil Concessions, 232, 571
 Orient Steam Navigation, 959
 Oroville group, 191
 Our index number, 6, 222, 374, 522, 722, 910
 Overseas Trade (see also Trade):—
 Direction of, 301
 Half-year, 91
 Import and export prices, 739 (L)
 India. Trade with, 866
 Monthly, 50, 266, 415, 608, 761, 955

Overseas Trade (continued):—

Our markets, 761
 Quantity and value of, 687
 Oxford Gas Light and Coke, 580
 P. and O. Banking Corporation, 35
 Pahang Consolidated, 919
 Panama and the Canal zone, 1057
 Paper trade, 411, 498 (L)
 Paraguay Central Railway, 989
 Parent Tyre Co., 271
 Partington Steel, 510
 Patons and Baldwins, 35
 Pavlovsky, L., (R) 699
 Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron, 510
 Pekin Syndicate, Ltd., 990
 Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, 918
 Perfetti Nitrate Company, 660
 Persons, Warren M., 878 (R)
 Peru, 610
 Peru. Foreign capital in, 94, 198 (L)
 Peruvian Corporation, 795, 868
 Peter Walker and Robert Cain and Sons, Ltd., 659, 960
 Petrol production and prices, 344, 379, 451
 Phillips, Godfrey, 928
 Phoenix Oil and Transport Co., 1059
 Piccardo Tobacco Manufacturing, 471
 Pig lead, 53, 268
 Pit, St George Lane Fox, 1019 (R)
 Pitman, J. S., 199 (R)
 Plant, Dr Th., 319 (R)
 Platt Brothers, 74
 Poland:—
 Alcohol monopoly, 237
 Budget estimate for 1925, 875
 Commercial conditions, 1004
 Credit policy of Polish Bank, 20
 Crops, 875
 Export difficulties, 576
 Financial situation, 184, 220, 237, 576, 1004
 Grabski's statement, 20
 Grabski's optimistic outlook, 875
 Import duties, 20
 Oil production, 20
 Prices, 875
 Revenue, 20
 Special Powers Bill, 237
 Trade balance, 576
 Trade depression, 237, 576
 Polish Bank, 237
 Politics, 519, 559, 565, 599, 606, 639, 683, 690, 719, 723, 727, 759, 768, 947, 1047
 Politique Parlementaire et Politique Alarique, 153 (R)
 Population and labour supply, 337
 Population and the social problem, 105 (R)
 Porcupine-Davidson, 418, 869
 Port Dickson-Lukut Rubber, 471
 Port of London Authority, 568, 1021
 Potter and his competitors, 338
 Practical Directorship, 199 (R)
 Preference. Imperial, 863, 999, 1007
 Prices:—
 Cost of living, 144, 308, 450, 647, 812, 1008
 Cost of living. Government and, 803
 Index number, 6, 222, 374, 522, 722, 910
 Sugar, 688
 Wheat, 144, 187, 564
 Principles of Business Economics, 199 (R)
 Private sale of new securities, 539 (L)
 Problem of Business Forecasting. The, 878 (R)
 Progress at last, 1
 Property companies, 448

Proteclicos, D. E., 824 (R)
Protection, 225, 560, 863, 915, 999
Psychological Theory of Value, 390 (R)
Public income and expenditure, 527
Public Speaking for Business Men, 879 (R)
Public Works Loan Act, 610
Pugliese, G., 199 (R)
Pulp and paper industry in Canada, 263
Punjab National Bank, 631

Queensland Government loan, 580
Queensland National Bank, 170

Railway Debenture and General Trust, 200
Railway men's demands, 956
Railways:—

Agricultural and general engineers, 122
American merger, 311
Argentine Great Western, 674
Assam railways and trading, 844
Bahia Blanca, 550
Baltimore and Ohio, 96, 328
Barsi light, 550
Bengal-Nagpur, 674
Bombay, Baroda, 122
Buenos Ayres and Pacific, 591
Buenos Ayres Great Southern, 631
Buenos Ayres Western, 591
Canadian National, 231, 344
Canadian Pacific, 170, 252, 344, 574
Central Argentine, 631
Chicago Rock Island, 328
Cordoba Central, 674
Costa Rica, 123
East Indian, 123
East London absorption, 867
Grand Trunk Pacific, 270, 349
Great Western of Brazil, 35, 550
Guayaquil and Quito, 1039
Home dividends, 188, 1054
Hukuang default, 1009
Illinois Central, 674
Lima, 426
L.M.S. Conversion Trust, 310
Mexican, 960
Midland Uruguay, 751
New South Wales Government, 989
Nippon Yusen Kaisha, 123
Nizami's Gtd. State, 591
Paraguay Central, 989
Salvador report, 918
Southern, 742
Taltal, 591
United of Havana, 733
United of Yucatan, 938
Uruguayan, 611
Uruguay Northern, 751
Wages, 527

Rand December dividends, 1010
Rand mining methods, 97
Rand production and dividends, 194
Raphael Tuck, 674
Redhill Gas Co., 108
Remuneration in Government Service, 877 (L), 925 (L)
Reparation Coal Deliveries, 388 (L), 419
Reparation Plan, 351 (R)
Reparations, 3, 18, 43, 54, 55, 83, 91, 100, 135, 148, 149, 186, 193, 219, 235, 259, 272, 274, 299, 305, 313, 335, 347, 348, 385, 419, 479, 805, 810
Reparation Bonds, 1014
Reparations Commission, 272, 379, 416
Responsibility for the war, 336
Revenue return, 9
Rhodesia Broken Hill, 191
Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation, 929

Ribble Motor Services, 826
Rice, 190
Richard Thomas and Co., 869
Rio Negro (Argentina) Land Co., 510
Rôle of the State in the Provision of Railways, 390 (R)
Roneo, Ltd., 592
Roumania:—
Budget estimates for 1925, 966
Budget of 1924, 966
Business situation, 151
Cost of Living, 388
Crop situation, 151, 822
Exchange and politics, 151
Mining legislation, 151
Oil companies' finance, 1059
Oil production and prices, 822
Petroleum production, 388
Public finance, 822
Sugar, 822
Tariff revision, 151, 388
Trade, 388, 822

Royal Bank of Ireland, 471
Royal Bank of Scotland, 814
Royal Brewery, Brentford, 510
Royal Exchange Assurance, 96
Rubber:—
Amalgamated (Finance) Co., 742
Anglo-Dutch, 96
Bajoe-Kidoel, 592
Batu Rata (Sumatra), 550
Beaufort Borneo, 211
Bertam Consolidated, 73
Bukit Tupah, 742
Caledonian (Ceylon), 434
Djasinga, 794
India Rubber, Gutta Percha, 816
Industrial Tea and Rubber Trust, 826
Kamuning (Perak), 592
Kuala Lumpur, 1039
Malayalam, 123
Manchester North Borneo, 73
North Hummock, 123
Port Dickson-Lukut, 471
Position and outlook, 140, 865
Seaport (Selangor), 471
Sengat, 751
Shares, 451
Sumatra Para, 674
Tali Ayer, 434
Tandjong, 794
Tanjong Malim, 751
Tremelbye (Selangor), 73
Way-Halim, 550

Rubber and rubber shares, 189
Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, 35
Rubber trade in America, 375
Russia:—
Anglo-Russian negotiations, 50
Debt to France, 1047
Economic situation. Problems of, 766
Finance, 195
Harvest, 195, 222, 271
Loan, 407, 459 (L)
Oil industry, 528
Rural economy, 862
Soviet economics, 319 (R)
Treaty, 227, 260, 646, 863
Russian Commercial Bank, 592
Russian Debts and Russian Reconstruction, 699 (R)
Russo-British trade before the war, 372

Sabiwa Gold Mines, Ltd., 970
Sacrifice to expediency, 250
Safeguarding of industries, 949, 999
Sage, Frederick, 938
Saguenay Pulp and Paper, 650
Salar del Carmen Nitrate, 510
Salvador Railway report, 918
Salvation Army Assurance, 592

Santa Gertrudis and Camp Bird, 960
Scandinavia and U.S. Customs inquiries, 770
Scottish American Oil, 490
Scottish Central Investment, 621
Scottish Co-operative Trade, 344
Scottish Eastern Investment, 426
Scottish National Trust Co., 107
Scottish United Investors, 426, 461
Scrutator, 1018 (L)
Sea Carriage Bill, 93
Seaport (Selangor) Rubber, 471
Second Guardian Trust, 62
Securities—private sale, 539 (L)
Security prices and the election, 691
Selayang Tin Dredging, Ltd., 970
Sena Sugar Estates, 712
Sengat Rubber, 751
Shale Oil, 952
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron, 510
Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills, 434
Sheltered and unsheltered wages, 657 (L)
Sherwood Starr, 694

Shipping:—
British port facilities, 808
"Free" freights, 379, 528
Freight index, 51, 229, 729, 916
Furness, Withy and Co., 145
Homeward freights, 342, 490
Mersey Docks and Harbour, 733
Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, 918
Position and outlook, 180
Prospects, 857
Quarter's shipbuilding, 51, 567
Sea Carriage Bill, 93
Timber ports congestion, 489
York-Antwerp rules, 692
Siam. Kingdom of, 105 (R)
Silver, 311
Silver standard, 278 (L)
Simonson, P. F., 540 (R)
Skoda works, 752
Slater's report, 816
Smith, A. E. F., 1019 (L)
Smithfield and Argentine Meat, 631
Social insurance, 60 (R)
Social Policy in the Czechoslovak Republic, 1065 (R)
South Africa:—
Amortisation, 873
Banking, 269
Cape Electric Tramways, 711
Capital in mining industry, 537
Diamond production and sales, 537
Ex-enemy shares, 194
Expanding market, 339
Foreign trade, 570
General and railway budgets, 387
Gold, 655
Gold standard, 387
Gold stocks, 873
Government, 194
Government's protective policy, 537
Government's white labour policy, 655
Johannesburg budget, 873
Kaffirs and the gold premium, 773
Local and London loans, 387
Local loan "on tap," 382
Miners' phthisis, 537
Mining costs and yields, 655
New loan, 700
Railway deficit, 194
Rand December dividends, 1010
Rand mining methods, 97
Rand production and dividends, 194
Reserve bank's policy, 194
Transvaal output, 53, 271, 380, 418, 612, 773, 961
Union, 105 (R)
Wages, 655

South American oil, 958
South Durham Iron and Steel, 844
Southend Waterworks, 500
Southern Railway, 742

South Suburban Gas, 541
South Wales Power Co., 62
South-West Africa Co., 938
Soviet Russia, 319 (R)
Spain:—
Budget, 196, 1016
Exchange, 196
Foreign company taxation, 196
Foreign trade, 538
Morocco, 196, 379, 538, 568, 648, 771
National wealth, 1016
New issues, 1016
Railway problems, 196
Railway reorganisation, 1016
Reconstruction, 538

Spelter market, 816
Spiers and Ponds, 14
Spiller's milling and associated industries, 782
Standard Bank of South Africa, 123, 145
Standard Life Assurance, 96
State assurance, 96
State Theory of Money, 967 (R)
Staveley Coal and Iron, 471
Staveley Trust, 928
Steaua Romana (British), 75, 1059
Stentiford, Wm. H., 198 (L)
Sterling dollar exchange, 856, 907
Stewarts and Lloyds, 252
Stockbroker as principal, 1058

Stock Exchange:—
And advertisement, 94
And bucket shops, 489
And election, 566, 690
And London agreement, 308
And the public, 645
Boom, 723
Broker as principal, 1058
Christmas, 1053
Colonial and corporation stocks, 609
Colonial stocks and sinking fund, 698 (L)
Commission charges, 48
Experiences of underwriters, 13
German Loan. Views of the, 608
Investment demand. Strength of, 956
Kaffirs and the gold premium, 773
Loan accounts, 188
Markets, 342
Money in the markets, 812
Prospects for markets, 692
Responsibility, 141
Rubber shares, 451

Stoll Picture Theatre, 1077
Strikes, 306
Sturgis, Henry S., 967 (R)
Success, 1047
Sudan development, 8, 84
Sudan 4 per cent. guaranteed stock, 1974, 781
Sudan Plantations Syndicate, 712
Sudan trouble, 265
Sugar. Bounty for, 307
Sugar position, 1055
Sugar prices. The outlook for, 688
Sulphide Corporation, 1059
Sumatra Para Rubber, 674
Sumitomo Bank, 989
Sun Life Assurance of Canada, 399
Sweden:—
Agricultural outlook, 101
Business outlook, 538
German loan, 876
International Law Conference, 447
Labour and unemployment, 538, 876
Match industry, 101
New Government, 876
Prices, 876
Shipping and freights, 101
Steel process, 876
Trade, 876
Trade balance, 101, 538
Swlaburns, J., 105 (R)
Swiss hotel industry, 529

Swiss watchmaking industry, 1050
Switzerland:—
Economic depression, 58
Home and foreign borrowing, 238
Industrial emigration, 58
Money rates, 778
National accounts, 778
Outlook, 58
Trade improvement, 238, 778

Taf Fechan Water Supply, 25
Tali Ayer Rubber, 434
Taltal Railway, 591
Tandjong Rubber, 794
Tanganyika group, 146
Tanjong Malim Rubber, 751
Tankers, Ltd., 490
Tarapaca and Tocopilla Nitrate, 510
Tariffs. Mr Baldwin and, 526
Tata Iron and Steel, 592
Tate and Lyle, 919
Tea boom, 380
Tea plantation companies, 183
Ten years after, 179
Theodotou, S. T., 351 (R)
Thomas, Richard, 869
Thorne and Co., 1021
Thornycroft, John I., 990
Timber imports, 262
Timber ports congestion, 489
Tin dredging in the East, 1058
Tin dredging results, 53
Tin-plate industry, 139, 866
Tin position, 13, 380, 532, 917
Tin and tin-plate control, 649
Tingha Hydraulic Tin Mines, Ltd., 1022
Tokyo Electric Light Co., 712
Traction and Power Securities Co., 62
Trade (see also Overseas trade):—
Co-operative and trade unions, 452
European instability and British trade, 1007
Industries. Safeguarding of, 949
International. Supp., Aug. 23, 530
Monthly supplement, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 29, December 27
Russo-British, 372
Trade inquiry, 187
Trade in the Balance: Protection or Free Imports, 153 (R)
Trade-routes and Commerce of the Roman Empire, 823 (R)
Trade Term Definitions, 199 (R)
Trade Union Congress, 377
Trade unions, 860, 916
Trafford Park Estates, 510
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, 146
Transvaal output, 53, 271, 380, 418, 612, 773, 961
Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber, 73
Trinidad Leaseholds, 752
Trustees Corporation, 74
Tuck, Raphael, 674

Turkey:—
And her creditors, 1009
Britain and Iraq, 526
League Council, 727
New order, 93
Turkish Petroleum Co., 309
Turton, R. B., 60 (L)
Tyre Investment Trust, 171

Ulster Bank, 1077
Unclaimed Wealth, 351 (R), 823 (L)
Underwriters' experiences, 13
Unemployment, 143, 308, 376, 450, 607, 647, 812, 1008
Unemployment. A banker on, 768

Unemployment. Government's programme, 186
Union Bank of Australia, 123
Union Cold Storage, 490
United Anthracite Collieries, 291
United British Steamship Co., 825
United Dairies, 650
United Insurance (Australia), 844
United Lubricants, Ltd., 108
United Railroads of Yucatan, 938
United Railways of Havana, 733
United Steel Cos., 611
United Strip and Bar Mills, 1077
Uruguay Northern Railway, 751
Uruguay. Recovery in, 1057
Uruguayan Railways, 611
Uxbridge, Maidenhead, Wycombe, and District Gas, 826

Value, 351 (R)
Van den Berghs, 146
Van Driessche, G., 389 (L)
Van Ryn Gold, 919
Venezuela, 339
Venezuelan Oil Concessions, 232, 571
Victoria Government loan, 1021
Victoria Wine Co., 107
Viner, Jacob, 578 (R)

Wages, 341, 527, 562, 609, 657 (L), 865
Wages in Great Britain, 302
Wages in 1924, 1053
Walker (John) and Sons, 35
Wall Paper Manufacturers, 815
Wandsworth, Wimbledon, and Epsom Gas, 782
War. Ten years after, 179
Warble pest of cattle, 732
Warth Mills, 742
Watney, C., 424 (L), 877 (L)
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., 191
Way-Halim Rubber, 550
Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke, 795
Webb, Sir M. de P., 318 (L)
Wellington Corporation stock, 782
Welsh tinplate trade, 866
Welwyn Garden City, 62
Wembley's fate, 768
West Australian mining, 15
Western Australian Bank, 1021, 1077
Western Maskeliya Tea, 580
West Gloucestershire Power, 26
West Springs Mines, 233
West Surrey Water Co., 880
Weston-super-Mare Gaslight Co., 929
Wheat, 144, 187, 341, 564
White, J. D., 352 (R)
Whitehall Electric Investments, 752, 939
Wicks, Sidney F., 879 (R)
Willard, Myra, 578 (R)
Winnipeg Electric Co., 592
Witan Investment Co., 201
Woodhead, H. G. W., 620 (R)
Wool. Supp., July 26
World peace and British obligations, 479
World's crops, 12, 228
World's food crops since the war. Supp., December 27
World's Wool Supplies, Supp. July 26
World Unbalanced, 240 (R)

Yadil Press, Ltd., 26
Yokohama Specie Bank, 938
York-Antwerp rules, 692
York Town and Blackwater Gas Co., 700

Zanzibar: Peoples, Industry and History, 105 (R)

(B) — INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Aerated Bread, 930 African and Eastern Trade Corporation, 393 Allsopp (Samuel) and Sons, 1073 Amalgamated Press, 356 Anglo-Austrian Bank, 357 Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates, 114 Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, 163 Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 89 Anglo-Persian Oil, 884 Anglo-Siam Corporation, 543 Anglo-South American Bank (A), 662 Ansell's Brewery, 833 Apollinaris and Johannis, 115 Aramayo de Mínes en Bolívie, 202 Argentine Great Western Railway, 743 Argentine Navigation (Nicolas Mihaovich), 115 Ash, Claudius, Sons and Co., 116, 891 Assam Railways and Trading, 883 Australian Estates and Mortgage, 114 Australian Mercantile Land and Finance, 838	Dorman, Long, and Co., 978 Dunlop Rubber, 503 Edison Swan Electric, 1033 English and Dutch Meat, 704 English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, 828 Frederick Hotels, 623 Furness, Withy, and Co., 203 General Electric, 64 General Mining and Finance Corporation, 243 Goode, Durrant, and Co., 624 Greece, Financial and Economic Situation in, 834	Nobel Industries, 462 North Anantapur Gold Mines, 744 Odhams Press, 204 Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, 29 Orient Steam Navigation, 1028 Oroville Dredging, 244 P. and O. Banking Corporation, 113 Parent Tyre, 981 Pekin Syndicate, 1030 Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation, 972 Peter Walker (Warrington) and Robert Cain, 1073 Piccadilly Hotel, 832
Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway, 668 Baker, Perkins, 109 Baldwins, 1031 Bank Holdings, 28 Bank of British West Africa, 63 Bank of London and South America, 1025 Bank of Montreal, 1070 Bank of New South Wales, 112 Bank of New Zealand, 354 Bank of Poland, 837 Bengal Nagpur Railway, 702 Bisichi Tin (Nigeria), 29 British Burmah Petroleum, 1033 British Celanese, 502 British Columbia Electric Railway, 1023 British Empire Trust, 28 British North Borneo, 244 British Overseas Bank, 975 Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, 622 Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway, 668 Buenos Ayres Western Railway, 667 Bwana M'Kubwa Copper Mining, 977	Harrisons and Crosfield, 623 Harrods (Buenos Aires), 1031 Hotel Cecil, 833 Howard and Bullough, 65 Hoyle (Joshua) and Sons, 892 Illingworth, Morris, and Co., 464 Imperial Bank of Persia, 110 Imperial Ottoman Bank, 111 International Tea Company's Stores, 115 Inveresk Paper, 887 Java Para Rubber Estates, 743 Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, 1028 John I. Thornycroft, 1073 Joshua Hoyle and Sons, 892	Raphael Tuck and Sons, 703 Rhodesia Consolidated, 931 Richard Thomas, 1030 Royal Bank of Australia, 1069 Royal Bank of Ireland, 542 Royal Bank of Scotland, 882 Samuel Allsopp and Sons, 1073 Sao Paulo, Presidential Message, 582 Showell's Brewery, 1032 South Durham Steel and Iron, 883 Spiers and Pond, 66 Standard Bank of South Africa, 157 Strand Hotel, 631 Sudan Plantations Syndicate, 784
Cargo Fleet Iron, 891 Carreras, 1032 Central Argentine Railway, 667 Central Uruguay Railway of Montevideo, 667 Chaplin, W. H., and Co., 358 Chinese Engineering and Mining, 980 Claudius Ash, Sons and Co., 116, 891 Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, 585 Compagnie Aramayo de Mínes en Bolívie, 202 Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, 890 Dalgety and Co., 786 De Trey and Co., 116 Distillers Co., 161	Kern River Oilfields of California, 668 Kerr Stuart and Co., 977 Killinghall (Rubber) Development Syndicate, 832 Lipton, 65 Lobitos Oilfields, 30 London Maritime Investment, 787 London Nitrate, 1072 Malayalam Plantations, 164 Marconi's Wireless Telegraph, 284 Mexican Railway, 1024 Mitchells and Butlers, 282 Mond Nickel, 65 National Bank of New Zealand, 27 National Bank of Scotland, 1027 National Bank of South Africa, 281 New Modderfontein Gold Mining, 982	Tanganyika Concessions, 205 Thomas, Richard, and Co., 1030 Thornycroft, John I., 1073 Threlfall's Brewery, 206 Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, 245 Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, 206 Tuck (Raphael) and Sons, 703 Union Bank of Australia, 204 Union Cold Storage, 543 United Dairies, 703 United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, 785 United States Debenture Corporation, 1027 United Steel Companies, 665 Van Den Berghs, 205 Van Ryn Gold Mines Estates, 982 Wall Paper Manufacturers, 888 Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., 243 Western Alliance Reinsurance, 1025 Western Australian Bank, 1073 Western Telegraph, 883 W. H. Chaplin and Co., 358 Zambesia Exploring, 206

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,219.

issued by the Company may be obtained on application from the Head Office or any of the Offices or Agencies of the Company.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

The Money Market	1	Letters to the Editor—	
Leading Articles—		The Gold Standard	23
Progress at Last	3	Books and Publications—	
The Half-Year's New Capital	4	Company Administration	23
Communism and the Labour		The Merchants, Manufac-	
Party	5	turers, and Transporters	
Our Index Number	6	of the World	24
The American Oil Scandals	7	Books Received	24
The Position in Hongkong	7	Stock Exchange News—	
Sudan Development.—II.	8	The Stock Markets	24
Notes of the Week—		New Issues	25
The Quarter's Revenue	9	Active Securities	26
The Report of the Brazil		Company Meetings—	
Mission	9	Government Returns—	
The Franc & French Public		Currency Notes Account	30
Finance	10	Treasury Bills and Bonds by	
The Hungarian Loan	10	Public Tender	30
Irish Finance and Trade	10	National Debt	30
The Crisis in Italy	11	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Irish Boundary Problem	11	Bank of England	30
Miners' Wages and Coal		Clearing Returns	31
Profits	11	Overseas Bank Returns	31
World's Crop Prospects	12	Loan and Discount Rates	32
American Cotton Crop	12	Overseas Bank Rates	32
The American Crude Oil		Rates of Exchange	32
Situation	12	Imports & Exports of Gold	33
The Bank Dividends	12	Gold and Silver Prices	33
U.S. Banking Profits	13	Company News—	
The Budget Idea in U.S.A.	13	Mining Outputs	33
The Experiences of Under-		Dividend Announcements	34
writers	13	Weekly Traffic Returns	34
The Tin Position	13	Reports and Notices	35
Lipton's Year	14	Profit and Loss Accounts	36
Spiers and Pond	14	Commercial Reports—	
The Distillers' Company	14	Corn Trade	36
Life Association of Scotland	14	Iron and Coal Trade	37
West Australian Mining	15	Metals	37
The Revenue		Wool Trade	38
Argentine Currency	16	Cotton Trade	38
Oversea Correspondence—		Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds	39
United States	16	Hide and Leather Trades	39
France	17	Overseas Produce Markets	39
Germany	18	Price Current	40
Holland	19		
Poland	20		
Czecho-Slovakia	21		
Canada	21		
New Zealand	22		

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s 0d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 0d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.
Baker and Hayward, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.
B. W. Cooper and Co. 11 King street, Cheapside.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Chancery.
Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 123 ~~Madison~~
Paris: Calignoni Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli, 2nd floor
27 Avenue de l'Opera.

37 Avenue de L'Opera

ON Monday, the last day of the half-year, the market was still busy borrowing at the Bank, so that the total debt there must have reached about the same large figure as twelve months ago. From Tuesday onward it was being paid off, but the surplus of money was such that loans were to be had each afternoon at 1 per cent. The discount rate, however, was firm throughout, owing to the growing belief that rates are too low, and that a rise in Bank rate

or deposit rates is due this month. The supply of commercial bills did not justify the rise, for it was less than before, but the genuine strength of the market's view was shown by the fact that the rate did not weaken when "No change" was announced on Thursday.

	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	June 13, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notices	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3½	3½	2½	2½	..

Thursday's Bank return showed increases of £4,400 in the gold stock and of £1,291,300 in the note circulation, the Reserve being thus £1,286,900 lower. Government and market borrowings were reflected in increases of £6,635,000 and £14,263,400 in Government and Other securities respectively, and deposits were nearly £20 millions higher, Public declining by nearly £8 millions, while Other rose by £27½ millions. Currency notes outstanding increased this week by £1,799,700 to £292,115,500, which includes £1,384,300 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £241,281,600, or £6,909,300 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Money market developments and fears of a rise in Bank rate caused uneasiness in the Stock Markets, and declines in the gilt-edged market were reflected in other departments. The announcement of "no change" had little effect, the Stock Exchange persisting in the belief that it was merely a postponement, and that a rise in Bank rate is imminent. In the foreign market there was some gambling in German Threes, following the sharp rise in Berlin, and the speedy closing of the Hungarian Loan lists caused a rise in Austrian Sixes. Brazilian bonds have lost much of their recent rise. Home Railway stocks have been heavy, but the Underground issues have shown some resistance. One or two rubber shares have improved, and tea shares show signs of a return to favour, while oil shares are better all round. There are a few good features in the industrial market, but mines are on the whole neglected.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Most of the commodity markets exhibit weak features. The slump in raw cotton rates towards the end of the week has had an unsettling effect upon trade. The fears expressed in some quarters that wool prices at the London auctions this week would show a serious decline have not been realised; the decline, as compared with prices ruling in May, is not surprising in view of the quiet state of trade in the manufacturing centres. The Cardiff coal market is depressed, and in the pig-iron market prices are weaker. The steel trade is in an unfavourable condition. Tin was in demand at first, but prices subsequently weakened. Copper followed on similar lines. Vegetable oil and oilseed quotations lack stability. Wheat is firm. The position in the hide market is at least steady. The general tone of the sugar market remains quiet. Competition was active at the Indian tea auction. Rubber was firmer. Further details and prices will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market has again had a quiet week. The chief subject of interest has been the further rise in the Paris rate during the last few days. The rate of 81.80 which ruled last Friday was maintained more or less until Tuesday, when it fell to 84, owing, it was said, to large French purchases of dollars for the purpose of meeting the maturing Japanese loan to France of £2,500,000. There was a slight recovery during the next day, but the publication of the Bank of France report on Thursday, showing an increase of 450 million francs in the note circulation and 100 million francs in advances to the State, brought about a further lack of confidence, so that yesterday morning the quotation was 85.40. It should, however, be noted in this connection that these half-yearly increases in the note issue and advances to

the State are considerably smaller than was the case last year. Brussels has followed the same course, rising from 93.85 on 27th to 95.25 on the 1st and 96.85 yesterday morning. Forward quotations are slightly narrower, at 27 centimes per month above spot in Paris and 5 centimes in Brussels. The New York rate showed some improvement over the week-end, touching 4.33½ at one time on Tuesday. Since then, however, there has been a slight reaction, and the rate yesterday was 4.32½, as against 4.32½ a week ago. Forward rates for one month are now ½ cent below, while for longer periods the rates are approximately at par. Italy has more or less followed the movement of the franc, and after a steady rise, with a slight reaction on Wednesday, now stands at 101½, as against 100½ a week ago. Amsterdam has shown considerable minor fluctuations, and from 11.50½ on 27th, was quoted yesterday at 11.49½. Switzerland has also fluctuated considerably, but has moved against us on balance from 24.40 to 24.30. In Madrid the reports of fresh trouble in Morocco has had an adverse effect on the rate, which rose from 32.21 to 32.87 during the week. In Northern Europe, Stockholm has not varied greatly from 16.31, but Christiania has risen from 32 to 32.29. Copenhagen has suffered from unfavourable trade returns and rumours of fresh loans, and the rate has risen sharply, from 26.10 to 27.38. Helsingfors has recovered slightly, from 173 to 172½, while Warsaw and Riga are steady round 22.50. In Central Europe Berlin continues at 18½ billion and Vienna at 307,500. With regard to Budapest, the loan had been so long anticipated that its actual issue has had little effect on the rate, which remains at 350,000. Prague is slightly weaker at 147, and Bucharest 1,085. This latter movement is attributable to fears regarding the terms of the new mining law, but the latest advices are more reassuring on this point. The rupee is ½d weaker at 1s 4 31-32d, but the yen is steady at 1s 11½d. There is little to report in the silver market, where prices have not shown much variation. Such demand as there has been came from the Continent, but it was rather the absence of offerings which maintained prices. Hongkong, after touching 2s 4½d, is once more 2s 4½d, while Shanghai, after remaining steady at 3s 3½d during the week, weakened to 3s 3½d yesterday morning, and Singapore, after a similar movement, stood at 2s 3 31-32d. In South America, Rio has reacted from 6 3-32d to 6d, on the publication of the report of the Financial Mission. Buenos Ayres has been steady round 41d, and Monte Video round 43d. In Valparaiso, where there has been little dealing owing to holidays, the peso has depreciated from 41.30 to 42.50.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the nine days ended June 30th:—

EXPENDITURE.		(000's omitted.)		REVENUE.	
Supply Services	8,725	From Revenue	11,779		
Interest, &c., on Debt	5,786	Amount borrowed	5,79		
Sinking Fund	1,945				
Added to Exchequer Balances ..	189				
Sundries	905				
	15,530				15,530

Revenue amounted to £11,787,000 during the nine days ended June 30th. Customs yielded £2,440,000 and Excise £935,000. Estate, &c., duties brought in £2,300,000, Property and Income-tax yielded £2,433,000 and Super-tax £930,000. The nine days' operations increased the National Debt by £3,743,300, and caused the following changes:—

EXPENDITURE.		(000's omitted.)		REVENUE.	
Bank of England Advances ..	+ 12,250	National Savings Certificates ..	1,114		
Public Debt Advances	+ 4,086	Treasury Bills	1,114		
Treasury Bonds	+ 425				
Sundries	+ 691				
	+ 17,452				15,530

The floating debt was increased by £2,796,000 to £798,301,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to June 30).

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
Total Expenditure ..	215,090,464	Raised by Revenue ..	176,231,39
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,441,34
		Amount borrowed ..	35,417,72
Total	215,090,464	Total	215,090,464

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, JUNE 30TH.—*Lords*: Debate on Liquor Control Bill. *Commons*: Finance Bill, Committee stage. Government defeat on the Entertainment Tax.

TUESDAY, JULY 1ST.—*Lords*: Church of Scotland Bill debated War Charges (Validity) No. 2 Bill rejected. Imperial Institute Bill amended. *Commons*: Second reading of Public Health (Scotland) Bill, and Old Age Pensions Bill. Third reading of County Courts Bill. Telephone money resolution passed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND.—*Lords*: Second reading of Reorganisation of Offices (Scotland) Bill. Debate on the Diocese of Winchester adjourned. Palestine Loan discussed. *Commons*: Bill dealing with M.P.'s subscriptions introduced and read a first time. Finance Bill Committee stage, income-tax debated.

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD.—*Lords*: Second reading of Seditious and Blasphemous Teaching to Children Bill. *Commons*: Scottish Estimates.

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH.—*Commons*: Third reading of Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found reports of the meetings of the following companies:—National Bank of New Zealand, British Empire Trust, Bank Holdings, Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, Bisichi Tin Company (Nigeria), and Lobitos Oilfields. The chairman at the meeting of the National Bank of New Zealand reported a prosperous year in the Dominion. At the meeting of Bisichi Tin Company, the chairman, in reporting a large increase in working profits, gave good prospects for an interim dividend in the autumn.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

PROGRESS AT LAST.

ONCE again Europe approaches in the next few weeks a crisis in her fate. But on this occasion the omens are more favourable than at any time since she was overwhelmed in the Great Catastrophe. When the Dawes report was issued the world ventured timorously to hope again; after the French elections expectations began to rise. Since M. Herriot came into power two things have happened which make us think that our optimism is well grounded, and that the malignant fate that has hitherto defeated all efforts to secure peace is at last to be overcome by a conscious and determined effort of the nations. The first step was the amnesty to those expelled from the occupied areas. This was an act of courage and great statesmanship which showed that M. Herriot meant business. Observers tell us that nothing is changed in the Ruhr, there are no joybells, no one knows where to house the returning men whose homes have been occupied by others, and there is still a dull feeling of scepticism bred of shattered moral. But acts speak for themselves. Germany knows that a fresh chapter has opened; a new spirit is abroad, and a new method at work which calls for a fresh response on her part. The result is to be seen in the German reply to the Allies accepting a fresh armament inspection. The reply admits that certain breaches of the treaty exist in respect of personnel, but claims—rightly, we believe—that no artillery has been made in Germany since the armistice. The note is full of excuses and verbiage, and there are those who regard its

pacifist phrases as hypocrisy. But we prefer the simpler, and we believe truer, explanation that it is the natural reply to the first generously worded communication Germany has received from the Allied Powers.

But though "well begun is half done," we should be foolish to imagine that all is now plain sailing. On the contrary, there are many and scarcely perceived difficulties in Germany, in France, and in England. Let us begin with the problems of M. Herriot. Frankly the French Premier's stock has already appreciably fallen since the morrow of his victory through mistakes due to over-confidence, a tendency to talk too freely, and inexperience of diplomacy. But France wishes him well. No one can visit France to-day without realising that on one point there is almost national unanimity, and that is the desire to reach an understanding with Great Britain. One of the underlying currents that caused the turnover of May was the feeling that whatever one might think of his policy, M. Poincaré could not talk with England. This is an attitude full of hope; but it is one which we need to meet with wisdom and understanding; for it means that if M. Herriot fails there may be a most dangerous reaction in France. If two men so fitted by temperament and policy as our present Premiers cannot find a basis of common action, then the hope of co-operation is vain, and France must rely on her own right arm. But M. Herriot will be given his chance, and we believe that when he comes to London he will carry with him the sincere good wishes of many of his party opponents.

There are, however, difficulties. Some of these are technical. For example, the Organising Committee charged with the task of preparing a Bill for the mortgage on German industry has had to be reconstructed, and M. Wallenberg, of Sweden, brought in as a mediator. No one with a knowledge of business can suppose that it is an easy matter in a short time to draft detailed plans for imposing a first charge on the whole of the nation's industrial undertakings. But M. Wallenberg is well fitted by business training and by his knowledge of the Austrian and Hungarian League of Nations schemes to handle this problem, and we wish him a speedy success. While such problems as this may cause inevitable delay, the real difficulty lies deeper. We are accustomed to think of the French as being an extremely logical people. But we doubt whether France has ever made up her mind whether her motive in going into the Ruhr was to secure Reparations or to obtain security. The fact, therefore, that there seems now to be a chance that the Reparations question may be put on a more certain basis has, as a consequence, had the effect of turning opinion towards the second problem. On this issue there is perhaps a difference of view in Northern and Southern France. The latter never suffered the immediate horrors of war and occupation which befell the Northern Provinces, and Frenchmen in the occupied areas do not forget that even in 1914 the support of Great Britain did not save them from a five years' experience which they can never altogether obliterate from their memory. It may be easy to argue, as many French military authorities do, that the Ruhr is not a source of strength, and very few Frenchmen, we think, now conceive this occupation as a permanent thing; but we cannot get over the fact that if this occupation ceases, and still more, when the Rhineland is evacuated, there will be an instinctive feeling that the danger of Germany being able to renew aggression has come nearer. There seems little doubt, however, that, generally speaking, French opinion has reached the point where it was prepared to accept the security offered by such a device as Lord Cecil's Treaty of Mutual Assistance, which has during the last two years been elaborated by the League of Nations. Unfortunately, the events of the last two years have raised doubts in Liberal and Labour circles as to the wisdom of Great Britain committing itself even to the extent of only promising military assistance if the Council of the League declares an act of aggression to have been committed.

Certainly the British Government, which holds the occupation of the Ruhr to be illegal (but has wisely refrained from insisting upon this point of view under present circumstances), could not offer this Treaty as a definite *quid pro quo* for the military evacuation of the Ruhr.

M. Herriot has gone so far as to commit himself to the view that the economic evacuation of the Ruhr shall begin when the Dawes Report is put into operation, and further, we understand that his intention is steadily to proceed with a military withdrawal, though, for the sake of French *amour propre*, not under a signed and sealed time-table or by agreement. On the other hand, M. Herriot will undoubtedly find this task difficult if not impossible, if in the meantime no progress is made on the question of security; and we therefore think that if he is to put through his policy in France, Great Britain must make up her mind as soon as possible to make some advance in this matter. Last September Belgium rallied to the League on the Corfu dispute on the ground that she could not afford to see the League of Nations' authority flouted since she had accepted Article 10 of the Covenant, in lieu of the neutrality guarantee, which brought Great Britain into the war on her behalf. We think that if France is to take a similar attitude of confidence in the League, she is entitled to ask us to define what we understand our obligations to be under Article 10, and to give an undertaking to discuss with her at a definite date what steps Great Britain is prepared to take to assist in enforcing the new era in Europe.

Thus the French time-table, as we understand it, is that the resolutions for enforcing the Dawes Report should be taken at the July Conference; that steps should forthwith be taken to set up the new machinery and dismantle the old economic machinery in the Ruhr; that discussion should commence on the problem of security, and that meantime France should commence military evacuation. Will this programme satisfy Germany, whose national sentiment has naturally been engaged in three directions, viz., the return of the exiles, a restoration of the economic unity of Germany (including full civilian control of her railways), and the military evacuation of the Ruhr? The first of these is being carried out; the second will come as part of the Dawes Report; but we can understand their point of view if the German Nationalist Party insist upon the military evacuation of the Ruhr as a condition of facing the necessary legislation to enforce the Dawes Report. This is, perhaps, the chief obstacle which remains. We think it, however, unlikely that the Nationalists will jeopardise the new movement by demanding a preliminary recantation by France. Indeed, Germany has every reason to fall in with the Allied plans, for the present situation is an intolerable one. The M.I.C.U.M. Agreements are putting a very great strain on the Rhineland industry, and the whole nation is haunted with the fear that a new inflation may, if a settlement is delayed, break out and renew the nightmare of 1923. Moreover, the British Prime Minister has committed this country to the view that we accept the Dawes Report without condition, and desire to see it carried into effect.

We believe that the best way to overcome Germany's hesitations would be for France and Great Britain to define their attitude towards her by making it clear, either before or as soon after the Conference meets as possible, that they intend to use the machinery of the League of Nations in their relations with Germany in such matters as the supervision of armaments, the inspection of a demilitarised zone, &c., and that they desire to admit her to the Councils of Europe by supporting an application for membership of the League, and by giving her a seat upon the Council as soon as the new military inspection gives her a clean bill on armaments and the Dawes conditions are brought into operation. The Allied Prime Ministers are to be present at Geneva in September, but if this programme is to be carried out it will probably require that the Assembly be prorogued, or possibly a special meeting called later in the year. But if success is to be obtained the sequence of events is all important. The British Government should make forthwith to the French public a declaration that we will not run away from our undertakings under Article 10, or strive to make them vain and meaningless, and, in the second place, France and

England should leave Germany in no doubt as to their intentions towards her. If these steps are taken, we have every hope for the success of the July Conference, and believe that we shall be able to show America that Europe is at last putting her house in order.

THE HALF-YEAR'S NEW CAPITAL.

CIRCUMSTANCES associated with the change of Government assisted in restricting the activity of London's new capital market during the first quarter of 1924, for which the total of new issues did not exceed £36 millions. However, the second quarter saw a substantial revival, and provided a total of nearly £70 millions. During this period there was a crescendo of activity, and the half-year closed with a heavy flood of new flotations. Taking the half-year as a whole, the total is considerably lower than that for the first half of 1923, whether British Government borrowings be included in or excluded from the comparison. Our figures include British Government borrowings in the form of Treasury Bonds and National Savings Certificates, but exclude temporary borrowings in the form of Ways and Means Advances and Treasury Bills. In the following table we classify the quarterly totals since 1919 by groups:—

(In Million £'s.)

	Total	British Government	Foreign and Colonial Govts.	British and Foreign Corpns.	Foreign Railways	Mines, & Quarries	Public Works	Rubber and Rubber Plantations	Oil	Balance Home Industry
1919—1st quarter	291.9	262.6	3.0	..	..	1.0	..	..	..	25.2
2nd "	33.9	31.5	..	..	..	2.4	..	..	..	26.9
3rd "	517.8	473.4	..	..	..	4.4	..	..	..	38.8
4th "	113.8	8.3	11.8	..	..	2.4	..	..	..	69.4
1920—1st quarter	135.1	7.5	5.5	4.7	1.1	7.3	1.6	..	..	107.6
2nd "	98.0	9.7	2.5	20.6	..	2.2	6.5	..	..	69.6
3rd "	61.2	4.9	..	14.2	..	3.3	7.8	..	..	31.0
4th "	73.2	15.5	4.0	..	..	4.6	2.3	..	..	39.9
1921—1st quarter	63.4	17.0	9.3	9.9	..	1.4	9.8	..	..	15.9
2nd "	65.3	3.1	23.7	8.2	..	..	5.4	..	..	24.1
3rd "	57.4	39.1	5.3	3.0	..	..	1.7	..	..	9.1
4th "	202.4	143.6	4.2	2.8	..	..	1.0	..	..	13.7
1922—1st quarter	286.2	211.9	20.1	8.4	1.7	..	9.1	..	..	21.3
2nd "	162.6	92.4	3.6	3.3	..	..	7.5	..	..	17.5
3rd "	61.9	42.5	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	17.2
4th "	63.0	22.9	18.2	1.2	..	..	5	..	..	15.4
1923—1st quarter	36.2	43.3	18.1	..	..	..	5.2	..	..	15.4
2nd "	95.1	20.0	47.3	..	1.4	3.7	1.2	..	..	21.6
3rd "	25.4	4.3	1.1	..	3.5	1.5	2	..	..	14.2
4th "	64.7	9.0	25.3	..	..	7.1	1.2	..	..	18.1
1924—1st quarter	36.0	Dr 1.3	19.1	3.2	..	..	3	..	..	11.3
2nd "	69.6	11.8	22.1	2.4	..	..	1.4	..	..	31.9

* In 15 months after April, 1920, £60,000,000, mostly Housing bonds.

The most striking point about this table is the increase in the amount made available for home industry. This deserves especial notice because it is in relation to its lendings abroad that the new capital market has recently been the subject of controversy. In actual fact, the amount loaned abroad in the past half-year has not been as large as in recent corresponding periods or as large as in 1913. This is brought out by the following analysis of new capital applications according to destination:—

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	First Half of Year.					
	1912.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
United Kingdom—Government	£ nil	£ nil	£ 20,067,000	£ 304,258,900	£ 63,727,000	£ 10,542,900
Other	24,159,400	20,324,400	50,174,000	44,444,400	28,627,600	33,839,500
British Possessions—Government	24,159,400	20,324,400	70,241,000	348,703,300	92,354,600	44,382,400
Other	5,422,900	14,324,300	27,603,500	41,582,300	39,937,900	25,231,000
Foreign countries—Government	22,509,300	28,678,300	9,959,000	7,917,000	12,250,700	12,724,500
Other	27,932,200	43,002,600	37,568,600	49,499,300	52,188,600	37,955,500
Grand total	110,343,600	120,359,600	128,574,500	446,774,200	241,301,800	105,584,000

The position regarding London's lendings abroad this year and in previous periods becomes clearer still if we set out the following details:—

	FIRST HALF-YEAR.			
	1913.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Total of new issues	Mln. £ 120.3	Mln. £ 448.8	Mln. £ 181.3	Mln. £ 105.6
Destined for domestic use	20.3	348.7	92.4	44.4
British possessions	43.0	49.5	52.2	38.0
Foreign countries	57.0	50.6	36.7	23.2

The first half of 1923 included the Austrian loan, whereas the Hungarian loan just misses inclusion in the

figures of the first half of 1924. But this does not seriously affect the general conclusion that recent controversy may have given the public a rather exaggerated idea of the rate at which overseas countries are at present drawing upon London's resources. The half-year's borrowings are analysed in greater detail in the next table:—

Description.	Total, First Half-year, 1923.	First Quarter, 1924.	Second Quarter, 1924.	Total, First Half-year, 1924.
British Government loans	£ 63,727,000	£ Dr 1,300,000	£ 11,842,900	£ 10,542,900
Colonial Government loans	39,937,900	4,900,000	20,531,000	25,231,000
Foreign Government loans	25,561,900	14,240,000	1,766,200	16,025,200
British Municipal and County loans	nil	780,000	2,385,000	3,165,000
Colonial Corporations	3,257,200	321,300	3,253,500	3,574,800
Foreign Corporations	nil	2,412,500	nil	2,412,500
British railways	1,199,700	nil	nil	nil
Colonial railways	1,963,000	nil	nil	nil
Foreign railways	522,500	nil	171,000	171,000
Australian mines	1,656,800	150,000	250,000	400,000
South African mines	778,000	1,787,000	175,000	1,962,000
Other mines	3,944,600	1,550,200	805,200	2,355,400
Exploration, financial, and investment trusts	3,975,000	81,000	nil	81,000
Breweries and distilleries	nil	nil	nil	nil
Merchants, importers, &c.	6,636,000	2,726,200	6,725,000	9,451,200
Manufacturing	1,382,000	nil	nil	nil
Stores and trading	755,800	25,800	2,394,700	2,420,500
Estate and land	2,041,000	159,100	23,400	175,500
Rubber	4,431,700	142,500	7,300	149,800
Oil	6,810,700	992,500	2,396,100	3,388,600
Iron, coal, steel, and engineering	6,567,000	750,000	5,927,200	6,677,200
Electric lighting and power	nil	731,500	73,500	805,000
Tramways, omnibuses, &c.	292,500	571,700	213,300	784,500
Motor traction and manufacturing	262,100	nil	nil	nil
Gas and water	74,000	359,500	nil	431,500
Hotels, theatres, and entertainments	17,600	nil	nil	nil
Patents and proprietary articles	550,000	1,775,000	nil	1,775,000
Docks, harbours, and shipping	230,100	nil	1,750,000	1,750,000
Banks and insurance	4,828,500	2,827,000	9,023,000	11,850,000
Miscellaneous	121,301,800	36,012,800	69,571,200	105,584,000

The chief financial operation by the British Government during the half-year was the conversion offer to holders of £200,000,000 of 5 per cent. War Loan, which was made in April. According to a statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about £149 millions of War Loan were converted, but this, being a purely conversion operation, does not fall within the scope of our statistics. The British Government's net borrowings, which our figures include, were as follows:—4 per cent. Treasury Bonds, £13.1 millions (all allocated in the second quarter), less £2.6 millions, representing the excess of encashments over new sales of Savings Certificates. With the exception of £3 millions raised by Southern Rhodesia, the whole of the total under the heading of Colonial Government Loans was taken by Australasia, of which the Commonwealth Government took £10,000,000, the New Zealand Government £4½ millions, and the various Australian States over £7 millions between them. The yields offered on these loans ranged from £5 3s to £4 18s per cent. Of foreign Governments, only Czechoslovakia figured in the second quarter, Japan and Siam having borrowed in February and March respectively. Newport, Edinburgh, and Sheffield were the three British corporations in the market in the half-year, the yields running from £5 3s to £4 15s per cent. Colonial municipalities were busy in the last quarter, when five of them took £3½ millions, while the City of Amsterdam, with its £2½ millions loan in March, was the only foreign municipality to borrow publicly in London in the past half-year. British, Colonial and foreign railways show a blank list. Mining issues, if fairly numerous, were small in amount, while oil and rubber contributed little. A feature has been the large number of electric light and power issues, the June quarter having seen no fewer than eight separate operations in this class. In the iron, coal and steel group the largest operation was the £2,000,000 debenture issue by Vickers in March, of which £1,500,000 was for the redemption of existing 7 per cent. notes. Shipping is not represented at all in the June quarter, and only by a single issue, that of the Bank Line, under the Trade Facilities guarantee, in the whole of the half-year. The lists of borrowings in the manufacturing and trading classes are more remarkable for the number of borrowers than for the size of individual issues. There were, however, two operations of outstanding size in these groups, namely, the issues of £4½ millions in 8 per cent. preference shares by Allied Newspapers, and of £5 millions 7 per cent. preference shares by Lever Brothers, the latter being offered to shareholders only. Another interesting issue of recent date was that of £2½ millions in

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1884.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

7½ per cent. preference shares and £150,000 in ordinary shares by the British Goodrich Rubber Co., this marking a notable extension of American manufacturing activity into Great Britain. Throughout the past quarter, and, one might almost say, almost throughout the half-year, the public have continuously given evidence both of the possession of large resources available for investment and also of a willingness to respond with avidity to any offer that possessed reasonable merit or attraction. With the swelling of the volume of issues in the latter part of the half-year, "stagging" has again become prominent—a phase of the investment situation which is discussed by a Stock Exchange correspondent on a later page of this issue.

COMMUNISM AND THE LABOUR PARTY.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WHEN, last week, the Conservatives tried, and failed, to force an inquiry into the Tube strike on the Ministry of Labour, fireworks were expected. They did not come off. The official line was to pooh-pooh the suggestion that Communism or Communists had anything to do with the strike; it was urged, with truth, that actual conditions and wages are such that men might be supposed to be ready to strike against them, without the assumption of external or internal incitement. This is the case; but, in a way, it proves too much. Conditions generally are such that, if people believed that to down tools would mend them, tools would be downed. The vast majority do not believe that it would; they are thoroughly British in their patience and in their acceptance of the method of gradual change.

Communist activity remains a fact, however; not a very important fact, but one whose existence it is idle to deny. How much of it is there in Great Britain to-day? It is an extremely hard question to answer. The Communist Party has always been a reticent body; reticent as to its membership, still more reticent as to its finances. In its heyday, about 1920, some thirty thousand adherents were officially claimed; now there cannot be more than a few thousands—certainly well under ten. This decline naturally encourages economy in statement. The Communist method has always been conspiratorial; designed to feed the starved sense of drama, and give to the chosen ones the sweet pride of not being as other men are. Latterly, moreover, the instructions of the Third International have been all for "underground" work. "Penetration" and "infiltration" are, obviously, more efficiently accomplished by men who are not marked as Communists, though, as a matter of fact, they function as such. In so far as Communist is read as "member of the Communist Party of Great Britain," there are, certainly, very few of them in the Labour Party to-day, and not very many even in the metal and mining unions, where Communist feeling and thinking are most definitely present.

Even when the hopes of the Third International ran highest, in the years between the Bolshevik coup in Russia and our General Election of 1922, their plans for Britain were directed rather to "capturing" existing bodies than to creating a definite party of their own. In 1919 and 1920 they were engaged in trying to win over

the I.L.P.; by the time of the 1921 conference of the I.L.P. their failure there was patent. Communist activity against Mr MacDonald, at the time of the Woolwich bye-election in that year, finished them off, so far as the I.L.P. was concerned. The Communists in the party left it. Attempts since at securing affiliation to the Labour Party have likewise collapsed, year after year, though there have always been sentimentalists for unity, as well as Unions inside which Communist influence was strong, who have voted for it, in smaller and smaller minorities. Communist feeling waned as political labour became more active and effective. The "revolt" against Parliament, of which so much was heard between 1918 and 1922, died when Labour in Opposition was vital and well led, as from 1922 to 1923.

Although affiliation has been refused to the Communist Party as a party, individual Communists have not been barred from membership. They have even been endorsed as candidates. The most recent case of such endorsement—that of the Kelvingrove bye-election—has shown the danger of this; but to see how the Labour Party can protect itself effectively is not easy. It could, of course, refuse endorsement to Communist candidates, and, from the point of view of its appeal to the general public, it would probably be well advised to do so. But the protection thus secured would be more apparent than real. Every official candidate of the party, as it is, has to accept a definite, written constitution; if he does so, how can either the local body or the central organisation go behind his acceptance and impugn his bona-fides? Until proved guilty, he has to be assumed to be honest. A formal decision not to accept members of the Communist Party would hardly help, for, as has been said, there are many individuals, some well known, some obscure, who function as Communists but are not members of the Communist Party, and the whole present tactic of the Third International is directed to increasing their activity and numbers, notably inside the Unions, which affiliate to the Labour Party as societies.

Two things have, hitherto, always prevented Communism from achieving any general hold on the British Labour Movement. One is the tradition and character of the movement itself, to which Communist theory, with its insistence on violence, is alien. The physical force argument has never appealed, from Chartist times down. Then, as now, it has been opposed, precisely in those quarters where the working-class itself is most intelligent and alert. The I.L.P., nine-tenths of which is pacifist, dominates in Scotland, the North, and the industrial areas generally; its hold on London has been growing with striking rapidity in the last three or four years. The other reason is the objection of the average British Socialist to having his politics dictated to him from outside. To-day, Communists, however widely and loosely that term be interpreted, represent a very small fraction of the Labour movement. It is a very noisy fraction; the existence of a Labour Government, and its failure to produce the millennium in five or six months has, inevitably, as anyone could have foreseen, accumulated a certain body of fresh adherents to the "short cut" theory, which the Communists know how to exploit. But the fraction seems larger and more effective than it really is, mainly because of the considerable resources, of a financial kind, over which it has control. Where do those resources come from? Not from the party membership. However high the rate of contribution, subscriptions could hardly cover the fringe of an expenditure which includes several papers ("The Worker," "The Workers' Weekly," "The Labour Monthly," and so on), none of which show any considerable array of advertisements, as well as numerous other propaganda "lines," none of them run on a voluntary basis. Since the Party publishes no balance-sheet, no answer can be given to this query. Such strength as Communism has is in money rather than in numbers. The guarded answer given by the Home Secretary the other day at least indicates, what was already pretty well known, that the sinews of war come, not from inside the country, but from outside it. They do not come, as is the case with the Labour Party, from the workers themselves.

The problem is, in the main, one for the Trade Unions. It is inside the industrial rather than inside the political

organisation of Labour that Communist influences are now active, and they are concentrated, in the main, in certain localities. There, as on the political side, the remedy for a movement which trades on despair is in constructive work.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

PRACTICALLY no change in June is recorded in our Index Number of commodity wholesale prices, the actual alteration being an increase of 4 points, raising the total from 4527 to 4531. The latter compares with 4580 at the end of December, so that during the half-year there has been a net decline of 49 points. Fluctuations during the six months have not been wide, the highest point being 4668 at the end of February and the lowest 4527 at the end of May. Last month's changes were all of small dimensions, the largest movement in any group being an increase of 11 points in the minerals section, as may be seen from the following table:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Ber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	%
Basis (avg. 1901-5) ..	500	500	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914	879	882	816	464	583	2865	116.6
" Dec., 1915	897	446	731	711	848	2634	165.2
" Dec., 1917	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	265.2
" Nov., 1918	1289	782	1848	808	1389	6212	282.6
" Mar., 1920	1508	914	2974	1246	1709	8882	379.6
" Dec., 1921	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.8
" Dec., 1921	921	638	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
" Dec., 1922	861	706	1184	705	807	4264	193.8
" Mar., 1923	824	752	1178	840	797	4392	199.6
" June "	815	773	1177	773	761	4301	195.5
" July "	813	756	1115	744	746	4182	190.1
" Sept. "	823	782	1214	732	745	4297	195.8
" Dec. "	853	815	1382	774	755	4580	208.2
" Jan., 1924	909	845	1349	789	769	4662	211.9
" Feb. "	899	859	1308	819	783	4668	212.2
" Mar. "	897	843	1313	805	780	4640	210.9
" Apr. "	904	802	1364	788	778	4637	210.8
" May "	912	730	1357	753	774	4527	205.8
" June "	914	736	1347	764	769	4531	205.9

In primary foodstuffs there was an appreciable increase in wheat and flour, but this was partially offset by declines in barley and potatoes. Tea accounts for the bulk of the increase in other foodstuffs, a slight increase in butter being neutralised by a further drop in sugar. In the textile group American cotton is lower, but there was an advance in Egyptian cotton. Both cotton yarn and cloth are lower. There was a further decline in silk, but hemp and jute were higher. Changes in the minerals section were practically confined to the non-ferrous metals, both lead and tin being slightly higher than a month ago. The only change of importance in the miscellaneous group was a decline in indigo.

Changes in individual commodities over the six months show substantial variation. In the table below we show the changes in each commodity's index number, in comparison with that for the end of December last, the figure 50 representing in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	90	+ 12	Cotton, A	158	- 35	Copper	51	+ 8
English	88	+ 8	Cotton, B	163	- 44	Minerals	764	- 10
Flour	80	+ 8	Yarn	155	- 17	Baltic timber	103	..
Barley	83	+ 24	Cloth	144	- 16	Amer. timber	89	..
Oats	80	+ 7	Wool, Eng.	159	+ 15	Leather	60	+ 13
Potatoes	131	+ 53	Silk	91	- 54	Petroleum	108	+ 16
Rice	117	- 14	Do Aust.	91	- 54	Oils	75	..
Beef	85	+ 3	Flax	180	+ 7	Oilseed	82	..
Mutton	89	- 6	Hemp	57	+ 1	Tallow	70	- 2
Pork	69	- 31	Jute	94	+ 13	Indigo	75	- 3
Cereals & meat	914	+ 61	Textiles	1,347	- 35	Crytals	11	..
Tea	156	+ 14	Pig-iron	95	- 12	Rubber	11	..
Coffee	116	+ 24	Steel rails	75	..	Miscellaneous	769	+ 14
Sugar, cane	130	- 102	Iron bars	98	..	Total	4,531	- 49
Sugar, beet	130	- 2	Coal, steam	135	..			
Butter	87	- 14	House coal	13	..			
Tobacco	116	..	Lead	134	+ 19			
Other foods	736	- 79	Tin	88	- 5			

It will be seen that one or two individual commodities are responsible for the half-year's decline. The drop in sugar prices, which coincided with the halving of the duty, has produced a net decline of 79 points in other foodstuffs. Pork and butter are also lower on balance, but all other food items are higher. In the textile group, American cotton and silk are substantially lower, and these declines offset a general advance in other directions. In the minerals group changes are very slight, the chief being the reduction of 12 points in pig-iron. The minor metals are practically unchanged, after considerable fluctuations during the period. The rise in petroleum which occurred in March is the only change of importance in the miscellaneous group.

The relative positions of the five sections are shown in the table below, in which the indices for the end of July, 1914, are taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1921	233	229	809	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
June, 1922	174	192	184	149	160	171.1
Sept. "	151	194	181	150	148	163.3
Dec. "	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
June, 1923	141	220	191	167	137	167.7
Dec. "	148	231	225	167	136	178.6
Jan., 1924	157	241	219	170	139	181.8
Feb. "	165	244	212	176	142	182.0
Mar. "	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
Apr. "	156	228	221	170	141	180.8
May "	157	208	220	162	140	176.5
June "	158	210	219	164	139	176.6

The increase in the total over the pre-war level of 76.6 per cent. compares with 67.7 per cent. at the end of June last year, and 63.1 per cent. at the end of July last. Textiles and primary foods are considerably higher than they were at this time last year, but other food and minerals are lower, and the miscellaneous section is practically unchanged.

THE AMERICAN OIL SCANDALS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

A RECKONING up in the American oil world is taking place concurrently with, but independently of, that in the political world. In the suits brought by the Government against Mr Albert Fall, ex-Secretary of the Interior, and the two oil magnates, Messrs Doheny and Sinclair, four criminal indictments have been returned by the grand jury. The first charges the Dohenys (father and son) with conspiracy to defraud the Government in the leasing of the Californian naval oil reserve, the second Messrs Fall and Sinclair with conspiracy to defraud in the leasing of the Teapot Dome (Wyoming) reserve, the third Mr Fall with accepting a bribe of \$100,000 for using his influence in the Californian leases on behalf of Mr Doheny, the fourth the two Dohenys with inducing Mr Fall to take unlawful action by the felonious payment of \$100,000. This is the direct outcome of the Senate Committee's investigation. Meanwhile, Mr Senator Walsh, of Montana, Democrat, who acted as chairman, has presented the committee's report. He is to be commended on making a report which does not anticipate the result of the criminal actions impending in the courts, yet is judicial in tone and gives a well-balanced recital of the facts. It has been called "tame" by those who had been attacked; but that is prejudiced comment. It has been called "political," because it does not mention Mr McAdoo and rather implicates the late President Harding. But Mr McAdoo had nothing to do with the leases under investigation, and the committee merely stated that the executive order by which President Harding transferred the oil reserves from the Navy to the Interior Department, then under Mr Albert Fall, was illegal. It does not seem to be a report out of which much political capital could be made.

The committee declared that the manner in which the oil leases were negotiated secretly by ex-Secretary Fall

with Messrs Doheny and Sinclair was in flagrant disregard of the statutes, and laid it down in their recommendations that no oil or gas leases of Government reserves should be entered into without competitive bidding, and that no such lease should be considered except to protect the oil reserves from drainage. Mr Fall's acceptance of \$100,000 from Mr Doheny was described as "in the last degree reprehensible." "The essentially corrupt character of a loan made under such circumstances required no comment." It continued: "It would be impossible for an officer to accept a loan of such an amount, or perhaps of any amount under the circumstances, without a sense of obligation to the lender, which, unless his character was cast in heroic mould, would be revealed in subsequent official transactions with him. Its sinister import is appreciated when it is borne in mind that, without competitive bidding, Mr Doheny got from Mr Fall, in the month of April following, the contract for the construction of the tanks at Pearl Harbour, and with it a preference right to a lease of a large share of naval oil reserve No. 1, to be followed, without competitive bidding, by a lease of the entire reserve comprising over 30,000 acres, estimated to contain 250,000,000 barrels of oil, out of which, Mr Doheny told the committee, he would be in bad luck if he did not make \$100,000,000 profit." Equally scathing were the committee's comments on Mr Sinclair. "Not only was the Teapot Dome lease awarded to Mr Sinclair without competition, but he paid a fabulous sum to procure the elimination of a potential rival. One seeking only a fair contract from the Government does not buy off his competitors; neither does he, when he secures it ordinarily, submit to blackmail in connection with it; nor does he, while negotiations are pending, accommodate the awarding officers with loans." The shipment of a consignment of blooded cattle by Mr Sinclair to Mr Fall's ranch in New Mexico, and Mr Sinclair's subsequent employment of Mr Fall on his retirement from the Cabinet, are cited without comment.

There is a white side to this very black report. The committee found "no facts of sufficient importance to report" in support of the accusation that public officers had speculated in Sinclair and Doheny oil stocks, and that "the evidence failed to establish the existence" of any conspiracy between oil operators and others at the Republican National Convention in 1920 for the exploitation of public resources. Most important of all, the committee exonerated Mr Edwin Denby, former Secretary of the Navy, and Mr Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary, "from any part whatever" in the negotiations leading up to the leases. The committee were only astonished that they should have been so thoroughly ignorant of what was going on in their Department. It would thus appear that Mr Denby and Mr Theodore Roosevelt, in being driven from office, were martyred to popular clamour. The real importance of these oil leases was the point of principle "whether it is better for the Government to have 22,000,000 barrels of oil in the ground, or 1,666,666 barrels in tanks at the seaboard." According to the committee, this question should have been left to Congress to decide. To abolish oil reserves altogether would seem to be a step towards peace, domestic and international.

THE POSITION IN HONGKONG.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

HONGKONG, May 9.

THE total trade of Hongkong for 1923 amounted to £123 millions, an increase in sterling values of one million, but, owing to a fall in the rate of the dollar, marking an actual increase of some 5 or 6 per cent. over 1922. Hongkong exchanges goods with countries far and near, but there is a big entrepôt trade, for Hongkong is the clearing house of South China. Its position in this respect is due to proximity to Canton, a wonderful natural harbour, efficient shipping facilities, and, above all, to a benevolent and uncorrupt Government.

Local industries are by no means negligible, and comprise shipbuilding, sugar refining, cement and rope-making, all of which have been steadily brought to their present flourishing condition by careful European man-

agement. Of recent years Chinese enterprise has led to the starting of biscuit, confectionery, tobacco, and knitting factories, which have already achieved a high standard of output. These concerns supply native consumers at a low cost with requirements hitherto imported from European and American sources.

Total exports for 1923 were £61,000,000, of which slightly under £25 millions went to the neighbouring provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Fukien. It is remarkable, in view of the chaos which has prevailed throughout these provinces during the past few years, that business to such an extent has been possible at all. Demand has undoubtedly been restricted, but foreign goods are required to supplement home supplies, which cannot support the population of the Southern Provinces, estimated to be approximately 60 millions. Therefore goods are transported to the distributing centres of the interior in spite of the considerable risk, at enhanced cost to the consumer, and exchanged for local produce, which eventually finds its way to the market here.

At the general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held at the end of March, the greater portion of the chairman's very able review of the past year was devoted to matters which would appear to be more political than commercial. Piracy prevention, the transfer of military lands to the Civil Government, typhoon signals, wireless communication with gunboats, telephone service, &c., were all dealt with, but the first-mentioned subject is of the gravest concern to all engaged in the commerce of this part of the world.

Piracy in South China waters is a menace from which Hongkong has never been free, but of recent months it has developed to an alarming extent, and, with little or no assistance obtainable from the rulers of Canton, its prevention is a problem which has so far baffled the authorities here. In most cases the pirates embark at this port as passengers, and, despite a thorough search at the wharves, arms are smuggled on board, to be produced when the signal for the attack is given, usually after getting clear of Hongkong waters.

Government regulations for dealing with piracies have been amended from time to time, and in themselves are quite stringent. Ships' officers are obliged to carry revolvers, Indian guards with loaded rifles patrol the decks, the interior of the ship is divided into sections by iron grills, the bridge is protected by barbed wire and various other precautions are taken. Yet the outrages continue, and one loop-hole after another is disclosed in defensive arrangements leading to further regulations. River steamers now sail in convoys with an armed launch in attendance, but this protection can only be afforded as far as the Canton River. There the convoy has to split up, as some steamers go on to Canton while others are bound for West River ports. Constant patrolling by British gunboats would mitigate the evil, but there are only a few vessels available, and naturally the Home Government cannot be expected to rush out reinforcements. The easiest remedy would be to wipe out the pirates' headquarters, but the Canton Government will not take action, and in most cases are powerless to do so. The British naval authorities would no doubt be prepared to exterminate these pests in a very thorough manner, but any such action would create international difficulties, which the Home Government are quite accountably anxious to avoid. All that can be done at present, therefore, is to see that regulations are strictly complied with, and to carry out a thorough search for arms before departure of the steamer. The latter precaution can only be relied upon at this end, and for the return journey there is no security against embarkation of armed pirates.

Piracy is by no means the only obstruction to the normal flow of trade in these parts. Even when a steamer has run the gauntlet of the high seas successfully, there is danger lurking along the banks of the inland waterway. Most of the country bordering the big rivers is overrun with bandits and lawless soldiers, who perform musketry practice at the expense of passing steamers, and every magistrate who is powerful enough levies a "squeeze" (which he terms "protection tax") on goods passing through his territory. Needless to say, this tax gives no security at all. The various militarist leaders fighting for supremacy in the South keep in close touch with the rivers, and communication by steamer is held up from time to

time by sporadic fighting. These so-called leaders move about the country with their hired armies, leaving a trail of devastation behind them, burnt villages, destroyed crops, and commandeered supplies being the usual consequence.

This is the situation in most of the country districts at the present time, and if the towns and cities are spared a good deal of this misery, the inhabitants have to contend with troubles of their own in the shape of extortionate taxation and interference with business through labourers being impressed to serve in the armies.

This tale of woe will indicate some of the difficulties which hamper commerce here. As has been said time and time again, the remedy lies in the hands of the Chinese themselves, and foreign intervention can do little to assist. This state of anarchy is, of course, detrimental to the trade of Hongkong, and the outlook is as black as it has ever been. Formerly an outbreak of hostilities was viewed with equanimity, as it was usually localised. Even more general warfare was not regarded very gravely because of the wonderful recuperative powers of the Chinese. This faith is now being seriously undermined as matters go from bad to worse, and the situation here is viewed with considerable anxiety. What the future has in store no one can tell, but caution is the watchword of the day, and there is little likelihood of any expansion in trade for some time to come.

SUDAN DEVELOPMENT.—II.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WITH settled government and the resulting steady development of resources and trade, it is but natural that the external trade of the Sudan should exhibit a remarkable extension. Much of this is undoubtedly due to imports on Government account for the railways, official building, irrigation construction, and other public works, but the increase does not all arise from these causes. Nor will the general rise of prices account for the increased importance of the external trade. The following table exhibits the figures in some detail:—

EXTERNAL TRADE of the SUDAN
(In Thousands of Egyptian Pounds).

Year.	Imports.			Exports and Re-Exports.	Transit.	Specie (Including Banknotes).		Balance of Trade.
	Pub.	Gov.	Total.			Imports.	Exports.	
1907..	916	688	1,604	498	33	102	...	1,208
1910..	1,213	718	1,931	1,036	46	126	0	1,021
1914..	1,400	491	1,891	1,108	57	38	155	666
1918..	3,036	988	4,025	4,210	14	618	160	273
1920..	3,988	3,019	7,007	5,076	68	393	113	2,211
1921..	3,120	2,686	5,806	2,319	55	75	135	3,437
1922..	2,556	1,697	4,253	2,299	70	24	132	1,846
1923..	..	..	4,669	2,758	69	..	..	1,911

In the 14 years since 1910 there has been an excess of imports amounting in all to £E.16,313,000. This represents the import of foreign capital, payments on account of Egyptian-paid officials, the British garrison, tourists, and sportsmen, shipping, &c., less the sums spent outside the country by Sudan officials and other residents on leave. These sums can only be conjectured, but it seems not improbable that the import of foreign capital in this interval approaches 14 millions of Egyptian pounds, of which this country has contributed some 10 millions and Egypt the balance. Of the latter sum, the Sudan loans have produced some 8½ millions (allowing for money retained here to provide for the dividends), the Sudan Plantations Company about one million, the Kassala Railway Company £E.300,000, and the balance of half a million represents the contributions of gold-mining and prospecting companies, transport, navigation, and other companies and private merchants. It must not be forgotten, however, that the contribution of Egypt during the preceding 14 years reached the sum of £E.7,140,000 for extraordinary expenses. These are mostly sunk in railway expenditure, which in the 18 years to 1914 amounted to £E.6,800,000.

The relative importance of trade directions is indicated in the following table:—

DIRECTION of TRADE of the SUDAN, in Percentages.

	1910—		1920—		1923—	
	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.
Egypt	45	65	31	46	33	24
United Kingdom...	31	10	34	42	33	36
British Empire....	12	2	19	4	11	1
Abyssinia	2	1	4	3	4	3
United States	..	..	1	..	..	11
France	..	..	0.5	..	..	9

The economic future of the Sudan depends mainly on the development of cotton growing, for which the soil and climate are exceptionally favourable, provided water can be found. True, at present gum (of the production of which the Sudan has a practical monopoly) accounts for 24 per cent. of the exports, and cotton for only 18 per cent., but the possibility of development of the gum trade is very limited, whereas there is every reason to expect that the production of cotton will be doubled and even trebled in the near future. Cotton is grown on rain land, on land naturally irrigated by the Nile flood and on land irrigated by artificial works. The former is insignificant, though the Government is making efforts to increase its cultivation; the chief difficulty lies in the fact that the region where this is possible is inhabited by the negroid tribes, who are not sufficiently advanced to appreciate the possibilities of this crop. The area planted in cotton under flood conditions is very variable, and the yield precarious. It has shown a tendency to decrease of late years, owing probably to the poorness of the floods. On the other hand, there has been a steady increase in the area of land under artificial irrigation, from 8,366 Egyptian acres in 1917 to 24,058 in 1922. This bears witness to the energy of the authorities in extending their experimental cultivation, which, however, is always on a practical scale, in all likely directions. The crop is generally sakellarides or long-staple American, the quality satisfactory, and the yield (400 lbs per acre) higher on the average than is secured at present in Egypt (350 to 370 lbs per acre). If, as is confidently expected, the Gezira and Kassala schemes result in the ultimate addition of 200,000 acres to the area under cotton, production should be increased thereby by some 800,000 kantars of ginned cotton, worth about 2½ millions of pounds, with seed worth half-a-million more. This addition to the exports would restore the trade balance, and the shares received by the Government and foreign capital interested would provide the wherewithal to meet the dividends.

Besides cotton the chief articles of export are livestock (in 1922), £E.165,000; millet, £E.240,000; sesame £E.183,000; gum arabic, £E.530,000. These values are not widely different from those for the period 1913-1921, except in the case of livestock, where a very large export trade arose during the war years to meet the requirements of the British Army in Egypt and Palestine.

The chief articles of import consist of wheat flour, £E.105,000; sugar, £E.450,000; coffee, £E.246,000, almost entirely from Abyssinia; timber, £E.117,000; coal and patent fuel, £E.259,000; cotton fabrics, £E.788,000, chiefly from this country and India; and metals and metal manufactures, £E.607,000. The last item is swollen temporarily from the import of material for the extensive irrigation and other constructional works.

In studying the detailed figures given in the annual reports of the Director of the Central Economic Board, one cannot but be favourably impressed with the numerical records of steady advance in prosperity there set forth. Can it be claimed by opponents of the joint rule in the Sudan, as it was objected of British rule in Egypt, that this increase of material good has been accompanied by a neglect of moral advancement? The answer lies in the annual reports of the Governor-General, transmitted through His Majesty's High Commissioner in Egypt. We read of young natives being trained and employed in administration, of a healthy decrease in slave-trading, of provinces where crime is practically unknown, of centralised and local education on practical and enlightened grounds, covering such subjects as medicine, engineering, Moslem divinity, female education, midwifery. There is no better equipped research laboratory than that attached to the Gordon College, and the resulting effects on public health are indicated in the control of such dangerous

tropical diseases as sleeping sickness, small-pox, ankylostomosis and leprosy.

But, above all, the native now enjoys security and justice. In twenty-five years what was a black blot on the map of Africa has been converted into a quiet, contented, prosperous and steadily advancing community. The foundations of the advance were laid by Lord Kitchener, the labour of building fell on the capable and sympathetic shoulders of Sir Reginald Wingate, and the work has been continued by his successor, Sir Lee Stack. Foundation and superstructure have been well and truly built, and when the future historian comes to appraise the achievement of the British Empire at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, a high place, if not the highest, will be assigned to its work in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. It is satisfactory to learn from Lord Parmoor's recent speech in the House of Lords that this work is not to be interrupted.

Notes of the Week.

The Quarter's Revenue.—The Revenue Return for the first quarter of the current financial year, which is printed in detail on another page, shows that revenue for the period amounted to £176,231,400, which compares with £187,001,700 in the corresponding quarter of 1923-24, a decrease of £10,770,300. This decline is largely accounted for by Customs and Excise, which are down by £7,429,000 and £6,198,000 respectively. Other decreases include £860,000 under stamps, £690,000 under corporation profits tax, £1,320,000 under miscellaneous ordinary receipts, and £2,675,600 under special receipts. The principal increases are £3,110,000 in estate duties, £1,492,000 in income-tax, £2,970,000 in super-tax, and £850,000 in the postal, telegraph and telephone services. Expenditure at £215,090,500 compares with £214,414,000 twelve months ago, the deficit at the end of the first quarter thus being nearly £39 millions, as against £27½ millions at this time last year. Changes on the expenditure side include a saving of nearly £2 millions on Consolidated Fund Services, and increases of £2 millions in the Civil Services and of half a million in the Revenue Departments and Post Office. It is, of course, impossible to make any deductions from a comparison of these figures with the estimates, but it may be mentioned that revenue is over £22 millions below its quota, while expenditure is £18½ millions above. Expenditure, however, includes a half-year's instalment of the American debt service, while revenue collections are, of course, always smaller in the first quarter. The decline of over £7 millions in Customs receipts is, no doubt, in part attributable to the halving of the sugar, tea, &c., duties, but the decline of £13½ millions in Customs and Excise together is considerably heavier than might have been expected. The floating debt at the end of the quarter stands at £798 millions, as against £819 millions at this time last year. Treasury Bills are £24 millions lower at £580 millions, advances from Public Departments £6 millions lower at £205 millions, but advances by the Bank of England stand at £13 millions, against £4 millions a year ago.

The Report of the Brazil Mission.—Two articles on Brazil by "A Brazilian Bondholder," which recently appeared in the *Economist*, covered much of the ground which is traversed by the Report of the English financial Mission to Brazil, which was made public on Monday; and we can find no contradiction between the general conclusions of the two. We do not propose, therefore, to examine in any great detail the text of this Report. It is a practical and well-balanced review of Brazilian finances and potentialities, presented in a style, the lucidity of which reminds us that one of the signatories is Mr Hartley Withers. In brief, the story of Brazil's trouble is the story of constantly recurring deficits; these deficits are attributed partly to the lack of a proper Budget system, and the Mission recommend the establishment of such a system very much on the British pattern. To reduce expenditure a "Geddes" Committee is recommended, while strong exception is taken to the

Exemption of agriculture from the income-tax. Having dealt with the Budget problem the Report turns to the question of the unwieldy floating debt built up through the persistent deficits, which it is now sought to eliminate. Here it is insisted that Brazil must not look merely to a foreign loan, but must make efforts also to raise an internal loan. It is also suggested that the Government should sell its shares in the bank and other enterprises, such as railway and shipping companies. Improvements of the currency and exchange situation are outlined, and the Government's participation in the coffee valorisation scheme comes in for criticism. A large part of the Report deals with the transport organisation and development, which is essential to the utilisation of the great resources of the country. Stress is laid on the obvious fact that if the potentialities which Brazil possesses in her rich natural resources are to be brought to fruition, this must mainly be done by the aid of foreign capital, and that foreign capital will not flow to Brazil or anywhere else unless it is assured of proper treatment and opportunity. We do not quite see why the market for Brazilian bonds in London should have found this Report disappointing. Perhaps too much had been expected. Obviously reform, financial and economic, in Brazil must at the best be slow; and, of course, everything depends upon the willingness and determination with which her rulers practise the preachings of the British Mission. Fortunately the new Brazilian régime, under Dr Bernardes, is giving proof of its intentions to turn over a new leaf. Those who read the financial section of the Presidential Message of Dr Bernardes, which was printed in full in last week's *Economist* (pp. 1310 to 1316), will see that something tangible in the way of reform has already been attempted. A "Bank of Issue" has been established, and a "Geddes" Committee is already sitting. Further progress along the road to recovery outlined by the British Mission will be watched with interest and sympathy. It is a long road, but, if persistently followed, it should lead to rewards that will fully compensate Brazil for all the effort entailed.

The Franc and French Public Finance.—In view of the weakness of the franc, which has fallen from less than 70 to the £ at the time of the May elections to 84 during the present week, developments in the French Budget situation are being watched with special interest. An account of recent discussions in the Senate is given on a later page by our Paris correspondent, from which it is evident that the enormous size of the floating debt leaves the position of the franc very vulnerable in the event of any renewed lack of confidence. It is, however, future policy rather than the present technical position which will influence opinion, and the Government has as yet given no sign except the promise to make an intelligible inventory of the finances of the country before the next Budget is presented. In the meantime, however, there are one or two points that are worth noting. In the first place, the new Government does not propose to maintain the "decrees" which did so much to overturn the late administration. This, however, does not mean an irrevocable blow at Budget equilibrium. The taxation side of the Poincaré reforms were specifically voted by the Chamber, and remain in force. It is doubted whether any changes will be made in these except a small transfer from indirect to direct taxation in pursuance of election promises. The decrees already made relate to economies in the public services estimated to reduce expenditure by about a milliard francs. The Government apparently rely on meeting any deficit due to non-enforcement of the decrees from (a) the elasticity of revenue resulting from the good commercial situation in France, and (b) by enforcing the existing taxes and collecting arrears. As to the future, the Government cannot altogether avoid new capital expenditure. But the most significant fact in the situation is that the Government apparently intends practically to suspend further expenditure on the devastated areas. How it will satisfy new or outstanding claims we do not know; but we suspect some means will be found of adjusting payments already made. If the Government can enforce this policy, they will have plugged the really big leak, and may hope to make the Budget really seaworthy.

The Hungarian Loan.—The efforts of the League of Nations in the field of financial reconstruction met with further success this week in the floating of the English portion of the Hungarian loan, full details of which are given among "New Capital Issues." The negotiations have been more difficult than those for the Austrian loan, as the Governments have not guaranteed the issue on this occasion. Moreover, the Hungarian Budget still includes a small reparations payment, and the political status of the country is such that the risk of strife with her neighbours is not quite so remote as in the case of Austria. But the Great Powers, as well as her neighbours, all have interests in maintaining the financial as well as the political *status quo* in Hungary, and this is perhaps the chief security for investors. The British public, at any rate, took this view, and heavily oversubscribed a loan which gives a very good return. As in the case of Austria, small subscriptions were very numerous, and proved once more the widespread confidence in and desire to support the work of the League. It is significant that when it comes to practical support of reconstruction efforts, Great Britain is finding nearly £8 millions out of a total loan of less than £12 millions. We would add one word of warning. It is useless to float financial schemes of this kind if they are to be thwarted by economic obstructions such as tariffs, and we would have wished that Hungary should have been asked to give definite undertakings on this point. The report of the League recognises this danger very clearly, and the British investor will certainly look to the Economic and Finance Committee and to the Commissioner-General to watch carefully that the scheme is not prejudiced by an unwise economic policy dictated by a narrow nationalist outlook.

Irish Finance and Trade.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—The revenue figures just published for the first quarter of the current financial year make satisfactory reading. Outgoings in respect of Central Fund Services (the Free State analogue of the Consolidated Fund in Great Britain) and of Supply Services are reduced by comparison with the corresponding period of 1923 from £3,688,700 to £5,970,875—a substantial reduction of close upon two and three-quarter millions. On the other side of the account, revenue receipts showing increases under the headings of Customs, income-tax, and Post Office, and decreases for Excise, estate duties, stamps, and corporation profits tax, are also down by £1,066,749, by comparison with last year. Thus, while there is efficient collection of taxes, the present business depression is reflected in the returns, which all the same are better than last year, for the following reason. The Excise figure for last year was swollen by special receipts of a non-recurrent character relating to the transition period, and this more than accounts for the whole falling off this year in the Excise figure which, amounting to £1,211,000, put the apparent balance on the wrong side. The figures generally are better than the forecast in Mr Blythe's Budget speech. Progress is thus being made towards Budget equilibrium. Trade figures for the first four months of this year show imports at £21,776,150 and exports £14,150,581—figures the precise significance of which will probably be the subject of much controversial comment. The railway receipts for the period January 1 to June 30, 1924, for the majority of the Free State lines have just been published. They, too, reflect at once the return to normal conditions and the depressed condition of commerce and industry. A British Treasury White Paper, not received here yet, but referred to in the public Press, has been published in explanation of the Government proposals for guaranteeing the Free State land purchase loan. The principal and interest of the securities to be issued by the Irish Government within a period of eight years from the date of the empowering Act are to be guaranteed within a total of £30,000,000, and the securities will consist of bonds, and bear interest at 4½ per cent. It is not anticipated that any charge will, in fact, fall upon the Imperial Government under the proposed guarantee—which is to be given in fulfilment of the undertaking of the late Government by agreement of the Government of the Free State and by its announcement in Parliament that it would ask Parliament to

guarantee the bonds referred to. This undertaking is stated to have originated in the obligations assumed by a preceding Government in pre-Treaty days to facilitate the completion of land purchase in Ireland. There is no likelihood of any friction over the terms and conditions of the guarantee as set forth in the White Paper, the appearance of which will undoubtedly be of a reassuring character to Irish landowners and ex-landowners, who are to receive payment for their land in Irish Free State 4½ per cent. bonds, as stated many months ago in this column.

The Crisis in Italy.—Since the week before last, when we discussed the political situation created in Italy by the murder of Signor Matteotti, the speed with which events were moving has slackened. A few more arrests have been made, but the trial has not yet opened. Parliament has adjourned—probably for two or three months—and the personnel of the Government has been largely reconstructed. The most striking event has been Signor Mussolini's apologia in the Senate on June 24th, in which he insisted that the Fascists were as profoundly horrified at the crime as anybody else; promised that justice would be done without respect of persons; attempted to demonstrate that equal atrocities had been committed by foreign nations and by non-Fascist Italians—in which connection he raked up the few outrages committed against Fascists during the past four years, without facing the question of the proportion borne by these to crimes of which Fascists had been the perpetrators; and, finally, he made an appeal on the personal question. "The selection of individuals according to their capabilities and their probity is difficult enough in normal times—it is much more difficult in abnormal times." This speech—which the Opposition welcomed and the more extreme Fascists deplored as a defensive gesture—was lacerated in the Senate by Count Sforza, the distinguished Italian diplomatist, over whom Signor Mussolini rode roughshod soon after he came into power. "A crime committed by hierarchs, who deceived the Duce as to their criminal activities? So be it. But in that case the head of the Government bears the blame for the inexcusable fault of having been warned against them.....and having pertinaciously defended them." The Count reminded the Senate of the persistent condonation of Fascist violence in Signor Mussolini's Press. Although, however, he has bowed before the storm, Signor Mussolini has not abandoned his position on any essential sector. "There is no question of my clinging to office," he said, at the close of his speech, "but I should regard myself as the most cowardly of men if I shirked my moral and political responsibilities in a difficult moment." He refused to hear of a dissolution or to disband the National Militia; and on this programme he ultimately received in the Senate a vote of confidence of 225 to 21, with 7 abstentions. The status of the National Militia seems likely to be the crucial issue in the event of a trial of strength between Fascism and a united Opposition. The Militia has now been demobilised, and the Dictator has agreed that "its organisation must be brought within the constitution." Yet it is hard to see how constitutional Government—in the sense now generally accepted in Western society—can be more than a name in a country where one political leader is able to call up armed men, at a moment's notice, to do his bidding. On this question, therefore, the Opposition are not inclined to compromise, but at present they do not seem to have advanced beyond the negative tactics of boycotting the Government as unclean, and these tactics will embarrass Signor Mussolini very little until Parliament meets again. Probably he calculates that the momentarily united Opposition front will not hold out during several months of inactivity. The Opposition could usefully employ this interval in a great campaign of political propaganda throughout the country, thereby challenging Fascism again to suppress constitutional action by unconstitutional means. In that case, Signor Mussolini might find himself in difficulties between his own extremists, who would probably insist on recommencing their familiar operations, and the public opinion of the country, which has given the Fascist Government a reprieve, but on condition of good behaviour. Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the Government shows that

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDÔME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

Signor Mussolini can still enlist the support of respectable and distinguished personalities. The philosopher, Signor Gentile, has left the Ministry of Education, only to become an under-secretary in the Ministry of Justice, and Signor Scialoja has accepted an under-secretaryship in the Ministry of Public Works.

The Irish Boundary Problem.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—Mr Justice Feetham, the member of the South African Bench who has been nominated by the British Government to preside over the Boundary Commission, arrived in England this week, and has since visited both Dublin and Belfast. Doubtless, as suggested by Mr Ramsay MacDonald, his visits are determined by a desire to see whether agreement can be reached by preliminary negotiations before the assembling of the Commission and the taking of the opinion of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as to the position of the British Government, its powers and duties in the event of Northern Ireland persisting in its refusal to nominate its representative on the Commission. In view of the persistent misrepresentation of the position in some quarters, it appears necessary to repeat that the advice to be given by the Judicial Committee relates solely to the internal or domestic side in Great Britain of the difficulty alleged to exist by reason of Northern Ireland's refusal. The Committee is no party to the reference to the Judicial Committee, and remains wholly unaffected by its view. Great Britain, if impeded in fulfilling her Treaty obligations by the action of Northern Ireland, and having regard to existing British law, will doubtless proceed so to amend her laws as to enable her to honour her signature to the Treaty with the fullest good faith.

Miners' Wages and Coal Profits.—The first audit under the new wages agreement has been announced this week in the South Wales coalfield. A new procedure has been adopted in the ascertainment of trading results for wage purposes. Under the 1921 agreement the audits were taken monthly, and the audit for any particular month governed the wages paid two months later. That practice was altered at the request of the miners' leaders, and it was substituted by a system of two-monthly audits, which governed the wages paid two months later. It has now been agreed that the audits should cover three months, but that they should actually apply monthly. Thus, subject to the minimum clause, the wages in July are regulated by the proceeds of the trading results of the industry in March, April, and May; in August they will be governed by the trading results in April, May, and June, and so on. In the South Wales coalfield the audit for March, April, and May certifies a general wage rate of 31.41 per cent. on the standard rates of 1915. The minimum wage rate in that coalfield, however, is 42.22 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates, and the deficiency between the 31.41 per cent. certified and the actual wage of 42.22 per cent. payable must be met out of the owners' profits. That deficiency absorbed not only the whole of the owners' 12 per cent. share of the surplus profits available after deduction from the total proceeds, the standard wages cost, other costs, and standard profits, but also more than one-third of the owners' standard profits. The

total sum thus surrendered by the owners for the purpose of the minimum wage amounts to £428,529, and, with a previous deficiency of £429,153, brings the total deficiency to be carried forward and recouped, if possible, out of future profits, to £857,682. The worst feature of the audit was the lowness of the profit realised in May. In March and April the profit per ton had averaged about 2s 4d. In those months the general wage rate stood at 28 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates, and prices had been favourably affected by the fears of a national stoppage. In May, however, the wages cost per ton increased from about 11s 9d to 13s, and other costs from 5s 11d to 6s 1d, while the proceeds per ton fell from about 20s to 19s 3½d. The cumulative effect of these causes was a fall in the rate of profit to only 2½d per ton. That rate of profit means that at least two-thirds of the colliery companies in the coalfield produced their coal in May at a loss, and it is feared that the audit for April, May, and June will show even more unsatisfactory trading results.

World's Crop Prospects.—According to information collected by the International Institute of Agriculture and published in its crop report for June, in most parts of Europe temperature and fine weather alternating with rain-storms prevailed during the latter half of May, and proved favourable to cereal growth, thus partially repairing the damage caused by the inclement season in the northern and central regions. At the beginning of June crop conditions were almost everywhere better than those of a month earlier, although the situation in Northern Europe generally and in parts of Russia was less satisfactory than at the same period in 1923. Prospects in Danubian and Balkan countries were, however, more promising. In North America crop conditions at the beginning of June were generally below those of June, 1923, while growth is backward, especially in Canada. The area sown with spring wheat in the United States is less than last year's, though the decrease is not quite so marked as had been expected. Some decline has also taken place in the areas under rye and barley. For Canada, the figures of areas sown with cereals will not be available before July 10th. For wheat, estimates from five countries usually growing about one-fourth of the world's yield afford an aggregate of 745.1 million centals, as compared with 816.4 millions in 1923, thus showing a predicted decrease of 8.7. The most serious decline is in the United States, where the outlook is for a crop of 55.5 million centals less than last year's, and 112.7 millions below the average of the previous five years; in Spain and in India results appear likely to be less favourable than in 1923, but better than the five years' average yields; Belgium expects crops rather larger than in 1923, and over their previous average out-turns. These data deal with a number of countries too limited for any authoritative opinion on the season's aggregate results; but taking into account the reduced acreage and the present aspect of spring-sown crops generally, there is good reason to believe that the Northern Hemisphere wheat crop of 1924 will, as a whole, be inferior in quantity to that of last year.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Late on Wednesday evening the Department of Agriculture of the United States Government published important statistics on the cotton crop for 1924-25. The condition of the growth on June 25th was reported as 71.2 per cent., against 65.6 per cent. a month earlier, and 69.9 per cent. at the same time last year. The statement was better than expected, and it is evident that climatic conditions in the belt during the past month have been very favourable. The same authority has estimated the area under cultivation at 40,403,000 acres, against a revised acreage for the current season of 38,709,000 acres, thus showing an increase of 4.4 per cent. This forecast was about equal to anticipations. The reports were interpreted in market circles as being very bearish, and there was a fall in the New York market of about 100 points, or a cent per lb. On Thursday the Liverpool market was affected and prices there were reduced over ½d per lb. According to the information so far available, there is an indication of an output of American cotton for next season of

12,144,000 bales, exclusive of linters. At the corresponding period of last year the growth was estimated at 11,412,000 bales, but owing to less favourable conditions later the yield will only turn out to be about 10,200,000 bales. A great deal depends upon the weather in the belt during the next couple of months, but it is satisfactory to know that during June the late start was recovered to a considerable extent. Mr. Arno S. Pearce, the secretary of the International Cotton Federation, has sailed for the United States this week for the purpose of making an investigation into the position of the cotton manufacturing industry, and he will also inquire as to the prospects for raw cotton supplies. It is probable that he will cable reports from time to time, and these will be circulated amongst the members of the International Federation. Many people are of opinion that with larger supplies of raw cotton at a reasonable price a distinct trade revival in spinning and manufacturing circles in Lancashire will show itself.

The American Crude Oil Situation.—It is reported, writes a correspondent, that a "shut-down" of production, to last for 30 days, has been arranged among operating oil companies in one of the newer fields in Oklahoma, and that similar "shut-downs" are being negotiated in two other mid-continent fields whose output has been rising. It is hoped by these means to keep off 100,000 barrels a day from the market. Artificial measures of this kind call attention to the critical nature of the American crude oil situation. The price of Pennsylvania crude oil has been reduced twice in the last two months—by 25 cents on May 10th and by 50 cents on June 15th. The new range of prices is now from \$3.25 to \$3.75 per barrel, 50 cents above the level at which it started the year. Producers have been anxious to point out that the Pennsylvania situation is independent of the mid-continent, and that, as the Pennsylvania crude oil production is only an insignificant proportion—about 7 per cent.—of the total American output, the price reduction is of no real importance. But the mid-continent price structure is by no means strong. It has already been broken twice by one of the smaller purchasing companies, but the major companies seem determined to maintain their prices, and are undoubtedly responsible for bringing about these voluntary "shut-downs." Up to the present, the daily average crude oil production of the whole country has been steadily mounting. For the week ending June 14th, it was 1,988,200 barrels as compared with 1,884,050 barrels at the beginning of the year. There is no doubt but that if the newer fields were rapidly opened up, another serious state of over-production would result. There is reason to believe, however, that "more prudent working-methods," as the Royal Dutch directors put it, are now being applied.

The Bank Dividends.—The first batch of banking interim dividends which has been announced this week shows no change as compared with the first half of last year, as will be seen from the table below, which shows the interim dividends year by year from 1917:—

	Per Cent. per Annum.							
	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Barclays Bank "B" shares...	17½	20	20	14	14	14	14	14
Lancashire and Yorkshire	16	16	16	16	19	19½	20	14
Lloyds	18½	18½	18½	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½
Midland Bank	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Westminster Bank	18	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Manchester and County	13½	15	15	15	15	15	16½	16½
District Bank	17½	17½	17½	18½	18½	18½	18½	18½
National Provincial Bank	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Williams, Deacon's	14	14	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	13
Alexanders Discount	10	12	13	14	15	15	15	15
National Discount "A"	10½	11½	12½	12½	12½	12½	10	10
Do "B"	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Union Discount	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	15

* Final dividend. † On old capital.
(t) Also a special cash bonus of 10s per share, free of tax.

The interim dividends of the discount houses are also the same rate as a year ago.

U.S. Banking Profits.—The report of the Comptroller of the Currency for 1923 states that since the inauguration of the Federal Reserve System, the resources of the 12 Federal reserve banks have grown from \$270 millions in November, 1914, to \$5,091 millions at the end of October last. The gross earnings of the Federal reserve banks from November, 1914, to June 30, 1923, were \$573 millions, and current expenses (salaries \$82 millions, and all other expenses \$71½ millions) totalled \$153½ millions. The annual rate of dividend was 6 per cent. as provided by law. The Government has received from the franchise tax \$135 millions. The paid-up capital of the banks on June 27th last was \$109½ millions, and the surplus \$218 millions. From November, 1914, to October, 1923, the gold held has expanded from \$228 millions to \$3,111 millions, and bills discounted and bought from \$7 millions to \$1,088 millions. Federal reserve notes have increased from \$2½ millions to \$2,225 millions, and member bank deposits from \$249 millions to \$1,895 millions. After writing off \$160 millions for losses and depreciation, the net addition to the profits of the national banks last year was \$203½ millions, and dividends to the amount of \$179 millions, or \$13 millions more than in 1922 were paid. Loans and discounts increased by \$600 millions, or 5 per cent., while investments in bonds, &c., expanded by 11 per cent. The paid-up capital rose by \$25½ millions, and the surplus by \$26 millions, while the note circulation, at \$731 millions, was greater than in any year since 1915 and \$4½ millions higher than in 1922. Compared with September, 1922, the banks' deposits show an increase of over \$441 millions, while total assets increased by over \$786 millions. Although the number of national bank failures was 52, the aggregate capital of these was only \$3,205,000, with assets of approximately \$30 millions. "Assuming that the ultimate loss is not greater than the average loss sustained by creditors of insolvent banks, the affairs of which have been settled, the recovery from failures during the current year should approximate at least 80 per cent. of the claims."

The Budget Idea in U.S.A.—In this country the idea of the importance of a complete and co-ordinated budget of revenue and expenditure is ingrained, and has for many a long decade been accepted as a commonplace. We accept as a truism Mr Gladstone's words: "Budgets are not merely affairs of arithmetic, but in a thousand ways go to the root of prosperity of individuals, the relations of classes, and the strength of kingdoms." We find it hard, therefore, to remember that the "budget idea" is, comparatively speaking, in its infancy in the United States, where twenty years ago it was regarded as purely academic. How the United States came to adopt the budget system is the subject of an interesting article in the May issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. It is only since 1912 that its adoption has become at all general for public bodies in America; and it was not until 1921 that the United States had a real national Budget. The campaign for its institution gained its first real impetus from the studies of President Taft's Commission on Economy and Efficiency, one of whose most important productions was a report on "The Need for a National Budget." Legislation of 1921 set up a "bureau of the budget" under a director and staff. "During the first year of its existence," says the article in question, "the Bureau of the Budget was under the direction of General Charles G. Dawes, who, because of his unusual energy... did much to bring public attention both to himself and to the national budget system."

The Experiences of Underwriters.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—In the rush of new issues that has taken place during the past few weeks the underwriters have experienced some chequered results. In a good many cases they got out without being called upon to shoulder any of their obligations. The prompt way in which the Hungarian subscription lists closed on Wednesday in this week, after having been open for less than a couple of hours, shows that there is plenty of money available for such speculative investment as these bonds offer. In this particular instance the underwriting

commission of 1½ per cent. was in such eager demand that before the prospectus appeared as much as 1½ per cent. was bid for the underwriting commission by people who were willing to run the risk of being left with the stock for the sake of only ½ per cent. commission. Underwriters of some of the recent industrials have fared less well. In the case of the Whitehall Electric Investments, they got out of the debentures without liability, but they had to underwrite an equal amount of preference shares at the same time with the debentures, and they were left with 80 per cent. of the preferences. The commission did little more than cover the discount of 1s per share at which the price of the preferences opened. There was, in short, no profit at all to those underwriters who sold their preference shares at the opening of the market. Barcelona Traction 6½ per cent. prior lien bonds were left with underwriters to the extent of 89 per cent., which was not an altogether unexpected result, seeing that the issue was somewhat complicated. The price of the bonds opened at 2 discount, and went back to 2½ discount, on the issue price of 91. That the Lautaro Nitrate Company would be successful with its offer for sale at 100 of £1½ million 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock was a foregone conclusion, and underwriters in this case were practically certain of getting their commission for nothing. The public are beginning to deal in underwriting to an extent quite unknown even five years ago. Every broker nowadays knows what it is to be besieged with requests for underwriting whenever a popular new issue is reported to be on the point of emission. The difficulty is that in a great many cases this demand for underwriting comes from people who are out simply to take the commission, and who, if they get left with the stock, are immediately sellers. The consequence is that the market starts off badly, nor does it pull itself together until such time as the underwriters have finished their selling, and the influence of the more genuine buyer makes itself felt. This gives an opportunity, of course, to the public for the acquisition of cheap stock, because the weaker underwriters, unable to meet the calls as the money falls due, want to get out at any reasonable discount. It is said that in the case of this week's issue of the Hungarian Loan efforts were made by the firms in charge to spread the underwriting as widely as possible, if only to relieve the loan from any possible suspicion of its having been planted amongst a comparatively small circle of favoured underwriters. The trouble is in a case of this sort that, if underwriting is distributed over a wide area, some people talk as though the promoters found themselves obliged to hawk round the underwriting to as many people as possible. On the other hand, if the stock is confined to a limited field, the charge at once arises of undue favouritism having been shown towards the larger capitalist at the expense of the smaller. Candour compels the admission that the true interest of the public is best served by underwriting going into the hands of strong people who are able to nurse stock if they should be left with it.

The Tin Position.—In view of the fact that all the Eastern "pooled" surplus tin will be dispersed by the end of November, considerable interest (writes a correspondent) is being shown in the statistical position of the commodity. There is some difference between the trade authorities, but this is explained by the adjustment in the Banka shipments. According to Messrs Ricard and Freiwald's return for July, the world's visible supply of tin on June 30th stood at 19,442 tons, there having been an increase of 829 tons on the month. This compares with 17,762 tons a year ago and 22,485 tons on June 30, 1922. The Straits shipments for all June aggregated 5,700 tons, and the total supplies work out at 8,046 tons, as compared with 10,631 tons in May. The deliveries were rather disappointing, but they reveal the slack condition of trade everywhere. The world's deliveries of tin for all June amounted to only 7,217 tons, of which the United States took 4,310 tons, the United Kingdom 1,335 tons, the Continent (except Holland) 1,173 tons, and Holland the remaining 399 tons. This is a decline of over a thousand tons on the previous month, but it is pleasing to note an expansion in the Continental takings. Of the world's total supply of tin the United

States holds no less than 10,067 tons in the shape of stocks and tin afloat, and thus more than half the visible supply is in American hands. Supplies in the twelve months ended June 30th last exceeded deliveries by 1,680 tons, the former being 105,924 tons and the latter 104,244 tons, whereas for the year ended June 30, 1923, the total supplies at 97,372 tons were 4,723 tons less than the deliveries, which amounted to 102,095 tons. There has in two years been a reduction of just over 3,000 tons in the visible supply of tin, and in the last fourteen months the greater portion of the tin surplus held in the East has been marketed usually at satisfactory prices. Thus the claim that tin is thoroughly sound statistically does not appear to be unreasonable. The technical position also may be regarded as healthy. There is no big bull account open, nor have the bears many commitments. Since March last there has been a rise to over £298 and a subsequent fall to just over £200, but tin during the last month or so has been moving largely on its own merits. After the publication of the monthly figures, the three months' position moved up to £230, or close on £30 over the lowest touched at the close of May, and sentiment was bullish, although there was some subsequent fluctuation. Numerous inquiries were reported from America, but the holidays there checked business somewhat. Seeing that September and October tin is now being dealt in, and the Government stocks will be exhausted in four months' time, the market should be able to hold its own, and no doubt further improvement will be seen after the holiday period.

Lipton's Year.—The report of Lipton's, Limited, for the year ended March 31st last states that the market values of most of the principal commodities dealt in by the company have continued to fall during the period, necessitating further depreciation in the value of stocks in hand, which has been borne by the year's trading. Gross profits are, however, down. The following table summarises results for some years past:—

Year Ended March.	Gross Profits.	Expenses, &c.	Net Profits.	Depreciation.	Div.
	£	£	£	£	%
1902.....	228,202	39,441	188,761	19,063	8
1908.....	274,335	83,935	190,400	27,624	8
1912.....	307,207	103,922	203,285	51,341	6
1913.....	315,606	111,967	203,639	41,095	6
1914.....	314,949	131,461	183,488	23,202	6
1915.....	272,182	149,509	122,673	*262,274	nil
1916.....	295,089	125,645	169,444	45,104	nil
1917.....	442,776	140,189	302,587	44,057	7½
1918.....	544,322	126,222	418,100	44,055	12½
1919.....	579,678	130,902	448,776	47,411	12½
1920.....	644,564	177,005	467,559	51,866	12½
1921.....	433,230	158,061	275,169	57,103	12½
1922.....	561,833	167,521	394,312	82,601	12½
1923.....	547,342	140,374	406,968	69,912	12½
1924.....	502,758	129,809	372,949	80,704	10

* Including £220,889 drawn from "premium on shares account."

A satisfactory feature is the fall in expenses, while it should not be overlooked that £10,000 more is allocated to depreciation than a year ago. In the circumstances the decision to reduce the ordinary dividend to 10 per cent. is a wise one. This enables £42,884 to be carried forward, as against £35,640 brought into the accounts. In the balance-sheet, goodwill and property is £81,000 higher, mainly on account of the fact that the company has purchased several freehold and leasehold properties. Cash is £76,303 lower. Stocks at £1,161,016 are £105,851 lower. Savings Bank deposits are returned as £153,409, which compares with £151,942 a year ago. We should like to see the item goodwill and property separated.

Spiers and Pond.—Although earnings are a little lower it is evident that this old-established refreshment firm is holding its own in these competitive days. Profits for the 12 months ended March 31, 1924, amounted to £148,614, as against £155,901 for the previous year. The following table shows how the undertaking has fared since

1918. It may be recalled that the company was reorganised six years ago:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Profit	£ 128,520	£ 151,365	£ 136,072	£ 145,748	£ 155,901	£ 148,614
Deb. int., &c.	26,714	26,419	31,209	41,590	36,126	35,022
Net profit	101,806	124,946	104,863	104,158	119,774	113,592
Brought forward ..	..	15,355	15,652	22,531	13,114	12,651
Reserve, &c. ..	101,806	40,301	120,515	126,689	132,888	126,243
Directors	35,000	43,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	17,000
Dividend	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	49,451	76,649	70,984	86,575	86,540	86,544
	(10%)	(12½%)	(12½%)	(12½%)	(12½%)	(12½%)
Carried forward ..	15,355	15,652	22,531	13,114	19,348	17,699

The directors are maintaining their policy of building a strong reserve position, this year's appropriation of £15,000 bringing general reserve to £135,000. Stocks of wines and spirits at £74,407 show an increase of £11,232. Real property remains by far the most important item among the assets, being valued at over £1,000,000 in a balance-sheet total of £1,600,000. The balance-sheet might be rendered a little more attractive if the directors could see their way clear to indicate how much represented freehold properties, and the nature of the leases in leasehold properties.

The Distillers' Company.—This company has been able to turn the prevailing conditions of the past year to such good account as to produce a gross profit of £906,744, which surpasses all previous records. The following table shows the remarkable progress made by the undertaking over a period of years:—

	1914.	1915.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Gross profits	£ 310,993	£ 502,379	£ 669,464	£ 597,582	£ 642,337	£ 815,100	£ 906,744
Brought forward	19,223	65,358	70,435	100,526	108,994	98,770	107,546
Income-tax, &c.	330,216	567,737	739,899	698,108	751,331	913,870	1,014,290
Debit interest	28,733	140,167	140,862	155,099	157,071	165,337	186,339
Reserve and dep.	36,409	27,090	27,090	27,090	27,302	29,132	29,591
Balance	164,524	275,480	316,947	410,919	401,958	484,407	544,040
Preference div.	13,000	10,045	11,432	11,432	11,521	12,293	87,582
Ordinary div.	130,000	135,000	204,589	290,493	291,667	364,588	356,927
	(10%)	(10%)	(10%)	(10%)	(10%)	(10%)	(10%)
Carried forward	21,025	70,435	100,526	108,994	98,770	107,546	119,531

As authorised by meetings of the company held in July and August, 1923, the directors duly carried through the subdivision of the £10 ordinary and preference shares into shares of £1 each. They also carried through the new issue of 1,822,840 6 per cent. preference shares then agreed upon, 10s per share having been paid by capitalising £911,420 from the reserve fund, and 10s being paid in cash by the allottees. In the course of the year the directors, in exercise of their powers, have made a further issue of 39,320 ordinary and 540 preference shares fully paid in part settlement of the purchase-price of an old-established London rectifying business. The effect of these various operations has been to increase the issued capital of the company as at May 15, 1924, to within £165,000 of the total amount authorised, viz., £6,000,000. The reserve fund stood at £950,000 last year. From this, £911,240 was taken as mentioned above. There has now been added £211,420, making the total £250,000. Thus distilling is not a vanishing industry as far as the financial aspects are concerned. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in our usual column.

Life Association of Scotland.—A valuation of the assets and liabilities of this association has been made for the three years ended April 5th last. At the previous valuation in 1921 the sum of £349,663 was written off for depreciation of investments, and a revaluation of assets at April 5th last showed an aggregate market value considerably in excess of the book value as written down. The investment reserve fund of £150,000 was consequently transferred back to the life and annuity fund. The

valuation of liabilities was made at 3 per cent., while the net yield of the funds during the past three years averaged £4 9s 3d per cent. per annum. The life funds of £5,988,226 showed a surplus over liabilities of £569,226, of which £142,772 was carried forward. The amount allotted to policyholders was £373,459, and to shareholders £41,495. In the principal class, A3, reversionary bonuses were declared at the rate of £2 10s per cent. per annum for the three years, the intermediate bonus on claims subsequent to April 5th last being fixed at £1 15s per cent. per annum. In 1921 the A3 class policies received a bonus of 15s per cent. per annum for two years, and in 1916 there was no distribution of surplus. During the year ended April 5th last 1,498 new assurances were issued for £849,530 net. The death claims were 72 per

cent. of the amount expected, and the average net rate of interest yielded by the funds was £4 10s 6d per cent. The total funds increased during the year by £167,181 to £6,083,837.

West Australian Mining.—The subject of gold mining in Western Australia—to be exact, at Kalgoorlie—has received an unusual degree of attention just lately. Following the annual meeting of the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation—which was unable to pay any dividend for last year—a number of disappointed shareholders threw their holdings on the market, and the price fell to about 9s. A proposal has just been approved for sale of the property to the

THE REVENUE.

I.—An ACCOUNT of the TOTAL REVENUE of the UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned period of the Year ending March 31, 1925, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

	Quarter from April 1 to June 30, 1924, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending June 30, 1924.	Quarter ending June 30, 1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£ 24,860,000	£ 32,289,000	..	7,429,000
Excise	30,280,000	36,478,000	..	6,198,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	2,396,000	2,141,000	255,000	..
Estate, &c., Duties	16,900,000	13,790,000	3,110,000	..
Stamps	3,980,000	4,840,000	..	860,000
Land Tax, House Duty, and Mineral Rights Duty	550,000	420,000	130,000	..
Property and Income Tax	44,540,000	43,048,000	1,492,000	..
Super Tax	17,170,000	14,200,000	2,970,000	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	..	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	4,680,000	5,370,000	..	690,000
Postal Service	7,000,000	6,600,000	400,000	..
Telegraph Service	1,350,000	1,250,000	100,000	..
Telephone Service	3,850,000	3,500,000	350,000	..
Crown Lands	270,000	260,000	10,000	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	4,010,745	4,425,511	..	414,766
Miscellaneous—				
Ordinary Receipts	3,256,654	4,576,613	..	1,319,959
Special Receipts	11,137,998	15,813,621	..	2,675,623
	176,231,397	187,001,745	8,817,000	19,587,348
			Net Decrease, £10,770,348	

II.—An ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Quarter ending June 30, 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Quarter ending June 30, 1924.		ISSUES.	Quarter ending June 30, 1924.	
	£	£		£	£
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			Expenditure—		
Bank of England	5,069,613	5,442,665	National Debt Services—		
Bank of Ireland	1,562,031	1,375,502	Interest, &c.	118,572,045	128,512,132
	6,631,614	6,818,167	Sinking Fund	7,488,530	..
Revenue, as shown in Account I.	176,231,397	187,001,745	Road Fund	1,795,044	1,440,044
Temporary Advances Repaid—			Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	650,000	600,000
Bullion	..	65,000	Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	1,048,865	946,666
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	3,320,000	1,510,000	Land Settlement	241,646	107,227
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—			Other Consolidated Fund Services	715,336	874,945
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—			Total Consolidated Fund Services	130,461,464	132,381,012
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	2,200,000	1,750,000	Supply Services—		
Under the Housing Act, 1914	1,000	..	Army, Navy, and Air Force	22,500,000	22,350,000
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	270,000	Civil Services	51,289,000	49,323,000
(c) For other Issues—			Revenue Departments and Post Office ..	10,840,000	10,360,000
By Treasury Bills	579,997,000	604,321,000	Total Supply Services	84,629,000	82,033,000
By National Savings Certificates	6,850,000	13,200,000	Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	215,080,464	214,414,012
By 4 per Cent. Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	12,427,763	29,167,571	Temporary Advances—		
(d) Ways and Means Advances	262,491,500	252,803,500	Bullion	..	5,000
Repayments—			Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	36,891	36,891
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	488,901	42,224	Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	270,000
			Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
			Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	2,200,000	1,750,000
			Under the Housing Act, 1914	1,000	..
			Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—		
			Repayment of Amounts borrowed	3,320,000	1,510,000
			Redemption of Debt—		
			Treasury Bills	588,320,000	616,010,000
			Principal of National Savings Certificates ..	8,050,000	9,250,000
			Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	50	268,987
			Ways and Means Advances Repaid	230,430,500	231,730,500
			Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11—		
			Issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	55,214
				June 30, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
			Balances in Exchequer—		
			Bank of England	1,047,448,905	1,092,155,593
			Bank of Ireland	1,111,526	1,773,669
				3,190,270	3,795,614
	1,050,639,175	1,095,949,207		1,050,639,175	1,095,949,207

Mem.—

Floating Debt outstanding March 31, 1924

	£	£
Ways and Means Advances outstanding—	774,475,500	..
Advances by Bank of England	13,250,000	4,250,000
Advances by Public Departments	204,968,500	210,730,500
Treasury Bills outstanding	*580,085,000	604,350,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding	798,301,500	819,330,500

Net Increase

* Includes £88,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

Treasury, June 30, 1924.

Lake View and Star. The announcement of this scheme had the effect of causing a spurt in the quotation of the Ivanhoe shares. The terms provide for the distribution of five Lake View shares in respect of every two Ivanhoes. Then the Ivanhoe will go into liquidation, and realise its other assets, which comprise cash and numerous investments, estimated to represent 10s per share. The salient point on the mining side is that the Ivanhoe, with its antiquated plant, cannot treat its existing ore reserves except at a loss; whereas, with its new works, the Lake View and Star should be able to make a small profit. The annual report of that veteran undertaking, the Great Boulder Proprietary, shows a further contraction in both profits and ore reserves, the former coming out at £58,300, as against £110,500 for 1922, while the latter figure at 143,100 tons in place of 182,700 tons, 13.2 dwts in each case. Some 107,400 tons having been crushed during the year, it follows that 67,800 tons were opened up. Still, the "runs" of payable ore at the lower levels are becoming shorter and shorter. It can only be a question of a comparatively short time before the original mine is exhausted. There are, however, possibilities in connection with the two leases to the north recently purchased. These were worked years ago with small plants, all the known oxidized ore being extracted; but sulphide ore has been proved to exist at depth. It is estimated that the bottom levels contain sufficient ore to repay the purchase money. For 1923 one dividend of 4d per share has been paid, as against 1s in respect of 1922. The accounts of the Golden Horseshoe Company show the slightly reduced surplus of £24,300. The dividend was 2s per share, tax free, in place of 2s 6d. At 506,900 tons, value 8.31 dwts, the ore reserves display a slight shrinkage under both headings. Labour and other conditions continued such as to force unsound procedure upon these companies. Indeed, the general manager of the Horseshoe states that it was necessary last year to treat ore 4.39 dwts above the average of the reserves. However, a measure of relief will be experienced from the moderate reduction in wages awarded last November, and the increase in hours of the engineers; while for the whole of the current year the companies will get the benefit of the cut from 7s to 3s per 1,000 gallons of water made by the Government as from July 1, 1923. It is satisfactory to learn that labour is now adopting a more reasonable attitude than of late.

Argentine Currency.—A cable received by the Bank of London and South America, Limited, from their Buenos Aires office, states that an Argentine Government project, published in the Press, proposes a reform of the monetary system by blending the Banco de la Nacion Argentina and the Conversion Office, the latter as an issue department, with minting facilities, the currency being a single-type gold standard, guaranteed by 50 per cent. in gold, 15 per cent. in public funds, 15 per cent. bills rediscounted for banks. New money—gold, silver, nickel and notes—is to be issued, with a basic value of 20 cents gold, styled Nacionales, of which 2.20 will be the equivalent of the present paper dollars. This will be the rate for conversion. The Government may use the gold over 50 per cent. aforesaid to meet obligations, replacing gold by bonds. The total new currency proposed is 2,243 millions Nacionales.

THE Institute of Cost and Works Accountants announces a costing conference on Friday, July 25th. Morning session 11 a.m., at which Lord Leverhulme will preside. Subject, "Administration and Selling Costs, their Nature and Distribution." Afternoon session, 2.45 p.m. Subject, "The Function of Costing in Industrial Relations."

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—LARGE TREASURY SURPLUS FOR FISCAL YEAR—PUBLIC DEBT—COTTON CONSUMPTION—MONEY EASIER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 24.

THE Government's financial condition at the close of the present fiscal year will be much better than was anticipated. Despite the 25 per cent. reduction in Federal taxes payable this year on 1923 incomes, preliminary estimates indicate that the year's surplus will approximate and probably exceed half a billion dollars. It will be at least \$170,000,000 greater than the estimate of some \$329,600,000 made by the Treasury Department last November, because of results which could not then be foreseen. Ordinary expenditures have been less, while revenues have been larger than expected. To June 20th the Government realised, for instance, \$87,860,208, or about \$71,360,000 more than had been anticipated, and miscellaneous receipts amounted to \$204,613,859, as compared with the November estimate of \$161,301,421. Income-tax collections this fiscal year up to June 20th have greatly exceeded the total for the corresponding period of last year, amounting to \$1,764,723,989, against \$1,594,917,960. Just to what extent the 25 per cent. tax reduction allowed to individual taxpayers will affect the Government's revenues it will be impossible to determine until the fiscal year closes. Taxpayers were permitted to deduct one-half of the 25 per cent. reduction when they paid their second quarterly instalments on June 15th. The full reduction, therefore, will not be borne entirely by the present fiscal year, since the second half of the reduction will be spread over the next two income-tax payments which fall due on September 15th and December 15th, and will to that extent cut down the surplus for the fiscal year beginning July 1st. Total income and profits taxes for the month of June up to the 20th amounted to \$262,509,080, or about \$20,900,000 less than for the same period in June of last year. As indicated, however, this loss is much more than offset by the heavy increase in previous quarters, and Government officials consider the results very gratifying. Some authorities estimate that, in spite of the heavy expenditures which will result from the recently enacted soldier bonus legislation, and notwithstanding the reduction in income and profits taxes, the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, will show a surplus approximating \$60,000,000. But it is much too early to make any definite predictions as to results in the ensuing year.

Statistics of Treasury operations during the present fiscal year show that up to June 18th the public debt of the United States was reduced by \$1,009,727,888 in that period. This was accomplished by reducing the net working cash balance to the extent of \$168,659,603; by applying to the public debt a surplus of revenues, amounting to \$383,079,185, and by making public debt retirements, totalling \$457,989,100, chargeable against ordinary receipts, as required by law. The principal items in the last-mentioned sum were:—Sinking fund, \$295,987,350; purchases from foreign repayments, \$38,509,150; and receipts from foreign Governments under debt settlements, \$110,878,450. Up to June 18th the Treasury reduced the public debt by \$3,211,802,987, but issued new obligations aggregating \$2,202,075,099. The above redemption sum covered retirement of certificates of indebtedness, Treasury notes and bonds, war savings and Treasury savings securities, Liberty bonds, Victory notes, and other debt items. The new issues consisted of certificates of indebtedness, Treasury notes and bonds, Treasury savings certificates, and postal savings bonds. The public debt of the United States, which reached the peak of \$26,596,701,648 on August 31, 1919, nine months after the Armistice, has been reduced, on an average, more than one billion dollars yearly to \$21,339,979,477 on June 18th of this year.

That cotton goods manufacture is being extensively curtailed in this country is fully borne out by the Census Bureau's report for May of cotton consumption and of active spindles. The report shows the smallest consump-

tion in any month since July, 1921, and the lowest number of active spindles since December, 1920. The total May consumption, 413,659 bales, represents a decrease of 14 per cent. from that of April and of 33 per cent. from May, 1923. For ten months of the present cotton year consumption reached only 4,973,020 bales, showing a decrease of 12 per cent. from the corresponding period a year ago. Exports last month were 326,357 bales, a total slightly larger than in April, but more than double that for May, 1923, while for the ten months exports show an increase of nearly 19 per cent. Only 30,493,000 spindles were active in May; that number is 14 per cent. below the peak of April, 1923, and less than 2 per cent. above the low point of December, 1920, when industry generally in this country was at a low ebb.

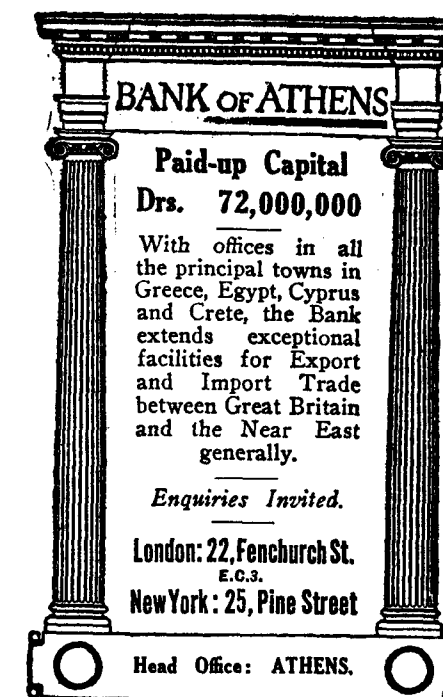
Money rates here continue to decline, further easiness having developed this week, especially in time funds and in commercial paper discounts. On the Stock Exchange the rate for call loans seems to be "pegged" at 2 per cent.; it has not moved from that level since June 10th. Time money up to 60 days is now quoted nominally at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., for 90 days at 3 per cent., and for four months at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Funds are freely offered for five and six months, and even into January, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with most of the current transactions for six months at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Time money for 90-day loans secured by Stock Exchange collateral has not been so freely offered at 3 per cent. since the early part of 1916. Commercial paper discounts, which, compared with the rapid decline in money rates generally, have receded slowly, have now become decidedly easy. Prime names are moving at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and other good paper at 4 per cent., while exceptionally choice names are discounted at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The business paper market is now lower than at any time since the beginning of 1917. Money continues to accumulate in all centres throughout the country, and available supplies greatly exceed current borrowing. The volume of wholesale purchasing generally is far below normal for this time of the year in practically all lines of trade and industry. More Federal Reserve Banks in different centres have cut their official rediscount rates, following the recent reductions in New York and Boston. The Chicago, St. Louis, Richmond, and Atlanta institutions lower their rate from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., while the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank made a reduction of 1 per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the same as that of the New York and Boston banks. Three of the twelve Federal Reserve banks, therefore, have cut their rediscount rate to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., six have reduced to 4 per cent., and three—namely, those in Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Dallas, Texas—will maintain a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate.

RANCE.—NATIONAL FINANCES—THE FLOATING DEBT—RECONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 2.

INTERESTING revelations as to the actual financial situation of France have emerged from Monday's discussion in the Senate. The main object of the discussion was to authorise *douzièmes provisoires*, or votes on account in respect of the "Recoverable Budget" for the unexpired portion of the current year, which period was expressly left unprovided for by the Poincaré Government, in order that the financial provisions for the year should not be entirely taken out of the hands of the two Chambers. Incidentally, the discussion afforded several fresh proofs of the confusion that continually results from the incoherent methods adopted in regard to the national bookkeeping. A striking instance of this was the fact that, in the Bill authorising the opening and the cancellation of certain edits, for the purpose of formally closing the accounts under the General Budget for 1923, the Rapporteur of the Credits Commission of the Chamber based his report on the statement that this Budget had been balanced with a deficit of 1,203,614,000f. M. Henry Bérenger, the Rapporteur of the Senate Finance Commission, had no difficulty in showing that "a series of material errors on both sides of the accounts" had been committed in the Lower House, and that, instead of resulting in a deficit, the year's operations really closed



with a surplus of 39 million francs. That the Senator's conclusions were justified was proved by the fact that the account, as thus amended by him, was accepted as correct when sent back to the Chamber for final approval.

One outstanding feature of the discussion was that it furnished proof that M. Herriot's assertion that his Government intends to take an exact inventory of the nation's financial position before the Budget for 1925 is taken up is likely to be fulfilled. M. Bérenger, in the course of his statement, said he was able "for the first time," thanks to information that had been furnished him by the Treasury, to set forth "the exact situation of the home and foreign commitments for 1924-5, as well as the amounts owing to the Bank of France and other French and foreign banks." "Our internal public debt," he stated, "exceeds 277,000,000,000f, and our foreign debt, at par, amounts to 39,000,000,000 gold francs." The internal debt, according to M. Bérenger's figures, is made up as follows:—

	Francs.
Irredeemable or long term debt.....	150,000,000,000
Short term debt	39,000,000,000
Advances by the banks	24,000,000,000
Floating debt of less than a year	64,000,000,000

The annual interest charges on this internal debt are equivalent to an annual charge on the Budget of nearly 15 milliards. This annual burden, the Senator added, after the vote of the *douzièmes provisoires* in respect of the Recoverable Budget for the current year, would be increased by the interest that would have to be paid on the 9 to 10 milliards that the Treasury would have to provide this year for the reconstitution of the devastated regions, as the new *double décimes* and their accessory taxes would furnish this year only about 3,500,000,000f towards the amount required for that purpose.

Even when the present year is safely got over, there will still remain to be found a further 20,000,000,000f to meet the capital expenditure that will have to be made on the devastated regions during the next two years (at the rate of 10 milliards a year); and this money will have to be found even if (1) taxation continues to come in at the same rate as at present, and (2) Germany begins to pay. During 1925 and 1926, moreover, the Treasury will have to provide for the redemption (at the will of the holders) of short-term bonds and obligations amounting to a total of at least 23,000,000,000f, and also to pay off nearly 7,000,000,000f of foreign commercial debt, due to Japan, the Argentine, Uruguay and Great Britain, and also payable on demand, making a further total of about 30,000,000,000f that must be found. In such circumstances it is not surprising that both the Senate and the Chamber renewed without hesitation the law prohibiting the export of capital for a further six months.

M. Bérenger puts his finger on the weakest spot in the whole French financial fabric when he insisted that the problem to be solved is much more a Treasury problem than a Budgetary one. The Budget calls for, roughly speaking, some 30,000,000,000 a year. The Treasury, however, in addition to requiring over 10 milliards of fresh money during each of the two coming years, as well as the 30 milliards a year furnished by taxation, will have to face the problem of how to continue to finance the 60 odd milliards of floating debt. The sum in question crystallises, of course, the accumulated deficits of past years. As this cannot be paid off it must be renewed, and the only way in which this can be done is to issue fresh short-term bonds, from the sale of which to pay off those that mature. As these bonds are, on an average renewable every six months, sales totalling about 120 milliards have at present to be effected during the twelve months. This total will be increased during 1925, owing to the number of bonds that will then become due for payment, to at least 150 milliards. From these figures it will be seen that only a very small portion of the national credit depends upon the honesty of the taxpayer, the greater part being dependent on the maintenance of confidence in the franc. In plain language, so long as the weather continues reasonably fair the ship should weather the storm. If there should occur, however, another cataclysm like that of two or three months ago, when the weekly statement of the Bank of France showed that the note issue had been appreciably increased, with the result that the franc suddenly fell, disaster may be within sight.

Whether the Herriot Government will be able to devise means to reinforce this notoriously weak spot in the country's financial armour remains to be seen. For the moment it appears wisely to be marking time and is putting off as long as it can any attempt at carrying out the rash promises of reduced taxation and increased subsidies at the expense of the general body of taxpayers that were so lavishly made during the elections. It is beginning to be recognised by the bulk of the new deputies that the problem of how France is to make both ends meet during the next two years is much more important than even that of the high cost of living, and that the solution of the latter is, after all, very directly allied to that of the former. The announcement by M. Clementel, the new Finance Minister, that France will not participate in the international loan to Hungary is regarded as significant, not only of the real situation of the country, but of the growing realisation of the real facts of the case. One fundamental principle appears to have been definitely accepted. There is to be no more borrowing to meet current expenditure, and any fresh expenditure that is voted is to be met by increased taxation. The new issue of Crédit National Bonds, which was to have been made before the end of the current year, to furnish further money for reconstitution purposes, has been for all practical purposes abandoned. The Budget Bill for this year authorised further issues by the Crédit National of 5,000 millions, towards which the issue made a few months ago furnished 1,382 millions. The authorisation to raise five milliards through this channel during the present year is maintained in the text that has just been voted, for the purpose of enabling the Government to carry on until the end of November. But the clause, as the Rapporteur bluntly informed the Senate, is purely illusory, as the Government has no intention of utilising the power it confers upon it. The intention at present is that, including the amount of 1,382 millions already raised this year through the Crédit National, that organisation will not increase the national indebtedness during the present year by more than between 1,500 to 2,000 millions, in any case. Moreover, whatever further amount may be raised this year for reconstruction purposes will, in all probability, take the form of ten- or thirty-year bonds.

Meanwhile, after having been slowed down gradually since the beginning of the year, reconstruction work has now practically been brought to a standstill. The thirty milliards that have still to be raised to compensate sufferers from war losses will not increase the annual burden of the country by more than 2,000 millions a year, but it has yet to be ascertained whether the nation is in a position to support this addi-

tional burden from its own resources. It is to be hoped that the "inventory" which M. Helriot has promised to take of the nation's situation, before the Budget for 1925 comes up for consideration, will include not only its financial balance-sheet as a State, but also its economic balance-sheet. The latter, if impartially drawn up, should reveal many facts as to which all reliable data have been lost under stress of the war, and particularly it should disclose more exact details as to the real ratio of existing taxation to the national fortune than are at present available. The election of M. Vincent Auriol, a militant Socialist, as the new President of the Finance Commission of the Chamber, and the fact that the majority of that body profess the same political faith, gives reason to believe that any serious inquiry in this direction in the near future would be likely to produce interesting results.

GERMANY. — REPARATIONS — TARIFF PREPARATIONS — FINANCES — CREDIT — FOREIGN TRADE — INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 1.

THE action of the French Cabinet in deciding to permit the return of the expelled Ruhr citizens has made a very good impression here. But there is increasing doubt as to what is going to happen at the coming London conference. The first reports cabled here concerning last week's meeting of the British and French Premiers implied that an agreement had been come to on certain essential questions, but at present it seems as if not even the programme of the conference has been settled. Official circles here are increasingly anxious for a speedy settlement, in the belief that this will restore normal trade relations, and lead to an inflow of capital. The fact is usually ignored that the expected large foreign investments, which are to revive native industry, will put new, lasting burdens on the foreign payment balance, so that the annual amounts laid down in the Dawes Scheme will represent considerably less than the total liability.

Apart from the currency, many internal questions of importance are tied up with Reparations. One of these, the *Aufwertung* question, the position of which was described last week, has made new progress by the appointment of a Reichstag Commission to consider no less than nine proposals. Even such an expert financier as Dr Dernburg demands the partial restoration of interest on the old debt. The party proposals for giving further compensation to creditors are inconsistent with one another, and with both party and official views on the financial and credit questions. It is impossible to resume partial payment of interest on the old State debt without imposing new taxes; and it is impossible to restore bonds and mortgages without putting new burdens on industry and agriculture. But it is declared by the representatives of these interests that they cannot get along as it is. It is difficult for most classes of producers to raise money to cover their present outlay; but it is demanded by one party that interest payments on old debts be at once resumed, and by some enthusiasts that the pre-war gold debts be fully revived, this although the Dawes Report, which most parties accept, proposes a new bond burden of 5 milliard gold marks on industry, on the assumption, which is now in doubt, that the old bonds were wiped out. The President of the Disconto Bank, Dr Salomonsohn, declares that in no case distributed over all kinds of business, which means agriculture, city real estate, &c. The present burden of the shape of Rentenbank mortgages or bonds and about 750 million gold marks, representing the restored 15 per cent. of the pre-war bond debt. The addition of the 5 milliard Reparations bonds would bring the total to 6,950 million gold marks, as against an estimated 4,600 milliards (on the present German area) before the war.

The Food Minister, Count von Kanitz, last week made a statement showing clearly that the Government, as was expected, intends to include food duties, abolished in 1914, in the new tariff. The Agrarian Press indicates that this policy is the result of an agreement for higher duties on industrial imports also. Count von Kanitz

laid stress on the fact that home-produced food sells on the whole cheaper than before the war, and is much cheaper than abroad, whereas the cost of food production has gone up. Bills are to be submitted with the aim of equalising home and foreign prices. In order to compensate consumers a reduction of taxation on other articles of consumption is promised.

The Finance Ministry's return for the ten days. June 11-20, shows revenue received 180,974,108 gold marks; expenditure, 182,635,854 gold marks, whereof 87,295,097 gold marks was for general administration, 75,118,177 gold marks for subventions to State and municipalities, and 20,222,580 gold marks for repurchase of gold loan. The credit crisis continues. Dr Schacht has again told the Reichsbank Central Committee that no general change in his policy is intended, but he promised help in individual cases where credit stringency was really the cause of a threatened suspension of payment. The Reichsbank, however, has discovered that the great majority of recent bankruptcies and cases of "operating supervision" concerned new firms which were founded during the inflation time. The weekly report for June 23 of the Gold Discount Bank shows, for the first time, a decline in outstanding credits, from £6,524,182 to £6,244,745. The Reichsbank's statement for June 23 shows a decline in discounts and advances from 2,141 to 2,045 trillion paper marks, and a decline in circulation by 32 trillions to 891 trillions. State and private deposits rose by 70 trillions to 1,071 trillions; and as a result of the repayment of a foreign credit, the bookable free gold reserve increased by 14,184,000 gold marks to 462,187,000 gold marks. Dr Schacht communicated the following details of the coming Bank of Issue. This bank will be the present Reichsbank. The nominal capital, at present 180,000,000 marks, will be reduced to half, leaving 90,000,000 marks of the old capital, one share being issued for every present two; and the minimum capital of the reconstructed bank will be 300,000,000 gold marks, maximum 400,000,000 gold marks. Shareholders in the Gold Discount Bank will be allowed to exchange into new Reichsbank shares. The fixing of the discount rate will remain in the hands of the directorate. The Reichsbank's gross profits in 1923 are returned at 63,780,223 billion marks, net profits 13,003,810 billion marks. Of this, the Republic gets 10,302,667 billion marks, and 900,381 billion marks go to reserve, while a dividend of 10 billion marks per 1,000 marks share, equal to 1 per cent. gold, is paid.

The foreign trade balance is becoming increasingly passive. On both sides trade shows a tendency to increase, but imports increase out of proportion to exports, and on the whole five months January-May exceed them by more than 50 per cent. The cause of this movement is hard to define. The operations of the Gold Discount Bank are confined to helping such importers of raw materials as can repay their debts out of the yield of exported goods manufactured from these materials; but this operation sets free exchange for general imports, and of late imports of manufactured goods have risen rapidly. The monthly trade balances so far are (in millions of gold marks):—

	Imports.	Exports.	Imp. Surplus.
January	567	431	136
February	718	466	252
March	692	456	236
April	803	482	321
May	870	516	354

	Imports.	Exports.	Imp. Surplus.
In detail, imports and exports were (thousands of gold marks):—			
Imports—			
Livestock	9,250	9,934	38,920
Food and drink	169,584	175,377	847,841
Raw materials	408,261	372,374	1,684,176
Half-finished materials	79,769	84,086	346,308
Manufactured goods	202,499	158,607	729,093
Gold and silver	782	2,778	14,180
	870,185	803,156	3,660,518
Exports—			
Livestock	620	484	2,082
Food and drink	32,792	29,623	119,697
Raw materials	31,883	32,536	143,664
Half-finished materials	33,526	28,662	147,752
Manufactured goods	415,129	389,831	1,932,171
Gold and silver	2,267	1,193	6,812
	516,217	482,129	2,352,078

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
 Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
 Paid-Up Capital ... 1,050,000
 Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches:

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

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances. JAMES STEWART, Chief Manager.

The increase in imported raw materials is largely due to wool and woollen yarn. Raw cotton imports, which increased in earlier months, declined. On the whole five months, imports of raw materials are materially larger than in the same period of 1922, which is regarded as a normal year. In 1923 raw cotton imports and some other kinds of raw textiles fell off very much. The Ruhr strike caused a slight increase (to 900,000 tons) of imports of coal. The greatest imports increase is in manufactured goods, and again textiles led, in particular yarns of all kinds, and cotton cloth, the latter of which came mainly from Alsace-Lorraine. Exports of chemicals increased. Exports of rolled iron and of iron goods show very little change. Machinery exports totalled 21,723 metric tons, against 21,537 metric tons in April, and a monthly average of 39,895 metric tons in 1922.

Complaints of insufficient orders and of cancelling of orders come from most branches of industry, and in nearly all cases shortage of working capital is stated as the cause. Although the Berlin City unemployment report, which is most up-to-date, shows a small increase in the number of unemployed, it seems that these complaints are exaggerated; and that the credit shortage is not yet wreaking any worse havoc than the inflation did. The credit crisis has now lasted some months, but the Labour report for June 1st shows only 210,000 publicly supported unemployed in unoccupied territory, against 307,000 on May 1st, 702,000 on April 1st, and 1,533,000 on January 1st. There are, of course, other unemployed, and the number of partly unemployed is probably increasing, after declining in a few months from 848,735 to only 90,133. Unemployment in occupied territory, for which there are no figures, seems to have increased considerably.

HOLLAND.—SIGNS OF RECOVERY—LOWER WAGES—GOVERNMENT ECONOMY—IMPORT DUTIES—THE GOLD STANDARD.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, June 21.

ALTHOUGH it can hardly be said that the crisis is over for Holland, or that within a reasonable time a better prospect for commerce and industries will be opened up, yet there are unmistakable signs which, if not indicating a strong improvement, still show a satisfactory adaptation to present conditions. This of itself can have a reassuring influence. Here and there reports are received from industrial circles which indicate greater activity. A Rotterdam shipbuilding company, by submitting lower bids, was able to secure orders for the construction of four steamships, each of 3,200 tons deadweight, for the account of steamship companies at Newcastle, four steamships for account of a firm in Glasgow, besides a ship for one of the largest English lines. Smaller orders were also received from our own country. This is very significant, particularly if one views it in connection with the fact that not so very long ago one of the largest Netherlands steamship companies had to have a ship built in France because wages in this country were too high. This turn of affairs is notable, although the reduction in the rate of wages in most cases does not take place without a struggle. Not many strikes of long duration, it is true,

are taking place, except that in the textile trade, which has now been in progress for some months. Still, often even small wage reductions are only results of extremely long and difficult negotiations. The necessary complete adjustment to the altered conditions will on that account no doubt be a long drawn-out affair.

Notwithstanding these facts, the future is looked forward to hopefully by those capable of judging. Evidence of this is given in the annual report of the Netherlands Bank, which has just appeared. The president, Mr Vissering, speaks of the expectation of a balanced Budget for 1925 being attained as the purpose of the Government, but emphasises the fact that the Government will not have to be afraid of taking drastic measures. As a matter of fact, the proposed retrenchment measures, which were fully discussed in a previous letter, are being gradually carried out. In addition, the Government is now also trying to increase the income side of the Budget. A Bill has been introduced to revise the tariff. True enough, this Bill is announced as being purely a technical revision, and is, amongst other things, grounded on the principle that more uniformity should be established in the articles subjected to the tax. Yet at the same time the import duty on the goods taxed is increased from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent. Criticism on these tariff measures will not be lacking in the discussion of the Bill in Parliament, for the application of the increased Customs duties contains an element of danger to free trade.

That this country, with its extremely important through traffic, has the greatest interest in free trade is once more shown by the business transactions which have been brought about with Russia. Notwithstanding the fact that the negotiations between the representatives of the Netherlands and Russia concerning a *de jure* acknowledgment of the latter have been temporarily suspended, very important business transactions have been accomplished. Large grain shipments have taken place through Rotterdam from Russia, while large quantities of cotton at Rotterdam and of wool at Amsterdam have been purchased for Russian account. The cotton purchases especially are of interest here, because Bremen (Germany) has always been the great emporium for American and other cotton. That Bremen is now passed over is explained principally by the fact that only a portion of the purchase price is paid at shipment, and the rest on arrival in a Russian port. In the Netherlands it is possible to finance such transactions. Germany, with its capital shortage and lack of credit, must decline this. In this way the natural economic conditions of themselves lead the course of Russian trade over the Netherlands. For the present, however, long-term credits are only extended in very exceptional circumstances, although the Russians are strongly urging these.

As to other matters, there is great hope that a revival of international trade, together with severe retrenchment measures, will in the end have a good influence on the standing of the guilder, and make the return to the gold standard possible. The president of our circulation bank is, in principle, strongly inclined towards re-establishment of the gold standard, but is of the opinion that one or more of the smaller countries will not be able to bring about such a result independently. Therefore he believes that exchange of ideas, and finally co-operation with powerful central banks in the larger countries of Europe, is indispensable. It is not improbable that the president of the Netherlands Bank, in this, has in mind the Bank of England in the first place. Still, it remains to be seen if the efforts of Sweden, which on its own initiative has returned to the gold standard, although with some restrictions, will not have such a success that in the end, Holland, without too great danger, will also be able to follow her example even if the Bank of England be not inclined to do so. The balance of payments for 1923 was already about even, so that on this point there need be no special objection. If, in addition, the Government and cities become more moderate in their money requirements, it may be possible that the time for the establishment of the gold standard will prove to be not so very far off.

POLAND.—MR GRABSKI'S STATEMENT—INCREASING REVENUE—REDUCTION OF IMPORT DUTIES—THE CREDIT POLICY OF THE POLISH BANK—OIL PRODUCTION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, June 17.

WHEN Mr Grabski took over the Ministry of Finance in January he asked the Diet to grant him dictatorial powers for one year. The Sejm divested itself of its privileges only for six months, so that Mr Grabski is now obliged to ask for a renewal of the Bill which enabled him to put Polish finance on a solid basis. In introducing the new Bill Mr Grabski delivered a long exposé, in which he dealt less with financial problems than with the economic crisis from which the country is suffering. The emphasis laid on economic difficulties is natural, because a prolonged industrial crisis would necessarily undermine the financial foundations which have been built up during recent months. The importance of what has been accomplished may best be judged from a comparison of the revenue statistics for the last three years, reproduced below (million gold francs):—

	1922.	1923.	1924.	Increase in 1924 Compared with 1923.	1922.
Direct taxes ..	8.0	11.4	58.1	512	725
Capital levy ..	50.8	..	94.3	..	185
Indirect taxes..	31.9	22.3	52.3	234	184
Customs duties	8.4	11.3	47.5	421	565
Stamp duties ..	8.0	9.1	18.4	203	236
Export duties..	0.6	0.1	6.1	7.116	1.044
Monopolies	16.7	6.6	26.6	404	159
Total.....	124.4	60.8	303.3	500	244

Total revenue for the first four months of the year was in 1924 five times greater than in 1923. This favourable result has been obtained partly by the collection of the capital levy, but also to a great extent by the increase of all taxes and duties. The abnormal increase in the yield of export duties is due to a modification of export policy. While hitherto licences for the export of different goods were given by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce without any special payment, they are now accorded to the highest bidder.

In his exposé Mr Grabski tried to prove that the industrial crisis is not so severe as is generally supposed. The number of unemployed, which exceeded 120,000 in May of last year, did not reach 110,000 in March of this year, and fell to 109,000 in April, to 93,000 in May, and to 95,000 in June. These statistics are, however, partly misleading, because they do not contain data relating to the very great number of workers on short time.

The present crisis is the result of the four years of inflation, which have weakened the whole productive machine and the credit system of the country.

Mr Grabski has promised to lower the import duties which contribute to the high cost of living. For instance, the import duties on shirts amount to 65 per cent., on boots to 43 per cent., on soap to 75 per cent. The new tariff will be less protective, and will aim at making the rural and industrial products smaller. The rural population is suffering very much from the low relative value of its products. For example, 100 units of rye enable the farmer to acquire only 50-75 per cent. of the manufactured goods which he obtained before the war.

The Polish Bank is supporting the industry of the country by facilitating credit operations. The value of the circulation, which amounted to 75 million gold francs in January, rose to 374 millions at the end of May, and to 439 on June 3rd. This, however, is only a small fraction of the pre-war circulation, which is estimated at 1,750,000,000 gold francs. The credit policy of the Polish Bank is framed in such a manner as to prevent an inflation of the currency. With the quantity of gold and of foreign currencies possessed by the Bank, the circulation could be increased to 1,100,000,000 zlotys without infringing the legal ratio of 30 per cent. Mr Grabski declared, however, that the Bank will not go below a reserve of 50 per cent. With such a limit the present circulation can be increased by a further amount of 231 million zlotys. Under such conditions a fall of the zloty in the near future seems to be improbable.

Polish oil production, which since 1909 has steadily declined, has shown during the last two years a small improvement, as may be seen from the figures below:—

	Tons.		Tons.
1916	919,090	1920	765,020
1917	849,730	1921	704,870
1918	822,740	1922	713,100
1919	831,701	1923	737,180

This increase is due to the exploiting of new oil deposits in South-Eastern Galicia. The production in the district of Boryslaw, which is the principal source of Polish oil production, is declining, and it is estimated that in 10-20 years these deposits will be exhausted. The Polish Government attaches, in consequence, the greatest importance to the development of new deposits. In this respect there are great possibilities, because hitherto only 7 per cent. of the known oil deposits have been exploited. During the last year a number of new shafts of 1,600-1,700 metres depth have been bored. The Government is facilitating these operations by allowing the free import of materials necessary for the construction of the new shafts.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—PROTECTION—UNEMPLOYMENT—INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, June 20.

AN interesting situation presents itself at the present time in Czecho-Slovakia, where the question of an extension of Protection is under consideration. Parliamentary government is naturally very difficult in a country in which there are three distinct nationalities and five political parties—the Agrarians, the Socialists, the Clericals, the National Democrats, and the People's Party—and only by a series of coalitions can any legislation be enacted. It would be untrue to say that the "coalition crisis" which has arisen is due entirely to divergent views on the question of Protection—the position of the Socialist Party in the Cabinet, and the desire for control of the Ministry of Education by this or that party has much to do with it—but the strong appeal of the Agrarians for some form of Protection with regard to agricultural produce has really brought matters to a head.

For the last five years Protection in the form of Customs duties upon industrial products has been the accepted policy of the country. It is essential—so most of the political leaders maintain—for Czecho-Slovak industrial stability. But the Agrarians declare that the severe burden of taxation which has been imposed since the creation of the new State has hit the agricultural classes most, and the farmer, so reduced has his purchasing power become by taxation and bad harvests, is not able to supply himself with even the necessary farm machinery. They demand either a proportional agricultural tariff, or the abolition of the industrial products tariff.

The Socialists, on the other hand, are opposed to any taxes on foodstuffs, as they see it must lead to an increase in the cost of living. But they are also unwilling to abolish the duties on industrial products. Such a "drastic measure," they say, would seriously affect industrial employment and lead to a social crisis.

The Socialists must tread very warily, as it is very evident that if they do not give satisfaction to the Agrarians in this matter, then the latter will not give their support to the Social Insurance Bill, which the Socialists are anxious to see pass into law in the immediate future. The National Democrats (Liberals) seem inclined "on economic grounds" to support the Agrarians in their demand for an agricultural tariff, with the proviso that the needs of the State, and not the wishes of the farming community, must determine the amount of the tariff. What such a condition means in practice is hard to tell. A committee of five—petka—made up of one representative of each of the parties, has been appointed to inquire into and report upon the position. What will probably take place will be a compromise, by which there will be a slight reduction in the industrial products' tariff, and the introduction of a small agricultural tariff.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - £1,250,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits - £1,606,457

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.
Over 180 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.
London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.
JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAW, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted

But a country, 85 per cent. of the industrial products of which are exported—and very little of the agricultural produce of which goes abroad—will have to think very carefully before extending Protection to agriculture. Taxation is already 14 to 20 times higher than in 1914, and the Czech "korun" one-sixth its pre-war value.

The latest bank return shows that the circulation of paper money is kept well within the legal maximum. The total paper currency is now 7,882 million (Czech crowns), as against a legal maximum of 10,871 millions, i.e., 2,929 millions on the right side.

Unemployment is not so serious in Czecho-Slovakia as in many other European countries, and is on the decline. According to the figures issued for May by the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Social Welfare, the number of persons in receipt of unemployment pay was 29,000, as against 48,600 in the previous month. This does not include those persons on short time who receive support from the State through their individual employers, but that number, too, is greatly reduced.

It is, however, not total unemployment as much as the poor pay of many of those in employment—especially in the State service—which is a serious matter. Rasin's policy of balancing the Czech Budget, while it stabilized things in the State, did it at the expense of State officials in particular. The "cuts" which they experienced were very, very great, and only love of country enabled them to be carried out quietly. The teaching profession suffered worst of all.

The middle classes are experiencing great hardships, especially lawyers, doctors, and "chemical engineers," and, I am told on the word of a very good authority, that only a small percentage of those leaving the universities and schools can be absorbed in the professions.

CANADA.—CROP PROSPECTS—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—C.M.A. CONVENTION—THE BUDGET—DECLINE IN REVENUES—BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE—STATE INSPECTION OF BANKS—RURAL CREDITS—STATE RAILWAYS AND MARINE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, June 9.

AN abnormally wet and inclement May has retarded both the planting and growth of crops in every quarter of Canada except British Columbia, which curiously has been suffering from the effects of a severe drought. In the prairie provinces seeding, except for coarse grains in some backward districts, has been practically completed; there is a decline of at least 25 per cent. in the wheat acreage of Manitoba, and a smaller decrease, not more than 8 per cent., in Saskatchewan, but a substantial increase in Alberta helps to offset these losses. Moreover, a larger acreage of other grains, especially flax, has been planted. The cool weather which has prevailed has enabled the crops to get well rooted, and as timely rains have fallen in the places where they were most needed, the prospects in the West are rated reasonably good. In Eastern Canada the weather since June began has changed for the better; the soil being saturated with moisture, a week's steady heat has promoted very rapid growth, and crops of all kinds have been regaining the ground which had been lost. Pastures are excellent, and the hay crop is very promising.

The more cheerful tone of the crop reports has given an optimistic tinge to the business outlook, which had been growing steadily blacker, and still is not bright if industrial and commercial conditions alone are reviewed. The slump in the United States could not fail to have reactions in Canada, and by all the usual criteria there has been evidence of a steady slackening of production during the past two months. Bank clearings have shown a very substantial decrease, and railway traffic returns have been falling ominously. The backward weather has deprived retailers of a large part of their normal spring business, and they have only the balance of June to get rid of their summer stocks before the holiday season, with its inevitable slackening of trade, begins. Steel production was quite satisfactory in May, but there is now a slackening, and many plants are almost at the end of their orders. The record of employment is also less favourable than might have been expected at this season. New building construction still lags, and there is a disappointingly small demand for building materials. The provincial governments have either abandoned or curtailed the road building programmes, which in recent years have absorbed large quantities of labour and material, and as many cities and towns have a housing surplus, there is little residential building.

Last week the Canadian Manufacturers' Association held its annual convention at Montreal, and its officials attributed a large decrease in its membership to hard times and failures, which had wiped out numerous establishments. The association expressed its strong disapproval of the recent tariff changes, and insisted that the maintenance of a consistent policy of protection was indispensable to the economic salvation of Canada. They also went on record as favouring, if not the actual cancellation of the British preference, a readjustment of tariff schedules which would equalise the disparity between costs of production in Britain and Canada, and stem the present tide of British competition.

In Parliament the Budget has passed through practically all its stages in the House of Commons, and in the discussion in committee the Government offered some further concessions by way of reduction of the sales tax on implements of production. The Conservatives complained that the Government for political purposes had shown favour to special industries, and moved for other reductions on commodities like lumber, but the Government had their proposals voted whole. The measure amending the Customs Tariff Act gave the Conservatives an opportunity to move an amendment reaffirming their belief in protection, but it was defeated by 135 to 36, two Liberal Protectionists voting with the Conservatives. From the Government's point of view the most disturbing development is the sharp downward curve in the revenue. They had budgeted for a decline of about 2½ millions per month, but in the first two months of the current fiscal year there is an actual decrease of \$9,554,000 in customs and excise revenue alone. Not only are prices falling, but the public is buying less freely, and there is little hope of any immediate improvement. The income-tax also shows a substantial decrease, and unless there is a bumper crop, which will stimulate general business, the Government seems likely to be involved next spring in all the complications of a serious Budget deficit.

The Banking and Commerce Committee has been sitting continuously at Ottawa and examining a series of important witnesses. The air was cleared when Mr C. E. Neill, the general manager of the Royal Bank and the vice-president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, announced his willingness to accept a system of Government inspection. He entered a caveat that he spoke only for his own bank, but his open accession to the ranks of the advocates of this change, who already numbered some influential bankers, evidently decided the Government upon definite action. On June 5th Mr Robb, the acting Minister of Finance, appeared before the committee and outlined the proposals of the Government. There will be appointed an inspector-general of banks responsible to the Minister of Finance, who shall hold office during good behaviour. He will be empowered to equip himself with the necessary staff, and will once each year make a careful inspection of the head offices of all the banks. There will be supplied to him all the confidential reports now made by bank auditors to the directors, and he will have

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.
TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
EASTERN PLANTATION FINANCE UNDERTAKEN.
NEW ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.
SECURITIES PURCHASED.
ADVANCES UPON APPROVED SECURITIES.

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

authority to examine all bank officials on oath. If the inspector is convinced that a bank is insolvent he will report the fact to the Minister of Finance, who, without waiting for the institution to suspend payment, may ask the Canadian Bankers' Association to appoint a curator. The expense of this inspection and all matters pertaining thereto will be met by an assessment upon the banks in proportion to their assets. Some members are not completely satisfied with these proposals, and amendments will be suggested, but it is quite certain that some system or other of State inspection will be inaugurated. It has general support from the Press and public, and the more intelligent bankers hold that, in view of recent disasters, it is the only method of restoring public confidence in the banks.

If Parliament can find time it may also tackle the problem of agricultural credits. Dr. Tory, who made a report upon it, advocates emergency measures to meet the pressing debt situation among the prairie farmers. Accounts of the number of farmers who feel that their debt burden is intolerable, and have left or are threatening to leave the country have alarmed the Government, and the feeling is that the situation can hardly wait upon the development of a full-blown scheme of farm credits. Dr. Tory suggested that a sum of \$10,000,000, if applied with care and sympathy, would help many semi-insolvents to work themselves back to prosperity.

The Minister of Railways has presented to Parliament the annual report of the State-owned railways and merchant fleet, and while it contains some heartening features, the general feeling is one of disappointment at the comparative smallness of the betterment. 1923 was the first year of unified operation of the amalgamated systems and great economies and increased efficiency were expected from the change. On operating account there was a betterment of, roughly, 17 million dollars, but on non-operating account there was a setback of some 2 millions, and in the matter of rentals, hire of freight cars, &c., there was another diminution as compared with last year of 3 million dollars. Since the burden of fixed charges had increased, the deficit of 52 million dollars which the Treasury has to meet is only 6 millions less than the 58 millions demanded last year. Such figures do not support the optimistic prediction of Sir H. Thornton—that the railways would be meeting all their fixed charges in three years, for these charges now stand at least 65 million dollars. The record of the Canadian Government Marine is still a mournful tale; it has lost millions every year since its creation, and this year, when many of its ships are lying rusting in port, or travelling the seven seas with half cargoes, it shows another deficit of \$9,368,670.

NEW ZEALAND.—A REVENUE SURPLUS—THE DEBT POSITION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH (N.Z.), May 19.

THE Minister of Finance has just made the much-belated announcement of the revenue and expenditure for the final quarter of the financial year 1923-24. The figures announced cover receipts and expenditure from the Consolidated fund, and do not present a complete statement of the financial position; but they include the bulk of the revenue and expenditure of the Dominion, which turns out to be £1,812,366, as against £1,315,683 for the year 1922-23. There is a good deal to be said against the practice of budgeting for a large surplus in this way; but it is an established practice in the Dominion. The Minister of Finance into a weak position when dealing with demands for reduced taxation on the one hand and increased expenditure on the other. If the surplus went

automatically to reduction of the Public Debt, as in Great Britain, there would be little to worry about; but as it is, tax reduction seems certain, though the pressure for increased expenditure on public works, on housing, and on Civil Service salaries shows no sign of easing.

The surplus has resulted mainly from an increased yield of import duties from £6 millions in 1922-23 to £7½ millions in 1923-24. This reflex of the import boom is responsible for the only considerable increase on the revenue side. Total revenue works out at £27,960,370 in 1923-24, as against £27,579,443 the previous year. There is a slight decrease in expenditure from £26,263,760 to £26,148,004, due largely to reductions in pensions; but if the Railway and Post Office, and other employees of the public service, succeed in their present agitation for higher rates of wages, the halt that has been called to the upward march of expenditure is likely to prove but temporary. The successful flotation of the £5,000,000 loan has caused general satisfaction, though it appears from the large volume of applications that the Dominion might have obtained a better price than 4½ per cent. at 95. The strength and buoyancy of New Zealand finances is, however, very gratifying, and there is reason to feel satisfied with the position of the public debt as a whole. The total of the debt is large, but for the deadweight unproductive portion of it adequate sinking funds have been provided. The bulk of the war debt will be liquidated under present arrangements in less than 40 years from the date on which the loan was incurred; a sum of over £27 millions has been funded with the Imperial Government, and will be repaid in 36 years from 1922. The remainder of the debt consists of investments such as advances for housing or land settlement, which are adequately secured; directly reproductive investments such as railways and hydro-electric works, and less productive expenditure in comparatively small degree. More adequate provision for rapid repayment of these portions of the debt is all that is needed to place New Zealand's finances upon a basis that would be above criticism.

Letters to the Editor.

THE GOLD STANDARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—May I emphasise the note of caution you sound in your leader of to-day in regard to restoration of the gold standard? This may now be practicable; I should think it is. But it should be done by arrangement between us and the United States, not by raising the Bank rate in an isolated way here. Isolated action of this kind would probably improve sterling exchange temporarily, at the cost of intensifying unemployment, and would have to be followed by reduction of the Bank rate and set-back to sterling exchange.—Your obedient servant,

A. HOARE.

37 Fleet street, E.C. 4, June 28th, 1924.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Advocates of what is called "a return to the gold standard" attach peculiar importance to the price of £3 17s 10½d which the English mint offered before the war, and still offers, for an ounce of gold. They seem to think that that price has some especial significance, and to entertain grave fears of possible disaster to the commerce and finance of this country, so long as gold cannot be purchased at that price.

It would be interesting to know on what evidence they base their opinion. It certainly has no historical basis.

For very many centuries fluctuations in the price of the precious metals were quite usual in all countries. In fact, they rarely remained for long at the same price, and edicts fixing and altering the official value succeeded each other, sometimes with great rapidity.

What happened with regard to the price of gold in England was, shortly, as follows:—The guinea, which

was originally coined to be worth 20s, rose in value till, towards the end of the seventeenth century, it was commonly current for 30s. Financial measures taken to re-establish English credit, and doubtless still more Marlborough's victories and the exhaustion of foreign countries, caused a rapid rise in the exchange value of the pound, and the price of the guinea fell again, till in 1717 it was decided to fix it at 21s. This price worked out at £3 17s 10½d an ounce of gold, which was slightly above that given by the neighbouring countries. Under these circumstances there was no difficulty in maintaining it at this figure, till the Republican and Napoleonic wars obliged the Government to declare a suspension of specie payments, which lasted for twenty-six years (1797-1823). When it was decided to resume specie payments, there was no difficulty in re-establishing gradually the old rate, which remained effective till the late war.

There was nothing scientific about the fixing of the price. Exchange conditions round the year 1717 made the price of £3 17s 10½d a reasonable one, and till lately there has been no reason to alter it. That is all.

Mr Leaf seems to think that if the pound could be forced up to its former value in terms of gold, it would necessarily stay there, and the exchange would become stable. But is this so? It is the stability of the exchange which produces the fixed value in terms of gold, and not the converse.

Mr Leaf believes that a higher Bank rate would reduce the index figure; in other words, reduce prices. But we are taught that the rate of interest is a factor in the cost of production. If this is so, an increased Bank rate would tend to produce higher, not lower, prices. That is to say, it might cause a depreciation rather than an appreciation of the pound.

It can hardly be doubted that the instability of the exchange is in part caused by our enormous war debt, and it would seem that stability must be sought rather in a progressive reduction of the debt than in any such inconvenient experiment as that which Mr Leaf proposes.

Whether gold will return to its old price no one can tell, but experience and history indicate that this is not a matter of great moment.—Yours faithfully,

A. MITCHELL INNES.

Travellers' Club, June 30th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

COMPANY ADMINISTRATION.

IN view of the tendency, most marked since the war, of transforming old-established family businesses into private companies, Mr Jordan's booklets,* summarising the technicalities of registration, the periodical returns to be rendered to Somerset House, the legal position, rights, and duties of directors and secretaries, have an obvious value. These compact little works of reference have attested their popularity by running into numerous editions since their first publication in 1913, 1914, and 1915 respectively. No fresh company legislation has to be chronicled since the last issue, but at least one important legal decision has been noted, i.e., that in *Dey v. Pullinger Engineering Company*, 1921, in which it was held that where the directors of a company resolved that bills of exchange should be signed by a director and the secretary, a bill signed by a director only was held to be binding on the company in the hands of a holder who did not know of the resolution.

The author draws on his experience as a company registration agent to recall some amusing examples of uncommon company formation, such as that of the Federal Bank, Stock Exchange, Stores and Publishing Company, Limited, which proposed not merely to carry on the busi-

* "How to Form a Company." By Herbert W. Jordan. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. Sixteenth Edition. 1924. 1s 6d.
"Private Companies." By Herbert W. Jordan. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. Eleventh Edition. 1924. 1s 6d.
"The Secretary and His Directors." By Herbert W. Jordan and Stanley Barrie. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited. Sixth Edition. 1924. 2s 6d.

esses indicated by its title, but also to "acquire and turn to account mines, railways, concessions and monopolies"—all on a capital of £100. In this case the promoters were possibly wise to make provision in their memorandum for taking "all such steps as may seem best calculated to uphold and support the credit of the company, and to obtain and justify public confidence, and to avert or minimise financial disturbance which might affect the company." Though no private company has yet been registered with the minimum capital under the Acts—viz., two shares of one farthing each—two or three £1 registrations have been effected (the capital being divided into 960 shares of a farthing), and a large number of £5 registrations are on record. That the capital of a company however, does not necessarily bear any relationship to the magnitude of its operations is exemplified by the registration of an insurance concern with a capital of £101, which proceeded, nevertheless, to deposit in court the £31,000 required by the Assurance Companies Act.

THE MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, AND TRANSPORTERS OF THE WORLD.*

THIS is an ambitious record. Here we have collected from the four quarters of the globe for our guidance and information the names and addresses of those people who cause the world's industrial wheels to revolve. A stupendous task. In two volumes this publication consists of some 5,000 pages, and gives information as to 20,000 foreign and colonial cities and towns, over 1,500,000 trade descriptions being given. The first volume deals with foreign countries and their dependencies, while the second gives information concerning England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and the British Dominions and Possessions. For each of the foreign towns and cities carefully classified lists are given of those engaged in trade and commerce, with the class of goods in which they deal. In the section devoted to Great Britain and Ireland, classified trade lists are given for (1) London and its suburbs, and (2) for the rest of the country. It is indexed in four languages, and information is very accessible to the reader. In the present edition we notice that there is an alphabetical list of the telegraphic addresses of the individuals and firms whose names appear in the section devoted to Great Britain and Ireland. Those who are blind to the wonders of commerce may content themselves with allocating these volumes to a shelf labelled "Directories." But for our part we regard a compilation of this description as an official story of the world's commercial progress.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Psychological Theory of Value.* By G. B. Dibble. (London) Constable and Co., Limited. 12s 6d net.
- Trade in the Balance.* By W. A. S. Hewins. (London) Philip Allan. 7s 6d net.
- Experiments in State Control, at the War Office and the Ministry of Food.* By E. M. H. Lloyd. (London) Humphrey Milford, on behalf of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 10s 6d net.
- American Agriculture and the European Market.* By Edwin G. Nourse. (New York) McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.
- Administration des Monnaies et Médailles: Rapport au Ministre des Finances. Opérations de 1917 et 1918.* (Paris) Administration des Monnaies et Médailles.
- Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, Limited. An Outline History of this Group of Companies, together with a List of their Manufactures.* (London) Walter Judd, Limited.
- Statistical Year Book of the Kingdom of Siam, 1923.* English Edition. Prepared by the Department of General Statistics. (Bangkok) Ministry of Finance.
- Tea Facts and Figures: June, 1924.* Fredc. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16 Copthall avenue, E.C.2. 2s.
- Gibt Es Eine Exakte Nationalökonomie?* By Dr Phil. Bruno Moll. (Leipzig) Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, M.B.H.

* "Kelly's Directory of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and Shippers of the World, 1924." (London) Kelly's Directories, Limited. 64s.

Probleme des Finanzwissenschaft. By Dr Phil. Bruno Moll. (Leipzig) Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, M.B.H.

The Nineteenth Century and After. July, 1924. (London) Constable and Co., Limited. 3s.

Economic Barometers. Studies and Reports, Series N. (Statistics), No. 5. (Geneva) International Labour Office. 1s 3d.

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vol XXII, No. 1, 1924. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.

The Slavonic Review. June, 1924. (London) School of Slavonic Studies, King's College. 5s net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, July 9. ACCOUNT, July 10

THE money market assumed the position of chief importance amongst Stock Exchange factors in the week just ended. The turn of the half-year failed to bring reassurance that the Bank rate would remain at 4 per cent., and the powerful advocacy of an increase in the rate, with a view to ultimate restoration of the gold currency, aroused uneasiness in the gilt-edged market. Declines which occurred in British Government stocks found quick reflection in other prices round the Stock Exchange. Debentures, preferences, and fixed-interest bearing securities of all kinds have taken on a dull appearance, though no particular volume of stock came to market; again, the Stock Exchange says that there is more tone than trade. Business has been interfered with by the festival of sport at Henley, Wimbledon, Lord's, and other places, but the Stock Exchange does not feel at all inclined to resign itself to the idea that its trade has yet arrived at the usual midsummer minimum.

No change in the Bank rate merely brought forth the impression that the Bank Court had decided to postpone action for a week or so.

Mild gambling in German Threes continues as the sequel to the extraordinary Berlin rise in the price of the German national war loan. There is, however, no real excitement on this side. French bonds have been moving up and down in somewhat inconsequent fashion. The unexpectedly sharp closing of the Hungarian loan lists caused a rise in Austrian Sixes. Japanese bonds showed a tendency to recover, though nervousness is still apparent on account of the relations between Japan and the United States. Brazilians did not succeed in maintaining rises which occurred earlier in the week. Mexican bonds are flat, non-receipt of interest payments causing great disappointment.

Home Railway stocks have been heavy, the only members of the market to show any resistance to the prevailing heaviness being those of the Underground lines, with Metropolitan a particular favourite owing to the bumper traffics secured by reason of the Exhibition. Dearer money and rumours of fresh labour trouble are causing the public to eschew Home Railway stocks as investments. Argentine railways hold their ground, being bought on the strength of the excellent traffics reported, Brazilian railways went ahead; the full improvement was not maintained, but nitrate railways are better, in sympathy with the strength shown by nitrate-producing companies' shares.

Notwithstanding the continued dryness of the rubber market, several substantial lines of shares have changed hands this week. Rubber Trusts improved, on an official statement to the effect that the company has disposed of its tea crop for three years ahead at good prices. Anglo-Dutch hardened, because the 12 per cent. dividend is 2 per cent. better than had been expected. Oil shares are materially better, there being a tendency to entertain a more favourable view of the outlook for the industry. Courtaulds gave way from the best, on subsidence of the excitement produced by the cutting of the long-expected melon. Other textiles are quiet. Tea shares are again coming into favour, and the market is a good one.

The shipping market is firm. Banking shares have eased off with gilt-edged stocks, but the insurance group is decidedly good, fresh buyers coming in every day for the shares in the best-class companies. Dealings have started this week in the issues of a number of new stocks and shares, and, in those cases where underwriters got left with a proportion of their commitments, there has been a discount in each instance. Nitrates are strong, thanks to the promising outlook for the new 12 months' period which has just started. The tobacco market is uninteresting, movements being very slight. Cable stocks further recovered; in wireless, Marconis strengthened on hopes of an early and amicable agreement with the Post Office. Trust companies' stocks once more show improvement, though British Steamship deferred shed a few points upon disappointment with the dividend. Sudan Plantations gave way on the interim dividend announcement of 7½ per cent., although this is 2½ per cent. more than the rate of a year ago. Buyers came in on the fall, and Hudson's Bays are harder. The electricity supply list holds its strength. Stores,

hotels, catering, and similar shares attract a moderate degree of attention, without this having an appreciable effect upon prices.

The Kaffir market fails to receive public notice. Declaration of a modest bonus on De Beers shares, in the shape of the offer of new deferred at £10 per share, had a strengthening effect upon the price. Rhodesians are quiet. With the Dominion doing little in Canadian mining shares, the tendency is for the market to sag. Upon tin recovering a little, mild rallies occurred in a few of the favourites, West Africans and Malaysians being in request, the latter from the Middle East. Russians have given way. Rio Tintos follow the lead set daily by French bonds, and interest in most of copper shares is at a very low ebb. Ivanhoes and Lake Views are hard; other mining shares hold no feature of new interest.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£	£	£	£
4% Treasury Bonds by public tender, June 27, 1924, £855,000, at £94 13s	855,000	103,674,781	..	..
£94 13s	..	809,257	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED JUNE 28, 1924.

	£	£	£	£
April 1, 1924, to June 28, 1924, Dr £1,200,000 ..	Dr	Dr	Dr	Dr
To the Public—				
State Loan of the Kingdom of Hungary, 1924. Issue in London of £7,902,700 in 7½% Sterling Bonds, 1924, issued 88% red. at par, 1924-Feb. 4, 1924 ..	7,902,700	6,954,376	790,270	6,164,106
Lautaro Nitrate Co., £1,500,000 6½% First Mort. Deb. Stock (red at par 1924-40), issued at par ..	1,500,000	1,500,000	75,000	1,425,000
West Gloucestershire Power Co., £500,000 5½% First Mort. Sinking Fund Deb. Stock (rep. at par 1939-64), issued at 97½% ..	500,000	292,500	30,000	262,500
Do 300,000 6½% Pfg. Pref. Shares, £1, at £1 0s 6d ..	300,000	307,500	33,000	274,500
The Yadi Press, Ltd., 1,000,000 6½% (tax free) Cum. Pref. Shares, 4s, at p r ..	200,000	200,000	50,000	150,000
Jamaica Sugar Estates, 400,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at par ..	400,000	400,000	20,000	380,000
Total offered to the public ..	9,654,376	995,270	8,659,106	
To Shareholders only—				
Lake View Investment Trust, 300,000 Additional Shares, 10s, at par ..	150,000	150,000	150,000	..
Northern American Trust, 25,000 Shares, £10, at £15 10s ..	250,000	387,500	137,500	250,000
Total offered to shareholders only ..	537,500	287,500	250,000	
Total offered for subscription to date ..	114,575,914	1923 ..	271,331,173	
1924 ..	184,697,946	1922 ..	573,675,650	
1922 ..	455,981,984	1921 ..	388,978,403	
1921 ..	129,061,469	1920 ..	367,549,656	
1920 ..	239,204,322	1919 ..	1,035,069,961	
1919 ..	394,608,779	1918 ..	1,393,381,441	

State Loan of the Kingdom of Hungary, 1924.—Issue in London of £7,902,700, 7½ per cent. sterling bonds at 88 per cent. This loan is the sequel to the financial reconstruction scheme for Hungary drawn up by the Financial Committee of the League of Nations. Its object is to effect stabilisation of the Hungarian crown, and to secure budgetary equilibrium on a durable basis by June 30, 1926. It is issued in accordance with Geneva Protocols dated March 14, 1924, the Hungarian Law No. IV. of 1924, and the Resolution dated June 14, 1924, of the Council of the League of Nations, in bonds of various currencies for amounts sufficient to yield, in the aggregate, a sum not exceeding the equivalent of 250,000,000 Hungarian gold crowns. It is pointed out that 250,000,000 gold crowns at exchange 21.35 equal £11,709,602. Arrangements have been made for portions of the loan to be issued in Great Britain, the United States of America, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and Hungary. The proceeds of the loan will be used to meet Budget deficits until July, 1926, and are to be applied, under the supervision of the Commissioner-General for Hungary, Mr Jeremiah Smith, of Boston, U.S.A., in accordance with the scheme of the Council of the League of Nations, which has been approved by the Reparation Commission. The Commissioner-General will continue his administration until, in the opinion of the Council, the financial situation in Hungary is assured. Bonds are to be redeemed by the operation of a cumulative sinking fund, to be used in the purchase of stock below par or in drawings at par, beginning in 1926, which will be sufficient to redeem the loan by February 1, 1944. The Hungarian Government has the option of redeeming the loan after 1934 on giving six months' notice. It is a first charge on the gross receipts of the Customs duties, the sugar tax, and the tobacco monopoly, and on the net receipts of the

salt monopoly. These receipts will be paid into a special account controlled by the Commissioner-General. Receipts from these revenues for the first four months of the currency year were at the rate of 80 million gold crowns per annum, and as the service of the loan only requires about 31 million gold crowns per annum, there is a wide margin available for security. Payment of principal and interest will be in London in sterling. The security consists of a general bond of the Government, and the chairman of the Financial Committee of the League is appointed trustee for the bondholders, who will be succeeded later by three trustees appointed by the Council of the League. If the Commissioner-General and trustees deem it necessary, other specific revenues and assets, except the State railway revenues, will be furnished as security. No charge can be created ranking in priority to or *pari passu* with the loan, except for its redemption. Further, a sum sufficient to cover one half-year's interest and sinking fund is to be deposited with the trustees in advance, and this fund is to be maintained. It must be admitted that the League of Nations has taken every precaution to safeguard investors' interests. The yield, allowing for redemption in 20 years, works out at approximately £8 16s per cent. This is a high yield, and indicates to some extent the measure of risk involved. Its immediate success reflects great credit upon all concerned in arranging the loan and bringing it before the public.

The Lautaro Nitrate Company, Limited.—Share capital £4,000,000, of which £2,700,000 has been issued and is fully paid. This is an offer for sale at par of £1,500,000 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, to be secured as a first charge upon the combined properties of the Lautaro and Lastenia Companies. The company owns £1,700,000 out of a total of £3,000,000 of the share capital of the Lastenia Nitrate Company, and has made arrangements for acquiring the balance and for the transfer of the entire assets of the Lastenia Company. The debenture stock is "redeemable" by the application of a sinking fund based on nitrate sales, commencing in 1926. Any stock not redeemed will be repaid at par on December 1, 1940; the company has the option to redeem at 102 on December 1, 1932. The stock is to be secured by a trust deed, which provides for the creation of first specific mortgages under Chilean law. Nitrate establishments and grounds are valued at £3,990,270, and total assets are £5,724,024. Annual revenue is estimated at £1,072,500. On these facts and figures the issue is not without attraction. What the future holds out we may not be able to predict with any degree of confidence, but in the past it has yielded a generous return to investors.

Taf Fechan Water Supply Board (Incorporated by the Taf Fechan Water Supply Act, 1921) This is an issue of £324,324 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1945-55, with the sanction of the Ministry of Health. The stock is redeemable at par on June 1, 1955, or at the option of the board on or after June 1, 1945, on giving six calendar months' notice to the stockholders, unless previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the holders. The board is authorised to borrow up to £2,000,000. Up to the present £530,000 has been raised. The stock will be charged upon all the "revenues of the board," which are defined by the Act as including "the revenues of the board from time to time arising from their undertaking or from any land or other property for the time being belonging to the board and the money receivable by them from the constituent authorities." Such revenues include:—(i.) The moneys receivable by the board for supplies in bulk. When the Taf Fechan reservoir is completed the constituent authorities are under statutory obligation to pay for specified minimum quantities of water. The minimum amount so receivable is £99,462 per annum, and the maximum reservations would yield £188,888 per annum. (ii.) The right to pre-empt upon the constituent authorities for deficiencies (if any) in the net revenue of the board. The assessable value liable to such precepts, spread over a population of over 400,000 and an area of over 100,000 acres, is some £1,250,000, and a penny rate yields over £5,000. Our interest in the issue is somewhat lessened by the accompanying announcement that the information is given merely in connection with an application to the London Stock Exchange for leave to deal in the stock. We assume that those responsible for the advertisement know that eventually the public will be interested in the issue if there are to be open dealings in the stock.

Jamaica Sugar Estates, Lim.—Authorised share capital £400,000, divided into ordinary shares of £1 each, all of which are offered at par. The company has been formed to cultivate cane estates and to manufacture raw sugar in Jamaica, properties and assets being acquired from the Jamaica Sugar Syndicate, which has arranged the purchase of estates of a total area of about 8,665 acres, at a cost of £120,222, giving an average of £13 17s 6d per acre. The enterprise is being granted assistance under the Trade Facilities Acts, the British Government having agreed to guarantee a loan of £115,000 against a first charge on assets, and payable on a subscribed capital of £350,000. The board has also been notified "that a grant from the Jamaican Government in aid of interest on all capital expenditure in that island for five years has been condi-

The Nus River Gold Mines, Limited.—Authorised share capital £200,000, divided into shares of 10s each. The company has been formed to work an area in the Province of Antioquia, Colombia, covering more than 40,000 acres. It is

Brakpan (£1).....	3	3	Knights	3	3
Broken Hill Prop. (£1)	3	3	Modderfontein (10).....	3	3
Chartered (£1).....	3	3	Modderfontein "B" (5).....	3	3
Cons. Gold Fields (£1).....	2	2	Modderfontein, Deep (6).....	3	3
Crown Mines (10).....	2	2	Premier Det. (2/5).....	5	5
De Beers Det. (£24).....	12	12	Robinson (5).....	5	5
De Beers, Ltd. (10).....	2	2	Sekake	5	5
Geduld (10).....	3	3	Rio Tinto (£5).....	32	33
Gov. Gold Mines (10).....	3	3	Springs Mines (£1).....	32	38
Gov. Gold Mines (10).....	3	3			

The general improvement has been reflected in the public figures of the banking business done in the Dominion. On the quarterly average figures of last March, deposits showed an excess of £2,630,000 over advances, while both had increased. In 1921, you may remember, advances exceeded deposits by five millions and a quarter, and though in 1922 deposits exceeded advances, it was by somewhat less than a million.

Mr Reeves then drew attention to the "suggestive and thoughtful observations" made by Mr Baldwin on June 18th, during the debate on Preference in the House of Commons, in which the Unionist leader referred to the necessity for investigating the whole question of Empire development, including the discrepancy between the prices received by the producers for their goods and the prices paid by those who consumed them. He spoke of Mr Baldwin's query as to whether it was not possible to enter into some arrangement with the Dominions by which their foodstuffs could be obtained, brought into this country at cost price and distributed with the least possible margin. This, the speaker pointed out, opened up very large questions. Still, things might move in that direction in the future. At any rate, Mr Baldwin's sentences deserved full consideration overseas. The same could be said of a statement made by a Unionist leader elsewhere on the need for providing cheaper and speedier communication between the Dominions and the Mother Country, a practical question of most vital importance. Furthermore, it was encouraging to note that the necessity for a permanent Economic Imperial Committee was at last being recognised by political leaders here.

The report and accounts were adopted.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That the capital of the company be increased to £6,000,000 by the creation of 200,000 new shares of £7 10s each, and that such shares may be issued at such times and on such terms and conditions as the directors may deem advisable."

The proceedings then terminated.

BRITISH EMPIRE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF COMPANY'S INTERESTS.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the British Empire Trust Co., Limited, was held, on the 30th ult., at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool street, London.

Mr J. Davidson (deputy-chairman and managing director) presided, in the absence, through ill-health, of Mr R. M. Horne-Payne, the chairman of the company, and read a speech prepared by that gentleman, in the course of which he said:—

"The revenue for the year from trusteeships, registrarships, and secretaryships, together with interest and dividends from investments, although slightly less than last year, is well maintained and calls for no special comment.

"The profit on investments, however, was much lower than in 1922 or 1923, but, as I pointed out at our last meeting, the profit from this source for these years was exceptional and would certainly not be repeated in the year under review; in fact, I am very pleased that we have secured some profit on investments, as I had anticipated that we might have had some depreciation to face following upon the substantial appreciation of the previous years. In spite of the fact that throughout the year we have had to be content to employ at very low rates of interest the large surplus liquid funds which we are compelled by prudence at all times to hold, we are in the happy position of being able to recommend you to declare dividends of 5 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares and 7 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares—the same rates as last year—and after paying these dividends, of having £104,226 15s 9d to carry forward, as compared with £94,849 10s 4d last year.

"The directors had hoped to revert during the past year to the pre-war practice of paying interim dividends on the preferred and deferred shares, and possibly of paying increased dividends. They have considered both matters very carefully, and they feel strongly that as the amount carried forward forms a reserve on which the company depends for the protection of its capital against depreciation or unforeseen losses, the first care of the board should be to maintain it at a very substantial sum, say a clear £100,000, and thus ensure the continuity of the present dividends until such time as they feel certain that the dividends can not only be increased, but maintained at a higher level. I think that this happy time is fast approaching, and meanwhile I would ask you to rely upon the discretion of the board both in the matter of the resumption of payment of interim dividends and of increasing the distributions.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE POWER COMPANY.

"Last year I told you that we had undertaken the finance of the West Gloucestershire Power Co., Limited. During the year great progress has been made. Thirty-seven miles of high-tension transmission lines are now built, and by the West Gloucestershire Electricity Special Order, 1924, confirmed by Parliament, with effect from May 6th last, the company becomes the authorised undertakers for the supply of electricity over an area of some 300 square miles, which includes the coal mining industrial area in and around the Forest of Dean, as well as the industrial area of the Stroud and Nailsworth Valleys. Large contracts have already been made with consumers of electricity, and other contracts are in negotiation. The progress made confirms our confidence in the success of the undertaking. Issues of 5½ per cent. first mortgage sinking fund debenture stock and 6½ per cent. participating preference shares are advertised to-day, and we can confidently recommend both as sound investments.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY

"This magnificent enterprise continues to grow in importance and strength. It and its subsidiaries supply electric power, electric light, electric traction, and/or gas to Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, and to other growing cities and towns in the Province of British Columbia. Never has the outlook for this wonderful country been more encouraging. The combined capital of the British Columbia Electric Undertaking is now over \$76,000,000, and the demand for increased facilities, principally electric power, electric light and gas, is continuous and insistent.

"To meet this demand further important works for the development of additional supplies of electric energy from water power have had to be undertaken, and additions to the plant for the manufacture and supply of gas have had to be put in hand.

"To provide the necessary capital expenditure, an issue was made by the company in February last of £770,000 5 per cent. (income-tax free) 1944 debenture stock at 95 per cent. The issue met with great success, being applied for more than 21 times over.

"The company's net revenue continues to show increases month by month.

MONTEREY RAILWAY LIGHT AND POWER.

"The progress of the Monterey Railway Light and Power Company continues to be impeded by political conditions in Mexico.

"It has not yet been found possible to arrive at a settlement with the Government of the State of Nuevo Leon regarding the moneys due to the company under the guarantee by that State in connection with the water and sewage concessions.

"Conditions in Mexico have also resulted in increased working costs, especially in the price of fuel.

"Notwithstanding these conditions, the company has been able to meet regularly the interest on its 5 per cent. 'A' first mortgage debenture stock.

"Last year I told you that it would not surprise me if the result of the operations of the Canadian Western Lumber Company for the year 1923 would be such as to enable it to complete the payment of arrears of interest on its 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock. This forecast turned out to be correct.

WINNIPEG ELECTRIC COMPANY.

"At a meeting of holders of Winnipeg Electric Railway Four and a-Half per cent. perpetual consolidated debenture stock in March last a resolution was unanimously passed agreeing to the company's proposal whereby, subject to confirmation in Canada (which has not yet been obtained), the debenture stock, of which your company are trustees, was altered from a 4½ per cent. perpetual consolidated debenture to a 5 per cent. 30-year refunding mortgage stock.

"The company conceded these terms in return for concessions by the debenture-holders allowing the company to issue the balance of these securities in a form suitable for the Canadian or New York markets.

CANADIAN WESTERN NATURAL GAS.

"It will be recollected that at the last annual meeting I reviewed the position of the Canadian Western Natural Gas Light Heat and Power Company down to a point when the Public Utilities Commissioners had intimated that, if the supplies of gas were not augmented by October 1, 1923, the question of supply and price of gas to the City of Calgary would be reviewed by the board.

"As the result of an agreement reached between the City of Calgary and the company, the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners, upon a joint application, issued an order extending the present rates for gas for two years—namely, until October 31, 1926—conditional upon the completion of the pipe-line to connect the Foremost field with the company's present main line by October 31, 1924, the drilling of at least one additional well in the Foremost field during the season of 1924 and several other minor conditions.

"We understand that the conditions called for by the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners will be duly complied with, and that the company are proceeding to construct the pipe-lines to Foremost and do not anticipate any difficulty in completing the work by October 31, 1924, the date laid down in the order."

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BANK HOLDINGS, LIMITED. SATISFACTORY OUTLOOK.

The first ordinary general meeting of Bank Holdings, Limited, was held, on the 2nd instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr Norman Holden (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. F. Tattersall, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a dividend of 9 per cent., less tax, said: You will recollect that in the statutory report last June the receipts and payments account showed that we had purchased 170,000 Niederösterreichische Escompte Gesellschaft shares at a cost of £85,000. Since that date our total holding has been slightly increased, and it is now 173,400 shares at a cost of £87,040, or approximately 10s 6d per share. It will be seen that 6,000 of this company's shares have been issued at par since the date of the report referred to, so that two Bank Holdings shares are equivalent to one Niederösterreichische Escompte Gesellschaft share. The reserve account represents profits in selling our rights to subscribe for the recent issue of Austrian bank shares, less the preliminary expenses of this company.

The dividends received consist entirely of one dividend of Kr.3,000 and one of Kr.15,000 per share. It is the practice of the Niederösterreichische Escompte Gesellschaft to distribute annual dividends in April or May, but when we made the original pur-

chase of shares in 1923, the dividend on them was not, in fact, declared. In future years it is probable that only one dividend per annum will be received from the Niederösterreichische Escompte Gesellschaft, but I feel confident that our income from this source will not diminish.

You will have gathered that the bank in which you are now interested is a very prosperous undertaking. It is obvious that there are large secret reserves, as the real estate and furniture have been written down to the nominal figure of Kr.100. The stabilising of the Austrian crown and the consequent increase in business activity in Austria are reasons for the bank's success during last year. For the last 60 years it has never failed to pay dividends, and has now got to a position where it has resumed paying "real" economic dividends, and we hope that year by year these will increase. No doubt the assets value of the institution is very much higher than the market capitalisation. It should also be borne in mind that the activities of the bank go into all the Succession States, and, for example, the stabilisation of Hungary will have a beneficial effect on the bank's business.

As you are aware, there has been a Stock Exchange crisis in Austria, but I believe this is a transient thing, chiefly the result of the amazing rapidity with which Austria recovered after the League of Nations loan. On the whole, in spite of the crisis, the outlook is a good one, and I feel that Bank Holdings is a shareholder in a first-class institution with a great future in store for it. The resolution was carried unanimously.

OHLSOHN'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

The ordinary general meeting of Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, Limited, was held, on the 3rd inst., at the Great Eastern Hotel, London.

Mr Gerald Buxton (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report, said that during the past year his father, who had been trustee for the debenture stockholders since the commencement of the company in 1889, had died at a ripe old age, and the company had done his (the speaker's) son, Major E. N. Buxton, the honour of appointing him to the vacant position. He also had to refer with regret to the fact that since the report was printed Sir Charles Hunter, who had been a director of the company for 15 years, had passed away.

Continuing, he said that they had done better in the year under review than in the previous year. He was sorry to say that there had been no improvement in the amount of trade, and he believed that that was a matter which affected practically every business in South Africa. They were always hoping for an improvement in trade, and some day or other it was bound to come, but during the year up to March last their actual turnover was no better. On the other hand, the profit was very considerably better than that of the previous year, and that was mainly owing to economies. Mr W. D. Buxton, who had been connected with the company from the commencement, had recently returned from South Africa, and spoke most highly of the way in which the business was conducted. Altogether, the directors thought they could look forward to as good a year in the period now current.

The balance-sheet indicated that the cash position of the company was considerably better than in the previous year. They were paying a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 7½ per cent. for the year—an increase of 50 per cent.

They owned a considerable amount of property, especially in

Cape Town, and, in spite of conditions out there, that property was gradually increasing in value, and at the present moment the rents—after fully covering the debenture interest—produced a considerable balance in favour of the preference shareholders. It was very satisfactory that the first charge on the profits was more than paid out of rents, without their having to encroach upon the brewing profit. It was also satisfactory that they now had a much better class of tenants than had been the case for many years. That was especially satisfactory, as the trade always had a sword hanging over its head in whatever country it was, though it was true that in that respect the position in South Africa was not so bad as it was in this country. There were, however, always people who, from the best of motives, attacked the trade through legislation.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BISICHI TIN COMPANY (NIGERIA), LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS—GOOD PROSPECTS.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of the Bisichi Tin Company (Nigeria), Limited, was held on the 1st instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr James Gardiner (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the working profit in Nigeria for the year under review had been £40,769, as compared with £10,334. The improvement was due, first to an increase of 205 tons in the output; secondly, to a reduction in working costs of £5 14s 2d per ton; and, thirdly, to an increase of £37 15s 7d per ton in the price at which concentrates had been realised. The directors recommended a dividend of 5 per cent. (less tax), which would leave a balance of £4,326 to be carried forward. The reserves of tin ore were given at the very substantial figure of 9,564 tons, but he wished to emphasise the fact that that only represented ground actually proved by pitting and boring.

No credit had been taken for other areas known to be tin-bearing, but yet to be prospected. The output for the year had been wholly obtained from the company's old holdings, and though the average tin contents per cubic yard of ground treated had risen from 1.52 lb to 1.80 lb, that figure fell very short of the company's main reserve on E.P.L. 1,060, where the average was 2.57 lb. The board had been criticised for not having attacked that portion of the property before, but it was their considered opinion that its exploitation, except on very definite lines, could only have been effected at the expense of the future.

The plant which they had finally decided on as being the type best suited for the working of that deposit was the suction cutter dredge. An order had been placed in May last for one machine and its accessories, and it should be delivered on the property before the break of the next rainy season. The machine was designed to treat 80,000 cubic yards per month, but the estimate of the engineers was that on a capacity of 60,000 cubic yards only, the monthly output should average 70 tons. The estimated cost of the plant was between £25,000 and £26,000, which was to be satisfied out of revenue—a sound policy, far preferable to increasing the capital. But for the fact that the dredge had to be paid for, an interim dividend would have been declared out of the satisfactory profits of the current year, but, provided always that the price of the metal maintained a reasonable figure, the board hoped to be in a position to pay an interim dividend some time during the autumn.

The report and accounts were adopted.



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS:

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.
64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—RECORD PROFITS.

The sixteenth annual ordinary general meeting of Lobitos Oilfields, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Lord Forbes, P.C. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the results of the year's working were satisfactory, and disclosed continued progress both in the quantity of oil produced and in the profits, which were again a record. The net profit for the year amounted to £661,923, and the directors recommended the payment of a final dividend of 5s per share, and a bonus of 8s per share, free of income-tax, which he trusted the shareholders would consider a very satisfactory result. Last year he told the shareholders that the board were in negotiation for the concession from the Peruvian Government of a large area of land adjoining and surrounding their present property on three sides. This matter had now been carried through, and the directors had reason to believe that this was an important acquisition for the company, and would, in course of time, greatly increase production. With regard to the future, re-drilling amongst the old wells, but to a greater depth, had resulted in the obtaining of very satisfactory results from deeper strata. Chiefly in consequence of this, the production had been steadily mounting up. One of these wells had reached 5,340 feet, which was considerably the deepest hole ever made in the crust of South America. They had disposed of the bulk of their estimated production for 1924, and of a portion of what they expected to produce in 1925, at prices which, the directors believed, would yield reasonable profits. It was, he thought, unlikely, and possibly undesirable, that the price of fuel oil would increase greatly, if at all, but the price of other oils might well be subject to further enhancement as demand increased in greater proportion to supply. Fortunately for them, their oil was exceptionally endowed with a large proportion of petrol, and it also possessed the rare quality of producing lubricants suitable for Northern climates and aeroplanes, which did not congeal at low temperatures. Lord Forbes concluded by referring to the excellent and efficient services of the staff both abroad and at home.

Mr H. W. Sillem (managing director) seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously, and a resolution was unanimously passed that the directors' fees for the past year should be doubled, the increase to be free of income-tax.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Silver Coin.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.								
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	8,500	88,500	18,450	16.9	261,479	177
June 28.	295,370	13,338	8,000	88,500	19,550	16.3	264,312	850
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	87,000	21,150	16.6	246,456	168
Dec. 27.	301,337	12,872	7,000	87,000	21,150	16.9	258,922	137
1923.								
Mar. 28.	285,616	12,338	7,000	87,000	22,450	17.3	241,294	190
June 27.	286,503	12,516	7,000	87,000	22,450	17.3	242,446	123
Sept. 27.	282,784	12,401	7,000	87,000	22,450	17.5	238,595	140
Dec. 26.	299,070	12,571	7,000	87,000	22,450	16.5	255,032	159
1924.								
Mar. 26.	281,538	11,908	7,000	87,000	22,450	17.6	236,867	130
June 18.	291,808	12,715	7,000	87,000	22,450	16.9	247,970	103
June 26.	290,316	12,472	7,000	87,000	22,450	17.0	246,198	140
July 2.	292,115	12,859	7,000	87,000	22,450	16.9	248,373	161

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from July 7-12 were opened on July 4, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £65,220,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 3s 2d, about 3½ per cent., and above in full. Saturday at £99 3s 5d, above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £29,700,000; in bonds £300,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
May 30.	40,000,000	64,880,000	2 19 4-72	94 13 2-4
June 6.	35,000,000	61,140,000	2 18 3-52	nil
June 13.	35,000,000	56,385,000	2 18 3-92	94 13 2-4
June 20.	35,000,000	47,995,000	2 19 3-39	94 13 0
June 27.	35,000,000	59,625,000	3 2 9-42	94 13 0
July 4.	30,000,000	65,220,000	3 6 5-43	94 13 0

Tenders will be received on July 11, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £30,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1915.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan					266	684	683	683	683	683
3½% War Stock		63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock		13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% and 5% War Stock	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025	2,025
National War Bonds		1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	903	903	903
4% Funding Bonds		409	409	406	401	399	400	400	400	400
4% Victory Bonds		360	357	347	335	325	325	325	325	325
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certs.		267	274	285	342	354	367	366	365	365
Other Debt		1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151	1,151
American Loan (Anglo-French)		51	51							
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	652	588	580	580
Temporary Advances		1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	218
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,695	7,730	7,730
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766	7,801	7,801

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances June 30, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	June 30, '24.	9 Days Ended June 30, '24.
Outstanding—			
Advances by Bank of England	£ 4,250,000	£ 13,250,000	£ 12,250,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.	210,720,500	186,155,500	204,966,500
Treasury Bills Outstanding	604,360,000	588,320,000	*580,085,000
Total Floating Debt	£ 819,330,500	£ 774,475,500	£ 798,301,500

* Includes £88,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS EXCEED £8,048,905
CLAIMS PAID £33,813,270

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

Head Office: 38-44, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 2, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,192,760	Government debt	11,015,104
		Other securities	8,734,904
		Gold coin & bullion	126,442,764
	146,192,760		146,192,760

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities ..	54,222,46
Reserve	3,347,274	Other securities	95,355,73
Public deposits	11,741,973	Notes	18,392,23
Other deposits	140,135,561	Gold and silver coin ..	1,822,77
Seven-day & other bills ..	15,404		
	169,793,212		169,793,212

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount July 2, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. Last Year.
Best	3,347,274	+	86
Public deposits	140,135,561	+	7,715,78
Other deposits	14,553,000	+	16,350,78
Government securities ..	54,222,46	+	9,888,77
Other securities	95,355,73	+	1,069,65
Notes	18,392,23	+	182,77
Gold and silver coin ..	126,442,764	+	823,93
% of reserve to liabilities ..	138%	+	841,0

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
May 14	£ 128,182,792	£ 124,541,525	£ 119,799,798	£ 114,111,932	£ 23,391,267	19½
21	128,181,411	124,518,065	119,890,012	114,256,110	23,413,346	19½
28	128,184,802	125,731,915	120,041,438	115,634,736	22,202,887	19½
June 4	128,185,591	126,577,650	138,591,041	135,015,344	21,357,941	19½
11	128,215,083	126,136,000	133,002,749	128,969,034	21,827,083	19½
18	128,235,145	125,487,140	124,502,850	119,891,646	22,498,006	18
25	128,261,164	126,509,200	132,295,707	128,679,753	21,501,964	16½
July 2	128,265,538	127,800,525	151,877,534	149,578,199	20,215,013	13½

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to June 18	£ 16,633,702	£ 740,007	£ 1,348,654	£ 18,722,363
June 25	637,279	29,339	52,021	718,639
July 2	821,722	33,339	52,526	907,587
Total to date 1924	18,092,703	802,696	1,453,201	20,348,600
Do 1923	17,036,434	805,828	1,458,937	19,301,199
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 996,269	- 3,132	- 5,736	+ 987,401
	= 5.8 %	= 0.3 %	= 0.3 %	= 5.0 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923 ..	- 510,262	- 28,096	+ 4,489	- 533,869
	= 1.6 %	= 1.8 %	= 0.2 %	= 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Number of Working Days	Month of June.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to June 28.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
BIRMINGHAM	24	26		
BRISTOL	10,942,000	9,968,000	60,314,700	59,342,000
DUBLIN	5,090,000	4,533,000	30,574,000	29,283,000
HULL	4,687,000	4,121,000	161,717,800	143,614,300
LEEDS	4,259,000	4,017,000	28,904,100	27,227,900
LIVERPOOL	2,971,000	3,223,000	27,225,300	27,032,400
MANCHESTER	35,097,000	32,949,000	19,196,700	19,703,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	62,698,000	61,234,000	232,219,000	235,734,800
NOTTINGHAM	8,914,000	7,402,000	387,391,921	392,338,987
SHEFFIELD	2,528,000	2,503,000	52,636,000	49,123,900
Total	141,086,000	134,069,000	1,570,700	1,570,700

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the *Economist* of April 12; Roumania, in May 31; German Rentenbank and Egypt, in June 14; Canada, German Gold Discount, and Greece, in June 21; India, Japan, Finland, Danzig, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Italy in June 28.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	June 27, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 13, 1923.	June 29, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,155,570	3,157,640	3,154,400	3,110,740
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	115,830	114,500	105,050	91,740
Bills discounted for member banks	350,130	351,380	375,990	774,960
Bills bought in open market	45,030	57,320	44,380	20,430
Government obligations owned	429,790	425,900	422,910	134,980
All other resources	82,520	82,530	85,050	64,860
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	52,110	9,650	35,170	43,950
Other deposits	2,056,350	2,126,830	2,051,710	1,892,650
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,843,920	1,851,430	1,870,520	2,226,950
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	nil	nil	nil	1,550
All other liabilities	15,310	15,000	15,150	19,440
Capital and surplus	332,340	332,390	332,360	337,800
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	82.8 %	82.1 %	82.4 %	76.9 %

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	June 7, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 24, 1924.	May 17, 1924.	May 10, 1924.	June 9, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion....	549	549	549	549	549	533
Gold certificates	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,091
Subsidiary coin.....	50	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted	4,018	4,708	4,145	4,077	5,462	2,675
Loans & advances to Govt.	2,400	2,300	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000
Investments	17	17	17	17	17	9
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	40	40	40	40	40	2
Notes in circulation	10,675	10,873	10,457	10,473	11,691	9,843
Bankers' deposits	5,778	5,671	5,219	5,143	5,308	5,510
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public...	67%	64.6%	68.2%	68.5%	66.8%	70%

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In C. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 23, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 23, 1924.	June 23, 1923.
Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of the Austro-Hungarian Empire	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973
Discounts and advances	2,079,385	2,068,925	2,068,925	2,068,925	2,068,925	2,068,925
Gold and silver held	1,047,481	1,046,689	1,046,689	1,046,689	1,046,689	1,046,689
Foreign bills and balances abroad	662,474	679,325	678,211	659,567	678,466	1,887,145
Other assets	164,412	177,567	206,753	271,601	196,637	646,901
LIABILITIES.						
State's share of profits	7,538,631	7,708,488	7,882,172	8,078,418	7,550,660	8,794,215
Deposits	5,090,296	4,948,362	4,809,372	4,683,547	5,035,423	5,162,304
Other liabilities	1,421,799	1,412,689	1,421,223	1,401,132	1,415,381	1,500,304

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

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 22, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	June 8, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	June 22, 1923.
Gold	72,328	72,330	72,330	72,330	63,005
Other coin and notes	19,385	18,817	18,817	18,817	19,086
Foreign credits	350,257	352,110	352,110	352,110	274,039
Bills	1,183,072	1,183,644	1,183,644	1,183,644	1,273,228
Govt. advances	4,560,129	4,560,134	4,560,134	4,560,134	4,491,600
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,408,318	5,450,840	5,512,026	5,512,026	5,473,713
State credits	387,918	387,918	387,918	387,918	387,918
Deposits	523,095	497,116	500,070	495,268	697,171

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-issuing Department.

(Note: 1 Tchernovets=10 gold roubles.)

Assets.	July 1, 1924.	June 16, 1924.	June 1, 1924.	July 1, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	9,229	8,841	8,841	5,022
Silver in bullion	743	743	743	..
Platinum	111	111	111	..
Foreign bank notes	10,007	9,853	9,875	292
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	343	343	348	438
Bills (less 10% discount)	13,783	12,244	12,188	2,310
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	5,995	6,094	6,094	2,700
LIABILITIES.				
Bank notes	38,750	38,000	36,700	9,600
Balance to which notes may still be issued	1,500	250	1,500	1,161

(In Tchernovets—000's omitted.)

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	2,534,162	2,533,974	2,533,782	2,533,645	2,532,775	521,775
Silver	661,494	668,357	667,615	666,902	668,393	728,600
Loans and discounts	2,226,183	2,267,101	2,273,156	2,288,485	2,009,800	800,726
Spanish Govt. stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,342,648	4,346,051	4,365,637	4,376,965	4,073,955	801,550
Deposits	965,114	942,806	943,030	943,205	947,309	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 4, 1924.	May 28, 1924.	May 21, 1924.	May 14, 1924.	June 6, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,435	9,439	9,524	9,528	27,018
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	94,364	67,861	63,632	69,345	55,092
Discounts	184,871	186,778	178,964	180,940	205,613
Government loans	1,405,237	1,377,299	1,375,014	1,380,445	890,910
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,583,117	1,553,038	1,549,748	1,547,352	1,200,651
Deposits	43,186	44,900	44,801	41,912	58,202

LONDON RATES.

	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	June 13, 1924.	June 6, 1924.	June 29, 1923.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
3 months' do	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
6 months' do	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Discount (Treasury Bills)	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Loans—Day to day	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%	1 1/2%
Short	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Deposits—allowances: Banks	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Discount houses at call	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
At notice	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.				
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.		
		%	%	%	%	%	%		
1924.									
June 13	1 1/2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
20	1 1/2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
27	1 1/2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
July 4	1 1/2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 837 chervonetz.

£1,000 " " 1924 " "

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	Jan. 24, 1924.	%	Changed.	Mar. 23, 1923.	%
Amsterdam	Jan. 14, 1923	7 1/2	Madrid	Jan. 17, 1924	6
Athens	Sept. 15, 1923	90	Paris	May 27, 1924	6
Belgrade	Jan. 22, 1923	5 1/2	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924	8
Brussels	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Rome	July 11, 1922	5 1/2
Bucharest	July 5, 1923	18	Sofia	Nov. 9, 1923	5 1/2
Budapest	July 5, 1923	18	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923	5 1/2
Calcutta	Nov. 10, 1923	7	Swiss Bank	July 14, 1923	4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924	7	Tokyo	Nov. 18, 1923	8
Christiansia	Mar. 17, 1924	12	Vienna	June 4, 1924	8
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924	9	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923	9			
New York Fed.	June 11, 1924	3 1/2			

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 15%.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	July 6, 1923.	June 27, 1924.	July 4, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	78 15 25	81 80 81
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20 43	880 900 000	18 18 18
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24 02	315 325 000	106 5 106
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24 02	150 151	146 147
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	35 22 1/2	146 147	147 148
Reval	estons to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	22 40 60	22 45 70
Riga	latas to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	1650	1775
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	22 33 58	22 33 56
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	900 920	920 1100
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	24 02	4000 4300	340 370 000
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	110	715 735	853 860
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	410 460	590 610
Amsterdam	guilder to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	420 440	358 364
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	11 62 63	11 49 450
Christiansia	kroner to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	38 50 60	96 94
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18 159	32 25 30	32 25 30
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18 159	32 25 30	32 25 30
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	165 166	172 173
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	170 180	253 255
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	106 107	101 101
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	26 52 57	24 30 32
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	32 00 05	32 21 24
Lisbon	escudos to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	53 11	11 31
Alexandria	pounds to £1	T.T.	25 22 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	4 33 3/4
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	4 33 3/4
Buenos Aires	pesos to £1	T.T.	47 62 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to £1	T.T.	47 62 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Montevideo	pesos to £1	T.T.	47 62 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	T.T.	47 62 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Colon	colones to £1	T.T.	13 33	42 43	42 43
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Madras	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Hong Kong	dollars to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Shanghai	taels to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Singapore	dollars to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Batavia	dollars to £1	T.T.	10 to 1	10 to 1	10 to 1
Manila	pesos to £1	T.T.	24 58 1/2	24 58 1/2	24 58 1/2
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	24 58 1/2	24 58 1/2	24 58 1/2

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	July 5, 1923.	June 4, 1924.	June 12, 1924.	June 19, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	June 29, 1924.
Call money	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Time money (90 days' mixed call)	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Commercial accept., 90 days	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	July 5, 1923.	June 19, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	July 3, 1924.
London—					
Cable	Dollars for £1	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2
Cheques					
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Vienna	Cents for 1 krona	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 krona	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Christiansia	Cents for 1 krona	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Stockholm	Cents for 1 krona	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19 30	19 30	19 30	19 30
Montreal	Cents for \$1	100	100	100	100
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	100	100	100	100
Hong Kong	Cents for 1 dollar	100	100	100	100
Shanghai	Cents for 1 dollar	100	100	100	100
Singapore	Cents for 1 dollar	100	100	100	100
Batavia	Cents for 1 dollar	100	100	100	100
Manila	Cents for 1 dollar	100	100	100	100
Buenos Aires	Cents for 1 peso	100	100	100	100
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 peso	100	100	100	100
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	100	100	100	100

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate
Buenos Aires	Stores to £1	10 00	Right London	Apr. 12 17 1/2
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	20 45		July 2 27 1/2
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	100		July 1 27 1/2
El Salvador	Colonos to £1	100		June 21 27 1/2
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	100		June

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash, Interim div. or Final div.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Lat. Div. Pre-vious.	Dividend for Whole Year.
Railways.					
Central London	2%	..	..	..	..
City and South London	2%	..	..	..	..
Egyptian Delta Light, Pref.	4%	July 26	Less tax (4/6 in £)	..	..
International of C. America, Pref.	14%	Aug. 31	Quarterly	..	..
London Electric	2%	..	..	..	..
London General Omnibus	15%	..	Tax free	..	..
Metropolitan District	3%	..	..	..	..
Underground (6% Income Bonds)	3%	..	Free of British tax	..	..
Banks.					
Alexanders Discount	15%	..	..	..	..
Bank of British West Africa	..	..	Less tax	5	5
Barclays Bank, "A"	10%	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..
Do "B" and "C"	14%	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..
Imperial of Persia	5/10 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Industrial of Japan	18%	July 15	Less tax	..	..
Midland	2/6 p.s.	July 16	Less tax (4/6 in £)	..	..
National Discount "A"	4/6 p.s.	July 16	Less tax (4/6 in £)	..	..
Do "B"	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands India Commercial	..	..	..	..	..
P. and O. Banking	..	..	..	..	..
Standard Bank of Canada	3%	July 17	Less tax	..	..
Union Discount of London	15%	July 5	Less tax	..	..
Williams, Deacon's Bank, "A"	13%	July 16	Less tax	..	..
Do "B"	12%	July 16	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Federated Employers'	1/6 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
General Life	10% (bonus 2%)	..	Tax free	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Allynugger Tea	20%+	..	Less tax	40	25
Anglo-Ceylon and General	15%	July 31	Less tax	20	15
Anglo-Dutch	..	..	Less tax	12	9
Assam-Dooars Tea	25%+	..	Less tax	35	20
Behur Co.	10%+	..	..	..	..
Ceylon Land and Produce	10%+	..	..	..	..
Dekhari Tea	50%+	..	Less tax	60	40
Hope Tea	..	..	Less tax	45	40
Itakhoori Tea	25%+	..	Tax free	45	35
Mooply Valley Rubber	..	..	..	..	..
Perak Rubber	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish Tea and Rubber	7%+	..	Less tax	5	5
Tobing Rubber	..	..	..	..	..
Upper Assam Tea	..	..	Less tax	25	25
Wanarajah Tea	10%+	..	..	..	..
Mining.					
New Goch (in liquidation)	2/1 p.s.	Aug. 25	..	..	..
Rayfield Tin	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.					
African Produce	10	..	Less tax	..	..
Assets Co.	3%	..	Less tax	..	..
Bournemouth and Poole Electric	4 1/2%	Aug. 15	Less tax	..	..
Bovril, Def.	9%	..	Tax free	..	..
British Oxygen	1/9 p.s.	July 10	Tax free	12 1/2	12 1/2
British Steamship Invest. Def.	12 1/2	July 31	Less tax	11	12
Cardinal Investment	3/1 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Central Bahia Rly. Trust	3%	Aug. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Do "B"	1 1/2	Aug. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Commercial Brewery	..	..	Tax free	12 1/2	12 1/2
Crompton and Co., Pref.	3 1/2%	..	..	7	7
De Grey and Co.	4 1/2%	..	..	7	..
D. F. Taylor and Co.	2/6 p.s.	June 30	Less tax	..	..
Distillers Co.	..	..	Tax free	10	10
Dundee, Perth, & Shipping	6 1/2%	..	Less tax	7	7
Edmundson's Electricity	4 1/2%	..	..	10	10
E. Robins and Son	8 1/2%	..	..	10	10
Foreign and Colonial Investment	5%	July 31	..	..	..
George Angus	5	..	Less tax	..	..
Goodwin, Foster, Brown, Pref.	5 1/2	June 30	..	..	..
Greenwood and Bailey	2 1/2%	..	..	5	5
Hallamshire Col.	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Harris and Sheldon	3 1/2 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..
Hotel York, Pref.	6%	July 1	Less tax	..	..
Irwel Bank Spinning	10	..	..	..	..
Johannesburg Estate	2 1/2%	Aug. 31	..	..	..
John Walker and Sons	14 1/2%	..	Tax free	20	..
La Concordia Estancia	3%	..	..	..	..
Lipson	6 1/2%	..	..	10	12 1/2
Lovell and Christmas	14 1/2 (bonus 4%)	..	..	14	14
Mond Nickel	..	..	..	12 1/2	10 (e)
Morgan's Brewery	5	July 12	Less tax	..	..
Murrayfield Real Estate	..	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	5	5
National Mortgage of N.Z.	7 1/2	July 3	..	..	..
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	10	..	Tax free	..	..
Northern Securities	4%	July 10	..	..	..
North Glamorgan Wagon	10%+	..	Less tax	12 1/2	12 1/2
Nottingham Electric, Def.	4 1/2 p.s.	July 31	Tax free	..	..
O. C. Hawley	6	July 1	..	..	..
Patons and Baldwins	..	..	..	12 1/2	12 1/2
Reckitt and Sons	..	..	Quarterly	..	..
Robert Deuchar	9 p.s.	..	Tax free	10	..
Sanderson Bros. and Newbould	..	..	..	..	..
Pref.	5%	..	To June 30 last	..	..
Santa Rosa Milling	5 1/2%	July 1	..	10	10
Sawers	8 (bonus 2%)	..	..	10 1/2	10 1/2
Scottish Amer. Invest. "A" Ord.	1/6 p.s.	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..
Do "B" Ord.	1 1/2 p.s.	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..
Sheffield Billposting, &c.	1 1/2 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Spiers and Pond	7 1/2%	..	..	12 1/2	12 1/2
St James's & Pall Mall Electric	5 p.s.	Aug. 2	..	..	..
Stattford and Co.	4 1/2 p.s.	July 16	Subject to tax	..	..
Sudan Plantations	10%	July 21	..	..	..
Tarmac, Limited	1 p.s.	Aug. 1	Tax free	..	..
Telegraph Construction, &c.	6 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Thomson-Smith, Ord.	..	..	..	10	10
Tinsley Park Colliery	1/6 p.s.	..	Net	2 1/2 p.s.	2 1/2 p.s.
Toronto Mortgage	2 1/2%	..	Quarterly	..	..
Trustees Corporation	1 1/2	..	Less tax	8	7
Walker and Homfrays	9 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
W. and T. Avery	10%+	..	..	15	15
Wharmcliffe Silkstone	13 p.s.	July 2	Less tax	..	..

(c) Increased capital. (d) Capital increased by bonus 200 per cent. (e) Tax free. HENRY ROSS and Co.—The directors are unable to declare a dividend on the 5% per cent. cumulative preference shares.

JNO. HY. ANDREW and Co.—The payment of a dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares has been postponed owing to adverse trade conditions. THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED (Head office, Bombay), with which is amalgamated the Tata Industrial Bank, Limited.—The following telegram has been received from Bombay regarding the half-year's profits to June 30th:—"Our net profit half-year, after providing for taxes and including balance brought forward, amounts to Rs.19,46,768 5 annas 8 pies. Dividend, 10 per cent. per annum declared. Carrying forward Rs.1,06,108 5 annas 8 pies."

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended June 27, 1924.	(c) Week ended June 28, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 26 Weeks, 1924.
Great Western	3,754	350,000	660,000	5,942,000	8,801,000	14,743,000
Do for 1923	3,679	285,000	354,000	6,305,000	8,440,000	15,616,000
London & North-Eastern	6,703	530,000	667,000	1,197,000	1,021,000	17,713,000
Do same period 1923	6,701	547,000	712,000	1,259,000	1,048,000	30,080,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	8,942	753,000	870,000	1,623,000	1,463,000	37,227,000
Do for 1923	8,940	742,000	908,000	1,650,000	1,510,000	39,426,000
Southern	2,146	380,000	121,000	502,000	854,000	10,595,000
Do for 1923	2,146	380,000	121,000	502,000	854,000	10,595,000
Metropolitan (c)	794	47,104	4,368	51,472	53,300	1,057,400
Do for 1923	..	34,422	3,600	36,022	38,507	1,024,600
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	280,785	..	5,886,185
Do for 1923	..	..	..	247,539	..	5,765,078
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	46,756	..	966,078
Belfast & Co. Down (b)	80	5,189	1,060	6,249	107,151	1,026,532
Dublin and B. East (b)	160	6,275	2,228	9,203	142,726	1,401,101
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b)	562	21,050	20,600	41,650	524,800	235,709
Gt. Sth. & Western (b)	1,151	29,727	30,118	59,845	562,727	974,000
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	10,962	14,621	25,583	224,533	1,376,197
						595,831

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	9weeks	May 31	1,072	Rs. 2,610,000	+ Rs. 43,509	Rs. 20,690,000	+ Rs. 1,311,124
Barsi L.t. Ry.....	10weeks	June 7	118	29,200	+ 2,700	3,324,000	+ 46,800
Bengal & N. Western	9weeks	May 31	2,062	7,152,000	+ 19,304	62,838,000	+ 2,261,300
Bombay Nagpur	9weeks	May 31	2,738	15,540,000	+ 211,000	1,452,000	+ 15,801,501
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	13weeks	June 28	2,738	22,440,000	+ 28,000	1,381,000	+ 16,350,000
Burma.....	9weeks	May 31	1,342	7,184,000	+ 32,107	68,401,000	+ 1,351,663
Delhi, Umballa Kalka	12weeks	June 21	239	34,150,000	+ 27,500	12,485,000	+ 34,399
East Indian	13weeks	June 28	2,873	28,333,000	+ 2,230,000	4,478,000	+ 18,040,000
G. Indian Peninsula	13weeks	June 28	3,164	16,250,000	+ 1,444,488	3,984,879	+ 37,418,850
Madras & S. Mahr.	9weeks	May 31	3,029	68,284	+ 4,918	5,792,210	+ 31,557
Robt'h'd & Kumaon	9weeks	May 31	259	82,643	+ 7,511	7,242,212	+ 27,000
Do Lucknow-Breilly	9weeks	May 31	314	9,270,000	+ 1,48,313	1,006,123	+ 1,83,706
South Indian	10weeks	June 7	1,877				

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

B. A. and Pacific	52weeks	28	2,333 +	1,089	186,749 +	70,700
B. A. Gt. Southern	52weeks	28	5,324	174,000 +	21,000	9,096,000 +
			2,746	226,200 +	63,000	10,801,000 +
B. A. Western	52weeks	28	1,882	106,000 +	53,000	4,464,000 +
			Net	44,000 +	33,000	4,498,000 +
Central Argentine	52weeks	28	3,305	240,000 +	54,000	1,839,000 +
Corbado Central	52weeks	28	1,205	86,600 +	10,500	3,359,000 +
Entre Rios	52weeks	28	729	21,600 +	8,000	1,191,700 +

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Diven- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Dis- tribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.	Rate.				
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Banks.											
Bank of British West Africa	Mar. 31	34,690	95,990	130,680	..	60,000	5	35,000	35,680	100,574	5
Imperial Bank of Persia	Mar. 20*	34,644	49,908	84,552	..	25,000	5/p.s.†	25,000	34,552	..	..
National Bank of South Africa	Mar. 31	25,136	202,991	228,127	..	..	..	200,000	28,127	Dr 919,689	..
P. and O. Banking	Mar. 31	15,180	136,382	151,562	..	113,994	5½	20,000	17,568	139,382	5½
Breweries and Distilleries.											
Distillers' Company	May 15	107,546	677,914	785,460	57,587	366,927	10†	241,420	119,531	620,637	10†
E. Robins and Son	April 30	5,856	10,807	16,663	1,822	4,650	10	4,000	6,191	13,505	10
John Walker and Sons	May 31	..	801,245	801,245	110,717	252,000	20†	253,275	185,253	..	..
Electric Lighting and Power.											
Edmundson's Electricity	Mar. 31	22,815	58,360	81,175	28,000	16,800	7	20,000	16,375	52,103	7
North of Scotland Electric	Dec. 31	283	8,463	8,746	2,500	3,500	7†	2,000	746	6,497	7†
Financial, Land, &c.											
Murrayfield Real Estate	May 31	3,505	1,697	5,202	..	1,163	5	..	4,039	1,797	5
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Spicers and Pond	Mar. 31	12,652	108,592	121,244	..	86,545	12½	17,000	17,699	114,775	12½
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
J. Stone and Co.	Dec. 31	147,591	165,340	312,931	39,000	60,040	10	75,000	138,891	155,875	10
Motor and Cycle.											
Guy Motors	Sept. 30	Dr 272,822	124	Dr 272,822	..	..	..	..	Dr 272,822	Dr 170,041	..
Rubber, &c.											
Central Travancore	Dec. 31	77	8,149	8,226	1,608	..	..	4,045	2,573	3,712	..
Perak Plantations	Mar. 31	2,158	5,672	7,830	..	4,450	5	..	3,380	6,740	5
Tempeh (Java)	Dec. 31	Dr 3,485	5,153	1,668	..	..	..	..	1,668	156	..
Shops and Stores.											
Lipton, Limited	Mar. 31	35,640	236,244	271,884	104,000	125,000	10	..	42,884	281,057	12½
Textiles.											
Patons and Baldwins	April 30	90,084	361,685	451,769	68,666	199,911	12½†	100,000	83,192	668,543	15†
Other Companies.											
Allen-Liversidge	April 30*	5,719	25,077	30,796	..	14,842	6½	11,000	4,954	..	..
Aron Electricity Meter	Mar. 31	5,748	10,923	16,671	14,415	..	..	..	2,256	..	..
Benson and Hedges	Dec. 31	6,560	13,023	19,583	5,300	..	..	10,000	4,283	15,270	..
British Oxygen	Mar. 31	114,401	150,278	264,679	..	62,500	12½†	..	202,179	131,801	12½
Crompton and Co.	Mar. 31	1,090	1,714	2,804	9,846	..	..	Dr 8,500	1,458	Dr 7,186	..
Dent, Allcroft, and Co.	Jan. 31	Dr 409,416	55,214	Dr 354,204	..	..	..	..	Dr 354,204	Dr 11,868	..
De Trey and Co.	Dec. 31	30,762	62,902	93,664	5,381	61,319	7	6,290	20,674	58,228	nil
Lovell and Christmas	June 14	103,125	106,390	209,515	23,250	66,625	14	17,000	102,640	102,919	14
Mond Nickel	April 30	65,268	262,635	327,903	175,000	112,500	12½	..	40,403	292,385	10½
North Glamorgan Wagon	Mar. 31	2,835	5,414	8,249	..	1,250	12½	..	6,999	3,069	12½
* Half-year. † Tax free.											

* Half-year.

† Tax free.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

DISTILLERS' COMPANY, LIMITED.
May 15, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with May 15, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with May 15, 1923.
Ord. shares	3,685,000 .. + 39,320	Land & buildings	1,138,000 .. - 67,000
Prof. shares	2,150,000 .. + 1,823,380	Plant	454,000 .. - 33,000
Reserve fund	250,000 .. - 700,000	Investments	4,051,656 .. + 823,780
Fire insur. fund	155,000 .. + 5,000	Sundry debtors	305,070 .. - 271,833
Superannuation	165,971 .. + 25,142	Stocks	308,275 .. - 1,738,518
Deb. stocks	820,000 .. + 39,843	Cash	94,475 .. + 39,843
Loans from subsidiary cos.	1,015,180 .. - 52,513	Bills receivable	304,265 .. + 196,746
Sundry creditors	541,745 .. - 20,234	Loans to subsidiary cos.	2,643,360 .. + 1,695,409
Orri'ge on spirits	125,857 .. - 4,808		
Bank overdraft	.. - 515,022		
Profit and loss	390,618 .. + 58,162		
Total	9,299,371 .. + 655,427	Total	9,299,371 .. + 655,427

SPIERS AND POND.
March 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.
Ord. shares	692,829 .. - 13,128	Properties	1,015,069 .. - 2,316
Deb. redemption account	467,461 .. - 13,128	Plant	275,381 .. + 13,400
Sundry creditors	39,102 .. + 8,239	Wines, &c.	74,407 .. + 11,231
General reserve	144,623 .. + 38,151	Sundry debtors	50,609 .. + 478
Uncl. interest, &c.	88,402 .. - 4,595	Investments	142,719 .. + 4,069
Profit and loss	120,000 .. + 20,000	Cash	86,792 .. + 10,049
	110 .. - 110		
	91,527 .. - 6,646		
Total	1,644,967 .. + 41,911	Total	1,644,967 .. + 41,911

LIPTON, LIMITED.
March 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.
5% cum. pref.	1,000,000 ..	Goodwill, property, &c.	2,290,337 .. + 81,000
9% cum. pref.	600,000 ..	Plant, &c.	826,666 .. + 9,119
Ord. shares	1,250,000 ..	Stocks	1,161,016 .. - 105,851
Debentures	1,100,000 ..	Sundry debtors	495,773 .. - 66,014
Bills payable	13,426 .. - 15,088	Insurance, &c.	15,344 .. + 2,432
Sun. creditors, &c.	509,673 .. - 114,937	Investments	194,001 .. - 25,971
Savings bank deposits	153,409 .. + 1,467	Cash at bank and on hand	197,463 .. - 76,303
Unclaimed divs.	5,567 .. + 268		
Debiture interest accrued	9,000 ..		
Div. on 9% pt. shs.	20,925 .. + 675		
Benefit fund	926 .. - 859		
Reserve	400,000 ..		
Special reserve	.. - 26,108		
Profit and loss	117,884 .. - 27,006		
Total	5,180,500 .. - 181,588	Total	5,180,500 .. - 181,588

THE MOND NICKEL COMPANY, LIMITED.
April 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1923.
7% cum. pref.	500,000 ..	Properties in Canada	1,625,856 .. + 25,083
7% non-cum. pref.	2,000,000 ..	Properties in U.K.	1,215,282 .. + 118,422
Ordinary shares	900,000 ..	Suspense account	.. - 149,109
5% deb. stock	375,000 ..	Shares in asso.	..
Interest accrued	9,375 ..	Clated cos. at cost	1,394,645 .. + 439,105
8% deb. stock	1,300,000 ..	Investments	.. - 648,760
Interest accrued	52,000 ..	Stocks	1,600,263 .. + 67,630
Sundry creditors	517,392 .. - 267,221	Sundry debtors	346,004 .. - 371,918
Unclaimed divs. & deb. interest	1,089 .. + 440	Cash	529,826 .. + 344,538
Reserve	346,000 ..		
Special depreciation reserve	116,000 .. - 284,000		
Bills payable	400,617 .. + 400,617		
Profit and loss	196,403 .. - 24,865		
Total	6,711,876 .. - 175,029	Total	6,711,876 .. - 175,029

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Crop prospects in this country continue favourable, growth being abundant and rapid under a spell of sunshine and warm showers, otherwise poor yields would have resulted, as wheat fared badly during the winter months. Harvesting may be a little later than usual as the plant appears slow in coming into ear. Spring oats are in excellent condition, and promise the best crop of the year. Native wheat is practically out of supply, limited sales being made chiefly for feeding purposes at full rates. Imported descriptions have again moved in sellers' favour, with Canadian descriptions in small supply, the tendency being influenced by higher forward offers. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 54s 9d, No. 2 ditto 51s 9d, Barusso, 63½ lbs, 49s 6d, and Australian 51s 6d, all ex ship per 496 lbs. Very firm conditions prevailed in the floating cable advices from the United States and Argentina, due largely to adverse crop reports. A fair business transpired in wheat, but buyers generally were reluctant to follow the upward movement, as available supplies appear adequate for present requirements. Sales include steamers of Australian due at 49s 9d Karachi, August, 49s 3d to 49s 6d, August 50s 9d, choice white and Rosafe, 63½ lbs, on passage, 48s 4½d per 480 lbs. Maize cargo active and dearer on improved inquiries from the Continent and

North America. Plate steamers, afloat, sold 33s 6d, June-July 34s 4½d, July-August 34s, November-December 34s 6d to 35s, yellow Novorossisk, afloat, 33s 6d, white South Russian, July, also August-September, 35s per 480 lbs. and a cargo of Azov Black Sea barley, afloat, at 33s 6d per 400 lbs. Flour prices were further advanced in sympathy with the wheat position, with a fair business in force. London standard straight run quoted 41s 6d, patents 43s 6d to 44s 6d, town whites 41s 6d per sack, delivered in Metropolitan area. Imported in better demand and firmer. Manitoba patents range from 39s 6d to 41s, and Australian sold at 36s 6d per 280 lbs ex store. Barley, English, quoted at 11s 3d to 12s 6d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Imported firmer. Californian 55s to 59s, and Chilean brewing 50s to 52s per 448 lbs, ex ship. No. 3 Canadian Western, ex ship, 34s 9d, Karachi, ex ship, 34s 9d, ditto, landed, 36s, Plate ex ship, 34s 9d, Russian, landed, 36s, all per 400 lbs. Oats steady. Plate, f.a.q., ex ship, 21s, ditto landed, 22s 3d. No. 2 Canadian Western, ex ship, 25s 9d. Ditto, landed, 27s. No. 2 Canadian feed, landed, 24s 9d per 320 lbs. English ranges from 9s 9d to 11s 3d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize irregular. Plate, ex ship, 34s 9d to 34s 6d as to position, and landed 36s 6d per 480 lbs. Millers' offals firm. Broad bran quoted at 7s, ordinary 6s 3d, middlings 8s 9d to 9s, fine ditto, 10s to 10s 3d, bags included ex mill, light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 3d, feed oatmeal 9s 6d, ground oats 12s per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal quiet. London made, flaked, 17s, rolled oats 16s 6d, medium and fine cut 16s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 16s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 17s 6d to 18s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to June 28.....	Cwts. 44,675	Cwts. 68,871	Cwts. 46,774	Cwts. 21,734
43 weeks to June 28.....	12,570,640	15,563,904	12,061,618	10,706,108
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 11 5	s d 12 4½	s d 20 9	s d 18 4½

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
June 21	Cwts. 55,982	Cwts. 5,209	Cwts. 7,535	s d 11 3	s d 11 1	s d 9 10
June 28	44,675	1,252	7,587	11 5	10 8	10 0
1920	28,221	2,957	7,162	19 6	26 8	23 4
1921	37,611	9,675	12,452	20 11	11 8	13 10
1922	63,669	6,614	6,727	12 3	11 8	11 9
1923	117,946	16,662	10,486	10 11	8 7	10 9

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated July 3rd, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is no improvement in the pig-iron market. Meantime prices are weaker, and No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is nominally 88s 6d per ton, with East Coast mixed numbers hematite at 96s 6d per ton. These prices, however, might be shaded for prompt business. Manufactured iron and steel: The steel trade is also in a rather unfavourable condition, and makers complain of lack of specifications. Prices, however, remain unchanged: Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: There is very little business doing in foreign ore, as consumers have fairly large stocks, and sufficient coming forward against old contracts. The nominal price of best Bilbao rubio remains at 23s per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The state of depression which developed in the iron and steel trade a short while ago has both deepened and widened, and the condition to-day is undoubtedly the worst that has been experienced in recent years. The position is reflected in the wholesale fashion in which the large steel plants of the district have been set down for stock-taking. Where this latter operation is not being carried on a number of furnaces have had to be stopped in Sheffield, Lincolnshire, and Leeds for want of orders. There being no sign of a revival in the buying, the outlook is such as causes widespread anxiety. The slump covers pig-iron, mild steel billets, and rolled and forged steel and bar iron, besides several minor branches of the trade. Ironmasters have found it necessary to concede reductions in prices of basic, foundry, and hematite pig. Some large firms in the local steel trade are losing money on their main productions, the local steel trade are few and far between. A bar iron and remunerative works are few and far between. A bar iron works at Thornhill, Yorkshire, has been closed through bad trade. This material cannot be produced at the current prices, but owing to the poor demand it is not deemed expedient to increase them. The demand for motor steels, though large, has slackened somewhat, and there is considerable activity in railway work, although there is practically no building of private owners' wagons at the present time. Belgian iron and steel works are busy on home orders, and makers are refusing to consider contracts for delivery during the next two months. Activity is still fairly general in tools, and many branches of engineering are quiet. Tools and material for builders and contractors are wanted in large quantities. Shipbuilders' requirements are also looking up. The quietude in the coal market has led to the accumulation of stocks of household fuel at the pits, and in the absence of revival short time working

will have to be resorted to at many of them. Coke is neglected both in the home and foreign markets, and prices are down. Quotations per ton at pits are:—Best hand-picked branch, 34s; Barnsley best Silkstone, 28s; Yorkshire steams, 23s to 24s; Derbyshire do., 21s; Blyth and Tyues, 19s 6d to 20s; Durhams, 24s to 25s; rough slacks, 12s; smalls, 10s; blast furnace coke, 20s 6d.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The demand for galvanised sheets continues, although there is less speculative buying than was the case a few weeks ago. Enquiries, however, come in from South Africa, Australia, and the Far East, including Dutch East Indies, in good quantities and bookings have been made at £18 5s per ton for delivery as far ahead as October/December. Black sheets are also in brisk demand, with prices for export 10s per ton higher than could be done quite recently. Apart from a few home and foreign Government orders, no particular interest is taken in steel plates and sections, and makers are now occupied clearing off work on hand in view of the annual stoppage for holidays and repairs. An enquiry is going around for a large quantity of rails and fish plates from one of the railway companies. Steel works are anticipating a fair number of orders after the holidays on account of the good shipbuilding contracts which have recently come to this district, the specifications for which have not yet been issued. In the meantime only very small orders are being placed by consumers, to meet immediate requirements, and these for the most part are delivered promptly. This applies also to bar iron makers, and re-rollers who find business very difficult to secure, and are slackening considerably their output. The pig-iron market is in a depressed condition momentarily, owing to the scarcity of orders. Prices are not, however, appreciably lower. Tube works are very well employed at present with export orders. One order for galvanised tubes amounting to about 500 tons has just been placed. Among other contracts reported within the past week is a large number of buildings for the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., secured by a Glasgow firm of structural engineers.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Conditions on the Cardiff coal market this week have been very depressed. Inquiries have been extremely inactive, and it is with great difficulty that even the best steam coal collieries have been able to maintain their prices. A slump in the foreign demand has affected all the coal exporting centres of the country, and the North-East Coast ports are competing more actively in the South Wales overseas markets. Tonnage supplies have been plentiful, and rates of freight are for some directions lower than they have been at any period since the war, but even this advantage of cheap transport has failed to stimulate foreign demand, and there has been a great deal of lost time in the coalfield. The general position is as bad as it was towards the end of June, 1922. The best steam collieries are fairly well stemmed under contracts, but for the inferior classes of coal the market is exceptionally weak, and extensive stoppages of work are feared. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Ad- miralties, 28s 6d to 29s; second Admiralties, 26s 9d to 27s 6d; best drys, 26s 6d to 27s. Black Veins, 26s

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

SUPPLIES of floating money have been contracting rapidly during the week, owing to further large repayments to the Bank on Monday and Tuesday, and to repayments of Government indebtedness to the Bank, out of the proceeds of Treasury bills. In the early part of the week up to 10 per cent. was sometimes paid in the morning for new loans, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been the general charge for renewals of daily money. Discount rates have continued

to harden, in deference to the view that without such movement an advance in Bank rate might be expected in order to raise the level of rates in the open market, and the three months' Bank bill rate has almost attained the 3½ per cent. level, which is supposed to represent the requirements of the moment. Last week's Treasury bills became practically unsaleable at a profit to allottees, and the rate for yesterday's bills reflected the higher tendency to some extent. But with money becoming decidedly easier at the end of the week, it was evident that there may be some difficulty in maintaining discount rates in the face of more plentiful supplies of short money.

	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills) 3½	3½	3½	3½	2½	..

The Bank return showed a reduction of £530,600 in the note circulation, following upon the large increase in the previous week, and the bullion stock was £3,800 higher, so that there was a gain of £534,400 in the Reserve. Market repayments were reflected in a decline of £25,405,600 in Other securities, and Government securities were reduced by £6,165,000, accompanied by a fall of £1,814,000 in Public deposits, so that Private deposits were lower by £29,260,000. The currency notes outstanding showed a further increase of £1,570,200 at £293,685,700, which includes £1,383,400 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £242,852,300, or £5,338,600 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Investment markets are unsettled by the hardening in the money market, and by apprehensions of a higher bank rate. The Stock Exchange regarded Thursday's announcement of "no change" merely as a postponement of the threatened rise. Most stocks in the gilt-edged market are therefore a trifle easier, but the set-back is nowhere severe. Prior-charge railway stocks have followed this tendency, while the ordinary stocks have been further depressed by threatened Labour trouble. Rubber shares, after months of stagnation, advanced on the rise of the produce over 11d per lb. The oil market has been irregular. In the mining markets the chief feature is the gamble in East Rands, while Malayan tin shares are steadily advancing.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Market dullness is the general theme of our trade correspondents' reports this week. From Cardiff we are informed that there is no improvement in the coal market. There is no demand for pig-iron, and the hematite position shows no better signs. A little more business is noticeable in the steel trade, but prices remain unchanged. Tin is lower, but copper is steady. No fresh development of any importance is announced in the cotton trade, but in contrast a rally in the wool market is reported. Wheat was in demand. The sugar market is quiet, but tea and coffee are firm. Rubber is slightly dearer. The boot trade is well employed. Further details and prices of markets will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market business has again been very quiet, although movements both in the Paris and New York rates have been more pronounced than for some little time past. From \$4.33 on the 4th (when, of course, the New York market was closed), the rate has risen steadily to \$4.35 yesterday morning, and for the moment at least still seems firm. The hardening of market rates on this side, and the growing impulse towards a more liberal policy in America, especially with regard to foreign credits, may in part account for this, but the future is still by no means clear. Forward rates remain at ½ to ⅓ cent per month below spot. The recent political complications and further sharp reminders of the instability of the posi-

tion of Government finances have been reflected in a reaction in the franc. On the 4th the Paris rate closed at 85.25, and reached 86.35 on the following day. Considerable uneasiness is being caused by the rapid increase in the issue of National Defence Bonds, and there is a strong demand that the new Government should substitute some effective form of finance for this indirect inflation. On Monday there was a recovery down as far as 84.15. Since then it has fluctuated sharply with a higher tendency, and was quoted yesterday morning at 85.25. Brussels, although at one time on the 8th it reached 98, makes a better showing on the week, having moved from 96.74½ at the close of the 4th to 96.25 yesterday morning. Forward rates in Paris are a little narrower at 20 to 23 centimes per month above spot. In Brussels they have widened from 5 to 8 centimes above. Last week's weakness in the lira has continued, the rate having moved up again from 101½ to 102. In Amsterdam, after a sharp movement against us on Saturday, the quotation has moved from 11.50 on the 4th to 11.52½ yesterday morning. Switzerland, however, has appreciated from 24.31½ to 24.11½, having dropped sharply on the 10th for some reason at present unexplained. Madrid at 32.83½ is also slightly better, although it has lost much of a sharp improvement at the beginning of the week. In the North Stockholm at 16.33½, after being considerably lower, compares with 16.34½ a week ago. Christiania has further depreciated from 32.40 to 32.58½, and Copenhagen is also slightly worse at 27.22½, as compared with 27.19½, and Helsingfors shows a slight depreciation from 172½ to 173½. Of the gold stabilised currencies in Warsaw and Riga, quotations have followed the dollar, while Berlin and Vienna, attached more directly to sterling, show practically no change. It should also be noted that the Budapest rate, on the successful flotation of the loan, has been stabilised for the time at 355,000 kronen. It is of some interest to record that in Esthonia, where for some months financial conditions have been increasingly unsatisfactory, a first step towards stabilisation has been taken in the establishment as the unit of account of the "kroon," the equivalent of the Scandinavian krone. Quotations for the time being will continue in the Esthonian mark, but rates are to a large extent arbitrary. Prague remains unchanged at 147½; Bucharest shows some improvement to 1025, as compared with 1075 a week ago. In the East the rupee shows an appreciation on the week of 1½d to 1s 5 3-64d, while the yen has fallen away from 1s 11½d to 1s 11d. The silver market has been extremely quiet, the Far East taking little part, and small offers from America being absorbed by the Continent. Quotations are slightly higher. Hong Kong has fallen ½d to 2s 4½d, and Shanghai has depreciated from 3s 3½d to 3s 3¼d respectively. In South America, Rio has depreciated on unfavourable political news from 5 63-64d to 5 17-64d, while both Buenos Ayres and Montevideo are lower at 40½ and 42½ respectively. Valparaiso, however, has appreciated from 42.50 to 41.80 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the five days ended July 5th:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
Supply Services	7,940	From Revenue	12,394
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,834	Amount borrowed	87
Sinking Fund	274		
Added to Exchequer Balances ..	48		
Sundries	265		
	12,361		12,361

Revenue amounted to £12,323,500 during the five days ended July 5th. Customs yielded £2,057,000 and Excise £852,000. Estate, &c., duties brought in £530,000, Property and Income-tax yielded £4,184,000, and Super-tax £1,040,000. The five days' operations increased the National Debt by £37,200, and caused the following changes:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
Treasury Bills	+ 12,749	National Savings Certificates ..	50
Treasury Bonds	+ 715	Bank of England Advances ..	9,600
Sundries	+ 186	Public Dept. Advances	4,041
	+ 13,650		13,991

The floating debt was reduced by £873,000 to £797,428,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to July 5).

Total Expenditure ..	£ 227,403,831	Raised by Revenue ..	£ 188,554,943
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,393,915
		Amount borrowed ..	35,454,973
Total	227,403,831	Total	227,403,831

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, JULY 7TH.—*Lords*: Debate on the trade situation. *Commons*: Premier's statement on the Chequers Conversations and the Allied Conference. On the Foreign Office vote a debate took place on relations with Russia.

TUESDAY, JULY 8TH.—*Lords*: Debate on Liquor Control, the Bishop of Oxford's Bill rejected. *Commons*: Committee stage of the Finance Bill.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH.—*Lords*: Government statements on Turkish bonds, and the Rodeo show. Legitimacy Bill passes second reading, and Guardianship of Infants Bill passes Committee stage. *Commons*: Unemployment Insurance Bill debated and adjourned. Committee stage of Finance Bill continued.

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH.—*Lords*: London Traffic Bill debated and read a second time. *Commons*: Premier's statement on his visit to Paris. Debate on the position of the Sudan.

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH.—*Commons*: Committee stage of Old Age Pensions Increase Bill.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Bank of British West Africa, General Electric, Howard and Bullough, Lipton, Mond Nickel, and Spiers and Pond. The chairman at the meeting of the General Electric Company said that exactly as steam came to the rescue of the world, and particularly of this country, after the Napoleonic wars, so he was convinced the electric unit, properly produced and distributed, would save the world from the much greater ordeal through which it had recently passed, and would play a particularly great part in the linking up and development of the British Empire.

INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT.

With this number our readers will find a Supplement reviewing the progress and prospects of insurance. The topics dealt with include the recent experience of life offices, the increase of business, mortality, an analysis of their funds, valuation results and bonuses; the results of fire insurance in the past year; and the results recorded in the latest reports from the marine insurance world. The Supplement is not a mere record of company results, but a general survey of the insurance problems of the day.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH CRISIS.

WHEN we wrote a week ago the prospects of the July Conference, though not entirely free from difficulties, seemed bright. But owing to a combination of technical blunders and genuine misunderstandings the project has in the meantime come very near to shipwreck. Although the facts are not yet fully revealed, and some points remain to be cleared up at Monday's debate, the general outline of this short crisis is public property. The storm arose over the issue of invitations to the Conference with which the Foreign Office included a memorandum indicating the points for settlement, the natural assumption being that this outline of resolutions that might be taken by the Conference represented the results of the Chequers' conversation. Unfortunately, no formal invitation or official copy of this document were

sent to France, and although French officials knew the substance of the memorandum, it leaked out in Rome and Brussels. The document suggested that the economic occupation of the Ruhr and the economic sanctions in force in the Rhineland should come to an end at a fixed date, say, a fortnight, after the necessary measures had been taken by Germany to put the Dawes Report into effect; and, further, that as the Dawes Report seemed to go outside the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the question of default by Germany under the terms of the plan should be determined by some organ other than the Reparation Commission. These views and the manner in which they became known naturally aroused suspicion in France, and prompt steps were taken to indicate that the document was purely a British suggestion, and did not represent an Anglo-French agreement. But the storm of criticism in France threatened to overthrow M. Herriot, and to prevent the Conference being held at all. In order to save the situation, Mr MacDonald acted with promptitude and hurried to Paris, where after a day and night consultation he came to an agreement with M. Herriot, as a result of which a new common basis for the discussions at the Conference was reached by England and France. Thus the Conference has been saved, and in view of the delicacy of the situation, Mr MacDonald has made an appeal to the public not to make his task more difficult by damaging criticism. We yield to no one in our desire to see this Conference a success, but the issues are so vital that Mr MacDonald will, we think, be strengthened and not weakened by free and full discussion.

Frankly, we regard Wednesday's communiqué with misgiving. Apparent changes of front and hasty compromises are very disturbing to public opinion, and for once we find ourselves in agreement with the *Echo de Paris* in thinking that there is great danger in tête-à-tête settlements between Prime Ministers who have only recently come into power, and cannot possibly be thoroughly conversant with all the complicated issues of the European tangle. It would be an expensive way of educating our new negotiators if we ran the risk of stirring up fresh international misunderstandings.

Last week we briefly indicated the time-table that M. Herriot was then willing to adopt; but it is not surprising that he has been driven to recede from this position, and to require some more definite assurances that the subjects of security and of inter-Allied debts will be taken up forthwith. Indeed, it is increasingly evident that Mr MacDonald cannot hope to make much progress with French opinion until he can give a satisfactory assurance on the first of these points. Wednesday's communiqué is very vague on the matter, declaring merely that the Governments have had a preliminary exchange of views on the question of security, "and have agreed to seek the best means of achieving this object, whether through the League of Nations or otherwise, and to continue the examination of the question until the problem is finally solved." The debt question is to be the subject of discussion between Treasury experts. But this carries us very little farther, since this question depends primarily upon America, and not on Great Britain.

On the subject of the Dawes Report and its enforcement the communiqué is more precise. But it does not seem to us to suggest a satisfactory solution of the problem of what is to happen if Germany defaults, and what are to be the conditions of further intervention. Mr MacDonald has apparently withdrawn from the view that defaults under the Dawes scheme should be taken out of the hands of the Reparation Commission, and has substituted a plan which, according to the *Figaro*, the British Prime Minister thought of in the middle of the night. The plan is to add an American representative to the Reparation Commission when the question of default is being discussed. But the Prime Ministers evidently think that this may be difficult, and they suggest that, "if this were not possible," and in the event of disagreement on the Commission in their reading of the situation, the Agent-General for Reparations—who should be an American—should be called in. In other words, a paid agent of the Commission (who, incidentally, will be the plaintiff in the case and report the default to the Commission) is to come in and give a casting vote on a question involving peace

or war. The *communiqué* goes on to say that "the Governments concerned will undertake, in the event of the Reparation Commission declaring an *important* voluntary default on the part of Germany, to confer together immediately as to the means of carrying out such measures as they shall have agreed upon, with a view to their own protection and that of the interests of the lenders. The italics are ours. From the point of view of future peace, any voluntary default is important. The root problem is whether France is willing to surrender her claim to what is in effect, under the present constitution of the Reparation Commission, a deciding voice as to whether Germany has defaulted or not; and secondly, her insistence on the right of independent action if default occurs. If France is prepared to accept either the judgment of Europe or the joint opinion of Germany's creditors, progress is possible. If not, it is difficult to see how the Dawes Report can be put into effect, for it is certain that no money will be forthcoming for a German loan so long as France claims this liberty of action.

This week the view of Germany has been somewhat out of the picture. But German opinion has not been unaffected by the events of the last few days. In particular, the latest *communiqué* of Paris says nothing about the date at which the economic evacuation of the Ruhr will take place. This is a very unwise omission. It can do no possible harm to France, and will make it much easier for the Dawes Report to put into effect in Germany if France gives a definite time-table for evacuation. Moreover, M. Herriot's change of front will, unfortunately, dissipate much of the goodwill he has acquired in Germany by the recall of the exiles, and by the pacific tone of the joint note on disarmament, for the recent crisis has shown how little he is master in his own house. But, after all, the chief thing is that the Conference has been saved, and that the Premiers now know what are the chief difficulties they are up against.

We regret that we cannot congratulate the Foreign Office on the way in which these negotiations have been handled. The week's events inevitably suggest unfavourable comparisons with the able work of Sir Maurice Hankey and the permanent bureau with which he organised so efficiently the work of a long series of international conferences. But the episode suggests the reflection even more forceably of the enormous advantage of a really international secretariat such as that which serves the League of Nations. The public may have been disposed to think that the technique of international diplomacy is not of great importance; this week's crisis will have disillusioned them. The misunderstanding and suspicion aroused by the form and manner of the invitation to the July Conference could not possibly have arisen if the machinery of Geneva had been used. In the one case, the instrument is a national servant approaching the problems at issue from a national standpoint; at Geneva, perhaps, the most lasting success of the League has been to create a corps of international diplomatic officials. In the one case, the diplomatist scores a success if his side's view prevails. In the other, the only test of success is to secure an agreement which harmonises the views of both sides.

BRANCH BANKING IN THE UNITED STATES.

THERE has recently been a good deal of discussion in New York and elsewhere on the question of branch banking in the United States. The American banking system differs radically from our own in that it includes a very large number of National banks which are deterred by their charters from engaging in branch banking. But alongside of these there exist banks acting under State charters, many of which permit branch banking. The issue that must ultimately be settled is, which system will ultimately adapt itself best to the needs of the country. To quote a paragraph in a recent issue of *Bradstreet's*:—"Some of the largest national banks in New York City are considering the advisability of surrendering their national charters and taking out New York State charters, in order that they may be on an equal footing with State institutions in competing for new business. As is well known, national banks at present

are subject to various restrictions that are not imposed on State banks. Whether any of the national banks located in New York City take the step indicated will depend largely upon the outcome of efforts to secure legislation by congress, which will liberalise the existing national bank regulations and give national institutions 'a fair chance in competition with State banks,' as one official remarked. With many of the national banks here the question of branch banking is a vital one, and the present regulations in that respect are described as unsatisfactory. It is pointed out, among other things, that State banks may not only become members of the Federal Reserve System, and, as such, enjoy practically the same prestige which national banks command, but they may also lend money on real estate, whereas national banks are not permitted to make such loans."

On the other hand, the sixty-first report of the Comptroller of the Currency, covering the activities of the Currency Bureau in the year ended October 31, 1923, takes the form of a defence of the existing banking system of the United States. In the first paragraph of his report the Comptroller makes the assertion that "the well-fortified position of the national banking system, as disclosed by the character of assets, and the volume of increase in assets during the year, is evidence of the fact that the national banks occupy an outstanding place in our financial structure, and are abundantly able to meet the demands of commercial and industrial enterprises."

There are approximately 8,300 national banks already members of the Federal Reserve System, as against some 1,600 State banks. A joint committee was appointed at the last session of Congress "to consider the effect of the limited membership of State banks and trust companies in the Federal Reserve System in the agricultural sections of the United States," and to make recommendations to bring about, in such sections, a larger membership of these banks in the system. The membership of the State banks is a voluntary membership, and one from which they can, at pleasure, withdraw. The membership of the national banks is compulsory, and the only way in which the interests controlling a national bank can withdraw from the system is by going out of business as a national bank. The Comptroller points out that, although there are over five times as many national banks in the system as there are State banks, the assets of the national banks are only approximately \$21,700 millions, as compared with \$12,000 millions for the State banks, and argues that, as the smaller banks of the system are national banks, "if these are hampered in their growth through existing conditions, or the enactment of new legislation, the smaller communities and agricultural sections will be the principal sufferers. It is to be hoped that in the present campaign for membership the interests of the existing members will not be sacrificed, nor the greater desirability of fortifying the system by encouraging the organisation of new national banks be forgotten."

After a short eulogy on the Federal Reserve system, and the "great service" it rendered to the country during the financial stress of the war, the Comptroller claims that, while the flexibility of the national banking system in meeting the diversified conditions in the United States has been very great, "it is doubtful if the law could be so modified as to produce such a degree of flexibility that all the banks of the United States could operate under one law in such a way as to meet the different community requirements as well as is being done under the present system of National and State banks.....So far as general operations are concerned, the one important point upon which the interests of banks operating under some State charters are prejudicial to the interests of the national banks is that of branch banking." The report continues at considerable length in this strain, and much of the argument savours of special pleading. Branch banking is permitted with various modifications in seventeen States. Some of these States restrict the establishment of branches to the city or county of the parent bank, while others permit branches to be established in any part of the State. In California, for example, 82 of the State banks are operating a total of about 475 branches. Branch banking, therefore, "must now be dealt with as a practical condition to be met, and not as a theory." The Comptroller divides his discussion of branch banking into three main

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$27,500,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

questions: (1) Is a reserve system either governmentally or privately controlled necessary? (2) Can the present Federal reserve system survive the imposition upon it of large powerful chains of branch banks which, in practice as well as in theory, are privately owned and privately controlled reserve systems? (3) Can a general system of branch banks exist simultaneously with a system of independent unit banks? And he comes to the conclusion that "the issue is a clean cut one as to whether the country prefers a system of privately owned branch banks or a reserve system under Federal control," and that "the decision on the part of the authorities to limit definitely the extent to which member banks may indulge in the establishment of branch banks" is justified.

The Comptroller proceeds to criticise the system of branch banks, on grounds which will sound strange to British readers. He contends that "branch banking is, in its essence, monopolistic. The financial resources of a number of communities are put under the control of a single group of individuals. Funds liquidated in one community may be used to develop other communities at the discretion of the officers of the central bank. The economic development, therefore, of a given territory under the control of a branch would depend upon the policy of the bank. The bank would have the power to retard or to encourage the development of a given community or individual enterprise. In this connection it has been well said that if the sudden creation of great branch banking systems resulted in withdrawing funds from the support of rural communities in order that they may be invested in self-liquidating commercial paper originating elsewhere, then it will be true that sound abstract banking principles will have been applied, but at a cost to the future development of the rural communities that will far outweigh any advantages that may be gained." The Comptroller goes on to claim that the "rapid economic development of America has been largely due to the policy of the pioneering unit banks," and uses all the arguments which have been current here for 30 years or more as the private banks have been gradually absorbed by the joint stock institutions.

We have quoted the above remarks at some length as showing the official opposition with which banking development on lines akin to that of this country will meet in the United States. The past 25 years have seen a reduction in the number of banks in England and Wales from about 90 to about 20, and an increase in the number of branches from less than 4,000 to over 8,000. We do not propose here to argue the merits of the small private bank as against the large joint stock enterprise, but it would seem that in his case against branch banking the Comptroller of the Currency has overlooked the possibility of competition between large banking concerns. Clearly, the branch bank system might conceivably lead to a complete monopoly; but in this country, where it has reached, perhaps, its highest development, it is far from having done so. In this country there are very few districts in which the prospective customer has not a choice of banks with which he can transact his business, and the facilities

available are therefore likely to be at least as favourable as those which the single bank in days gone by could offer. Possibly, the rules under which our branch banks have to act may be a little rigid and inelastic; but against this must be set their much larger resources and staying power—as many embarrassed borrowers have had good reason to realise in the last two or three years. The national banks of America may be free from head office restrictions; but instead they are bound by legal reserve requirements.

It is apt to be very misleading to apply arguments from the banking system of one country to that of another in which the conditions may be entirely different, and it is conceivable that in a territory so vast as that of America, if the branch bank system drove out that of national banks, particular areas might come under single institutions instead of being served, as in this country, by overlapping organisations. But the crop of failures of national banks in recent years shows that the reserve provisions of the system do not guarantee solvency, and that a price has to be paid for keeping in existence a large number of independent and competing units. We doubt whether the Comptroller of the Currency has said the last word on this very important issue.

THE NEW BALTIC STATES.—I. ESTHONIA.

THE Esthonians, although closely related to the Finns by race and language alike, were for centuries under the direct rule of the German Baltic Barons, supplemented of later years by an imported Russian bureaucracy. Serfdom, which never really existed in Finland, remained in full force right down to the nineteenth century, and has left a deep mark on the character of the people. As a consequence of the World War, however, the servants of yesterday are now the masters, and the smallest member of the new European family of nations began its career in an atmosphere poisoned by centuries of racial animosity.

One of the first acts of the new State legislature was the wholesale expropriation of all the baronial landowners, whose land passed directly into State ownership. The stock and capital equipment of the farms was purchased from the former owners at fixed prices, which were, in fact, well below those ruling on the open market. Up to the present no compensation has been paid for the land, although this has been leased to the peasantry, who have paid rentals to the Government. This legislation is looked upon by the Esthonians themselves as the righting of an historic wrong, while the Baltic Barons naturally describe it in less complimentary language. In reality, however, an agrarian revolution was probably the only practicable alternative to Bolshevism, while the breaking-up of the estates appears, up to the present, at any rate, to have had surprisingly little effect on agricultural production in the country.

Esthonia, with a population of only some million and a

quarter, is, of course, predominantly an agricultural State. The people are good workers, and the number of illiterates is a negligible quantity. In addition to the agricultural land, the Government of the new State acquired large and important forest properties, and the former possessions of the Russian State—which include the railways—free of all charge. Moreover, the country was relatively very little affected by the war, and the national debt is quite small. In many ways, then, the situation was, and still is, most favourable, while the balancing of the Budget has in the main been accomplished.

Unfortunately, however, the new rulers have had virtually no previous experience in the world of banking and finance. In the first place, as was certainly inevitable, the establishment of the new State, and its war with the Bolsheviks in 1919, necessitated recourse being had to the printing press. In course of time, however, the general soundness of the country's economic position made itself felt, and by 1922, though the balance of trade was still unfavourable, the real balance of payments was nevertheless well on the right side.

FOREIGN TRADE. (In Millions of Estonian Marks.)				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	
Imports	4,486	5,589	9,332	
Exports	2,287	4,812	5,712	
Import surplus	2,199	777	3,620	

The difference between the real and the apparent balance is made up largely by the profits of the transit trade with Russia—both licit and illicit—while factors such as the smuggling trade to prohibitionist Finland are also perhaps of some importance. In the second half of 1922, therefore, the exchange was stabilised. Instead of playing for safety, however, the Bank was far too free with its credits for all sorts of dubious industrial schemes, and the wretchedly bad harvest last year brought matters to a head. The country had already been indulging in imports it could not afford, and now came the need for the importation of essential foodstuffs. The exchange fell considerably in 1923, and the movement has more or less continued this year. It should be remembered, in this connection, that the official quotations give no idea of the rates at which business is actually done.

The solution will depend largely upon the manner in which the unsound credit position within the country is liquidated by the present finance minister, Mr Strandmann, and a few bankruptcies would be a healthy sign that things were going the right way. The application of the axe to the Civil Service is also urgently needed, and, in general, development will be all the surer for being slow. The attempt to industrialise Estonia seems absurd, particularly when it is remembered that the earlier undertakings, such as the important textile mills at Narva, existed primarily for the Russian market, and are now forced to work short time for lack of consumers. While the oil shale industry of the country appears at present to be in an interesting stage of development, the mainstay of the Estonian export trade will probably long continue to be her timber, of which Great Britain took nearly 90 per cent. last year. A rational exploitation of the forests is thus a matter of the greatest importance.

The country is, however, too small to form an independent economic unit, and to allow, at the same time, for the greatest possible development of her existing capital equipment. The Treaty which was signed with Latvia on November 1, 1923, and was intended to prepare the way for a complete Customs Union between the two countries, thus appeared to be an obvious step in the right direction. Its terms, which, incidentally, did away with the passport nuisance, should have come into force in May, but, for some obscure reason, this has not yet taken place. Technical difficulties are alleged by way of excuse, though it seems not impossible that sectional interests have been at work behind the scenes. Whether this is altogether bad for the British exporter of textiles to Latvia is, however, quite another question.

Hitherto Great Britain and Germany have enjoyed the greatest share of Estonian trade. In 1922 and 1923 Germany provided over half the total imports, machinery, textiles, foodstuffs, and chemical goods being the principal articles. British imports to the country have, however, increased considerably, both absolutely and relatively, and last year amounted to nearly 20 per cent. of the total. The

principal products sent were cotton and coal. The shortage of foreign balances, however, makes it very difficult at present to obtain sterling in Estonia in settlement of outstanding accounts, and a reduction of imports is almost certain to take place this year. In any case, however, German firms seem to be finding it more difficult to compete, despite the energy with which their travellers are working the new Baltic market.

In 1922 Russia took the first place in Estonian exports, with nearly a quarter of the total. This was, however, a passing phase, as foodstuffs ranked very large that year. Great Britain, second in 1922, took first place last year with over one-third of Estonian exports, the principal articles being wood and flax.

For the moment, the economic situation of the country is not altogether satisfactory, and the exchange is rather shaky. Discussions are, however, taking place for the introduction of a new currency based on the Swedish crown, and if the harvest this year is up to expectations, the commercial balance may soon be restored. As is the case with all predominantly agricultural countries, the economic problems are here relatively simple, and if the political element can be kept on one side, the financial situation ought soon to be cleared up, and a stable exchange achieved once again.

OUR PROGRESS IN AEROPLANE MANUFACTURE.

SEEMING that it was only about the beginning of the present century that the mastery of the air began to be achieved, the British aeroplane industry has made amazingly good progress. During the last two decades of the nineteenth century there had been many attempts at flight by Har-Graves, Phillips, Maxim, Langley, Tatin, Richet, Ader, and others, some of them meeting with moderate success. The most striking of the early achievements, however, were those of the Wright Brothers in 1903 and 1905, while towards the end of 1906 M. Santos-Dumont made his public flights, which were mostly confined to heights of a few feet. A great spurt was made from 1908 onwards, contributed to by Farman, Wilbur Wright, Bleriot (the first to fly over the Channel), Paulhan, the Hon. C. S. Rolls, Sopwith, and others.

So rapid was the progress made, that by 1910 our own Board of Trade woke up to the necessity of treating seriously the industry of aeroplane and airship manufacture. It recorded in that year imports of "aeroplanes, airships, balloons, and parts thereof," valued at £56,000, while British exports were valued at only £15,000. For five years imports continued to grow much more rapidly than exports, and many feared that France was going to secure as long a start of us in this industry as she had earlier done in the motor trade. The war caused feverish activity, but the trade records show little of it, since it was mainly directed to military needs. During the year in which the war ended (1918) imports soared to more than 6½ millions sterling, while exports were only about half a million, but in the following year our manufacturers began to make rapid headway. So dramatic have been the various changes in the trade that the figures are worth setting out for all the 14 years during which they have been recorded:—

BRITAIN'S OVERSEA TRADE in AEROPLANES, AIRSHIPS, BALLOONS, and PARTS.
(In Thousand £'s.)

	Imports.	Re-Exports.	Net Imports.	British Exports.	—Excess of Imports.
1910.....	56	12	44	15	29
1911.....	44	10	34	18	16
1912.....	80	7	73	22	51
1913.....	244	15	229	47	182
1914.....	275	17	258	20	238
1915.....	36	49	13*	170	183
1916.....	42	5	37	282	245
1917.....	409	1	408	661	253
1918.....	6,859	1	6,858	540	6,318
1919.....	4,174	10	4,164	713	3,451
1920.....	836	68	770	1,908	1,138
1921.....	24	10	14	1,694	1,680
1922.....	15	27	12*	1,337	1,349
1923.....	18	17	1	1,008	1,007

* Excess of re-exports over imports.

The great flood of imports in 1918 and 1919 came from France and the United States. In 1918 we received from across the Channel five millions' worth, and from America over 1½ millions' worth. In 1919 the respective proportions were rather over 1¼ millions, and about 2 millions. The dwindling of imports since then, and their virtual cessation during the past three years, seems to show that we are now entirely self-reliant in this industry.

Greater satisfaction, however, is to be derived from the post-war exports of British goods, as contrasted with those of pre-war days. Shipments are despatched to a wide area. In 1922—the last year for which particulars are available—they went to Russia, Belgium, Spain, France, Norway, Sweden, and Holland; Java, China, Japan, the United States, and Argentina; India, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

Down to 1919 the Board of Trade entered all these goods under one heading. In 1920 six headings were introduced—three for aeroplanes (complete machines, engines, and other parts) and the same for airships and balloons. This enables us to realise that the trade is almost entirely in aeroplanes, airships and balloons being a very minor feature. As an example, we may say that for 1922 the £15,000 worth of imports contained only £100 worth attributable to airships and balloons, while the exports of £1,337,000 embraced only £10,995 worth of airships, balloons, and parts thereof.

In showing the distribution of exports as between foreign countries and British Possessions, we shall therefore deal with aeroplanes and parts only.

BRITISH EXPORTS of AEROPLANES and PARTS THEREOF.

	Number.†			Value, Thous. £.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Complete aeroplanes—						
To Foreign Countries	427	466	246	461	975	560
„ British Possessions	208	39	73	338	95	143
	635	505	319	799	1,070	703
Aeroplane engines—						
To Foreign Countries	1,183	412	322	243	186	218
„ British Possessions ..	336	61	60	333	14	64
	1,519	473	382	576	200	282
Other parts*—						
To Foreign Countries	..	..	..	198	248	237
„ British Possessions ..	..	..	..	293	145	103
	..	..	..	491	393	340
Total—						
To Foreign Countries	†1,610	†878	†568	902	1,409	1,015
„ British Possessions ..	†544	†100	†133	964	254	310
	†2,154	†978	†701	1,866	1,663	1,325

* Recorded by value only. † Excluding parts other than engines.

Similar particulars for 1923 have not yet been published, but the three years' figures already available show how largely the trade with foreign countries preponderates over that with Dominions and colonies. In 1922 Japan alone took £396,000 worth of these goods—a larger amount than was taken by all the Imperial countries combined. On the other hand, China bought virtually nothing in that year, though in 1921 her purchases had amounted to £520,000, no less than £387,000 being for complete machines, which numbered 83, and were, therefore, valued at £4,662 each. Indeed, fluctuation in the demand from particular countries is a very marked feature of this trade, as is but natural in its present early stage of development. Doubtless this will be remedied in the future, when large numbers of regular aeroplane lines are being run by all the civilised nations.

The great variations in average values of machines shipped to different countries is very striking. Here are a few particulars for 1922:—

	Machines.	Value £.	£ per Machine.
To Belgium	86	90,000	1,046
Java	8	48,000	6,000
Russia	4	21,000	5,250
United States	4	17,000	4,250
India	62	126,000	2,030
Japan	39	200,000	5,128
Argentina	10	21,000	2,100
Portugal	9	21,000	2,333
Greece	9	35,000	3,888

These, of course, are all average prices. Each year's shipments to any given country would doubtless include machines varying widely in value one from another.

Average prices of complete aeroplanes shipped to all destinations rose from £1,258 in 1920 to £2,118 in 1921 and £2,204 in 1922.

The success achieved in this comparatively new industry will be highly gratifying to those of us who have a firm faith in the ability of British manufacturers to hold their own against all comers in the great majority of our trades. It must not be forgotten that the industry did not have its origin in this country, but in France and America. That should have given those two countries a considerable advantage over us. It apparently did so, but only for a very short period. A great impetus to the industry was imparted by the war, but the advantage of that was shared equally by our competitors abroad. It in no way specially favoured us. In short, at the inception of the industry our competitors may be said to have enjoyed a good start. They got off promptly, but in spite of our handicap, we rapidly drew up with them, and though the demand for aircraft is not at the moment expanding, we seem to be able to hold our share of the market.

NITRATE POSITION AND RESULTS.

It is estimated that the world's consumption of nitrate of soda for the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to 2,192,000 tons, as against 2,159,500 for the previous year. European demand at 1,104,000 tons was slightly higher when compared with the figures of 1,030,500 tons for a year ago. At 937,000 tons a small decline of 42,000 tons is recorded for the United States. It must be remembered, however, that in the previous year the United States had jumped from 565,000 tons to 979,000. Thus there is here the possibility of a slight reaction showing itself. But while we are dealing with American figures, it is perhaps not without significance to mention that cotton growers in the United States are becoming favourably disposed towards Chilean nitrate, recognising in it a weapon for service against the attacks of the boll weevil. In the half-yearly report of Henry Bath and Son, Limited, it is pointed out that: "Consumption in the United States of America was slightly smaller than in 1922-23, but an encouraging increase is noticeable in certain European countries, such as Scandinavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugo-Slavia and also in Egypt, while the requirements of 'other countries' give satisfactory evidence of a growing consumption, though a smaller demand in Japan is recorded. Germany has again subsisted on synthetic nitrogen, only about 9,000 tons of Chilean nitrate having been imported for home consumption, but however desirable nitrogen may be for German soil in the form of sodium nitrate, instead of ammonium sulphate, the difficulty of financing large imports precludes the early probability of Germany becoming once more a great consumer. So far as Europe is concerned, climatic conditions this year have been favourable for the consumption of nitrate of soda, and the restricted output of Norwegian nitrate, due to labour troubles, has been of some assistance to the Chilean variety."

The following table, showing shipments, production, and stocks for various periods, is compiled from statistics presented in the half-yearly report of Messrs Aikman (London), Limited. The figures for the six and twelve months ended June 30, 1914, 1922, 1923, and 1924 are shown:—

(In Thousand Tons.)				
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Shipments to Europe and Egypt for six months ending June 30	Tons. 831	Tons. 103	Tons. 800	Tons. 358
Shipments to Europe and Egypt for twelve months ending June 30	2,025	301	991	1,064
Shipments to United States for six months ending June 30	310	141	482	509
Shipments to United States for twelve months ending June 30	547	215	912	915
Shipments to other countries for six months ending June 30	41	37	79	61
Shipments to other countries for twelve months ending June 30	87	89	169	138
Production in Chile for six months ending June 30	1,455	420	841	*1,151
Production in Chile for twelve months ending June 30	2,822	876	1,476	*2,185
Production in Chile for twelve months ending June 30	415	228	173	*115
Visible supply for Europe and Egypt at June 30 ..	84	38	54	*147
„ „ United States ..	11	6	26	*13
„ „ other countries ..	754	1,601	997	*1,075
Stocks in Chile at June 30	1,265	1,873	1,250	1,250

* Estimating production in June at 190,000 tons, and shipments at 40,000 tons to Europe, 30,000 tons to the United States, and 10,000 tons to Japan and other countries. † Excluding about 60,000 tons reserve stock held by the American Government.

The European consumption would undoubtedly have been greater but for the severe fluctuations in Continental currencies, which, so far as France and Belgium were concerned, checked sales for several weeks at a critical time of the year. A shortage of supplies on the spot in March and April was, to a great extent, responsible for the smaller consumption, and it is believed that more nitrate would have been used had it been available during that period. Countries outside Europe and America maintained last year's increase at 151,000 tons, against 150,000 and 84,000 tons respectively for the two previous years.

Our next table summarises 1923 results, and compares with those of 1922 of a number of Chilean nitrate producing concerns whose reports have been issued:—

	Net Profits.		Ordinary Dividend.		To Reserves, &c.		Carried Forward.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Angela	£ 1,071	£ 24,498	£ 7,000 (10%)	£ 17,500 (25%)	£ 3,350	£ 1,004	£ 4,651	
Anglo-Chilean..	19,721	151,718	135,000 (15%)	135,000 (15%)	..	75,228	86,703	
Lautaro	28,159	46,663	3,435 (12%)	4,122 (11%)	..	100,714	147,377	
New Paocha ..	187	6,825	60,000 (6%)	50,737 (5%)	..	1,016	3,719	
Rosario	125,966	51,303	60,000 (10%)	50,737 (11%)	..	28,614	29,179	
Sal' del Carm'n	58,204	78,053	40,562 (25%)	50,737 (30%)	20,000	16,218	16,494	
San Patricio ..	Dr 1,946	4,443	2,500 (24%)	2,500 (24%)	..	5,552	7,525	
San Sebastian..	807	8,416	5,525 (5%)	5,525 (5%)	..	5,000	807	5,948
Santa Rita	Dr 10,240	20,672	10,000 (10%)	15,000 (15%)	..	5,220	5,672	

+ 15 months.

The increase in the demand for nitrate is happily reflected in these figures. The Angela resumed manufacture in March, 1923, and work has proceeded steadily since that date; in the accounts profit has been taken on 123,698 metric quintals. The Anglo-Chilean produced 532,000 metric quintals; gross revenue totalled £305,494, out of which £35,650 went in "stoppage expenses." The Lautaro returns 675,319 quintals as its output; gross revenue is shown as £230,292, and "stoppage expenses" took only £7,564, while £11,128 went in compensation to nitrate buyers. The Rosario takes profit on 325,161 quintals, as compared with 294,458 in 1922; revenue totalled £102,290, and "stoppage expenses" are down as £7,903.

In the following table we show the principal assets and liabilities of these nine nitrate producing companies as shown by the balance-sheets at December 31st last:—

	Principal Liabilities.				Principal Assets.			
	Share Capital, Debs. & Loans	Cred-itors.	Bills Pay-able.	Re-serves.	Pro- perties.	Stocks.	Debtors.	Cash and Invest-ments.
Angela—								
End 1921	£ 70,000	£ 9,166	£ ..	£ 35,000	£ 12,364	£ 43,908	£ 857	£ 41,713
1922	70,000	5,422	2,995	35,000	40,477	31,402	5,872	44,868
1923	70,000	11,360	20,000	35,000	40,477	40,231	41,410	31,133
Anglo-Chilean—								
End 1921	1,103,600	120,640	38,871	555,965	225,624	263,057	16,291	607,289
1922	1,091,000	89,517	80,049	549,271	1,021,801	170,835	130,172	544,724
1923	1,082,900	81,310	113,854	539,215	1,066,257	111,598	61,075	577,340
Lautaro—								
End 1921	787,088	53,960	39,972	77,666	500,000	379,127	28,832	107,884
1922	703,043	44,639	117,592	80,220	502,993	466,357	25,911	43,642
1923	2,707,478	46,885	1,522	83,211	1,062,994	249,956	106,329	1,527,940
New Paocha & Jaspampa—								
End 1921	68,700	3,593	..	32,878	63,764	31,650	731	19,968
1922	68,700	3,859	..	32,878	63,764	13,864	2,943	29,838
1923	68,700	4,646	..	32,878	63,764	8,645	10,781	31,424
Rosario—								
Sept. 30, 1921	600,000	102,382	55,697	60,000	509,495	210,603	16,107	232,004
End 1922	600,000	40,872	58,108	60,000	556,737	153,173	29,289	126,033
1923	600,000	50,915	87,871	60,000	537,066	161,996	14,563	113,453
Sal' del Carm'n—								
End 1921	220,000	15,348	10,000	69,879	226,389	69,858	1,129	74,527
1922	220,000	27,812	37,000	66,046	227,402	124,148	714	72,721
1923	220,000	9,819	15,000	83,531	229,422	81,385	2,248	98,572
San Patricio—								
End 1921	100,000	6,539	..	5,000	101,271	2,840	12,143	6,815
1922	100,000	6,256	..	5,000	101,439	2,486	788	14,625
1923	100,000	4,726	..	5,000	101,207	2,190	118	16,234
San Sebastian—								
End 1921	159,123	1,170	..	4,990	153,836	27,064	890	1,113
1922	143,750	1,493	19,986	3,097	120,767	33,841	2,182	21,126
1923	143,750	4,891	19,923	3,452	135,767	61,825	1,084	8,855
Santa Rita—								
End 1921	100,000	11,583	..	40,000	101,399	58,020	922	29,089
1922	100,000	11,615	..	40,000	101,171	36,889	3,834	17,000
1923	100,000	13,856	..	40,000	95,149	62,690	2,507	21,165

Anglo-Chilean accounts should appeal to shareholders. Reserves are maintained, while liquid assets are higher; stocks are down from £170,895 to £111,598. The Rosario shows liquid assets

slightly lower, but stocks at £161,996 are higher.

The whole table is good evidence of the undeniable fact that the industry is in an excellent position, which is remarkable when the many adverse factors are taken into consideration. The most important changes in these figures are those shown for the Lautaro. The authorised share capital of the undertaking is now £4,000,000, of which £2,700,000 has been issued and is fully paid. Recently an offer for sale at par of £1,500,000 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock was announced, secured as a first charge upon the combined properties of the Lautaro and Lastenia Companies. The company owns £1,700,000 out of a total of £3,000,000 of the share capital of the Lastenia Nitrate Company, and has made arrangements for acquiring the balance and for the transfer of the entire assets of the Lastenia Company. Nitrate establishments and grounds are valued at £3,990,270, and total assets are £5,724,024. Stocks are down from £466,357 to £249,956.

Our final table shows prices, dividends, and yields of the companies listed above:—

Company.	Share.	June 30, 1922.			June 30, 1923.			June 30, 1924.		
		Price.	Div.	Yield.	Price.	Div.	Yield.	Price.	Div.	Yield.
Angela	1	1 1/2	15%	9 1/2%	1 1/2	10%	6 2/3%	2 1/2	25%	10 1/2%
Anglo-Chilean	1	2 1/2	15%	7 1/2%	2 1/2	15%	5 7/8%	3 1/2	15%	4 1/2%
Lautaro	5	6	nil	8 1/2%	5	nil	8 1/2%	8 1/2	nil	10 1/2%
New Paocha	1	1 1/2	6 1/2%	5 1/2%	1 1/2	5	3 1/2%	1 1/2	6	5 1/2%
Rosario	1	1 1/2	10%	8 1/2%	1 1/2	10%	6 1/2%	1 1/2	11	8 1/2%
Sal' del Carm'n	1	2 1/2	20%	10 1/2%	2 1/2	25%	7 1/2%	3 1/2	30%	8 1/2%
San Sebastian	1	1 1/2	nil	10 1/2%	1 1/2	nil	10 1/2%	1 1/2	5	10
Santa Rita	1	1 1/2	15%	10 1/2%	1 1/2	10	5 1/2%	1 1/2	15	7 1/2%

* Free of income-tax.

The share market has responded reasonably well to the better position of the commodity. We notice a happy suggestion in "Nitrate Facts and Figures, 1924." It is that nitrate companies should publish monthly output figures. It may be that the information would not tell the whole story of commercial progress, but it would certainly be a step in the right direction. It would bring into the industry fresh investors, who could follow the fortunes of the companies closer and, as Mr. Brodie James puts it, "a little publicity would be more in accordance with modern methods, and appreciated at its proper worth."

With reference to future demand for nitrate, it is pointed out, by a responsible firm, that a recently compiled estimate of 2,350,000 tons may not be unduly optimistic. The political outlook in Europe to-day is more hopeful than for some time past, and, with a greater measure of exchange stability and a consequent broadening of trade, the industry should have another prosperous 12 months in front of it.

STOCK EXCHANGE COMMISSION CHARGES.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THE matter of Stock Exchange charges for brokerage invariably comes to the fore at any time when business happens to be quiet in the House, and when, also, the tendency is for prices to droop. If markets are good, and people are making money, clients do not cavil at commissions, but in dull days brokerage charges are closely scanned, inasmuch as they add to the loss of the speculator, and increase, of course, the cost of stock to the investor who is a buyer. In the Stock Exchange itself, the usual quiet time experienced in the summer provokes discussion as to whether it is desirable to have a minimum scale at all; whether it would not be better to do away with such restriction and to let everyone charge what he pleases. It may be taken for granted that the minimum scale of commission is so firmly established as an integral part of Stock Exchange machinery that its

abolition is not at all likely. One point which clients are apt, it may be, to overlook, is the fact that the official scale of commissions is a minimum, though the minimum is liable to become the maximum. The scale is fairly well known, but it will be useful to repeat it at length, according to the Stock Exchange Appendix, which deals especially with the rules relating to commissions. The scale is as follows:—

MINIMUM SCALE OF COMMISSIONS.	
Securities of or Guaranteed by the British or Indian Government having a currency of not more than Twelve years, in bargains of not less than £20,000 (Stock)	1/2 per cent. on Stock.
Consols, 2½% and 2½% Annuities	1/2 " " " Stock
Other British Government Securities	1/2 " " " Stock
Indian Government Stocks	1/2 " " " Stock
Metropolitan Consolidated Stocks	1/2 " " " Stock
London County Consolidated Stocks	1/2 " " " Stock
Colonial Government Securities (British, Indian, or Colonial)	1/2 " " " Stock
Bank of England and Bank of Ireland Stock	1/2 " " " Money.
Foreign Government and Corporation Bonds. Price 1 or under	At discretion.
Foreign Government and Corporation Bonds. Price 5 or under	1/2 per cent. on Stock.
Foreign Government and Corporation Bonds. Price 10 or under	1/2 " " " Stock.
Foreign Government and Corporation Bonds. Price 20 or under	1/2 " " " Stock.
Foreign Railway and other Bonds to Bearer. Price 20 or under	1/2 " " " Stock.
Foreign Government and Corporation Bonds. Price over 20	1/2 per cent. on Stock.
Foreign Railway and other Bonds to Bearer. Price over 20	1/2 " " " Money
Registered Stocks	1/2 " " " Money

SHARES, REGISTERED OR BEARER (other than Shares of £50 or £100 denomination dealt in in the American Market).

Price 0 1 0 or under

Over 0 1 0 to 0 2 0

" 0 2 0 to 0 3 0

" 0 3 0 to 0 4 0

" 0 4 0 to 0 5 0

" 0 5 0 to 0 6 0

" 0 6 0 to 0 7 0

" 0 7 0 to 0 8 0

" 0 8 0 to 0 9 0

" 0 9 0 to 1 0 0

" 1 0 0 to 1 1 0

" 1 1 0 to 1 2 0

" 1 2 0 to 1 3 0

" 1 3 0 to 1 4 0

" 1 4 0 to 1 5 0

" 1 5 0 to 1 6 0

" 1 6 0 to 1 7 0

" 1 7 0 to 1 8 0

" 1 8 0 to 1 9 0

" 1 9 0 to 2 0 0

" 2 0 0 to 2 1 0

" 2 1 0 to 2 2 0

" 2 2 0 to 2 3 0

" 2 3 0 to 2 4 0

" 2 4 0 to 2 5 0

" 2 5 0 to 2 6 0

" 2 6 0 to 2 7 0

" 2 7 0 to 2 8 0

" 2 8 0 to 2 9 0

" 2 9 0 to 3 0 0

" 3 0 0 to 3 1 0

" 3 1 0 to 3 2 0

" 3 2 0 to 3 3 0

" 3 3 0 to 3 4 0

" 3 4 0 to 3 5 0

" 3 5 0 to 3 6 0

" 3 6 0 to 3 7 0

" 3 7 0 to 3 8 0

" 3 8 0 to 3 9 0

" 3 9 0 to 4 0 0

" 4 0 0 to 4 1 0

" 4 1 0 to 4 2 0

" 4 2 0 to 4 3 0

" 4 3 0 to 4 4 0

" 4 4 0 to 4 5 0

" 4 5 0 to 4 6 0

" 4 6 0 to 4 7 0

" 4 7 0 to 4 8 0

" 4 8 0 to 4 9 0

" 4 9 0 to 5 0 0

" 5 0 0 to 5 1 0

" 5 1 0 to 5 2 0

" 5 2 0 to 5 3 0

" 5 3 0 to 5 4 0

" 5 4 0 to 5 5 0

" 5 5 0 to 5 6 0

" 5 6 0 to 5 7 0

" 5 7 0 to 5 8 0

" 5 8 0 to 5 9 0

" 5 9 0 to 6 0 0

moderate estimate, to 50 per cent. of his gross receipts, and he returns 50 per cent. commission, the business is done for the client at next to nothing, so far as the broker's own pocket is concerned. There are plenty of brokers in the Stock Exchange who would be not only willing, but glad, to see concessions made in the way of commission, on the ground that these would stimulate public dealings all round, and it goes without saying that the majority of jobbers would heartily favour such a reduction as would quicken activity in Stock Exchange markets. The austere purist pleads that encouragement of speculative business is undesirable, and that, if anything, speculation should be made more difficult and more expensive, a point of view which fails to take into account the obvious factor that speculation in every branch of life furnishes a powerful incentive to progress as well as profit, though the latter may not always go to the speculator himself. Without any wish to defend mere gambling, it may be suggested that, shorn of speculation, the markets of the Stock Exchange and other exchanges would lose a great measure of what flexibility and liquid character they possess. Freedom of market is one of the assets that every investor likes to find in the stocks and shares into which he directs his capital.

Notes of the Week.

The Bank Rate Decision.—Another Thursday has passed without a rise in Bank rate—a decision which on balance was anticipated in the City, and one which in all the circumstances seems a wise one. It is true that there is still some anxiety about the exchange position, for it is thought that there has been more delay than usual in covering seasonal dollar requirements needed in the early autumn, and that in the present state of the market these needs will have to be very carefully handled if they are not to cause a serious depression of the exchange. It is, however, very doubtful if a small rise of Bank rate—and ½ per cent. has recently been much discussed—would influence the exchange for more than a few days, and it would give the Bank a less favourable starting point for action in the autumn if it were decided to make a serious effort to lift the exchange to par. The ½ per cent. rise was contemplated rather as a warning signal against too free foreign advances; but for the moment the desired result has been attained by the market itself raising the price of three months' bills to 3½. Whether this figure can be maintained with a 4 per cent. Bank rate remains to be seen, but the market knows the views held in the Bank of England on the need for caution, and it may, therefore, be assumed that what may be called an "admonitory" rise is now unlikely. The autumn situation presents a more difficult problem. The Federation of British Industries has written to the Governor of the Bank expressing concern at the possibility of a rise, and informing him that a committee has been appointed to examine and report upon the effect upon industry. The Government, on the other hand, refuse to be drawn. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would give no information in the House of Commons in answer to questions, while in his speech at the Mansion House on Thursday he declined to discuss the questions of the gold standard or of the Bank rate, contenting himself with the sound generalisation that the maintenance of British credit was of fundamental importance, not merely to the City and financiers, but to every wage earner in the country. The Government, in short, seems disposed to leave the matter severely alone, and the responsibility is thus thrown back upon the Bank Court, which for the moment will probably wait upon events.

do the same. After this there were a few more ballots, in which Mr J. W. Davis went to the top and increased his lead over Senator Underwood. Finally, Mr Davis was acclaimed the candidate of the Democratic party. The decision is of special interest to this country, which retains happy memories of the able and tactful manner in which Mr Davis filled the post of American Ambassador in London. During his tenure of this office he performed yeoman service in cementing Anglo-American relations, and established himself in the public esteem as a friend of Britain. It also appears that the Democratic party have chosen one who without doubt is the strongest candidate available. Inevitably Mr McDoo would have found himself hampered in the campaign by the mud-slinging which he has had to endure in connection with the oil scandals. The Democrats, therefore, face up to the Coolidge candidature with a first-rate leader. But although their chances are enhanced by their choice of candidate, these are not at the moment rated very high. Indeed, with a progressive candidate in the field in the person of Senator La Follette, there seems to be a considerable likelihood of an indecisive election; in which case the choice of President would devolve upon Congress. But November is a long way off, and much may happen before then to upset current forecasts.

The Anglo-Russian Negotiations.—This question was debated (without division) for six hours in the House of Commons last Monday without much fresh light being thrown upon the state which the negotiations have reached. Mr Ponsonby pleaded that the debate "had come at a very awkward moment"; insisted that the proceedings had been going on not for five months but for three, which he considered to be "a very short time"; mentioned that the commercial treaty was drawing to a conclusion, and that a special committee of the conference on territorial waters had been set up; and promised that the text of all these instruments, if and when they were ready, would be laid before the House, and that an opportunity would be given for full discussion. Beyond this, he threw himself on the mercy of the House for the niggardliness of his information, without giving any reassuring indication that other results had been achieved. At the same time, Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland's opening attack, while it may have been damaging to the Government, was almost entirely negative, and he hardly proved his point that the negotiations, wearisome though they have been, have altered the situation for the worse up to the present moment. Mutual disillusionment may be a first step towards mutual comprehension; and, supposing that the negotiations lose themselves in the sand, the Soviet Government will at least have learnt that they cannot get something for nothing, while the Labour Party will have realised that it was not mere difference of party outlook which prevented their predecessors in office from coming to an agreement with Moscow. The sluggishness of the negotiations suggests that the motive for the resumption of commercial relations must be somewhat weak on both sides. As far as the British position was concerned, this was borne out by Mr. E. C. Grenfell, who made the most interesting speech of the evening. He reminded the House how greatly the total sum annually available in Great Britain for foreign investment had been reduced since the war. With our demand for foreign fields of investment so reduced, would not our investments in Russia have diminished, even if there had been no Revolution and no repudiation of debts? Meanwhile, painful experience and present stringency have made our investors more discriminating; and Russia, on her side, having thrown off her top-dressing of Western organisation, and having reverted, at the cost of grievous loss and suffering, to a more primitive economic condition, has less need than before to borrow Western manufactures and Western skill in order to lead her life at its present reduced level, and is therefore less willing than post-war Austria or Hungary to give the guarantees, or, in more disagreeable language, to accept the controls, which any possible Western creditor would demand, in the circumstances, as the condition for a reconstruction loan. If the three months' negotiations have proved anything, it is that those guarantees which alone will produce fresh

British credits are not forthcoming from the Russian side. This is made abundantly clear by the letter which the Council of Foreign Bondholders, through their secretary, have addressed to the Press this week. And since the outstanding debts—to whatever exact figure they may be scaled down—cannot be settled at all without a reconstruction loan to start Russia's economic life again on something like a Western basis, we may assume—for all that Mr. Ponsonby had to tell us last Monday that, substantially, the negotiations are doomed to be abortive. If so, it will not do the Government much good to protract them in order to secure agreement on side-issues which do not touch the central question.

Overseas Trade in June.—As we go to press the Board of Trade returns for June reach us. The principal comparisons of value figures with June, 1923, and May, 1924, are as follows:—

	June, 1924. Million £.	June, 1923. Million £.	May, 1924 Million £.
Imports	88.5	89.3	122.0
British exports	62.0	62.9	70.3
Re-exports	10.0	11.0	13.1
Total exports	72.0	73.9	83.4
Excess of imports over total exports	16.5	15.4	38.6

A comparison of the value figures for the first half of this year and last works out as follows:—

	Jan.-June, 1923. Million £.	Jan.-June, 1924 Million £.
Imports	538.8	598.4
British exports	382.7	388.4
Re-exports	63.9	74.1
Total exports	446.6	462.5
Excess of imports over exports	92.2	135.9

Coal exports are £12½ millions down on the half-year. Of the import increase this year more than half is accounted for by raw cotton and wool. The increase in the import excess is substantial. It must, however, be remembered that the half-year's comparison is vitiated by the Irish factor, the separation of the Irish Free State figures having been begun in April, 1923.

Japan's Financial Position.—In introducing supplementary estimates in the Japanese House of Commons on July 2nd, Mr Hamaguchi, the Finance Minister, gave a review of the country's financial position. The supplementary estimates amount to nearly 163 million yen, and are required almost entirely for supplementary post-earthquake reconstruction work. Against this, however, there will be a substantial increase over the estimated revenue from taxation. Turning to his borrowing policy, the Minister gave the amount to be raised in 1924-25 as 294.9 million yen. Considering that the floating of any further loans in the open market is not expedient in the present economic condition of Japan, the Government has planned to meet the expenditure by appropriating 105 million yen from the recent loans issued in London and New York, 154 millions from the deposits section of the Finance Department of Japan named "Yokinbu," and by obtaining 35 millions by means of popular savings bonds offered through the Post Office. The Government has decided not to float any further loans in the open market in the current year, and even in subsequent years it has "decided to adopt a fiscal policy of refraining from the issue of loans, except in cases of emergency and of decreasing the amount in the open market as much as possible." The Minister of Finance proceeded to say that public and private enterprises for repair and restoration demanded much money, and also since the earthquake the foreign exchange has fallen heavily against Japan, owing to the excess of imports, which amount to say, 622,000,000 yen for the whole of last year and 672,600,000 yen for the first five months of this year. He declared that in these circumstances of adverse trade balance and exchange depreciation, retrenchment and habits of thrift are imperative, and this policy is the only key to the solution of the problems of prices, industry, and exchange.

A Quarter's Shipbuilding.—The shipbuilding returns of *Lloyd's Register* for the quarter ended June 30th show increases as compared with the previous quarter, and also a year ago. The total tonnage under construction at the end of June was 1,516,746 tons, which is 43,000 tons more than the end of March total, and 179,000 tons more than at the end of June, 1923. The present total, however, includes 52,000 tons on which work is suspended. Deducting this tonnage in order to enable a comparison to be made with figures for normal times, it will be seen that the tonnage actually under construction at the end of June amounts to about 1,465,000 tons, which figure is the highest reached since the end of March, 1922; although, of course, far below the average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war, which was 1,890,000 tons. Another favourable point about the returns is the substantial increase which the June quarter shows in the matter of new tonnage commenced, which was 375,210 tons, as compared with 227,786 tons during the March quarter. As compared with the tonnage of 1,465,000 tons under construction in British yards, the tonnage building in the rest of the world is 960,000 tons. The figures for the leading countries abroad are:—Germany and Danzig, 340,749 tons; France, 144,240 tons; Italy, 127,772 tons; United States, 103,665 tons; and Holland, 96,453 tons. The most remarkable feature of the figures is the development which they show in the use of the internal combustion engine. The tonnage of vessels now building in the world which are to be fitted with internal combustion engines amounts to 810,655 tons, while the tonnage of steam vessels under construction is 1,785,480 tons. The motor tonnage thus equals nearly 45½ per cent. of the steam tonnage, showing the remarkable development which is taking place in the adoption of this system of propulsion. Of the total tonnage building in Germany nearly 60 per cent. consists of motorships. The total figures include 69 motorships, each of between 5,000 and 10,000 tons; 5 of between 10,000 and 15,000 tons; and 7 of between 15,000 and 22,000 tons. The predominance of British yards in the construction of the largest type of vessels is very marked. There are at the present time under construction in the world 35 vessels of between 10,000 and 20,000 tons each, and 8 of 20,000 tons and upwards. Twenty-one out of the 35, and all the larger vessels, are building in Great Britain and Ireland.

Shipping Freight Index.—A further reaction was recorded in June by our Index of Tramp Freights, the figure for the month being 126.37, or 4.9 per cent. below that for May. The movements of each of the geographical groups are shown in the following table:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	629.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December ".....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.57
July, 1923.....	132.42	107.80	118.67	122.44	126.10	114.83	120.28
August ".....	124.79	109.11	114.33	117.70	117.51	115.73	116.53
September ".....	129.83	112.36	116.28	117.77	118.44	124.63	119.88
October ".....	133.66	125.46	114.53	119.38	124.40	136.05	125.40
November ".....	141.24	135.32	114.64	122.68	124.49	137.89	129.38
December ".....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February ".....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March ".....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April ".....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May ".....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June ".....	128.56	133.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37

The month's changes in the index of each group and subgroup are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index No.	Ino. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Ino. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	113.39	+ 9.55	S. America—outwards ..	99.67	+ 2.51
Bay—outwards	129.31	+ 3.69	" homewards	158.76	+ 2.12
homewards	147.68	+ 2.42	India—outwards	140.51	+ 4.21
Mediterranean—outwards ..	140.98	+ 9.25	" homewards	128.40	+ 0.82
homewards	117.95	+ 3.93	Far East, &c.	118.33	+ 0.12
North America	133.80	+ 1.49	Australia	118.84	+ 0.01

The feature of the month was the marked reduction in the volume of fixtures to carry grain from South America, Similar dullness characterised business from Canada and the United States. Except in the case of Bombay, which chartered a fair number of vessels for July and August loading, there was no compensating development of demand from the East or Australia, while European coal and ore business remained quiet, with a tendency for rates to fall still lower through more than ample tonnage offering. The relation of the index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

Month.	(1913 = 100.)	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January	194.59	..	131.60	..	117.11
February	164.54	..	135.76	..	123.78
March	162.17	..	135.53	..	122.09
April	147.48	..	129.46	..	117.22
May	158.42	..	125.12	..	114.55
June	165.73	..	117.45	..	106.82
July	169.87	..	114.52	..	103.39
August	170.60	..	113.16	..	109.16
September	154.47	..	110.37	..	103.04
October	141.85	..	114.42	..	107.86
November	136.47	..	119.43	..	111.21
December	134.66	..	117.39	..	111.81
Mean for year	158.40	..	122.02	..	109.69

Unless stimulated by a renewal of grain purchases on European account, the market for tramp tonnage now seems likely to be confined to narrow limits during the next month or two. Any further reduction on the current rates would have to be met by laying up less efficient vessels.

Half-Year's Coal Output.—A calculation based on the figures of weekly coal production, published by the *Board of Trade Journal*, shows that the total output of coal from the mines of Great Britain in the first half of this year was 139,061,600 tons. How this compares with recent half-years is shown below:—

	Tons.		Tons.
July-December, 1921	109,879,000	January-June, 1923..	140,791,000
January-June, 1922..	119,754,000	July-December, 1923	137,708,600
July-December, 1922	132,096,000	January-June, 1924..	139,061,600

The weekly average for the past half-year is 5,348,500 tons, as compared with a weekly average of 5,530,000 tons in 1913. In only five out of the 26 weeks of the past half-year did the output fall below five million tons.

Misrepresentation in Insurance.—A case of an insurance claim made under a marine policy decided by Mr Justice Bailhache at the end of last week has attracted a good deal of notice. The action failed owing to the broker, who was unaware of the true circumstances, having made to the insurance company a representation which the Judge said was unnecessary and untrue. It was, however, on a material point. The insurance in question in the case, taken out by Messrs Hamilton and Co. through a broker with the Eagle, &c., Insurance Company, covered apples from America, and contained a prolongation of voyage clause that, if the voyage took more than a certain time and in consequence the apples deteriorated, the insurers would make good the loss. The claim was under that clause. The broker was unaware that the clause had been deleted from the existing insurance, and represented incorrectly that it included the clause. He omitted to say that the old insurers had refused to continue the insurance unless the prolongation clause was struck out. The judge pointed out that a person applying for an insurance was not bound to disclose that someone else had refused to grant it. (This is the rule in marine insurance, but the decisions do not establish it in relation to other kinds of insurance proposals.) On the ground, however, of misrepresentation of a material fact judgment was given for the insurance company. If the broker had said there had been trouble about the prolongation clause and that it had been deleted, the information would, the judge considered, have influenced the company in deciding whether they would accept the risk, and, if so, on what terms. The omission made the broker's statement untrue in a very material respect.

Home Output of Iron Ore and Ironstone in 1923.—The publication by the Mines Department of the figures of output and employment at metalliferous mines, quarries, &c., for the fourth quarter of 1923 enables us to arrive at the total output of the country for that year for ores of iron, lead, tin, and zinc. The figures for iron ore and ironstone by kinds and districts were as follows:—

PRODUCTION OF IRON ORE AND IRONSTONE BY KINDS AND DISTRICTS in 1923.

Kind of Ore Obtained.	Principal Districts of Production.	1922.		1923.		Total Number employed at end of December, 1923.
		Total Output.	Total Output.	Average Percentage of Iron in Clean Raw Material.	Average Net Selling Value per Ton at the Mine or Quarry.	
West Coast...	Cumberland	Tons. 629,935	Tons. 982,661	52	22 11	3,813
Hematite (non-phosphoric)	Lancashire...	213,866	207,375	50	21 10	583
Jurassic ironstones—	Total	839,801	1,190,036	52	22 9	4,396
(a) Lower lias ironstone (Frodingham)	N. Lincs.	1,363,575	2,434,058	22	2 2	717
(b) Middle lias ironstone (York)	Yorkshire	1,169,754	2,079,964	28	7 7	4,123
(c) Middle lias ironstone (Leicester, Northampton, and Oxford)	S. Lincs.	906,432	1,549,335	26	2 9	997
(d) Inferior oolite ironstone (Northampton, and Rutland)	S. Lincs.	2,210,065	2,981,352	33	3 2	2,195
Coal measure ironstones (Blackband & clay ironstone.)	Total	5,649,826	9,044,709	28	3 10	8,032
Other occurrences of iron ore, (Hematite brown ore, &c.)	Devonshire, Forest of Dean, Somerset, Wiltshire, Glamorgan, Isle of Man ..	151,951	417,520	30	12 5	2,018
	S. Staffs.	16,595	14,076	30	16 4	66
	Not. and ...	86,530	99,755	31	12 1	397
	Other coalfields	18,076	17,443	33	15 2	131
	Total	273,152	548,794	30	12 6	2,612
	Total, 1923	1,089,580	31	6 5	15,413	
	1922	6,867,512	31	7 0	12,079	

* Average employed throughout the year.

The total home output of iron ore thus increased by approximately 60 per cent.; the output of hematite ore from Cumberland and Lancashire increasing by about 42 per cent., and that of the lower grade phosphoric ore by 62 per cent. The output of tin ore (dressed) amounted to 1,760 tons in 1923, compared with 650 tons in 1922; of lead ore (dressed) 12,499 tons, compared with 11,079 tons, and of zinc ore (dressed) 2,124 tons, compared with 1,620 tons.

More Bank Dividends.—The following table provides a comparison of the interim dividends just declared by the leading joint stock banks, with the corresponding declarations of previous years:—

	Per Cent. per Annum.									
	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924		
Bank of Liverpool and Martin's	*16	*16	16	16	16	16	16	16		
Barclays Bank "B" shares....	†17	†20	†20	14	14	14	14	14		
Lancashire and Yorkshire	16	16	16	16	19	19	20	20		
Lloyds	18	18	18	16	16	16	16	16		
Midland Bank	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18		
Westminster Bank	18	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Manchester and County	13	15	15	15	15	15	16	16		
District Bank	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18		
National Provincial Bank	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16		
Williams, Deacon's	14	14	12	12	12	12	13	13		
Alexanders Discount	10	12	13	14	15	15	15	15		
National Discount "A"	10	11	12	12	12	12	10	10		
Do "B"	11	11	11	11	11	11	18	18		
Union Discount	13	13	14	14	14	15	15	15		

* Final dividend. † On old capital.
(t) Also a special cash bonus of 10s per share, free of tax.

During the half-year the paid-up capital of the National Provincial Bank has been increased to £9,479,416, and the reserve fund has been brought up to an equal amount, namely £9,479,416. It will be noticed that in no case

do the declarations vary from those made a year ago. We shall deal with the bank statements at June 30th in a future issue.

Mexican Eagle Oil Company, Limited.—Whether the results of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company for the year to December 31, 1923, may be regarded as worse than ever, or not so bad as they might have been, is largely a matter of temperament. The report and accounts may be read to support either view. The production of oil, in the first place, showed a decline of 25 per cent. as against 1922, and of 75 per cent. as against the year ending June, 1921. On the other hand, the purchases of oil were more than double, so that the total shipments of the company (including products sold in Mexico) were about the same—21,609,000 barrels, as against 22,619,149 barrels in 1922. The shipments in 1922 included crude oil sales of 1,500,000 barrels, whereas no crude oil sales were made in 1923. The following table of oil produced and purchased is given in the report:—

	Production.	Oil Purchased.
	Bls.	Bls.
Year to June 30, 1921	38,298,729	nil
6 months to Dec. 31, 1921	10,449,920	4,303,942
Year to Dec. 31, 1922	12,390,429	5,418,910
" " " " 1923	9,251,501	11,100,000

Net profits, at \$11,993,424, in the second place, show a decline of \$13,290,791, or 52 per cent., from the 1922 figures. On the other hand, this decline is entirely accounted for by exchange differences due to the rise in the sterling value of the Mexican peso, and by increased expenditure on exploration. The results for the year 1922 included an exchange profit of nearly 3,400,000 pesos, whereas those for 1923 include an exchange loss of over 4,000,000 pesos. The exploration expenditure, at \$7,604,970, is higher by \$6,079,477. These items, totalling \$13,479,477, more than cover the decline in net profits. Considering that 1923, with falling oil prices, was an exceptionally bad year for trading, we incline to the view that the company did much better than might have been expected. Great economies must have been made in working costs. The financial results for the past three and a half years may be compared as follows:—

	Year Ended June 30, 1921.	Half-Year Ended Dec. 31, 1921.	Year Ended Dec. 31, 1922.	Year Ended Dec. 31, 1923.
Gross profit (including interest)	Mex. Gold \$ 85,320,429.00	Mex. Gold \$ 26,818,322.58	Mex. Gold \$ 26,815,709.30	Mex. Gold \$ 19,598,394.86
Exploration outlays	11,279,508.68	3,134,976.00	1,525,493.45	7,604,970.40
Forward from previous year	74,040,920.32	23,683,346.38	25,290,215.85	11,993,424.46
Transfer to depreciation and other reserve accounts	3,814,189.52	1,373,181.03	1,682,130.44	4,632,559.66
Provident Fund	77,855,109.84	25,056,527.41	26,972,346.29	16,625,904.12
Distributed in dividends	38,336,161.81	3,475,255.47	6,141,464.71	7,390,804.70
Expenses of issue of 1st preference shares	39,518,948.03	21,581,271.94	20,830,881.58	9,235,079.42
Carried forward	1,500,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	...
	38,018,948.03	21,081,271.94	20,330,881.58	9,235,079.42
	36,645,767.00	19,399,141.50	12,786,726.15	4,093,687.13
	1,373,181.03	1,682,130.44	7,544,155.43	5,141,392.29
	...	...	2,911,595.77	...
	1,373,181.03	1,682,130.44	4,632,559.66	5,141,392.29

The prospects of the company remain extremely uncertain. No new oilfield has been discovered, but the directors are determined to carry through their extensive programme of exploratory drilling. Work in the field has been interrupted by revolutionary troubles, and the completion of the programme may now require a longer time than was originally anticipated. A strong feature is that ample funds are available. British Treasury bonds and cash at bankers and on hand are shown as \$26,336,403. The affairs of the company must, however, be regarded as distinctly more speculative than ever. If it is possible that a huge oilfield may be discovered one day, it is also possible that on the next the properties may be seized by local Bolsheviks. Since the employees seized the company's plant at Tampico this year and set up for a time a Workers' Committee, the political menace has become as serious for the company as the menace of salt water in the wells. The directors do not recommend the payment of any dividends other than the full 7 per cent. distribution on the first preference shares. This enables a larger provision to be made for depreciation and the substantial sum of \$5,141,392 to be carried forward.

Tin Dredging Results.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The average price of the metal in 1923 having exceeded that of the previous year, it follows that—other things being equal—an advance is shown in last year's earnings on the part of the British-owned companies operating in the Malay States. The shareholders, however, have by no means reaped the full benefit of the difference, the directors in several cases utilising a portion of the increased earnings in strengthening the financial position. Thus with a surplus of £49,700 in place of £41,800, the board of the Tronoh devoted £20,000 towards writing down the property account. As a result the mine, with the three dredges and accessory plant, figures at no more than £70,600. After payment of dividends totalling 4s per share, or double the 1922 total, the slightly reduced balance of £42,400 goes forward. An important point in the position of this company consists in its holdings. These include 71,800 shares in the Sungei Besi, 14,300 in the Kepong, and 16,500 preference in the Pengkelen. Shares and stocks standing in the balance-sheet at £130,400 now possess a market value of £304,000; this, with the cash, represents fully 35s per share, leaving only 10s to cover the remainder of the company's assets. Amongst the important statements made at the meeting held last Wednesday was that the life of the mine might be estimated at 12 years. Adjoining property is, however, being tested, and if found suitable will be worked. A new interest is a large block of shares in the Sungei Way Dredging, taken on the strength of a very favourable report made on the property by the Tronoh company's engineer. Last year the profit of the Sungei Besi company amounted to £30,600, or nearly double the 1922 total; dividends of 4s per share as against 2s left the substantially increased balance of £15,000 to be carried forward. This company also has an interest in the Kepong, to which it has sold property. Arrangements are on foot for the installation of a steam shovel for the removal of the overburden, and for hydro-electric power, the necessary facilities having been obtained from the authorities. The Idris Hydraulic earned £11,000 in place of only £2,100, and paid 1s 6d per share as against nothing. At the meeting it was announced that the life of the existing property could be computed at 15 years, but additional lands may be acquired. The Siamese Tin Syndicate, whose annual report was issued a few weeks ago, did better than before, some decrease in the richness of the ground being more than offset by the higher price of tin and a reduction in costs. Although the profit of £50,000 nearly doubled the result for 1922, the directors were content to raise the dividend from 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. The equipment of two additional areas is to be proceeded with; dredging should start in 1925. Altogether, the shareholders in these undertakings are faring pretty well just now, and the outlook is hopeful.

The Strength of Pig Lead.—There has been another display of firmness in the lead market, and the position has now become very uncomfortable for the short interest. Apparently some of the lead refiners sold against ore purchases, and they now find themselves compelled to buy in on the market. It will be remembered that at the close of last month, prompt lead jumped very suddenly to £33 7s 6d, representing a gain of £3 on the month. There was then a backwardation of 60s per ton, and supplies of nearby metal were very difficult to find. After the turn of the month there was a little easing of the position generally, but this week the market began to tighten up again, and on Wednesday buyers had to pay £32 17s 6d for the prompt position, with buying from a good quarter noted. The bears have been reckoning on Mexican lead coming to this side pretty freely, but it is perfectly obvious that there will be some difficulty about closing out the July and August contracts. The building trade dispute is against the commodity, but, on the other hand, the very small supplies in public warehouse, and the prospect of a change for the better in the European political situation must not be overlooked. Lead early in March rose to close on £40 per ton, and the market this week has been very firm, with offers remarkably scarce. It is well known that lead consumers hold little in the shape

LEGAL & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE EXCEPT MARINE

Head Office
10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4
ESTABLISHED 1836 General Manager W. A. WORKMAN, F.I.A.

of supplies, and with arrivals moderate the outlook certainly favours firm markets, despite the dull tone in other non-ferrous metals.

Universal Cotton Standards.—Serious differences have arisen, writes our Manchester correspondent, between the Department of Agriculture of the United States Government and the Liverpool Cotton Association on the question of universal cotton standards. A year ago conferences took place in Washington between representatives of the American Government and of the Cotton Exchanges of the world, when an agreement was reached, it being provided that the universal standards should come into operation on August 1, 1924. A month or two ago there was some difference of opinion as to the samples being uniform, and it was decided to have a further conference in Washington. The position of affairs has just been considered at a meeting of the members of the Liverpool Cotton Association, when it was decided that, in view of actions which have been taken by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, the directors of the association consider a breach of the agreement with regard to universal standards has been made. It was therefore resolved that the Liverpool Cotton Association should give notice to terminate the agreement, which notice will take effect as from July 31, 1925. It was further resolved that, in the event of the Department of Agriculture at Washington signing not later than August 31, 1924, a satisfactory supplementary agreement, the whole matter be placed before a general meeting for reconsideration. According to the Liverpool Cotton Association, the Department of Agriculture has adopted the attitude that it was entitled to cancel and replace standards which had been agreed upon as the original standards by the conference held in Washington last year. It must be said there is some difference of opinion on this point, and some of the delegates from other exchanges do not agree that the agreement has been broken. Unless the difficulties which now present themselves are overcome, there is bound to be considerable confusion in the near future. It is understood that at the end of next week a conference of representatives of the European Cotton Exchanges will be held in London, and it is probable that on that occasion some progress may be made towards a settlement of the points in dispute.

Transvaal Output in June.—The output of gold from the mines of the Transvaal during June amounted to 773,953 ounces fine (against 809,003 ounces in May). The output in June last year was 755,309 ounces. The following table shows the output for every month since 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January..	Fine Ozs. 714,182	Fine Ozs. 676,059	Fine Ozs. 670,503	Fine Ozs. 681,593	Fine Ozs. 764,469	Fine Ozs. 706,768	Fine Ozs. 706,768
February..	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	704,970	760,617	760,617
March ..	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	761,586	795,671	795,671
April	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	511,338	743,651	768,923
May	741,317	724,935	699,041	687,776	629,786	786,564	809,003
June	727,696	702,379	715,967	678,490	675,697	755,309	773,953
Total (6 months) ..	4,256,235	4,147,484	4,104,846	3,988,501	2,456,549	4,516,549	4,704,035
July	736,199	725,497	736,059	709,557	730,635	764,306	764,306
August	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490	769,371	769,371
September..	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,069	793,504	793,504
October	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,842	793,842
November..	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	780,639
December ..	641,945	650,191	632,215	681,847	790,712	778,849	778,849
Total (12 months) ..	8,420,560	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	9,133,060

In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of last month by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Nov., 1923.	Dec., 1923.	Jan., 1924.	Feb., 1924.	Mar., 1924.	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.
Gold mines	177,674	177,779	181,659	182,055	176,483	173,022	172,586	174,198
Coal mines	16,246	16,142	16,109	15,958	15,763	15,800	15,863	16,042
Diamond	2,997	3,239	3,482	3,419	3,170	2,762	2,863	2,999
	196,917	197,160	201,250	201,432	195,416	191,584	191,312	193,239

It will be noted that the number of natives employed at the gold, coal and diamond mines has increased also during the month.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BONDS EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG—AUTOMOBILE OUTPUT—WAGES—SLACKING TRADE AND EASY MONEY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 1.

INTERESTING comparisons of automobile production in this country are afforded by Department of Commerce returns just published. The figures show that 279,439 cars and 33,374 trucks were turned out by all manufacturers during May, as against 337,045 cars and 36,154 trucks in April, and 350,460 cars, and 43,730 trucks in May, 1923. The statistics reveal a decrease of about 17 per cent. in cars, and more than 7 per cent. in trucks from April, and of 20 per cent. in cars and 23 per cent. in trucks from May a year ago. The combined automotive output in May was 16 per cent. less than that of April, and 20 per cent. below the peak reached in May of last year. Owing to the heavy production earlier this year, the total number of automobiles and trucks manufactured in the first five months of 1924 was 1,752,277, representing an increase of 6 per cent. over the like period of 1923, and double the output for the first five months of 1922.

In view of the further slackening in manufacturing activity, some interesting facts are revealed in the National Industrial Conference Board's latest monthly compilation of weekly earnings of workers in twenty-three representative industries in the United States. As for some time past, news and magazine printers lead the list in amount of earnings, with an average rate of \$36.14. This compares with \$17.44 in 1914. The iron and steel industry ranks second, with average earnings for all employees of \$33.57 a week. While the latter sum shows a drop of \$1.26 from March, the decrease is in line with that which has characterised all industries during the past three months. A decade ago the average earned by iron and steel workers was \$14.96 a week. Third in the order comes the automobile factory workman, who received for April an average of \$31.12 a week, or \$16.03 more than he was paid in 1914. Book and job printers had an average weekly wage of \$31.01 last April, while foundry and machine shop employees received \$28.88, the latter comparing with \$13.61 ten years ago. Agricultural implement workers, chemical factory employees, those in electrical plants, and rubber workmen, all had weekly wages near the \$30 mark.

Pronounced activity and strength continue in the bond market here. For some time past weekly transactions in bonds on the New York Stock Exchange have totalled about \$100,000,000, to say nothing of business done over the counter, and investment demand shows no sign of abatement. On the contrary, with many millions of July interest and dividend money added to the plethora of funds already seeking employment, demand for investment securities promises to become even more extensive than heretofore. During the past week trading continued heavy, at steadily rising prices in all classes of bonds, the average price of forty representative domestic corporation issues establishing a new high record for this year. The foreign Government list is also conspicuously strong; the volume

of transactions in that department last week was the largest of the year, and many issues recorded substantial gains. New securities are being offered on a large scale, especially those of railroads, in the form, mostly, of short-term issues. Other corporations, including public utility companies, are offering large amounts in the aggregate of new stocks and bonds in order to take advantage of the exceptionally favourable conditions for such financing. Foreign Governments, and to some extent foreign corporations, are seeking loans here. One of the latest offerings is the \$7,500,000 of the 1924 State loan of the kingdom of Hungary, which is part of the loan offered simultaneously in Europe. The United States portion of the loan is in the form of 7½ per cent. 20-year sinking fund gold bonds, priced to the public at 87½, to yield about 8.85 per cent. Negotiations are now under way between the Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland and a group of American banking houses for a loan of some \$10,000,000, secured by first mortgages on strong properties, and, in addition, guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Finnish Government.

The reason for the almost unprecedented demand for investment bonds and stocks is found, of course, in the continued easiness of money rates, and the increasing accumulation of idle funds here and at other centres throughout the country. The Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank has reduced its rediscount rate from 4½ to 4 per cent., leaving only two federal reserve banks that are still maintaining a 4½ per cent. rate, namely, those at Minneapolis and Dallas.

FRANCE.—THE LONDON CONFERENCE AND FRENCH FINANCE—M. HERRIOT'S POSITION—COST OF LIVING—A NEW COMMITTEE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 9.

It may be said without hesitation that the impending inter-Allied conference in London is by far the most important, from the French point of view, of the whole of the gatherings of this kind that have yet taken place. For all practical purposes France is now at the end of her tether, as will have been gathered from the statements made in the Senate (as reproduced in this column last week) during the discussion on the financial situation. She has raised, by various expedients, a sum which is variously stated to be between 80 and 100 milliards for the purpose of carrying out the reconstruction of the devastated regions, but it is now evident that she is reaching, if she has not already reached, the limits of her effort to compensate for the failure of Germany to carry out her treaty obligations. That French statesmen blame Great Britain for the plight in which she now finds herself may be taken for granted. The French view was recently put in a nutshell by M. Louis Dubois, the predecessor of M. Barthou as chairman of the Reparations Commission, when he stated: "The truth is that each time the Reparations Commission has been on the point of forcing Germany to pay, an inter-Allied conference has intervened, and when concessions have been made they have always been made against us, on the initiative of certain Allied Governments. That is why we are in our present situation."

As matters now stand, France's own urgent needs for a speedy settlement furnish the best augury for the success of the pending conference. At the same time, M. Herriot's situation is by no means stable. Quite apart from the heterogeneous character of his majority in the Chamber, which ever since the elections has caused impartial observers to feel that the chance of his Cabinet having more than a brief tenure of office is a poor one, there can be no doubt that French public opinion has been very unfavourably impressed by the whole atmosphere of the Chequers interviews. That somebody was guilty of blundering in connection with the manner in which the invitations to the conference were handled is regarded here as established. M. Herriot made use of

this factor to retrieve some, at least, of the ground he lost owing to the contradictory statements that were attributed to him in the report of an interview which he is said to have given to the representatives of one of the Brussels newspapers during the visit he paid there on his way back from London. There are indications, however, that a feeling persists in certain circles here that the French Premier showed too great a willingness to yield to British pressure, in order to secure some kind of a settlement. The effect of this is that M. Herriot will not be able to claim, on entering the conference, that he has behind him the same whole-hearted support of his country that was enjoyed by his predecessor in similar circumstances. There are also indications, further, that M. Herriot may find himself, on his return to Paris, in a very similar situation—and for similar reasons—to that filled by M. Briand on the morrow of the abortive Cannes Conference of January, 1922. M. Briand fell, on that occasion, because he was regarded as having been too ready to accept the policy urged by Mr Lloyd George. Curiously enough, it is to M. Briand himself that a substantial section of French opinion, which distrusts M. Herriot's inexperience, is now looking to succeed the latter, if he fails to secure due satisfaction for French reparation claims. M. Briand, it is argued, is extremely unlikely to fall a victim a second time to British pressure, and if, in the result, he proved to have achieved only as much as M. Herriot might have done, there would be less inclination to express dissatisfaction.

The new Government has lost no time in making known the steps it proposes to take for the purpose of reducing the present high cost of living, but so far it cannot be said that the measures proposed have been very enthusiastically welcomed by the public. The Government proposals are three in number, and comprise (1) the creation of a body which is to be known as the Superior Consultative Committee for Commerce and Industry, (2) the creation of a commercial office, the function of which will be to centralise all possible information on the prices of foodstuffs and raw materials in such a manner that by their aid it will be possible to follow, from day to day, the economic life of the country, and (3) the institution of a policy for raw materials. The idea of organising this consultative committee was originated by M. Loucheur, who laid down the basis of the new body in a decree which was promulgated on May 22nd last, when he was still Minister for Commerce. It was left to his successor, M. Raynaldy, however, actually to constitute the new body, and to nominate the members, and this morning the decree instituting the committee and appointing the members thereof is promulgated in the *Journal Officiel*. The decree shows that the new Government regards it as necessary, in view of the pressing importance of the questions involved, that the scope of the committee as originally conceived shall be considerably enlarged. The committee, which will act under the direct presidency of the Minister for Commerce, will have the duty of considering "all questions interesting to commerce and industry that will be sent to it by the Minister," and will "preside over all inquiries concerning commerce and industry."

The Statistique Générale has now issued the index figure for wholesale commodity prices for the month of June, which shows a rise of six points as compared with that for May, and of 15 as against that for April. The detailed figures (worked out for a base of 100 as representing prices in July, 1914) are as follows:—

Commodities.	June.	May.	April.
General index figure	45 .. 474 ..	468 ..	459 ..
Foodstuffs as a whole	20 .. 426 ..	425 ..	423 ..
Vegetable foodstuffs	8 .. 417 ..	423 ..	392 ..
Animal foodstuffs	8 .. 406 ..	401 ..	424 ..
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	4 .. 492 ..	488 ..	491 ..
Raw materials as a whole	25 .. 517 ..	506 ..	492 ..
Minerals and metals	7 .. 456 ..	440 ..	431 ..
Textiles	6 .. 650 ..	653 ..	594 ..
Various	12 .. 474 ..	456 ..	467 ..

The rise has been chiefly, as will be seen, in raw materials, which have increased in price by eleven points, while foodstuffs show a rise of only a single point. Retail prices in Paris at the end of June continued to show a tendency to fall, the index figure for the month being returned as 370, as compared with 378 for May and 380 for April.

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$13,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—FINANCES—CURRENCY—PRICES—CROPS—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 8.

THE Anglo-French differences following the meeting at Chequers have tended to confirm German belief that the putting into force of the Dawes scheme, if it is to be put into force, will take a long time. This would be as much against German as against Ally interest, perhaps more, because there is an increasing tendency here to regard the scheme not as a lasting solution, but as a means out of immediate difficulties. Against the scheme as a lasting solution a great deal of criticism is directed, mostly to the effect that the necessary active payment balance will not be attained. It is noted that the Dawes Report professes only to provide the mechanism by which Reparations can best be collected if the payment balance admits, and even on the first question, viz., whether the Reparations sums can be raised internally in native currency, expresses only opinions. The unfavourable foreign trade reports of this year are naturally taken as a text. Against this must be said that the Marx Cabinet seems to have no plan for attaining export surpluses. Their attainment as the result of taxation (counting the railway and industrial bond interest as taxes) does not, as the Dawes report admits, necessarily follow; by this means only economy in consumption is attained. A positive foreign-trade policy, to be entered upon from the beginning and as part of an agreement with the Allies, seems to be called for. The chief German optimist on this question, the Reichsbank president, though convinced that Germany can spare the annual sums fixed in the Report, always adds that the Allied and some neutral Governments show no sign of welcoming the necessary German flood of exports. Some of the High-Protectionists, who are just now very active, connect their demand for higher duties on industrial goods with the wished for improvement of the payment balance; in other words, foreign goods must be excluded. From

such exclusion these Protectionists, who are mostly manufacturers, would gain, while being guaranteed an improving export market.

It is plain that the mere formal putting through of the Dawes scheme, by which is meant the passing of the necessary Bills and the creation of the control and collection organisations, will still leave the main question open. The skeleton, indeed, will be ready, but it will not be made clear whether Reparations are to be achieved by a conscious international trade policy, or whether they are to be left to chance—to be paid or not paid according as German trade may happen to develop. If they are left to chance, there seems to be no particular reason for assuming that an active trade balance will come within any particular term of years, if at all. Although the Cabinet here is aware of this, it never refers even indirectly to the matter; in the few official utterances so far on the coming tariff, Reparations were not mentioned. The Dawes scheme, one suspects, is welcomed here mainly because it promises an immediate, if only temporary, solution of certain German difficulties; and for that reason Germans are much more in a hurry about it than the Allied Governments seem to be. One of the chief difficulties is the Ruhr. The renewed "Micum" agreement, contracted until the Dawes scheme came into force, was made terminable on notice at the end of any month; and the German parties, having got Berlin's refusal to finance them, have already given notice to terminate on August 1st. The situation on the Ruhr is bad as it is; production is declining and unemployment is increasing; and local industry cannot continue the "Micum" system indefinitely. The Finance Ministry is also very anxious to get the army occupation costs, and the other non-Reparations liabilities which are classed as "for execution of the Peace Treaty," incorporated, as proposed, in the general Reparations total. Finally, there is the belief that foreign private capital will flow in here as soon as a formal settlement is come to. Germany, therefore, stands to gain immediately, while the question whether the Allies will really gain can only be proved later.

The Finance Ministry's return for the ten-day term, June 21st-30th, shows revenue 158,934,000 gold marks, and expenditure 160,802,200 gold marks, of which 2,178,500 gold marks went on redemption of Gold Loan. In all, June revenue totalled 439,560,000 gold marks; expenditure, 440,985,000 gold marks, of which 26,500,000 gold marks went on redemption of Gold Loan; and 179,600,000 gold marks on subventions to states and communes; so that the Federal expenditure proper was only 235 million gold marks. The gross debt on May 31st (omitting the depreciated paper marks debt) was 1,742,000,000 gold marks; the net, after deducting the unexpended part of the Rentenbank credit and the Budget operation fund, was 1,376,700,000 gold marks, against 1,939,700,000 gold marks at the end of 1923. The final report for the financial year 1923-24, which has interest only as an indicator of the inflation, shows that as against estimated revenue of 5,207,422 million paper marks was received 1,879,429,367,000,000 million paper marks, of which 1,601,186,044,000,000 million paper marks came from direct taxes.

The money situation has been somewhat easier. Total note circulation on May 31st was of value 2,917,600,000 gold marks. Of this 931,000,000 gold marks consisted of paper money, 926,900,000 gold marks being Reichsbank notes, so that all paper money except 4,100,000 gold marks had disappeared; 138,500,000 gold marks were coins; and 1,848,100,000 gold marks stable-guaranteed money, of which 1,728,500,000 gold marks were Rentenmarks. The Gold Discount Bank's return for June 30th shows an increase in discounts during the preceding week from £6,244,745 to £6,789,582. The Reichsbank's statement for June 30th shows that the month-end demand was mainly met by withdrawing deposits. While discounts and advances increased by only 37,700,000 billion paper marks, deposits fell by 231,900,000 billion paper marks. Paper-mark circulation increased by 205,900,000 billion paper marks, and Rentenmark circulation by 196 million Rentenmarks, the bank's holding of Rentenmarks falling to 278 millions. The Reichsbank's report for 1923 shows clearings of 61,678 trillion paper marks. The gold reserve fell during the year from 1,004,800,000 gold marks to

467 million gold marks. The bank in 1923 sold 165,000 kilograms of fine silver, in order to buy foreign currencies. The main change in the bank's credits, which on December 31st totalled 591,100,000 billion paper marks, was the disappearance towards the end of the year of discounted Treasury bills, while credits to private business continued to increase. Note circulation rose from 1.3 billion paper marks to 496½ trillion paper marks. Expropriated in occupied territory was paper money worth 26 million gold marks. Shareholders in the bank, on December 31st, were 16,466 Germans and 2,503 foreigners. The Prussian State Bank's (*Seehandlung*) first gold mark balance-sheet reduces capital from 560 million marks to 10 million gold marks, the new reserve being 3 million gold marks.

Prices still move downward. The official wholesale number on July 1st was 112.6. The cost of living on July 2nd was 117, against 111 a week earlier, the rise here being mainly due to an increase in rents. In general, prices are likely to fall further, owing to the impending reduction of the Sales Tax (the Bill has already been submitted), and to a cut averaging 20 per cent. in coal prices. The Finance Minister, Dr Luther, says that "the condition of German industry is now beginning to be desperate"; but there is no sign of this. The number of unemployed (unoccupied territory only) rose from 209,101 on June 1st to 214,486 on the 15th, but was still less than a seventh of the number reported at the beginning of the year. The building trade has somewhat improved. Rents at the beginning of this month were raised to 62 per cent. of the pre-war, but of this a third (20 per cent. of the pre-war) is the new rents tax imposed on tenants instead of that part of the pre-war rent which went to pay mortgage interest.

The crop reports for July 1st are relatively favourable. The condition of winter rye, the most important grain crop, was still behind the condition of July, 1923, but spring rye, winter and spring wheat, winter and spring barley, and oats were better. At best the rye crop will be about average; but wheat is reported to be particularly good in quality as well as quantity. The fodder crops are good, the hay crops extremely good, and a very good potato harvest is expected. A large increase in the number of livestock is expected if favourable weather conditions continue. The condition of sugar beet is slightly behind that of last year. The stock market continues inactive, and has no particular tendency.

CANADA—THE POSTAL STRIKE—AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—FEDERAL BOND ISSUES—SMUGGLING—PARLIAMENT AND BRITISH PREFERENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, June 24.

DURING the past week the business world has been subjected to great trouble and confusion by a postal strike which arose out of the employees' displeasure at a readjustment of their wages. Luckily the strike did not spread to any serious extent to the Western and Maritime Provinces, but there was an almost complete walk-out of the postal workers in Montreal and Toronto, and many smaller urban centres in Central Canada were seriously affected. The Government were severely criticised by papers like the *Toronto Globe*, which normally support them, for failing to handle the situation in its incipient stages with sufficient vigour. However, they have now taken a firm stand, and as a result the strike has collapsed at a number of points, and at others the postal service is being manned by new recruits. But meanwhile business could not fail to suffer through the blockade of mails at such important nerve centres as Toronto and Montreal. The telephone and telegraph are being used for urgent matters, but transmission of funds and orders and general correspondence is seriously hampered.

There is more cheerful news in the realm of agriculture. Crops in the East are still backward, and are not likely to show any large yield. But from the West, which is now much the most important centre of production, the reports continue to be very encouraging. What is also very welcome is that prices have been steadily

mounting in the grain markets, and No. 1 Northern in Winnipeg is now within measurable distance of \$1.20, and is expected to go to \$1.25 in the near future. The strength of the market is attributed to the prospects of a smaller surplus available for export this year from the chief producing countries. There has also been a very substantial reduction in the North American wheat acreage this year, and although the latest reports about the American crop are more optimistic, it had a bad start, and it is expected that the ultimate yield will show a marked shortage (possibly as high as 100 million bushels) as compared with last year's figures. Another bull factor is the improvement in the political situation in Europe, which is held to promise a great betterment in the most important market, and more than one European country is showing signs of an ability to buy and consume wheat on a larger scale than anyone had looked for.

But general trade is still far from satisfactory. The general feeling is that no substantial improvement in business can be expected before autumn, and it will only come then if the present hopes of a good crop in the West and improved returns for it are realised.

The banks and financial houses have now come to believe that the placing of heavy bond issues in the domestic market by the Federal and provincial Governments last autumn was a serious mistake, as it drained off all the available money, and left too little for the needs of private enterprise. Accordingly there was some protest when the Minister of Finance secured from Parliament powers for a further issue of Federal Government bonds to the amount of \$300,000,000. Apprehensions were allayed by a subsequent announcement that this sum would cover three years' requirements, and that during the present year not more than \$200,000,000 would be needed to meet the 1924 Victory bonds maturing November 1, 1924, and Treasury bills totalling \$91,215,000. In all probability there will be a new loan floated this autumn, and pressure will be exercised to have a substantial proportion of it raised outside Canada. The Government are also seeking authority to increase their powers of guarantee for National Railway bonds, but there is some opposition in Parliament. At present the financial methods pursued by the C.N.R. administration are the subject of an investigation by a special Parliamentary committee, and the further daylight which has been thrown upon the strange transaction whereby the Hotel Scribe in Paris was purchased for a European headquarters for the C.N.R. has not strengthened public confidence. The C.N.R. are planning a new equipment loan, probably for 10 million dollars. The City of Toronto also expects to be in the market soon for an equal sum to pay off the shareholders of the Toronto Street Railway Company, whose lawsuit against the city will be decided by the Privy Council this month.

Manufacturers and merchants are making loud complaint of the volume of smuggling which now goes on across the international boundary. Numbers of people who had acquired valuable experience in outwitting the Customs officers with consignments of liquor have now turned their talents to other fields, and large quantities of cigarettes, silks, laces, and goods of all kinds are being smuggled in without paying any duty. The late Minister of Labour recently stated in the Senate that 500 million cigarettes were now being smuggled into Canada each year. On a package of cigarettes selling for 15 cents the manufacturer to-day gets 3.98 cents, the wholesaler and retailer 3.71, and the Federal Government collects 7.69 cents. Tobacco taxation in the United States is on a much lower scale, and the result is that cigarette prices in the United States of ordinary brands, like Players', are 40 per cent. lower than in Canada, and successful smuggling is very profitable. Cigarette manufacturers calculate that their turnover has declined 20 per cent., and the loss to the revenue is placed at a million dollars.

Parliament is still in session, and while negotiations are afoot to accelerate business by morning sessions, drop some legislation, and secure prorogation by July 5th, it is doubtful, in the view of the highly controversial character of some legislation still to be dealt with, whether this end can be accomplished. The Senate has exercised a judicious pruning knife with part of the elaborate branch line programme of the C.N.R., and has thereby done some service in the interests of economy. The Upper Chamber

has also been the scene of an interesting attack upon the British preference. It was initiated by Senator L. A. David, a Liberal, who was one of Laurier's closest friends, and he and other speakers contended that, while the preferential concessions made to Britain had in their day had valuable results, they were now producing adverse effects upon many domestic industries, and in this light should be reconsidered. However, except for this criticism, there has been no serious volume of protest in Canada at the decision recently reached by the British Parliament in regard to the preferences offered at the Imperial Conference.

The organisers of the co-operative wheat pools in the West profess themselves completely satisfied with the results of the special drive which was staged in the first two weeks of June to secure the indispensable minimum acreage. It has been achieved in Saskatchewan, which is by far the largest producer of grain, and although the objective aimed at in Manitoba was not quite reached, yet the organisers in that province will go ahead in concert with their neighbours. The result is that the wheat pool system will be functioning this year in all the prairie provinces, and while each of the three will have a separate board of management, the same export machinery will be used.

AUSTRALIA—BANK FIGURES—EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, May 29.

THE quarterly average returns to March 31st of the ordinary banks in Australia and New Zealand (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) show, as compared with the preceding quarter, an increase of £17,803,674 in deposits and a decrease of £2,709,673 in advances, the figures relating only to local liabilities and assets within Australia and New Zealand. These movements are in the usual direction for the first quarter of the year, when the realisation of wool, wheat, and other articles of annual production places large amounts of fresh money in the hands of country producers, wherewith to increase their credit balances or reduce their indebtedness to banks and others. This year the good wheat harvest in Australia and the high prices obtained for wool both in Australia and New Zealand have helped to swell the figures, while in Australia the woolgrowers have received a further distribution of Bawra money on account of extra profits on clips purchased some years ago by the British Government. As compared with a year ago, deposits show an increase of £15,307,336, and advances an increase of £16,599,435. In these movements there is a divergence between Australia and New Zealand, as in Australia deposits have increased by £12,273,422 and advances by £14,451,093, the increase in advances being the larger by over 2 millions, whereas in New Zealand the increase of £3,033,914 in deposits is nearly a million greater than the increase of £2,148,342 in advances. The following is a comparison of the principal totals with those for the previous quarter and the corresponding period last year:—

	March 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	March 31, 1924.
Deposits—			
Australia	232,000,840 ..	231,741,642 ..	244,274,262
New Zealand	48,659,637 ..	46,422,497 ..	51,693,551
Total deposits	280,660,477 ..	278,164,139 ..	295,967,813
Advances—			
Australia	197,994,984 ..	213,316,033 ..	212,446,077
New Zealand	48,347,815 ..	52,335,874 ..	50,496,157
Total advances	246,342,799 ..	265,651,907 ..	262,942,234
Cash items—			
Coin and bullion (Australia and N.Z.)	27,287,078 ..	27,393,510 ..	27,877,587
Australian notes	26,353,024 ..	22,969,183 ..	24,778,237
Legal tender notes of other banks (N.Z. only) ..	501,218 ..	350,362 ..	448,308
	54,141,320 ..	50,713,055 ..	53,104,132

Against the increase in liabilities there is no increase in cash holdings, owing to the rigidity with which in Australia the Notes Board kept the note issue at practically a fixed amount, at a level below the requirements of trade,

especially during the active export season. In this the Board has acted against banking advice, and an examination of the various figures shows that the total amount of gold and paper currency in existence in Australia was thus kept below the amount that would have been in existence under a free gold system similar to the pre-war system. The financing of the wool season has consequently been a task of exceptional difficulty to those banks which did not decline the purchase of wool bills, and the general feeling is that a reform is necessary before the new wool season in order that the existing system may be rendered sufficiently elastic for proper trade requirements at the busy export period of the year, as is the case in other parts of the world. Between the unsatisfactory character of the policy followed during the past season and the peculiar character of some of the circumstances attending outside exchange operations, a decided feeling of estrangement has arisen between the ordinary banks and the Commonwealth Bank. The subject was referred to by Sir John Grice, chairman of the National Bank of Australasia, at the annual meeting in Melbourne on May 28th, when he stated, with reference to exchange and currency, that it is necessary for the present that Government and municipal borrowings in London for the purpose of expenditure in Australia should cease, and that until the present exchange difficulty passes the Notes Board, after ascertaining banking and trading needs, should allow such reasonable and secured expansion of the issue as may be required. He also advocated that steps should be taken to replenish gold holdings, setting the cost against the profits on the note issue.

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

	March 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	March 31, 1924.
Deposits	28,386,080 ..	32,430,948 ..	29,940,516
Savings Bank deposits	38,148,904 ..	39,212,776 ..	38,739,378
Discounts, loans, &c.	13,863,996 ..	14,987,389 ..	13,935,591
Government and municipal securities	36,006,146 ..	39,108,182 ..	39,464,547
Coin and bullion	2,637,705 ..	2,543,932 ..	2,226,862
Australian notes	2,774,221 ..	4,912,595 ..	3,990,336

SWITZERLAND.—THE INDUSTRIAL EMIGRATION—ECONOMIC DEPRESSION—THE OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, June 19.

A QUESTION which is agitating the minds of Swiss economists is the emigration of Swiss industry in consequence of the economic crisis which began after the war, and which was aggravated by the collapse of the currency in many countries to which Switzerland used to export her goods. When examining this question one has to consider three classes of facts: the direct signs of industrial emigration, that is, the total or partial transfer of Swiss factories to foreign countries; the indirect signs which include the emigration of labour, of skilled workers and engineers, and the trade returns; the foreign invasion which is the consequence of emigration. A close and impartial examination of the situation shows that these signs are unquestionable.

The value of Swiss exports, which reached 1,376 millions of francs in 1913, was only 1,716 millions in 1923, while prices have in the meantime risen by 60 per cent. As regards the adverse balance, it was 135 million francs in 1919, 965 in 1920, 156 in 1921, 225 in 1922, and 582 millions in 1923. The economic depression from which Switzerland suffers is benefiting the neighbouring countries. A great number of factories and trade concerns were compelled to close down, but a great number of others which were on the verge of being closed down have been taken up by foreigners. Foreign capital (mostly German) has in many cases replaced Swiss capital invested abroad, and foreign immigrants are gradually taking the place of native labour which emigrated. This explains why, in spite of the increase in emigration, the population of Switzerland suffered no reduction; in 1923 alone 30,000 foreigners, 21,000 of whom were Germans, came to reside and work in Switzerland, and were thus added to the 400,000 foreign residents who already formed

11 per cent. of the total population. If this native emigration and foreign immigration continue in the same proportion, the number of foreign residents will, 70 years hence, outnumber the native population.

It is true that Switzerland has been over-industrialised in the course of the last 50 years. While 42 per cent. of the population were getting their living from industry in 1870, this percentage rose to 48 per cent. in 1913, and 50 per cent. during the war. The number of factories rose from 7,905 in 1911 to 9,327 in 1918, but has since fallen to 7,871 in 1923. This industrial impetus was too great for a small country possessing no raw material, and for industries which can only live on exports; a readjustment was fatal, and this is what is happening at the present time. Though the situation looks very gloomy at first sight, one must bear in mind that, thanks to the ever-increasing use of water-power for the production of electricity, Swiss manufactures will, in a few years hence, be in a position to produce more and at a lesser cost. Moreover, some new industries have been created or developed—such as the chemical, aluminium, artificial silk industries—so that all hopes are not lost of seeing Swiss industry recover from the present grave crisis.

NORWAY.—REAL TRADE BALANCE—MONEY AND STOCKS—THE LABOUR POSITION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, June 26.

At the initiative of Det Statistiske Centralbureau, a review will be made of Norway's relation to foreign countries with regard to sums payable by and payable to this country. A similar review was arranged in 1919. The items there definitely determined were only such as were to the credit of this country; but an estimate was made of the chief debit items. The total of credit items presented the considerable sum of very nearly 2½ milliard kroner. As a set-off to this large sum, a total indebtedness to foreign creditors of about 800 million kroner was calculated, leaving one milliard, 700 million kroner as the credit balance of this country in foreign countries. The calculation now to be undertaken will certainly reveal great changes. Large sums have been lost, no doubt; the passive trade balance of the country has also produced its effect. But the renewal of the mercantile fleet of the country may be supposed to have claimed the main sum. There is hardly any doubt that this renewal has cost perhaps about one milliard kroner. Therefore, the Norwegian mercantile fleet is at present as efficient and up-to-date as ever before in its existence, and possesses a money-earning capacity that is doing good service to the country, and will do so still more as soon as the general world trade conditions recover.

Money is plentiful for legitimate demands. Several considerable municipal loans have been contracted, the rate being generally 6½ per cent., at par; the Government recently borrowed 25 millions at 6 per cent. Otherwise the bond and stock markets are quiet, which may be partly a seasonal phenomenon. While the great strike of industrial workers ended about a month ago, the dockers' strike is dragging on. There seems, however, to be reasonable hope of a speedy settlement now. In about six weeks a number of wage agreements expire, and already overtures for negotiations between the parties have commenced. So far, the respective views are very divergent, the workmen asking very considerable additions to their wages, and the employers demanding reductions, generally equal to about 5 per cent.

GREECE.—EXCHANGES—BRITISH CAPITAL IN PUBLIC WORKS—DECLARATIONS OF SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, June 18.

CONTRARY to expectations, foreign exchanges have shown a further upward movement, the pound having reached at one time 269 drachmæ. The unfavourable influence exercised by the enforcement of exchange regulations was further increased by the abnormality of the political situa-

tion, by the neutrality professed to be kept by the Government in the seamen's strike, which lasted more than a fortnight, and, more recently, by rumours of friction between the Government and the Refugee Committee, in consequence of which, it was stated, the latter would suspend its work, and the Bank of England would not pay the second advance of £1,000,000 already agreed to. The combined effect of all these factors compelled bears to cover with considerable losses, while, on the other hand, a demand from speculators and easily frightened capitalists developed. To-day the situation seems clearer, at least as regards the attitude of the Refugee Committee, whose disagreement with the Government seems to have been exaggerated, while, on the other hand, the report of the suspension of the payment of the second advance by the Bank of England has been officially denied. From 262 yesterday evening the London rate fell back to 243 to-day. However, the fear of a possible overthrow of the Cabinet, whose position in the Assembly has weakened, acts for the moment as a deterrent to a greater improvement of the exchanges.

British industry has recently scored a success against foreign competitors by securing a contract with the Greek Government for the installation and exploitation of new up-to-date telephones in Greece. The contract was signed by Mr Frederick Kerr on behalf of the K.A.M., Limited, and provides for the installation and exploitation of telephones, obligatorily in towns of 10,000 people and upwards, and voluntarily in smaller places. The contract will run for 66 years, the Government having the option to purchase the telephones after 15 years. The new system must be ready for use in Athens, Piræus, and Salonica within three years, and in the remaining towns within five years. An exemption from all customs duties is granted for all goods that will be imported from abroad for the construction and maintenance of the lines. The Representative of Soviet Russia arrived a few days ago, and official diplomatic relations with Russia have now been resumed.

HUNGARY.—FOREIGN TRADE—CROP PROSPECTS—TRADE OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, July 2.

SINCE the foreign loan for Hungary is now an accomplished fact, the figures of the foreign trade of Hungary in the present year are more important and interesting than usual. These figures show that for the first five months of 1924 the excess of imports over exports is in value no less than 40 million gold crowns less than in 1923, the figures being 45 and 85 millions respectively. Now the excess for the whole of last year amounted to 82 millions, so that the next seven months there must have been an active balance. Consequently there should be almost certainly at the end of 1924 a balance in favour of exports. Further, an examination of the items affords a still stronger presumption that such a desirable state of things should come about.

On the other hand, it must be noted that while April and May last year showed a smaller passive balance than any other month, this year they are larger than any month except February. The import excess for April, 1923, was 4.8 million gold crowns, against 8.4 millions for 1924, while in May, 1923, it was 10.9, against 11.5 millions in 1924. This is accounted for probably by the increase in the import of machinery, wood, leather, and paper goods. The increased importation of machinery must not be viewed with disfavour, the probability being that it means more intensive cultivation with the aid of up-to-date machines. No doubt the restrictions on imports which are still in force account largely for the improved balance, not to mention that restrictions upon exports have been practically abolished. It will be interesting to see how the latter is affected by the removal of import restrictions other than the tariffs, which is due in a comparatively short time.

Estimates of the yield of certain cereal crops are being published. Wheat is estimated to yield 17.13 millions of quintals, against 18.42 actually produced last year. As the area under wheat is somewhat smaller in 1924, this would

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
MANAGING AGENTS OF RUBBER, TEA, AND
OTHER PRODUCE ESTATES.
BRANCHES:
COLOMBO QUILON MEDAN KOBE
CALCUTTA BATAVIA SOURABAYA MONTREAL

be a very satisfactory yield. Rye is put at 7.34, against 7.94 for last year produced. It has been damaged by the storms of rain and hail in some parts, but the outlook on the whole is good. Barley is expected to be produced to a slightly larger amount than last year, an average crop being looked for. Much the same may be said of oats. Wheat, barley, and oats are the only crops as to which estimates have been made by the agricultural authorities. There should be a plentiful crop of maize, some of the land formerly used for wheat having this year been sown with maize. The sugar beet crop, which also should be better than last year, promises well, but not exceedingly well. An average crop is expected, and as the area is likewise increased by some of the wheat lands, the yield should be satisfactory. Potatoes, roots, hemp, flax, tobacco, and most vegetables and fruits all promise well. Grapes, on the whole, are not so good, and there is likely to be a decrease in wine production. It may be mentioned that Hungary's fruit trade has made great strides of late. Fruit in 1923 was exported to the amount of nearly 1½ million quintals, as against 450,000 in 1922, and is thus becoming an important item. Also the trade in poultry, game, and fish has taken an immense jump, from slightly over 300,000 quintals in 1922, to 1,100,000 last year. Taken generally, the prospect seems to be bright enough, and *ceteris paribus* a good year for trade is sure.

Letters to the Editor.

THE GOLD STANDARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Will you allow me to offer some observations on the letters of Messrs A. Hoare and A. Mitchell Innes, which have been published in your issue of the 5th inst.? I am glad Mr Hoare thinks that the restoration of the gold standard may now be practicable, but doubts the advisability of raising the Bank rate, and advises the restoration should be done by arrangement between this country and the United States. He does not state what form this arrangement is to take, and I am at a loss to imagine it. In common with some authorities, I also do not believe that raising the Bank rate will alone be sufficient, but I believe it will facilitate that contraction of the currency which I venture to state is the key to the situation.

Mr A. Mitchell Innes states that a suspension of specie payments lasted for 26 years, 1797-1823. This, I think, is wrong, and should be 24 years, as the Bank of England resumed payment by its own wish and the permission of Parliament on May 1, 1821.

Mr Innes argues that a higher Bank rate would tend to produce higher, not lower, prices. This might be true if it was permanent, but your correspondent must know that in pre-war days, when the Bank rate was raised, it tended to produce lower, not higher, prices. The enormous war debt, and the payment of the charge on the foreign portion of it no doubt affects the rate of exchange to some extent, but not in my humble opinion sufficiently to prevent the restoration of the gold standard and a stable currency and exchange.

There is one additional comment I should like to offer. A number of people believe that parity of exchange will be reached with America through a rise in prices in that country. I do not believe it. First, because I do not anticipate any great rise in gold prices, either in America or elsewhere without an increase in the world's production of gold. The accumulation of the metal in the U.S.A. no doubt has some effect, but it is merely a removal from one part of the world to another. Secondly, as Sumner points out, that where there is convertibility, as in America, "speculation in the widest and best sense

controls the amount of the currency," whereas "on an inconvertible system like ours, the amount of the currency controls speculation.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
D. M. MASON.

July 7, 1924.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr Mitchell Innes, in his letter published in your issue of July 5th, forgets that when guineas were first coined the standard of this country was nominally silver, practically bi-metallic. Proclamations from time to time regulated the exchange as between silver and gold.

This exchange was bound to fluctuate, and in theory should correspond approximately with market values of the two metals.

But from 1670 onwards a guinea has always contained a fixed number of grains of gold of a fixed standard.

From 1817 onwards a sovereign has always contained a fixed and corresponding amount of gold of a like standard.

The pound notes with which we pay our debts bear on their face a statement that they are issued under an Act which entitles the holder to receive under certain prescribed conditions the last-mentioned amount of gold.

Special payments were not resumed easily a hundred years ago, nor can we anticipate that the resumption will be easier when the plunge is taken, as eventually it must be taken.

But it is difficult to see what advantage is to be gained by telling our debtors in foreign countries that instead of paying us 100 ounces of gold, as they have promised, they need only pay 90 ounces or 80 ounces, or 70 ounces, or whatever the suggested figure may be.—Yours faithfully,
R. B. TURTON.

The Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W. 1.

Books and Publications.

A LEADER'S SPEECHES.

IT is easier to make an omelette with bad eggs than a readable book out of a politician's speeches. The sentence that sounds to an enthusiastic party audience like a prophet's clarion call reads between the two covers of a book like the empty platitude that it probably is, and the whole effect, instead of being effervescent and stimulating, is flat and depressing. The rhetoric of a Burke may make a speech live for ever, and the fighting spirit of a Chamberlain or a Lloyd George may give it a life of a few months, but most political speeches are best forgotten as soon as possible after delivery, and it is needless cruelty to submit them to the ordeal of publication.

Mr Baldwin, who is, we fear, an indifferent judge of his own oratory, survives the test no better than one would expect. We are prepared to believe that the atmosphere of the Connaught Rooms or the Albert Hall helped him to carry things off with satisfaction to himself when the speeches were delivered, but it is beyond belief that he can read his own book,* composed of his own speeches, with anything but a heavy heart or that his following can be filled by them with anything but dismay. No one reading the book can imagine that Mr Baldwin, admirable and engaging as he is, was meant by his Maker to be the leader of a fighting party.

The general impression left on the reader's mind is of an amiable man groping pathetically and a little hopelessly after the truth. On most subjects he is far from clear, and on all economic subjects he is dreadfully muddled. We read, for example, in the introductory paragraphs that:

Unemployment remains the most serious of our home problems. The Unionist Government had vigorously attacked it by such means as the Trade Facilities Act.....

And in the first of the speeches we read that:

Our grandfathers were prepared to risk the whole future of our country to realise the paltry ideal of underselling our neighbours.

* "Looking Ahead." (London) National Unionist Association. Price 6d.

Why it should be a noble thing to "attack vigorously by such means as the Trade Facilities Act" the most serious problem of unemployment and "the pursuit of a paltry ideal" to facilitate trade by underselling our neighbours and so provide employment, baffles us. Apparently it is a sound patriotic thing to talk of the necessity for markets and a paltry thing to capture them by cheap material and low costs.

In the matter of Protection Mr Baldwin makes his position clear:

We of the Unionist party accept the verdict which the country gave in December, and we do not intend to put forward again proposals for a general tariff except upon clear evidence that the cat is jumping.....

No, we misquote; he actually said:

Except upon clear evidence that on this matter public opinion is disposed to reconsider its judgment.

Was ever party in such fashion led?

SOCIAL INSURANCE.*

THE economic experience of the last four years, and in particular the problem of unemployment, which has so far defied the efforts of three Governments to find a solution, has directed an increasing volume of attention and enquiry to our system or lack of system of social insurance.

The leaders of all political parties are now committed to an attempt to extend and consolidate the different forms of insurance and public assistance in what is usually described as an "all-in" policy of insurance against the loss of the means of livelihood due to ill-health, accident, premature death of the bread-winner, unemployment, and old age; but very few of their followers have any conception of the difficulty and complexity of unifying and completing existing arrangements. Mr Alban Gordon, in "Social Insurance—What it is and What it Might Be"—in a mere matter of 145 pages, gives an admirably lucid and concise account of our present ill-ordered series of services, with their overlapping, deficient benefits, and (taking them altogether) costly administration. Those who wish to obtain a clear introduction to this subject, unburdened with too much detail, will find it in this work, which emphasises the lesson of Sir William Beveridge's recent pamphlet, "Insurance For All and Everything," that the extension of a policy of real "Security" against social risks requires imagination and re-organisation rather than more money, or in other words, that we are not getting value for our money under present conditions.

There is a suggestive chapter on the prevention of sickness and unemployment, and the second part of the work is devoted to the outlines of a comprehensive scheme for consolidating and completing a National system of social insurance, embracing the functions now carried out by the employment exchanges, approved societies, customs and Excise in the administration of old age pensions, trades union and the Poor Law; the whole to be administered by a new insurance authority to be elected on the same franchise on which boards of guardians are now elected for areas corresponding to administrative counties, county boroughs, or municipal areas of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

The whole project is provocative of thought, but if consideration is given to the powerful vested interests which are entrenched in the way, it is clear that an attempt to give it legislative effect would provoke a controversy second only to that which would be aroused by an attempt to codify and consolidate the various religious denominations of the country in one comprehensive faith.

* "Social Insurance." By Alban Gordon. George Allen and Unwin. Price 6s.

A SHIPPING ANNUAL.

THE annual volumes issued by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom form a valuable record of the progress of the shipping industry, and the latest addition to the series, covering the period 1923-24,* is no exception. The economic side of shipping is dealt with in comprehensive statistical tables and diagrams relating to shipping tonnage, movements, imports and exports, coal

* Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom Annual Report 1923-24. (London) 28 St Mary Axe.

and oil, and sundry miscellaneous matters. Politically, the outstanding events of the past year were the holding of the Imperial Economic Conference—to which ship-owners as an organised body submitted a memorandum strongly emphasising the necessity for adhesion to Free Trade—and the progress of the international movement against flag discrimination. The last-mentioned matter was the subject of an international convention adopted at Geneva by representatives of nearly all maritime countries, the United States being an exception. The convention laid down the principle of equality of treatment of shipping in ports irrespective of flag, and the unanimity with which it was agreed to was, it appears, largely due to the efforts of the British delegates.

Besides the annual report of the Chamber of Shipping, with its appendices and statistics, the volume now issued contains an account of the proceedings at the last annual meeting of the Chamber and the report of the Shipowners' Parliamentary Committee. Upon this committee are representatives not only of the Chamber of Shipping, but of the Shipping Federation and the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association, so that the watch it keeps on legislative proposals is maintained on behalf of the whole body of shipowners.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Foreign Exchanges.* By A. W. Flux, C.B., M.A. (London) P. S. King and Son, Limited. 10s 6d net.
Social Life and Institutions. By Joseph K. Hart. (London) George G. Harrap and Co., Limited. 7s 6d net.
Practical Directorship. By Henry W. Colesworthy, A.S.A.A., and Sidney T. Morris, A.S.A.A., A.C.W.A. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 7s 6d net.
The Principles of Business Economics. By James Stevenson, M.A., M.Com. (Vict.), D.Sc. (Lond.). (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 10s 6d net.
Trade Term Definitions. By C. Maughan. (London) Effingham Wilson. 4s net.
Great Northern Railway Company: Northern Pacific Railway Company. A Review of their Operations in the Period 1916-1923, and a Discussion of some of their Most Difficult Problems. (New York) Wood, Struthers and Co.
Business. First Principles. By A. F. Shepherd. (London) Business Builders, Limited. 1s net.
The Austrian Crown: Its Depreciation and Stabilisation. By J. van Walté de bordes. (London) P. S. King and Son, Limited.
Journal du Droit International. (Paris) Marchal and Billard. 6 francs.
The Business Features of Wembley. (London) *Investors' Chronicle*, 8 Drapers' gardens, E.C. 2. 1s net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, July 23.	ACCOUNT, July 24.
Stock Exchange nerves have been unsettled by the possibility of the Bank rate being raised to 5 per cent., and this played an important part in most parts of the House. Business is not very good. A number of recent new issues have been left in temporary hands that are anxious to get out of stock which they have received through underwriting contracts. This exercises a depressing effect upon securities of kindred character to those of which the holders desire to dispose. The meeting of the British and French Premiers at the beginning of the week caused a gleam of hopefulness in regard to the foreign political situation, but served, on balance, merely as a mild corrective to the dull sentiment caused by Bank rate apprehensions. Upon the announcement on Thursday that no change would be made, members of the House simply said that the rise had been again postponed.	Most of the stocks of the Consol market are easier, not so much, according to the jobbers, by reason of sales, but because there has been a noticeable absence of public buyers. Government purchasing orders helped to stiffen the market in gilt-edged stocks on Tuesday, and the declines on the week are not serious. Colonial and home railway prior-charge secu-

rities have followed the tendency of the Consol market as a whole.

French and German bonds developed mild activity on the meeting between Mr Ramsay MacDonald and M. Herriot. In no case, however, was there any marked improvement in prices. Mexicans are flat. Dealings started in the new Hungarian loan on Monday last. Larger applicants received about 40 per cent. of their subscriptions, and the price opened at $\frac{1}{2}$ premium, from which it fell to a slight discount. Weakness in Brazilians is attributed to vague reports concerning a rumoured insurrection, which are also responsible for dullness in Brazilian Railway stocks. Turkish and Egyptian bonds gave way somewhat sharply on Paris sales.

The latest phase of Labour unrest in connection with home railways intensifies the previous disinclination of the public to buy home railways even at the present comparatively low range of prices. Undergrounds kept tolerably firm, though the best prices were not held, and Underground incomes, after their dramatic spurt on the declaration of the full 3 per cent. dividend for the half-year, shed a point or so. American railways are better. Argentines gave way, partly on monetary considerations, partly on a little turning-out of their stock by the bull party.

Rubber shares, after months of quiescence and sagging prices, advanced smartly as the price of the produce went over 11d per lb. Tea shares are buoyant, fresh public attention having been directed to this department on account of the favourable outlook which seems to promise well for the next year or so. Nitrate shares, after being better, rather hung fire. The new Lautaro Nitrate debenture stock, offered at 100, is now being negotiated on the basis of 12s 6d premium. Another newcomer is the British Insulated debenture stock, which opened at $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. British Automobile Traction debenture started off at $\frac{3}{4}$ discount. Excitement in Courtaulds has died down, but the price is well maintained. The shares will go ex-rights after the meeting next Thursday. Other textiles have moved within narrow limits. Banking shares remain a dullish market, owing to the heaviness of gilt-edged stocks, while insurance shares continue to rise, and the buyers openly declare their hopes of increased dividends, or of slightly better in consequence of the absorption of a fair amount of stock which had been recently overhanging this section. Iron and steel shares are firmer in places, as the House says, and shipping descriptions are exceedingly quiet.

In the brewery market a jump in Watney deferred is the outstanding feature of a generally strong list, thanks to dividend anticipations. The oil market has been irregular, a poor report by the Mexican Eagle Company negating the optimistic expectations recently aroused in regard to the position. Shells went ex 2s 6d dividend, free of tax, on Thursday. A fair amount of activity prevails in this market. Amongst new issues, West Gloucester Power debentures are about $\frac{3}{4}$ discount, and the preference is 6d discount. Shropshire debentures are $\frac{1}{2}$ premium, Whitehall Electric debenture $\frac{1}{4}$ discount, and the preference shares 1s discount.

In the Kaffir Circus, the lively gamble in East Rands is again the principal point of interest. The price has been run up sharply amid all kinds of favourable rumours. Deep Level shares have strengthened, the idea being that when dividends are taken off the prices next month, the shares will begin to look cheap again. A little spasmodic animation in Rhodesians had no influence over Chartered, which remain at a trifle over 11s. De Beers and other diamond shares held their ground on the statement that the companies had renewed their agreement for selling stones. Consolidated Diamonds have rallied noticeably. A modest rise in Russians reflects the hope that business relations between this country and Russia are working toward a practical basis. Amongst tin shares, the Malayan list goes steadily ahead. Lake Views, both old and new shares, are better. Mexicans, in spite of conflicting reports regarding the political conditions of the country, hardened up in a few cases. Several Indians are a trifle harder on the week. The copper group attracts but little attention and business.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Sub- scription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 114,575,914	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
4 % Treasury Bonds by public tender, July 4, 1924, £300,000, at £94 13s	£ 283,900	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER 5 DAYS ENDED JULY 5, 1924.

	£	Dr	£	Dr
April 1, 1924, to July 5, 1924, Dr £1,250,000 ..	£ 1,250,000	Dr	£ 50,000	Dr
£ 50,000 ..	£ 50,000	Dr	£ 50,000	Dr

To the Public—

Welwyn Garden City, £150,000 6% Ten-year Development Bonds, £10, at par	150,000	150,000	15,000	135,000
British Automobile Traction, £250,000 5½% Deb. Stock, at 95% red. by Jan. 1, 1924 ..	250,000	237,500	12,500	225,000
Burgess Dairy, £80,000 Ord., 1s ..	4,000	4,000	4,000	70,000
Do 8% Cum. Pref., £1	80,000	80,000	10,000	70,000
Second Guardian Trust, £500,000 Shares, £1, at £1 1s	500,000	525,000	25,000	500,000
South Wales Power, £250,000 6½% Cum. Pref., £1, at par	250,000	250,000	31,250	218,750
Hereford (Travancore) Tea Estate, £25,000 Shares, £1, at par	25,000	25,000	6,250	18,750
Total offered to the public	£ 1,271,500	£ 1,271,500	£ 104,000	£ 1,167,500
To Shareholders only—				
Allen Liversidge, 55,865 Shares, £1, at £1 5s 6d	55,865	68,429	13,966	54,463
De Beers Consolidated Mines, 48,556 Def. Shares, £2 10s, at £10	121,390	485,560	485,560	..
National Bank of Australasia, 4,850 Shares, £10, at £13	48,500	63,050	9,700	53,350
15,275 £8, with £5 paid, at £5 10s ..	76,375	99,287	9,547	89,740
Union Discount of London, 25,000 £5 called up, at £12	125,000	300,000	125,000	175,000
Total offered to shareholders	£ 1,016,326	£ 1,016,326	£ 643,773	£ 372,553
Total offered for subscription to date ..	£ 2,287,826	£ 2,287,826	£ 1,747,773	£ 1,540,053
1924	117,097,640	1923	271,395,173	
1923	186,880,510	1922	575,975,650	
1922	468,983,126	1921	388,978,202	
1921	128,977,209	1920	367,549,656	
1920	248,216,123	1919	1,036,059,951	
1919	402,956,829	1918	1,385,381,441	

The Daily Sketch and Sunday Herald, Limited.—

Authorised capital £1,000,000 in ordinary shares of £1 each, all of which are issued with 2s per share paid. This is an offer for sale of £1,000,000 6½ per cent. guaranteed mortgage debenture stock at £99 per cent. It is repayable at 107 by a cumulative sinking fund. The company reserves the right of redemption at 107 on giving two months' notice. The company has agreed with the trustees to pay no dividends on share capital until all debenture stock has been redeemed. This stock will be secured by a trust deed, and constitutes a first specific charge upon freehold land and buildings. It is not clearly stated, however, what the exact value of such property is. As further security the payment of interest and repayment of capital are guaranteed by Daily Mirror Newspapers, Limited, and Sunday Pictorial Newspaper, 1920, Limited. There is an additional security provided in the form of uncalled capital liability on the ordinary share capital of the company. The value of this, however, depends upon the financial status of shareholders. Profits of the guaranteeing companies are more than sufficient to cover interest and sinking fund payments, but the term "mortgage debenture stock" is usually applied to stock covered by assets of a more tangible nature.

The Second Guardian Trust, Limited.—

Authorised capital £500,000, in £1 shares. This is an issue of 500,000 ordinary shares at 21s each. The object of the company is denoted by its title. It is stated that it will be "intimately associated" with the Guardian Investment Trust Company, Limited. The latter is a company which has made good progress. The prospectus is well drafted, and shareholders are protected by excellent safeguards against unduly large management expenses. The 1s per share premium strikes, perhaps, an optimistic note, but we see no reason why success should not be achieved.

The Traction and Power Securities Company, Limited.—

Authorised capital £1,829,176, of which £683,280 has been issued. An announcement in the Press to comply with Stock Exchange regulations gives particulars concerning the issue of £300,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock. The stock is a floating charge upon assets, and there will be a trust deed, which will contain a covenant limiting the amount of debenture stock to the amount of subscribed capital of the company. The stock is repayable at par on July 1, 1974. Surplus assets are valued at £699,603. Profits are shown from 1914. We are informed that the stock is being placed at 89½. Although a prospectusless issue, the information given is sufficient for us to say that the debentures are well covered, both as regards capital and interest.

The South Wales Power Company, Limited.—

Authorised ordinary share capital £600,000, of which £529,330 has been issued and converted into ordinary stock. This is an issue of 250,000 6½ per cent. preference shares of £1 each at par, and constitutes the entire issued preference capital. There is issued and outstanding £600,000 of 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, being part of a total authorised issue of £750,000. The company, which was formed in 1907, controls the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company by having acquired under a scheme of exchange 98 per cent. of the ordinary stock and 99 per cent. of the preference shares of that undertaking. The loan capital of the Distribution Company issued and outstanding, or under agreement to be issued to the holding company, consists of £988,696 of 5 per cent. prior lien debenture stock (of which £876,156 is held by the holding company) and £295,000 5 per cent. debenture stock. The surplus of profit for 1923, it is stated, was £64,000, while for the first quarter of 1924 it has been at the rate of £112,000 per annum. The annual charges having priority to the present issue amount to £59,377 per annum, representing the interest payable upon £600,000 first mortgage 6 per cent. debenture stock of this company (together with a sinking fund thereon of ½ per cent.), £112,540 of prior lien debenture stock of the Distributing Company (being the only part of that stock not held by this company), and £295,000 5 per cent. debenture stock of the Distributing Company. The directors possess influence, and there is good reason to think that the undertaking will continue to develop.

The British Automobile Traction Company, Limited.—

Authorised capital £500,000, of which £439,982 has been issued. This is an issue of £250,000 5½ per cent. first debenture stock at 95. The stock is secured as a first floating charge on assets, and the amount of stock ranking *pari passu* with this issue is to be limited to one-half the subscribed share capital for the time being. An annual sinking fund will be applied in the purchase of the stock under par or by drawings at par, the latest redemption date being January 1, 1959. But the right is reserved to repay the outstanding amount at £105 per cent. on six months' notice. The company was formed in 1905, and holds interests in 15 transport undertakings in the provinces. Over 70 per cent. of the company's issued share capital is held by the British Electric Traction Company and Thomas Tilling, Limited. The last balance-sheet, as at December 31 last, showed net assets of £474,343. "Balance available for appropriation, including the amount brought forward," is shown for five years. But one would have preferred to see "net profits" shown? Ordinary dividends for these years were at the rate of 10 per cent. We recognise that the floating charge is here a necessity; interest payments should be well covered.

Welwyn Garden City, Limited.—

Authorised capital £250,000, divided into 250,000 7 per cent. cumulative shares of £1 each. Subscriptions are invited for £150,000 6 per cent. ten-year development bonds at par. Subject to £150,000 6 per cent. debentures, the bonds constitute a floating charge upon assets, but not on uncalled capital. Loans amounting to £185,712 have also been obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, which also rank in front of the present issue. The bonds are repayable on June 30, 1934, at the rate of £105 per cent. Surplus assets available for security are valued at £275,768. Thus there is a comfortable margin here. Altogether £27,600 per annum will be required for interest on borrowed capital. Development is naturally slow. For the year ended March 31, 1923, a profit of £9,143 was shown "before meeting a proportion of the interest charges." The investment is a well secured one for those to whom marketability is not of first importance, and the undertaking is one which firms and individuals should support in a practical way by subscribing for these bonds.

Burgess Dairy, Limited.—

Share capital £84,000, divided into 80,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 80,000 ordinary shares of 1s. each. There are no debentures, and none can be created other than to secure bankers' advances, except by permission of preference shareholders. This is an issue at par of the whole of the capital. The company has been formed to acquire a dairy business in Manchester. Surplus assets are valued at £57,736, and in addition the goodwill is valued at £20,264. The purchase price is £78,000, all of which is payable in cash, of which £70,000 is to go to the actual vendor. Out of the balance the promoter is to pay the preliminary expenses. The last five years' earnings are set out in the advertised prospectus. If the whole of the shares now offered for subscription are taken up, the preference shareholders will hold all except £4,000 of the £84,000 capital. This only needs a sharp decline in profits to take away the margin holders. The issue does not attract us.

Hereford (Travancore) Tea Estates, Limited.—

Share capital £40,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 35,000 have been issued. Of these 25,000 are now offered for subscription at par and 10,000 shares will be allotted in part payment of the purchase price. The abridged prospectus

states that the estates cover an area of 1,585 acres in the Shecottah District of Travancore, and the company will be entitled to all crops as from February 14th last. The purchase price is £20,000, of which £10,000 is payable in cash. The directors will not proceed to allotment unless 20,000 shares are subscribed for, and it is stated that on this basis sufficient should be available out of the present issue to bring the planted area up to 750 acres. A valuation of the estate at £26,000 is submitted. A speculative proposition.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price This Week.	Rise or Fall.
War 5½% 1925-28	96½	96½	—
Loans 4½% 1925-45	97½	97½	—
Do 4½% 1925-45	101½	101½	—
Funding Loan 4½%	88	87½	—½
Victory Bonds 4½%	92½	92½	—
Conversion Loan 3½%	77½	76½	—
Consols 2½%	56½	56½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½%	59	59½	½
Local Loans 3%	64½	65	½
Aust. 6% 1931-41	105	105	—
Canada 4½% 1920-25	100½	100½	—
India 3½% Stock	66½	66½	—
Do 7% 1926-31	113	113½	½
Do 5½% 1932	101½	101½	—
Do 4½%	87½	87½	—
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32	101	101	—
U. of S.A. 5% 1929-39	114	114	—
Nigeria 6% 1930-40	105	105	—
Victoria 5½% 1924-34	102	102	—
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40	104	104	—

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord.	107	106½	—½
London & North-Eastern	82½	81½	—
Do Pref. Ord.	29	28½	—½
Do Def. Ord.	96	95½	—½
Scottish, Ord. and	80½	80½	—
Metropolitan	51½	49½	—
Metropolitan District	37½	37½	—
Do Ord. "A"	85½	85½	—
Do Def. Ord.	41½	40½	—
Underground Electric	28	28	—
Do "A" (1)	8	8	—
Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	97½	97	—½

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, l.p.d.)	2½	2½	—
Chartered Bk of India	19½	19½	—
Lloyds (£5 with £1	3½	3½	—
Midland (£12, with	8½	8½	—
Nat. Bank of Egypt	25	25½	½
Nat. Bank of S. Africa	6	6	—
National Provincial	11½	10½	—
Standard B. Africa	10½	10½	—
Westminster Bank	17½	17½	—

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	95	96	+1
Do 4% 1st Pref.	41	42	+1
Do Non-cum Pref.	85½	84	—½

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antaganta Cons.	85	85	—
B.A. and Pacific	81½	80½	—
B.A. & Southern	88½	87½	—
Buenos Ayres West.	75	73	—2
Canadian Pacific	172	172	—
Central Argentine	73½	73½	—
Leopoldina	26	23½	—2½
Mexican Cons.	7	7	—
Do 1st Pref.	25	25	—
Do 2nd Pref.	11	11	—
San Paulo	161	155	—6
United Havana	87	86	—1

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7-100x	100	100	—
Austrian 5% Guar. 89	89	89	—
Belgian 3%	71	71	—
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914	76	77	+1
Chilian 4½% 1895	88	88	—
Do 7½%	105½	106	½
Chinese 5%, 1912	69	69	—
Egyptian 4%	75	75	—
French 5%	23½	24	½
Do 4%	19	18	—1
Greek 5%, 1884	54½	52½	—2
Japanese 4% 1910	62x	62	—
Do 6% 1924	91	90x	—1
Mexican Cons. 1889	42	43	+1
P.L.M. 6%	87½	88½	½
Portuguese (New)	26	26	—
Russian 5%, 1906	9	9	—
Spanish 4%	65½	66	½
Seine (Dept.) 7%	99½	99½	—
Siam 7%	107½	107½	—

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A"	23½	23½	—
Marconi Wireless	1½	1½	—
Marconi Canada	1½	1½	—
Marconi Marine	1½	1½	—

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (1)	1½	1½	—
Amal. Cottons (1)	3½	3½	—
Anglo Persian Oil (1)	3½	3½	—
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	1½	1½	—
Ass. Ind. Cement (1)	1½	1½	—
Barker, John (1)	2½	2½	—
Bham Small Arms (1)	58	55	—3
Brazil Traction (100)	58	55	—3
British-American	5½	5½	—
Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	—
Burmah Oil (1)	5½	5½	—
Coats (J. & P.) (1)	5½	5½	—
Courtauld (1)	5½	5½	—
Osmond (1)	5½	5½	—
Dorman, Long (1)	5½	5½	—
Dunlop Rubber (1)	5½	5½	—
Fine Cotton Spinners	5½	5½	—
(1)	5½	5½	—
Forestral Land (1)	5½	5½	—
Furness, Withy (1)	5½	5½	—
Highlands and Low	5½	5½	—
lands Rubber (1)	5½	5½	—
Hudson's Bay (1)	5½	5½	—
Imperial Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	—
Linggi Plantations (1)	5½	5½	—
Lipton (1)	5½	5½	—
Lever Bros. (1)	5½	5½	—
Do 8% Cum. Pref. (1)	5½	5½	—
Do 8% Cum. Pref. (1)	5½	5½	—
Lister (1)	5½	5½	—
Lobitos Oilfields (1)	5½	5½	—
Lyons (J.) & Co. (1)	5½	5½	—
Mexican Eagle (10)	5½	5½	—
Pekin (2)	5½	5½	—
Rubber Plantations	5½	5½	—
Investment (1)	5½	5½	—
Shell Transport (1)	5½	5½	—
Smithfield & Argentine	5½	5½	—
Meat (1)	5½	5½	—
United Dairies (1)	5½	5½	—
United Serdang (2)	5½	5½	—
United Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	—
Vallambrosa (2)	5½	5½	—
Vickers (1)	5½	5½	—
Wadley Def. Stk.	208½	215	+6½

Mines.

Brakpan (1)	5½	5½	—
Broken Hill Prop. (1)	5½	5½	—
Chartered (1)	5½	5½	—
Cons. Gold Fields (1)	5½	5½	—
Crown Mines (10)	5½	5½	—
Do Bears Def. (1)	5½	5½	—
East Rand Prop. (1)	5½	5½	—
Geduld (1)	5½	5½	—
Gov. Gold Areas	5½	5½	—
Knights	5½	5½	—
Modderfontein (10)	5½	5½	—
Modderfont. "B" (5)	5½	5½	—
Modderfont. Deep (5)	5½	5½	—
Premier Def. (2/6)	5½	5½	—
Rand Mines (5)	5½	5½	—
Selkwe	5½	5½	—
Bio Tinto (1)	5½	5½	—
Spring Mines (1)	5½	5½	—

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS FINANCE
AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS CONDUCTED.
DEB

GENERAL ELECTRIC, LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS OF YEAR'S TRADE.

"The annual general meeting of this company was held, on the 3th instant, at Magnet House, Kingsway, London.

Mr. Hugo Hirst (chairman and managing director), who presided, said that, comparing the profit and loss account with last year, it would be noticed that the total earning capacity of the company had increased by £84,000, or, roughly, 11 per cent. If the major part of this increase was due to income from investment, it should be understood that the increased revenue from investment was not due to successful speculation of any kind. He regretted that the directors had still been unable to deal with the items "premium on purchase of Fraser and Chalmers" and "expenses of issue of debenture stock." They could not expect the full results of their courageous forward policy until the world's effort towards more stabilised political and economic conditions was nearer realisation.

General export business had not yet come back to normal; a little over 20 per cent. of their total business last year went overseas, and whilst the volume of this business materially contributed towards the efficiency of the company's works and helped them generally in their overhead charges, the prices obtained abroad had been so close that they left little or no profit to most of their overseas organisations, though a considerable improvement was showing itself in South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

HOME TRADE.

The home trade in most of the company's products had been very satisfactory. They had maintained their predominant position in the lamp business. Thanks to the improvement in the building trades and the greater activity in the supply industry, their fittings and accessories business throughout the country had progressed favourably. Their cable and wire business had grown sufficiently to lift them into the front rank of the cable makers of this country.

The wireless department had rapidly developed, and was adding to the company's revenue. The telephone industry was enjoying at present a state bordering on prosperity, and their new Coventry works were actually full with work. Heavier electrical engineering had benefited largely from the works undertaken by Government, municipal, and railway concerns to alleviate distress in the employment market, though the prices obtained for this were not, in his opinion, commensurate with the risks involved.

Amongst the more notable contracts which they had received were a number of turbo generators, ranging from 15,000 to 25,000 kilowatts, for the Corporations of Birmingham, Marylebone, Sydney, Adelaide, and Brisbane; also a large number of traction rotary converters for the Southern Railway. They had further been fortunate in securing a contract for the equipment of 46 motor-coaches for the London Underground Railway, and for a number of motors for various tramway undertakings. At present they were building rolling mill motors up to 20,000 h.p. They had orders on hand for large steam winders and for some of the largest material-handling plant ever built, for Barking and Beckton. They had further perfected on a system of their own plant for the use of powdered fuel, which they thought was highly successful, and a number of orders were in course of execution.

The most satisfactory feature of last year's activities was that there had been more work coming their way. They had been able to put on the company's pay-roll over 2,000 more breadwinners, making their total employees about 17,500. He always felt that our leaders in politics, in law, in the Press, and generally in the classes that ruled us and made our laws, did not sufficiently realise and understand the importance of what an industrial concern like the G.E.C. meant to the country. If they understood it there would have been no repeal of the McKenna duties.

FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY.

His belief in the future of the electrical industry was unbounded. The whole world, damaged, disfigured, and badly mauled as a result of the war, was waiting for reconstruction, for better means of transport and communication. Electricity alone could supply it. Exactly as steam came to the rescue of the world, and particularly of this country, after the Napoleonic wars, so he was convinced the electric unit, properly produced and distributed, would save the world from the much greater ordeal through which it had recently passed, and would play a particularly great part in the linking up and development of the British Empire. The company, by developing its manufacturing resources in every branch of electrical engineering, by establishing sales organisations at home and overseas, had made itself technically and commercially fit to meet all demands, whether they came for the home or the factory, for the mine or the land, or for transport by rail, air, or sea. Whatever the present difficulties, the future of the company should and must be bright.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, LIMITED.

COMPANY'S POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The thirtieth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Howard and Bullough, Limited, was held at Globe Works, Accrington, on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at 12 o'clock noon. The chairman of the company (Sir George Bullough, Bart.) presided.

The report of the directors and auditors and balance-sheet were taken as read.

In moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, the Chairman said: "When we met last year I alluded to the causes which had brought in their train the good results then experienced; but I also drew attention to the change that had already set in and to the restricted business available at low price levels consequent upon the depression in the cotton trade. This necessitated a curtailment of working hours per week during the whole of the year under review, and a corresponding reduction of weekly output. Hence the turnover and trading profits as compared with last year's are less, and we must look to an early revival in the cotton trade for a brisker demand for machinery. I am, however, glad to be able to say that there are signs of improvement discernible, and for the time being the works are on full time."

SALE OF AMERICAN SHARES.

"In the mutual interests of all concerned, it was deemed by your directors good policy to transfer by sale a block of common stock in the Howard and Bullough American Machine Co., hitherto held by us, to the principal American shareholders who have the control and management of the Pawtucket Works. This sale, in consequence of the enhanced value of the stock since the American firm's reconstruction in 1912, resulted in an additional profit for this financial year, and we are able to recommend the payment of 2½ per cent. over and above the customary 10 per cent. dividend to our ordinary shareholders, making in all 12½ per cent. for the year. The remaining sum of £152,999 7s 11d we propose to carry forward to next account."

"I trust these recommendations may have your approval, and I now beg to move that the report of the directors and auditors as presented in the balance-sheet be allowed and passed."

Mr J. W. Carlisle, of Clitheroe, seconded, and the resolution was carried.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

Mr William Lancaster, of Burnley, moved that a dividend be paid for the half-year ending May 31, 1924, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference shares; and a fourth quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent. less income tax, together with an additional payment of 6d per ordinary share, less income-tax, on the ordinary shares, making with the dividend already paid 12½ per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares.

Mr W. I. Bromiley, of Bolton, seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS.

Colonel H. Wilson, of Mirfield, said he had very great pleasure in moving the re-election of Mr James Redman and Mr William D. Smith as directors of the company.

Mr C. Moorhouse, of Altham, seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr Redman expressed thanks on behalf of Mr Smith (who was absent on business) and himself for their re-election.

Mr Jos. E. Dooley, of Accrington, proposed the re-election of Messrs John Adamson, Son and Co., of Manchester, as auditors of the company, on the same terms as before.

Mr V. Murphy, of Blundellsands, seconded, and it was approved.

Mr William Woodcock, of Haslingden, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and co-directors, and to the staff and workers for their services.

Mr W. Bannister, of Accrington, seconded.
Sir George Bullough suitably responded.

LIPTON, LIMITED.

EFFECT OF FALL IN MARKET VALUES.

The annual general meeting of Lipton, Limited, was held, on the 7th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London. Sir Thomas Lipton, Bart., presided.

The Chairman, after a few introductory remarks, called upon Mr Alfred Bowker (a director) to deal with the accounts.

Mr Bowker, in the course of his statement, pointed out that the balance of net profit was £292,244, compared with £337,056 a year ago.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman said that the main cause in bringing about the set back in the profits was the continued fall in market values of most of the

principal commodities the company supplied to the public. This item alone represented a loss of profit greater than the total decrease in net profit shown in the accounts. They had made, during the year under review, an exceedingly large number of reductions in prices affecting the majority of the lines they handled, as the directors believed it to be good policy to pass on to the consumer any benefit obtained from lower market prices at the earliest possible moment. These reductions in prices had almost always been caused by falling market values of the various commodities concerned. A striking illustration of the effect of these falling market values could be found in a comparison of the average prices of some of the company's biggest lines during last year compared with those of the previous year. For instance, several of the most important lines sold by the company, including bacon, cheese, and butter, showed decreases in value ranging as high as 30 per cent. They were, of course, obliged to keep considerable stocks of these lines in their branches, warehouses, and in transit, and it was impossible to avoid altogether the losses caused by the fall in market values, but such losses were kept down to the absolute minimum.

REDUCING COST OF LIVING.

In lowering prices they had the satisfaction of knowing they were doing their share towards reducing the cost of living, and it had always been their policy to supply their customers at prices fixed on the smallest possible margin of profit for the highest quality of goods. Whilst the trade of the country was improving, and there were indications of a gradual return to pre-war conditions, we were still handicapped by a very large measure of unemployment, which, coupled with heavy taxation, greatly curtailed the purchasing power of the people. He feared we had yet a long way to go before we got back to normal conditions. In order to counteract, as far as possible, the effect of the shrinkage in the values of their stocks and the consequent decrease in their profits, they had introduced throughout their organisation all possible economies consistent with maintaining proper efficiency. During the period under review they had opened a further number of new branches, and others were now in course of being fitted up, whilst negotiations for selected sites in promising markets were in progress.

DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION.

This policy of development and extension they intended to continue, opening up wherever and whenever favourable opportunities presented themselves, as they firmly believed that, however extensive their business might be, there was no limit to the possibilities of further profitable expansion. This was particularly the case in the sale of their tea and the food commodities manufactured in their own factories, all of which carried that guarantee of quality and value which was always associated with their name, and were retailed direct to the public, without intermediate profits of any description. In this connection they had considered it advisable to purchase the freehold or long leasehold premises of several of their branches on sites which the board regarded as specially favourable for their particular class of business in order to extend their trade in these markets. The goods of their own manufacture continued to enjoy a growing popularity with their customers, and they were at this moment actively engaged in extending largely their present factories in order to cope with the increasing demand for these products. Their general export trade continued steadily to expand and showed improvement, despite the fact that many countries which were formerly amongst their best customers were still in a very disturbed condition. Fluctuations in exchange continued to be a disturbing feature, and they had had their full share of difficulty in this connection, but during the year under review they had carried on their export department with practically no bad debts at all. Finally, he said they could have paid a dividend on the ordinary shares of 12½ per cent. for the year, as had been done for some years past, but the directors deemed it wiser and in the best interests of the company to recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, leaving £42,884 to be carried forward, subject to corporations' profit tax.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The formal business was transacted, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

THE MOND NICKEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

EXPLORING CANADA'S MINERAL DEPOSITS.

The tenth annual general meeting of the Mond Nickel Co., Limited, was held, on the 10th inst., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, the Right Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, dealt at some length with the accounts, and pointed out that the credit balance for the year was £276,457, which showed a slight reduction as compared with the previous year. The decrease, he said, was due almost entirely to the low prices which had prevailed during the year for the company's main products—nickel and copper sulphate. Owing to severe competition the price of nickel was

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital	- £10,000,000	Issued Capital	- £8,734,660
Reserve Fund	- £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	- £4,367,330

Northern District Office	-	69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch	-	19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

unduly depressed during the first part of the year, but during the latter part prices had shown some signs of recovery, and there was a prospect that in the future the price of nickel would reach a more reasonable figure. He also hoped that the same might apply to copper, although he could not speak with very much confidence on this point. Any rise in the price of copper would naturally affect the price which the company obtained for its copper in the form of copper sulphate, and they would benefit thereby in a considerable degree. France and Italy had been disturbed by exchange fluctuations, making it extremely difficult indeed both to the buyer and to the seller to carry on any normal kind of business. Abnormal conditions did not last for ever, and the time must come when prices would become stabilised. He thought, therefore, they could look with more confidence to the results of the next financial year. There was a gratifying increase of 47 per cent. over the previous year in the tonnage of nickel sold, and he was pleased to say that the demand for the company's nickel showed a very steady increase. It might interest the shareholders to know that while at the beginning of last year the company had definite commitments on its books to the extent of about 30 per cent. of their annual nickel production, this year they started with orders in hand for about 70 per cent. of their production.

He was pleased to announce that they had recently associated themselves with the Central Mining and Investment Corporation in the formation of a syndicate called "The Victoria Syndicate, Limited," for the purpose of exploring the rich mineral deposits which undoubtedly existed in Canada. They were fortunate in being associated in this venture with some of the ablest and most experienced men in the mining world.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SPIERS AND POND, LIMITED.

"STRONG AND HEALTHY FINANCIAL POSITION."

The fortieth annual general meeting of Spiers and Pond, Limited, was held, on the 6th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London.

Sir J. S. Harmood Banner, Bart., M.P. (the chairman), said there was an increase in profit of some £4,000 as compared with the previous year. A year ago the profit and loss account was swollen by a windfall of over £12,000, surplus on realisation of investments. The net result was that they had carried to the balance-sheet a profit of £113,600 against £119,700 a year ago. The directors recommended a total dividend of 12½ per cent. for the year, of which 5 per cent. had already been paid, and the balance would be paid on the 11th inst. The balance-sheet showed that the company was in an exceedingly strong and healthy financial position. The company had extended their railway catering business by taking over the London, Chatham and Dover section of the Southern Railway, which included the very important business at Victoria Station, and had also taken over the Isle of Wight Railways. They were now responsible for the catering arrangements over all the constituent lines of the Southern Railway, with one exception. It was an important business involving a turnover of hundreds of thousands of pounds a year.

As to the company's hotels, they had well held their position and their deservedly high reputation. A considerable amount of money had been spent in improving the accommodation at their two London hotels, Bailey's and the South Kensington Hotel.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(Dec. 31, 1923) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

With regard to the Hotel Metropole at Blackpool, this magnificent property once more gave satisfactory returns. The Empire Hotel at Bath went steadily on maintaining its high reputation and doing even better than before, and the future of this property gave the directors no anxieties. As to the Granville Hotel at Ramsgate, he supposed that they had had more letters of appreciation of the solid comfort it afforded to its guests than they had had in connection with any other of the company's properties. The Valley of Rocks Hotel at Lynton, surely one of the most beautifully situated hotels in the country, had given them a good return on their investments, and the Bushey Hall Hotel, with its facilities for golf and tennis, to say nothing of its proximity to Wembley, was continuing to attract many guests. On the hotel side of their business the last year was one of steady and satisfactory progress. They had acquired a site of some 20 acres in one of the most favoured resorts, with business practically all the year round. The directors believed this to be one of the finest hotel sites in the country.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Silver Coin.	Redemption Account.					
				Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Mort- gage Secur- ities.	Balance Bank of England.	
1922.									
Mar. 23.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177	
June 28.....	295,374	15,338	5,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	264,312	950	
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,456	169	
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922	137	
1923.									
Mar. 28.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294	120	
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446	123	
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.5	238,596	140	
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.5	255,032	159	
1924.									
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,938	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,867	130	
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,198	140	
July 2.....	292,175	12,869	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.9	248,373	161	
July 9.....	293,686	12,483	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.8	249,620	99	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,800,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,185,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,300.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts, July 1 to July 5, 1924.	Receipts, July 1 to July 5, 1923.	Receipts, July 1 to July 5, 1922.	Receipts, July 1 to July 5, 1921.
Balance in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England.....	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..	..
REVENUE.	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..	..
Customs.....	26,917,000	34,492,000	2,057,000	2,203,000	..
Excise.....	31,132,000	37,695,000	852,000	1,217,000	..
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	2,636,000	2,377,000	240,000	236,000	..
Stamps.....	17,433,000	14,920,000	530,000	1,130,000	..
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	3,980,000	4,960,000	..	120,000	..
Property & Income Tax	550,000	430,000	..	10,000	..
Super-Tax.....	48,724,000	47,191,000	4,184,000	4,143,000	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	18,210,000	15,000,000	1,040,700	800,000	..
Corporation Profits Tax	4,960,000	5,700,000	283,000	..	..
Post Office.....	12,950,000	12,350,000	750,000	1,000,000	..
Crown Lands.....	270,000	260,000	..	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	5,374,279	5,001,195	1,363,534	578,684	..
Ordinary Receipts.....	3,886,715	4,576,634	630,061	21	..
Special Receipts.....	11,534,949	15,813,621	398,961	..	..
Revenue.....	188,554,943	198,769,450	12,323,546	11,767,705	..
Total, Inc. Balance.....	195,186,557	205,587,617	..	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	65,000	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	3,470,000	1,750,000	150,000	240,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1921.....	2,200,000	1,750,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	270,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills.....	617,901,000	655,662,000	37,904,000	51,341,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	7,400,000	13,100,000	550,000	900,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,143,020	29,167,571	715,257	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	264,491,500	258,553,500	2,000,000	5,750,000	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	505,894	115,136	16,993	72,912	..
Total.....	1,104,298,971	1,166,020,824	53,653,796	70,071,617	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	—	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to July 5, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 7, 1923.	July 1 to July 5, 1924.	Week Ended July 7, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	122,355,740	132,906,946	3,833,695	4,394,714	..
Sinking Fund.....	7,762,865	1,440,044	..	..	..
Road Fund.....	1,795,044	..	..	..	..
Payments to Local Tax- ation Accounts, &c.....	810,000	500,000	190,000	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	1,123,863	1,021,666	75,000	75,000	..
Land Settlement.....	241,616	107,227	..	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	715,336	874,913	7,940,337	7,000,000	..
Supply Services.....	92,569,337	89,033,000	12,313,367	11,469,714	..
Expenditure.....	227,403,831	225,683,726	..	..	..
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	5,000	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	36,891	36,891	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	270,000	..	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure— Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922.....	2,200,000	1,750,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	1,000	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921— Repayment of amounts borrowed..	3,320,000	1,510,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills.....	613,475,000	667,606,000	25,155,000	51,595,000	..
Principal of National Savings Cer- tificates.....	8,650,000	9,950,000	600,000	700,000	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....	..	16,854,989	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	50	268,987	..	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	245,973,500	237,950,500	15,543,000	6,220,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	55,214	..	..	..
Salances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	1,101,060,272	1,162,140,307	53,611,367	69,984,714	..
Bank of Ireland.....	2,057,370	1,980,513	21,374	39,442	..
Bank of Scotland.....	1,181,329	1,900,004	69,803	126,345	..
Total.....	3,238,699	3,880,517	48,429	86,903	..
Treasury, July 7, 1924.					

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	July 5, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan.....	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
National War Bonds.....	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	903	903	903
4% Funding Loan.....	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	400	400
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	325	325
Treasury Bonds.....	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	444	457
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certs.....	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	365
Other Debt.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151
American Loan (Anglo- French).....	..	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills.....	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	652	588	593
Temporary Advances.....	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	204
Other Capital Liabilities.....	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,695	7,730
Total Liabilities.....	57	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	July 7, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	July 5, '24.	5 Days Ended July 5, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	9,500,000
Outstanding—	..	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,043,000
Advances by Public Deptms.	213,500,500	183,155,500	200,923,500	12,670,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	604,125,000	588,320,000	592,755,000	873,000
Total Floating Debt	818,625,500	774,475,500	797,428,500	..

* Includes £9,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from July 14-July 19 were opened on July 11, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £61,060,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 2s 4d, about 5 per cent., and above in full. Saturday at £99 2s 7d, above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—in bills at 3 months, £29,950,000; in bonds £50,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price
June 6, 1924.	35,000,000	61,140,000	2 18 3/52	94 13 24
June 13.....	35,000,000	58,385,000	2 18 3/52	94 13 0
June 20.....	35,000,000	47,995,000	2 19 3/39	94 13 0
June 27.....	35,000,000	59,625,000	3 2 9/42	94 13 0
July 4.....	30,000,000	66,220,000	3 6 5/43	94 13 0
July 11.....	30,000,000	61,060,000	3 9 5/96	94 13 0

Tenders will be received on July 18, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted)

	04/30/04	04/30/03	04/30/02	03/31/01
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	32,200	52,110	9,650	14,660
Other deposits	2,042,290	2,066,350	1,125,830	1,959,590
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,874,270	1,843,920	1,851,840	2,282,050
Federal Reserve Notes in potential circulation	nil	nil	nil	1,520
All other liabilities	15,610	15,310	36,450	36,450
Capital and surplus	332,320	332,340	332,390	327,950
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	81.5%	82.8%	82.1%	74.4%

	July 14, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 24, 1924.	May 17, 1924.	June 1, 1925.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	549	549	549	549	549	533
Gold certificates	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,102	10,021
Subsidiary coin	30	30	30	30	30	125
Bills discounted	3,407	4,018	4,708	4,145	4,077	1,863
Loans & advances to Gv.	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,000	2,000	2,000
Investments	17	17	17	17	17	9
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	40	40	40	40	40	40
Notes in circulation	10,342	10,675	10,873	10,457	10,473	9,692
Bankers' deposits	4,997	5,778	5,671	5,219	5,143	5,439
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	69.7%	67%	64.6%	68.2%	68.5%	71%

ASSETS.	June 3, 1924	June 6, 1924	May 30, 1924	May 23, 1924	May 16, 1924	June 15, 1923.
Total securities	11,70.96	11,81.66	11,84.51	11,80.70	11,84.94	12,000.00
Loans	22,67.46	24,37.32	24,05.89	23,52.52	24,68.18	18,80.47
Cash credits	37,75.42	38,14.84	38,91.46	39,64.55	40,13.24	28,90.64
Inland bills	12,54.04	12,71.21	13,10.24	13,26.46	13,31.06	6,15.21
Foreign bills	19.47	20.13	23.48	31.97	43.47	36.56
Dead stock	2,65.61	2,65.31	2,55.46	2,55.25	2,54.51	2,49.75
Bal. with other banks	1,68.29	1,62.92	1,62.70	1,70.91	1,33.38	61.00
Cash	16,55.74	15,54.63	18,17.79	17,12.59	15,66.09	21,05.10
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50
Reserve	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,22.50
Total deposits	90,36.92	91,61.51	93,38.60	90,35.61	88,83.67	74,98.88
Loans from Govt.	4,00.00	4,00.00	6,00.00	8,00.00	10,00.00	
The above includes—						
Deposits in London	£ 1,476	£ 1,497	£ 1,467	£ 1,355	£ 1,337	£ 601
Advances in London	443	448	442	442	448	250
Cash, &c., at other banks	1,123	1,386	1,085	937	889	704

	July 10, 1934.	July 5, 1934.	June 26, 1934.	July 12, 1933.	Position May 28, 1933.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,543,284	5,555,218	5,543,344	5,554,344	
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,345	3,730,635
Silver coin and bullion	299,870	299,803	299,722	293,518	633,66
Discounts and advances	7,645,217	7,338,457	6,347,275	4,493,437	2,327,77
Advances to the State	23,000,000	25,100,000	33,000,000	35,500,000	
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	40,224,979	40,125,648	39,664,662	37,400,059	5,811,6
Government deposits	15,235	14,793	13,385	25,747	183,77
Private deposits	2,200,242	2,205,672	2,137,256	2,099,592	845,9

	July 3, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	June 19, 1924.	June 12, 1924.	July 5, 1923.	Positi May 2 1914.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	354,613	355,257	355,049	355,521	348,272	322,66
Securities	1,325,043	1,343,228	1,330,786	1,312,442	777,009	697,69
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula- tion	7,682,979	7,524,223	7,519,789	7,604,100	6,794,041	934,11
Current accounts..	319,082	382,530	371,129	311,537	440,664	131,11

	July 7, 1894.	June 30, 1894.	June 23, 1894.	June 16, 1894.	July 9, 1893.	Position May 30,
ASSETS.						
Gold	\$31,511	\$31,511	\$31,511	\$31,408	\$22,792	\$16,000
Silver	10,032	10,296	10,440	9,966	10,439	16,500
Deots. and advances	430,195	398,460	375,403	389,321	364,269	84,500
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulat'n.	993,530	984,525	947,580	961,956	953,434	316,600
Deposits	65,400	47,308	46,856	49,950	38,367	

		July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 1, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.							
Gold	}	216,500	207,000	206,500	211,285	183,311	22,975
Silver						62,133	27,785
Discounts, advances, and other investments		138,590	134,200	133,480	130,590	158,321	77,567
LIABILITIES.							
Notes in circulation		256,500	253,000	253,500	257,000	272,138	109,495
Deposits and bills payable		82,000	71,430	65,980	62,420	82,729	11,350

	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 1924.
Assets.				
Gold and bullion	(a) 462	(a) 463	(a) 448	(a) 4
Treasury notes	698,000	752,000	849,000	864,000
Rentenbank notes	278,188.072	474,290.965	413,685.935	333,972.000
Bills of exchange and cheques	840,040.939	824,118.486	842,638.943	821,254.000
Rentenbank bills and cheques	1,057,554.157	1,047,833,928	1,111,364.284	1,131,571.000
Advances	21,748.210	15,001.560	20,274.080	17,008.000
Rentenbank accounts, &c.	87,041.100	85,933.860	80,075.100	100,646.000
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,097,308.572	891,345.752	923,582.982	954,249.000
Total deposits	773,927.319	1,071,699.350	1,001,620.678	845,540.000
Loan from Rentenbank	800,000.000	800,000.000	800,000.000	800,000.000

GERMAN RENTENBANK.—In Rentenmarks.

	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	April 30, 1924.
ASSETS.			
Mort. on industry, agriculture, &c.	Millions. 3,200	Millions. 3,200	Millions. 3,200
Loans to the Reich not bearing int.	196	196	200
Loans to the Reich bearing interest	1,000	1,000	900
Loans to the Reichsbank	800	800	800
Loans to other note issue banks	Thousands. 70,203	Thousands. 70,650	Thousands. 71,934
Temporarily transferred to Reichsbank and Post Office	Millions. 100	Millions. 100	Millions. 100
Credits at other banks	Thousands. 74,987	Thousands. 71,633	Thousands. 62,470
Furniture, &c.	67	67	66
LIABILITIES.			
Original capital	Millions. 2,400	Millions. 2,400	Millions. 2,400
" reserve	800	800	800
Reutenmark notes in circulation	Thousands. 2,049,788	Thousands. 2,050,361	Thousands. 1,951,618
Rentendeeds in circulation	196	196	

Assets.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 25, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold.....	505,587	512,872	512,872	512,859	524,659	171,175
Silver.....	93,183	95,573	100,486	101,887	102,347	18,350
Assets & advances	249,760	255,833	232,496	237,674	257,201	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	850,191	877,104	814,663	823,727	865,852	275,922
Deposits.....	74,112	62,915	96,684	102,899	82,463	33,750

Assets.	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	Apr. 30, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 30, 1919.
Coin and bullion ..	209,554	209,562	209,562	209,567	228,194	76,544
Loans & discounts ..	50,462	480,042	472,543	468,808	399,235	78,000
Debtors abroad ..	3,449	21,749	32,714	24,802	14,246	14,102
Securities	9,391	8,251	8,292	8,300	7,645	11,882
Circulation	477,411	480,379	468,767	462,631	482,301	167,206
Deposits	78,582	69,668	62,737	73,313		

Assets.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	June 6, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold.....	147,285	147,285	147,285	147,288	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills.....	17,801	18,036	19,439	22,702	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Gov- ernment securities.....	9,008	9,008	9,008	9,404	8,816
Discounts and loans.....	446,214	435,178	441,191	490,128	76,911
Notes in circulation.....	395,297	379,714	376,967	415,033	113,484
Deposits at notice.....	107,351	107,383	107,383	107,383	107,383

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

ASSETS.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	July 7, 1923.	May 24, 1924.
Gold.....	249,306	247,321	247,261	247,356	273,025	104,911
Balance abroad and foreign bills	32,795	29,373	28,379	23,916	29,686	112,171
Swedish and for. Gov. securities..	56,724	56,724	56,790	56,999	147,284	32,461
Discounts & loans	469,503	475,441	476,694	480,819	332,236	112,661
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula- tion	522,598	529,481	511,714	501,716	547,990	225,561
Deposits at notice	217,137	217,101	228,375	234,605		

Assets.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	June 23, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	42,965	42,965	42,965	42,704	35,000
Balance abroad and foreign bills	401,873	469,625	493,496	685,988	50,375
Finnish and Foreign Govern- ment securities	98,642	498,642	498,642	571,436	81,250
Discounts and loans	982,442	979,816	975,172	778,642	106,110
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	1,297,629	1,317,125	1,351,340	1,420,110	1,133,900
Deposits at notice	241,085				

BALANCE SHEET—IN LACS (gold francs) ('000's omitted).					
ASSETS.	July 2, 1924.	June 25, 1924.	June 4, 1924.	Jan. 2, 1924.	Nov. 2, 1923.
Total cash	18,776	18,245	17,803	13,409	19,922
Gold coin & bullion	21,012	21,005	20,893	15,575	12,018
Of which held abroad	5,854	5,854	5,854	2,508	3,099
Foreign banks	45,806	46,979	48,902	50,297	34,468
Discounts and loans	68,660	66,852	63,087	38,382	9,555
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	25,800	25,708	25,300	23,000	4,000
Capital paid up	10,260	10,860	10,260	10,214	8,000
Government deposits	75,510	74,813	72,711	38,585	16,669
Other deposits	38,611	38,070			

		1914-15. (000's omitted).					
ASSETS.		June 30,	June 15,	May 31,	May 15,	Apr. 30,	June 15,
		1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.
Gold		24,415	24,415	24,353	24,284	24,210	19,220
Silver		90	90	76	67	54	16,420
Dollars & sterling, &c.		55,385	57,501	59,773	60,925	60,010	56,420
Discount and credit		30,911	32,292	30,956	29,961	27,364	27,770
LIABILITIES.							
Capital		12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve		100	100	100	100	100	100
Banknotes in circulation		67,863	70,371	70,978	72,388	71,584	48,550
Deposits		42,911					

Assets.						
	June 30, 1924.	June 16, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 15, 1924.	Apr. 15, 1924.	
Coin and bullion	2,607	1,936	1,458	1,906	1,924	
Of which gold coin		18				
Danish subsidiary coin	2,550	1,919	1,458	1,906	1,924	
Balance, Bank of England, inc. notes	15,928	12,895	14,658	1,906	1,924	
Bills of exchange	13,653	13,918	13,270	11,196	12,100	
Loans	1,957	2,662	2,792	1,040	1,040	
Foreign exchange	8,337	9,799	9,265	11,168	11,168	
Other balances on demand	1,715	1,139	1,298	340	1,168	
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	
Notes in circulation	21,007	16,600	18,414	16,488	17,000	
Deposits on demand	15,816	18,701	17,300	13,086	18,701	

ASSETS.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Bank- ing Office	10,096,974	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,973	10,096,862
Discounts & advances Gold & silver holdings	2,168,944	2,079,398	2,068,925	2,084,787	2,089,716	1,835,867
Foreign bills and balances abroad	1,047,933	1,047,481	1,046,689	1,046,943	1,056,189	977,669
Other assets	674,283	662,474	679,325	678,211	659,567	1,937,885
	366,034	164,412	177,567	206,753	271,601	693,233
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circ'lated ..	8,081,166	7,538,631	7,708,428	7,882,172	8,078,418	9,375,991
Deposits	4,836,608	5,090,296	4,948,362	4,809,372	4,683,547	4,780,428
Other liabilities	1,436,464	1,421,799	1,412,689	1,423,223	1,401,132	1,406,097

ASSETS.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
Gold	107,761,841	107,689,064	107,606,197	73,593,999
Foreign bills	3,178,339.56	3,062,499.85	3,008,885.25	2,530,115.95
Bills discounted	2,801,734.34	2,771,392,810	2,709,049,235	7,130,136.66
Treasury bills	2,237,794,430	2,245,866,350	2,258,897,500	2,547,211,870
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund.	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	
Notes in circulation	7,771,567,869	7,708,172,257	7,218,023,688	5,433,619,312
Deposits	741,392,511	1,030,739,537	766,411,368	641,576,199

(omitted).		June 30, 1924.
ASSETS.		
Metal reserve—		1947.
Gold coin and bullion.....		246,944.
Drafts and notes included under Article 85 of the Statutes		681,267.
Silver coin and bullion.....		9,822.
Where capital not yet paid up (gold crowns 13,306,135.49)		214,456.
Inland bills, warrants, and securities.....		1,192,516.
Advance on securities.....		17,566.
Advances to the Treasury.....		1,980,000.
LIABILITIES.		
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000).....		449,673.
Notes in circulation.....		2,893,718.
Current accounts, deposits, &c.....		1,136,709.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SMITHS, CO.					
ASSETS.	June 30, 1893.	June 22, 1894.	June 15, 1894.	June 8, 1894.	June 30, 1895.
Gold	72,329	72,328	72,320	72,328	
Coin, notes and notes	20,318	17,385	17,317	18,533	19,647
Foreign credits	34,632	350,237	352,110	354,860	273,819
Bills	1,143,393	1,149,072	1,163,644	1,182,325	1,240,721
Govt. advances	4,564,516	4,560,129	4,580,134	4,560,134	4,491,608
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,133,052	5,408,318	5,540,840	5,512,026	5,506,822
State credits	389,945	387,913	387,918	387,918	238,045
Deposits	513,236	523,095	497,116	500,070	598,368

	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	July 7, 1925.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold.....	2,534,331	2,534,162	2,533,974	2,533,782	2,525,764	521,776
Silver.....	667,886	666,424	658,357	657,615	664,339	728,600
Loans & discounts.....	2,375,227	2,221,183	2,267,101	2,273,156	2,067,233	800,725
Spanish 4% stock.....	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation.....	4,407,938	4,324,648	4,346,051	4,365,637	4,140,210	801,550
Deposits.....	973,587	965,114	942,806	943,090	980,243	477,500

Assets.	June 10, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 20, 1924.	May 10, 1924.	June 10, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914
Total cash	1,550,095	1,600,777	1,599,833	1,567,907	1,445,170	1,221,875
Inland bills	2,974,056	3,043,821	3,014,619	3,037,521	4,834,911	418,400
Foreign bills	15,793	15,780	15,775	15,903	15,563	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	5,667,655	5,667,671	5,701,089	5,701,159	5,832,137	nil
Other advances	1,636,467	1,893,989	1,715,591	1,857,034	1,704,781	79,175
Securities	375,489	373,595	371,416	372,523	407,103	205,700
Note circulation	12,441,491	12,413,615	12,203,833	12,480,917	12,461,889	1,556,295
Deposits & drafts	1,957,801	2,089,851	1,888,875	1,737,421	1,312,987	193,975

	July 4, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	July 8, 1924.	July 9, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 11, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4 %	4 %	4 %	4 %	4 %	4 %	4 %
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %
3 months' do	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %
4 months' do	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %
6 months' do	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %	5 1/2 %
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
3 months	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %
Loans—Day to day	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %	1 %
Short	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
Deposit allowances: Banks	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %
Discount houses at call	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %
At notice	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %

! Additional to those offered by tender in the preceding week

[illegible]

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 838 chervonets.
\$1,000 " " 1937 "

London on	Usance	Par.	July 3, 1923.	July 4, 1924.	July 11, 1924.
Paris	franco to £1	T.T.	25-224	78-10-20	85-05-15
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	110/150,000	18-20 billm
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	315/325,000	307/309,000
Wrague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	153-153½	1474-148
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-223	..	22-45-70
Roval	franco to £1	T.T.	..	1775	17701
Riga	lata to £1	T.T.	25-224	..	22-37-61
Bukaresa	lei to £1	T.T.	25-224	870-890	1008-1100
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	35000-40000	1100-1040
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	710-730	340/370,000
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25-224	480-530	590-610
Belgrade	dinara to £1	T.T.	25-224	420-440	538-364
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	21-107	11-77-12	11-49-50
Brussels	franco to £1	T.T.	25-223	..	964-968
Christiania	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	28-17-23	32-55-58
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-31-34	16-37-38
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	26-18-23	27-23-27
Helingsfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-224	166-166½	1724-1732
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-224	155-165	253-255
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-222	107-107½	102-102½
Switzerland	franco to £1	T.T.	25-224	26-35-36	23-34-35
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-224	32-07-12	32-85-86
Lisbon	pence to £1	T.T.	53-4	2-2½	1-7
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97½	97½
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86-8	4-59-59	4-35-38
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-70-71	4-37-38	4-32-32
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47-62-63	40-4	40-4
Rio de Janeiro	pence to peso	90 days	51	4-41-41	40-4
Santiago	pence to peso	T.T.	15-33	35-60	42-43
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	13-33	35-60	41-80
Singapore	Sing. to Per. £1	90 days	par	82½ prem.	6½ prem.
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	1s 4-6-6d	1s 5-3-6d
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Gold	1s 4-6-6d	1s 5-3-6d
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Sovn.	1s 4-6-6d	1s 5-3-6d
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 2-4-4d	2s 4-4-4d
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	..	2s 2-4-4d	2s 3-3-3d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 3-3-3d	2s 4-4-4d
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24-58d	2s 1-4-4d	1s 10-4-4d
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24-066	12s 1-4d	12s 3-4d
Mexico	pence to doles.	T.T.	..	24d-26d	22d-28dmm

† Rate for previous day.

The Unending Search



The triumphs of science are the results of controlled imagination, close calculation, and unswerving devotion to a definite ideal.

Seventy years of thought and experiment lie behind the complete security represented by The Chatwood Safe and Strong Room of to-day. During that period the skill of the burglar has increased enormously. The modern Bill Sikes uses such scientific aids as the electric drill, the almost soundless high explosive and—perhaps most powerful of all—the oxy-acetylene flame, which cuts through ordinary steel as a hot knife passes through butter.

It has been no easy matter to provide a sure defence against attacks by such weapons, but through concentration on this one high aim every possible risk has been foreseen and countered in The Chatwood Safe and Strong Room.

THE Since 1858
CHATWOOD
SAFE —————

THE CHATWOOD SAFE BOOK, containing full details of the security system and offered, also expresses in some measure the high ideals of the firm. A copy is sent gratis on receipt of a postcard.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., LTD.
Bankers' Engineers, BOLTON, Eng.

H.A.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	%	Changed.	%
Amsterdam Jan. 24, 1924 .. 7 1/2		Madrid Jan. 25, 1923 .. 5	
Athens Jan. 14, 1923 .. 7 1/2		Paris Jan. 17, 1924 .. 6	
Belgrade .. 7 1/2		Prague May 27, 1924 .. 6	
Berlin Sept. 15, 1923 .. 90		Riga Feb. 16, 1924 .. 5 1/2	
Brussels Jan. 22, 1923 .. 5 1/2		Rome July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2	
Bucharest Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6		Sofia .. 7	
Budapest .. 10		Stockholm Nov. 9, 1923 .. 5 1/2	
Calcutta July 3, 1924 .. 5		Swiss Bank .. 4	
Christiana Nov. 10, 1923 .. 7		Vienna July 14, 1923 .. 4	
Copenhagen Jan. 17, 1924 .. 7		Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8	
Danzig Mar. 17, 1924 .. 12		Vienna June 4, 1924 .. 12	
Helsingfors Mar. 5, 1924 .. 9		Warsaw (See note below)	
Lisbon Sept. 12, 1923 .. 9			
New York Fed. Reserve .. 3 1/2		Irish .. 5	

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).
Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	July 12, 1924.	June 12, 1924.	June 19, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	July 10, 1924.
Call money .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Time money (90 days) (mixed coll) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days .. 5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Commercial accept., 90 days .. 5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	July 12, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	July 10, 1924.
London—					
80 days ..	Dollars for £1	4.8866	4.5518	4.3062	4.3062
Cable ..			4.5887	4.3362	4.3362
Cheques ..			4.5869	4.3337	4.3337
Paris ..	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	5.93	5.3075	5.1075
Brussels ..	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	4.93	4.62	4.525
Switzerland ..	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	17.48	17.77	18.04
Italy ..	Cents for 1 lire	19.30	4.3225	4.33	4.2975
Vienna ..	Cents for 1 krone	20.26	0.0014	0.014	0.014
Madrid ..	Cents for 1 peseta	19.30	14.42	13.46	13.24
Amsterdam ..	Cents for 1 guilder	40.195	39.98	37.65	37.75
Copenhagen ..	Cents for 1 kroner	26.80	16.23	15.67	15.95
Christiania ..	Cents for 1 kroner	26.80	16.23	15.67	15.95
Stockholm ..	Cents for 1 krona	19.30	2.95	1.725	1.7175
Athens ..	Can. cents for \$1	100	98.81	99.0	99.18
Yokohama ..	Cents for 1 yen	49.85	48.80	41.8	41.61
Hong Kong ..	Cents for H. Kong \$	52	52.18	52.125	52.37
Shanghai ..	Cents for 1 Shing. \$	70	51.00	51.00	51.00
Calcutta ..	Cents for 1 rupee	30.83	30.72	30.669	30.901
Buenos Aires ..	Gold pesos for \$100	103.65	126.5	135.95	135.5
Rio de Janeiro ..	Cents for 1 milreis	32.42	10.5	10.9	10.85
Valparaiso ..	Cents for 1 peso	20.60	12.8	10.75	10.25

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Buenos Aires ..	100	Sight London	Apr. 12	17.18
Bolivia ..	100	"	July 2	22.75
Bogota ..	100	"	July 8	87.25
Buenos Aires ..	100	"	July 8	4.80
Colon ..	100	"	July 7	8.80
Guatemala ..	100	"	July 5	26.05
Havana ..	100	"	June 20	17.40
Montevideo ..	100	"	May 20	16.2

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From May 10, 1924.	From May 10, 1924.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T. ..	100	100
Demand ..	100	100
30 days ..	100	100
60 days ..	100	100
90 days ..	100	100
120 days ..	100	100

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £100.

* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T. ..	100	100
Demand ..	100	100
30 days ..	100	100
60 days ..	100	100
90 days ..	100	100
120 days ..	100	100

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.
Week ended July 9, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
From—	To—
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan .. £ 1,772	Java .. £ 5,107
United States of America .. 2,704	Kenya .. 950
British South Africa .. 800,182	United States of America .. 1,102,302
British West Africa .. 28,839	British India .. 67,544
Other countries .. 250	Straits Settlements .. 1,800
	Other countries .. 325
Total declared value of imports .. £ 833,747	Total declared value of exports .. £ 1,178,028

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on July 9th, as follows:—

GOLD.

Of the fair amount of gold on offer this week only a small proportion has been taken for India. We are officially informed that the law fixing the unit of the gold standard currency was passed by the Estonian Parliament on the 20th ultimo. This law lays down that the unit of the gold standard currency system of the Estonian Republic is to be a crown ("kroon"), containing 0.403226 grammes of fine gold, which, calculated at the present price of gold (95s 2d), is equal to 1s 2.8d. At the pre-war gold price (84s 10d) this unit would be worth about 1s 1.2d.

SILVER.

There has been considerable lassitude displayed during the week. Neither buyers nor sellers have been eager to operate. A certain amount of bear covering has taken place, and the Continent has again taken some silver for coinage purposes, but the Far East has been slow to do anything on this side. America has kept in touch with the market by moderate offerings, and the Continent has been a seller on a small scale. The production of silver in Germany appears to have recovered from the restrictions imposed upon it by the war. The output for 1912 was 4,984,677 fine ounces; for the years 1914-19 no returns have been published. The total for 1920 was 3,305,000 ounces, and for 1921 3,387,400 ounces, but that for 1922 rose to 5,372,600 ounces; that is to say, about 8 per cent. above the pre-war total. A recent bulletin of the American Mining Congress stated that Representative Richards (Democrat, Nevada), in urging the passage of the Bill to require the U.S. Treasury to purchase 14,000,000 ounces of silver at \$1 the ounce under the Pittman Act, said that the Government had failed to carry out the law, to the detriment of the silver industry. He deplored antagonism toward silver as money, and advocated giving silver a fixed money value.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	June 15.	June 22.	June 30.
Notes in circulation ..	17,455	17,126	17,249
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	7,671	7,742	7,865
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	5,753	5,753	5,753
Securities (Indian Government) ..	1,399	1,399	1,399
Securities (British Government) ..	400	400	400

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending June 30th. The stock in Shanghai on the 7th inst. consisted of about 40,400,000 ounces in sycee, 41,500,000 dollars, and 2,560 silver bars, as compared with about 39,500,000 ounces in sycee, 41,000,000 dollars, and 1,930 silver bars on the 28th ult.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

2024.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Date.	Silver.
	Cash.	Forward.		Cash.
July 5 ..	95 4	34 1/2	July 19, 1918 ..	48 1/2
7 ..	95 3	34 1/2	18, 1919 ..	54 1/2
8 ..	95 2	34 1/2	16, 1920 ..	52 1/2
9 ..	95 2	34 1/2	15, 1921 ..	37 1/2
10 ..	95 0	34 1/2	14, 1922 ..	35 1/2
11 ..	94 11	34 1/2	13, 1923 ..	30 1/2

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announced that they have opened a new branch at 55 High street, Hythe, Kent, under the management of Mr H. S. Coatsworth, who is also manager of Folkestone branch.

Sir John Grice has been re-elected chairman of the National Bank of Australasia, Limited, and Mr. Edward Trenchard vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

The Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amerique du Sud have opened a branch at Bogota (Colombia), which is to take over the business of the Banco Frances e Italiano di Colombia, now in liquidation.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at the corner of Wimborne road and Withermoor road, Winton, Bournemouth, under the management of Mr F. H. Pilcher. Additional offices have also been opened at 110 and 112 Lytham road, South Shore, Blackpool; 46 Bolton road, Nova Scotia, Blackburn; Easty, near Canterbury, Kent; Grove House, Glasbury, near Hereford; and Southend road, Wickford, Essex.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Interim div. †		Final div. †	Last Year	Pre-vious
Railways.						
Central Railway of Chubut	..	..	..	Less tax	3	2½
Banks.						
Bank of Liverpool and Martins	16*	July 23	..	Less tax	..	..
District Bank	18½*	..	..	Subject to tax	..	..
Equitable Bank	16*	July 25	..	Less tax	..	..
Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank	13 p.s.	Aug. 11	..	Less tax	..	..
Imperial Bank of India	16	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank	20*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Manchester and County	16½*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Midland Bank	13*	July 15	..	Less tax	..	..
Munster and Leinster	20	..	..	Less tax	..	..
National Provincial Bank	16*	July 25	..	Less tax	..	..
Provincial Bank of Ireland	14½	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Union Bank of Australia	15†	..	..	..	15	15
Union Bank of Manchester	20*	..	..	..	..	..
Westminster Bank	10%*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Do £1 Shares	6½*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.						
Scottish Automobile	10	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Mining.						
Broken Hill South	2½ p.s.	Aug. 15	..	Less tax	..	..
East Indian Coal	10%	..	..	..	..	..
Idris Hydraulic Tin	16 p.s.*	July 22	..	Less tax	..	..
Zaaplaats Tin	1 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Baru (Java) Rubber	39½†	..	..	Less tax	8	4
Dekhari Tea	50%†	..	..	Less tax	60	40
Hingurugama Tea and Rubber	6*	July 21	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	5	5
Perak Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	5	10
Rim (Malacca) Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	5	10
Selangor United Rubber	39½†	..	..	Less tax	5½	nil
Other Companies.						
A. and S. Henry	8%*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Alabama Traction, Prof.	3%	July 10	..	..	8	8
Asprey and Co.	2½*	..	..	Quarter	..	..
Associated Newspapers, Def.	2 p.s.*	..	..	Tax free	8/ p.s.	8/ p.s.
Australian Agricultural	4½ p.s.†	..	..	..	2/ p.s.	..
Do	2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Australia Estates and Mortgage	..	July 2	..	Less tax	6	6
Bradbury, Greatorex	6*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Brentford Gas, "A"	6½*	Sept. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Bristol Gas	5*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
British North Borneo Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	5	..
Trust	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Canada Cement (Com.)	1½*	July 16	..	Less tax	..	..
Canadian Explosives, 7% Cum.	13%	July 15	..	..	..	..
Cardiff Pure Ice	3%*	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Claudian Ash, Sons, and Co.	24%†	..	..	Less tax	5	nil
Cowling Spinning	13 p.s.†	..	..	..	16 p.s.	..
Electrical Distribution (Yorkshire)	3½*	..	..	..	..	..
English Sewing Cotton	15%†	..	..	Less tax	20	20
Fore Street Warehouse	5*	July 31	..	Less tax	..	..
Freeman, Hardy, and Willis	1½ p.s.*	July 26	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Government Stock and Other	..	..	..	..	..	..
Securities, Def.	3%*	July 15	..	Less tax	..	..
Harbert Morris	7½*	..	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	10	5
Hoare and Co.	6%†	..	..	Less tax	19	18
International Tea Co.'s Stores	12½*	May 31	..	Less tax	12½	12½
John Knight, 25% Cum. Prof.	..	..	..	..	2	2
J. W. Benson	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Lagunas Nitrate	..	..	..	Tax free	..	..
L. and J. Weber and Phillips	5%*	..	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Leeds Shipping	14%	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Lennards	10*	..	..	..	..	..
Loa Nitrate	24%*	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
London and British North America	..	..	..	..	5	..
Manchester Bonding Warehouse	..	..	..	..	..	..
ing	8 p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Manchester Commercial Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..
ing	16 p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Molintyre, Hogg, Marsh	34%*	Aug. 14	..	Less tax	..	..
Mercantile Investment & General	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trust	9*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Metropolitan Electric Supply	6*	Aug. 13	..	Less tax	..	..
Middleton Electric Traction	..	..	..	..	5	5
Monks, Hall, and Co.	24%†	..	..	Tax free	7½	15
New Transvaal Chemical	24%*	..	..	..	..	..
New York, Penn. & Ohio Trust	2½*	Aug. 30	..	Less tax	..	..
Peel River Land and Mineral	5%*	July 22	..	Tax free	..	..
Premier Investment	24%*	Aug. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Royal Exchange, Glasgow	24%*	July 18	..	Less tax	..	..
Rumworth Spinning	9 p.s.†	..	..	..	6½	..
San Paulo Coffee, Def.	10 p.s.	..	..	Less tax	2½	..
S. Blackmore	..	..	..	..	..	..
S. O. Larkins and Sons	10	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Do "B"	6½	Sept. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Shanghai Waterworks	10 p.s.	July 31	..	Less tax	16 p.s.	11½
Skinner and Holford	..	..	..	Tax free	12½	..
South African Breweries	7½†	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Steel Co. of Canada	12%	Aug. 1	..	..	..	..
Sutherland Steamship	18%*	July 23	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Thomas Tilling	7½*	July 31	..	Less tax	8	7
Trustees Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wagon Finance	1 p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Walsbach Light	..	..	..	Less tax	12½	12½
Wembley Park Estate	..	..	..	..	17½	15
Williamsons	12½†	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Yorkshire Electric Power	3%*	..	..	..	..	..

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL AND MARTINS, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
0 shares, £23 paid	2,348,890 ..	Cash in hand & with Bank of England	7,073,590 .. + 371,542
reserve fund	1,600,000 .. + 100,000	Balances, &c., with other British banks	2,284,323 .. - 32,077
current, deposit & other accounts	61,767,347 .. - 2,167,050	Money at call or notice	3,533,479 .. - 1,393,917
bank's acceptances	1,821,274 .. + 445,131	Investments	9,195,072 .. - 689,359
advancements, &c.	3,089,308 .. + 614,470	Bills of exchange	3,975,189 .. + 512,988
		Loans and advances to customers, &c.	37,940,348 .. - 1,052,155
		Customers' liability for bank acceptances	1,821,274 .. + 445,131
		Bank premises	1,714,235 .. + 215,927
		Endorsements, &c.	3,089,309 .. + 614,471
Total	70,626,819 .. - 1,007,449	Total	70,626,819 .. - 1,007,449

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
current, deposit & other accounts	295,698,106 .. - 207,624	Cash	43,660,536 .. + 5,486,012
acceptances	9,252,346 .. + 1,852,930	Money at call and notice	19,886,454 .. - 2,250,071
capital paid up	15,592,372 ..	Balances with British banks, &c.	8,682,291 .. + 384,939
reserve	8,250,000 ..	Bills discounted	28,768,289 .. - 5,638,277
		Investments	63,499,956 .. - 6,331,724
		Shares in allied banks	7,451,957 .. - 249,318
		Advances	142,338,491 .. + 8,221,034
		Acceptances	9,252,346 .. + 1,852,930
		Bank premises	5,252,504 .. + 169,781
Total	328,792,824 .. + 1,645,206	Total	328,792,824 .. + 1,645,206

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
capital paid up	9,470,416 .. + 170,000	Cash	38,697,750 .. + 3,315,368
reserve	9,470,416 .. + 479,416	Money at call and notice	16,409,066 .. + 364,685
bills, &c.	8,460,276 .. + 1,153,978	Investments	49,996,729 .. - 3,723,664
deposits, &c.	258,291,377 .. - 272,007	Discounts, &c.	167,862,813 .. + 357,285
		Bank premises	4,283,851 .. + 63,735
		Acceptances	8,460,276 .. + 1,153,978
Total	285,710,485 .. + 1,531,387	Total	285,710,485 .. + 1,531,387

WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
Paid up capital	9,047,614 .. + 43,896	Cash	38,450,459 .. + 3,510,454
Reserve	9,051,718 .. + 48,000	Money at call & notice	18,657,725 .. - 5,098,122
Current, deposit, & other accounts, including balance profit and loss	270,166,028 .. + 3,975,963	Bills discounted	59,552,433 .. - 5,511,834
Acceptances & endorsements	9,363,502 .. - 1,819,411	Advances	108,639,387 .. + 11,385,083
Note issue in Isle of Man	14,358 .. + 1,182	Investments	55,931,007 .. - 276,067
		Shares in allied banks	2,991,706 .. + 201
Total	297,643,220 .. + 2,249,530	Total	297,643,220 .. + 2,249,530

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JUNE, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mt.	Oz.	Mt.	Oz.		
Gold.	Tons.	Oz.	Tons.	Oz.	£	£
Akim	7,016 ..	..	..	251 ..	26,850 ..	..
Ashanti	..	..	..	6,320 ..	..	..
Associated Northern—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iron Duke	336 ..	..	..	1,091 ..	60 ..	..
Associated (W.A.)	5,477 ..	..	..	6,337 ..	..	..
Blackwater	3,300 ..	7,554 ..	2,349 ..	2,702 ..	..	..
Boulder Perseverance	3,190 ..	..	..	6,784 ..	2,446 ..	..
Champion Reef	4,270 ..	..	..	20,000 ..	3,037 ..	..
El Oro	10,016 ..	18,027 ..	4,029 ..	4,734 ..	..	..
Golden Horseshoe	40,130 ..	..	..	162,222 ..	13,644 ..	..
Great Boulder Proprietary	9,432 ..	..	..	4,961 ..	2,571 ..	..
Lake View and Star	10,485 ..	..	..	24,115 ..	..	..
London and Rhodesian (Sakiva)	7,366 ..	..	..	16,507 ..	3,328 ..	..
Menzies Consolidated	2,000 ..	..	..	..	2,143 ..	..
Mexican Mines of El Oro	1,070 ..	..	..	..	2,442 ..	..
Mysore	13,827 ..	29,726 ..	9,540 ..	10,773 ..	..	..
Nandydroog	19,267 ..	14,052 ..	5,357 ..	6,008 ..	..	..
Oreogum	12,622 ..	4,000 ..	8,533 ..	270 ..	8,803 ..	..
Shamva	15,500 ..	..	..	..	36,996 ..	10,157 ..
Sons of Gwalia	57,900 ..	..	..	..	12,625 ..	..
South Kalguli	12,714 ..	..	..	..	13,364 ..	2,467 ..
Taquah and Abboso	7,073 ..	..	..	..	18,463 ..	..
Tomboy	18,000 ..	..	..	..	64,000 ..	..
Transvaal and Rhodesian—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fred Mine	1,565 ..	..	..	..	3,945 ..	..

Tin.		Output.		Other Notes in Return.	
Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.		
Bangrin	274 ..	..	..	Est. value, £2,100. ..	..
Bisichi	42 ..	..	..	Value, £5,290. ..	..
Chenderiang	163 ..	..	..	Est. value, £10,325; est. working costs, £2,285. ..	..
Ex-Lands Nigeria	30 ..	..	..	..	..
Geovore	40 ..	..	..	..	..
Gopeng	14 ..	..	..	..	..
Jos	13 ..	..	..	..	..
Kaduna Syndicate	13 ..	..	..	..	..
Kaduna Prospectors	98 ..	..	..	..	..
Kem Consolidated	45 ..	..	..	..	..
Kinta	354 ..	..	..	..	..
Kramat Pulai	..	..	..	..	..
Lower Bisichi	..	..	..	..	..
Mongana	..	..	..	..	..
Par	..	..	..	..	..
Premier Hydraulic	..	..	..	..	..
Rambutan	..	..	..	..	..
Rayfield (Nigeria)	..	..	..	..	..
Renong	..	..	..	..	..
Ropp	..	..	..	..	..
Siamese	..	..	..	..	..
South Crofty	..	..	..	..	..
Sungei Besi	..	..	..	..	..
Tavoy	..	..	..	..	..
Tekka	..	..	..	..	..
Tin Fields of N. Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..
Tongkah Harbour	..	..	..	..	..
Tronoh	..	..	..	..	..
East Kent Colliery	..	..	..	..	..
Copper.	..	..	..	..	..
Tanganyika	7,259 ..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous.	..	..	..	..	..
Electrolytic Zinc	..	..	..	..	..
Keeley Silver	..	..	..	..	..
Oroville Dredging	..	..	..	..	..
Rhodesia Broken Hill	524 ..	..	..	..	..

BROKEN HILL SOUTH, LIMITED.—For the four weeks ended June 28, 1924, 21,270 tons of crude ore and 7,732 tons of de-leaded slimes residues were treated and produced, 3,320 tons of lead concentrates, assaying 67 per cent. lead and 20 oz silver per ton; also 5,472 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 44 per cent. zinc.

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED (Incorporated in India).—Cable advices received this day report:—During the month of June 23,078 tons of ore were mined, 22,160 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 11,516 tons of lead concentrate, 11,449 tons of lead-bearing material were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 4,581 tons of lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were 4,102 tons of refined lead, 432,675 oz of refined silver. Of silver production 6,000 oz were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Experimental zinc plant produced 1,700 tons zinc concentrate, assaying 105 oz silver, 72 per cent. lead, 45.2 per cent. zinc. In addition to above, 350 tons copper matte were produced from the treatment of 1,702 tons copper ore and accumulated smelter by-products.

NORTH BROKEN HILL, June:—North section—22,950 tons of crude ore were treated, producing 3,930 tons lead concentrates, averaging 64.5 per cent. lead, 32 oz silver per ton, and 7.8 per cent. zinc; also 3,530 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 48.7 per cent. zinc, 7 per cent. lead, and 8 oz silver per ton. British rates, averaging 63.2 per cent. lead, 27.7 oz silver per ton, and 6.5 per cent. zinc; also 2,000 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 44.9 per cent. zinc, 7.2 per cent. lead and 8.7 oz silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO MINERS OF MEXICO, LIMITED.—Cable advice of operations for June:—Ore treated, 12,690 tons; lead concentrates produced 2,354 tons; zinc concentrates produced 2,522 tons. Estimated net smelter return on lead, \$124,837 (U.S. currency); on zinc, \$70,866; total, \$195,703. Operating expenses, \$74,583; estimated operating profit, \$121,118. Capital expenditure, \$37,662.

TRANSVAAL SILVER AND BASE METALS, LIMITED.—Output for June:—419 long tons of silver-lead bullion, containing 43,539 oz of fine silver. Output is higher than usual, owing to the treatment during the month of June of the sinter, which accumulated while the blast furnace was closed down for repairs in the previous month.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	May, 1924.			June, 1924.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	13,350 ..	14,561 ..	2,058 ..	12,750 ..	14,379 ..	2,064 ..
Brakpan	76,100 ..	138,861 ..	60,196 ..	72,000 ..	127,254 ..	51,805 ..
City Deep	100,000 ..	187,736 ..	72,818 ..	95,000 ..	186,512 ..	73,344 ..
Consolidated Main Reef	57,200 ..	81,249 ..	15,905 ..	54,000 ..	71,948 ..	11,397 ..
Crown Mines (10s shares)	222,000 ..	308,977 ..	94,903 ..	206,000 ..	285,932 ..	88,227 ..
Durban Roodepoort Deep	36,500 ..	48,795 ..	4,149 ..	34,100 ..	45,591 ..	4,071 ..
East Rand Proprietary	13,000 ..	152,883 ..	20,010 ..	127,000 ..	145,591 ..	15,779 ..
Ferreira Deep	33,300 ..	37,785 ..	4,281 ..	31,500 ..	37,056 ..	4,619 ..
Geduld Proprietary	71,000 ..	115,749 ..	49,871 ..	69,000 ..	112,208 ..	48,160 ..
Glenheid Deep	65,100 ..	69,636 ..	4,526 ..	65,200 ..	69,464 ..	5,039 ..
Glyn's Lydenburg	4,602 ..	7,557 ..	181 ..	4,450 ..	6,767 ..	1,037 ..
Government Areas	159,500 ..	335,378 ..	200,287 ..	150,000 ..	328,842 ..	197,439 ..
Kleinfontein, New	52,300 ..	56,251 ..	3,469 ..	51,100 ..	54,876 ..	4,445 ..
Langlaagte Estate	107,000 ..	131,109 ..	32,443 ..	96,500 ..	125,132 ..	28,104 ..
Lupatla Vlei	22,000 ..	25,147 ..	2,101 ..	21,300 ..	20,540 ..	1,232 ..
Meyer and Charlton	12,000 ..	33,372 ..	17,054 ..	14,000 ..	32,175 ..	16,885 ..
Modderfontein B.	68,000 ..	132,793 ..	67,236 ..	66,000 ..	126,098 ..	65,587 ..
Modderfontein Deep Levels	45,500 ..	111,711 ..	75,620 ..	42,500 ..	106,008 ..	70,778 ..
Modderfontein East	31,000 ..	47,584 ..	8,928 ..	30,200 ..	46,013 ..	7,776 ..
New State Areas (New 44 shs.) ..	122,000 ..	267,010 ..	161,331 ..	117,000 ..	255,075 ..	154,030 ..
Nourse Mines	66,000 ..	117,883 ..	43,622 ..	66,000 ..	112,184 ..	40,067 ..
Primrose, New	20,300 ..	61,917 ..	6,358 ..	43,800 ..	54,011 ..	2,474 ..
Randfontein Estates	203,000 ..	265,537 ..	70,171 ..	202,000 ..	265,356 ..	70,171 ..
Robinson (25 shares)	10,400 ..	10,659 ..	2,842 ..	9,200 ..	9,859 ..	2,648 ..
Robinson Deep	75,500 ..	111,339 ..	43,330 ..	74,300 ..	104,833 ..	42,130 ..
Rose Deep	58,100 ..	64,347 ..	16,465 ..	54,800 ..	61,223 ..	14,200 ..
Simmer and Jack	70,400 ..	73,306 ..	13,678 ..	68,000 ..	68,058 ..	12,638 ..
Spring Mines	64,800 ..	134,993 ..	62,435 ..	63,100 ..	131,040 ..	65,128 ..
Sub-Nigel	11,400 ..	30,146 ..	8,377 ..	9,800 ..	25,991 ..	7,778 ..
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates ..	16,400 ..	27,357 ..	3,871 ..	16,000 ..	26,996 ..	3,779 ..
Van Ryn Deep	37,000 ..	45,036 ..	10,134 ..	36,700 ..	44,622 ..	10,340 ..
Village Deep	67,900 ..	144,189 ..	80,133 ..	64,000 ..	136,181 ..	75,045 ..
West Rand Consolidated	57,000 ..	79,855 ..	13,006 ..	54,900 ..	77,773 ..	11,025 ..
Witwatersrand Deep	36,800 ..	41,565 ..	3,776 ..	37,400 ..	41,504 ..	4,114 ..
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	41,800 ..	51,184 ..	8,899 ..	40,100 ..	50,713 ..	8,244 ..
Wolfontein	58,100 ..	56,621 ..	12,028 ..	48,700 ..	52,560 ..	10,080 ..
	32,200 ..	35,616 ..	5,471 ..	30,000 ..	33,098 ..	3,063 ..

* Loss. \$ 4 14: 6d per fine oz. \$ 4 12: 0d per fine oz. net.

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
January	293,794	240,056	261,310	250,880
February	282,225	304,488	237,018	233,212
March	134,932	257,355	211,379	236,166
April	282,396	265,591	232,765	256,352
May	225,841	273,562	245,870	275,826
June	238,200	247,161	253,226	..
July	279,269	263,918	244,848	..
August	266,151	271,142	232,546	..
September	271,452	240,846	256,107	..
October	363,374	255,619	246,616	..
November	306,636	251,646	246,943	..
December	267,005	240,084	240,531	..
Total Gold	3,217,275	3,111,469	2,909,159	..

out that the result of the year's trading would have revealed a larger profit but for the heavy working expenses and the loss on remittances.

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE.—The gross profit for 1923 amounted to £311,423, and after deducting the current expenditure and English and Australian income-tax, a balance of £166,619 is brought down. After providing for the interest on all the debenture stocks of the company and carrying £25,000 to the credit of the reserve account, bringing this up to £185,000, there remains £55,502, which, with the £8,553 brought forward from last year, leaves a credit balance of £64,055. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the consolidated ordinary stock and the capital paid up on the ordinary shares as appearing on the register at July 2nd, which will absorb £56,664, leaving £7,391 to be carried forward. The report goes on to say that the past year has been one of severe drought over large areas, in both Queensland and New South Wales; the rains which fell in June and July, and which were referred to as encouraging in our last report, being followed by a long spell of dry weather. The results of this unfavourable season are reflected in a decrease in the wool clip, an increased mortality of stock, a reduction in lambing, and a heavy outlay on drought expenditure. Moreover, the sales of cattle have been very disappointing, and the sugar crops of the year have been a practical failure. On the other hand, there has been a good market for wool during the year at high and advancing prices. The drought which has more or less affected New South Wales and Queensland for the past two years came to an end in the early months of the present year, and since then very good rains have fallen in both States, especially in Queensland, and the outlook generally is now satisfactory. While there has been a slight reaction from the highest prices, the condition of the wool market is strong, and the prospects are encouraging. Prices for cattle continue depressed, with little promise of any early recovery.

BENSON AND HEDGES, LIMITED.—The balance-sheet and accounts for the year 1923 represent the 13th year of the company's operations. The trading profits have been well maintained. The directors state that the New York Corporation reports expanding business, and the latest returns point to increased profits for the current fiscal year. The position of the Canadian company, to which attention was called in the letters addressed to the preference shareholders in December and January last, does not warrant a change in the policy then indicated, although the directors are glad to report that prospects have considerably improved. While the Canadian company has been enabled to meet all its obligations, the directors have decided to postpone the payment of the preference dividends due on July 1st and July 31st next, and to make an addition to the reserve account of £10,000, increasing this to £15,000, and to carry forward the balance. The net profit of £13,023 compares with £15,270 for 1922.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND CO.—This dental manufacturing under taking has experienced better times in 1923. The report just issued reveals a net profit of £48,890, against £4,590 for 1922. The ordinary shareholders receive 5 per cent., against nothing for 1922, and £13,759 is carried forward, against £13,759 brought in. The directors report that the improvement in business during 1923 has produced encouraging results, but the non-stabilisation of foreign exchange in many of the European countries still prevents expansion of the export trade which had been expected. A substantial amount has been recovered in liquidation of the pre-war assets in ex-enemy countries, and it is anticipated that the full amount outstanding will be received in course of time.

COURTAULDS.—The directors have decided to pay on August 1, 1924, an interim dividend in respect of the year ending December 31, 1924, of 1s per share, and a bonus of 3d per share, making together 1s 3d per share, free of income-tax, to the holders of the existing shares of the company whose names are registered in the books of the company on June 26, 1924. They have placed a value of £16,013,628 17s 9d upon the shares held by the company in the American Viscose Corporation, and have carried the additional value thus shown, amounting to £8,209,607 11s, to the credit of capital reserve account. They have also decided to recommend to the shareholders that the capital of the company be increased to £20,000,000 by the creation of 8,000,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, dividends payable half-yearly, less income-tax, and that the sum of £8,000,000 out of the amount standing to the credit of capital reserve account be capitalised and be applied in making payment in full at par for the said preference shares, and that such fully-paid preference shares be distributed among the holders of the existing shares of the company whose names are registered in the books of the company on June 26, 1924, at the rate of two fully-paid preference shares in respect of every three existing shares of the company then held by such shareholders respectively. A formal notice of the shareholders' meeting of the company to be held on July 17, 1924, and the resolution to be passed thereat in order to give effect to this proposal has been sent to the shareholders. If this recommendation is agreed to, the first dividend on the new preference shares will be payable on January 1, 1925, for the first six months ending December 31, 1924, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax.

DE TREY AND CO., LIMITED.—This well-known dental concern has increased its net profit from £58,228 for 1922 to £62,902 for 1923. For 1922 the ordinary shareholders received no dividend, but for 1923 they received 7 per cent., less income tax. The sum of £6,290 goes to reserve, making it £83,507. Goodwill and contingency reserves remain at £26,000 and £15,779 respectively. The sum of £20,674 is carried forward, against £30,762 brought in. The ordinary issued capital is £1,139,488 in £1 shares, and there are £100,000 in 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares. There are no debentures. Creditors at £42,642 compare with £39,834. Total assets are £1,586,947. Cash is at £44,605, against £46,907.

Debtors stand at £614,060, against £429,091. Stocks at £247,461 compare with £318,522. Investments in subsidiaries amount to £454,536, against £355,447. The company's holding of British, Colonial, and foreign Government securities has been reduced from £211,615 to £130,594.

DUMONT COFFEE COMPANY, LIMITED.—We are informed that the crop for the year 1923, which was estimated in the December interim report at over 77,000 cwt, has weighed out 84,422 cwt. The delays in marketing the crop due to the regulation of supplies by the Brazilian Government, and in a measure to railway disorganisation, have continued, and only about 20,000 cwt have been sold to date. The coffee has realised good prices, and the statistical position being strong, the market outlook is favourable. With such a large proportion of the crop unsold, the annual accounts cannot conveniently be submitted by the customary date, and it is proposed to defer issuing them until such time as a substantial proportion of the crop shall have been sold. It is expected that during the next few months regular arrivals of the coffee may be counted on. Payments on account of the arrears of the preference dividend will be made as and when the sales of coffee permit.

INTERNATIONAL TEA COMPANY'S STORES.—This well-known concern has had a good year. The trading profit has jumped up from £396,983 to £431,348 for the year ended April 26, 1924. The ordinary dividend has been raised from 18 per cent. to 19 per cent. The sum of £100,000 is again put to reserve, and the carry forward has been increased from £100,205 to £134,848. Total assets are £2,816,514. Goodwill account is unchanged at £626,675. Freeholds at £734,047 compare with £678,275. Stocks stand at £704,759, against £677,718. Debtors are at £265,500, against £271,181. Cash has increased from £103,100 to £112,793. With regard to liabilities, issued ordinary and preference share capital is unchanged at £1,700,000. There are no debentures. Creditors at £406,317 compare with £390,774. Reserve account now stands at £384,906.

J. W. BENSON.—This well-known firm of watch makers, jewellers, &c., of Ludgate hill, London, have succeeded in maintaining their net profit during the year ended March 31, 1924. The net profit amounts to £46,383, and includes dividend on the shares held by the company in Hunt and Roskell to end of 1923. This compares with a net profit of £45,074 for year ended March 31, 1923. Including £93,308 brought in, there is £139,691 to credit of profit and loss account. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again 12½ per cent. After paying this, there is a balance of £98,628 to carry forward. Assets total £885,496. Cash is higher at £32,871, as against £30,065. Investments at cost remain the same at £220,310. Stock and book debts stand at £174,564, against £174,835. With regard to liabilities, reserve stands at £161,000, against £150,000. Creditors are lower at £14,926, against £27,198.

LAGUNAS NITRATE.—For the year 1923, gross profit, including transfer fees, interest on investments and bank deposit, after allowing £3,249 for caliche extracted and used, amounted to £36,360. Deducting the usual administration charges, provision for income-tax, corporation profits tax, and the cost of new belt conveyor, there remains a net profit of £18,774. A dividend of 2 per cent., free of income-tax, is recommended. To facilitate the installation of the belt conveyor, the Maquina was closed at the end of last December, but working operations were resumed on April 15th of this year.

PLATT BROTHERS AND CO.—This large undertaking of Hartford Iron Works, Oldham, has experienced a decline in net profits from £735,951 for year ended March 31, 1923, to £372,322 for the year ended March 31, 1924. The ordinary dividend has been reduced from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent. No allocations are made to reserve, but the carry forward is increased from £66,447 to £118,484. Turning to the balance-sheet, we find that total assets are £6,521,778, against £6,672,078. They are shown in four items—i.e., land, buildings, machinery, tools, plant, collieries, and convertible stock and goodwill, £3,728,164, against £3,823,449; home and foreign investments, consisting of Government stocks and trustee securities, £1,647,294, against £1,396,518; debtors at £1,005,683 compare with £1,133,336, and cash and bills have been reduced from £319,176 to £140,637. No changes have taken place in capital during the past year. Ordinary £1 shares amount to £1,855,080. The 7 per cent. preference shares total £618,360, and 4½ per cent. preference shares £1,236,720. There are 3½ per cent. debentures amounting to £1,030,600. Creditors have been reduced from £276,175 to £138,765. Reserve fund is £1,000,000, and taxes reserve fund £380,000.

TRUSTEES CORPORATION, LIMITED.—After providing £23,056 for interest, less income-tax, on the debenture stocks, the profit and loss account for the year shows a credit balance of £80,729. To this has to be added £50,604 brought forward at May 31, 1923, making the amount to be dealt with £131,423. Preference dividend absorbed £18,309, leaving £113,114. The ordinary dividend transfers have been made:—To provide for placing rents and trustee and agency fees on a cash basis, £12,749; to reserve fund contingencies account, £5,000; leaving to be carried forward, £22,815. The report adds that, according to a valuation, based on the market prices at May 31, 1924, the amount at which the investments of the corporation stand in the balance-sheet is fully represented. Quotations have been obtained for more than 90 per cent. of the securities, and the value of the balance has been estimated. The transfer of £12,748 from profit and loss account for rents and trustee and agency fees accrued to May 31, 1923, has been made in order to place all the revenue of the corporation on a cash basis, as has long been the practice in the case of the investment income.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
Belfast Discount	June 30*	534	258	792	..	393	10	150	249	8
National Bank of Australasia....	Mar. 31	81,324	498,168	579,492	..	307,972	10	163,178	108,342	10
Union Bank of Australia.....	Feb. 29	89,711	550,292	640,003	..	450,000	15½	100,000	90,003	15½
Breweries and Distilleries.										
Charles Kinloch and Co.	Mar. 31	765	20,562	21,327	..	7,500	7½	10,000	3,827	Dr 288
James Eadie	Mar. 31	60,395	73,166	133,561	25,000	26,875	13	15,000	66,686	13
Financial, Land, &c.										
Australian Agricultural	Dec. 31	5,564	80,016	85,580	..	80,000	10½	..	5,580	95,702
Australian Estates and Mortgage	Dec. 31	8,553	80,503	89,056	..	56,665	6	25,000	7,391	93,463
Trustees Corporation.....	May 31	50,694	80,729	131,423	18,309	32,550	8	27,749	52,815	69,426
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Greenwood and Battey.....	Mar. 31	15,480	30,237	45,717	7,028	17,419	5	6,000	15,270	19,160
Platt Brothers and Co.....	Mar. 31	66,447	344,367	410,814	76,677	215,653	15	..	118,484	708,898
Nitrate.										
Lagunas Nitrate.....	Dec. 31	14,353	18,775	33,128	..	18,000	2½	..	15,128	Dr 8,435
Rubber.										
Anglo-Ceylon and General	Mar. 31	40,651	106,606	147,257	..	100,000	20	5,000	42,257	87,980
Baru (Java).....	Dec. 31	3,448	11,438	14,886	..	8,000	8	2,000	4,886	3,744
Bertam Consolidated.....	Mar. 31	17,989	17,855	35,844	..	24,490	10	..	11,354	30,655
Bukit Rajah	Mar. 31	3,298	19,322	22,620	..	13,340	4	6,000	3,280	17,886
Coconut Plantations of Perak....	Mar. 31	8,699	24,930	33,629	..	20,227	4½	..	13,402	21,251
Manchester North Borneo	Mar. 31	25,947	17,574	43,521	1,127	16,500	10	..	25,894	14,210
Selangor United.....	Mar. 31	2,953	5,335	8,288	..	4,644	5½	..	3,644	3,082
Sungei-Timah	Mar. 31	..	732	732	..	..	..	..	732	..
Timbang-Deli	Mar. 31	135	20,389	20,524	..	..	..	..	20,524	5,461
Tremelby (Selangor)	Mar. 31	1,285	11,177	12,462	..	8,280	3	..	4,182	5,303
Waterfall (Selangor)	Mar. 31	Dr 11,534	12,838	1,304	..	..	..	..	1,304	7,468
Shipping.										
Argentine Navigation	Dec. 31	Dr 668,258	163,785	Dr 501,467	..	..	..	..	Dr 501,467	Dr 163,04
Shops and Stores.										
International Tea Co.'s Stores ..	April 26	100,205	349,643	449,848	53,500	161,500	19	100,000	134,848	336,718
Tea.										
Doloo.....	Dec. 31	815	25,644	26,459	1,076	9,225	20	15,200	958	25,184
Jalanga.....	Dec. 31	622	8,593	9,215	..	4,400	20	4,700	115	7,412
Upper Assam Tea	Dec. 31	141,196	76,142	217,338	..	46,588	25	140,000	30,750	62,850
Other Companies.										
Apollinaris and Johannis.....	Mar. 31	..	8,843	8,843	..	..	..	..	8,843	..
Asprey and Co.	Mar. 31	8,580	23,174	31,754	11,500	8,000	8	3,307	8,947	21,848
Burgis and Colbourne	April 30	5,083	11,692	16,775	3,300	6,000	15	3,000	4,475	7,496
Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co.	Dec. 31	10,934	48,890	59,824	21,141	24,984	5	..	13,759	4,590
Cork Improved Dwellings.....	June 30*	241	912	1,153	..	750	5	157	246	836
J. W. Benson	Mar. 31	93,308	42,820	136,128	16,666	20,834	12½	..	98,628	41,443
New Darvel Bay Tobacco.....	Dec. 31	Dr 27,856	Dr 1,253	Dr 29,109	..	..	..	..	Dr 29,109	Dr 24,322
New Transvaal Chemical.....	June 30	10,590	56,180	66,770	24,000	18,750	7½	10,381	13,639	76,406
Sawers	Mar. 31	3,394	17,269	20,663	4,250	10,500	10½	2,250	3,663	21,439
Welsbach Light	Mar. 31	17,945	24,397	42,342	..	12,896	5	6,480	22,966	26,397

* Half-year. † Free of tax.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).—This company have received a telegram from the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, advising that the new mining law has been passed after substantial favourable alterations, and that the future prospects of the company are satisfactory. A further telegram advises that their newly opened well No. 1A, at Runcu, is now flowing at the rate of 100 tons per day. Steaua Romana also report that they have brought in a new well, No. 300, at Runcu, which is in eruption and likely to prove a productive well. Well No. 1A Runcu continues to flow at the rate of 80 to 90 tons per day.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Growing crops in the United Kingdom are making rapid progress under ideal weather conditions. Spring sowings have made up considerable leeway, while winter wheat presents a very healthy appearance, and promises a good yield. Native wheat continues in very small supply, and prices have further hardened at most of the principal Statute markets, 12s to 12s 6d being paid per 112 lbs free on rail. Imported descriptions opened the week with a quiet and easier tone, but subsequently improved on higher forward offers. Strong Canadian kinds continue to be sparingly offered. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 54s, No. 2 ditto 53s, No. 3 ditto 51s 6d, Barusso 63½ lbs 49s 9d, and Australian 52s, all ex ship per 496 lbs. The floating and forward cargo section displayed more activity, and prices moved in sellers' favour. Steamers of Pacific, 6,800 tons, August 10th loading, sold at 52s, South Australian loading 50s 6d, Barusso 63½ lbs afloat, also July 47s, choice white Karachi July 49s, and August 49s to 49s 1½d per 480 lbs. Maize cargoes were also accorded better support, particularly on Continental account, owing to adverse condition of

North American crops, which accounts for fairly liberal bookings in that direction from Argentina. Steamers of Plate afloat sold at 33s to 33s 6d, ditto expected to load 20th inst. 35s 3d, July-August 34s 9d, October 35s 7½d, November-December 35s 7½d, white South Russian July 36s, and Dan.-Gal.-Fox-Bulgarian afloat 36s 6d per 480 lbs. Flour in moderate request, but prices fully steady. London standard straight run quoted 41s 6d, patents 43s 6d to 44s 6d, town whites 41s 6d per sack delivered in London area. Imported quietly steady, with a moderate demand for best grades. Canadian patents range from 40s to 41s, and Australian 36s 6d to 37s per 280 lbs ex store. Barley, imported, firmer. Californian quoted at 58s-64s, Chilean brewing 50s-52s, both ex ship per 448 lbs. No. 3 Canadian-Western ex ship 36s, Karachi ex ship 35s 9d, ditto landed 37s, Russian landed 36s 9d, all per 400 lbs. English nominal. Oats steadier for Plate descriptions. Plate f.a.q. ex ship 21s 3d, ditto landed 22s 6d, No. 2 Canadian-Western ex ship 25s 9d, ditto landed 27s, No. 2 Canadian feed landed 24s 9d per 320 lbs. English ranges from 9s 9d-11s 3d per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize firmer. Plate ex ship 35s 3d, ditto landed 37s 3d, Odessa landed 37s per 480 lbs. Oatmeal steady. London make flaked 17s, rolled oats 16s 6d, medium and fine cut 16s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 16s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 17s 6d-18s per cwt. Millers' offals firm, with a good demand. Broad bran quoted at 7s 6d, ordinary 6s 6d-7s, middlings 9s 3d, fine ditto 10s 6d, bags included, ex mill, light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 3d, feed oatmeal 9s 6d, ground oats 12s per cwt free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to July 5.....	Cwts. 36,254	Cwts. 117,946	Cwts. 63,640	Cwts. 37,613
44 weeks to July 5.....	12,606,894	16,642,389	15,626,844	12,099,231
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	11 9	10 11	12 1½	20 1½

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
June 28	44,675	Orts. 1,252	Owts. 7,587	11 5	10 8	10 0
July 5	36,254	3,012	5,308	11 9	10 11	10 3
1920	20,014	3,143	6,708	19 9	25 5	23 3
1921	26,516	9,561	9,669	20 8	12 0	14 1
1922	77,651	5,468	6,070	12 3	11 3	11 9
1923	78,489	11,732	7,905	11 0	8 7	10 10

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated July 10th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Although there has been a little fresh business done this week, the market remains quiet on the whole, with No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. unchanged at 88s 6d per ton. For a fairly large order, however, no doubt this figure could be shaded. The hematite position shows no signs of improvement, and the quotation for mixed numbers is still at 96s 6d per ton, but for firm business it could doubtless be put through at 96s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: There has been a little more doing in the street trade this week. Prices remain unchanged. Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Business in foreign ore is practically stagnant, as consumers are fairly well situated with what they have coming forward against running contracts. Best Bilbao Rubio is nominally 23s per ton, c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The week has brought no relief to the extreme depression which recently descended upon the iron and mild steel branches, and the local open hearth melting plant is not operating to a third of its capacity. As the drop in output compared to a year ago is very large, the trouble cannot be explained by seasonal influences. July and August, however, are generally the quietest months of the year. A rather heavy decline in exports is a considerable factor in the present unsatisfactory condition. No contracts for billets of any weight have been booked for a long period, and there is but little inquiry. Re-rollers report a meagre demand for rods and bars; sheets and sections are less affected by the slump, and one of the busiest sections of local industry is the manufacture of alloy steels for the motor trade. Railway steel is also being specified freely, and cold rolled steel is receiving a good deal of attention. Rolling mills in Sheffield maintain half-time working. Unemployment is increasing. In the pig-iron market there are no signs of a buying movement, and the reduction in coke has caused users to hold off the market in the expectation of lower prices. Foundry and hematite pig are easier, and basic quality is quiet. The demand for forge iron is negligible. The finished branches are looking up a little, and the receipt of substantial orders from Russia is responsible for increased activity in the file department. Most kinds of hand tools are selling freely, but buying has quietened down on account of the holiday season. Business in the fuel market is slow, and very little coke is wanted either by the home market or for export. A graded scale of prices for coke based on its moisture and ash content has been adopted, and will be worked to in the future. The basis price for blast furnace coke having 20 per cent. moisture and ash content is now 20s 6d per ton at ovens. Slacks are the only classes of fuel which show any evidence of strength. Railways are taking a substantial tonnage of steam coal. Prices generally tend downwards. Current quotations per ton at pits are: Best hand-picked branch, 34s; Barnsley best Silkstone, 28s; Yorkshire hards, 23s; Derbyshire do., 21s 6d; rough slacks, 12s 6d to 13s 6d; smalls, 8s to 10s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—Apart from the customary urgent calls for special lots required for delivery before the holidays, there is not much business passing in the iron and steel trades this week. Several of the steel works are busy at stocktaking, and all are making preparations for next week's annual stoppage. A good deal is heard about Continental competition in semi-raw materials, and it is understood that 8,000 tons of billets and sheet bars of Belgian manufacture have been sold to Scotch re-rollers at £7 5s per ton delivered. The same applies to steel bars and joists, which are being offered here at about 20s per ton below local makers' prices. Shipbuilders are negotiating the placing of their steel requirements for the work in hand, and it is anticipated rolling mills will have some substantial orders on their books when operations are resumed after the vacation. Iron makers are just able to keep going, bars for common use being increasingly preferred in re-rolled steel owing to an advantage in price of about £3 per ton; but real puddled iron for work that matters is not likely to be displaced, and it is remarkable that there are inquiries on the market at the present time for considerable quantities of plate and bar material, with the proviso that steel will not be accepted. Sheet makers are still busy with export orders, and delivery for late September is about the best promise buyers can obtain. Galvanized sheets are in strong request. Although the demand is not quite so great as

it was, makers are so well booked that any reduction in price is not to be expected in the immediate future. The pig-iron market has been quiet, with values weakening slightly. For the week ending Saturday last the shipments from Glasgow Harbour totalled 1,722 tons.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement this week in the state of business on the Cardiff coal market. The volume of the coal export trade continues to fluctuate from week to week. The shipments in the week ending July 4th were higher than for some weeks past, and included heavier exports both to France and Italy; but these increases were merely incidental to the arrangement of charters for the carriage of contract coal, and all the collieries have this week been complaining of the acute dearth of orders. There are few collieries working full time, and at some employment has been found possible on only four or five days of the week. The financial position is causing grave alarm. It is estimated that more than three-fourths of the pits are now working at a loss, and that at some of the pits the losses are so heavy as to involve eventual bankruptcy. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s 6d to 29s; second Admiralties, 26s 9d to 27s 6d; best drys, 26s 6d to 27s; Black Veins, 26s 6d to 27s; Western Valleys, 26s to 26s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 24s to 26s; best bunker smalls, 17s to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 15s to 16s 6d; coking smalls, 17s 6d to 18s; anthracite Big Vein, large, 52s to 53s; machine-made cobbles, 57s 6d to 62s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; stove nuts, 50s to 55s; rubble culm, 15s 3d to 15s 9d; coke for export, 52s 6d to 57s 6d; inland blastfurnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 28s to 29s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 25s 6d to 26s 6d. In the tin-plate trade the position is slightly easier. Minimum prices are being maintained, but foreign demand is less active.

METALS.

Tin displayed slight irregularity and weakness on some pressure to sell, with business on a moderate scale. Standard cash sold at £225 5s to £223 10s, and three months £226 10s to £225 15s to £227, while finally at £224 5s. Sales in the East occurred at £226 5s c.i.f. At Thursday's market standard cash quoted at £220 10s to £220 15s, with business in three months at £224 to £222 5s to £222 10s. Tendency of prices ruled in sellers' favour at the close, though offers were only moderately absorbed. Standard cash sold at £222 and three months £224 to £223 15s to £224 2s 6d. English ingots quoted at £224 to £224 10s. Copper.—A fair turnover resulted during the week, and prices on balance were fully steady. Standard cash sold at £61 to £60 13s 9d to £60 15s, and three months £61 17s 6d to £61 18s 9d to £61 13s 9d. On Thursday



ARCOS LTD
SOVIET HOUSE
49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

Turnover (from June, 1920, to May, 1924) £36,826,214

BRANCHES:

MOSCOW: Tverskaya 1, (Ugol Pl. Revolutsii.)
LENINGRAD: Ul. Gertsmana, 24.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Rue Vaidova, Gula's.
KHARKOV: Chernogolovskaya, 1.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg Trading Corporation, 136, Liberty Street, New York.
TIFLIS: 38 Rustavali Prospekt.
RIGA: Valdemars iela 61, dz. 3.

standard cash sold at £61 5s and three months £62 to £62 7s 6d to £62 2s 6d. Copper closed easier. Standard cash sold at £61 to £60 17s 6d and three months £62 2s 6d to £61 17s 6d. Electro's, £65 to £65 5s. Best selected, £64 5s to £64 10s. Strong sheets, £92. Wire bars, £65 5s per ton. Lead firm at £32 15s to £30 2s 6d as to position. Spelter firmer at £32 1s 3d to £30 2s 6d as to position. Aluminium, home, £125; export, £130. Antimony, English Regulus, £44 10s to £47 10s.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—July 4, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.
American	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	
Brazilian :	1357	1407	1507	1592	1707	1817	1487	1537	1587	1220	1305	1390
Pernamb, Macao, &c.	Mid	M	Fr	F	G	Fne	..	..	..	M	Fr	Gd.
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1497	1647	1747	..	..	..	1437	1502	..	1160	1290	..
Oceara, &c.	1497	1647	1747	..	..	..	1437	1502	..	1160	1290	..
São Paulo	1552	1572	1622	..	..	..	1427	1462	..	1165	1265	..
Egyptian	Fr.	G.	F.	Fr.	Gd.	Fne	Fr.	G.	Gd.	Fr.	G.	Gd.
Upper	1995	2220	2270	2335	2395	2455	1525	1600	1640	1430	1525	2225
Sakelariadis	1995	2260	2311	2415	2535	2655	1525	1600	1685	1500	1625	1825
Brown	1995	2220	2270	2335	2395	2455	1525	1600	1640	1430	1525	2225
Peruvian	M	Fr.	F.	G	P	Gd. Fne	M	Fr.	Gd.	M	Fr.	Gd.
Rough	1850	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	1575	1625	1675	1275	1400	1450
Moderately Rough	1697	1747	1822	1847	1872	1897	1592	1667	1667	1285	1460	1610
Smooth	1697	1747	1847	1922	2047	2097	1592	1667	1667	1310	1460	1650
Tanganyika	2050	2150	2300	2400	2400	2400	1550	1650	1650	1200	1300	1500
Mitani	2400	2500	2600	2700	2800	2800	1900	2000	2000	2300	2400	2500
West Indian, &c.	1485	1485	1535	1575	1620	1655	1150	1300	1500	1075	1250	1450
Do Sea Island	1597	1607	1617	1627	1637	1647	1452	1462	1452	1185	1260	1450
African, East, &c.	G	F	Fr	G	P	Gd. Fne	G	F	Fr	G	Fr	Gd.
Do West	1430	1470	1510	1510	1510	1510	1420	1420	1420	1255	1300	1350
East Indian :	1150	1190	1230	1270	1310	1350	1150	1190	1220	1185	1225	1255
Machine Ginned Surtee	995	1045	1105	1165	1225	1285	955	1005	1065	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Broach	1005	1055	1105	1155	1205	1255	955	1005	1065	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Bhownagur	1005	1055	1105	1155	1205	1255	955	1005	1065	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1	1005	1055	1105	1155	1205	1255	955	1005	1065	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2	1005	1055	1105	1155	1205	1255	955	1005	1065	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Khandesh	1205	1245	1285	1325	1365	1405	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
Machine Ginned Comptah.	970	1010	1050	1090	1130	1170	845	895	945	815	865	915
Machine Ginned Bengal.	960	1000	1040	1080	1120	1160	845	885	925	815	865	915
Machine Ginned Soinde	1305	1345	1385	1425	1465	1505	1345	1385	1425	1255	1295	1335
Tinnivelly	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1120	1160	1200	1030	1070	1110
American-Soinde/Punjab	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1120	1160	1200	1030	1070	1110
M. G. Western	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1120	1160	1200	1030	1070	1110
Western	1220	1260	1300	1340	1380	1420	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
M.G. Northern	1220	1260	1300	1340	1380	1420	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
Northern	Fr.	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1160	1200	1240	1055	1095	1135
M. G. Ocomoda, Red	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1160	1200	1240	1055	1095	1135
China, Smyrna, &c.	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1160	1200	1240	1055	1095	1135

THE DAILY SKETCH and SUNDAY HERALD LIMITED.

(Incorporated under The Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.)

CAPITAL:

£1,000,000 in Ordinary Shares of £1 each, all of which are issued with 2s. paid up.
£1,600,000 Six and one-half per Cent. Guaranteed Mortgage Debenture Stock.

OFFER FOR SALE OF

£1,600,000 Six and one-half per Cent. Guaranteed Mortgage Debenture Stock at £99 per Cent.

(Interest payable half-yearly—1st May and 1st November.)

Repayable at 107 per cent. by a Cumulative Sinking Fund of 3 per cent. per annum, the first payment to be made 1st November, 1925, and the last in 1944, to be applied in purchases on the market at or below 107, or failing such purchases by drawings at 107. Drawings will be made in September of each year, and the Stock so drawn paid off in the following November.

The Stock will be secured by a Trust Deed containing a First Specific Mortgage on the Freehold Lands and Buildings in course of erection, plant, machinery, &c., a first charge on £900,000 being the uncalled capital of the Company, and a first floating charge on the undertakings and other assets of the Company.

The due payment of principal, premium and interest will be unconditionally guaranteed, jointly and severally, by the Daily Mirror Newspapers Limited, and Sunday Pictorial Newspapers (1920), Limited. Neither of these Companies has issued any Debentures or Debenture Stock, and each will covenant that it will not during the currency of the Debenture Stock of this issue, create any Debentures or Debenture Stock charged upon its undertaking or assets.

The Company reserves the right to redeem the Debenture Stock, or any part thereof, at 107 per cent. on two months' notice, and also reserves the right to purchase Debenture Stock on the market at any price not exceeding 107 per cent., but such purchases will not be in substitution for annual drawings or for purchases out of the Sinking Fund.

The Company has agreed with the Trustees to pay no dividends on its Share Capital until all the Debenture Stock now issued shall have been redeemed.

The Debenture Stock will be registered, and transferable in multiples of £1.

THE BRITISH, FOREIGN & COLONIAL CORPORATION, LIMITED,
B.F.C. House, Gresham Street, E.C.2,

will receive applications for the purchase from them of the above £1,600,000 Debenture Stock through their Bankers

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED, 5, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2, and Branches,

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED, 72, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3, and Branches
at 99 per cent.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCK HOLDERS.

THE LAW DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED, 24, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

DIRECTORS:

SIR S. HARDMAN LEVER, Bt., K.C.B. (Chairman).
JAMES HEDDLE (Managing Director).
SIR FREDERICK H. SYKES, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., M.P., Director Underground Rlys., Ltd.
HAROLD C. A. HARMSWORTH, Director E. Hulton & Co., Ltd.
JOHN COWLEY, Chairman The Daily Mirror Newspapers, Ltd.
SIR MAYSON M. BEETON, K.B.E., Director Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd.
LT. COL. WILFRED H. WILD, D.S.O., Director Associated Newspapers, Ltd.

SOLICITORS:

To THIS OFFER, CLIFFORD TURNER & HOPTON, 81/87, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
To THE TRUSTEES, BIRCHAM & CO., 50, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

BROKERS TO THE OFFER:

J. & A. SCRIMGEOUR, 6, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.
READ & BRIGSTOCK, English House, 58, Gresham St., E.C.2.
BUCHANAN, GAIRDNER & TENNANT, 19, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

COPPOCK & BRATBY, 80, Cross Street, Manchester.
HORNBY, TOBIN & OOKLESTON, 8, Tithebarn St., Liverpool.
FISHE & HORTON, 8 Temple Row West, Birmingham.
WISE, SPEKE & CO., 53, Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

In addition to a charge upon the valuable copyrights of the two publications, the Debenture Stock is secured upon the Freehold Lands and Buildings in course of erection and all the other assets of the Company representing £812,000; also on the uncalled liability of 18s. per share on the million shares subscribed by the Guaranteeing Companies and the Board, amounting to £900,000, and has further security by virtue of the guarantee already referred to in the net assets of the "DAILY MIRROR" and "SUNDAY PICTORIAL" certified as at February 29th, 1924, at £1,719,558, without the inclusion of goodwill.

The net profit of the "DAILY SKETCH" and "ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY HERALD" for the year ended June, 1924, after allowing for all charges other than taxation, was over £180,000, and the Guaranteeing Companies have realised profits, as shown by the Accountants' Certificate, of £489,479 for the year ended February last, the average for the last eight years being £274,680. The Debenture interest of £104,000 per annum is therefore amply covered.

Copies of this Offer for Sale can be obtained from the Company,
the Bankers, the Brokers, the Trustees and the Issuing House.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1924.

No. 4,221.

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Issued by the Company may be
obtained on application from the
Head Office or any of the Offices
or Agencies of the Company.
O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF
BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 510,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers (D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having
correspondents in all Countries, and is specially pre-
pared to grant facilities for the development of trade
between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cansan, London."
Telephone: 7803-7103 Cto.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	81	Overseas Correspondence—	
Leading Articles—		United States	98
The Conference Gets to		France	99
Work	83	Germany	100
The Status of the Sudan ..	84	Austria	100
Industrial Profits	85	Sweden	101
Lancashire Cotton Trade ..	86	Canada	102
The Banking Half-Year ..	88	India	103
The New Baltic States—		Argentina	103
II. Latvia	89		
Alfred Marshall, 1842-1924	90	Stock Exchange News—	
Notes of the Week—		The Stock Markets	106
The Progress of the Hous-		New Issues	107
ing Bill	91	Active Securities	108
An American View of the		Company Meetings	109
Dawes Report	91	Government Returns—	
The Half-Year's Overseas		Currency Notes Account ..	116
Trade	91	National Debt	116
Iron, Steel, and Coal Pro-		Public Income and Expen-	
duction in June	92	diture	117
Free State Government's		Treasury Bills and Bonds by	
Position	92	Public Tender	117
The Disturbance in Brazil	92	Bankers' Gazette—	
The New Order in Turkey ..	93	Bank of England	117
The Sea Carriage Bill	93	Clearing Returns	117
South Wales Coal Anxieties	93	Overseas Bank Returns ..	118
The Chilean Exchange	94	Loan and Discount Rates ..	119
Foreign Capital in Peru ..	94	Overseas Bank Rates	119
Stock Exchange and		Rates of Exchange	119
Advertisement	94	Imports & Exports of Gold	
English Sewing Cotton	95	Gold and Silver Prices	120
The Chartered Report	95	Company News—	
Glasgow Corporation Tram-		Analysis of Balance-Sheets	
ways	95	Monthly Traffic Returns ..	120
Fuel Oil	96	Weekly Traffic Returns ..	121
The Baltimore and Ohio ..	96	Dividend Announcements ..	122
The Standard Life Assur-		Mining Outputs	122
ance Company's Capital	96	Reports and Notices	122
An Insurance Fusion	96	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	125
The Anglo-Dutch Year	96	Commercial Reports—	
Improved Rand Mining		Corn Trade	124
Methods	97	Iron and Coal Trade	125
The Gamble in East Rands	97	Overseas Trade Returns ..	126
Abbotiakoon	97	Metals	127
Odams Press	98	Wool Trade	127
Books and Publications—		Cotton Trade	127
Coveted Regions	105	Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds ..	128
The Population Problem ..	105	Timber Trade	128
Some Year-Books and a		Hides and Leather Trades ..	129
Catalogue	105	Overseas Produce Markets ..	129
Books Received	106	Price Current	133
Letters to the Editor—			
The Currency Problem	105		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 12s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 10s 6d; Yearly, £3 10s 6d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.
Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.
Cheques and Post-office Orders to be made payable to the
Proprietors of the "Economist."
Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

THE MONEY MARKET.

ALTHOUGH the end of June influences are now fully spent, the demand for loans in Lombard Street has remained fairly strong, and up to 3 per cent. has frequently been paid for fresh accommodation, with a charge for renewals in some quarters. This has helped to sustain the level of discount rates, aided by the possibility that a higher level of loan rates might be stabilised without reference to Bank rate or deposit rates, so rendering Bank rate fully effective at the present level. Though

success in this should have the effect of postponing an actual advance in the official rate, fine three months' bills have not been quoted below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the rate for October Treasury bills has been kept close up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but business has been small, especially at the end of the week, pending the removal of uncertainties on the subject of money rates.

	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase in the Reserve of £1,069,100, of which £1,067,300 was attributable to the inflow of notes from circulation. Government securities were reduced by £2,870,000, and Other securities rose by £230,500, while Public deposits increased by £1,811,100. Consequently, Other deposits showed a contraction of £3,428,400, and the ratio of the reserve to liabilities improved from 17.1 per cent. to 18.2 per cent. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £841,200 to £292,844,500, which includes £1,382,200 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £242,012,300, or £6,178,600 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The fading away of fears of an early rise in Bank rate produced a good effect in the stock markets, which would have been greater had not the revolution in Brazil created anxiety. Gilt-edged stocks have been decidedly firm, and a strong recovery followed the initial slump in Brazilian securities. Foreign stocks have not been much affected by the inter-Allied conference in London. Business in Home Rails remains quiet, in spite of the approach of dividend announcements. The rubber share market responded to the rise of the price of the commodity, while tea shares fell and recovered. Brewery stocks are conspicuously strong on dividend expectations. Apart from a little excitement in East Rand shares, the Kaffir market spent a quiet week.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

In one or two directions a recovery in markets is noticeable this week. Demand in the cotton trade is rather more active; although lower values are anticipated in some quarters for manufactures, in others it is thought that the raw material may not be cheaper in the future. Some improvement in the wool trade is recorded by our Bradford correspondent. Lower prices and an acute dearth of business is the burden of our Cardiff correspondent's report upon the coal trade. From Middlesbrough we are informed that the export of pig-iron is practically stopped owing to foreign competition. The tin market was weak, but copper ruled steady. Wheat was in good demand, and the price moved upward. Further details of the markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market business, on the whole, has remained quiet under the influence of somewhat anxious expectations aroused by the London Conference. Interest has been concentrated mainly upon the dollar rate, which has shown more violent fluctuations than have been customary for some time past. From \$4.35 $\frac{3}{4}$ at the close of business on the 11th, the rate rose rapidly to \$4.38 $\frac{1}{2}$ at Monday's close. On the following day there was a sharp reaction, the quotation falling at one time to as low as \$4.36 $\frac{3}{4}$, but ending with a partial recovery at \$4.37. On Wednesday it was up at one time to \$4.38, but closed at \$4.37 $\frac{1}{2}$, and fell the next day to \$4.36 $\frac{3}{4}$. Yesterday morning it showed a slight recovery to \$4.37 $\frac{1}{2}$. This reaction was only to be expected after the recent rapid rise, but the immediate future is by no means clear. At this time of the year the weight of autumn requirements might be expected to depress rates, but on the other hand, the money market position in the two countries might at the moment

be expected to work the other way, while the position has been further complicated by certain special operations on Continental account. The forward rate has widened to about $\frac{1}{2}$ cent below par for one month up to three. The Paris rate, which recovered to 83.05 on Monday, has gradually reacted to an increasingly doubtful attitude towards the results of the Conference, and yesterday morning stood at 85.70, as compared with 85.50 a week ago. Business, however, has been on a relatively small scale. Brussels, while following roughly the same course, has continued its recent relative improvement, and stood yesterday at 96, as compared with the previous week's 96.50. Forward rates for Paris show little change at about 20 centimes per month above spot, while Brussels has narrowed rather to 5 to 8 centimes below. The lira, after its recent slight depreciation, shows some recovery, and is steady at 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ as compared with 102.10 a week ago. The German mark continues unaffected by the present negotiations at 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ billion. Among the neutrals, Amsterdam has followed fairly closely the fluctuations of the dollar, moving from 11.54 to 11.55 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the week. Switzerland, after continuing its recent sharp improvement, has reacted somewhat to 24.02 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 23.97 $\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago. Madrid, after remaining fairly steady during the week, moved somewhat sharply yesterday morning to 32.94 $\frac{1}{2}$ from 32.90. In Northern Europe, Stockholm has gone in our favour from 16.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16.42 $\frac{1}{2}$, Christiania at about 33.55 shows little movement, while Copenhagen has appreciated slightly to 27.12 $\frac{1}{2}$. Helsingfors, on the other hand, has moved up from 173 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 174 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Riga and Warsaw continue to maintain their gold parity. In Central Europe, Vienna has followed the dollar to 310,500, while Budapest retains its temporary stability with sterling at 355,000 and Prague also remains steady at 147 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Bucharest at 985, as compared with 1,025, is better, probably on requirements in connection with the harvest. In the East, the rupee has improved in value from 1s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, but the yen has fallen back from 1s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 10 21-32d. The silver market has been quiet and steady, with little or no movement in price. America is still selling only sparingly, and demand from both India and China is dull. Hong Kong and Shanghai, after remaining quite steady through the week at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d respectively, fell yesterday morning to 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In South America the revolt in Brazil continued to have a depressing effect on the Rio quotation, but there was a recovery yesterday to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d on the 11th. Buenos Aires fell on the week from 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 40d, and Monte Video from 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, while Valparaiso also depreciated a little from 41.80 to 42.80 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended July 12th:—

(000's omitted.)			
EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Supply Services	8,650	From Revenue	12,460
Interest, &c., on Debt	707		
Sinking Fund	100		
Added to Exchequer Balances ..	33		
Reduction of Debt	2,781		
Sundries	189		
	12,460		12,460

Revenue came in on a reduced scale as compared with the corresponding period, amounting to £12,460,300, against £16,874,000. The chief cause of the decline was the lower receipts from Property and Income-tax, which amounted to £5,717,000, against £7,488,000. Super-tax receipts, however, were higher at £980,000, against £650,000. Customs receipts were reduced from £2,455,000 to £1,821,000, and Excise from £1,409,000 to £1,115,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £2,781,050, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
	£		£
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 50	Treasury Bills	565
Treasury Bonds	+ 284	Bank of England Advances ..	2,500
Sundries	+ 350	Public Dept. Advances	400
	+ 684		3,465

The floating debt was reduced by £3,430,000 to £793,998,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to July 12).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	237,049,740	Raised by Revenue ..	201,015,213
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,360,604
		Amount borrowed ..	32,673,923
Total	237,049,740	Total	237,049,740

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, JULY 14TH.—*Lords*: Discussions on League of Nations and on the Singapore base. *Commons*: Full dress debate on the British and French attitude to the Reparations problem, the Chequers and Paris conversations, and the London Conference.

TUESDAY, JULY 15TH.—*Lords*: Debate on the division of the Diocese of Winchester. *Commons*: Report stage of the Finance Bill concluded.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH.—*Lords*: Debate on compensation claims in Ireland. *Commons*: Committee stage of the Housing Bill begun.

THURSDAY, JULY 17TH.—*Lords*: Committee stage of the Legitimacy Bill concluded. *Commons*: Further progress made with the Committee stage of the Housing Bill.

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH.—*Commons*: Unemployment Insurance Bill third reading. Government defeated on an amendment.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Imperial Ottoman Bank, Imperial Bank of Persia, Bank of New South Wales, P. and O. Banking Corporation, Baker Perkins, Australian Estates and Mortgage, Apollinaris and Johannis, Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates, Argentine Navigation, Claudius Ash, De Trey, and International Tea Stores. Sir Herbert Lawrence, at the meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, said that in the economic world any general improvement of the situation is to be sought in stimulating demand, thereby causing increased production, in a wider exchange of commodities, in the restraint, so far as that may be possible, of speculation, and not, as some people are disposed to believe, in artificial measures of assistance, which at best are merely palliatives. Sir Hugh Barnes, at the meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia, referring to the failure of the Republican movement in Persia, said that the Persian merchant, who understands little of politics, and probably cares less, pursues his lawful business unperturbed.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE CONFERENCE GETS TO WORK.

AFTER the usual formal speeches and the appointment of Mr Ramsay MacDonald as President of the Conference, the Allied delegations have quickly settled down to work. Three committees have been set up. The first is dealing with the problem of possible German default, what body is to decide whether such default has occurred, and what steps may be taken to that effect. The second is considering machinery for restoring German economic and fiscal unity, while the third is considering methods of transferring German payments from the receiving body in Berlin to the creditor countries. The third committee has apparently nearly completed its work. After all, it can only deal with the fringe of this subject by setting up the necessary machinery. Nothing that is done now can really ensure that the necessary transfers can be made. The problem is one on which there is the widest room for difference of judgment, and the answer can

only be furnished by experience. The first and second committees are dealing with matters of more immediate importance. The path of the first committee has been unexpectedly smoothed by the declaration of the Americans that, while the United States could not consider appointing a full member to the Reparation Commission, it would have no objection to the appointment of an American citizen to deal with the question of German default if and when this arises. This is an encouraging start for the committee, which has still many difficult fences to jump, the most difficult of all being the claim of France to complete liberty of action if default occurs, and if she is not satisfied with the action proposed by her former Allies. We are strongly of opinion that it would be disastrous to allow any obscurity to remain on this point, or to arrive at a patched-up settlement, such as that proposed in last week's memorandum, namely, that when default has occurred the Allies will meet and consider the matter. It is imperative that a definite and final interpretation should be given to the disputed clauses under the Treaty of Versailles on this question. What action may legitimately be taken if Germany deliberately puts difficulties in the way of reparation payments? Are military measures justified, or are these a breach of the peace? If military measures are not permissible, what form of pressure is to be employed? Until definite answers are given to these questions the money markets of the world will naturally refuse to advance the loan needed to initiate the Dawes scheme. But there will be an even more serious consequence, for so long as this possible source of international dispute remains we can make no headway with France towards the political understanding which is needed to stabilise conditions in Europe, or secure the co-operation of Germany towards this end in the League of Nations.

We venture to hope that France may be encouraged to accept some limitation on the right of independent military action by the debate in the House of Commons on Monday, in the course of which Mr Asquith made a statement of very considerable significance. Speaking on the question of security, he used the following carefully considered words:—"What are the conditions under which we ought to proceed to attain that great purpose? First of all, in our view, any assurance or guarantee given to France ought to be given not as a separate guarantee to France, but as part of this country's general undertaking under the Covenant of the League of Nations. Next, the security offered, whatever it is, to France should be offered on equal terms to Germany. Thirdly, in order that that may be possible, it is obvious that Germany must be admitted to membership of the League of Nations and also through her representative to a seat on its Council. But that is not enough. The French will demand and will, I think, be entitled to demand something more. The opinion of this country is coming increasingly to believe that the British Empire—not only this country, but our Dominions—should undertake to guarantee both to France and Germany to use all its powers against either State which pressed a quarrel against the Allies without calling into use the machinery of the League." The formula in the last two or three lines of this statement is different from the plan proposed in the Treaty of Mutual Assistance, which commits the signatories to take definite action in the event of the Council declaring that some country has committed an act of aggression. Under it the Council of the League has to decide very promptly on the merits of the problem at issue, a decision which might be very difficult to settle at short notice. Mr Asquith's present formula commits us to definite action, not according to the merits of the particular dispute, but on the point that the machinery of the League must be used and a delay of a certain number of months enforced before war breaks out. In other words, the undertaking is not to carry out sentences hastily imposed by the Council of the League, but to prevent a breach of the peace. The formula is one which would have given France the assurance of our intervention in 1914, and it is one which is much more likely to be acceptable here than any other form of undertaking. Mr Ramsay MacDonald deliberately refrained from discussing this question fully, but on it he made the significant remark that "the line which the right hon. gentleman (Mr

Asquith) takes this afternoon is precisely the line I have been taking all through."

Monday's debate was notable in one other respect, namely, the large number of speeches from the back benches on all sides of the House in which scepticism was expressed on the whole Reparation policy. One or two speakers took the line of Mr Morel, that whatever might be the responsibility of particular leaders or statesmen, whether in Germany or in Allied countries, the people of Germany were as much the victims of pre-war diplomacy as the Allied peoples, and it was unjust to saddle them with these economic burdens for many decades.

But most of the speakers took the other line, that payment of large indemnities was either impracticable without a complete upset of the exchanges, or that the stimulus to German exports would be so great as to be a disaster to the industrial communities in competing countries. We believe these fears to be greatly exaggerated. The argument that if Germany is to increase her exports she must enormously increase her import of raw materials as compared with pre-war days, and therefore build up a colossal overseas trade, is unconvincing. On the basis of the raw material which Germany imported before the war, she could have considerably increased her exports in the form of metallurgical, chemical, and textile manufactures if her internal development had been proceeding at a less rapid rate and a smaller proportion of her production had been consumed at home. Unlike Great Britain, Germany before the war was putting all her savings into internal development, and not to any large extent into foreign investment. Some change in the proportion of home and export trade is not economically impossible. Again, the extent to which the creation of a substantial German export surplus involves the redistribution of the world's foreign commerce is apt to be exaggerated, for the amounts involved in the Dawes report are not enormous in comparison with the total of the world's foreign commerce. And, finally, we would call attention to the argument of an American economist referred to in another column, that the payment of these sums abroad will add to the purchasing power of the countries to whom reparations are paid. The reparation plan will undoubtedly exercise for a period of years some influence on the distribution of international trade, but to what extent it is at present very uncertain. In our opinion, it is a mistake to look for trouble of this kind, which cannot compare in importance with the stimulating effect on the world's economic activity and developments which would be produced by a general reparation settlement, by more stable exchange conditions, and by political peace.

Before, however, we allow ourselves to be carried away by optimism as to the results of the Conference, we would again emphasise the need of taking stock of the present situation in Germany. As yet we see no sign of overcoming the dilemma that Germany will not put into effect the necessary measures for carrying out the Dawes report until the Ruhr is evacuated, while France will not evacuate the Ruhr until the report is put into effect. As soon as the committees are ready, Germany must be called into consultation to help to break this vicious circle.

THE STATUS OF THE SUDAN.

THE crisis over the future of the Sudan, which has arisen during the last few weeks, and which was the subject of a debate in the House of Commons on July 10th, has been latent ever since the question was placed among the four "reserved points" of the British Declaration of February 28, 1922, in which the independence of Egypt was recognised conditionally by His Majesty's Government. This declaration was, of course, unilateral, and Saad Zaghlul Pasha has on several occasions repudiated it as a basis for negotiations, both before and after taking office. On the other hand, the British Government has been equally careful to keep its hands free in regard to the Sudan, ever since the abrogation of the British Protectorate over Egypt has been under consideration. In 1920, for example, the Milner Commission expressly excluded

the Sudan from the scope of their discussions. Thus the point of departure for any Anglo-Egyptian negotiations on the subject remains the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of January 19, 1899. The text of this instrument appears never yet to have been made public, but its substantial purport is well known, and it is in conformity with the practical facts of the situation both before and after the Sudan was reconquered from the Mahdists. It was agreed, apparently, that Great Britain was entitled "by right of conquest" to share in the settlement and future working and development of the Sudan. The Sirdar or Governor-General is appointed, under this Treaty, by Khedivial decree on the recommendation of the British Government. In practice he has always been a soldier of British nationality, with Englishmen filling the higher and Egyptians the lower posts in the administrative service. A large part of the Egyptian Army is stationed in the Sudan, the cost being borne by the Egyptian Government. The régime may be described as a condominium, which is symbolised by the fact that the British and Egyptian flags are hoisted side by side. Since the War, the world-shortage of cotton has drawn the attention of the British cotton trade to the Sudan as a potential source of supply, and this has resulted in the initiation of the Gezira irrigation scheme, which has been discussed in two recent issues of the *Economist*. An important amount of British capital has been invested in this scheme, and the Treasury has given a guarantee under the Trade Facilities Bill. These were the main circumstances at the moment when the whole question was raised by the debate in the House of Lords on June 25th. Lord Parmoor's blunt statement that "the Government was not going to abandon the Sudan in any sense whatever" was restated on the 30th by the Prime Minister in more conciliatory terms, and with a plea for a free discussion between the British and Egyptian Governments on a basis of reality. Meanwhile, on the 28th, Lord Parmoor's statement had drawn from Zaghlul Pasha an uncompromising speech in the Egyptian Chamber, in which he announced his resignation, in spite of the manifestations of support which he received and of the vote of confidence which the Chamber passed at the close of the sitting. Upon King Fuad's refusal to accept his resignation he resumed office; but it remains to be seen whether Mr MacDonald, charm he never so wisely, will succeed in inducing him to come to London and open negotiations, although the British Government has made it clear that an interchange of views would commit neither party in any way. These are the material facts, but the problem can only be solved by an adjustment between the British, the Egyptian, and—last, but not least—the Sudanese points of view. The view held by informed British observers (irrespective of party) is that the Egyptians conquered the Sudan with some barbarity half a century ago, lost it through prolonged incompetence and oppression, were only saved by British intervention from themselves being conquered by the revolted Sudanese, would never have been capable of reconquering the country without British leadership and assistance, and would lose it again, if it were now handed over to them exclusively, with results probably as disastrous for all parties concerned as those which occurred in the eighties of last century. British efforts (military, administrative, and economic), we believe, have alone redeemed the Sudan from barbarism, and alone prevent it from relapsing. On the other side, the Egyptians claim superior title by previous "right of conquest"; point out that the present administration of the Sudan is dependent on the presence of Egyptian officials and troops, and the expenditure of £478,000 for military expenditure in the Sudan during the financial year 1921-2; and argue with force that, so long as Great Britain holds the Sudan as well as the sea, the independence of Egypt is at her mercy. The economic, as distinct from the strategic, aspect of this last House of Lords debate, that the allocation of Nile water commission under American chairmanship. But what of the Sudanese themselves? The difficulty here is that the

people of the Sudan are in a rudimentary state of political development, and therefore both the Egyptians and ourselves can each attribute any Sudanese manifestations hostile to us respectively to the suggestion or propaganda (not necessarily illegitimate in itself) of the other party. In fact, the Sudanese are in much the same stage as the populations of certain mandated territories, and the whole complicated problem might fruitfully be referred, failing a direct agreement, to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League for an expert advisory opinion.

This last proposal was definitely put forward by Mr T. Johnston in the debate of Thursday, the 10th, in the House of Commons, and to judge by the temper of the Egyptian Parliament and Press, it seems not unlikely that some reference to an impartial outside authority may prove to be the best issue out of the difficulty in the last resort. Mr Ormsby-Gore, however, very rightly urged that the utmost effort ought first to be made to reach a friendly settlement by direct negotiation, and this point was taken up and emphasised by the Prime Minister, who carefully differentiated our relations with Egypt over the Sudan from our relations with Turkey over Mosul. Can direct negotiations be initiated with any prospect of success? Mr MacDonald informed the House that Zaghlul Pasha hoped to leave Egypt before the end of the month, but two days after the debate the Egyptian Prime Minister was the victim of an attempted assassination at the hands of a young Egyptian student freshly returned from abroad, and the criminal confessed that his motive was to prevent the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations from taking place. Happily the wound has not proved serious, but Zaghlul Pasha's journey will no doubt be considerably delayed, and it is impossible to foresee as yet how this deplorable incident will affect Anglo-Egyptian relations, though it is permissible to hope that the bodily injuries which the veteran Egyptian statesman has suffered will lighten, indirectly, his political task.

Meanwhile, the debate in the House of Commons showed that there was a consensus of opinion among all parties in this country upon certain vital points. It was agreed that the situation in the Sudan had been fundamentally altered by the recognition of Egyptian independence; that the present arrangements could not stand, and that a fresh settlement ought to be reached as soon as was reasonably possible. Mr MacDonald was able to give a guarantee, on behalf not only of the present Government but of the House of Commons as a whole, that we were prepared to come to an agreement with Egypt on the question of the Nile water which Egypt herself would regard as satisfactory, and that the independence of the Sudan would not mean that the Egyptian cultivator would receive "a single pint of water less" than if the Sudan were politically in his possession. Sir Murdoch Macdonald pointed out that the cotton crop of Egypt herself was so important for the textile industry of Great Britain that no British authorities in the Sudan would be tempted to reduce the supply of water available for the cultivation of that crop in order to open up potential cotton fields higher up the river. Mr T. Johnston raised the question of the Sudan sugar tax, which he condemned as oppressive, and he drew from the Prime Minister the information that the Sudan Plantation Syndicate at present paid no taxes in the Sudan. The most important statement in the debate was, of course, the Prime Minister's declaration that "Great Britain cannot throw off its responsibilities, contracted to the Sudan and the Sudanese, by withdrawing and handing the country over to any other Government," but the debate ended on a conciliatory note. The Prime Minister associated himself with Sir Murdoch Macdonald's opinion that the Egyptians, in demanding political sovereignty over the Sudan, were not actuated by any desire to re-institute the old régime of exploitation and oppression, but by an anxiety to safeguard Egyptian interests which it might not be proper to safeguard in this way, but which were perfectly legitimate in themselves. Earl Winterton, who had opened the debate with a somewhat controversial review of Egyptian misgovernment in the past, took occasion at this point to associate himself with the Prime Minister. "If the negotiations are approached in this spirit on both sides, they will start under the conditions most favourable for success."

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

OUR quarterly figures of the profits of industrial companies show a further slowing up in the rate of expansion, the percentage increase in the past quarter, which covers the greatest number of companies, having dropped to 3 per cent. During April, May and June the results of 466 industrial concerns have been analysed in our weekly summary of profit and loss accounts, and these show aggregate net profits for their past financial year (after meeting debenture interest, &c.) of £51½ millions, which compares with £49½ millions earned by the same companies in their preceding financial year. As there is considerable divergence in the promptitude with which accounts are submitted to shareholders after the close of the financial year, the periods covered by these 466 reports vary a little, but the bulk refer either to the years ended December 31, 1923, or March 31, 1924. Some, of course, are for earlier dates, and a few cover even later periods. During the past twelve months 1,406 reports have been examined, and these show an increase of 11.8 per cent. in profits, as may be seen from the following table, which gives the actual figures:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports published in		Increase.	
		1922.	1923.	£	%
Third quarter	209	10,469,118	17,317,482	6,848,364	65.2
Fourth quarter	312	23,382,776	26,043,934	2,661,158	11.4
1923. 1924.					
First quarter	419	37,155,048	40,382,901	3,227,853	8.7
Second quarter	466	49,794,417	51,292,944	1,498,527	3.0
	1,406	120,801,359	135,037,261	14,235,902	11.8

At this time last year our analysis of the reports of 1,358 companies showed an increase of 16.1 per cent. It will be seen that there has been a progressive decline in the rate of increase in profits, but this is explained to a considerable extent by a comparison with the results of our analyses in preceding quarters, which is set out below:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
First quarter	-1.0	+10.4	+2.9	+3.5	-4.4	+4.4	+8.7
Second quarter	-5.8	-5.1	+3.7	-8.4	-3.7	+2.1	+3.0
Third quarter	+12.3	-3.4	+4.9	-4.4	-2.5	+6.2	...
Fourth quarter	+4.7	+10.5	+27.1	-52.9	+5.9	+11.4	...

Thus, the increase of 65.2 per cent. recorded in the third quarter of last year followed a substantial decrease twelve months previously, whereas the small increases of this year follow substantial increases a year ago.

In the table below we classify the profits disclosed during the past twelve months into 20 groups of companies, showing how they compare with those earned in the preceding financial year:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in Year Ended June 30.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		1923.	1924.	£	%	£	%
Breweries	83	8,995,000	9,385,408	400,408	4.5	...	...
Canals	7	477,023	537,531	60,508	12.6	...	...
Electric light & power	39	3,046,573	3,790,526	743,953	24.5	...	...
Gas	49	3,575,319	3,331,794	...	...	343,525	9.6
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	26	1,602,951	1,686,273	83,322	5.2	...	...
Iron, coal, and steel	103	9,814,657	11,595,613	1,780,956	18.1	...	...
Land, mortgage, &c.	77	4,035,764	4,973,687	937,923	23.2	...	...
Motor and cycle	26	33,921	702,571	668,650	1971.5	...	...
Nitrate	19	364,073	806,273	442,200	121.5	...	...
Rubber	275	1,886,368	3,394,010	1,507,642	79.9	...	...
Oil	14	1,947,858	2,910,094	962,236	49.4	...	...
Shipping	29	5,779,135	5,474,508	...	...	304,627	5.3
Shops and stores	50	4,010,672	4,843,688	833,016	20.8	...	...
Tea	73	3,330,310	4,397,278	1,066,968	32.0	...	...
Telegraphs, &c.	30	5,921,688	5,097,039	...	...	824,649	13.8
Textile	48	12,011,693	12,995,194	983,501	8.2	...	...
Tramways	24	1,680,382	1,810,843	130,461	7.8	...	...
Trust	27	3,394,125	4,790,191	1,396,066	41.2	...	...
Water	77	680,411	680,411	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	340	37,623,251	44,360,477	6,737,226	17.9	...	...
Total	1,406	120,801,359	135,037,261	14,235,902	11.8	...	...

Prominent increases are shown by the motor and cycle, nitrate, rubber and tea groups. A year ago the last two groups also recorded substantial increases, but in the nitrate group of 20 companies a decline of 55 per cent. was shown. The oil and shipping groups were last year

among the companies showing decreases, as were also the iron and steel companies, now among the increases. The expansion in profits shown by the electricity group, retail shops and stores and the investment trust companies follow appreciable increases twelve months ago.

We next show how profits have been distributed in each of the past four quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Preference Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.
1923.				
Third quarter.....	17,317,482	9,553,962	558	3,039,838
Fourth quarter.....	26,043,934	16,424,429	631	4,595,984
1924.				
First quarter.....	40,382,901	24,069,835	596	7,291,651
Second quarter.....	51,292,944	31,153,288	608	11,465,051
	135,037,261	81,299,514	602	26,390,526
				27,347,221

The final column here and in the next table includes, in addition to specific allocations to reserve, the differences between the amounts brought forward from the previous year and the amounts carried forward to the next account. In the twelve months over £27 millions, or 20.3 per cent. of total profits, was not distributed to shareholders, whereas in the preceding twelve months only 15.2 per cent. of total profits was so withheld. In the past quarter the proportion of profits reserved shows an appreciable drop, the amount going to preference shareholders being considerably above the average for the year. This is partly due to payment of arrears of preference dividend by one or two companies, and also partly to the fact that there happens to be a larger proportion of preference capital in the last quarter than in the preceding quarters.

The table below shows the method of distribution adopted by each of the groups:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Pref. Dividend.	Carried to Reserve, &c.
Breweries.....	9,396,406	5,879,507	625	1,763,561
Canals.....	597,531	260,196	493	242,769
Electric light & power.....	3,790,155	1,176,954	310	660,122
Gas.....	3,231,794	2,501,778	774	373,989
Hotels, restaurants, &c.....	1,885,273	736,741	473	487,855
Iron, coal, and steel.....	11,596,613	6,551,964	565	2,700,839
Land, mortgage, &c.....	4,973,657	2,823,118	588	873,996
Motor and cycle.....	702,571	412,929	59	166,265
Nitrate.....	806,273	1,048,819	130	nil
Oil.....	9,910,994	8,045,680	813	1,668,415
Rubber.....	3,294,030	2,772,122	834	88,556
Shipping.....	1,474,300	2,543,065	465	1,353,538
Shops and stores.....	6,843,868	2,575,722	532	1,197,986
Tea.....	4,587,379	3,011,104	657	274,380
Telegraphs, &c.....	5,057,039	3,391,859	671	341,146
Textile.....	13,696,124	7,844,082	573	1,654,276
Tramways.....	1,619,843	716,242	442	619,594
Trust.....	4,784,190	2,742,722	574	1,286,604
Water.....	680,944	446,547	655	90,639
Miscellaneous.....	44,350,477	25,758,856	581	10,606,212
	135,037,261	81,299,514	602	26,390,526
				27,347,221

In the matter of reserve appropriations the best showing is made by the electricity and textile groups, the former showing by far the most conservative policy of profit distribution. At the other end of the scale the nitrate group shows a draft upon reserves; but this is largely due to one company, which paid out a dividend of £500,000, although the profits earned in the year were less than £200,000, the deficiency being made good by reducing the balance forward. The oil group appears to have paid dividends and neglected to strengthen reserve funds.

Turning to the question of earnings on capital, we show below the ratio to total ordinary and preference capital of net profits and of amounts reserved in each of the past four quarters:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.	Carried to Reserve, &c.
1923.			
Third quarter....	195,420,900	17,317,482	4,623,682
Fourth quarter....	255,094,800	26,043,934	5,027,521
1924.			
First quarter....	390,545,000	40,382,901	9,021,413
Second quarter....	517,002,006	51,292,944	8,674,605
	1,358,062,706	135,037,261	27,347,221

The ratio of net profits to capital at 9.9 per cent. compares with 9.1 per cent. a year ago, 6.8 per cent. in 1922, and 13.2 per cent. in 1921. The ratio of the amount reserved a year ago was 1.4 per cent. The average rates paid on the three classes of capital quarter by quarter

since the beginning of 1921 will be found in the next table:—

AVERAGE RATES PAID.

	On Debenture Capital.				On Preference Capital.				On Ordinary Capital.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
1st quarter.....	4.43	4.70	4.61	4.62	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.3	10.3	8.5	9.2	8.6
2nd quarter.....	4.61	5.00	5.08	5.17	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.5	10.3	8.5	9.2	10.1
3rd quarter.....	4.45	5.21	4.90	..	5.0	4.5	4.3	..	9.7	7.6	7.8	..
4th quarter.....	4.52	4.83	5.03	..	5.1	5.6	5.4	..	7.6	8.6	9.6	..

The average rates paid on debenture capital are a little higher than they were three years ago, as a result largely of the issue of short-term notes at a high rate of interest during the post-war boom. The average rate of ordinary dividend for the past quarter is the highest since the corresponding quarter of 1921. In the final table we show the average rates paid by each of the groups during the past 12 months, giving also the average rate of ordinary dividend shown in our article a year ago:—

	Debenture Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	a Year Ago.
Breweries.....	34,123,931	4.2	32,310,821	5.5	39,643,728	14.8	13.6
Canals.....	1,904,784	3.6	5,154,800	4.7	7,288,474	3.6	3.4
Electric light and power.....	15,803,022	5.1	13,455,951	4.9	14,387,338	8.2	7.2
Gas.....	12,887,584	4.1	8,907,283	4.2	45,750,642	5.5	5.4
Hotels, restaurants, &c.....	5,601,761	4.6	8,351,316	5.1	8,637,864	3.2	6.7
Iron, coal, and steel.....	48,638,329	5.9	54,301,088	5.0	130,634,301	5.0	4.9
Land, mortgage, &c.....	24,148,426	4.5	19,701,391	4.5	40,757,046	6.9	6.8
Motor and cycle.....	6,187,676	4.9	6,389,358	2.6	14,621,820	2.8	2.2
Nitrate.....	520,300	5.1	nil	..	7,334,325	14.3	10.2
Oil.....	8,062,472	5.8	26,147,646	6.3	44,217,508	18.2	22.2
Rubber.....	1,987,113	5.5	1,671,449	5.3	46,235,124	6.0	3.6
Shipping.....	24,912,368	5.6	24,310,130	5.6	43,181,707	6.0	8.3
Shops and stores.....	7,945,044	4.8	21,370,025	5.6	35,293,861	10.2	11.1
Tea.....	1,123,356	5.5	4,338,427	6.3	9,324,082	33.6	19.2
Telegraph.....	8,720,265	4.5	8,245,568	4.2	25,288,394	13.4	8.9
Textile.....	15,264,606	4.6	40,867,566	4.0	70,706,870	11.1	13.8
Tramway.....	21,714,247	4.6	11,855,109	5.2	13,795,701	5.2	4.1
Trust.....	36,001,924	4.2	30,373,980	4.2	38,150,383	7.2	6.1
Waterworks.....	5,494,149	4.3	3,337,138	4.6	6,296,327	7.1	6.8
Miscellaneous.....	80,449,800	5.3	180,067,841	5.9	225,882,793	11.4	10.9
	339,384,136	5.0	501,446,947	5.3	856,315,799	9.6	9.0

The result of short-term note issues is clearly reflected in the average rate paid for loan capital by the iron and steel group. The low figure of average preference dividend for the rubber group is due to the passing of the dividend by one company with a large amount of preference capital. In the ordinary dividends the feature is the rate paid by the tea group, which appears to provide some justification for the share boom which took place last year. Fifteen of the 20 groups show increases in the average rate of ordinary dividend, the most conspicuous declines being shown by the oil, shipping, and textile sections.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

(BY OUR MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

THE general position of the cotton industry in Lancashire has not shown any marked change during the last three months. After increased activity in the earlier part of the year, demand was quieter between Easter and Whitsuntide. During the past month there has been a revival of inquiry, and there are now indications of an increasing turnover. Actual business, however, is very irregular, and merchants do not seem to be in a position to give out orders steadily. The spinning mills engaged on American cotton are still working only 26½ hours a week instead of the usual 48. Spinners engaged on Egyptian cotton are busy, and there is practically no unemployment in Bolton and district. Order lists of cloth manufacturers are very irregular, and probably not more than 75 per cent. of the looms in Lancashire are running at the moment.

During the quarter there have been many ups and downs in raw cotton rates, but recently there has been a movement towards a lower level of values. On March 31st the quotation for Fully Middling American cotton on the spot in Liverpool was 17.06d. The tone was stronger early in April, the price on the 12th being 19.42d. By

the 30th, however, the rate had fallen to 17.45d. May brought rather higher values, the figure on the 31st being 18.66d. There was a downward movement early in June to 17.48d on the 11th, 17.11d on the 25th, and 17.04d on the 30th. The figure on July 3 was 16.57d, and 16.95d on the 16th. Business in the raw material has been hampered by the wide margin in prices between old and new crop months in futures. The sales on the spot have been small. Imports from the United States to this country have been very limited, and from week to week stocks have been reduced. Increased attention has been centred on the prospects for the crop in the United States for 1924-25. During May the germination of the plants was kept back by heavy rains and low temperatures. June brought a distinct improvement, and the crop recovered a good deal of the lateness. At the beginning of July the Government Condition report was better than expected, and the same authority estimated the increase in the acreage at 4.4 per cent. The statistics indicated a yield of over 12,000,000 bales, exclusive of linters. Since then some advices have been less favourable, but in Lancashire trade circles the opinion is held that the crop on the whole is doing well, and lower values are expected. Sentiment is certainly bearish, and it is feared that in some quarters a rather serious short interest is being created, not only in the raw material but also in yarn and cloth. With regard to Egyptian cotton, the quotation for Fully Good Fair Sakellaris on the spot in Liverpool on March 31st was 21.05d. By April 26th the price had advanced to 23.70d, and there was a further rise on May 6th to 24.05d. There followed a rather easier movement, but 24.10d was posted on June 2nd. The figure on June 30th was 23.05d, with 23.35d on July 16th. The outlook for the Egyptian crop for 1924-25 is excellent. According to private advices there is every likelihood of a record output of 8,000,000 cantars. It must be pointed out, however, that the consumption of Egyptian cotton is increasing rapidly, and all the material grown will be wanted.

There has been much irregularity in the business passing in piece-goods in the Manchester market during the past three months. Some shipping houses have been more prepared to operate freely, but it is undoubtedly a fact that numerous firms, owing to their limited financial resources, are not in a position to adopt a policy of enterprise. There is ground for believing, however, that dealers in distributing centres abroad are in more urgent need of larger supplies than for a long time back, and the hand-to-mouth purchasing which has occurred is resulting in a distinct shortage of particular makes. The all-round inquiry for India has been on broader lines. A much larger turnover has taken place in light bleaching cloths, especially for Calcutta. Manufacturers in Blackburn and district have obtained some relief. Freer operations have also taken place in grey shirtings. The reports relating to the monsoon season have varied, but on the whole the rains are satisfactory, and leading authorities have expressed the opinion that the trade outlook in India is healthy. The same can scarcely be said with regard to China, and although a fair miscellaneous business has been done from week to week for Shanghai and Hong Kong, especially in white goods and fancies, exporters have restricted their commitments. The political situation in the Far East is too uncertain for merchants to buy freely. Rather more activity has now and again shown itself for Java, Singapore, and the Straits Settlements. Buying for Egypt and the Near East has been patchy, but conditions in that part of the world seem to be rather more encouraging than a little time ago. There are indications of rather more activity for some of the South American outlets. Owing to increased nervousness with regard to finance, a falling off has occurred in buying for European countries, especially Germany. Fine fancy materials have continued to move off fairly well for the United States, and much interest has been taken in the attempts of manufacturers in America to get the Government to increase the tariff on imported cotton goods. There has not been very much life in the home trade section. Buyers for the most part have been cautious, but recently clearances in the retail and wholesale establishments have shown some improvement.

The following is a comparative table of cloth shipment from the United Kingdom, the figures being given for the six months ended June in each year:—

	Yards.	£
1913.....	3,582,788,800	48,756,738
1922.....	1,850,860,000	67,391,014
1923.....	2,106,868,600	70,098,846
1924.....	2,224,012,700	75,635,829

Despite the organised curtailment of production, spinners of American yarns have not been able to secure any definite relief. The reduced supplies seem to be quite equal to the requirements of users. The prices ruling in practically all counts and qualities are very unsatisfactory, and, as is usual at this time of the year, spinners are feeling the ill effects of the annual holidays in weaving centres. The turn of spinners will come at the end of August, when the stoppage at Oldham takes place. There have been bursts of buying during the past quarter, but for the most part users have been content to purchase from hand to mouth. On the whole, producers of medium and fine counts have done rather better than spinners of coarse numbers. There is no probability at the moment of the Masters' Federation deciding to abandon the short-time scheme, and according to present arrangements the mills will continue to run 26½ hours per week until the end of September. With regard to yarns spun from Egyptian cotton, the general position of producers continues healthier. The demand during the past three months has been sufficient to enable spinners to maintain their improved position. It may be said that mills engaged on fine combed qualities are more strongly fortified with orders than factories on the coarser-carded counts. The undercurrent of inquiry in yarns suitable for shipment abroad has been fairly extensive. Now and again encouraging contracts have been put through for India in the higher counts. Up to about a month ago a big trade took place for Germany, but recently the financial crisis has upset business to a serious extent. Attempts have been made to cancel contracts, and owing to remittances not being received, exports have been stopped. Some Manchester merchant houses are feeling the position rather acutely. According to an analysis of the stocktaking announcements of 91 spinning companies at the end of June, the directors of 65 concerns were not able to recommend any dividend on the ordinary shares. The ordinary share capital of these companies amounts to £10,859,700, and the mills contain 8,821,567 spindles.

The following is a comparative table of shipments of cotton yarns from the United Kingdom, the figures being given for the six months ended June in each year:—

	Lbs.	£
1913.....	106,409,000	7,512,063
1922.....	106,309,100	14,242,341
1923.....	70,225,700	10,170,024
1924.....	87,486,600	14,682,791

The cotton industry in this country has been in varying states of depression during the last four years. Spinners and manufacturers have been hit by the falling off in raw cotton supplies, especially from the United States, and consequent high prices. It must be remembered that about 75 per cent. of the machinery in Lancashire is usually engaged on foreign contracts. The people in the poorer countries of the world, such as India and China, have not been able to pay the relatively high prices for cotton goods, and consume the same quantities as in pre-war times. Dealers and merchants, therefore, have restricted their purchases as much as possible, and stocks have been allowed to run down very low. There is now justification for believing that the time has arrived when supplies will have to be replenished. There is a probability of the cotton crop in the United States for next season being over 12,000,000 bales against 10,000,000 bales in the current season, and only 8,000,000 bales in the previous year. The outlook for the cheaper values, therefore, is favourable. In the Manchester market a big business is pending at the present time. Buyers cannot make up their minds that the price level is safe. Immediately there are indications of no further decline, there is every probability of active operations in manufactured goods. Most people, therefore, are looking forward to more contracts for spinners and manufacturers in the near future, and increased employment for the operatives.

THE BANKING HALF-YEAR.

As no profit and loss accounts are issued by the English joint stock banks at this time of the year, the only indication as to the results of the operations of the half-year is afforded by the interim dividend declarations. As we showed in last week's *Economist*, the rates declared for the past six months were all at the same rates as for the corresponding period of 1923. This was in accordance with anticipations, since the monetary history of the half-year did not point to a possibility of any great change in profits. The margin between average market rate and the average short-loan rate was 17s 8d per cent., or 3s 9d per cent. wider than in the corresponding period of 1923, but the rate paid on deposits was 2 per cent., as against 1 per cent. a year ago, while the average rate of interest received on loans and advances was probably very much the same as it was in the first half of last year, for although the Bank rate has this year been at 4 per cent. instead of 3 per cent., the usual terms for bank advances usually provide for a minimum rate, which is generally 5 per cent. The increase from 3 to 4 per cent. in Bank rate has probably, therefore, had little effect upon the average rate received for advances. The volume of advances, however, as will be seen from the balance-sheet figures below, has been greater. Bad and doubtful debts have perhaps not required such heavy allowances out of profits as in recent years, but on the expenditure side there has probably been little change.

Turning to the actual figures of the half-yearly statements as at June 30th, we append a comparison of the aggregate figures of the "big five" banks with those of December 31st last and June 30, 1923:—

	June 30, 1924.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1923.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
(Million £'s.)			
Paid-up capital	60.5	+ 1.3	+ 1.3
Reserves	45.7	+ 1.5	+ 1.7
Acceptances and endorsement	73.0	+ 13.4	+ 8.5
Deposits (including undivided profits)	1,518.7	+ 21.9	+ 14.5
Total	1,700.9	+ 32.5	+ 26.0
Cash, notes, balances at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	246.2	+ 8.9	+ 16.2
Ratio to deposits	(16.2%)	(+0.3%)	(+1.0%)
Money at call and short notice	88.8	+ 3.1	+ 12.9
Investments	319.0	+ 15.6	+ 5.8
Discounts	219.9	+ 37.0	+ 25.6
Loans and advances	729.2	+ 38.2	+ 45.0
Premises and sundries (including cover for acceptances)	97.8	+ 12.3	+ 9.1

So far as the past half-year is concerned, the feature has been the substantial increase in loans and advances, which has not been accompanied by any expansion in deposits. The latter, according to the monthly average figures, continued the upward movement which began in October last in January, but during the next two months there was a sharp fall, which has been followed by only a moderate increase. Advances, on the other hand, have been slowly but steadily expanding, and are now at the highest figure for two or three years. The increase in advances has apparently been met by a reduction in bills discounted, which is probably largely explained by smaller Treasury bill holdings. Investments and cash are both lower than they were six months ago, with a slight decline in the ratio of the latter to deposits. Acceptances, according to the monthly figures, have been steadily declining since January. As compared with June 30th last year, the increase in advances is greater still, but the reduction in discounts is smaller, and deposits show a small increase. Cash is also considerably higher, and the ratio to deposits shows an improvement of 1 per cent.

A comparison of the individual balance-sheets shows that on the whole the movements of the past six months are mostly common to all the banks:—

COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 31, 1922.
(Million £'s.)

June 30, 1924.	Barclays.	Lloyds.	Midland.	National Provincial.	Westminster.
Deposits	5.8	5.5	3.4	6.4	0.8
Acceptances ..	+ 1.6	+ 3.7	+ 6.2	+ 2.3	+ 2.7
Cash, &c.	0.5	4.1	+ 0.9	2.1	3.1
Money at call ..	+ 1.2	+ 0.4	+ 2.1	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Investments ..	6.7	5.8	+ 0.9	4.2	0.3
Discounts ..	9.8	8.8	11.0	2.3	5.1
Advances ..	+ 9.8	+ 12.9	+ 5.9	+ 2.3	+ 7.3

The increase in advances and the reduction in discounts and deposits is general. The increase in the Midland's advances is, however, relatively small, and this bank is exceptional, with small increases in cash, money at call, and investments. The Midland's holding of investments is the smallest of the five, at £46 millions, but cash, &c., is easily the highest, at £70 millions. Lloyds, on the other hand, has £93 millions in investments, of which over £82 millions are in British Government securities and £46 millions in cash. The Westminster records only a very small decline in deposits and a substantial increase in advances. Barclays provides an exception to the general decline in acceptances.

The figures of the five principal provincial banks show less important changes:—

COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 31, 1923.
(Million £'s.)

June 30, 1924.	Bank of Liverpool & Martins.	District Bank.	Lancashire and Yorkshire.	Manchester & County.	Williams, Deacons.
Deposits	3.1	3.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
Acceptances ..	3.0	2.8	0.1	0.6	2.1
Cash, &c.	1.0	0.2	0.4	+ 0.4	1.1
Money at call ..	1.4	+ 0.4	0.4	1.5	0.4
Investments ..	0.9	+ 1.0	0.1	1.5	1.2
Discounts ..	..	2.6	+ 0.1	0.5	0.5
Advances ..	..	+ 0.1	0.3	+ 0.5	+ 1.4

There is a similar general decline in deposits, but advances are less than £2 millions higher, while discounts have been reduced by £2 millions. Williams, Deacons shows the largest increase in advances, and has also a slightly larger bill holding, these increases being met by considerable reductions in cash and investments. The District Bank has reduced its bills discounted, and there has been no corresponding increase in advances, but investments are higher. All the five banks show lower totals for acceptances.

We conclude with a table showing the ratios of the advances of the big five banks to their deposit liabilities at the dates named:—

RATIO OF ADVANCES TO DEPOSIT LIABILITIES.

	June 30, 1914.	June 30, 1922.	June 30, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	June 30, 1924.
Barclays	45.0	40.1	45.4	44.0	48.1
Lloyds	52.7	36.1	41.1	41.3	45.9
Midland	56.9	48.0	54.6	52.1	54.2
National Provincial ..	45.0	45.1	48.4	48.1	50.1
Westminster	48.1	35.0	36.5	37.5	40.3
Total	50.7	41.0	45.4	44.9	48.0

There has been a substantial increase in these ratios owing to the increase in advances and the decline in deposits, and in two cases the figure is higher than it was in the middle of 1914. The ratio for total advances, however, is still below the pre-war average.

The increase in advances is a welcome indication of the progress of trade expansion, which is, however, as yet far from being universal. The absence of any expansion in the corresponding figures for the provincial banks, for example, is clearly due to the comparative stagnation in Lancashire, in which county they chiefly operate. As regards deposits, it is not abnormal for the figures to be lower in June than in December; but we have not yet had a long enough series of comparable statistics to enable us to estimate this seasonal movement.

THE NEW BALTIC STATES.—II. LATVIA.

ALTHOUGH the former Russian Governments which now constitute Esthonia and Latvia had all developed in general along very similar lines, the trend of events in these two countries has been in some respects very different during their five years of independent Statehood. Unlike its northern neighbours, Latvia suffered very severely during the war, and the important industries of Riga and Libau were practically wiped out. As, however, they existed almost entirely for the Russian market, which is regarded as being likely long to remain of but secondary importance, virtually no attempt has been made to restart the large-scale industrial undertakings of pre-war days. The main concern has rather been the reorganisation of agricultural production, and although revolutionary changes have been effected in the land-holding system of the country, the work of reconstruction has gone forward very rapidly during the last few years. About 50,000 homesteads have, however, still to be built, and several years must elapse before normal conditions are re-established.

In Latvia the expropriated land has for the most part already been divided amongst the peasantry, and this solution is certainly more satisfactory than the attempt at nationalisation, coupled with short-term leases, which has been adopted in Esthonia. About two years ago a fresh start was made in organising the rural co-operative societies, which had been very severely shaken by the war, and it is hoped that much progress will be made in this direction in the near future. Many of the larger organisations, however, appear to resemble ordinary capitalistic undertakings rather than co-operative societies in the proper meaning of the term. The total area down to cereals has been steadily increasing, and is now not so very far removed from that of pre-war days, while the country's livestock is already almost normal.

The most important factor in modern Latvia is the stress which has been laid on agricultural development. The total population, which in 1914 amounted to over two and a half millions, is now well under two millions, for whom there is plenty of room in a country with an area of about 25,000 square miles. Considerably over one-third of Latvian territory is, however, forest land, and it is to be feared that much of the success which has attended the financial consolidation of the new State has been due to an irrational exploitation of its timber resources. This process cannot, of course, continue indefinitely, but, with the development of agricultural production, and more particularly with the further growth of the export of dairy produce, it is hoped that the timber capital of the country will be exploited on sounder lines in the near future.

The trade balance during the last few years has been unfavourable, though the real balance of payments has been on the right side since 1922:—

FOREIGN TRADE.

	In Million Roubles.	In Million Lats.
Imports	4,685	5,352
Exports	1,953	4,475
Exports as % of imports ..	42%	84%

Last year imports were particularly high, partly on account of the bad harvest, and partly because they included a large number of speculative consignments from Germany, many of which were later forwarded to Russia. Indeed, 45 per cent. of the imports came from Germany, as against 17 per cent. from Great Britain, while of the exports—of which flax and timber and its derivatives are the principal products—Great Britain took 46 per cent., as against Germany's 7 per cent.

The proceeds of the legitimate transit trade with Russia—to which must also be added the profits of an active smuggling trade—and the reinvestment of foreign capital in the country have between them made good the unfavourable trade balance. Together with the existence of a balanced budget, this has made possible the stabilisation of the currency and the introduction of a new unit, the lat, or gold franc. In the early years of national independence the proceeds of the State monopoly of flax

and the sale of timber from the State forests led to the accumulation of a reserve fund of foreign currencies, with which stabilisation was later effected. Since the end of 1922, indeed, the Latvian currency has been one of the most stable in the world. By the end of this year it is expected that the rouble notes will all be withdrawn from circulation and their place taken by notes and silver coins in lats. At present, some confusion is caused by the concurrent existence of both currencies, one lat being worth 50 roubles. Latvian banknotes are convertible into gold, but it is to be hoped that the project of issuing gold coins for circulation will not materialise, in view of the virtual certainty that they would at once be hoarded by the peasantry.

While the financial and currency position is thus quite sound, thanks very largely to the energy and determination of the present Finance Minister, Mr. Kalning, the lack of experience, which is so characteristic of the new men in the Baltic States, has made itself felt in the general administration of the country. The Civil Service is much too large, and in most respects quite inefficient. An excess of red tape characterises all Government enterprise, and a sound administrative tradition has yet to be established. The importance of the bureaucracy is still further increased by the instability of the political life of the country. In a Parliament of 100 members, some 28 political parties are represented—a figure which must surely be a record even for post-war Europe—and Governments come and go with amazing rapidity.

These factors naturally impede national development, while the credit of the country has not exactly been improved by the recent refusal to recognise the liabilities of the City of Riga in respect of its 1914 sterling loan. Rumours as to the possibilities of a foreign loan are of frequent occurrence, but at present, at any rate, reliance should be placed rather upon the slow but sure process of self-help, which has already been adopted with a considerable measure of success, as is shown by the exchange situation.

Reference has been made above to the transit trade with Russia, and the geographical situation of Esthonia and Latvia merits more than a passing mention. The percentages of the value figures of Russian imports and exports which were handled in Esthonian and Latvian ports is given in the following table:—

RUSSIAN FOREIGN TRADE.

	Via Esthonia.		Via Latvia.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	%	%	%	%
1913	8.0	2.2	20.5	28.2
1922	4.8	9.5	5.2	12.9
1923	3.6	5.5	1.7	11.6

In both of the post-war years the total turnover of Russian trade was only about one-seventh of the 1913 figure, and yet the percentages handled in Latvian ports were enormously less than those of pre-war times. It is, of course, true that the 1913 figures represent merely the value of the goods which passed through Esthonian and Latvian ports, and it is therefore impossible to estimate how much was consumed locally. Moreover, the disappearance of the large industrial undertakings at Riga, which worked mainly with imported raw materials for the Russian internal market, is also a factor of the greatest importance in this connection. As Esthonia was the first State to make peace with the Bolsheviks, it enjoyed a certain initial advantage in Russian transit trade, though this was not of very long duration. The present situation is, of course, so abnormal that it would be dangerous to attempt to deduce anything further from recent statistics than the simple fact that, of recent years, the relative importance of the Esthonian and Latvian ports in Russian foreign trade is considerably less than in pre-war days. Small as is the absolute importance of this transit trade to-day, it, nevertheless, represents a valuable asset to these new States*, though, politically, it is, of course, a factor of some danger as well as profit.

* It may be of interest to give the weights of goods in transit—most of which came to or from Russia—on the Esthonian and Latvian railways in 1923. These were: Esthonia, 152,328 tons; Latvia, 334,628 tons.

ALFRED MARSHALL, 1842-1924.

ON Sunday last, at the age of 82, there passed away at Cambridge one of the small band whose privilege it is to add to the renown of their country and of their generation. The stress of the great war and the fact that for the last 16 years he has been in secluded retirement together explain why Dr Alfred Marshall, Emeritus Professor of Political Economy in the University of Cambridge, has recently been much less known as a living personality than he was to the world of 30 or 40 years ago. Nevertheless, everyone whose study or work leads them into the field of economics realises that by the death of Marshall we have lost one of the intellectual giants.

Marshall's greatness is due to his qualities as an economist, as a teacher, and as a man. As an economist he must be compared with the three or four great names which have made English economics a power all over the world. In a recent memorial to Marshall on his 80th birthday, from old pupils, and professors of political economy, not only in England but in Europe, America and the distant dominions, the signatories said with truth: "Through you, British economists may boast among their foreign colleagues that they have a leader in the great tradition of Adam Smith and Ricardo and Mill, and of like stature." We cannot here attempt to analyse or enumerate Marshall's many contributions to the theory of economics. Perhaps the most far-reaching in its influence on subsequent thought was his treatment of the theory of value in which he harmonises the conception of the early English economists, who based value on cost of production, with that of the Austrian school represented in this country by Jevons, who attached chief importance to utility as reflected in demand. By his analysis of the variations in cost of production and in supply on the one hand and in demand on the other, and by his exposition of value as being determined at the margin where these varying forces are in equilibrium, he gave a unity to economic theory and provided an analytical mechanism for studying the forces which determine not merely the price of commodities, but also the level of wages, the remuneration of business ability, the payment for the use of capital, and all other elements of economic life. Another contribution which may be specially mentioned is his demonstration that the rent of land does not require a separate theory of value to itself, but is a particular case of the many surpluses which arise throughout the economic field. Finally, his statement of the theory of money and prices before the Gold and Silver Commission of 1888 may be regarded as the basis of recent discussions on this very important problem. We only mention these as outstanding features among original contributions covering an immense field. In the last two or three years Marshall published two volumes, one on Industry and Trade and one on Money, Credit, and Commerce, which embodied the observations of a lifetime, and the doctrines which formed the basis of his teaching—a substantial part of these later volumes having already been published piecemeal in various articles and papers. But Marshall's contribution to economics really belongs to the end of the nineteenth century, and his greatest work is undoubtedly embodied in the first volume of his "Principles," published in 1890.

Marshall's influence on modern thought has, however, been exercised at least as much through his pupils as through his writing. Though he succeeded Fawcett as Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge in 1885, he did not carry out his idea of establishing a separate tripos until 1903. But while the establishing of a Cambridge School of Economics in the technical sense was delayed for nearly 20 years, a constant succession of students reading economics while taking degrees in history or in philosophy had come under his influence during this period, and they are to be found to-day as teachers of economics in all parts of the world, as publicists, and even as politicians in all political parties. It would be difficult to describe Marshall's method, if he can be said to have had one. The title of his lectures gave the student little

guide as to what he would speak about, for as often as not he would take as his text some apparently obscure incident or fact from that morning's *Times*, and lead his class through the fascinating highways and byways of thought which the incident had suggested to him. His lectures were, therefore, always vivid, up-to-date, and realistic, without ever falling from their own high standard of accurate analysis and reasoning.

But the great influence which Marshall exercised over his pupils was in the main due to personal qualities. Unswerving and tireless in the pursuit of truth, it was ever Marshall's ambition to peer into the future, to extend the bounds of human knowledge a little more, and to contribute something which would help to mould the thought of future generations. "If I have helped," he said in his reply to the memorial mentioned above, "in putting some young students on the way to grapple with the economic problems of the coming age, that is far more important than anything which I have been able to do myself." Marshall would take endless pains with his students, but he would always expect work of the highest quality of which they were capable. A visit to his study was to many an intellectual and spiritual tonic. But his sympathies were not limited to an academic circle. Marshall was wont to declare that no economist of the first rank had ever become an economist without having first been in the broadest sense a philanthropist. Whether this was true of the rest, it was certainly true of the speaker. The combination of the highest intellectual standard and of encyclopædic knowledge with deep-seated idealism formed the source of his inspiration and of the wide influence exercised by one who never took an active part in public affairs. A great theorist, it may truly be said of Marshall that he humanised economics.

But Marshall was not without his weaknesses, which were far more apparent to his colleagues in university administration than to his students. His love of paradox, his pleasure in discovering unexpected grounds for differing with the general view, and a certain love of combat made him a difficult colleague to work with, and caused a certain bitterness in his relations with those who gave their adherence to a different school of economic thought. With greater tact his influence might have been even greater at Cambridge than it was. Marshall also suffered throughout most of his life from lack of a robust constitution, and he could never have achieved great results but for the unremitting care of his wife, who was also one of his first students, the joint author of one of his earliest works, and a collaborator and assistant in the larger volumes which embodied his teaching.

The esteem in which Marshall was held abroad is well expressed in the following appreciation by Prof. Rist, the noted French economist:—"La mort du grand économiste anglais affectera douloureusement les économistes français, qui, avec ceux du monde entier, considéraient le professeur Alfred Marshall comme un doyen vénéré. A vrai dire son œuvre a mis quelque temps à conquérir en France la popularité scientifique qu'elle mérite. Même l'excellente traduction de M. Sauvaire-Jourdan ne l'a fait pénétrer d'abord que dans un cercle assez restreint d'économistes: ceux que n'effrayent pas les raisonnements et les symboles mathématiques dont Marshall cependant n'a usé qu'avec une si grande discrétion. Dans ce cercle l'œuvre de Marshall est depuis longtemps hautement appréciée. Il est rare en effet de trouver réunies chez un seul écrivain un ensemble aussi harmonieux de qualités qui se rencontrent plus souvent isolées chez des économistes différents; le souci du raisonnement rigoureux, allié à la chaleur des sentiments et à la préoccupation généreuse des problèmes sociaux. Marshall a d'une part continué l'œuvre de Cournot et d'autre part conservé à un haut degré le sens de l'évolution historique des sociétés. Il a ainsi participé aux deux grands courants de pensée qui ont contribué à renouveler dans les dernières cinquante années l'économie politique classique; le courant mathématique, et le courant sociologique-historique. Ce n'est pas le lieu de marquer la grande place qu'il a tenue dans cette œuvre de rénovation. Le nombre et la qualité de ses élèves suffiraient à la démontrer. Ce que je veux seulement dire ici c'est le charme personnel inimitable que donne aux ouvrages de Marshall son admirable scrupulosité scientifique. Nul économiste n'a plus que lui craint d'être injuste pour ses

adversaires. Nul n'a fait plus d'effort pour les interpréter "libéralement." Nul n'a mieux su marquer dans les doctrines comme dans les faits cette continuité de la pensée et de la vie, dont il a toujours eu le profond sentiment, et à laquelle il attachait tant d'importance. Nul n'a apporté plus de soin que lui à préciser toujours les limites exactes de sa pensée, et la vraie portée des termes qu'il employait. (Je songe en ce moment à son admirable déposition devant la Gold and Silver Commission de 1888.) Nul autant que lui, ne s'est montré l'ennemi du dogmatisme. Nul enfin n'a mieux compris et fait comprendre que chacun de nous n'apporte qu'un anneau à la chaîne continue du progrès intellectuel, comme l'époque à laquelle nous appartenons n'est elle-même qu'un instant dans la chaîne infinie des siècles. Admirable leçon de modestie et d'éclectisme que seul un vrai maître pouvait donner. L'anneau que Marshall a apporté à la chaîne de la science économique, est de ceux qui n'ont rien à redouter de l'épreuve du temps.

Notes of the Week.

The Progress of the Housing Bill.—The development of the situation in committee of the Housing Bill fills us with something like despair. When the Bill appeared we gave our reasons for thinking it a bad Bill. Nothing has occurred to change our view, which we believe is very generally held in the House of Commons in two and perhaps in all three parties, tempered by the thought that it is very unlikely to work according to plan. But the merits have sunk into the background. Mr Wheatley is commonly credited with the hope that the Bill will be defeated, or so drastically amended as to enable him to withdraw it and go to the country on the popular cry that Liberals and Tories have combined to smash a large, moderate, and statesmanlike effort to deal with the housing problem. The Liberals and Tories for the most part dislike the Bill, but do not wish to defeat it altogether. They would prefer to make it more tolerable by substantial amendment, but are desperately afraid of pressing their amendment to the point of defeating the Government and giving Mr Wheatley an opportunity of carrying out the tactics with which he is credited. If this is the true reading of the situation, we can hardly conceive one more likely to bring all parties into discredit. We cannot believe that in the long run it can be tactically sound to support, and therefore to take part responsibility for a measure which is unsound in several essentials on the feeble excuse that it will not work. Mr Wheatley is apparently opposed to any increase in the size of houses to be built under the scheme, and insists that the rent must be substantially less than that for which similar houses are now letting. Indeed, he seems determined to build down to the standard of the poorer wage-earner, and refuses to accept the sound view that the way to improve the standard of housing in the country generally is by up-grading, that is to say, by building more medium-sized houses, and by moving into them the more highly-paid wage-earners and clerks, &c., to leave a larger number of smaller houses, apartments, or flats, of which there are far too many already in the country, available for those whose means will only enable them to live in a very restricted accommodation.

An American View of the Dawes Report.—The Dawes Report is receiving serious and searching analysis at the hands of American writers, a fact which augurs well for the contribution which America will ultimately make to the world's settlement. Thus Mr Anderson, the Economist of the Chase National Bank, anticipates that opinion will crystallise on the following two points:—(1) That the proposed new Bank of Issue can and should immediately redeem its notes in gold or gold exchange. (2) That it will not be nearly so difficult, as is often assumed, to convert the mark payments made by Germany under the plan into sterling, francs, or dollars, unless the problem is timidly handled. On the second point Mr Anderson thinks that too sharp a distinction is made between the raising of money in Germany and its payment abroad. Indeed, he argues

that they are closely connected, for if the funds in Germany are raised by taxation, they reduce the available buying power of the German people by an equal amount, which means that "prices of goods in Germany will tend to go below the world level of prices." Germany thus becomes an unusually good market in which to buy and an exceptionally poor market in which to sell. This will increase the flow of goods outward and diminish the flow inward. Nor will this outward volume of goods merely compete with other countries on the world market; there will actually be an increased demand. For if payments are made to the creditor countries, either the Government expenditure of those countries will be increased, or taxation reduced. In either case, the total demand will rise. This argument does not, of course, tell the whole story, for the increased demand is not necessarily for the goods that Germany can export, and an artificially created export surplus may be a disturbing influence on business by causing a readjustment in the industries of competing countries. Mr Anderson's point is, however, one the importance of which is very liable to be overlooked. He goes on to point out that if the Agent of the Allies, who receives mark payments, spends these marks in Germany by investing them in German industry, to that extent he creates a new demand in Germany which tends to prevent a German export surplus. "The very measure, in other words, which he may use to avert the difficulties of transferring his funds to foreign countries will thus intensify those difficulties." On the other hand, if the new bank adopts a plan of immediate convertibility and relies on banking methods for protecting this gold reserve, he considers that domestic saving will be stimulated by high rates, and that economical consumption will go with this saving. Mr Anderson is impressed by the subtle ingenuity of the Dawes scheme, which at every point holds out some inducement to every party in the business to perform his part. "In general, the whole report shows a marvellous ingenuity, in making it to the interest of the various parties involved to do the thing that is expected of them." The only flaw he finds in the report is that the period of years for which payments are to run was not finally fixed, and Mr Anderson is strongly of opinion that France would serve her interest best by coming to an early agreement with Germany on this matter. "We are glad to see that he adds, 'the Government of the United States will be well advised to throw into the general settlement the question of the debts of France, Belgium, and Italy, so that all these vexatious, unsettled points may be cleared up.'

The Half-year's Overseas Trade.—The Board of Trade Returns for June appeared in time for us to give in our last issue a brief summary of the totals of imports and exports for June and for the first half-year in comparison with the corresponding periods of 1923. Analysing the figures more closely, we find the following comparison by categories of imports and British exports for the first six months of 1924 and 1923:—

IMPORTS.				
	1923.	1924.	Ino. or Dec. in 1924.	
	Mil.£	Mil.£	Mil.£	%
Food, drink, and tobacco.....	254.8	263.3	+ 8.5	+ 3.3
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	155.1	192.1	+ 37.0	+ 24.9
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	126.5	140.1	+ 13.6	+ 10.8
Total (including other imports)	536.9	595.4	+ 58.5	+ 11.1

BRITISH EXPORTS.				
	1923.	1924.	Ino. or Dec. in 1924.	
	Mil.£	Mil.£	Mil.£	%
Food, drink, and tobacco.....	19.9	25.3	+ 5.4	+ 27.1
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	67.7	55.8	- 11.9	- 17.6
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	289.6	301.3	+ 11.7	+ 4.0
Total (including other exports)	382.7	388.5	+ 5.8	+ 1.6

On the import side there has been a certain increase in imports of manufactured goods, but the feature is the rise in imports of raw materials. This is almost entirely accounted for by cotton and wool, in the case of which commodities the following figures show how much of the rise was due to an advance in the quantities imported and how much to higher prices:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Raw cotton ..	5,416,717	6,852,389	35,588,585	56,281,785
Raw wool....	5,223,675	5,187,770	32,696,187	44,294,524

Whereas the rise in the value of cotton imports is to a considerable extent due to higher prices, the large advance in the value of the six months' wool imports has taken place in spite of a small decline in the actual quantity imported. A fall in coal exports, due to the fact that the past half-year compares with a period in 1923 when the "Ruhr boom" was at its height, accounts wholly for the drop in exports of raw materials. Nevertheless, as will be seen below, coal exports in the past half-year were higher than in 1923:—

	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
First half of 1922.....	27,183,960	30,847,763
" " " 1923.....	39,808,881	50,415,430
" " " 1924.....	31,131,057	38,002,992

As compared with January to June, 1923, there is a drop of 8½ million tons and in quantity over £12 millions in value. The quantity figures of certain leading British exports in the first half of the past three years compare as follows:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Iron and steel and manufac- tures thereof	1,539,938	2,215,643	2,024,549
Cotton yarns	106,309,100	70,225,700	87,486,600
Cotton piece goods	1,850,860,000	2,106,868,600	2,224,012,700
Woolen tissues	56,740,900	69,365,500	75,503,000
Machinery	187,675	222,755	219,509

The drop in exports of iron and steel is due to reasons not entirely dissimilar to the reasons for the decline in coal exports. But an advance is to be noted in a number of leading exports of manufactures. The following figures for bullion and specie are worthy of notice:—

Six Months Ending—	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
June, 1922	18,926,265	21,791,840
" 1923	29,464,791	33,669,767
" 1924	25,488,405	38,692,492

The most important point about these figures is that during the past six months we exported over £25 millions of gold coin and bullion to the United States.

Iron, Steel, and Coal Production in June.—According to the figures issued by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, the production of pig-iron and steel in June showed a substantial decline, the production of pig-iron falling from 650,900 tons in May to 607,800 tons in June, and of steel from 809,700 tons to 651,500 tons. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 185, a net decrease of six compared with the end of May. The imports of iron and steel declined from the high total of 300,100 reached in May to 175,500 tons, and exports also declined from 406,900 tons to 324,400 tons. The output of coal in the four weeks ending June 28th averaged 4,674,800 tons per week, compared with an average weekly production of 5,461,600 tons in May, the decline being partly due to the Whitsun holidays. The following table shows the production, imports and exports of coal, pig-iron and steel in the first six months of 1924, compared with the first half of 1923 and 1920:—

PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COAL, PIG IRON AND STEEL. FIRST SIX MONTHS 1920, 1923 AND 1924.				
	Coal.	Pig iron.	Steel ingots.	
Production, first six months—				
1920.....	120,269,000	4,145,000	4,877,000	
1923.....	140,791,000	3,804,200	4,481,800	
1924.....	139,161,600	3,795,000	4,451,500	

Imports, first six months—		Other Manufactures of Iron and Steel.	
1920.....	109,081	315,455	
1923.....	68,592	596,645	
1924.....	159,962	1,011,659	

Exports, first six months—			
1920.....	14,431,533	360,292	1,292,396
1923.....	39,808,881	533,147	1,682,496
1924.....	31,131,057	321,136	1,703,413

The production in all cases in the first half of 1924 is practically equal to that in the first half of 1923, but the significant figures are the decline in the exports of coal and the great increase in the imports of iron and steel, which are now at a higher rate than in 1913. The decline in the exports of coal is due, of course, to the fact that in 1923 the European countries were importing on a large scale on account of the Ruhr occupation. Exports to France have declined in the two periods from 9,510,200 tons to 7,678,700 tons, to Germany from 7,964,200 tons to 3,926,000 tons, to Belgium from 3,474,800 tons to 1,631,800 tons, and to the Netherlands from 2,705,000 tons to 1,603,300 tons. Exports of metallurgical coke in the first half of 1924 amounted to 896,900 tons, a decrease compared with the first half of 1923, when the figure reached 987,200 tons. No comprehensive information exists as to stocks of these commodities. There is, however, no indication that stocks have risen, and the figures seem to indicate that there has been a substantial increase in the internal consumption of coal, pig-iron and steel as compared with a year ago.

Free State Government's Position.—Our Dublin correspondent telegraphs as follows:—The overwhelming victory of the Government as a result of the recent vote of censure debate has been followed by a narrow defeat on Thursday night in the committee stage of the Finance Bill. On this occasion the Minister of Finance himself was absent owing to ill-health. Mr Cosgrave expressed his willingness to resign, but no serious development from this defeat need be expected. An indication of the strength of the present régime is afforded by the release of Mr de Valera and one of his principal lieutenants from prison, where they had been detained as a preventative measure so long as serious elements of trouble remained.

The Disturbance in Brazil.—The revolt which broke out on July 5th in the City of Sao Paulo is still unsuppressed, but there seems no reason to regard it as otherwise than purely local, in spite of the alarming reports from Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. The news is very scanty, and purely official, but it indicates that the State police, who are military in equipment and character, and have been trained by French army officers, won over part of the local Federal garrison, and attempted to seize the Government of the State of Sao Paulo. A minority of the garrison, and the Federal troops throughout the rest of the Republic, remain loyal, and reinforcements have been rushed to the disturbed area. The foreign residents appear to be safe, and though there are rumours of an extension of the disturbance towards Santos, the Government seems to be successfully coping with the insurgents. It has ceased to bombard them, through a desire to avoid the destruction of property, but the latest reports indicate that it is gaining ground. It is natural to connect the revolt with the hostility felt by certain politicians and military officers to President Bernardes, which found expression in the unsuccessful rising just two years ago in Rio Janeiro, and may have been intensified by his plans of financial reform. The Times correspondent, indeed, has stated that the two risings had the same promoters; but, if so, their scheme has failed. The position and privileges of the military are not threatened by the proposed retrenchments, and there is no evidence (beyond vague and uncertain rumours) of general sympathy with the outbreak outside the State. The rigour of the censorship, which keeps out all non-official telegrams, has caused some apprehension, but Brazilian bonds, and the exchange, are recovering.

The New Order in Turkey.—The report for 1922-24 of the Commercial Secretary to the British Embassy at Constantinople, just issued by the Overseas Trade Department, shows—as might be expected—that the financial and commercial conditions have decidedly become worse. Trade has been hampered by the prohibition of certain imports as luxuries, by greatly increased duties, imposed partly to encourage native industries (which have not proved responsive) and partly to discourage luxury expenditure, by excessive taxation of foreign firms, and by varied and vexatious restrictions, some of which it has been impossible to maintain. Commercial correspondence with Government Departments must now be conducted in Turkish, which as yet has not the necessary technical terms; and the railways have been required to employ a large proportion of Turks, who are seldom competent for the work. The Government, however, is profiting by its experience; some of the Customs restrictions, the burdens on shipping, and other hindrances to the trade of Constantinople have been modified, and foreign experts are to be employed in the administration. But British insurance companies have withdrawn from Turkey through the attitude of the Government as regards their liability on their Smyrna policies; foreign vessels are excluded from the coasting trade; the sudden prohibition of alcoholic liquors has been financially disastrous, and their sale will probably be restored as a State monopoly. Production, especially of grain, was far below the average, though the weather was favourable and the actual crops good, especially of raisins and figs. The latter are recovering their position in foreign markets, though a railway strike and a shortage of packages interfered with the export of both. But the output of tobacco is less than the pre-war amount by 45 per cent., that of wool by 80 per cent., that of silk by 90 per cent., and the exchanges of population now proceeding with the Balkan States must delay a recovery. The reconstruction of the devastated regions has not got beyond the stage of preliminary planning. Industry has suffered heavily through the military operations and the exodus of skilled Greeks and Armenians. So have the railways, and the Chester concession, which would have provided lines greatly needed, has fallen through for lack of capital; but the Government proposes to construct some of these lines itself. Motor transport is precluded by the state of the few existing roads. The position of the public finances and foreign trade is so obscure that the figures are hardly worth quoting; the deficit for 1923-24 was probably about £112,000,000; for 1924-25 it is estimated at £177,900,000. For the service of the Ottoman Public Debt the amount allotted in 1923-24 (£13,178,000) only covered the cost of the administration; for 1924-25 it was £16,388,000. The total public debt is about £442,000,000, of which £287,000,000 represents floating debt; this includes nearly £115,000,000 of paper currency, but none has been issued for nearly six years; its gradual withdrawal is contemplated, and measures have been taken to check speculation in it; but it continues to depreciate. The values of imports and exports are stated as follows:—

	1923.	1924.
	£.	Jan.-June.
Imports.....	144,722,517	63,507,979
Exports.....	84,648,468	31,841,383

Great Britain held the first place, Italy the second; their competition was severe in cotton goods, the Italian fabrics being better suited to the local demands. Much advice is given as to openings for British trade in agricultural machinery, railway material, and motor vehicles, and as to the choice of agents, the despatch of goods, and the need of enterprise in advertisement. The labour of Constantinople is being organised in one large union, excluding Christians; but the Government, while not hostile, is not favourable to the scheme. Wages are from 14 to 20 times the pre-war figure; but the average rise is only commensurate with the cost of living, which continues to go up. Government mismanagement aggravates this and other evils, but there are some signs of a change for the better.

The Sea Carriage Bill.—The Third Reading of this measure in the House of Commons on July 11th completed its stages in both Houses. Reintroduced early this year

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."
THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING
BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

in the Lords, it has been proceeded with as an agreed Bill, as was suggested in the *Economist* of December 8th would probably be the case. The history of the matter having already been given in these columns, it will suffice to recall that the material part of the Parliamentary measure is the schedule, which contains a modified version of "The Hague Rules, 1921." These rules are standard clauses, and will, as from a date to be fixed by Order in Council (which may probably be an early one), compulsorily form part of all bills of lading issued in this country. In other countries similar provisions will apply when legislation proposed has been passed. The rules define the liabilities of sea carriers in respect of goods for the period of the voyage, and definitely impose liability, subject only to a limit of £100 per package or unit on claims for loss or damage. As the Bill was not amended in the Commons, it will be unnecessary that it should return to the Upper House for any purpose other than to be voted, and no doubt it will be included among measures to which the Royal Assent will be given before the summer recess.

South Wales Coal Anxieties.—The financial position of the South Wales mining industry (writes a Cardiff correspondent) is a source of grave anxiety to the colliery owners. They have been called upon under the new wages agreement to meet a considerable increase in the labour cost of production, but that increase in the total cost has been accompanied by a great falling off in the export demand, and the Customs returns of the quantities and values exported in June point to the probability of a big loss on the working of the coalfield in June. Under the audit for March, April, and May the owners had to surrender £428,000 of their standard profits to meet the cost of the increased minimum wage payable in July, and the profits which they retained in May averaged only about 2½d per ton. In that month there were only two districts of the coalfield which showed a profit, while in one district the loss suffered amounted to several shillings per ton. The Customs figures for June reveal a decrease in the f.o.b. revenue of over £510,000. That sum is twelve times the net profits retained in May, but owing to the irregular working of the collieries the costs per ton last month were considerably greater than they were in the preceding month, and it is, therefore, feared that the total loss on the working of the industry in June will exceed £500,000. Under the terms of the agreement the coalowners are nominally given power of recoupment in respect of all losses or surrendered standard profits incurred in the payment of the minimum wage. By the end of June the sum nominally recoverable will probably amount to over £1,300,000, but no one expects such an improvement in trade as would make it possible to recover this large sum from future surpluses, and it is already regarded as irretrievably lost. There is a general feeling that something should be done to protect the industry from the bankruptcy with which it is threatened, but no one has come forward with a remedy, and schemes of sales centralisation and price and output regulation are still condemned. It was the view of the late Lord Rhondda that under such abnormally depressed conditions as those which now prevail in the industry, the adoption at any rate of a scheme of output regulation would be justified, but it has never been found possible to secure for such a scheme the measure of support that would be necessary to make it effective, and no indication has been

Given that the owners are as a body more in favour of such an expedient than they were thirty years ago, when it was first proposed. A widespread financial and industrial collapse is apparently inevitable unless trade improves or some drastic scheme of regulation involving considerable increases in the price of coal is introduced.

The Chilean Exchange.—A correspondent writes:—Among nervous investors some alarm has recently been entertained regarding exchange rates prevailing in Chile. The precipitate fall which occurred latterly has been attributed to a variety of disturbing conditions. It is not unnatural for investors to regard the occasional chaos of values resulting in South American (as in European) countries to a lack of sound organisation in their monetary systems. Undoubtedly upon occasions exchange in the Latin American States has been left largely to the mercy of certain interested banks and reckless local speculators. In the case of Chile, however, there seems little reason for the acute anxiety of investors referred to. The gold reserve, known as the Conversion Fund, amounts to over £8,000,000 sterling, held partly in the Bank of England and partly in the Moneda, at Santiago. While this large sum of money lies absolutely idle, bringing in no interest, it is more than sufficient to cover all the paper money in circulation at an exchange of 18d to the peso, or even at a higher figure, if the emission were not fully guaranteed. As a matter of fact, rates of foreign exchange, although frequently referred to as a primary factor in Chilean prosperity, indicating, as does a barometer, the economic advancement or depression of the country, may be regarded as an effect rather than a cause. Sometimes movements of exchange serve to foreshadow later developments, and in this respect they may even render a useful purpose by indicating certain expectations anticipated in the market. In forming opinions from exchange movements, however, and to avoid difficulty in distinguishing between merely temporary fluctuations and long-time swings or levels, careful consideration should be given to those fundamental influences affecting the integrity of the currency and the condition of the principal industries of the country. Investors in Chilean stocks should, moreover, bear in mind that the paper currency of the country has no par value, and that, inasmuch as prices tend to adjust themselves to new quotations, active business may actually be in existence while exchange itself remains heavily depressed. While it would be fallacious to declare that there is no cause for misgiving respecting the present financial situation of Chile, it would be a senseless exaggeration to declare, as have some critics, that "the peso is on the same road as that of the rouble and the mark." Should success attend the President's efforts to cut down reckless expenditure, and put an end to further borrowing, there seems no reason why Chilean finances, in view of the ample credit enjoyed by the country, which has made it possible upon previous occasions to find resources with which to offset poor years, should not be again placed upon a satisfactory basis.

Foreign Capital in Peru.—A correspondent writes:—The preliminaries which, in spite of denial, are known to be in hand for the raising of a further Peruvian Government loan have occasioned some researches, without altogether favourable results, into the position of foreign investors in this important South American Republic. The subject looms into greater importance in view of the considerable volume of British capital which has already found its way into Peru, and which at the end of last year was estimated to amount to nearly £27,000,000 sterling. Upon this total during the course of the twelvemonth something like £917,000 was paid in interest, thus yielding a return of little more than 3.4 per cent. On the other hand, investments representing over £10,000,000 (and including the whole of the ordinary capital of the Peruvian Corporation) received no return whatever. The newest loan, which is said to vary in amount between \$4,000,000 and \$7,000,000, will, it is expected, be handled by a combination of foreign interests, including North American, Dutch, and German, the latter represented by Gildemeister and Co. and the Stinnes interests. Last March Congress gave its formal consent to negotiations, in order to wipe

out the deficit in the 1922 Budget. It is recognised that under efficient government and with the necessary foreign financial assistance Peru might prove economically one of the more remunerative of the ten South American States. On the basis of certain figures recently made public, the total foreign trade of the country for the past year (1923) has exceeded in value \$185,000,000 at par of exchange, comparing with a total trade of \$142,620,000 in the previous year, and thus showing a gain of 30 per cent. Exports increased about 29 per cent., while imports showed a gain of 33 per cent. So far as the participation of British interests are concerned there has been little reason for dissatisfaction. The 1923 figures show imports from Great Britain to the value of £2,676,000, marking the best year's return since that of 1920, when United Kingdom exports to Peru amounted to £2,694,000. That period also proved remarkable for the total of exports to Great Britain, the sum of £12,682,000 being the largest since 1914. For 1923 exports to the United Kingdom amounted to £7,773,000, showing an improvement of as much as £1,181,000 over the figures of 1922. For the purposes of further economic development of Peru a considerable addition to the foreign capital already invested will, however, be needed; not alone in the form of loans to the Government to enable it to carry into effect some of the various reproductive projects which it has now in hand, but in order to finance a number of private enterprises connected with irrigation, manufactures, and exploitation of the vast mineral deposits, which hitherto have been left almost untouched owing to their inaccessibility. Tobacco, cotton, and wool, all of which could be made to appreciate in export value were sufficient capital available for their development, ought not to be lost sight of. British enterprise, notwithstanding the discouragement encountered in the fate of the Dunsmuir concessions, which, in lapsing occasioned, it is thought, heavy financial losses to the initial syndicate, is expected to manifest itself in the form of several new schemes. Among such undertakings is the Sullana-Morropón Railway, the concession for which is held by important London interests, which hope shortly to raise the necessary capital on this side.

Stock Exchange and Advertisement.—The advertising Convention at Wembley, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, brings to the front as nothing else has done for many years past the matter of modern methods of publicity. Professional men will no doubt feel that it affects them but little, but the feelings of the Stock Exchange, speaking of the House as a whole, and not of the individual member, must be a little confused. Mr. Archibald Campbell, chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee, said at a recent dinner that he had been assured by a high authority that the Stock Exchange was no longer a business, it had become a profession, and the obvious inference is that, as a profession, its members would lose in dignity and caste if they were to advertise. Not that they are likely to press the question of personal advertisement with any great vigour. House men know perfectly well that if unrestrained individual advertisement were permitted, the result would be to quicken the present-day tendency whereby business flows more and more into the hands of big firms able to command extensive financial facilities, and, through them, a predominant position in various financial directions. From time to time the matter is raised (in the Press) as to whether the rule prohibiting advertisement by individual members should not be rescinded, but if a vote were to be taken amongst Stock Exchange brokers—exclusive of jobbers—the majority would be cast, it is almost certain, in favour of retaining the present rule. When it comes to advertisement of the Stock Exchange itself, however, that is a different matter altogether. The managers and trustees spent less than £1,000 a year in small-type advertisements which appear in newspapers from time to time, stating that members of the Stock Exchange are not allowed to advertise, and are not allowed to issue circulars to other than their own principals. The advertisement contains nothing beyond this which could be construed as offering protection to the public through any assurance that it is safer, in some ways, to deal with a member of the Stock Exchange than with outsiders. Nor does it so much as hint at the fact

that if a member of the public considers himself aggrieved over a transaction with a member of the House, the client can appeal to the Stock Exchange Committee, whose judgment is at all times founded upon the theory that the interest of the public and that of the client is identical. Accordingly, every possible consideration is, and must be, given to genuine complaints or misunderstandings that are liable to arise between stockbroker and client. Bucket-shops and outside brokers take liberal advantage of the prohibition laid upon Stock Exchange individual advertisement. The bucket-shops, in particular, have no hesitation in parading the alleged facilities which they claim to be able to offer to the public as compared with those afforded by the Stock Exchange member. They are subject to no jurisdiction other than that of laws that they know perfectly well are seldom put into force, and which they can afford, as a rule, to ignore with impunity when it comes to the matter of choosing whether they shall pay their losses or not. The majority are out to secure money from the public in the shape of call options, or other speculative engagements into which the public enter, but clients have no assurance that they will get their money, even if they should be so lucky as to make any on paper. The London Stock Exchange meanwhile looks on in dignified silence, and allows the public to be duped by bucket-shop allurements, for want of a vigorous programme of publicity to which the public are entitled. Clients have a claim to as full a measure as can be obtained in the way of protection, and a more liberal policy would have considerable effect upon diverting money into the Stock Exchange.

English Sewing Cotton.—Shareholders will receive the results of the English Sewing Cotton Co., Limited, for the year ended March 31, 1924, with considerable satisfaction. Indeed, it would appear from the steady figures given in the accounts that conditions are being stabilised on the basis of a 20 per cent. distribution on ordinary capital. The following table shows how the company has fared in recent years:—

	1913-14.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Trading profits	376,365	598,105	794,136	254,242	414,915	725,328	712,352
Dep. and deb. int.	65,843	64,363	64,012	64,497	66,754	72,530	72,647
Net profit	310,522	533,742	730,124	189,745	348,161	652,798	639,705
Brought forward	100,079	191,416	193,563	358,608	198,353	196,514	187,405
Amount available	410,601	725,158	923,687	548,353	546,514	849,312	827,110
Preference dividend ..	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ordinary dividend	130,000	250,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	400,000	400,000
(15%) (25%) (15%) (15%) (15%) (20%) (20%)							
Reserves, &c.	125,000	231,596	415,307	196,514	196,514	211,807	211,751
Carried forward	105,601	193,563	198,608	198,353	196,514	187,405	185,359

* Includes £200,000 transferred from stock contingencies reserve.

The balance-sheet item of stock-in-trade, at cost or market value, at £813,240 shows only a slight decline from last year's figure of £822,846. It may be recalled that three years ago it stood at £1,324,696. Reserves, with this year's allocation, will stand at £1,050,000. Property, plant, and investments in subsidiaries are put together in one item of £3,357,598, but the presence of investments in British Government securities to the tune of £1,169,669 makes the position a fairly liquid one. The balance-sheet is analysed on the usual page.

The Chartered Report.—The report of the British South Africa Company, published this week, covers the period of eighteen months ended September 30th last, that being the date on which the company ceased to be responsible for the administration of Southern Rhodesia, and on which it was also in effect relieved of financial liability for the administration of Northern Rhodesia. It is also the earliest date from which it becomes possible to prepare a profit and loss account, because it is the date as from which the settlement with the Crown arrived at in July, 1923, "has removed any uncertainty as to what the assets and rights of the company really are." In future a profit and loss account will be submitted annually. In the present accounts the amount received from the British Government (£3,750,000) is shown in a special account, in which the administrative accounts and other assets show an excess of expenditure of £5,140,400, this figure appearing in the balance-sheet under "mineral rights,

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

concessions, land and land rights, &c." The report lays stress on the fact that this figure does not purport to be a valuation of the assets and rights, which are enumerated, but is the net expenditure of the company to date not specifically attributable to other assets in the balance-sheet. Important changes have been made in the balance-sheet, and since it was drawn up there has been a return to shareholders of 5s per share, reducing the nominal value of the shares from £1 to 15s, and the issued capital from £8,767,964 to £6,575,973. Certain items have been eliminated, and the total of the balance-sheet at £15,625,000 is over £2 millions lower than at March 31, 1922. Investments stand at £4,806,200, or nearly a million more than in the previous balance-sheet, the increase being due to the valuation of "further assets," consisting of shares in railway, mining, and other properties, and showing no value in 1922, at £829,300. The holding of 1,732,151 shares in the Rhodesia Railways Trust has been valued at par instead of at cost—namely, £1,281,000. The excess of revenue over expenditure for the eighteen months was £306,883, to which is added £705,382, the balance from the previous accounts after writing down various assets to the extent of £659,060. The total profit and loss balance is thus £1,012,265, out of which the first dividend in the company's history, at the rate of 6d per share, free of tax, will absorb £220,000, leaving £793,100 to be carried forward. The dividend distribution is to be made in November.

Glasgow Corporation Tramways.—The results of this highly successful undertaking for the year ended May 31st continue to show that a municipal transport monopoly may under favourable circumstances combine a cheap, efficient service with profits which make the mouths of "capitalists" water. It has been a conspicuous success, because it has always been a rigid monopoly—no competitive motor omnibuses are allowed—and because the corporation has followed financial principles of the highest capitalist standard. The total income for the year 1923-24 was £2,323,246, and the working expenses, £1,691,171. The net revenue, including interest on investments, was £634,565. After providing for interest, sinking fund, and income-tax, carrying £260,168 to depreciation and £203,319 to permanent way renewals fund, a net balance of £49,199 was transferred to the common good of the City of Glasgow. Between 1895 and 1924 the common good account—which represents the private property of the Glasgow Corporation as distinct from rates—has benefited from the tramways to the extent of £1,216,504. The capital account of this undertaking is unique. The total amount borrowed has been £5,404,702, of which £3,890,551 has been repaid out of the sinking fund and the original depreciation and renewals fund, leaving £1,574,151 outstanding. But since the new depreciation and renewals fund accumulated since 1917 amounts to £1,072,424, the actual amount of capital outstanding is no more than £501,727. In 1917 the Glasgow tramways undertaking cleared off the whole of its borrowed capital, and by this time next year will probably be in a position to do it again. During the year 1923-24 the tramways carried 430 million passengers, at an average revenue per head of 1.29d. The average fare charged per head per mile was slightly over 1d.

Fuel Oil.—The reductions of 5s per ton in the prices of fuel oil and diesel oil, made effective from July 4th, a correspondent writes, clearly reflect the principles governing the making of oil prices, which have lately been examined in the *Economist*. In fact, in the light of what was then said about the increase in the supply of heavy oil, this fall in the price of oil fuel was to have been anticipated. Before these reductions were made the spot prices of fuel oil and diesel oil (ex tank) stood at 87s 6d and 107s 6d per ton respectively. They had thus risen by 25 per cent. and 26 per cent. respectively above the low levels to which they had fallen by the end of last year. This was entirely due to the shrinkage in supplies at the beginning of this year and the fear of a serious shortage. As soon as production went up in the heavy oil fields, and supplies were increased, this 5s reduction was made, and if production holds up another reduction is not improbable. Whether the present spot price of 82s 6d per ton for bunker fuel oil compares favourably with the price of bunker coal may safely be left to the judgment of ship-owners. Shipowners do not give much away, certainly not to the Press, but it is common knowledge that whereas for coal bunker contracts they secure a reduction of only 1s to 1s 6d per ton below the spot price, they secure much larger reductions from the spot price in the case of oil bunker contracts and generally manage to work in the "fall clause" in addition. Particulars were given in the *Economist* of last week of the steady growth of new tonnage using oil fuel. Between 1914 and 1923 the proportion of gross tonnage using oil for steam-raising had risen from 2.65 per cent. to 24.23 per cent., and of those using oil in internal combustion engines from 0.45 per cent. to 2.56 per cent. "It is clear from these figures," said Sir George Beilby, the Director of Government Fuel Research, at the World Power Conference, "that in view of the immediate advantages which result from the replacement of coal by oil, shipowners are prepared to pay from two to three times the price per ton for oil as compared with coal. It is equally clear that the great oil distributing firms must have been prepared to guarantee to shipowners supplies of oil for a number of years ahead at prices which have not been regarded as prohibitive by the buyers." The shrewd remark of the scientist may usefully be quoted when next the ship-owners are expressing their fear that the use of oil fuel is being handicapped by its price. The price, of course, must vary with the chronic fluctuations in supply peculiar to the oilfields.

The Baltimore and Ohio.—The report for 1923 of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company shows a substantial increase both in gross and net revenue, the ratio of expenses having dropped from 82.16 to 77.98 per cent. The following table compares the year's results with those for 1922:—

	1923.	Inc. or Dec.
Railway operating revenues	255,594,435	.. +54,751,266
Railway operating expenses	199,323,961	.. +34,302,587
Net railway revenue	56,270,474	.. +20,448,679
Other operating charges	14,137,345	.. +2,050,555
Net railway operating income.....	42,133,129	.. +18,398,124
Gross corporate income	48,165,650	.. +18,243,512
Net corporate income	22,422,036	.. +18,046,663

After payment of dividend on the preferred stock, there remained a balance of \$20,067,500, showing an earning of 13.21 per cent. upon the outstanding common stock. After suspension since 1919, dividends on the common stock are now resumed, a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the second half of the year being now paid. The accounts unmistakably reflect the trade activity of last year in the United States. Of the increase in operating revenues, freight receipts account for no less than \$49,081,400, the tonnage handled being the largest in the history of the company. An extensive programme of improvement and enlargement of the property was carried out during the year, and this is reflected in the balance-sheet, which shows an increase of \$31,756,600 in investment in property used in transportation service. The directors suggest, in the report, that "stockholders ought

to use their influence to prevent, if possible, any change in the Transportation Act until it has had a further and more complete trial."

The Standard Life Assurance Company's Capital.

This Scottish life office, which completes its centenary next year, has produced a plan for turning a proprietary into a mutual office—in the sense of transferring control from the shareholders to the policyholders. It is proposed to give the shareholders a fixed annual dividend on a definite amount of stock, and, apart from this dividend, which will be a first charge on the divisible profits, to wipe out their control and their claim to a proportion of the profits. At present the capital is £500,000 in £10 shares, of which £175,000 is paid up and £325,000 an uncalled liability. The shareholders receive 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital and one-tenth of the balance of the divisible surplus. The proposed plan is that the uncalled liability should be cancelled, and that for each £10 share (£3 10s. paid up) the holders should be allotted £17 of fully-paid 5 per cent. stock. This means that in place of the present dividend of 10s per share, tax free (12s 11d gross), there should be a fixed dividend of 17s a share, subject to tax. The paid-up capital of £175,000 (with uncalled liability of £325,000) would be converted into £850,000 stock, credited as fully paid. The benefit to the shareholders of this arrangement is obvious. On the other hand, the policyholders would acquire control and become entitled to all the divisible profits after payment of the fixed dividend to stockholders of £42,500 a year, less tax. This dividend net, after deducting tax, is rather more than 3½ per cent. of the present premium income. There is one rather interesting point to which no reference is made in the memorandum on the "mutualisation" scheme which the company has issued. The present paid-up share capital of £175,000 is represented by investments. The conversion into a nominal paid-up capital stock of £850,000 would amount to a writing-up of capital by £675,000, and there would be a hiatus in the balance-sheet if the assets were not written up on re-valuation to meet the capital. The market value of the investments as at November 15th last was certified to be in excess of the amount stated in the balance-sheet, which was based, we believe, on the values at November, 15, 1920. It may be that the investments will stand being written up by £675,000—the life and annuity funds appear in the balance-sheet at over 14 millions—but it is clear that if this be done, much restraint will need to be exercised by the new policyholder control at the next valuation of assets and liabilities. A large part of the apparent surplus will then have to be carried forward as a provision for possible depreciation in the future.

An Insurance Fusion.—We learn that the directors of the State Assurance Company have provisionally accepted an offer of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation to buy the company's shares at a price which works out at £11 a share. The State Company's 100,000 shares are £8 each (£1 paid), and the purchase consideration is £1 of Royal Exchange Corporation stock and £5 12s cash. The equivalent of £11 a share compares with a recent market valuation of about £9 a share. The State Assurance Company of Liverpool is a reputable company, which has lately been not quite so successful in the United States as possibly it deserved. Rather heavy losses for a small office were incurred in America in 1922 and 1923, as may be seen by reference to our "Insurance Supplement" of last week. The fusion with so well established an office as the Royal Exchange should be of substantial advantage.

The Anglo-Dutch Year.—As it may be possible that there are some directors who do not appreciate our reiterated remarks as to publicity in accounts, we would commend them to the annual accounts published by the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java. At the present price of the shares the yield is £6 4s per cent., and the shareholder has the satisfaction, whichever way the shares move, that he has been provided with copious facts and figures as to the

progress of the undertaking. A summary of results for recent years is shown below:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Share capital.....	1,163,216	1,286,780	1,286,780	1,930,170	1,930,170	1,930,170	1,930,170
Loan capital.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	149,918
Net profit	81,615	89,317	215,350	147,186	116,556	231,653	233,735
Brought forward	48,483	71,937	58,311	48,475	50,898	51,644	109,581
Available for distribution	130,098	161,254	273,661	195,661	167,454	283,297	343,316
Paid in dividends....	58,167	102,943	225,187	144,763	115,810	173,715	231,620
Rate per cent.	5	8	17½	10 on old shares 2½ on new shares	6	9	12
Carried forward	71,937	58,311	48,475	50,898	51,644	109,581	111,696

In November last £500,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, convertible into ordinary shares, was offered to shareholders; this was fully subscribed, and the figure of £149,918 loan capital represents instalments on account. In a report of such length it is difficult to pick out one paragraph as more interesting than others. It is observed that "the average capital figure of £43 11s per acre, representing a capital of £2,762,357, includes the cost of areas existing at the formation of the company, and all expenditure on clearing, planting, and upkeep of new gardens, buildings, factories, electric power stations, and high-tension lines, water and lighting installations, Kampoenes, roads and railways, and the above expenditure on the sisal block, together with all salaries and general management expenditure capitalised. The figure also includes the cost of the new properties acquired, together with capital expenditure since date of purchase, amounting to £704,948 os 1d. If the reserves (excluding the insurance reserve) appearing in the accounts be taken into consideration, the average capital cost figure is reduced to £34 11s 7d per planted acre." New properties have been acquired with an area of 24,104 planted acres and 20,406 acres in bearing at a cost of £704,948, which is equivalent to £29 5s per planted acre.

Improved Rand Mining Methods.—At present, writes a South African correspondent, the Transvaal gold mines are gradually replacing hammer boys and the larger types of drilling machines by small "Jack-hammer" machines, which have been evolved after detailed investigations by their technical advisers. Mr A. J. Brett, the consulting engineer to the Central Mines Corporation, has furnished a very lucid statement with regard to these Jack-hammers. He shows that the outstanding feature of the underground work during the past year has undoubtedly been the extended use of the Jack-hammer. As a consequence of the larger number of these at work on the mines of the Central Mining-Rand Mines group, and the better efficiency obtained, the fathoms broken by machines in December, 1923, had increased by 22 per cent., and the development footage by 15 per cent., when compared with December, 1922, while 2.5 per cent. fewer machines had been used. As an example of the very remarkable progress made in Jack-hammer work, one finds that while in January, 1923, 1,768 natives broke 11,282 fathoms of rock, in January, 1924, 1,158 natives broke 12,789 fathoms—that is to say, 610 fewer natives broke 1,507 more fathoms. The costs for machine stoping on the mine referred to, which were 94s 10d per fathom in 1921, and in January, 1923, 71s 1d, dropped in January, 1924, to 53s 10d per fathom, the efficiency per Jack-hammer shift having risen from .68 fathom per machine shift in January, 1923, to 1.58 fathoms in the latter period. The following comparison of costs for machine stoping on some of the other mines of the group quoted by Mr Brett clearly demonstrate the effect of the Jack-hammer; in each case the costs are those for the last quarter of the year:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
Mine B	77 5	56 4	46 3
" C	71 4	50 7	45 10
" D	90 9	71 3	55 9
" E	75 3	46 0	41 4

In conclusion, Mr Brett says: "With efficiencies such as are now being obtained, one Jack-hammer will break as much ground as 15 to 20 hammer-boys. If, then, it is reckoned that it takes two natives to run one Jack-hammer, the very marked effect of the substitution of the

Jack-hammer for hammer-boys, on the demand for labour by the mines, can be clearly realised. When substituted for other classes of machines on the Central Rand, Jack-hammers in the majority of cases stope at a narrowed width, are more economical in the use of compressed air, and actually break more ground per machine shift. The benefit of the use of these machines has probably not yet been fully demonstrated, so that a further small saving in working costs from this cause may be expected."

The Gamble in East Rands.—One great attraction of the mining department of the Stock Exchange is that every now and again some concern, believed to be virtually defunct, Phoenix-like rises from its ashes. A case in point is the East Rand Proprietary. At one time this year the price of the shares was down to about 5s. In their report for 1923 the directors, while recording the opening up of a larger payable tonnage than in recent years, emphasised the point that the prospects were entirely bound up in the results to be obtained from the energetic development programme in hand; further, the consulting engineer again commented upon the inadequacy of the ore reserves. About the middle of June rumours became current as to an improvement in the developments; and on the 17th a confirmatory official cable was issued. The latter also referred to the reduction which had been effected in working costs, stated that the first five months of the year showed a working profit of £60,050, as against a loss in the corresponding period of 1923; added that the outlook for the company was materially improving, and foreshadowed a re-entry to the dividend list. On this optimistic intimation the shares were further run up. Then came private advices—quickly confirmed by official news—that the developments at a particular point had from high-grade become unpayable. Down fell the price of the shares. A renewed buying campaign carried the quotation up to 14s, from which there was a gradual descent. On a cable from the head office stating that the values at the point in question continued unpayable, the shares in the early dealings on Monday morning touched 12s, but immediately after the official opening of business were up to 13s. They subsequently improved to 13s 9d, but on Friday morning were under 13s again. Altogether shareholders and speculators are having much excitement for their money. The broad features are, however, these. During the past month or so large purchases have been made on behalf of a certain interest; it may be inferred that they have not been based upon rich developments in one section of the mine. Moreover, there is reason to believe that the rumours as to buying for control are well founded. A similar procedure was followed by the same group in the case of the adjoining Witwatersrand Deep property. And it is stated that developments in the section of the Witwatersrand Deep which adjoins the East Rand are of an encouraging character.

Abbontiakoon.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The recent experiences of this West African undertaking rather remind one of the quotation acent the good man struggling against adversity. The mine is quite good; at the end of last year the ore reserves totalled 459,500 tons, although in May, owing to the strength of the position in this respect—the tonnage representing between six and seven years' supply for the mill—the rate of development was reduced. The value goes just over half an ounce of gold to the ton—a good average. The yield secured from the 84,940 tons crushed in 1923 represented practically 40s per ton. Yet operations again resulted in a loss, although not a very great one, the expense ratio being nearly 42s 6d. An important factor in the results of this and other West African gold companies is the continued shortage of native labour. From time to time during the past few years endeavours have been made by those at the back of the industry to secure a better supply of coloured workers, but so far little success has been achieved. Indeed, in his report, the consulting engineer of the Abbontiakoon company states that as regards the Northern Territories—the chief source of supply—various restrictions have been imposed by the Government authorities, and recruiting is now only permitted during a few months of the year. As a partial compensation, a

few hundred natives were received as the outcome of an experimental recruiting campaign in Nigeria; but the tin-mining companies in that country are also suffering from shortage of labour, and are not likely to view with equanimity the continuation of any such campaign. Reverting to the affairs of the Abbotiakoona, last year's loss amounted to £10,700, increasing the debit balance to £15,500. The financial position is now becoming somewhat straightened, the net surplus cash assets, including stores, figuring out at no more than £33,000.

Odhams Press.—Yet another undertaking finds it necessary to reorganise its capital. The object is to remove from the balance-sheet certain items of "an intangible nature," to establish justifiable relations between the book value of the assets and the capital. "Intangible" items are given as £244,591. The existing issued capital comprises £506,257 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares, £225,000 10 per cent. "A" cumulative preference shares, and £522,180 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. Dividends on the 8 per cent. preference shares are in arrear from July 1, 1922, and on the 10 per cent. preference shares from April 1st of the same year. Under the scheme the capital of the preference shareholders will remain intact, but the dividend on the 8 per cent. shares is to be reduced to 6 per cent., and that on the 10 per cent. shares to 7½ per cent., while rights to dividends up to December 31, 1924, are to be surrendered. As compensation, the preference shareholders are to receive two 4s ordinary shares for every £1 of dividend surrendered, while, for reduction of dividend, the 8 per cent. shareholders will be given fourteen 4s ordinary shares in respect of every 100 shares now held, and the 10 per cent. holders ten ordinary shares for every 100 shares now held. The ordinary shareholders are to exchange each £1 share for two 4s ordinary shares. The report for 1923 shows net profit of £88,689, compared with £71,144 for 1922. In these proposals preference shareholders at least have little to complain, while ordinary shareholders cannot very well help themselves.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—TREASURY'S FISCAL YEAR—GOVERNMENT COTTON REPORT—IMMIGRATION QUOTAS—OIL PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 8.

COMPLETE returns, showing results of Treasury operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, are now available. The Government's total ordinary receipts for the year were \$4,012,044,702, and total expenditures chargeable against such receipts amounted to \$3,506,677,715, leaving an actual surplus for the year of \$505,366,986. In October of last year, when the fiscal year had eight more months to run, the probable surplus was estimated at only \$329,639,624. The wide difference was due to unknown financial and other factors. The actual results show that receipts were over-estimated last October to the extent of \$32,000,000, while expenditures were over-estimated by \$208,000,000, including \$50,000,000 of foreign debt payments of interest in June made in cash instead of American securities, as had been expected, and therefore, as Secretary Mellon explains, "showing up as a receipt with no corresponding expenditure on account of the cancellation of the securities so received." The change in the money market since the first of the calendar year, he points out, was perhaps the most material factor in bringing about the increase in the actual surplus over the October estimate. Liberty bonds went above par, and were not used in payment of foreign interest obligations. Furthermore, railroad securities heretofore acquired by the Government could be refunded at lower interest rates by the railroads, and were, there-

fore, paid off or purchased, and instead of a net cash outgo in the railroad account, there was a net cash income, making a difference of some \$120,000,000 over the earlier estimate. Customs receipts for the fiscal year totalled \$545,637,504, as against \$570,000,000 estimated. Internal revenue receipts, on the other hand, even after giving the 25 per cent. credit on six months of the 1924 personal income-taxes, were \$2,975,157,036, or \$11,572,036 above the estimate. On June 30th of this year the gross public debt stood at \$21,250,812,989, representing a decrease during the past fiscal year of \$1,098,894,376. The Government entered the present fiscal year with a general fund balance of \$235,411,482, as against \$370,939,121 a year ago.

The Government's July cotton report was a big surprise. The Department of Agriculture's estimates of condition, acreage planted, and prospective yield all greatly exceeded preliminary forecasts by trade authorities. The condition of the crop as at June 25th was given by the Department as 71.2 per cent. of normal, which compares with 65.6 per cent. on May 25th of this year, 69.9 per cent. on June 25th a year ago, and a ten-year average on June 25th of 74.8 per cent. Private estimates had averaged 68.2 per cent. The area of cotton under cultivation on June 25th was placed at approximately 40,403,000 acres, representing an increase of 1,702,000 acres, or more than 4 per cent. over the revised estimate of the acreage under cultivation a year ago. This is the largest area ever indicated in the history of the American cotton industry, and is considerably above private estimates, which have ranged from 38,500,000 to 39,100,000 acres. Based on the June 25th acreage and condition, the Department of Agriculture forecast a crop of 12,144,000 bales, as against private estimates ranging from 11,200,000 to 11,700,000, and averaging 11,500,000. The Government's report precipitated heavy selling in speculative cotton markets, and caused a break of more than one cent a pound. Renewed selling pressure in the past few days, due to favourable crop advices, has resulted in further declines to the lowest levels recorded in three months. The liquidation has occurred in spite of the fact that not much reliance can be placed upon the Government's July crop forecast. During the past three or four years actual results have shown that the Department of Agriculture, in its July prediction, far over-estimated the yield. The present estimate is the highest made by the Government at this time of the season in any year since the war.

The proclamation recently issued by President Coolidge, declaring the new immigration law in effect on July 1st, fixes the quotas in accordance with the provisions of the Act. As previously mentioned, the new statute limits the annual quota of any nationality to 2 per cent. of the number of foreign-born individuals of such nationality resident in continental United States as determined by the Census of 1890, providing the minimum quota of any nationality is 100. Only aliens eligible to citizenship in this country are included in the quotas. A study of the latter reveals the interesting fact that, under the Census year specified in the law, Germany is entitled to the largest quota of all countries, namely, 51,227. The quota for France is fixed at 3,954, while Great Britain and Northern Ireland are given a quota of 34,007, and the Irish Free State 28,567. Belgium is assigned a quota of only 512, and Australia 121. Thirty-eight countries are named as entitled to the minimum of 100 each. No quota restrictions are imposed upon Canada or Newfoundland.

Prices of crude oil continue to decline. Pennsylvania crude was lowered 50 cents a barrel this week in the Bradford district to \$3.25, and 25 cents outside of that district to \$3. The latest reduction, the third so far this year, brings the price of Pennsylvania crude \$1.25 below the 1924 high of \$4.50 reached last January; the present price is only 65 cents a barrel above the low of \$2.60 last November. According to the latest report of the Geological Survey, the daily average production of petroleum in the United States during May increased 4,126 barrels. Pipe-line and tank-farm stocks increased 4,823,000 barrels in that month, bringing the total on May 31st up to 346,751,000 barrels, as compared with 277,785,000 on May 31st of last year.

FRANCE.—AMNESTY BILL—SOCIALISTS AND STRIKERS' REINSTATEMENT—SIX MONTHS' REVENUE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 16.

M. HERRIOT, taking a leaf from his predecessor's book, succeeded, for better or for worse, in forcing the Amnesty Bill through the Chamber by keeping the House at work all through the great national festival of the Fourteenth of July, and was thus able to leave for the Interallied Conference in London with the satisfaction of having at least done his best to fulfil one of the promises he made to his Communist and Socialist supporters at the last election. Whether he will secure the acceptance of the Bill by the Senate remains to be seen, but it is generally regarded as unlikely. The Senate, in spite of the reputation it has enjoyed for many years past of being more radical than the Lower House, has already shown its independence by refusing on at least two occasions to follow the lead of the Chamber, and little doubt is felt but that it will considerably water down the extremely popular Chamber in an atmosphere of party passion. The far-reaching measure that has been rushed through the desire of the Communists, and also of many of the Socialists, was to bring about a general gaol delivery, but this proved too strong a proposition for the vast majority of the House, although the Bill still goes much further than any previous measure of the kind.

From the economic point of view, the most noteworthy clauses of the Bill are those that provide not only for the amnesty of but for the reinstatement in their jobs of the railwaymen who were dismissed by the State and the private companies for their share in the disastrous although abortive general railway strike of 1920. The debate on this portion of the Bill revealed in a striking manner the deliberately laid plans that are being carried into operation by the revolutionary element to utilise political machinery for the purpose of securing control above all of the public transport systems, with a view to paralysing the present social order. In this country it has been the fixed policy of the revolutionary element for many years past to secure control of the railways by having at every essential point sympathisers among the working staff, who would thus be able to bring the economic life of the country to a standstill whenever a suitable moment came.

The attractiveness of this policy lies in the fact that in the circumstances of the case a comparatively small number of men would be needed to bring about the desired end. In 1920 only 122,000 *cheminots* took part in the strike out of a total of over 450,000. Of the 18,338 who were dismissed a large number have been reinstated already. Many others have been absorbed by private industry. It is estimated that between 4,000 and 4,500 still remain reinstatable, and these include many of the ringleaders of the strike. An agitation has been in progress ever since the strike for these men to be given back their jobs, but was always resisted by M. Le Trocquer and his predecessors at the head of the Ministry of Public Works, on the ground that their return would be dangerous to the nation's interests.

During the debate on the Amnesty Bill M. Le Trocquer quoted speech after speech from militant railway men, in which they openly boasted that their real reason for wishing these men reinstated is because the revolutionary element is now non-existent on the railways, and because it is "impossible to prepare the revolution unless we have the railway men with us." M. Cachin, the Communist leader, admitted without hesitation that this was the fixed object of his party.

The most serious feature of the present Government's attitude on this question is the fact that M. Peytral, the new Minister for Public Works, in the course of the debate on the Amnesty Bill, thought fit to utter a veiled threat to the railway companies by hinting that the Government may find it necessary to compel them to reinstate the men whom they have hitherto, for what they regard as sound reasons, declined to take back. M. Peytral's threat may be only an empty one, as it may be regarded as certain the Senate would never consent to the Government being authorised to exercise powers of this

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches:

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

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

kind. But the mere fact that it should have been made has undoubtedly given rise to a good deal of justifiable alarm.

The effect of the penalty clause inserted in the last Budget Bill of the Poincaré Government, imposing a fine of 10 per cent. of their assessments on all taxpayers who failed to pay their rates and taxes on or before the end of June, is strikingly shown by the taxation returns for the last month. The total revenue (exclusive of that received from the Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, which now has an autonomous Budget) amounted during June to 2,122,133,400f, as compared with 1,968,611,200f in May. Of this total 2,001,173,900f was derived from "normal and permanent" resources (as against 1,700,659,000f in May). Most of the increase of 536,604,200f may be regarded as directly due to the operation of the penalty clause. This was especially emphasised in the revenue from income-tax, which amounted to 501,034,100f in June, or nearly three times the amount recovered in June, 1923, when only 163,299,700f was obtained from this source.

The total revenue for the month was 35,679,500f in excess of Budget estimates, and this was almost entirely due to the fact that the tax on turnover—which is proving, as its inventor predicted would be the case, the milch cow of the Treasury—yielded over 37 more than M. de Lasteyrie expected it would during June. The abolition of this tax was one of the promises made by M. Herriot's supporters at the recent General Elections, but it is now appearing more and more doubtful whether the promise will be kept. M. Raynaldy, the Minister of Commerce, was reported in the Press to have stated, in a speech last Sunday, that "from the fiscal point of view the double décime and the tax on turnover would soon be abolished." The effect of this report was to elicit on the following day from the Minister concerned a hasty official denial to the effect that all he had said was that the Government was considering whether it would not be possible to exempt foodstuffs of the first necessity from this tax. In the present state of the country's finances, it is difficult to see how it can be possible to dispense with a tax which, although it undoubtedly tends to maintain the cost of living at its present high level, is now yielding nearly 4,000 millions a year.

The total revenue from normal and permanent sources for the first half of 1924 is now known to have been 11,759,533,100f, as compared with 9,215,266,100f for the corresponding period of 1923. The greater part of this increase of 2½ milliards is admittedly due to the imposition of the double décime, and much of the rest to the increase in the yield from *ad valorem* taxation owing to the rise in commodity prices. The tax of 25 per cent. on spirits yielded 341,162,000f, or 70 millions more than during the first half of last year, wines yielded 283 millions (or 14½ millions more), beers 46½ millions (7 millions more), alcohols 390 millions (an increase of 26½ millions), and mineral waters 10,866,000f (or 2½ millions more). The increased taxation on rail transports yielded 201 millions, or 20½ millions more than during the first period of last year (and about 56 millions more than had been expected); taxes on amusements 32 millions (an increase of three millions); the motor-car tax yielded 98,474,000f, or 23 millions more than during the same period last year, and nearly 12½ millions more than Budget estimates; and bicycles produced 31½ millions, or over 1½ millions more. The match monopoly yielded 51,155,000f during the half-year, while tobacco produced 996,110,000f, or 109½ millions more than expectations.

GERMANY. — REPARATIONS — FOOD DUTIES — CURRENCY AND CREDIT — INDUSTRY — PRICES — BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 15.

THE public attitude here to the London Conference is passive, and not optimistic. The arrangement come to at the Anglo-French meeting in Paris was not very well taken. It is now feared that the Dawes project, which was at least clear and in principle acceptable, will be swamped under preliminary semi-political questions, which were not raised, or were forgotten, when the project was published. From this might be concluded that the greatest obstacles to Reparations lie outside the merely economical domain of Reparations proper. The Ruhr military occupation, the question of the invitation of Germany as a consenting party or merely as a signatory, and the questions of "sanctions" in case of failure, have all nothing to do with the practicability of the plan, but they seem to be the chief matters on which Ally minds are bent. The prominence of the "sanctions" question is not considered reassuring. Many Germans think that even with the best will the Dawes scheme could not be carried through beyond the stage of initiation; and when they read that the question of compulsion or punishment is the chief matter in Ally minds, they begin to suspect that Ally politicians also do not believe in the plan. In view of the indispensability of the international loan, and of the statement on July 10 of Mr Ramsay MacDonald as to the guarantee required by intending lenders against damage to their security by military or political action—which statement entirely agrees with utterances of the American financial Press—the domination of the London Conference by plans for action in case of failure seems considerably to increase the chances of failure.

Official and semi-official utterances here mostly confine themselves to emphasising Germany's dependence in the meantime upon the progress made on the Allies' side in regard to the Dawes scheme proper. The necessary Bills, it is declared, can almost certainly be got through the Reichstag. The bank project has already been delivered to the Reparations Commission; and the Bills concerning the railways and the industrial bonds are to be ready by the end of this week. A mere delay in London in deciding the political questions would not prevent progress here if once the details of the Bills were finally approved of, because the Reichstag, when passing the Bills, can be asked to give the Cabinet authority to put them into force only if, in its judgment, satisfactory agreements on these political questions have been come to with the Allies.

The attitude of the German-Nationals is threatening. The Party seems to have no better policy than to break up the Cabinet coalition; and as the Socialists, as was inevitable, are violently opposing the new Agrarian Duties plan, the minority Cabinet's position is weaker. The Socialists profess to believe that Dr Marx's motive for submitting the Agrarian Duties Bill at this juncture is to buy German-National support for the Dawes Bills; but the Nationals deny this, and they show no sign of weakening their opposition. The Agrarian Bill has been submitted to the Reichswirtschaftsrat. It is associated with a Bill reducing the Sales Tax from the present 2½ to 2 per cent., which is to compensate consumers for higher food prices. The preamble to the Bill mentions that agricultural products are about 15 per cent. under pre-war prices, while materials used in agriculture are about 15 per cent. above pre-war prices. Food prices are kept down, not only by free importing, but also by the existing prohibition on export. A sharp decline in the area sown next autumn is inevitable unless prices are raised. The live-stock statistics of the last months indicate that present home production will cover the whole home demand for meat, which has sunk much since 1913. In view of this, the Bill rescinds the war ordinance of August 4, 1914, which abolished the import duties on rye, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, cattle, sheep, pigs, meat, and pork, also a later law of 1915 removing the duties from fresh vegetables. The law of June 21, 1921, giving the Government power temporarily to reduce

or abolish duties is prolonged until June 30, 1926, and the Government has power to fix the duty on fodder barley at under 4 marks per double centner. Another clause prolongs until June 30, 1926, the law of August, 1922, authorising the Government to alter duties temporarily. This in principle means that the autonomous food tariff of 1902 is restored, but that the Government has power to reduce its rates either in order to prevent too heavy a burden on the consumer or for the purpose of negotiating with other countries. The Government yesterday authorised the "Reichsgetreidestelle" to license the export of grain, flour, and grain waste products, on the ground that a market must be found for the excessive supply.

Duties in the Tariff of 1902, which is now to be restored, were per double-centner (200 metric lbs), wheat 7.50 marks, rye 7 marks, fodder barley 7 marks, maize 5 marks. These rates were reduced under the commercial agreements of 1904-5 to: Wheat 5.50 marks, rye 5 marks, barley (Russia) 1.30 marks, maize 3 marks. For cattle, sheep, and pigs the Tariff of 1902 introduced duties according to live weight, the rate being in all cases 18 marks per double-centner, which under the commercial treaties was reduced for cattle and sheep to between 8 marks and 14.40 marks for pigs to between 9 marks and 14.40 marks. The meat duties were 45 marks to 120 marks, reduced under the treaties to between 35 marks and 75 marks per double-centner. It seems likely that if the Cabinet does not break down on the Reparations question it will put this plan through, the main factor being the weakness of the opposing Socialists. Incidentally, the Cabinet justifies the plan on the ground that it will help to create a foreign-trade balance.

The decline in industrial activity continues. The June railways report shows a decline in traffic. Present sales of coal are stated to be only about half the normal output; and the Ruhr producers are having a struggle to regain the Central and Western markets lost during the time of passive resistance. Silesian coal, which formerly never got west of the line Berlin-Chemnitz, recently sold at Hamm and Mannheim. In the second half of June the number of unemployed in unoccupied territory rose 13 per cent. to 241,000. Berlin in the last report week had 25,410 publicly supported unemployed. From occupied territory are reported many cases of stoppage of production. Krupps have introduced shortened hours in certain branches, and given notice to discharge 5 per cent. of their employees. Owing to lack of credit a large Mannheim machinery firm, employing 5,000 men, has decided to close down altogether. The iron and steel market is very weak, and prices are tending downward. Ingots have fallen to 90 marks per metric ton, blooms 96 marks, billets 105 marks, slabs 106-110 marks, bars 120-125 marks, thin sheets (under 1 mm) 175 marks. Earlier this year bars sold at 150-160 marks. The above are average prices ex works. The works declare that they lose 30-40 marks on a ton of bars. Dealers with old stocks are selling below the above rates. The official wholesale price index number fell on July 8th to 112; but the cost of living rose on the 9th to 119. Earlier in the year the wholesale index was higher than the cost of living. Apart from the considerable rise in officially regulated rents, the reversal seems to be due to the fact that the recent big declines in prices of coal, iron and other standard commodities have not yet had time to reflect themselves on retail prices.

AUSTRIA. — POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES — THE ECONOMIC CRISIS — ACTION BY THE NATIONAL BANK — FOREIGN CREDITS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, July 1.

THE attempt on Chancellor Seipel's life has had one good effect: it has moderated the antagonism existing between the Christian Socialist and the Social Democrat parties, and thus facilitated the legislative work in Parliament. On the other hand, the unsatisfactory result of the Geneva Conference has caused great resentment among both parties, and the action of Commissioner-General Zimmermann has been severely criticised. He is, however, in a very difficult position, as he is obliged to bring into accord

the interests of the foreign creditors with the alterations suggested by the Austrian Government in the original reconstruction scheme. The greatest disillusion in the result of the Geneva Conference was the fact that the desired increase of expenditure in the "Normal Budget" and the credits for investments were not granted. This has postponed the very urgent question of the increase of State employees' salaries and the anticipated improvement in employment in industries and trade at least until autumn. Moreover, the Commissioner-General demands the repayment of certain credits which the National Bank has granted during the present period of financial depression, which, however justified this demand was, has also created a great amount of dissatisfaction. In any case, the fact is worth noticing that not only Social Democrat leaders, but even some members of the Christian Socialist party have attacked the Commissioner-General in public meetings. The Minister of Finance, Dr Kienböck, has also been subject to severe criticism on account of his failure in Geneva and his unbending attitude towards the State officials. Moreover, many of his opponents blame him for his inefficiency in the present financial crisis.

During the month of June further insolvencies of banks and commercial firms occurred. The general opinion prevailing is, however, that the crisis has reached its height. Up to now the following banks have been obliged to close down:—The "Industriebank," the "Austro-Polnische Bank," the "Austro-Orient Bank," the "Deutsche Bodenbank" (these four were small concerns of no importance), the "Lombard und Escomptebank" (a middle bank) and a few days ago the "Depositenbank" (a big bank); this latter bank was already in a difficult situation on May 5th, when the five big banks came to its assistance. Upon a thorough examination of the books, however, it was found that the bank could not be made solvent, and the big banks reluctantly felt obliged to withdraw their support. Negotiations with a British group for the reconstruction of the "Depositenbank" on a smaller scale are now in progress. The number of arrangements with creditors also shows an increase. The statistics for July and December, 1923, show an average of 8 and 21 arrangements per week respectively; this figure rose during the months of May and June, 1924, to an average of 46 weekly. The sums in question are in some cases only small amounts. As a matter of fact, a part of these insolvencies is only due to the systematic campaign of defamation led by various financial circles abroad by spreading false or exaggerated rumours. These rumours had in many cases the consequence that foreign credits granted to Austrian banks and firms suddenly ceased, bringing these concerns into temporary difficulties. With regard to this, it seems, however, that a certain amount of confidence is gradually returning, as at least the big banks and leading industrial concerns have recently again succeeded in securing foreign credits. One must expect, nevertheless, that some of the lesser banks, most of which have been founded since the war, and which are quite superfluous from an economic point of view, will have to disappear before long; some of these are endeavouring to save their existence by merging with other small banks. The index figure for the cost of living for the month of June shows a further increase of 2 per cent. The number of unemployed fell from 82,551 in May to 68,475. This shows the satisfactory development on the labour market, considering that in March this year the number of unemployed was 125,783.

As is known, the Government intends an alteration of the present Budget scheme, which contemplated the expenditure for 1925 of 350 million gold kronen, to a figure amounting to 500 million gold kronen. For the time being, however, this alteration cannot be made, as the League of Nations' Council has decided that it will be necessary to see how the present crisis is passed before any change can be undertaken. Whilst some taxes on commodities, especially tobacco, are showing very satisfactory returns, it is to be expected that the prevailing crisis will adversely influence the returns of companies' earnings tax and personal income-tax.

As a consequence of the critical financial and economic situation during the last two months, there was a large demand upon the National Bank, which caused a reduction of the gold reserve and a great increase of its bills

holding. On April 15th the gold reserve amounted to 3,939 milliard, on June 15th to 3,191 milliard paper kronen; during the same period the amount of bills discounted rose from 1,759 milliard to 2,709 milliard paper kronen. The Commissioner-General, who had put certain amounts of the League of Nations' Loan at the disposal of the National Bank, has recently informed this bank that the short-term loans in foreign currencies granted to Austrian firms out of these funds must be limited in future to the sum of 80 million gold kronen. He has further demanded that the short-term loans in Austrian kronen which the bank had used for the support of the Stock Exchange shall be repaid by instalments in the near future. At the beginning of the month the National Bank raised the discount rate from 10 to 12 per cent. The hope, however, that the measure would help the bank to regain the control of the money market and to ease the situation has not been realised. The practical result was only that all other banks and savings banks increased their rates, too. An increased influx of foreign capital, however, is to be noticed of late, which no doubt would have been larger if the financial position of the Vienna market had been better. 69241

A great number of leading Austrian industries intend creating an organisation with the object of issuing mortgage bonds which will have to be guaranteed by all the industrial concerns interested in the scheme. These mortgage bonds, which will be made out in gold kronen, will be placed mainly in U.S.A. The negotiations for this scheme seem to be far advanced; the first issue, amounting to 5 million dollars, will be placed in U.S.A.

There was little business on the Stock Exchange during the past month. The improvement in prices noted at the end of May was again lost, as prices slowly but continuously crumbled away. The money market was also very quiet, as Stock Exchange requirements have fallen to a minimum. Contango rates seldom exceeded ½ per cent. The foreign money market was equally quiet, especially because since the creation of the Independent Hungarian National Bank, the purchase of foreign currencies on the Vienna market by Hungarian banks has practically ceased. Rates of exchange showed but slight fluctuations. The sterling rate of exchange at the beginning of the month was 306,300 kronen; at the end of June 306,700 kronen.

SWEDEN. — SHIPPING AND FREIGHTS — TRADE BALANCE — MATCH INDUSTRY — AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, July 2.

FOR the moment the business world is rather quiet. The shipping season, which is now fully opened, is not very bright, and is considered much more unfavourable than last year, owing to the abundance of tonnage, and the depression of freights to such a level that it is very difficult for ship-owners to make ends meet. However, freights might stiffen later on at the end of the shipping season, when there may be a rush to have the sold timber shipped. The timber market is rather slow at present, but the quantity now sold, amounting to about 50,000 standards, is considered good, compared with the position at the same time during recent years. The tendency to buy from hand to mouth remains, while in normal times contracts used to be closed early in the year for the whole season. For the moment, Spain and Holland seem to be the keenest buyers. Prices are far from favourable, and in the northern districts the mills have curtailed production. The pulp market is unusually lively for the season, and big sales have been made, especially to the United States. During May an export record in iron ore was reached. The total of the iron ore exported by the big mining concern, the Grangesberg-Ototosund Company (the principal ore exporter in Sweden), was no less than 825,385 tons, while it was 530,000 during April and only 254,400 during May last year. The previous high record was 703,000 tons in September, 1916. For June this year the figure has just been announced as 601,298 tons.

The import surplus for May was 22.7 million crowns, a considerable reduction as compared with April. No

doubt the reduction would have been greater had not weather conditions been so very unfavourable for export. The shipping season for the northern ports could not commence until very much later than usual. Heavy imports of raw materials are still prominent; this is especially the case with spinning materials, the value of imports of this class being more than double the figure for May last year. On the export side the difference in the export of timber compared with May last year is specially notable. The trade balance, however, for the five months January-May this year is much more favourable than for the same period last year. The outlook for the crops is still difficult to gauge, but the reports are quite favourable. The situation on the labour market is steadily improving, and in some places it is almost impossible to obtain the necessary hands for farm work.

In some quarters there has been a keen desire to have the discount rate raised, but the proposal has been strongly opposed by representatives of trade and industry. An increase of the discount would hit industry first of all, and industry still has rather heavy commitments left over from the crisis. The Riksbank report for last week shows that the note circulation during that period was increased by 17.8 million crowns, which, of course, is due to the beginning of the new half-year. There is an increase, although very small indeed, in the bank's stock of gold.

The Swedish match-making industry's new issue of shares has had a very good sale in this country. According to reports from India, the import of matches from Sweden was almost double during March this year, compared with March last year, while the total import had fallen off considerably, owing to the very much reduced import from Japan. The sales to Russia made after the trade treaty was signed are estimated to amount to a value of about 4 million crowns, consisting chiefly of paper, pulp, agricultural machinery, sheet iron, and lighting material. As a rule credit for three to six months, or even for longer time, has been granted, but some goods have been paid for in cash. The quarterly index issued by the Board of Social Welfare (including all necessities of life) has gone down two points since April 1st, and is now 171.

CANADA.—CROP CONDITIONS—HINTS OF A DECLINE IN FEDERAL REVENUES—BETTER GRAIN PRICES—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—AUTHORITY FOR NEW LOAN—CREDIT REFORMERS' PROPOSALS—MATURING OBLIGATIONS—ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS—TWO COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, July 5.

It is yet too early to make any definite prophecies about the Canadian crops, but good hopes are still cherished of the Western grain crop. However, in the latest reports a note of anxiety has been visible. Throughout the whole of the three prairie provinces crops are a fortnight later than usual, and such a condition renders them more liable to the onslaught of early frosts. In Manitoba prospects have recently been improved by some timely rains followed by warm weather. In Saskatchewan the present conditions foreshadow at least an average crop in the Eastern and Northern areas, but west of Saskatoon there is a serious lack of moisture, and cold, raw weather has retarded growth. A similar disability has afflicted the Edmonton district till the last week, but Alberta has for the past five days been visited by an abnormal heat wave, and as no rains had fallen for some time, grain suffered severely. From the most easterly regions of the province come very gloomy reports about burnt-up crops, and the chance of a repetition of last year's bumper crop for Alberta is now faint. Areas north of Edmonton report some damage from frost. However, there were some heavy rainfalls in the Calgary district before the heat wave came, and conditions there and around Lethbridge are rated good. The hay crop in the West is, however, very light, and in many districts cattle are very thin owing to the poverty of pasture. In Ontario and Quebec the

crop is likewise very late, but recently a happy combination of heavy rains and warm weather has accelerated the growth. In the Maritime provinces recent rains have been a saving factor, and the hay and potato crops promise a good yield. British Columbia has suffered from a lack of rain, and many areas have been afflicted with severe drought. Taken all round, however, the crop prospects for 1924 are considerably less favourable than they were at the corresponding date of 1923, but there is time enough yet, especially in the case of the all-important grain crop, for a great improvement to take place.

The customs and excise returns for June, which were \$19,705,916, as compared with \$26,255,540 in June, 1923, and almost four million dollars less than the May figures, provide further evidence that the Government is confronted with serious financial problems. It is true that there has been an increase of some five million dollars in the income-tax collections, most of which are now in, but during the first quarter customs and excise revenues show a total loss of about 16 million dollars. Unless there is a marked improvement during the last three quarters of the financial year, there will be a decline in revenue of at least 50 million dollars, which is double the amount allowed for by the Budget. The C.N.R. returns are also showing an ominous retrogression instead of the improvement which had been hoped for. Unless a serious deficit is to be admitted, the next Budget must probably embody fresh taxation proposals or an increase of the existing rates, and any Government which undertakes this unpleasant duty at a time when tax reductions in the United States have emphasised the disparity between the rates of levy in the two countries, is bound to arouse a storm of unpopularity. There has been a rapid rise in grain prices during the past fortnight, and some competent authorities prophesy that before the new crop is reaped wheat will be selling at \$1.50. If this price is reached, and the crop is reasonably good, there will be an enormous enhancement of the purchasing power of the rural community, particularly in the West, and business everywhere is bound to benefit.

When the acting Finance Minister lately sought authority from Parliament to issue another \$300,000,000 of bonds chiefly for refunding purposes, he stirred up the very active group of credit-reformers in the Progressive party to formulate proposals that the Government, instead of appealing to the public or investing houses, should raise the money required by a plan of currency inflation—i.e., through the issue of new Federal notes for the amount required. The champions of financial orthodoxy, however, found little difficulty in exposing the futility of this proposal, and Mr. Robb secured the necessary authority. A number of members took the opportunity to urge the raising of the money required abroad, on the ground that heavy Governmental loans placed last year had stripped the country of most of its ready capital and left far too little for the needs of private enterprise.

The power now secured will suffice to cover the financial operations of the next three years, and there is still unused some 35 million dollars of borrowing power secured in 1922. The Government obligations which mature before the end of 1927 total \$382,184,933. Of course, it is anticipated that a considerable proportion of the holders of these obligations will renew. The Government have also introduced a Bill for the consolidation of its tax-collecting agencies. Its object is to bring under the control of the Department of Customs and Excise the machinery for the collection of the income-tax and business profits levies. The Bill also provides for the constitution of an advisory board consisting of three experts, who will investigate the various systems of taxation with a view to their improvement. There are also to be attached to the Finance Departments at least two special tariff experts, but they will not function as an independent commission and will merely perform work of investigation. The Opposition have raised strong objections to these proposals on the ground that they are simply added to an overloaded bureaucracy, and will produce no fruitful results.

Canada has lately concluded two commercial treaties with European countries. By the first, Belgium grants Canada "most-favoured nation" treatment, and receives in return the benefits of the Canadian intermediate tariff. By the other, Finland likewise gets the benefit of the inter-

mediate tariff, and gives to Canadian goods "the same treatment as is enjoyed by similar goods manufactured in the United Kingdom, as set out in Article 23 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Finland."

INDIA.—COAL PRODUCTION—CROP FORECASTS—TARIFFS AND NATIONALISATION—MATCH MANUFACTURE—RAILWAY COLLIERIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, June 19.

In 1923, according to official statistics, India's output of coal was 18,763,967 tons, a moderate production, traceable to the three main difficulties of colliery proprietors in this country, viz., inadequate transport facilities, inefficient labour, and limited markets, official restrictions at a critical period having involved a loss of export business not yet regained. Irregular in attendance, mining labourers, though working rarely over 50 hours a week, have in recent years received substantial advances in their wages, with the inevitable result that, finding they can maintain their low standard of living with a smaller expenditure of energy, they do less work. Coal companies, in consequence of these and other handicaps, pay an average dividend, according to a recent authoritative calculation, of only 7 per cent., and half the companies, as a rule, pay no dividend at all. The Government of India so far acknowledge the necessity of investigation that, in conjunction with the recognised Mining Associations, they contemplate initiating an expert and comprehensive inquiry into Indian coal production in all its phases. If this scheme materialises, one of the points referred for investigation will be the proposed penalising import duty on South African coal, a knotty suggestion supported by the Legislative Assembly on two separate grounds: (1) commercial, viz., to counteract the South African bounty on exported coal; (2) as a form of political retaliation arising from South Africa's severe restrictions on domiciled Indians.

The fourth official wheat forecast estimates the Indian yield at 9,689,000 tons, compared with 10,777,000 tons at this date last year. Estimates of the exportable surplus vary from 350,000 tons, valued approximately at 5 crores, to 800,000 tons, valued approximately at 12 crores of rupees. The two uncertain factors are the final output, and the domestic consumption, the latter showing a rapid increase arising from the ability and tendency of the peasantry to resort to richer types of foodstuffs than have been customary. In May, wheat exports from Karachi were negligible compared with May last year. According to the final forecast, rape and mustard will yield 1,154,000 tons, against 1,209,000 tons last year, a decrease of 4 per cent. Linseed is expected to reach about 500,000 tons. Crop forecasts in India, however, have never proved meticulously accurate, so much so that in commercial circles they are subject to a heavy discount. Unofficially, cotton is expected to reach 5½ million bales, and if prices are maintained, this will bring India an enormous amount of money. The semi-official "Bengal Agricultural Journal," alluding to the jute forecast, laments that "retrenchment should have chopped off the staff so essential in collecting reliable figures."

In India, to some extent, we have State Socialism in operation. We have State ownership of land and railways, State aid to industries, what is, in effect, a State Bank, &c., and if some of our politicians had their way, the State would also take over every industry needing and receiving tariff aid. In the case of the steel industry, it nearly came to that. I can best summarise the course of events by quoting the following passage from a Minute of Dissent attached to the Select Committee's report on the Steel Tariff Bill, the author being Mr. D. Chaman Lal:—"Politically," he wrote, "the history of Protection is no doubt wrapped up with the history of Nationalism—a fact which explains the vehement demand on the part of the middle classes and the manufacturing classes for its adoption in India. But it is equally true that the interests of the masses have been ignored, in so far as they conflict with the interests of the classes. If sustenance and support are to be given to the steel industry in India, let that be done for the benefit of the masses, and not for

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,000,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
ADVANCES UPON OR PURCHASES MADE OF DEBENTURES AND
SHARES OF EASTERN PLANTATION COMPANIES.
RECONSTRUCTION ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET — LONDON, E.C.3.

the benefit of the profit-making private producer. Not Protection *sans phrase*, not subsidies and bounties without conditions, but nationalisation, it seems to me, is the only method which can secure this end. That this proposition was defeated in the Select Committee by only one vote gives hope to its supporters." Nor, in reality, would nationalisation be inherently alien to the Indian tradition and genius. The same member described British investors in Tata bonds, as they may be interested to hear, as "international brigands"; the "brigands" in question, it would seem, having lent the Steel Company 4½ crores.

Incidentally, the latter act has an important bearing on the amendment introduced in the Bill, under Swarajist influence, endeavouring to limit future bounties to companies not already manufacturing steel rails or wagons, to concerns with rupee capital, and having a proportion of Indian directors satisfactory to the Government of India. To what extent this regulation will prevent investment of sterling capital in the additional steel enterprises the Tariff Board deemed essential, only experience can establish. When a firm with the prestige of the Tatas is forced to resort to external investors for the essential funds, the inadvisability of hampering the foreign capitalist ready to promote new industries in India is fairly manifest. It is equally clear, however, that considerable advantages will attach to enterprises joining Indian and British capital under one direction. The "dyarchal" stage is, indeed, as inevitable in the industrial evolution of this country as it has proved to be, as a half-way house on the road to full Dominion autonomy. That the sequel would be identical is not necessarily a sound inference. Probably more than half the capital invested in jute mills is now held by Indian investors. None the less, the former control remains unqualified, investors apparently being content to "let well alone."

The Swedish Match Company's Indian programme, which will give that world-wide enterprise something approaching a monopoly of the Indian market, is causing considerable anxiety among the smaller Indian concerns, which have consequently banded themselves together in an association whose practical utility remains to be demonstrated. Match production on a large and efficient scale will arrive only with the opening of the Swedish factories, and, in this connection, it seems a pity that no part of the recent issue of new shares was offered in, and to, India. The loss of revenue to the Government of India by the consequent reduction in imported matches marks an aspect of the new Protectionist régime which the Finance Member will regard with mixed feelings.

ARGENTINA.—OPENING OF CONGRESS — PUBLIC FINANCE — NEW BANKING LAW — CURRENCY PROPOSALS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, June 24.

CONTRARY to general expectation, President Alvear's inaugural Message at the opening of Congress on June 20th has done little or nothing to shed light on a position that is becoming decidedly involved, not to say disquieting. The major part of the Message was devoted to the political situation, and it is worthy of mention that the supporters of the previous President of the Republic, Dr Hipolito Irigoyen, publicly announced their intention of abstaining from the inaugural session, and did so abstain; their absence being made all the more noteworthy in that it was led by Dr Elpidio Gonzalez, the Vice-President of the Republic, a staunch friend and supporter of Dr Irigoyen. Nevertheless, a quorum was obtained for both Houses, and the Message read; but

there is a general fear in business circles that this move portends a long and sterile session consumed in political recriminations, and therefore unlikely to discuss and despatch the many important items of practical business, the Budget for 1925 included, which are down on the Agenda. Such statistics as were given in the Message were of little interest and less practical value. They did not go beyond the end of 1923, and their reference to the financial position of the National Debt, including the estimated liabilities of the State's railways, is nullified owing to the fact that on more than one occasion since that period semi-official statements and estimates have appeared which lead one to assume that such figures are no good guide to the present position. Nor is it easy to reconcile known facts with the generalities which were uttered on this occasion, save by assuming that the Message was prepared at least five months ago, and but little re-touched previous to being presented to Congress.

Thus while speculation has been rife concerning the probability of an important foreign loan, and colour has been lent thereto by the recent borrowing of \$10,000,000 U.S. in New York for the term of 12 months—in two half-yearly periods—and the renewal of the \$20,000,000 U.S. due on August 25th next for a further six months, the Minister of Finance has just made an official declaration to the effect that the Government is not thinking of further loans, having all the money it requires for the time being. Popular opinion of this attitude is best expressed by the Spanish proverb, *si fuera cierto tanta belleza*, "would that such beauty were real"; and nowhere has this declaration occasioned more surprise than among the various contractors and mercantile firms engaged upon the work called for by the State railways. The paper of this Department, which is nominally part and parcel of the Public Works, is to-day viewed askance, for the good and sufficient reason that its collection has become exceedingly difficult. A well-informed journal, which one must in fairness add is in opposition to the Government, states that there are at the present time close on six million dollars paper of protested bills and cheques drawn by the State Railways Department, that the departmental account is overdrawn to the extent of three million dollars paper with the Banco de la Nacion, and that a large number of cheques are passing from hand to hand which have been issued during the past month, but cannot, nevertheless, be encashed for lack of funds. What the total indebtedness is one cannot say, the highest official figures being those mentioned by the Minister of Finance some two months ago, when it was put at more or less a hundred and twenty million paper dollars. A Ministerial Conference is at the moment of writing being held for the purpose of determining on the best way to enable the State railways to meet these and future debts, and it is freely repeated that the official solution will be found in the direction of legislative means whereby they may be legally enabled to borrow such funds as they need. It is said, though confirmation is still awaited, that arrangements have been made with a group of local bankers to advance \$40,000,000 paper wherewith to take up past-due obligations and meet such as have to expire down to the end of September, by which date the Government expect to have made permanent arrangements for the consolidation of this particular branch of the short-date debt of the nation.

So many, however, are the projects, and so slight the probability of their discussion owing to the purely political obstacles before mentioned, that even important Government measures such as the suggested unification of Internal Revenue taxation and the new banking law are hardly looked on as coming within the sphere of practical application during the current year. The first-named plan proposes to abolish provincial taxes for Internal Revenue, to establish a national tax, and to distribute the receipts *pro rata* to the provincial population. Considered from a business standpoint, the idea is sound, but, given the jealous attachment of the provinces to their States rights, its acceptance is highly problematical, protest being already general. The new banking legislation would imply several changes. It would call for special registration, the deposit of 10 per cent. of a bank's capital with the Banco de la Nacion, a minimum paid-up capital of \$1,000,000; in Argentina paper for a locally consti-

tuted bank, and in gold for a foreign institution; and a statement as to whether the head office in the latter case stood solidly behind its branch commitments, or limited its obligations to the amount of the declared Argentine capital. Cash in hand would not be allowed to fall below 18 per cent. of sight and 30-day deposits, plus 7 per cent. of the long-term deposits, these proportions being reduced to 15 per cent. and 5 per cent. for those institutions availing themselves of the faculty of rediscounting, this faculty being, however, dependent on the deposit of 6 per cent. of the total of sight cum 30-day deposits, plus 4 per cent. of the long-term deposits, with the Banco de la Nacion, such deposits being permissible either in money or in national bonds. An official Committee of Control, presided over by a functionary appointed *ad hoc* by the Government with the endorsement of the Senate, would be constituted by representatives from the Argentine and the foreign banking institutions here, plus two industrial or commercial representatives named by the Government. To detail the duties and attributes of this proposed committee is hardly possible here. Roughly, they would apparently combine the functions of the Federal Reserve Board and the U.S. Treasury in its relations with the National banks of the United States, with various semi-inquisitorial functions of more than doubtful utility. Among other novelties, they would be charged with the limitation of loans to an amount bearing a relation to the registered capital of the lenders; revise month by month the balances of the banks; analyse their deposits; question the amount of money invested or held abroad by institutions working in the Argentine market; and generally determine whether or no the several members of the banking body corporate were fulfilling their obligations under the law. That even in modified form the measure will go through is most unlikely, but, given the general entanglement that marks official finance here and now, its introduction is in the highest degree untimely. Almost as untimely as the proposed alteration of the national monetary system, implying as it does the modification of the Banco de la Nacion and the virtual disappearance of the Conversion Office. Semi-official details have been published, the main idea being to establish a new unit, the "argentino," worth 20 cents gold, which shall be represented by paper money, the old distinction between gold and paper being abolished. As the principle rather than the detail is for the moment the most important thing to be placed before foreign readers, one may be allowed to leave the latter aside and to translate, as literally as possible, the paragraph in the Presidential Message which covers this most important question. It runs thus:—

"To maintain our monetary system on the basis of a conversion which gives guarantees and security to the holder of the paper money is a healthy and respectable practice which the Government will have well in view. In consequence, it will zealously care for the existing metallic reserves and their destiny, even though it does not believe that the regimen created by Law 3,871—the law founding the Conversion Office (translator's note)—may be that which agrees with the development of the country, seeing that 25 years have gone by since the Law was sanctioned. The Executive Power is pre-occupying itself, therefore, with the preparation of a proposal which shall give greater elasticity to the exchange, which allows its control, taking it away from the mechanical organisation of the law cited, and gives emission to a banking entity, either official or composed of mixed capital, which shall regulate it in accordance with an effective system of fiscal control and the needs of the market, releasing the notes or withdrawing them from the channels of circulation according to such counsel as the observation of the interests concerned may suggest."

In the foregoing paragraph, the word "cambio" in the original, taken in conjunction with the preceding words of the sentence, manifestly refers, not to the exchanges, but to the delivery of notes against gold, while the conclusion that the Conversion Office disappears if the scheme becomes law is logically involved in the threat to take away note issue from "the mechanical organisation" of the law, which is, in effect, the root and bedrock of Argentina's present monetary system, and, may one add, of her unquestioned financial strength during the quarter of a century during which it has been in operation.

Letters to the Editor.

A CURRENCY PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—A few weeks ago I was travelling on a bus, and, disregarding the request to pay in copper, I tendered a shilling for a twopenny fare. The conductor gave me my change in pennies, and later I noticed that one was of French origin, bearing the image and superscription of Napoleon III. Since then that coin has disturbed my peace of mind, for knowingly to pass it on would make me feel that I have criminal tendencies; to keep it troubles me, for I know I am breaking economic laws.

Before it came into my possession I presume it passed freely from hand to hand, and functioned as money. It was not good money; therefore, according to Gresham's Law, it should have driven good money out of circulation. Instead I am keeping it out of circulation, and circulating the good money. I have a guilty feeling that I have wilfully interfered with the working of a great economic law.

That is the first count in this self-indictment; the second is that I am guilty of hoarding. Economic science tells me that hoarding is against economic and social advancement. Knowing this, I wilfully, owing to my scruples about passing on the coin, leave part of the wealth of the universe lying idle in one of my pockets. Surely I am between the Scylla of ethics and the Charybdis of economics.

The third thing which troubles me is not the fact that I have offended against economic laws, nor that I am a potential criminal, but that I have helped to set in motion economic forces which have operated to my disadvantage. Much has been said and written about inflation and deflation, and the Quantity Theory of Money. I feel that I am a deflationist of the most miserable kind, for I have withdrawn one penny from circulation. Retribution in this case has been swift and severe. The cost of living index number has fallen, and I have lost many shillings from my monthly salary.—Yours, &c. W. H. BOLANE.

Books and Publications.

COVETED REGIONS.

BOTH these pamphlets* include lengthy histories of little-known and much-coveted countries, and possess an importance concealed by their modest form. The first, an outcome of Wembley, is a full and learned account of the sociology, ethnology, history, trade and resources of the Zanzibar Protectorate, with a very extensive bibliography, and we hope it will be reproduced in a shape more suited to recommend it as a standard work of reference. Some of the sociology might better have been "veiled in the decent obscurity" of Latin, or even Swahili; the region has always been a field of racial admixture and seafaring adventure, and the native paganism is overlaid with a thin veneer of Mohammedanism. The region is specially interesting for these and other reasons, not least because Zanzibar now produces nine-tenths of the world's supply of cloves, though the tree was only introduced from Reunion by the Arabs in 1818, and because its position has made it a distributing centre for the East African coast. Two-thirds of its trade is with the British Empire.

The other book, circulated by the Japanese Embassy in London, is the translation of an article in a Japanese diplomatic publication. Its purpose is to vindicate the Japanese claims to Saghalien (why not Sakhalin?)

* "Zanzibar: an Account of its Peoples, Industries, and History." (Zanzibar) The Local Committee of the British Empire Exhibition, 1924.
"The Historical Relations Between Japan and Saghalien." (Tokio) 1923.

Japan's connection with the island has existed, with prolonged interruptions, over 18 centuries or more; Russian relations with it began towards the end of the 18th century, and developed into attempts at "pacific penetration." Muravieff in 1857 claimed the whole island as an appendage of the Amur Territory, and Ignatieff pressed the claim in 1862. The conversations in both cases are reproduced verbatim, after the manner of the dialogue between the Athenian and Melian envoys reported by Thucydides. On both occasions the Japanese representatives contested the claim successfully, and Ignatieff was very cleverly outwitted; but in 1875 a treaty was concluded exchanging Japanese sovereignty for 18 of the Kurile Islands and certain rights of residence for Japanese fishermen. The island had previously been divided between Russia and Japan at lat. 50 deg., and the pamphlet does not say why the exchange was not carried out. The story ends with 1875. The historical details are hard to follow, and there are some obvious misprints in the dates. When the dispute is resumed the Japanese Government will do well to supplement this account by a statement of the subsequent history.

THE POPULATION PROBLEM.

IN recent times the problem of population has enjoyed considerable attention. The latest study* of this question attempts once more to direct thought to the relations subsisting, in the long run, between the numbers of mankind and the improvement of their state. Mr Swinburne's main proposition is that "population pressure" ultimately determines social welfare. Although he is unable to answer the question, what causes determine the equilibrium established between numbers and wealth in communities where civilisation raises the bulk of the population above a bare level of subsistence, his book suggests that the explanation is not dependent on the circumstances of a single nation alone. Occasionally Mr Swinburne places the problem in spacial and temporal perspective; a feat which lends his work its chief merit. Irrelevancy, prejudice, and failure to appreciate the human element are its main flaws. Whilst scarcely repaying careful study, "Population and the Social Problem" deserves to be turned over for the suggestions which may be gleaned here and there.

SOME YEAR BOOKS AND A CATALOGUE.

"The Canada Year-Book, 1922-23." (Ottawa) F. A. Acland, Government Printer. 1924.
"Official Year-Book of New South Wales, 1922." By H. A. Smith, F.S.S., Government Statistician. 30th issue. (Published by authority of the State Government.) Sydney, 1924.
"Handbook of the Netherlands East Indies." Edition 1924. (Published by the Commercial Division of the Department of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. Buitenzorg, Java.)
"Statistical Year-Book of the Kingdom of Siam, 1923." 8th number. (Prepared by the Department of General Statistics, and published by the Minister of Finance, 1924.)
"City of Edmonton, Canada. Financial Statement and Report for 1923 (to December 31st)." (Edmonton) Mackenzie-Stower Press, Limited.
"Union of South Africa." British Empire Exhibition, South African Section. Official catalogue.

OFFICIAL publications are usually regarded as dull reading, but that is not the case with the books before us. To master any one of them would take weeks, to review it properly volumes; we can only commend them to the attention of traders, investors, and students of contemporary economic history. The first three may be described, in the words of the "Canadian Year Book," as compendia of "official data on the physiography, history, institutions, population, production, industry, trade, transportation, finance, labour, administration, and general economic conditions" of the country dealt with, "presenting its more salient statistics against a background of interpretative matter in order to bring out their significance." The Canadian volume contains also a useful historical summary and an "Annual Register" of events and legislation, and deals with all the resources of the country—agriculture, mining, power, industry, the fisheries, and the fur trade—and gives special attention

"Population and the Social Problem." By J. Swinburne, F.R.S. (London) George Allen and Unwin, 1924. 15s.

to the canal and express systems and the railway history. The "New South Wales Handbook" may be specially commended for its account of the State constitution and State and local government, and also of land legislation and conditions of settlement, which should be useful to intending emigrants and students of the agrarian side of colonial history. The volume dealing with the Dutch East Indies, largely descriptive and extensively illustrated, deals with a region long served by British banking, but now increasingly attracting the attention of British and American investors. Since 1915, owing to heavier official expenditure and the rise of prices and destruction of capital through the world-war, its public debt has risen from two 3 per cent. domestic loans of a little over 100 million guilders to an aggregate of 1,050 million guilders, issued at from 5 to 7 per cent. in Holland, the colony, and since 1919 in the United States and London. But the accounts of the resources and revenue of the island should give the bondholders confidence. We can only note the good character given to Javanese labour, the descriptions of the legal and administrative systems, of the enlightened sanitary and veterinary services, and of the leading ports. All these volumes contain maps. The work on Siam is purely statistical, and is illustrated by "graphs" and diagrams. Holders of the three Siamese loans will be interested in the "comparative tables" exhibiting twenty years' progress, showing an increase of 26 per cent. in the population, 95 per cent. in the ordinary revenue (per head of population 55 per cent. increase), 98 per cent. in the ordinary expenditure, and 98 per cent. in the total foreign trade. The railway mileage in 1903 was 285; in 1923, 1,495.

The City of Edmonton's little pamphlet gives very full particulars of the municipal finances, and lays down sound principles for their administration. It frankly admits the city's financial difficulties, but shows that there is no reason for pessimism. The city has suffered from the speculation in town lots characteristic of Western Canada. It collects 80 per cent. of its nominal revenue, and it is expected that the demand for forfeited lots will increase and the number of forfeitures diminish. It runs its own gas, water, telephone, and street car services at a substantial profit, and its amusement grounds at a loss. But its bonds stand high in London.

The catalogue of the South African Section of the Wembley Exhibition has a "Foreword" by General Smuts, and a specially interesting section on the mining exhibits, with explanations of the maps exhibited. Further descriptions and elucidations, however, must be sought in the Publicity Bureau, but the catalogue and the objects catalogued deserve the attention of all those interested in the resources of South Africa.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

New Hand-Map of Europe, Illustrating Territorial Changes Since 1914. Edited by George Philip, F.R.G.S., under the auspices of the League of Nations Union. (London) George Philip and Son, Limited. 2s 6d.

The combination of boldly marked boundaries representing the pre-war condition of Europe, and distinctive colouring representing present territorial divisions, makes this map one of the clearest we have seen for showing at a glance the changes caused by the great war. It will fill a useful place on the wall of the school-room, study, or the office.

The Edinburgh Review, or Critical Journal. July, 1924. (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 7s 6d net.

Die Völkerrechtliche Verantwortlichkeit des Staates für die auf seinem Gebiete begangenen Verbrechen. Referate von Dr Paul Ruegger and Prof. W. Burckhardt. (Zurich) Société Suisse de Droit International. 1f.

La Réparation des Dommages de Guerre et les Neutres. By Georges Sausset-Hall. (Zurich) Société Suisse de Droit International. 1f.

Carbonisation of Seaweed. Fuel Research Board. (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 6d net.

Revue d'Economie Politique. Mais-Avril, 1924. (Paris) Librairie de la Société du Recueil Sirey.

Advertising Review. (Manchester) Manchester Guardian

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester.
Bradford Foreign Branch 13, Market Street, Bradford.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, ACCOUNT,
July 23. July 24.

FEARS of a rise in the Bank rate faded away from the Stock Exchange markets as money showed a tendency to become easier. This removed the main apprehension which had overhung markets previously, but in its place there arose to check business the revolution in Brazil, which spread anxiety throughout wide circles. Towards the end of the week a sharp recovery occurred from the worst. The fresh efforts which are now being made in the direction of international peace did a little towards promoting a firmer sentiment in gilt-edged markets. New issues continue to be taken none too well, the result being that, in various parts of the Stock Exchange, there is a good deal of undigested stocks in the hands of underwriters, who are known to be on the lookout for an early opportunity to realise some of their obligations, especially in view of the other big new issues that are pending.

The War Loan has kept closely to 101½, Victory Bonds went better on a shortage of stock being revealed when a few fairly large purchasers came into the market. The Consol catalogue, as a whole, is firm, and several of the newly issued Colonial scrip stocks are better. Home Railway prior-charge issues did little more than mark time.

Brazilian bonds fell heavily on the lack of news respecting the revolution, but movements have been very meteoric; directly sentiment changed, and bargain-hunters wanted to pick up stock cheaply, prices rebounded violently. Another feature was a slump in Hungarian scrip to 1½ discount below the issue price of 88, this being caused by reports that the New York portion of the Hungarian Loan had gone badly in America, although the Italian part was over-subscribed in Rome. The drop brought in buyers, and the price of the scrip partially recovered. German and French bonds have been little affected by the Peace Conference meetings. Argentines are dull. Some of the Chinese loans went better.

Although several interim dividend announcements are due next week from Home Railway companies, prices of stocks in the Home Railway market are dull and depressed; business remains quiet. Argentine Railways went back on realising by speculative holders who have grown tired of their engagements. San Paulo fell at one time to 142, but recovered 10 points in a couple of days, and Leopoldinas followed the same course, though in much more leisurely fashion. The fixed-interest stocks in this market are weak, each day lengthening the list of falls which have occurred in Foreign Railway debenture and preference descriptions.

The Rubber market is better, thanks to a rise in the price of the raw produce to 1s per lb. Tea shares have hesitated, but, on a fall, buyers came forward, and the list recovered to some extent. The market is not a bad one. Dunlops improved on the statement that a fresh scheme is on the point of being put before shareholders. Bank shares show more firmness, and the Insurance market keeps strong. Trust companies' stocks are again higher. Textiles have been in favour, owing to the good profits which the industry is reported to be making. Courtaulds fell on ex-rights next week. Public interest has subsided from Tobacco shares, nor are the shares of companies closely connected with the British Empire Exhibition in any particular fall upon quiet days. Increased interim dividends from County of London Electric and the South London Electric companies failed to influence prices in this department. Gas stocks held their ground. Eastern Telegraph stock went back a couple of points, and Marconis continue to be supported on the hope of an early intimation in regard to a wireless development policy in which the Government and the Marconi Company will join hands. A drop of 40 points in United States Lumber bonds possessed no special interest, in that the previous quotation did not represent the actual price. Brewery stocks are conspicuously strong, as previously reported, on dividend expectations.

Apart from a little excitement in East Rands, the Kaffir market has spent a quiet week, the Cape contributing a very modest amount of business, and people on this side being con-

tent to remain onlookers. The Chartered report had no particular influence over the price of the shares. Diamonds have been inclined to ease off. Mexican mining shares, Indians, Russians, and West Australians have scarcely moved. With a rise in the price of tin, a greater feeling of cheerfulness became infused into West African and Malayan tin shares, although the Cornish group moved hardly at all. Copper shares also continue to be a very quiet market.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ ..	£ 117,097,640 ..	£ ..	£ ..
4 % Treasury Bonds by public tender, July 11, 1924, £50,000, at £94 13s ..	£ 50,000 ..	£ 47,325 ..	£ ..	£ ..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED JULY 12, 1924.

	£	50,000	£	50,000
April 1, 1924, to July 12, 1924, Dr £1,200,000 ..	£ 50,000 ..	£ 50,000 ..		

To the Public—

Victoria Wine Co., £300,000 6½% Deb. Stk. at 96½ red. on or before Jan. 1, 1925.....	300,000 ..	288,000 ..	30,000 ..	258,000 ..
Daily Sketch and Sunday Herald, £1,600,000 6½% Guar. Mt. Deb. Stk. at 99½.....	1,600,000 ..	1,584,000 ..	160,000 ..	1,424,000 ..
Scottish National Trust, 50,000 Shares, £10, at par ..	500,000 ..	500,000 ..	50,000 ..	450,000 ..
United Lubricants, 50,000 Ord. Is. at par ..	2,500 ..	2,500 ..	2,500 ..	..
Do 100,000 8% Cum. Pref., £1, at par ..	100,000 ..	100,000 ..	5,000 ..	95,000 ..
Burt, Boulton, and Haywood, 300,000 6% Deb. Stock, at 97½ red. at par on or before July 1, 1924.....	300,000 ..	292,500 ..	30,000 ..	262,500 ..
East Kent Road Car, 30,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at £1 2s 6d.....	30,000 ..	33,750 ..	7,500 ..	26,250 ..
Total offered to the public ..	£ 2,800,750 ..	£ 285,000 ..	£ 251,575 ..	£ 2,515,750 ..

To Shareholders only—

British Oxygen, 75,000 Shares, £1, at par ..	75,000 ..	75,000 ..	18,750 ..	56,250 ..
Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Electric Traction, £32,500 6% Deb. Stk., at par ..	32,500 ..	32,500 ..	32,500 ..	..
Modderfontein East, £465,465 5½% Deb., at par ..	465,465 ..	465,465 ..	465,465 ..	..
Total offered to shareholders only ..	£ 572,965 ..	£ 516,715 ..	£ 56,250 ..	£ 56,250 ..

Total offered for subscription to date	Total offered for subscription for whole year.
1924..... 120,568,680	1923..... 271,393,173
1923..... 156,364,645	1922..... 573,675,650
1922..... 156,364,645	1921..... 388,978,203
1921..... 130,307,801	1920..... 367,549,656
1920..... 256,325,373	1919..... 1,036,059,951
1919..... 414,906,162	1918..... 1,393,381,441

Government of India Rs. 15 Crores Rupee Loan, 1924.—The Government of India announce the issue of a loan in India for Rs. 15 crores in two forms, of which the following is a summary of the main terms:—Subscriptions to both forms of the loan, whether in cash or Indian War Bonds, will be received from July 28, 1924. The lists will be closed not later than August 16th, but will be closed earlier without previous notice as soon as it appears that the total subscriptions amount to approximately Rs. 15 crores. The loan will be issued in two forms:—(a) Nine-year 5 per cent. (Indian income-tax free) bonds, repayable at par on September 1, 1933. (i.) Issue price, Rs. 98 as. 4 for every Rs. 100 of the bonds applied for. (ii.) Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on March 1st and September 1st. Interest will be free of Indian income-tax throughout the currency of the bonds, but will be taken into account in determining the rate of tax leviable on other income, and will be liable to Indian super-tax. (b) Long-term 5 per cent. (Indian income-tax free) loan, repayable at par not earlier than October 15, 1945, and not later than October 15, 1955. (i.) Issue price, Rs. 99 for every Rs. 100 of the loan applied for. (ii.) Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, on April 15th and October 15th. Interest will be free of Indian income-tax throughout the currency of the loan, but will be taken into account in determining the rate of tax leviable on other income, and will be liable to Indian super-tax. (iii.) Depreciation fund.—To provide against depreciation in market value of the long-term loan, 1½ per cent. of the aggregate amount of the loan, inclusive of the 1919, 1920, 1923, and this year's issues, will be set aside annually to form a fund to be used for its purchase and cancellation when the market value falls below 99 per cent. Subscriptions may be made in the following forms, viz.:—(a) Cash; (b) Indian War Bonds, 1925 and 1928, at their nominal value, subject to the following conditions, viz.:—(i.) These War Bonds will be accepted as subscription to the long-term loan only; and (ii.) War Bonds tendered in subscription to this loan will carry interest at 5½ per cent. up to the day preceding the date of tender. The London office of the Imperial Bank of India are prepared to receive subscriptions in cash, or, in the case of the 5 per cent. loan of 1945-55, in the form of Indian

War Bonds, from July 28, 1924, until the lists are closed. Cash subscriptions will be payable at the sterling equivalent of the purchase price of the bonds or loan applied for at the rate of exchange for immediate telegraphic transfers on Calcutta on the date of payment.

The Scottish National Trust Company, Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, divided into shares of £10 each, which are now offered for subscription at par. Applications have already been made for 30,000 shares, and these will be allotted in the terms of the prospectus. When fully paid up the shares will be converted into preference and ordinary stock as from December 1, 1924, in the proportion of 60 per cent. of the former and 40 per cent. of the latter. The preference stock will be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and to priority as to capital, but will have no further participation in profits or assets. The object of the company is to carry on the usual business of an investment company. The articles of association provide that, except in the case of British Government securities, not more than 5 per cent. of the combined subscribed share and debenture capital, nor more than 10 per cent. of the subscribed share capital, whichever is greater, shall be invested in any one security. It is further provided that no investment shall be made upon which there is unlimited liability. The amount which the directors may borrow by way of debenture stock or otherwise is restricted to the amount of the subscribed capital. In addition, the directors may borrow up to £100,000 for temporary purposes. In order to facilitate prompt investment, if that should be considered desirable, the directors may obtain advances from banks or otherwise in anticipation of the receipt of calls or debenture money. A carefully drawn up prospectus, and an undertaking which should follow a smooth course under efficient control.

Burt, Boulton, and Haywood, Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, of which £496,003 has been issued. This is an offer for sale of £300,000 first mortgage 6 per cent. debenture stock, being part of an authorised issue of £500,000, at 97½ per cent. There is loan capital outstanding for £251,700, all of which will be paid out of the proceeds of the present issue. The company was formed in 1898 to acquire the business of Burt, Boulton, and Haywood, timber merchants, &c., which was originally established in 1856. The debenture stock now offered will be redeemed at par on or before July 1, 1954, by means of an annual cumulative sinking fund of 1½ per cent. per annum, commencing in December, 1925, and operating by purchase in the market at or below par, or by annual drawings at par. The company will have the right to redeem the stock as a whole or in part by drawings at par on July 1, 1939, or on any subsequent interest date on giving three months' notice. Trading results are given from 1914. Net assets are valued at £559,726, without taking into consideration the net proceeds of the present issue, which is estimated as £274,500. The average rate of dividend on the ordinary share capital since 1899 has been 10½ per cent. Freehold properties are valued at £54,645, and plant and buildings at £298,583. Thus here the margin for security is narrow. But based on published profits, interest is well covered.

The Financial Times, Limited.—An advertisement appears in the Press in connection with an application to the Stock Exchange concerning an issue of £150,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock. This stock constitutes a first specific charge upon property and plant. We extract the following from the *Financial Times*:—"The trust deed provides that the company shall not create any mortgage or charge upon its general assets in priority to the floating charge unless the amount of the general assets, after deducting liabilities, exceeds £200,000 in value, and then such mortgage or charge shall not amount to a greater sum than the excess over £200,000. Redemption will take place at par by the operation of a cumulative sinking fund of 2½ per cent., commencing on July 1, 1925, and operating by purchase or drawings. The final redemption date is July 1, 1946. The company reserves the right to repay the whole or part of the stock at 2 per cent. premium at any time on giving three months' notice." The same journal also states that "the company has a capital of £275,000 in £1 shares, of which £100,000 are 5 per cent. cumulative preference and £175,000 ordinary." The company was established in 1888, and owns the *Financial Times*, with which has recently been incorporated the *Financier and Bullionist*. It also owns the St Clements Printing Works, which are equipped with the most up-to-date machinery, and, in addition to the *Financial Times*, print the *Sunday Times*, and a number of other weekly newspapers and periodicals, including the *Economist*, which has benefited from their efficiency and the progressive development over a long series of years. The proceeds of the debenture issue will be applied in payment for the *Financier and Bullionist*, additional plant, &c. It is said that the company has been conducted with successful results for many years past, but actual figures are lacking. The issue has been purchased by a well-known firm at 92½ per cent., and is to be offered at 94 per cent.

The Victoria Wine Company, Limited.—Share capital £300,000 in ordinary shares of £1 each. Debenture capital has been authorised for £300,000, and this is an issue of the

whole amount, at 96, of 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock. The company has been formed to take over and extend the business of the private limited company of the same name. Originally established in 1865, the business has over 100 depots in this country. Surplus assets are valued at £600,000, but this includes £168,776 for "wholesale and private trade agencies and trade marks and goodwill." Properties are valued at £329,347. Thus for a first specific charged debenture the margin of security is not wide. Profits are given from 1919; the sum needed annually for debenture interest—namely, £19,500—is well covered. The prospectus states that "the company will pay to the trustees for the debenture-holders annually a sum of £27,500 for interest and redemption, which amount is sufficient to redeem the whole of the stock on January 1, 1945, at 102 per cent."; and that the "company reserves the right, in addition, at any time to purchase stock in the open market, and, on giving six months' notice, to pay off all the then outstanding debentures at 103 per cent."

United Lubricants, Limited.—Authorised share capital £120,000, divided into 100,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 400,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. The whole of the 100,000 preference and 50,000 ordinary shares are now offered for public subscription at par. Applicants for the preference shares have the right to subscribe for ordinary shares in the proportion of one ordinary for every two preference shares applied for. This company has been formed with the immediate object of acquiring the whole of the issued shares of London Lubricants (1920), Limited. Of the ordinary shares 300,000 are to be allotted as fully paid under various agreements, and 50,000 are reserved for cash applications at par by underwriters of the preference shares. Profits are given from 1918, and a balance-sheet is published showing the state of London Lubricants at December 31, 1923. In this goodwill is valued at £39,008, out of assets totalling £117,071. Debtors come next with £23,946, and "investments at cost" £23,000. Stock on hand is returned at £7,004. The net proceeds of the present issue, after payment of the purchase price payable to the vendor and the preliminary expenses, will amount to approximately £50,000. The purchase price payable to the vendor company is £52,500, to be satisfied as to £42,500 in cash, and the balance (£10,000) in fully-paid ordinary shares of 1s each. In view of the capital employed heretofore, profits appear to be generous. Indeed, one wonders that competition has not shown itself.

The Redhill Gas Company.—Incorporated by special Act of Parliament in 1865. Authorised stock capital £413,220, of which £179,613 remains to be issued. Issued loan capital amounts to £46,499. This is an offer for sale by tender of £20,000 5½ per cent. irredeemable preference "A" stock, the minimum price of issue being £95 per cent. Net revenue for the year ended December 31st amounted to £17,554, without deducting the interest on loan capital, which needs £2,896. The dividend on the preference stock, including the present issue, will require £4,293. Thus £10,364 is left for ordinary stock, amounting to £179,500. A good issue of its type.

William Melhuish (Proprietors), Limited.—Authorised share capital £115,000, divided into 100,000 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, and 300,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. The company has issued £68,000 6½ per cent. five-year registered notes at £98 per cent., to be paid off at par on January 1, 1930, or earlier, at the company's option. This is an issue of 100,000 preference and 300,000 ordinary shares, all at par. It is, however, stated that 200,000 ordinary shares have been subscribed for in cash, and that a further 50,000 are reserved for underwriters of the preference shares. Thus preference share applicants can expect one ordinary share for every two preference shares applied for. The company has been formed to acquire the shares in a flour factors, and the price to be paid for its issued capital, namely, £42,000, is £168,000 in cash. Profits are shown from 1921. A balance-sheet is provided, and other useful information is supplied. Total assets are given as £131,991. The purchase price appears to be on the high side. While profits are sufficient to cover dividend payments, it should be observed that assets do not allow a substantial margin for preference share capital.

East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.—Incorporated 1877. This is an offer for sale by tender of £20,000 5½ per cent. irredeemable preference stock of the above company, or such an amount as will, with premiums, realise the net sum of £20,000. The minimum price of issue is par. The additional capital is required to modernise and extend the works, mains, &c., thereby enabling the company to effect economies in working and to meet the increasing demands for new supplies. For the year 1923 the net revenue, after deducting debenture interest, was £7,326; the dividend on the present issue will amount to £1,100. Thus a comfortable margin remains for security.

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Electric Traction Company, Limited.—Authorised and issued capital £200,000, divided into 20,000 ordinary and 20,000 preference shares, all of

£5 each. Debenture capital issued and outstanding amounts to £72,500, and consists of 4½ per cent. debenture stock. For information only, details are published of an issue of £105,000 of 6 per cent. debenture stock. The debentures are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Birmingham District Power and Traction Company. The £72,500 of 4½ per cent. debenture stock now in existence will be converted into a like amount of the 6 per cent., the remaining £32,500 having been offered at par to shareholders and stockholders of the company. The stock is "redeemable" at 105 at any time on six months' notice from the company, no final date having been fixed.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Week	Latest	Price	Week	Latest	Rise or
							Fall.
War 4½, 1925-28	96½	97	97	96½	97	97	+
Loans 4½, 1925-45	97	97	97	96½	97	97	+
4½, 1925-47	101½	102	102	101½	102	102	+
4½, 1925-49	101½	102	102	101½	102	102	+
Funding Loan 4½	87½	88½	88½	87½	88½	88½	+
Victory Bonds 4½	92½	93½	93½	92½	93½	93½	+
Conversion Loan 3½	76½	77½	77½	76½	77½	77½	+
Consols 2½	56½	57½	57½	56½	57½	57½	+
Irish Land Stock 2½	52½	53½	53½	52½	53½	53½	+
Local Loans 3½	65	65½	65½	65	65½	65½	+

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord.	106½	107	107	106½	107	107	+
London & North-Eastern	81½	80½	80½	81½	80½	80½	-
5½ Pref. Ord.	81½	80½	80½	81½	80½	80½	-
Do Def. Ord.	28½	27½	27½	28½	27½	27½	-
Do Mid. and	95½	94½	94½	95½	94½	94½	-
Scottish, Ord.	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½	0
Metropolitan	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½	0
Metropolitan District	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½	49½	0

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1, 2d)	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	21½	0
Chartered Bk of India	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½	0
Lloyds (£5 with £1	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	0
paid	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	0
Midland (£12, with	8½	8½	8½	8½	8½	8½	0
£2 paid)	8½	8½	8½	8½	8½	8½	0
Nat. Bank of Egypt	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	0
(£10)	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	25½	0

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	96	98	98	96	98	98	+
Erie	33	35	35	33	35	35	+
Do 4½ 1st Pref.	42	44	44	42	44	44	+

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons.	85	85	85	85	85	85	0
B.A. and Pacific	80½	79½	79½	80½	79½	79½	-
B.A. Gt. Southern	87½	86½	86½	87½	86½	86½	-
Buenos Ayres West.	73	72	72	73	72	72	-
Canadian Pacific	172	170	170	172	170	170	-
Central Argentine	73½	71½	71½	73½	71½	71½	-

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5½, 1886-7-100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
Austrian 6 ¾ Guar.	89	90	90	89	90	90	+
Belgian 3½	71	71	71	71	71	71	0
Brazil 5½ Fund., 1914	72	70	70	72	70	70	-
Chilian 4½, 1895	88	88	88	88	88	88	0
Do 7½	106	104½	104½	106	104½	104½	-
Chinese 5½, 1912	69	69	69	69	69	69	0
Egyptian 4½	75	75	75	75	75	75	0
French 5½	24	23½	23½	24	23½	23½	-
Do 4½	18½	19½	19½	18½	19½	19½	+
Greek 5½, 1884	52½	52½	52½	52½	52½	52½	0

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A"	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½	23½	0
Marconi Wireless	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½	19½	0
Marconi Canada	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	0
Marconi Marine	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	0

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (1)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	0
Amal. Cans (1)	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	0
Anglo Persian Oil (1)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	0
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	0
and Co. (1)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	0
Ass. Ind. Cement (1)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	0
Barker, John (1)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	0
Birmingham & Co. (1)	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	0
Brazil Traction (100)	55	54	54	55	54	54	-
British-American	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Burmah Oil (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Coats (J. and P.) (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Courtauld (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Conard (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Dorman, Long (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Dunlop Rubber (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Fine Cotton Spinnings	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Forestal Land (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Furness, Withy (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Highlands and Low-	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
lands Rubber (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0

Mines.

Brakpan (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Broken Hill Prop. (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Chartereds (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Cons. Gold Fields (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Crown Mines (10)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
De Beers Def. (12½)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
East Rand Prop. (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Geduld (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Gov. Gold Areas	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Hudon's Bay (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Imperial Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Linggi Plantations (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Lipson (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Lever Bros. (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Do 8½ On A. Pref. (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Do 10 On A. Pref. (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Lister (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Lobitos Oilfields (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Lyons (J. & Co.) (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Mexican Eagle (10)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Pekin (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Rubber Plantations	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Investment (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Shell Transport (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Smithfield Argentine	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Meat (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
United Dairies (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
United Serdang (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
United Tobacco (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Vallambrosa (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Vickers (1)	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0
Watney Def. Suk.	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	0

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

BAKER PERKINS, LIMITED.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the 52 weeks ending December 25, 1923.

This year's trading had two main characteristics which should be borne in mind in reading the report and accounts. Firstly, the amount of goods invoiced during the period is substantially lower than in any of the three preceding years, and your works have therefore had a larger unemployed capacity. Secondly, the volume of orders booked during 1923 is substantially greater than in 1922, and your works therefore have better prospects of employment for 1924. In view of these circumstances the results obtained may be considered encouraging, and justify the hopes entertained from the adoption of budgetary control.

Your directors are glad to report that settlement of long outstanding tax liability for munitions levy, excess profits duty, and income-tax has been made with the Inland Revenue authorities. Settlement is complete up to December 31, 1922, with the exception of corporation profits tax for that year. Subject to the small corrections noted below, the figures now presented disclose the exact position of the company for the first time since the amalgamation with Perkins Engineers, Limited.

Profit at £46,975 5s 11d is almost the same as last year, and is not unsatisfactory since it has been earned on a lower turnover. Allowance has been made for income-tax and depreciation, but not for corporation profits tax in arriving at this figure.

Dividends upon our investments in Canadian Baker Perkins, Limited (£3,125) and David Thomson, Limited (£881 5s 4d) in respect of the year 1922 were received during 1923, and are included in the accounts for the period under review.

ACCOUNTS.

The form of the profit and loss account has been slightly altered, and fresh headings have been added to the balance-sheet, in order to give shareholders more information.

RESERVE.—The addition of £7,647 11s 10d is due to a supplementary realised surplus from fire salvage.

The plant and buildings at your works have been maintained in a high state of efficiency out of revenue, and an adequate addition has been made to depreciation reserve.

LOANS.—£10,000 has been paid off the loan from Lloyds Bank, Limited.

Trade creditors and bills payable are higher than in the previous year by £29,128, and balances to customers' credit by £5,933. The increase in both figures is due to the greater activity of the works at the end of 1923 as compared with December, 1922.

UNDIVIDED PROFIT.—The decrease of £19,517 15s 3d is, of course, due to the settlement of arrears of taxation alluded to above and management remuneration consequent thereon. The balance is still subject to corporation profits tax for 1922 and 1923, and adjustment of income-tax for nine months of 1923 in respect of which allowance has been made though the assessment has not yet been agreed.

Land, buildings, plant, and machinery have increased by £34,343 13s 10d. During 1923 we exercised our option to purchase from the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway Company for £9,027 13s the five acres of land at Willesden already partially covered with buildings pertaining to the works which we previously held upon lease from them. The offices at Peterborough have been enlarged at a cost of £7,751 15s 8d by the addition of another floor to accommodate the new development department of the drawing office, the chemical machinery department, and the commercial direction of the bakery equipment sales, which latter have been transferred from Kingsway. The balance is accounted for by the additional fire salvage in respect of which an addition has been made to reserve as noted above, and by normal purchases of machine tools and factory equipment.

STOCK-IN-TRADE.—Work in progress and trade and sundry debtors are higher than at December, 1922, and reflect the increase in trade in the latter part of the period.

Prepaid insurances, prepaid advertising, and items of a similar nature, as well as loans to our associated companies, have been separated from trade debtors, so that the latter now represent only moneys due to the company on trading account.

Loans receivable from associates are in the main temporary advances made to our American company, and this item and the repayment of Lloyds Bank and the greater activity in the shops noted above are largely responsible for the shrinkage of cash.

INVESTMENTS.—Baker, Perkins Company, Inc., which has abbreviated its name (thus keeping in line with your company), and Baker, Perkins Manufacturing Corporation have again had a good year. Taking consolidated figures, and after payment of taxation and preference dividends \$56,294.71, the sum of \$188,405.14 has been added to surplus account, which accordingly stood at

December 31st at \$536,456.67. In the last few months Baker, Perkins Manufacturing Corporation have made an issue of 7,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of \$100 each, redeemable at 102½, which were readily taken up locally. The proceeds of this issue were used in part to redeem the whole of the existing 8 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares, and as to the balance for extra working capital.

Canadian Baker Perkins, Limited, have had another successful year, and have again declared a dividend of 30 per cent., which will come in to our 1924 accounts.

The British Arkady Company, Limited, in which your company has a substantial holding, have declared a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, in respect of the year 1923, which will also come in to our 1924 figures.

AUSTRALIA.—Your Melbourne branch, under the management of Major Prior, has again done well, and has made a substantial contribution to the profits.

The directors again wish to draw your attention to the excellent work done by all members of the management, staff and workmen in your employ in a period of general trade depression and difficulty.

A resolution will be laid before the general meeting proposing that a special grant of £500, free of tax, be made to the secretary, Mr J. Newman, who has rendered a very great service to the company entailing a great deal of extra labour of an exacting character, extending over several years, in settling up taxation matters, and also in acting as liquidator of Perkins Engineers, Limited, at the time of the amalgamation. It is proposed to take this sum from undivided profits, and provision has been made for the payment in the accounts now presented.

PENSIONS.—Your directors are anxious to initiate a contrib

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

STRONG AND LIQUID FINANCIAL POSITION.

AFFAIRS IN PERSIA—RENEWAL OF CHARTER.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman, presiding.

The manager and secretary (Mr Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—At the general meeting in December last I explained the reasons why we had decided to close our financial year in future on March 20th instead of September 20th. Our meeting to-day is the first under the new arrangement, so the accounts presented to you are for six months only—viz., from September 21st to March 20th.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR HUNTER.

Before I refer to them I think you will wish me to place on record our sense of the loss we have sustained through the sudden death last December of our colleague, Mr H. E. R. Hunter. Mr Hunter was a banker of wide experience in the East. He had been for many years manager of the Shanghai branch of that great institution the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. He was also a director of Hambros Bank, and, when he joined us early in 1916, shortly after the death of your former chairman, Sir Thomas Jackson, we believed, and the event proved, that we had obtained a very valuable addition to the board.

His death came as a very great shock to us all. We feel we have lost not only a colleague, on whose advice we could confidently rely, but also a very charming friend and companion whose cheery presence at our weekly meetings is greatly missed. You will, I am sure, unite with us in expressing our sorrow that he has been taken from us, and our sympathy with his relatives.

FAILURE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

As regards affairs in Persia, so short a time has elapsed since I last addressed you on the subject that there is not much to relate. His Majesty the Shah is still on tour in Europe, and, though there have been several changes in the Cabinet in Teheran, the Sirdar Sepah Reza Khan, of whose achievements in regard to the improvement of the army and the maintenance of order I gave you some account in December, has succeeded in maintaining his position as Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. He appears to have established the authority of the Government throughout Persia in a remarkable degree. There have, it is true, been some disturbances among the tribesmen in Luristan, but I understand these have now been satisfactorily composed.

You have no doubt seen in the newspapers that at one time in the early spring there arose in Teheran a considerable agitation in favour of the establishment of a Republic in Persia. The movement evidently lacked popular support, since, for the time at any rate, it seems to have died down. In the circumstances it is not surprising that such a proposal should have been put forward and should have captured the imagination of many people. The widespread unrest in the East which followed the war has led already to the downfall of the Sultan of Turkey, and to the disorder in the Chinese Empire, and it would have been strange if the ferment had failed to penetrate into Persia. But the Persians, fortunately, are a cautious and conservative people, proud of their country's great past, and I am inclined to think their ancient institutions are likely to display much more stability than they are commonly supposed to possess.

At any rate, the examples presented in Russia and elsewhere are hardly calculated to encourage in others a desire for violent constitutional changes. Meanwhile, despite such unrest as exists, the Persian merchant, who understands little of politics and probably cares less, pursues his lawful occasions in business unperturbed, and it is to his class we look to take advantage of the facilities which the bank offers for carrying on and financing the local and foreign trade of the country.

THE ACCOUNTS.

With this brief introduction I turn to the accounts. I do not propose to compare in detail the results of the past half-year with those of the previous 12 months. The only items in the balance-sheet to which I need direct attention are the increase of nearly £130,000 in our note circulation and, on the assets side of the account, the large sum shown under the head of cash in hand, at bankers, and money at call. In proportion to other items this may seem unduly large, but it is a good fault, and, if you add to it our investments—which are all in first-class securities—and the total under bills receivable, you will see that our financial position is very strong and liquid.

As regards the profit and loss account, including the balance brought forward, the total sum at our disposal, £87,738, enables us to transfer £20,000 to our reserve account—which now stands at the substantial figure of £390,000—to write £5,000 off bank premises, to pay you a dividend of 5s a share, free of tax, and to carry forward £34,552. You will, I hope, regard this as very satisfactory. Our bank premises now stand in our books at only £51,100, notwithstanding the fresh expenditure which our expansion has called for.

THE DIVIDEND.

The only remark I would make about the dividend is that you must not suppose that the payment now of 5s, as against the 3s paid this time last year, foreshadows any increase in the 9s which we have paid you annually for the last two years. The present dividend is a final one. Next December's dividend will only be an interim dividend. We cannot, of course, predict what it will be, but we hope it will be sufficient to prevent your losing anything in the current 12 months owing to the change in our financial year.

RENEWAL OF CHARTER.

It will interest you to know that in recent correspondence which has taken place between his Majesty's Treasury and the bank we have been informed that our Royal Charter will be renewed for the period necessary to carry us on to the expiration of our concession—that is to say, for nearly another 25 years. The bank's concession from the Persian Government is for 60 years from February, 1889. The Royal Charter granted by the British Government in the following September was for 30 years. In 1919 the charter was renewed for five years, and it will now be extended further so as to cover the whole period of the concession.

PERSIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

We have just received the figures of Persian foreign trade for the year ended last March. Imports amounted to Ts. 69,400,000 and exports to Ts. 76,700,000, a total of Ts. 146,100,000, an increase over last year's figures of Ts. 11,000,000.

In conclusion, I may add that our relations with the Persian Government continue to be very satisfactory. We fully recognise our responsibilities as the State bank, and have given and are always prepared to give to the Persian Government all the assistance in our power.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

I have only to add that during the past six months we have received very valuable assistance from our staff, who have done their work in a most excellent way, as usual. I have now to move: "That the report presented be adopted, that the accounts to March 20th, as rendered, be accepted, and that the final dividend of 5s per share, payable free of income-tax, on July 17th, be, and is, hereby confirmed."

Mr E. A. Chettle seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr V. A. Caesar Hawkins, and Mr E. A. Chettle.

This resolution was seconded by Col. Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., and unanimously approved.

On the proposition of Mr Turton, seconded by Lieut-Col. G. K. C. Westropp, the auditors, Messrs Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Co., were unanimously re-appointed.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN, DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

Mr Vere H. Smith: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, before we separate, if I may be allowed to do so, I wish to propose a vote of thanks to you, Sir, for your conduct in the chair to-day, to the board of directors generally, and to the staff here in London, for the good work they have done for us during the past year. I should like to associate with that vote of thanks the staff of this bank abroad. I feel—and you have already referred to the fact—that we owe a great deal to our staff and our employees who work for us in the East, and I do not think we should forget them to-day.

Col. Westropp: I have great pleasure in seconding that vote, which I am sure we all realise to be thoroughly deserved. The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: I am very much obliged to Mr Vere Smith for his kind reference to myself and to the board, and I am very glad that he has been good enough to include the staff in his vote of thanks. I am much obliged to you all for so kindly passing that vote. I need hardly say that our staff has rendered us excellent service. As I said the last time we met, they have very responsible work, and they have done it to our entire satisfaction during the past six months.

The proceedings then terminated.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

UNFAVOURABLE FACTORS OF PAST YEAR.

POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE EAST.

SIR HERBERT LAWRENCE'S REVIEW.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held, on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London.

General the Hon Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., presided.

The secretary of the London agency (Mr Charles E. L. Corthorn) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I have been informed that this meeting is properly constituted, and I presume it will be your pleasure that the report and accounts, as printed and circulated among you, shall be taken as read. (Agreed.)

You will regret, as we do, that we have lost the valuable collaboration of Lord Goschen, who has been called upon to fill one of the most important posts in the Government of India. We congratulate him most heartily on the honour conferred upon him. The public service has certainly gained a devoted administrator.

THE PAST YEAR.

Before proceeding into detail with regard to our affairs, it will be perhaps better to make a short survey of the circumstances under which we have been conducting the business of the bank during the year under review.

The Near East in 1923 did not see the arrival of the prosperity and calm which it had been hoped that peace would bring. Various factors, political and economic, tended rather to aggravate the state of uneasiness which for years now has paralysed business in the countries with which our establishment is chiefly concerned.

The Conference of Lausanne met on November 20, 1922. For 11 weeks it pursued its course amid difficulties so serious that at times the precarious Peace of Mudania seemed endangered. On February 4, 1923, the Conference was suddenly suspended without any agreement being reached. Only on April 23rd negotiations were resumed, and up to the last moment the result was in doubt, the Treaty of Peace not being signed until July 24th.

To this day it awaits the ratification by three Allied Powers, without which it cannot enter into force—and without which there can be no definite restoration of normal relations with the Near East.

NEW POLITICAL ORDER IN TURKEY.

The new political order in Turkey has been slow in settling down. Elections first, then a Ministerial crisis, and, finally, on October 29th, the proclamation of the Republic, all contributed during the second half of 1923 to keep alive those feelings of uncertainty and apprehension which are inevitable in times of political change.

The new Government found itself faced with the arduous task of restoring a country exhausted by 12 years of continuous warfare, and of directing its adaptation to a new order. From an economic point of view, then, it is not surprising that the year 1923 should have been marked by a stagnation even more pronounced than that of the year preceding.

MARKET INACTIVITY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

In Constantinople the market has remained inactive, and business has been limited to operations of little importance. The principal causes of this inactivity are the uncertainty as to the internal policy of Turkey and to the general policy of Europe; the danger to peace which arose in the early months of the year on the check to the negotiations at Lausanne; and, lastly, the destruction of capital resources in various forms, caused by 12 years of warfare and the consequent inability of the population to produce and therefore to purchase commodities.

QUESTION OF PRODUCTION.

Let us now turn to the question of production. This, together with the important transit trade of Constantinople, forms the future basis of Turkish prosperity. Anatolia is an agricultural country, and, as such, one of the richest in the world. During the last year, however, crops were below the average. In the regions traversed by lines of railway, and for the plateaux of Central Anatolia, the cereal harvest was only moderate. On the other hand, in the eastern provinces, at Diarbékir, for instance, the yield was abundant, but, owing to the absence of means of communication, the crop could not be conveyed to the centres of consumption.

Other crops were equally unsatisfactory; opium only yielded 2,000 cases, as against an average of 5,000 cases; mohair, 25,000 bales, as against 100,000 bales. The cultivation of silk attained only 10 per cent. of the results which were usual before the war. Cotton showed some improvement at Adana, with 60,000 bales, as against 30,000 bales of the preceding year. These poor results are largely due to the diminution of the population. Certain products, such as

figs and raisins, could not be entirely exported owing to the lack of labour available for packing.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

With regard to the commercial movement in Constantinople, published statistics are incomplete, and, therefore, I can only give you the figures for the imports of the first half-year. The value, in Turkish pounds, was as follows:—

First half of—	£T
1921	58,523,000
1922	39,173,000
1923	38,475,000

The export market, on the other hand, shows some animation. Certain articles have been sold at remunerative prices above those for the preceding year. As in the case of imports, I can only give you the figures for the first six months of the year:—

First half of—	£T
1921	12,360,000
1922	13,177,000
1923	12,942,000

EXCHANGE MOVEMENTS.

Movements in exchange have contributed to the stagnation of business. Sudden and violent fluctuations of the rate in the course of a month have caused important losses and produced panic among importers, some of whom have found themselves unable to take delivery of goods which they had ordered. During the period under review the sterling rate has varied between 690 piastres and 811 piastres to the pound.

The variation in the franc exchange has had its obvious effect on the working of our bank, and it is to be hoped that the expressed determination of the French Government to balance its Budget, and the inherent soundness of the economic position in France, will tend to eliminate these violent fluctuations in the future. It is to be regretted that speculation should have been able to play so large a part in the unsettlement of monetary conditions.

In Turkey the currency question is free from one difficulty, which obtains in so many other countries: there has been no inflation of the currency. The note issue has not been increased in the slightest degree since the war.

In the economic world any general improvement of the situation is to be sought in stimulating demand and thereby causing increased production, in a wider exchange of commodities, in the restraint, so far as that may be possible, of speculation, and not, as some people are disposed to believe, in artificial measures of assistance which at best are merely palliatives. This attitude towards trade and speculation we have adopted ourselves, and we continually endeavour to induce other establishments in our sphere to take a similar stand.

BANK'S AFFAIRS.

From these general considerations I now turn to those which may be more accurately described as our own affairs. The unfavourable factors which I have just brought to your attention had their inevitable influence on the volume of the operations and on the results of our Constantinople office, and a large number of our branches in Anatolia. However, certain regions of Asia, notably Adana, have shown an important commercial movement in which our branches have had their part.

In Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia the state of stagnation which we described last year has shown an improving tendency. In Greece our business shows a very appreciable progress, which is most encouraging for the future of our branches in that country. The financial and banking operations of our western agencies pursue their normal course.

In Syria, the year 1923 has been marked by continued progress in the general organisation of the mandated territory, and an improvement of the economic situation, which has had a happy reaction on public finances. Our Filiale, the Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban, has profited thereby, and has been able to maintain its previous dividend of 5 per cent. The Banque Franco-Serbe and the Bank of Roumania have equally had a satisfactory year.

PROLONGATION OF BANK'S CONCESSION.

Our concession in Turkey, as you know, is due to expire next year. In view of this fact we entered recently into negotiations with representatives of the Turkish Government in order to determine the basis and conditions of its renewal and prolongation. We are glad to be able to say that our delegates signed a convention to

this effect on March 10th with the Government of the Turkish Republic.

This agreement provides for the prolongation of our concession until March 1, 1935. It will be submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for ratification on the opening of the next session of the Assembly in October. This will permit our establishment to render to Turkey important services, which it has never withheld in the past, towards the maintenance of its credit and towards its economic development.

It is with this expectation, and in order to be prepared to meet any objection which the Turkish Government under its new Constitution may make to the word "Imperial," that we have embodied in the agenda of the present meeting notice of a resolution to empower the committee to modify the title of the bank as and when they may deem advisable.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Referring to the balance-sheet, as shown in the report, assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been converted into sterling at the rates prevailing on December 31st last—that is to say, so far as francs are concerned, at the rate of 85f to the pound, as against 64f on December 31st of the preceding year.

The accounts made up to December 31, 1923, after providing for bad and doubtful debts out of revenue and provisions previously made, show an amount available of £128,370 15s 4d, after taking into account an amount of £194,693 6s 10d brought forward from the previous year and the amount required for difference on conversion.

Disappointing as this result may appear at first sight, we cannot but congratulate ourselves that it is not more unsatisfactory, in view of the difficult circumstances with which we have had to contend.

The situation still remaining uncertain, not only in our sphere in particular, but in the world in general, and in view of the fluctuations in exchanges which have occurred—notably in the franc, which March of this year touched 120 to the pound sterling—we have again to propose that this balance be carried forward.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

I can only repeat the hope expressed at our meeting last year that a revival may take place in Turkey's economic development in the near future, and that we may then reap the reward of our preparedness.

Our staff abroad and at home has continued to display the efficiency and devotion which we have experienced in the past, and we wish to express to the directions of Constantinople, London, and Paris, and the branches, as well as to all the members of the staff, our hearty thanks and appreciation.

If there are any questions you would like to ask me, I shall be pleased to answer them. If not, I will move, "That the report and accounts be now received and adopted."

The Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., P.C.: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Parker, D.S.O.: Would you mind telling us whether your franc assets exceed your franc liabilities, and, if so, by what amount, approximately?

The Chairman: I am informed by our auditor that our assets in francs exceed our liabilities in francs.

Mr Smallwood: Could you say, roughly, by how much? On the assets side you have lumped together British and French Treasury bills, and, in the item of investments, you have "British and French Government securities." Can you tell us, roughly, the proportions of British and French securities?

The Chairman: I have not the details here, but they can be obtained by shareholders at the office.

The resolution was then put, and was carried unanimously.

FORMAL BUSINESS.

The Chairman: I now move: "That M. Charles de Cerjat, M. Horace Finaly, Mr E. W. H. Barry, and Lord Hillingdon be and they are hereby re-elected members of the general committee."

The resolution was seconded by the Earl of Chichester, O.B.E., and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now move, "That the committee be and is hereby empowered, under Articles 35 and 43 of the Statutes, to modify the title of the bank as and when they may deem advisable."

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting.

VOTE OF THANKS TO COMMITTEE, MANAGEMENT, AND STAFF.

Mr Arthur Hood: On more than one occasion it has been my privilege to propose a vote of thanks to the committee, the management, and the staff. I think we can sum up in two mottoes the way in which our business is conducted and the masterly speech we have heard from the chairman—the first is "Safety first," and the second is "Looking ahead." On this side of the table we

are all very much obliged to you, because things might have been very much worse than they are now. In view of the conference which is being held in London, we are hoping—not idiotically, I suppose—that the franc will improve, and when we hear of the franc having been 120 to the pound, we hope it will be told to our grandchildren as a wonderful fact which was caused by speculation, and that we shall get the franc down to half that figure. There is no doubt in my mind that but for the enormous amount which has had to be put away as loss on exchange, satisfactory dividends would have been paid to the shareholders, but we have got to wait. In my vote of thanks, which I am sure will be supported by every one in the room, I should like to include especially the staff in the remote and remotest branches of the bank. We little know what they have to put up with, and I am sure they all have our sincere sympathy.

Mr J. Rosselli seconded the resolution, and the vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Thank you, gentlemen. I have to thank you for the kind compliment paid to me and my colleagues, and also to the staff, who will appreciate greatly the remarks that have been made.

The proceedings then terminated.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES. SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PROFIT. LONDON LOANS AND EXCHANGE RATES.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Bank of New South Wales was held at the Chief Banking House, Sydney, on Friday, May 30, 1924, the chairman, Mr Thomas Buckland, president of the bank, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Gentlemen,—

Before moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet I will briefly review the figures, comparing them with those of March, 1923.

BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

Note circulation in New Zealand has increased £200,000—due mainly to the purchase of produce bills on London, and illustrates the elasticity of the note issue there in relation to financing the primary products of the country.

Deposits show a decrease on the year of £926,000. This is fully accounted for by the disappearance of the item "War gratuities." Under the Government scheme, notes were deposited by the Government to meet advances made on their account to soldiers, and this cross-entry was recently adjusted by the Treasury. Government deposits have decreased by £350,000, but the deposits by customers have increased, and bearing in mind that our last year's figures included over a million of deposits in suspense which were distributed by the companies concerned in May and June, the increase is all the more satisfactory.

Bills payable.—As you are aware various large items are grouped under this heading, and the decrease of £353,000 is of no particular moment.

The reserve fund has increased £225,000 on the year and the profit by £27,000.

ASSETS.

Turning to the assets:—

Coin, notes, and cash balances at bankers have decreased £188,000, and due by other banks have increased £278,000. In London British Treasury bills are lower by £1,150,000. Money at short call £650,000, and remittances £186,000 less. At this time last year our balances in London were exceptionally high, and although they still remain much higher than we require, we have, at great cost, managed some reduction urgently required for the conduct of our business in Australia. Securities have decreased by £1,188,000, and advances have increased £2,880,000. Of this £400,000 is increase in import bills discounted by London, and £2,480,000 in advances to customers in the various States in Australia and in New Zealand. The ratio of bills discounted and advances in Australia and New Zealand to deposits, excluding bills negotiated in London, which stand at £2,315,000, is 70 per cent., which is considered reasonable. Bills negotiated by London against shipping documents for imports to Australasia, although grouped under "Advances," are more in the nature of short-dated loans maturing within 90 days. If there were facilities here as in London for rediscount, this item would be included in our first line of assets.

PROSPECTS FOR ENSUING SEASON.

Pretty generally throughout Australia reports are coming in to us which speak in optimistic terms of the prospects of production for the ensuing season. In the majority of districts livestock are reported to be in excellent condition, with grass in abundance, and the forecasts for increased returns from wool, meat, butter, cheese, &c., are practically universal. Also the reports and forecasts in

regard to a splendid outlook for wheat and other cereals are equally encouraging.

Therefore, as far as human eye can see or human brain can penetrate, it would appear that we are justified in anticipating a time of plenty in the immediate future. So far so good, and very good indeed, but it is not the whole question. This great producing continent of ours being so limited in the matter of population, and consequently in the matter of local consumption and local markets, we have to seek buyers of our produce in other parts of the world, and whether our goods are shipped to America, Japan or any other part of the globe, they have to be paid for in London just the same as if they were all shipped there direct, consequently our funds accumulate in London to the detriment of our available cash resources in Australia, and necessarily to the restriction of Australian trade. This restriction would not obtain if the finances governing this commerce with outside countries were left unmolested, our exports and imports would more or less balance themselves, but the natural commerce of the country is not left unmolested, it is interfered with in a most serious manner.

BORROWING IN LONDON AND EXCHANGE RATES.

There is evidence that some of our Governments, municipalities, and public bodies are borrowing money in London, apart from conversion requirements, which might or might not be excusable if the English investor were to forward them the gold or other commodities of value for the loans, but nothing of the kind happens. The said investor simply provides the credit in London, and the borrowers themselves have to transfer the money out to Australia, which they have been doing at ruinously high exchange rates, and thereby not only disorganise exchange values, but they absorb and divert from natural commercial channels the funds which, in the ordinary business course, would be available to finance the exports of the country.

Another injurious result of the public bodies mentioned creating these ruinous exchange rates for getting money out of London is forcing the banks, in self-protection, to put up the cost of negotiating drafts against produce, and thus imposing a heavy tax upon Australia's most useful citizen, viz., the man on the land.

If imports over exports very largely predominated, the borrowing abroad, however harmful it might otherwise be, would not prejudicially affect the position, but just now it does most adversely affect it, and if the practice is allowed to continue it is difficult to see how it will be possible in the ordinary way, and without extraneous methods, to finance the large exports which we hope for from our next harvests, and which are so essential to our prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

Our staff continues to render to the bank loyal and efficient service, and in recognition thereof you will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that the board have decided to reward them with a bonus on their salaries.

In a few minutes you will be asked to resolve yourselves into a special general meeting to consider some alterations and amendments to the deed of settlement. They are for the most part rendered necessary consequent upon the passing of the Bank's new Act of Parliament, and are directed to bringing the deed more up to date, and fitted to meet modern conditions.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED. SATISFACTORY RESULTS—DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

BOARD'S SOUND POLICY.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at 122 Leadenhall street, London.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., chairman of the company, presided.

The secretary (Mr H. J. Rolt) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Is it your pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, that the report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some days, be taken as read? ("Agreed.") That being the case, I do not propose on this hot afternoon, when, no doubt, many of you are anxious to get off and go to Lord's, to inflict upon you a long oration.

THE PAST YEAR.

The results for the past year have not been achieved without strenuous efforts on the part of the management, both at home and abroad, to whom we are greatly indebted for having realised the surplus which we are able to show on the year's operations. This surplus which we are able to show on the year's operations, to be sufficient to enable us to pay the same dividend as last year, to place £20,000 to reserve, and to carry forward about £2,000 more than we brought in. We are going slowly; we are showing no

disposition to push our business. It is coming to us by degrees. We are gradually building up our reserves without distributing too much in the way of dividends, which I am sure you will agree with me is the right policy for a young bank to adopt. If we fell on bad times, I should, so far as I am concerned, have no hesitation in recommending a lower dividend. I trust, however, that will not be necessary.

CURRENT YEAR'S OUTLOOK.

As regards the outlook for the current year it is too early to make any forecast; only three months have gone, and much will depend on the working of the nine months ahead of us, but I would ask you not to reckon on a larger dividend, as it is the board's object to build up our reserves.

Turning to the figures for 1923-24, you will observe that the total of the balance-sheet shows a contraction on the figures of 1922-23. That is a feature which is common to most banking institutions. Current and deposit accounts stand at £9,491,000, against £10,360,000 last year; our loans payable have contracted by £1,300,000, and there is a small decline in our acceptances. On the other hand, we have taken a larger part in the financing of the trade to and from the East, as will be observed from the increase of over £2,000,000 in the bank's holdings of bills. Our advances to customers have expanded from £2,850,000 to £3,832,000, while we have simultaneously decreased our holdings of investments.

ALLAHABAD BANK.

I should like to add a word or two about our affiliated institution, the Allahabad Bank. After making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts out of the year's profits, the bank has paid its usual dividend and a bonus of 18 per cent. It has also added materially to its reserves by appropriating thereto from the current year's profits the sum of Rs. 3,00,000, and at the same time increasing slightly its carry-forward, and it has also found it possible to transfer to the reserve fund the sum of Rs. 6,00,000 hitherto held in a contingency fund, as this is not now required for the purpose for which it was created. The total reserves of the Allahabad Bank now stand at Rs. 44½ lacs, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 35½ lacs. I think you will agree that that is not an unsatisfactory position.

I notice that a great trade boom in the near future is prophesied in some quarters. I hope the prophecy may come true. It is badly wanted. If we could only get Europe working again, not only the P. and O. Bank, but also the P. and O. Company would benefit, as would every other commercial undertaking in the country. I now beg to propose:—"That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the 12 months ended March 31, 1924, be and the same are hereby adopted."

Mr F. A. Johnston seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

The Chairman then moved: "That a dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, at 4s 6d, on 259,416 shares be and the same is hereby declared payable on July 17, 1924, to the members who were on the London and Bombay registers of the corporation respectively on July 4, 1924."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr W. O. Grazebrook proposed:—"That the retiring directors, namely, the Right Hon. the Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, and Alexander Kemp Wright, Esq., C.B.E., D.L., be and the same are hereby re-elected directors of the corporation."

The Hon. Alex. Shaw seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr F. Ritchie moved: "That Messrs W. B. Peat and Co. be re-elected auditors of the corporation, to hold office until the next annual general meeting, and that they be paid an annual fee of £300 for the audit of the corporation's accounts."

Mr W. Langridge seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN.

Mr E. Darlington, C.I.E.: Gentlemen,—Before we separate, I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman. I think that, taking everything into consideration, and taking into account the state of business, we have had a very satisfactory year, and we are glad that the dividend has been kept up to what we received previously.

Mr F. O. Green seconded the vote, and it was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Mr Darlington, Mr Green, and gentlemen, I thank you very much indeed on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues. I am sure that you would also wish to include our staff, both at home and abroad, in your vote of thanks. I shall have much pleasure in passing it on to them. Thank you very much.

The proceedings then terminated.

ANGLO-CEYLON AND GENERAL ESTATES COMPANY, LIMITED.

GOOD YEAR—INCREASED CROPS AND BETTER PRICES.

The thirty-eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Company, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, in the Council Room of the Ceylon Association in London, 6 Laurence Pountney hill, Cannon street, London, Sir Edward Rosling (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. J. Hitchcock) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

In Ceylon, in spite of the south-west monsoon being one of the severest on record, the tea crop shows the satisfactory increase of 425,970 lbs over the previous year.

The whole of the season's crop has now been sold, realising the net average price of 1s 4½d per pound, as compared with 1s 3½d per pound in the previous year and 1s 1½d in 1921-22.

The cost per pound shows a further increase, and is ½d more than last year; it now shows the very high rate of nearly 11d, but in considering this cost it must be remembered that buildings and machinery have absorbed nearly 2d per pound, and loss on rice another ½d.

The cacao crop amounted to 6,032 cwts, as against 5,369 cwts in the previous season. This is the second biggest crop we have harvested in the last ten years, Kondesalle giving over 6½ cwts per acre and Mahaberiatenne about 3½ cwts.

The price obtained was 58s 3d per cwt net, as compared with 55s 9d net last year. The price would have been higher if it had not been for the large proportion of black cacao, due to the severe monsoon.

The rubber harvested amounted to 247,684 lbs, as compared with 223,588 lbs in the previous season, and the price realised 11.81d, as against 12.55d in 1922-23. Under restriction the crop is, of course, no criterion as to what the yield might be, but the enforced rest is undoubtedly benefiting the trees.

EXTENSION OF CULTIVATED AREA.

You will see from the schedule of estates that we have increased our area under tea in bearing by 388 acres.

In August of last year we purchased Gavattenne estate for £11,530, which is equal to £38 8s 8d per acre for the tea in bearing. This estate is not capable of turning out such fine teas as is the case with our recent purchase of Coombewood, but, at the price we paid for it, it should give quite satisfactory returns.

In Mauritius we have again to report a short crop, largely due to adverse climatic conditions, but partly to the unsatisfactory labour position.

As a set-off to the short crop, higher prices were realised, and we still hope that the Indian Government will permit resumption of emigration on an increased scale.

Here, again, we have added to our acreage by the purchase of 100 acres of land at Hermitage, which is included with Highlands at a cost of £6,927 18 8d.

The year's working results in a profit from the Ceylon estates of £79,234 10s 9d, which is an increase of £10,300 over the previous year. Mauritius leaves a profit of £23,923 9s 10d, which is an increase of nearly £5,000, and there is an increase in interest, commission, &c., of rather more than £3,000. The London expenses show a reduction of £707 0s 3d.

The stock of tea, &c., on March 31st shows an increase in value of nearly £17,000. This was the result of the dock strike delaying our tea sales, but, as I have already mentioned, all our tea has since been sold.

With £40,651 6s 6d brought forward from last year, there is—after making provision for taxation—a sum of £147,257 9s 8d to be dealt with. Out of this a 5 per cent. dividend, amounting to £25,000, has already been paid, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent., which will absorb £75,000, to place £5,000 to the general reserve, and carry forward a balance of £42,257 9s 8d, or £1,606 3s 2d more than we carried forward a year ago.

PROSPECTS FOR CURRENT SEASON.

In regard to the prospects for the current season, prices for Ceylon tea are on a slightly higher level than they were a year ago, and, on the whole, the tea position generally may be regarded as very sound.

In regard to rubber, one cannot forecast this crop, as that varies with the price.

This company has approved the principle of some form of co-operative selling of rubber, or a central selling agency, and if the proposals for the foundations of such an association materialise, it should, with the existing restriction of exports, have a sufficiently stabilising effect on the market to ensure a price in the neighbourhood of 1s 3d per lb.

In regard to sugar, the prospects for the coming crop are better than they were a year ago, but, unfortunately, prices are not so good, largely due to increased quantities of Continental beet sugar finding its way here.

Mr. H. K. Rutherford seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

THE AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR. ANDREW WILLIAMSON ON POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF WOOL INDUSTRY.

The annual general meeting of this company was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London.

The Chairman (Mr Andrew Williamson) said that the past year had been one of severe drought over large areas in both Queensland and New South Wales, and it had resulted in poor lambings, abnormal mortality, a light and faulty wool clip, and heavy drought expenditure. The sales of cattle were most disappointing, owing to the abnormally depressed condition of the frozen meat trade, and the sugar crops on the company's sugar estates had yielded little or no profit. One bright spot in the past year had been the excellent returns from wool, the wool market having been firm, with high and advancing prices. The British Australian Wool Realisation Association in 1923 made good progress with the realisation of the old stocks and a return of share capital to the shareholders of 10s a share. The directors recommended the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

QUEENSLAND LAND ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

Referring to the controversy between the holders of Australian pastoral leases and the Government of Queensland which had prevailed since the passing of the Queensland Land Act Amendment Act, 1920, Mr Williamson said: When addressing you last year I expressed the hope that a wise statesmanship would yet find a way by which, without the sovereign rights of the State being in any way affected, all grounds of protest from the pastoral lessees would be removed. I am heartily glad to be able to say to you to-day that the controversy has been ended and an agreement arrived at under which a final settlement is provided for. This has come about through negotiations with Mr Theodore, the Premier of Queensland, on the occasion of his recent visit to this country in connection with the conversion of maturing loans falling due in this and next year. While maintaining the position of his Government,

Mr Theodore, with the insight of true statesmanship, determined that all doubt as to his State's fidelity to contractual obligations must be removed, and he expressed his willingness to confer with the representatives here of the holders of these pastoral leases with a view to composing the differences. At the conferences which ensued the whole subject was exhaustively and dispassionately considered and a settlement reached. I gladly bear my tribute to the manner and the spirit in which Mr Theodore conducted the negotiations. That the effect of this friendly settlement on investors in this country was immediate was evidenced by the success of Mr Theodore's conversion loan, to which we and other Anglo-Australian pastoral companies gave substantial support.

WOOL POSITION.

The Chairman proceeded to deal with the wool position, and stated that the last bale of B.A.W.R.A. wool having been sold in May this year, the world had to depend on the annual production, which meant that there was now a shortage of wool, for it was clear that the annual demand was far in excess of the annual production. The production of wool in the world was not sufficient to keep the world's textile machinery going full time by a very substantial percentage. This placed the raw material in a very strong position. It was hoped that the current year, with the greatly improved season, might be sufficiently good to show no shortage in the Australian wool clip, but come out at a normal figure. During the past year they had been fortunate in being able to sell at high and advancing prices. At the present time they were witnessing a pause in the upward movement of merinos and some actual reaction in the prices of crossbreds, caused mainly no doubt by the financial stringency at present affecting more or less most countries and some acutely. In the case of Germany, which in normal times was a large buyer of Australian wool, the severe restriction of credit by the Reichsbank and the joint-stock banks had adversely affected all industrial activity in that country. Another adverse influence had been the restriction of wool credits in Australia, and the high exchange rates owing to the monetary stringency there. This temporary stringency had restricted wool credits and curtailed buying.

It seemed reasonable to regard the position both in Germany and in Australia as temporary phases. In the case of Germany the expected adoption of the Report of the Expert Committee on Reparations would probably have an early beneficial effect on Germany's credit and lead to her appearance both here and in Australia as a regular buyer. In the case of Australia much was hoped from the new Commonwealth Banking Bill, which had been passed by the House of Representatives. When the Bill passed the Federal Parliament and came into operation, and the board of directors of the Commonwealth Bank was appointed and took over the control of the note issue, it was hoped that the required temporary increase of currency would be provided and the situation relieved. A further adverse influence on the wool market had been the poverty or almost the absence of demand from America. It seemed probable that ere very many months were passed necessity would require America to again enter the market here as a substantial buyer.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of Apollinaris and Johannis, Limited, was held, on the 15th instant, at the Holborn Restaurant, London.

Mr Alfred R. Holland (chairman), presiding, stated that during the past year business showed satisfactory expansion, but that the profits had not correspondingly increased owing to the higher cost of production; however, sufficient profits had been earned to cover fully the interest on the debentures and on the debenture interest certificates, as well as the requirements for the two sinking funds.

Referring briefly to the year's trade, the chairman reminded shareholders that the Apollinaris spring was situated on the left bank of the Rhine, in the sector occupied by France, and that consequently the business had been greatly affected by the crisis of last year in the neighbouring Ruhr district, though the French authorities had done everything possible to assist the company. For months the Continental business had been virtually stopped. Necessary raw materials had been difficult to secure. Timber for packing cases had had to be purchased at high cost from Finland and Sweden. Coal and chemicals had been unobtainable for a considerable time, and the bottle works consequently had to be kept closed during the greater part of the year. Matters were, however, improving, and the bottle works were working again, but the current year would still be influenced to some extent by the results of the past period of stress. Export trade had shown distinct improvement, and had it not been for prohibitive duties in many countries, results would have been much more favourable. Business

in the United States and in Canada had shown a distinct turn for the better, and the managing director had paid a prolonged visit to both these markets during the past winter. Home sales showed further expansion. The "Baby Polly" had become a universal favourite, and was now firmly established. Referring to the settlement of the company's claims against the German Government, since the report a year ago a further 12s 6d in the £, or about £23,000, had been received. Such moneys belonged to the capital account and strengthened the financial position of the company, which was very sound.

A business such as the company's, concluded the chairman, could only prosper when general trade was flourishing, international commerce unhampered, and conditions in general normal. He concluded his remarks with a note of optimism, and stated that unless new political complications arose, he was justified in saying that the high-water mark in production cost had been touched, that the price of materials was coming down, and that, with the steady good increase in the business, it was hoped that the accounts for the current year would show increased profits.

ARGENTINE NAVIGATION COMPANY (NICOLAS MIHANOVICH), LIMITED.

IMPROVED POSITION—ARGENTINE PENSION LAW.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 15th instant, at Winchester House, London.

The Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), said that the accounts showed a gross profit for the past year of £163,785, which, when deducted from the debit balance brought forward, reduced the unfavourable balance to £501,466. It was satisfactory that the position again showed an improvement over the previous year. The profit, though moderate, indicated an upward tendency, notwithstanding some adverse conditions with which they were still faced.

The fleet had been well maintained. The fine new tugs referred to last year entered service during 1923, as well as a small cargo steamer. In spite of the disorganisation caused by the prolonged strike, practically the whole of the fleet, with the exception of necessary reserve vessels, resumed service before the end of the year. Whilst the earning of the vessels for the 12 months under review showed increases both in passage money and freight, the working expenses of the ships advanced considerably. During the year under review there were no protracted periods of actual strikes, but the company suffered from a number of minor stoppages. During the present year trouble of a more serious nature had arisen. The Argentine Congress passed a pensions law providing for the compulsory deduction by employers of 5 per cent. from the wages and salaries of all permanent employees, to be paid, together with a similar 5 per cent. from the employers, into a pension fund. He believed that no statistics had been published to show what the proceeds of these moneys would provide, and no indication had been given of what benefits were guaranteed to the men. As a result of the men's strong opposition to the Pensions Law, the Government postponed its application temporarily, but subsequently put it into operation. This led to a general strike of the trades affected. According to latest advices, the Government had applied to Congress to amplify and clarify the provisions of the Pensions Law, and it was hoped that its application might be suspended.

As regarded the future, whilst it is satisfactory that during the early months of the present year the gross takings of the company had continued to improve, the directors could not but view with some concern the progressive increases in the wages bill and the uncertainties contingent upon the enforcement of the Argentine Pensions Law. Whilst, however, the position was not free from difficult factors beyond their control, they could, in his opinion, look forward to the future more confidently than they had been able to do for some years past.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

INTERNATIONAL TEA COMPANY'S STORES, LIMITED.

RECORD PROFITS—18 PER CENT. DIVIDEND.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the International Tea Company's Stores, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, Mr G. A. Tonge (governor-director and chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr E. Davies) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The chairman said:—Gentlemen,—I am very satisfied with our progress during the past 12 months, and I expect you are. We have made £431,348, which is £34,500 more than we have made in any previous year. This, with the amount of £100,204 brought forward from the last account, leaves us with a substantial sum of £531,552 to deal with—enough to pay the dividends on both classes of preference shares ten times over, and you must remember that there are no debentures to rank in front of them. We have depreciated our fixtures and fittings by £50,000, and have placed



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

£100,000 to the reserve account. With these and some other small allocations the payment of the preference dividends, the interim dividends on the ordinary shares, and the final dividend we are now declaring (making 19 per cent. for the year), we are left with £134,848 to carry forward, subject to corporation profits tax. You have had the balance-sheet, and I do not think there are many points in it on which I need enlarge. Freeholds stand at £734,046. These comprise shops in our own occupation, and are mostly worth considerably more than they stand at here. With regard to the stock in trade, £704,759, this is taken at cost or less and will realise every penny, plus a profit. The item of debtors, at £265,500, consists chiefly of amounts due from our wholesale customers, to whom we naturally give short credit, and no doubt by now has been liquidated.

As to the future of the business, I have shown you that the profits are considerably larger, and the turnover, both in weight and cash, is also greatly on the right side. I am confident, as I think I have said on former occasions, that with proper management the same rate of progression is bound to be maintained; at least, I cannot see anything that is likely to bring about a different result. Before moving the adoption of the report I feel I cannot conclude my remarks without a very sincere word of thanks to the entire staff for their loyal and efficient service during the year under review.

Mr. G. Collier (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions, was carried unanimously.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND COMPANY, LIMITED. AMALGAMATION NEGOTIATIONS WITH DE TREY AND CO.

The nineteenth annual general meeting of this company was held, on the 16th instant, at Broad street, Golden square, London.

Mr E. Russell Polden, who presided, said that it was a pleasing duty on the first occasion of his chairmanship of the company to present a report and accounts which showed such a decided improvement upon those of the two preceding years. The improvement, although below the pre-war standard of profits, was in the right direction, and the directors fully believed that, as the economic conditions in Europe became more settled, international trading would be resumed in proportion to the stabilisation of exchanges. Given such conditions, the directors felt that the company would be able to hold its own in spite of competition, relying upon the reputation and quality of their goods and their long and devoted service to the dental profession. The demand for dental requisites was not dependent upon the fickleness of fashion, but grew with the knowledge gained by the community of the necessity of the preservation of teeth as an essential to good health, and there was, therefore, a wide field for the expansion of their business. The profit for the year was £60,937, against £7,838, and the amount available for distribution was £59,833, as compared with £10,993. For 1921 and 1922 they paid the preference dividend out of reserves, but this year they were able to pay the dividend out of the profits for the year. The directors now recommended a dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, less tax, leaving £13,758 to be carried forward. The sales for the current year showed a considerable increase upon those of the previous year. Bearing in mind the ramifications of the business, which extended throughout the world, and while anxious to live up to their reputation of being pioneers of dental requisites in all quarters of the globe, it was necessary to exercise great prudence in the matter of credits. There was a distinct improvement in 1923 for the development of their business abroad, and in the trying circumstances under which business was carried on, including severe competition, they had reason to be gratified, if not entirely satisfied, with the results. Referring to the rumours as to amalgamation between Messrs De Trey and Co. and themselves, the chairman stated that negotiations had been proceeding for some time past and were well advanced. He was of opinion that the members of the two boards who were discussing this matter were desirous of bringing about the amalgamation, not only for the benefit of their shareholders, but in the best interests of the trade and the dental profession, and he was hopeful that before long they would be in the position to place the proposal before the shareholders.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

DE TREY AND CO., LIMITED.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR AMALGAMATION WITH CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND CO.

The twelfth annual general meeting of the shareholders of De Trey and Co., Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at 6 Swallow street, London, W., Mr X. Castelli (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the substantial dividend they received on their holding in the Dentists' Supply Company of New York had, in a great measure, enabled them to make the distribution of 7 per cent. for 1923, since the recovery in trade had been slow. The appreciation of the dollar

and the depreciation and fluctuation of the French and Belgian exchanges had considerably handicapped their undertaking, in common with all businesses of an international nature. Another factor which had had a very appreciable effect on their results had been the continuance of competition between themselves and one of their important competitors—Messrs Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co., Limited. In order to keep customers supplied with their goods they had had to cut prices to such an extent that their profit on turnover had been very considerably reduced. That, of course, must affect their competitors as well as themselves, and the sooner dental goods could be manufactured and marketed at prices yielding a reasonable profit all round, the better it would be for all parties concerned.

Shareholders were probably aware that for some time there had been rumours going about as to an amalgamation between Messrs Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co., Limited, and themselves. As a matter of fact, negotiations had been proceeding for some time past, and were at present well advanced. The ramifications of both companies were so great and covered so large an area and so many branches of the dental trade that it took some time to reach a common basis for amalgamation. It was too early to speak definitely, for, until a preliminary agreement had been reached, difficulties might present themselves which would render all their negotiations abortive, but, with good will shown on both sides and an earnest desire to do what was best in the interests of the dental profession, of the trade, and of the shareholders of both companies, the directors had reason to hope that they would soon be in a position to call them together and place before them a concrete proposal.

As regarded the outlook, he pointed out that their sales for the last six months compared favourably with those for the same period of 1923, and the returns of certain of their Continental branches were quite satisfactory.

Mr C. A. Barbezat seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Silver Coin.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Reserve.	Balance of Bank of England.
Mar. 29, 1923.	300,351	14,255	5,000	38,500	19,450	15-9	261,479	177	
June 28, 1923.	295,374	13,338	5,000	38,500	19,650	16-3	264,312	185	
Sept. 27, 1923.	289,127	12,848	7,000	37,000	21,150	16-6	246,456	189	
Dec. 27, 1923.	301,537	12,872	7,000	37,000	21,150	15-9	258,922	167	
Mar. 28, 1924.	285,616	12,318	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	241,294	190	
June 27, 1924.	286,503	12,516	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	242,448	123	
Sept. 27, 1924.	282,784	12,401	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-6	238,595	140	
Dec. 26, 1924.	289,070	12,571	7,000	37,000	22,450	16-6	255,032	159	
Mar. 26, 1924.	281,538	11,908	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-6	236,867	130	
June 25, 1924.	290,318	12,472	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-0	246,138	140	
July 9, 1924.	293,686	12,483	7,000	37,000	22,450	16-8	249,630	99	
July 16, 1924.	292,844	12,532	7,000	37,000	22,450	16-9	248,804	122	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum statutory issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £276,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Apr. 1, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1919.	July 12, 1918.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	314	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	683	683	683
3½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% and 5½% War Stock	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
National War Bonds	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	903	903	903
4% Funding Loan	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	400	400	400
4% Victory Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	325	325	325
Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	444	457	457
Exchange Bonds	..	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certificates	..	267	274	285	342	364	367	368	365	365
Other Debt*	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151	1,151
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills	..	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	652	588	622
Temporary Advances	..	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	202
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,695	7,727	7,727
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766	7,798	7,798

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances	July 14, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	July 12, '24.	Week Ended
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	£ 3,000,000	1,250,000	—	2,500,000
Advances by Public Debt	112,050,500	188,155,500	200,523,500	400,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	597,995,000	588,320,000	592,225,000	530,000
Total Floating Debt	811,545,500	774,475,500	793,998,500	3,430,000

* Includes £44,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts.	Week Ended	Week Ended
	Apr. 1, 1924, to July 12, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 14, 1923.	July 12, 1924.	July 14, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..
	6,633,614	6,818,167	..	..
REVENUE.				
Customs	28,738,000	35,947,000	1,821,000	2,455,000
Excise	32,247,000	39,104,000	1,115,000	1,409,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	3,011,000	2,712,000	375,000	335,000
Stamps, &c., Duties	18,370,000	15,960,000	840,000	1,049,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	4,240,000	5,780,000	260,000	820,000
Property & Income Tax	550,000	430,000	..	..
Super-Tax	54,441,000	54,679,000	5,717,000	7,488,000
Corporation Profits Tax	19,190,000	15,650,000	983,000	650,000
Post Office	5,970,000	6,010,000	310,000	310,000
Crown Lands	13,709,000	13,350,000	750,000	1,000,000
Interest on Sundry Loans	270,000	260,000	..	..
Miscellaneous	5,623,392	5,691,195	249,113	687,000
Ordinary Receipts	3,915,620	4,756,634	28,905	180,000
Special Receipts	11,549,201	14,313,621	14,252	500,000
Revenue	201,015,213	215,643,450	12,460,273	16,874,000
Total, Inc. Balance	207,646,827	222,461,617	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	3,940,000	1,910,000	470,000	160,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	2,800,000	1,750,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	1,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	270,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills	660,076,000	697,482,000	42,175,000	41,820,000
By National Savings Certificates	8,000,000	14,100,000	600,000	1,000,000
By 4½% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,426,970	29,167,571	283,950	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	273,941,500	271,353,500	9,450,000	12,800,000
Repayments:—				
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	505,894	115,136	..	..
Total	1,169,738,191	1,238,674,824	65,439,220	72,654,000

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	Issues.	Week Ended	Week Ended
	Apr. 1, 1924, to July 12, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 14, 1923.	July 12, 1924.	July 14, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services—				
Interest, &c.	123,062,827	133,421,941	707,067	815,096
Sinking Fund	7,862,865	1,795,044	..	..
Road Fund	..	1,440,044	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	1,009,000	550,000	169,000	50,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	1,123,863	1,021,666	..	..
Land Settlement	261,488	107,237	19,842	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	715,336	874,943	8,650,000	9,710,944
Supply Services	101,219,337	99,743,944	9,645,909	10,276,039
Expenditure	237,049,740	236,159,765	..	..
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	2,320,000	2,000,000	120,000	250,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	1,000	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	3,320,000	1,510,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	656,215,000	716,100,000	42,740,000	48,495,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	9,200,000	10,650,000	550,000	700,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	16,854,989	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1918	50	268,987	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	252,321,500	251,300,500	12,350,000	13,250,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	1,166,466,181	1,235,111,346	65,405,909	72,971,639
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	1,965,881	1,928,474	101,689	17,961
Bank of Ireland	1,316,989	1,565,004	135,000	335,000
Total	3,279,010	3,563,478	33,111	317,039

Treasury, July 14, 1924.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from July 21-July 26 were opened on July 18, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £56,300,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 2s 1d, about 44 per cent., and above

in full. Saturday at £99 2s 4d, above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £33,000,000; in bonds, £50,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months, Average Rate.	4½% Treasury Bonds, Average Price.
June 13, 1924.	35,000,000	56,385,000	2 18 3-92	94 13 2-4
June 20, 1924.	35,000,000	47,955,000	2 19 3-39	94 13 0
June 27, 1924.	35,000,000	59,625,000	3 2 9-42	94 13 0
July 4, 1924.	35,000,000	65,220,000	3 6 5-43	94 13 0
July 11, 1924.	30,000,000	61,060,000	3 9 5-96	94 13 0
July 18, 1924.	35,000,000	56,300,000	3 10 9-29	94 13 0

Tenders will be received on July 25, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 16, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of June.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to July 12.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	24	26		
BIRMINGHAM	10,242,000	9,968,000	66,070,900	66,201,000
BRISTOL	5,090,000	4,533,000	32,910,000	31,916,000
DUBLIN			175,658,000	155,675,500
LEEDS	4,687,000	4,121,000	31,044,900	29,527,200
LIVERPOOL	4,259,000	4,017,000	29,470,600	29,256,000
MANCHESTER	2,971,000	3,223,000	21,126,100	21,843,900
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	35,097,000	32,949,000	249,061,600	254,717,900
NOTTINGHAM	69,698,000	61,234,000	419,538,000	426,282,900
SHEFFIELD	8,914,000	7,402,000	56,811,700	53,213,400
	2,528,000	2,503,000	17,785,679	17,730,300
	4,600,000	4,119,000	32,497,000	30,381,100
Total	141,086,000	134,069,000		

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the Economist of April 12; Roumania, in May 31; Egypt, in June 14; German Gold Discount, in June 21; Japan and Bulgaria, in June 28; Portugal in July 8; German Rentenbank, Switzerland, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Dantzig in July 12.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	July 13, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,143,400	3,120,660	3,155,570	3,100,380
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	101,900	98,960	115,830	76,770
Bills discounted for member banks	310,710	369,000	350,130	846,370
Bills bought in open market	58,510	52,610	45,030	188,280
Government obligations owned	460,500	438,490	428,790	101,840
All other resources	84,320	82,950	82,520	65,710
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	19,150	32,200	52,110	15,780
Other deposits	2,059,760	2,042,290	2,056,350	1,933,940
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,855,010	1,874,270	1,843,920	2,465,150
All other liabilities	12,050	11,610	11,110	1,470
Capital and surplus	332,320	332,320	332,340	327,990
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	82.5%	81.5%	82.8%	75.4%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	April 30, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Feb. 29, 1924.	Jan. 31, 1924.	April 30, 1923.
ASSETS.					
Cash and bank balances	437,251	408,226	410,212	431,026	468,447
Bank balances abroad	54,506	56,433	65,429	58,851	65,215
Call and short loans	314,327	312,537	300,383	289,133	305,131
Securities	494,143	469,503	462,083	435,476	403,080
Loans in Canada	1,110,258	1,085,521	1,085,521	1,085,521	1,179,785
Loans abroad	179,737	179,479	185,430	185,430	163,148
Other assets	146,634	147,243	144,653	150,033	100,392
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	161,654	170,851	163,446	156,865	166,255
Deposits—					
Government	135,292	113,949	117,322	102,775	78,447
Public in Canada	1,715,793	1,686,487	1,684,270	1,701,020	1,764,594
Foreign	336,900	336,234	315,851	291,582	319,086
Bank balances					
Canadian	15,172	10,512	11,073	10,239	14,889
Foreign	35,362	36,161	38,472	40,822	37,694
Bills payable, &c.	59,148	59,686	57,203	61,967	27,537
Other liabilities	3,855	3,122	4,565	3,602	3,364
Capital and rest	247,184	247,185	247,184	247,184	256,026

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 24, 1924.	June 23, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	533
Gold certificates	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,163	10,031
Subsidiary coin	50	50	50	50	50	50
Bills discounted	3,444	3,407	4,018	4,708	4,145	2,547
Loans & advances to Govt.	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,000	2,500
Investments	17	17	17	17	17	9
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	40	40	40	40	40	40
Notes in circulation	10,236	10,348	10,675	10,873	10,467	10,779
Bankers' deposits	5,197	4,997	5,278	5,671	5,219	4,923
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	69.7%	69.7%	67%	64.6%	68.2%	68.4%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	June 20, 1924.	June 13, 1924.	June 6, 1924.	May 29, 1924.	May 22, 1924.	June 22, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Total securities	11,66,90	11,70,96	11,81,66	11,84,53	11,80,70	9,75,61
Loans	21,94,57	22,57,46	24,37,32	24,05,89	23,52,52	16,17,45
Cash credits	39,11,67	37,75,42	38,14,84	38,91,46	39,64,55	29,25,34
Inland bills	10,06,07	12,54,04	12,71,21	13,15,40	13,26,46	5,31,29
Foreign bills	2,56,35	2,55,21	2,55,31	2,55,31	2,55,31	37,80
Dead stock	1,63,68	1,68,29	1,69,92	1,69,92	1,69,92	2,50,04
Balance with other banks	18,34,30	16,55,74	15,54,63	18,21,79	17,12,99	24,15,63
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,22,50
Total deposits	91,50,07	90,36,92	91,61,51	93,38,60	90,35,61	66,87,76
Loans from Govt.	2,00,00	4,00,00	4,00,00	6,00,00	8,00,00	1,92,49
The above includes—						
Deposits in Lond'n	1,440	1,476	1,427	1,457	1,355	573
Advances in Lond'n	444	443	448	442	442	254
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	1,131	1,123	1,386	1,085	937	391

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	July 17, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	July 19, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,543,364	5,543,284	5,543,218	5,537,843	5,730,225
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	299,870	299,870	299,870	299,870	299,870
Discounts and advances	7,434,417	7,434,417	7,434,417	7,434,417	7,434,417
Advances to the State	23,900,000	23,900,000	23,900,000	23,900,000	23,900,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	40,155,862	40,224,979	40,115,648	37,733,797	5,811,876
Government deposits	14,282	15,235	14,793	12,432	123,700
Private deposits	2,181,752	2,200,242	2,205,677	2,074,112	846,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

	July 10, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	June 19, 1924.	July 12, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold and silver and bullion)	354,070	354,613	355,257	355,049	349,886	327,650
Securities	1,243,188	1,325,043	1,343,228	1,330,786	794,308	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	7,609,100	7,582,979	7,524,223	7,519,789	6,860,012	934,150
Current accounts	231,960	319,082	382,530	371,129	384,057	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	July 14, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	July 16, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold	531,511	531,511	531,511	531,511	531,511	163,092
Silver	10,015	10,032	10,296	10,340	10,491	8,436
Discounts and advances	434,097	430,195	398,460	375,403	345,443	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	980,517	993,530	984,525	947,580	947,520	316,632
Deposits	70,028	65,400	47,308	46,856	27,395	5,016

BANK OF JAVIA.—In florins (000's omitted).

	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	July 14, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold	209,500	216,500	207,000	206,500	145,485	22,971
Silver					61,111	29,785
Discounts, advances, and other investments	145,640	138,590	134,200	133,480	170,168	77,567
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	260,000	256,500	253,000	253,500	266,925	109,499
Deposits and bills payable	80,000	82,000	71,430	65,980	92,606	11,250

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.—In billions of marks.

	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.	June 16, 1924.	June 9, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold and bullion	(a) 466	(a) 482	(a) 462	(a) 448	(a) 448	448
Treasury notes	659,000	698,000	752,000	752,000	752,000	849,000
Rentenbank notes	302,606,451	278,188,072	474,290,965	413,323,395	413,323,395	413,323,395
Bills of exchange and cheques	818,582,375	840,404,929	824,118,486	842,685,843	842,685,843	842,685,843
Rentenbank bills and cheques	1052,468,519	1057,554,177	1043,833,928	1111,364,284	1111,364,284	1111,364,284
Advances	24,616,310	21,748,810	15,001,580	20,274,080	20,274,080	20,274,080
Rentenbank discounts, &c.	76,971,440	87,041,100	85,933,850	90,075,100	90,075,100	90,075,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1105,518,439	1097,308,572	891,345,752	923,582,982	923,582,982	923,582,982
Total deposits	811,288,291	773,927,313	1071,699,350	1001,620,676	1001,620,676	1001,620,676
Loan from Rentenbank	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000

(a) Millions of marks.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

	July 12, 1924.	June 25, 1924.	June 18, 1924.	June 11, 1924.	May 24, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,885	147,885	147,885	147,885	147,885	44,224
Bills	17,400	17,801	18,036	21,689	28,533	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Govt. securities	9,008	9,008	9,008	9,404	8,816	8,816
Discounts and loans	445,903	446,214	435,178	485,379	76,911	76,911
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	394,210	395,297	379,714	411,902	113,484	113,484
Deposits at notice	100,516	107,341	112,982	118,027	7,188	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 2 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	July 14, 1923.	Position May 24, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold	249,259	249,259	247,321	247,321	272,965	104,918
Balance abroad and foreign bills	23,484	32,795	29,373	28,379	31,414	112,172
Swedish and for. Govt. securities	56,557	56,724	56,724	56,790	143,333	32,465
Discounts & loans	439,029	469,503	475,441	476,694	307,402	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	498,596	522,398	529,481	511,714	528,936	226,555
Deposits at notice	195,789	217,134	217,101	228,375	175,694	369,680

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.					
	June 30, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	192,130	42,965	42,965	42,704	35,092
Balance abroad and foreign bills	368,049	401,873	469,625	625,470	80,375
Financial and Foreign Govern- ment securities	498,642	498,642	498,642	571,433	21,826
Discounts and loans	1,006,400	882,442	979,236	808,505	106,161
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,305,101	1,297,629	1,317,125	1,436,996	1,834,941
Deposits at notice	316,196	341,085	389,716	322,198	31,375

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 847 chervonetz.
\$1,000 " " 193½ "

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From May 10, 1924.		From May 10, 1924.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	100	99½	100½	99½
30 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
60 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
90 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
100 days	99½	98½	100½	99½

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	From May 10, 1924.		From May 10, 1924.	
	Buying.		Buying.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	100	99½	100½	99½
30 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
60 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
90 days	99½	98½	100½	99½
100 days	99½	98½	100½	99½

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.
Week ended July 16, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
United States of America ..	8,826	United States of America ..	943,757
British South Africa ..	832,407	British India ..	173,442
Latvia ..	117	Netherlands ..	1,900
Belgian Congo ..	31,822	France ..	650
Other countries ..	2,063	Other countries ..	918
Total declared value of imports ..	869,235	Total declared value of exports ..	1,120,667

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on June 30, 1924:—

In India ..		Nil
In England—		£
Cash at the Bank of England ..	3,190	
British Government securities—		
Value as on March 31, 1924 ..	16,479,501	
Since purchased (cost price) ..	23,654,881	
		40,137,572

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, July 11, 1924.

The Government of India have announced that £8,115,000 has been remitted to the Secretary of State for India during the quarter ending June 30, 1924, by means of purchases of sterling in India.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on July 16th, as follows:—

GOLD.

A fair amount of gold has been on offer this week, but only a small proportion was taken on Indian account. Gold valued at \$4,000,000 has been received in New York from London. The United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of June, 1924, were as follows:—Imports, £2,933,646; exports, £3,764,277.

SILVER.

On the whole, the market has been quiet throughout the week. Notwithstanding a depreciating dollar exchange, supplies from the United States have not been easy to obtain, for the American silver quotations rose so as to counteract the tendency of the dollar. This indicated the firmness of the undertone. The monsoon appears to be pursuing a favourable course, but Indian bazaar orders have been scarce. Few China sales have been in evidence. Most of the buying has been on behalf of the Continent or of bears covering commitments. Under date of July 14th, the rainfall was reported as nearly general in Lower Burma, Assam, Konkan, and Malabar throughout the week, in Chota Nagpur of four days, in Bengal, East United Provinces, North Hyderabad and Mysore on three days, in West and South Central Provinces and Orissa on two days, and in other important areas of India on one day. A cable from Assam on July 7th announced that the outturn of tea, autumn rice and jute, and the prospects of sugar-cane are normal. We are informed from Bombay by the mail which

left on the 27th ultimo that Continental purchases being then the principal feature in the market, on any news from London of these purchases the dealers operated freely, and bought large amounts for the settlements.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	June 22.	June 30.	July 7.
Notes in circulation ..	17,126	17,249	17,320
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	7,742	7,865	7,939
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	5,753	5,753	5,750
Securities (Indian Government) ..	1,399	1,399	1,399
Securities (British Government) ..	1,399	1,399	1,399
Bills of exchange ..	..	..	..

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending July 7th. The stock in Shanghai on the 12th instant consisted of about 40,600,000 ounces in sycee, 43,000,000 dollars, and 1,930 silver bars, as compared with about 40,400,000 ounces in sycee, 41,500,000 dollars, and 2,560 silver bars on the 7th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.		Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver.
	Cash.	Forward.	Cash.	Forward.		
July 12....	94 11	34½	34½	34½	July 26, 1918..	48½
14....	94 3	34½	34½	34½	25, 1919..	55½
15....	94 4	34½	34½	34½	23, 1920..	64½
16....	94 7	34½	34½	34½	22, 1921..	38
17....	94 4	34½	34½	34½	21, 1922..	35½
18....	94 6	34½	34½	34½	20, 1923..	30½

NOTICES.

The Banque Belge pour l'Etranger (S.A.) is retransferring its offices to its former address, which will now be known as 4 Bishopsgate, London, E.C. 2.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED.

June 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
Current deposit, and other accounts ..	336,132,554 .. + 538,140	Cash ..	46,545,983 .. - 127,972
Acceptances, &c.	15,468,167 .. + 3,283,738	Cash at call and notice ..	15,579,808 .. - 3,530,340
Capital paid up ..	14,372,956 ..	Bills of exchange ..	10,778,136 .. - 12,334,769
Reserve fund ..	10,000,000 ..	Investments ..	86,187,162 .. + 1,006,873
		Shares in allied banks ..	6,580,237 .. + 1,094,259
		Advances ..	154,265,881 .. + 16,260,941
		Acceptances, &c.	15,468,167 .. + 3,283,738
		Bank premises ..	5,786,996 .. + 357,470
Total ..	375,973,677 .. + 3,821,878	Total ..	375,973,677 .. + 3,821,878

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON.

March 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.
Ord. shares ..	1,000,000 ..	Properties, &c.	3,357,598 .. + 90,692
Ord. shares ..	2,000,000 ..	Stocks ..	813,240 .. - 9,606
4% lat. mort. deb. ..	987,271 ..	Debtors ..	243,611 .. - 40,352
Creditors ..	345,883 ..	Cash, &c.	38,815 .. - 18,893
Subsidiary cos. ..	21,824 .. + 47,409	Investments ..	1,452,635 .. + 135,450
Pension fund ..	78,249 .. + 21,824	American Thread ..	34,438 .. - 42,140
Reserve ..	300,000 .. + 100,000	Divs. due from subsidiaries, &c.	.. - 2,784
Div. reserve ..	300,000 .. + 100,000		
Stock reserve ..	200,000 ..		
Insurance reserve ..	50,000 ..		
Profit and loss ..	677,110 .. - 72,202		
Total ..	5,940,337 .. + 112,369	Total ..	5,940,337 .. + 112,369

MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

The statement of accounts of the Midland Bank, Limited, made up on June 30, 1924, compares as follows with the position shown by the bank on June 30, 1923:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
June 30, 1923.	June 30, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	June 30, 1924.
Capital paid up ..	10,860,852 ..	10,860,852 ..	11,974,355
Reserve fund ..	10,860,852 ..	10,860,852 ..	11,974,355
Current, deposit, and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss account) ..	347,900,203 ..	347,900,203 ..	358,416,826
Acceptances and engagements on account of customers ..	26,380,696 ..	26,380,696 ..	30,437,632
			396,002,603
			412,803,168
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	51,886,944 ..	51,886,944 ..	54,806,165
Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on other banks in Great Britain and Ireland ..	14,637,852 ..	14,637,852 ..	15,375,207
Money at call and short notice ..	20,657,598 ..	20,657,598 ..	19,350,271
Investments ..	38,045,238 ..	38,045,238 ..	40,445,238
Bills discounted ..	45,336,727 ..	45,336,727 ..	47,367,287
Advances to customers and other accounts ..	190,104,209 ..	190,104,209 ..	194,613,157
Liabilities of customers for acceptances and engagements ..	26,380,696 ..	26,380,696 ..	30,437,632
Bank premises ..	5,561,389 ..	5,561,389 ..	5,584,211
Shares of the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, and the North of Scotland Bank, Limited ..	3,259,690 ..	3,259,690 ..	5,543,970
Shares of the London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company, Limited ..	300,000 ..	300,000 ..	300,000
			396,002,603
			412,803,168

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1922.	1923.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.
April	235,839	234,970	521,387,412	+105,578,442	118,637,158	+38,240,343
May	235,472	235,186	545,503,898	+97,510,054	126,173,540	+32,573,715
June	236,683	236,739	540,054,165	+66,303,501	124,046,578	+14,427,896
July	235,813	235,477	534,634,552	+91,678,679	121,044,775	+18,392,282
Aug.	235,696	235,357	563,292,105	+90,181,967	136,519,553	+49,897,384
Sept.	235,525	235,611	544,270,233	+44,549,658	129,300,309	+37,441,385
Oct.	235,015	235,608	586,328,886	+37,948,224	141,922,971	+20,826,371
Nov.	235,748	235,589	530,106,708	+7,648,500	124,343,118	+7,307,781
Dec.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550	-19,212,801	106,243,158	-2,439,152
1924.	235,886	235,698	467,887,013	-33,610,824	83,953,867	-9,412,390
Jan.	235,886	235,698	467,887,013	-33,610,824	83,953,867	-9,412,390
Feb.	235,886	235,698	467,887,013	-33,610,824	83,953,867	-9,412,390
Mar.	235,886	235,698	467,887,013	-33,610,824	83,953,867	-9,412,390
April	235,886	235,698	467,887,013	-33,610,824	83,953,867	-9,412,390

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.		Total Receipts.	
				1923-24.	+ or -	1923-24.	+ or -

INDIAN.

Southern Punjab	5 mths	Feb. 27	717	Rs 12,43,276	+3,39,387	Rs 56,01,384	+10,64,264
-----------------	--------	---------	-----	--------------	-----------	--------------	------------

CANADIAN.

Canadian National	5 mths	May 31	Gross	\$1,935,070	-149,640	\$5,184,491	-407,916
			Net	\$255,322	-216,739	\$3,555,812	-3,096,625
Canadian Pacific	5 mths	May 31	Gross	\$1,442,700	+72,000	\$9,522,000	+5,620,000
			Net	\$1,726,000	-272,000	\$7,330,000	+786,000
Temiscouata	1 mth	May 31	Gross	\$3,715	..	..	..

BRAZILIAN.

Brazil Gt. Sothrn.	5 mths	May 31	Ma. 74,250	+12,500	345,500	+35,250
State of Bahia	2 mths	June 30	52	..	54	..

CHILE AND PERU.

Peruvian Corp.	12 mths	June 30	1,066	\$1,502,500	+125,300	\$16,913,150	+1,361,181
Taitai	12 mths	June 30	172	\$22,140	+1,372	\$250,800	+39,942

URUGUAYAN.

Midland Uruguay	12 mths	June 30	319	15,957	+827	\$201,981	+3,647
N.-W. Uruguay	12 mths	June 30	113	5,212	+288	\$78,088	+2,188
Uruguay North	12 mths	June 30	73	2,021	-322	\$31,014	+1,277

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a)	11	mths	May 31	Gross	\$135,932	-29,842	1,669,033	+332,100
Belra and Mathonaland ..	1	mth	Apr. 30	810	117,589	+18,034	19,054	+1,554
Bulwer ..	6	mths	June 30	15	5,005	+255	87,425	+15,186
Bolivar ..	6	mths	June 30	136	8,600	+1,078	287,065	+43,961
Costa Rica ..	11	mths	May 31	190	35,361	+8,189	109,300	+15,306
Dorado Extension	6	mths	June 30	70	24,800	+3,550	45,590	+10,210
Dorado Rope. Ex.	6	mths	June 30	45	7,500	+2,400	54,028	+55,036
International of Central America	6	mths	June 30	Gross	73,109	+10,907	262,764	+28,627
La Guaira & Car.	6	mths	June 30	Net	27,555	+4,799	78,390	+8,710
Mexican Railway	4	mths	Nov. 30	22	11,060	+1,080	78,390	+8,710
Mid. of W. Aust.	11	mths	May 31	Grs	\$964,700	-199,100	4,082,200	-435,300
Nasajo Ocaorash.	4	mths	Apr. 30	Net	11,300	+1,075	146,653	+12,848
PuertoCabello, etc.	6	mths	June 30	..	11,274	+80	45,412	+4,900
Rhodessa Raily.	1	mth	Apr. 30	..	5,500	+1,000	35,000	+4,500
Samana & San'to	6	mths	June 30	1,397	137,196	+4,939	40,200	+2,890
San'to Fe Prov.	6	mths	June 30	..	11,540	+1,863	14,681	+1,911
Zafra and Hud.	1	mth	May 31	..	144,841	+12,681	56,042	+1,911
	1	mth	May 31	112	12,425	+2,852		

Reports and Notices.

Messrs Mullens, Marshall, Steer, Lawford and Co. announce that they have taken Mr Terence Eden into partnership.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana per l'Egitto, an affiliation of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Milan, have opened at Alexandria, and will open a branch at Cairo on the 21st instant.

Mr William Bowie, who has been appointed London manager of Goldsbrough, Mort and Co., Limited, has recently arrived from Australia. Mr H. A. Wilson, formerly accountant, has been appointed London secretary of the company.

The Mozambique Company is informed by its African administration that the African results for the year 1923 show a profit of £81,252. This compares with £1,978 for 1922.

GREEK DEBT.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek debt from January 1st to May 31, 1924, compared with those from January 14th to May 31, 1923:—

NOTE.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and Naxos emery, 49·15 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1892.

(a) (b) In addition to these amounts, import duties equivalent to £4,331 in the case of (a), and to £6,097 in the case of (b) were paid in gold at the Piraeus Customs. Owing to the change in the Greek calendar from old to new style, both the estimated and actual receipts in the above statement are for 14 days less in 1923 than in 1924. As regards receipts, subject to the system of plus values, all increases in duties and prices are excluded therefrom in the above table. Minimum receipts have, however, been fixed in order to guarantee the plus values against eventual diminution in the consumption.

LIBERIAN LOAN.—With reference to the Liberian Loan of 1913, the Council of Foreign Bondholders have received information from the National City Bank of New York that the amount applicable to sinking fund on the 1st instant was \$26,479.87; that offers of bonds ranged from 75 to 95, and that offers between 75 and 79 were accepted in full and part of those at 79%. The total amount of bonds redeemed was \$34,000.

AGRICULTURAL AND GENERAL ENGINEERS, LIMITED.—We are informed that before charging any contribution towards the expenses of the parent company, the combined trading of the associated companies for the year ending March next last, showed

an approximate net profit of £2,400. The capital reorganisation proposals, authorised by the shareholders' meetings of April 15th last, are now being submitted to the Court for approval, so that the distribution of ordinary shares provided for under the scheme may be made. The company's accounts for the financial year ending March 31st last are in preparation, and will be issued to the shareholders immediately afterwards. The payment of dividend on the first and second cumulative preference shares of this company as from April 1st last will be dependent upon the trading results of the present year, which, owing to the depression of the

resulting for the present year, which terminates on March 31st next.

BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.—The annexed table extracted from the report shows the main results of working for the last four years ended March 31st :—

Year.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.		Net Earnings.	Company's Share of Surplus, after Deducting Indian Income-tax and Super Tax.
		Amount.	Per Cent. on Gross Earnings.		
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1920-21	9,97,27,563	6,79,07,202	68 09	3,18,20,361	6,57,946
1921-22	10,32,38,837	7,94,67,047	76 97	2,37,71,790	2,97,187
1922-23	11,75,38,574	8,23,63,785	70 07	3,51,74,789	4,80,783
1923-24	11,90,70,786	7,09,80,343	59 61	4,80,90,443	9,85,711

Out of Rs. 9,85,711 due to the company in respect of the year 1923-24, Rs. 1,78,714 was remitted to England in October and November, 1923, producing £12,531; and Rs. 7,49,500 in May 1924, producing £52,699. An interim dividend of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid in January last, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1 per cent. then due, and the directors recommend the payment in July next of a final dividend of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making, together with the guaranteed interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year, a total payment in July of 3 per cent., and a return for the year 1923-24 of 6 per cent., compared with 6 per cent. for each of the years

1922-23 to 1920-21, 7 per cent. for 1919-20, and 6½ per cent. for each of the two previous years.

COSTA RICA RAILWAY.—The thirty-ninth report, with accounts from July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924, this being the nineteenth year of the working of the company's railway by the Northern Railway Company, have just been issued. The rental dealt with in the accounts in terms of the working agreement is £149,100. Add interest on investments, £15,632, transfer and registration fees £58, £164,790; add balance brought forward from 1922-1923, £19,496; making £184,286. Deducting fixed charges, &c., amounting to £118,758, there is a balance of £65,528. Out of this balance the directors recommend that a dividend of 2 per cent. (less income-tax) be paid on the capital stock of the company (which will absorb £36,000), and that the balance, viz., £29,528 8s rod, be carried forward, subject to Corporation Profits Tax as if, for any three years. The company's appeal against any assessment being made upon it for Corporation Profits Tax was heard before the Commissioners on July 30th last, and was decided in the company's favour. The Crown, however, asked the Commissioners to state a case for the High Court, and this has been delivered, but it has not yet been put down for hearing. The directors are to be congratulated on publishing a list of the company's investments in the report.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.—This important Japanese shipping undertaking has just issued its report. The net profit for year ended March 31, 1924, after providing for the depreciation of the fleet, insurance, and ships' structural repair funds, amounts to Yen 1,618,211, which shows an increase of Yen 504,285, as compared with that of the last term. Adding thereto Yen 324,694, and Yen 1,500,000, the amount brought forward from the last term, and the amount transferred from the dividend equalisation fund respectively, we obtain a total surplus of Yen 3,442,906. The directors now propose that this surplus be appropriated as follows:—Legal reserve fund, Yen 90,000; directors' and auditors' fees, Yen 140,000; dividend (10 per cent. per annum), Yen 2,900,000—Yen 3,130,000; leaving a balance of Yen 312,906 to be carried forward. In order to meet the new situation, it is proposed that the amount of loss sustained through the great earthquake, Yen 6,101,990, and a sum of Yen 4,000,000 required to augment the decreased pension fund, the two totalling Yen 10,101,990 be covered out of a portion of the long-standing reserves, viz.:—Insurance fund, Yen 5,101,990; mercantile marine schools fund, Yen 2,000,000; reserve for construction and repair of buildings, Yen 3,000,000—Yen 10,101,990.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.—The report of this important Indian railway undertaking for the year ended March 31, 1924, has just been issued. It contains much interesting matter and valuable statistical comparisons. From the summary below one is able to see the trend of operations at a glance:—

The train mileage and the receipts, cost and net earnings per train mile, for the years ended March 31, 1923 and 1924, have been as under :—

BANKS

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—The one hundred and forty-seventh half-yearly report to March 31, 1924, shows the net profits for the half-year, after deducting rebate on current bills, interest on deposits, paying income, land, and other taxes, amounting to £106,635, reducing valuation of bank premises, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and fluctuations in the value of investment securities, and including recoveries from debts previously written off as bad, amount to £458,620, to which is added undivided balance from last half-year £154,539, making £613,159. An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the quarter ended December 31st last was paid on February 26th, out of the half-year's profits in terms of Clause CV. of deed of settlement, absorbing £150,000, leaving a balance of £463,159, which the directors recommend to be dealt with as follows:—To payment of quarter's dividend to March 31, 1924, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the half-year's profits, £150,000; augmentation of the reserve fund, £150,000; balance carried forward, £163,159. During the half-year branches of the bank have been opened at Cessnock, Chatswood, Hurstville, and Katoomba (in N.S.W.); Melbourne East and South Melbourne (in Victoria), and Taihape (in N.Z.). The branches and agencies of the bank now number 100.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.—The fifty-seventh report for the year 1923 states that assets and liabilities in foreign currency have been converted into sterling at rates ruling at December 31, 1923. The sum of £194,693 is brought into the accounts from December 31, 1922, and the profit is £131,511, which makes £326,205 available. The sum of £197,834 is applied to difference on conversion,

and the remaining £128,371 is carried forward. The latest balance-sheet totals £22,018,728, against £21,353,971 at December 31, 1922. With regard to liabilities, the capital is unchanged at £5,000,000. Bank notes in circulation amount to £821,146, against £977,683. Bills payable stand at £706,420, against £744,389. Current accounts and sundries amount to £13,264,932, against £12,843,692. Deposits stand at £847,859, as against £343,513. Statutory reserve is unchanged at £1,250,000. With regard to assets, cash at £4,892,644 compares with £4,067,076. Money at call and notice is at £1,607,886, against £1,376,992. Bills receivable are at £6,498,427, against £7,268,969. Investments are at £3,345,628, and of this sum £2,261,941 is in British and French Government securities. Investments in preceding balance-sheet amounted to £4,309,091, of which £3,037,266 was in British and French Government securities. Current accounts at £3,019,925 compare with £1,968,361. Advances on securities stand at £2,157,750, against £1,864,160.

NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.—This bank continues to make satisfactory progress. For the year ended March 31, 1924, a net profit of £498,168 is disclosed. This compares with a net profit of £442,178 for year ended March 31, 1923, and £350,168 for year ended March 31, 1922. Adding £81,324 brought in, there is an available balance of £579,492. The ordinary dividend remains unchanged at 10 per cent., but it should be explained that it absorbed £307,973, against £272,500 in preceding year. The sum of £123,177 goes to reserve fund, bringing it up to £2,040,000, while £40,000 goes to reduction of bank premises, and £108,342 is carried forward. The report adds that owing to the expansion of the bank's business the directors consider it advisable to increase the paid-up capital to £4,000,000.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.—This important South African banking institution has had a good year. The net profit for the year ended March 31, 1924, amounted to £456,397, against £388,825 for preceding year. The balance brought forward from March 31, 1923, was £117,967, making £574,364 available. The dividend of 14 per cent. for the year (same as previous year) absorbed £312,083. The sum of £50,000 has been appropriated to bank premises account, and £100,000 is placed to officers' pension fund. The sum of £112,281 is carried forward. The principal items in the balance-sheet under liabilities, which total £625,800,335, are: capital £2,229,165, reserve fund £2,893,335, notes in circulation £601,334, against £722,191 on March 31, 1923, deposits, current and other accounts £48,518,049, against £48,946,880, drafts and acceptances £1,684,321, against £2,151,362, and customers' bills: £6,285,809, against £6,937,239. The principal assets are: cash £1,030,650, against £1,088,043, investments £5,103,817, against £5,230,160 (standing at or under cost taken below market values at March 31, 1924), bills of exchange £6,168,956, against £6,108,393, bills discounted £31,931,857, against £33,065,099, customers' bills £6,285,809, against £6,937,239, and bank property £1,247,305 against £1,134,112.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.—The report and accounts for the year ended February 28, 1924, exhibits a net profit of £550,292, as compared with £552,804 in the preceding year. The dividend is unchanged at 15 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year. The dividend will absorb £450,000. The sum of £90,003 is carried forward, against £89,711 brought into the accounts. The reserve is again strengthened by £100,000, which makes it now stand at £3,450,000. Total liabilities are £44,393,295. Circulation stands in the balance-sheet at £674,690, against £562,081. Deposits have risen from £31,390,819 to £32,838,018, while bills payable amount to £4,115,663, against £3,707,570. Investments amount to £2,200,000, all in British Government securities. Specie on hand and cash balances amount to £5,597,684. Money at call stands at £790,000, against £1,060,000. Balance of remittances, &c., amount to £9,355,039, against £5,759,791. Bills discounted, &c., stand at £25,983,206, against £26,350,356. The meeting will be held at 71, Cornhill, on July 28th, at 1 o'clock.

NORTH HUMMOCK (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—The profit for the year ended March 31, 1924, after writing off the sum of £1,511 for depreciation of buildings, machinery, &c., was £7,304, to which must be added the balance brought forward from last year, £4,786, leaving to be dealt with the sum of £12,060. The directors now recommend that a dividend of 3 per cent. (less income-tax) for the year ended March 31, 1924, be paid, absorbing £7,200, and that the sum of £4,860 be carried forward to next year, subject to corporation profits tax for 1923-24. The rubber crop, which in the previous year amounted to 630,518 lbs, was reduced, owing to a full year's working of the restriction of exports, to 483,222 lbs. The amount licensed to be exported during the year was 509,212 lbs, less licences used for balance of previous year's crop, 79,474 lbs —421,758 lbs, leaving an excess of 63,463 lbs, which has been taken into the accounts at under cost price. Of the amount licensed to be exported during the year, viz., 509,212 lbs, there has been sold to date 479,954 lbs at a net average price of 1s.8d per lb; the remaining 21,278 lbs have been estimated in the accounts at under the current market price. Owing to the restriction of exports the f.o.b. cost was 7.84d per lb, as compared with 6.11d in the previous year. The company's standard production has been revised, and is now fixed at 830,700 lbs, an increase of 20,888 lbs on the previous assessment. The general condition of the estate is reported as being satisfactory.

MALAYALAM PLANTATIONS.—This important concern has enjoyed a good measure of prosperity in the year ended March 31, 1924. The trading profit has improved considerably amounting to £224,918, against £124,951 for the preceding year. The dividend has been raised from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. Apart from the

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.					
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.							
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	\$	\$					
Oroya Links	3,485	..	..	..	..	10,305	..					
Preston	7,654	577	..	..	..	13,608	..					
South Kalguri	7,073	..	..	..	..	13,954	2,46					
	Output.		Other Notes in Return.									
Tin.	Tons.											
Aramayo	223	Silver, 119,000 ozs.										
Berenguela	24	..										
Jantar	26	..										

COLOMBIAN MINING.—June:—Gross receipts, \$8,900; expenditure, \$7,500; also expenditure, \$1,600 on further unit for Echeandia plant and development of Marmato and Echeandia.

PALCOO.—June:—Crushed, 16,752 tons of ore, producing 334½ short tons of blister copper, containing 2,274 ozs of gold, 4,884 ozs of silver. Estimated value, \$24,18. Taking copper at \$56 per short ton, gold at 94s per oz, and silver at 2s 6d per oz.

FAIRBANKS GOLD DREDGING.—Cable:—Dredge worked 218 hours and recovered 546 lbs gold; cubic yards, 10,000. No. 2 dredge worked 36½ hours and recovered 132 lbs gold; cubic yards, 8,000.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPS.—During June 3,716 tons of ore were produced; 3,022 tons, with approximately 900 ounces of gold; thus added, were smelted, producing 320 tons copper matte, assaying 22 per cent. Since the beginning of the month water power has considerably improved.

increase in dividend, £50,000 is to be transferred to reserve against nothing in preceding year. The sum of £19,783 is to be carried forward against £17,823 brought in. With regard to rubber, the voluntary restriction scheme, inaugurated in September, 1921, which the company decided to join, was continued throughout the year under review. 2,276,658 lbs were harvested at a cost of 7.41d per lb, f.o.b., and realised an average net price of 1s 0.62d per lb. The tea crop yielded 7,718,902 lbs at a cost of 7.64d per lb, f.o.b., and realised an average net price of 1s 1.21d per lb. With regard to cardamoms, 22,431 lbs were harvested at a cost of 2s 2.86d per lb, f.o.b., and realised an average net price of 5s 4.51d per lb. It is estimated that 7,675,000 lbs tea, 60,000 lbs cardamoms, and a restricted crop of 2,185,000 lbs rubber will be harvested during the 12 months ending March 31st next.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ARGENTINE LIGHT AND POWER.—The report for year ended March 31, 1924, points out that during the year practically the whole of the share capital and all the outstanding debenture stock of the Argentine Tramways and Power Company, Limited, owning and operating electric supply and tramway systems in the City of Santa Fé, Argentine Republic, were acquired on the terms of the agreement submitted to and approved by meetings of shareholders and debenture stockholders held on July 16, 1923. The gross receipts of the combined electric lighting, power supply, and traction businesses showed a satisfactory expansion, but increased taxes and wages and additional steam operation expenses prevented a corresponding improvement in the net receipts. During the year an agreement was signed with the municipality of Cordoba providing for the settlement of long outstanding questions and also for the electrification of the San Vicente horse tramways, and for certain other extensions of the electric tramway system in the city of Cordoba. In common with other British companies carrying on business in the Argentine Republic, this company and its subsidiaries suffered severe loss on exchange on remittances made to London, owing to the low rates obtainable throughout the year for Argentine currency. The loss on exchange for the year is £41,538. The accounts show a credit balance of £90,173, to which is added £5,825 brought in, making £95,998 available. The sum of £11,270 is set aside for debenture stock redemption. Preference dividend absorbs £46,970. The sum of £5,000 is set aside for redemption of preference and ordinary capital. The sum of £18,992 is applied in writing off balance of suspense account, and £13,766 is carried forward.

BAKER, PERKINS, LIMITED.—The accounts for the year ended December 25, 1923, show a net profit of £46,975, as compared with £47,582 for the preceding period, both figures being exclusive of corporation profits tax. The turnover for 1923 was slightly less than that for 1922, so that the result of the company's trading during the period now under review can certainly be regarded as satisfactory. Assets, exclusive of goodwill and patents, are shown in the balance-sheet at a value of £1,046,724, whilst the total amount due to creditors, including the company's bankers, H.M. Treasury, and other loans, is £438,116. The paid-up capital consists of 188,716 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares and 221,083 ordinary shares, all of £1 each and fully paid. Reserves total £172,182, and there is a balance of undivided profit amounting to £74,704, subject, as already mentioned, to corporation profits tax for 1922 and 1923. At the annual general meeting a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was declared, making with the interim dividend paid on December 28, 1923, a total of 8 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, which reduced the balance of undivided profit to be carried forward to £57,017, out of which the shareholders have authorised £5,000 to be set aside to act as a nucleus for a contributory pension scheme for the employees. The company specialises in the design and manufacture of food-producing machinery, and is exhibiting the equipment in the Palace of Industry at Wembley for the biscuit factory, which is being worked in turn by Messrs Huntley and Palmer, Limited, Messrs Peek, Frean and Co., Limited, and Messrs W. and R. Jacob, Limited, that in the bread factory being worked by Messrs H. W. Nevill, Limited, and the chocolate and confectionery plant which Messrs Carsons, Limited, are working. Associated companies are Baker-Perkins Co., Inc., in the United States and Canadian Baker-Perkins, Limited, whilst there is a branch in Melbourne, and the company has representatives in all parts of the world. It is stated that orders booked during 1923 were substantially greater than in 1922, and we understand that during the first six months of this year they are still improving, so that prospects for 1924 are also satisfactory.

HOARE AND CO., LIMITED.—Some interesting changes have taken place in the capital of this well-known brewing undertaking during the year ended April 18, 1924. There are now 1,251,796 ordinary shares of £1 each, as against 75,250 shares of £10 each in preceding balance-sheet. Debenture stock totals £613,972, against £800,000 in preceding balance-sheet. The total liabilities have increased from £2,451,787 to £3,074,575. Deposits have increased from £31,354 to £99,785. Loans stand at £62,750, a new item in the balance-sheet. Creditors, including reserve for contingencies, has jumped from £386,008 to £535,652, and reserve has been increased from £300,000 to its present figure of £400,000. With regard to assets, properties stand at £2,382,391, against £1,599,715. Goodwill remains at £150,000. Stock of beer, &c., has jumped from £50,033 to £123,792. Book debts are higher at £122,662, against £41,572. Cash has been reduced from £175,143 to £54,646, while investments have been reduced from £362,043 to £50,038. The purchase of the Lion Brewery Company's assets was completed on January 31st last, and the profits of that company up to that date, after making full provision for all the usual outgoings, have been utilised to write off the value of the lease and goodwill of

brewery premises, and to provide for the expenses of the purchase and possible loss on realisation, and after setting aside an amount for the superannuation fund, the balance has been carried to the reserve for properties. The net profit, after payment of debenture interest, for year ended March 31, 1924, amounts to £207,656, against £186,375. The ordinary dividend has been doubled, being 10 per cent., as against 5 per cent. for preceding year.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.—Half-year's working to June 30 1924:—The traffic receipts for the half-year ended June 30, 1924, showed a decrease of £26,697, compared with the corresponding period of last year. There was also a decrease of £32,657 in the surplus from the working of dock labour and railways. The net revenue for the half-year, after providing for increased expenditure, interest, and fixed charges was £67,734 less than the corresponding half-year in 1923. It has to be borne in mind that the company's revenue for the half-year was adversely affected through the national strike of dock workers and the national railway strike, which took place in February and January last respectively.

OIL OUTPUTS.

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.—The production for the week ended July 5, 1924, was 147,000 barrels. About 4,500 barrels daily were shut in owing to the strike at Tampico Refinery.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—The combined production for the week ending Wednesday, July 9, 1924, amounted to 950 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

The spell of fine weather has had a beneficial effect on growing crops in this country, and same now present a much better appearance. Hay making is proceeding rapidly, a large yield being assured. English wheat of the old crop is largely nominal owing to dearth of supplies, but transactions in new crop are reported on the basis of 11s 2d per 112 lbs, free on rail. The market for imported descriptions was again stronger under the influence of higher forward offers, but business checked. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 59s, No. 2 ditto 57s 6d, No. 3 56s, No. 4 54s 6d, Barusso, 63½ lbs, 55s, Australian 56s 6d, and choice white Karachi 55s, all per 496 lbs, ex ship terms. The floating and forward section showed more activity, and prices hardened sharply under stimulating advices from North America, due to adverse crop reports. Droughty conditions in Canada and low estimates of the Dominion crop proved dominating factors, and which caused shippers to exercise marked reserve, particularly in face of increased inquiries on Continental account. Steamers of No. 2 hard winter, August 25th, sold at 50s 6d, and since resold at 51s 9d, white Pacific, end August early September, 52s 6d, and resold at 54s 6d, choice white Karachi, August, 52s to 53s 9d, choice white Delhi 53s 6d, Rosate, 63½ lbs, shipping or shipped, 53s 7½d, Barusso, 63½ lbs, August, 52s 6d to 53s 9d, and Chilian, afloat, 52s 3d per 480 lbs. Maize in good request, and prices continue to harden in the cargo section. Latest sales include steamers of Plate, July-August, at 37s, October-November 38s, white Novorossiisk, expected to load 21st inst., 38s per 480 lbs. Flour firmer in sympathy with the wheat position, but business on a moderate scale. London standard straight run quoted 44s 6d, patents 46s 6d to 47s 6d, town whites 44s 6d per sack, delivered in. Imported also dearer. Manitoba patents range from 43s to 46s, and Australian 40s per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley.—Imported firm and sparingly offered. Californian quoted 58s to 64s, Chilian brewing 50s to 52s, both ex ship per 448 lbs. No. 3 Canadian western, ex ship, 38s, Karachi, landed, 39s, Rossian, ex ship, 37s, all per 400 lbs. English nominal. Oats firmer. Plate, f.a.q. ex ship, 22s 9d, landed 24s 3d. No. 2 Canadian western, ex ship, 27s 6d, ditto, landed, 28s 6d. No. 3 ditto, landed, 27s 9d. No. 2 Canadian feed, landed, 26s 3d, mixed feed ditto, landed, 21s 6d, all per 320 lbs. English nominal. Maize firm. Plate, ex ship, 37s, landed 39s, Bessarabian, landed, 39s 6d per 480 lbs. Millers' offers fully steady. Broad bran quoted at 7s 6d, ordinary 6s 6d to 7s, middlings 9s 3d, fine ditto 10s 6d, bags included, ex mill. Light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 3d, feed oatmeal 9s 6d, ground oats 12s 3d per cwt. Oatmeal firm. London made flaked 17s 6d, rolled oats 17s 6d, medium and fine cut 17s, coarse and medium pinhead 17s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 18s to 18s 6d per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.
1 week to July 12.....	19,632,546	16,758,886	15,769,379	12,148,898
45 weeks to July 12.....	19,632,546	16,758,886	15,769,379	12,148,898
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	11 10	11 9	12 3	20 8

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefes.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.										
Bank of New South Wales	Mar. 31*	£ 154,539	£ 458,621	£ 613,160	£ ..	£ 300,000	10	£ 150,000	£ 163,160	£ 432,188
Hibernian	June 30	23,955	54,126	78,081	..	22,500	9	32,500	23,081	..
Imperial Ottoman	Dec. 31	194,693 Dr	56,322	128,371	..	..	..	..	128,371	176,140
Munster and Leinster	June 30*	45,479	96,866	142,345	..	38,333	20	60,000	44,012	94,204
The National Bank	June 30*	28,926	181,489	210,415	..	87,281	14	95,000	28,134	181,068
Provincial Bank of Ireland	June 30*	41,171	66,062	107,233	..	31,157	14½	35,000	41,076	59,497
Standard Bank of South Africa ..	Mar. 31	117,967	456,397	574,364	..	312,083	14	150,000	112,281	388,825
Breweries.										
Hoare and Co.	April 18	5,146	207,656	212,802	..	125,179	10	56,268	7,540	186,375
Parker's (Burslem)	June 2	6,079	146,652	152,731	12,300	23,815 (d)	15	50,000	28,931	98,736
Electric Light and Power.										
Argentine Light and Power	Mar. 31	5,825	90,174	95,999	46,970	..	..	35,263	13,766	73,291
Financial, Land, &c.										
Holloways' Properties	Mar. 31	9,916	40,111	50,027	5,559	21,773	7½	15,000	7,695	34,568
Oregon Mortgage	May 31	20,654	20,329	40,983	6,800	14,105	14	..	20,078	26,823
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
David & Wm. Henderson & Co. ..	April 30	117,259	21,244	138,503	15,000	15,500	5	5,970	102,523	34,356
East Indian Coal	April 30*	7,429	22,996	30,425	..	12,000	10	10,000	8,425	24,237
Edward Wood and Co.	May 31	4,567 Dr	16,102 Dr	11,535	1,550	..	..	15,000	1,915	5,519
Petters	Mar. 31	20,953	15,182	36,135	5,250	..	..	..	30,885	10,035
W. and T. Avery	Mar. 31	35,625	76,059	111,684	11,147	52,425	15	10,000	38,112	60,331
Rubber, &c.										
Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java	Dec. 31	109,581	233,735	343,316	..	231,620	12	..	111,696	231,653
Khota Tampan	Jan. 31	1,415	986	2,401	..	916	2½	..	1,485	689
Lambak	Mar. 31	..	4,009	4,009	..	..	..	1,250	2,759	..
Laras (Sumatra)	Mar. 31	Dr 2,511	8,347	5,836	..	3,900	4	..	1,936	6,355
Malayalam Plantations	Mar. 31	17,823	208,450	226,273	..	151,990	15	54,500	19,783	43,963
Merchiston	Mar. 31	3,090	2,947	6,037	..	2,500	5	..	3,537	5,225
North Hummock	Mar. 31	4,756	7,304	12,060	..	7,200	3	..	4,860	8,119
Rim (Malacca)	Mar. 31	11,983	3,591	15,574	..	4,000	5	..	11,574	3,484
Rini (Java)	Jan. 31	Dr 3,808	Dr 1,801	5,609	..	..	..	1,250 Dr	Dr 8,078	..
Semenyih	April 30	6,198	1,242	7,440	..	563	2½	..	6,877	2,993
Shipping.										
Sutherland Steamship	June 30	9,319	19,771	29,090	..	8,507	5	12,000	8,583	42,884
Shops and Stores.										
Morum's Oriental Stores	Mar. 31	Dr 42,707	Dr 31,787	Dr 74,494	..	..	..	Dr 74,494	Dr 42,707	..
Textiles.										
English Sewing Cotton	Mar. 31	187,405	639,705	827,110	50,000	400,000	20	211,751	165,359	652,798
Trusts.										
British N. Borneo Rubber Trust ..	June 30	12,178	15,493	27,671	..	15,583	5	5,000	7,080	12,873
Waterworks.										
Cleveland Water	June 30*	3,865	3,334	7,199	..	3,400 (10 A) (7 B)	..	..	3,799	4,151 (10 A) (7 B)
Other Companies.										
Cassell and Co.	Dec. 31	106,306	52,984	159,290	16,680	19,886	5½	50,308	72,416	..
Gloucester Railway Carriage &c.	May 31	8,726 Dr	122	8,594	..	..	..	..	8,594	24,490
Handford, Greatrex & Co.	Mar. 31	5,437 Dr	2,912	2,525	2,400	..	..	..	125	6,432
Newfoundland Fish Products ..	Sept. 30	Dr 10,221	Dr 3,656	Dr 13,877	..	..	..	..	Dr 13,907	..
Odham's Press	Dec. 31	10,800	69,605	80,405	..	..	..	80,405	..	71,144
S. Hoffnung and Co.	Mar. 31	31,694	110,047	141,741	33,750	45,000	20	27,172	35,819	80,258
Tilbury Contracting, &c.	Mar. 31	3,014	63,985	66,999	..	25,000	12½	37,000	4,999	..
Webley and Scott	Dec. 31	17,130 Dr	8,483	8,645	5,452	..	..	2,000	1,193	8,215

* Half-year. † Tax free. (d) Paid to Lion Brewery shareholders.

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICES PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.	Owts.	Owts.	Owts.	11 9	10 11	10 3
July 5	36,254	3,012	3,376	11 10	10 9	9 10
12	26,651	664	..	..	..	..
1920	16,329	2,907	2,864	19 10	25 9	23 1
1921	16,950	5,354	3,795	20 2	11 11	14 1
1922	66,949	3,239	8,564	12 5	11 0	11 10
1923	38,808	10,450	6,694	11 2	8 5	10 11

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated July 17th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The export of pig-iron is practically stopped, owing to foreign competition. Shipments coastwise are also very low, owing to the holidays in Scotland. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is quoted 87s per ton f.o.b., with very little business doing. The East Coast hematite trade is very depressed, and there are sellers of practically numbers hematite at 95s per ton. The iron trade is practically stagnant, with the price of best Bilbao rubio at 23s per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Members of the iron and steel trade report a further extension of the severe depression which has overtaken their industry, and the position in Sheffield is undoubtedly worsening. Consumers appear to have lost confidence in the future, and there is a widespread belief that a revival of commerce from the Continent will bring about a lower level of prices. Orders are so scarce that sellers will readily make big cuts from their regular quotations to tempt one. Pig-iron and steel billet values are considerably down compared with a few weeks ago. It is said that not one-fourth of the open-hearth steel furnaces are

working, and unemployment figures are rising. The export figures for June show a reduction in iron and steel on the month, but are nearly equal to a year ago. Production is also down considerably, and last month's total of steel made is below the monthly average of 1913, when capacity was 50 per cent. less. The trade in wire and wire rods, which has been fairly active, is now extremely quiet. Rolling mills are on short time in the bar department, whereas the call for sheets is exceptionally strong, and deliveries are getting into arrears. The demand for steel for automobile and railway purposes is being maintained at a high level. German competition in hand tools is less formidable than in the past, and as the surplus war stocks are practically used up, makers are finding plenty of occupation for their workpeople. Overseas demand for tools and cutlery tends to increase. Silver and electro plate is now moving. A substantial Russian order for files and saws has been placed in Sheffield. The fuel market is weak in most departments. The demand for steam coal for both home and export continues to dwindle. The depression in iron and steel is reflected in a reduced call for coke, but there is a fair demand for foundry sorts. Nominal prices per ton at pits are:—Best hand-picked branch, 34s; Barnsley best Silkestones, 28s; Yorkshire hard, 23s; Derbyshire ditto, 21s; Blyth ditto, 24s to 26s; rough slacks, 12s 6d; smalls, 8s; blast furnace coke, 20s 6d

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended June 30.		Six Months Ended June 30.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	8,587,222	7,994,883	46,891,290	47,237,631
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	398,000	561,329	2,955,336	3,538,699
C. Meat	9,387,664	8,405,896	59,672,985	52,735,254
D. Animals, living, for food	1,385,215	1,655,559	4,143,822	9,382,997
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	13,428,214	13,347,239	75,558,349	79,339,033
F. " " dutiable	10,242,414	7,749,621	57,413,513	63,383,851
G. Tobacco	709,569	706,136	8,214,441	7,655,491
Total, Class I.	44,138,298	40,420,725	254,849,736	263,272,956
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	1,026	463	3,190	8,335
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	521,292	426,496	2,851,418	2,878,144
C. Iron ore and scrap	809,532	757,015	4,308,694	4,656,115
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,348,802	1,085,013	6,249,299	7,578,639
E. Wood and timber	4,459,775	4,011,422	16,522,379	16,433,191
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	2,448,795	6,116,510	36,618,738	57,521,053
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	5,297,065	4,871,525	34,690,437	46,423,378
H. Silk, raw and waste	107,737	153,809	825,001	787,586
I. Other textile materials	681,514	590,347	5,955,356	7,021,527
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	4,076,915	3,822,480	23,789,731	24,664,099
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,139,901	1,628,762	8,315,589	10,185,817
L. Paper-making materials	1,418,644	1,248,507	4,908,708	4,549,616
M. Rubber	678,794	523,598	5,300,206	4,709,067
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	667,037	643,638	4,909,922	4,670,223
Total, Class II.	23,656,429	25,809,585	155,148,668	192,092,580
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	2,484	143	8,097	4,019
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	676,282	682,196	3,583,228	4,012,432
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,157,897	1,692,851	6,710,693	11,022,976
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,928,222	2,384,538	12,477,308	15,079,771
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	614,265	395,793	3,582,734	3,539,648
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	179,527	207,077	1,105,593	1,373,879
G. Machinery	839,797	848,591	4,843,418	5,134,320
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	407,576	393,160	2,449,659	2,431,403
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	721,641	659,571	4,459,421	4,329,519
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,046,206	1,138,482	5,492,326	7,478,053
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,623,604	1,762,473	9,892,762	12,057,688
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,176,394	1,135,180	6,658,937	7,847,706
M. Apparel	1,515,611	1,475,281	8,294,963	8,822,445
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	328,839	1,018,815	6,805,520	7,146,279
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	3,232,793	3,359,853	17,526,944	18,411,593
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	996,238	1,044,255	6,028,864	6,433,234
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,261,916	955,632	6,182,836	6,403,172
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	635,729	565,562	4,462,386	4,332,314
S. Rubber manufactures	363,336	328,158	2,816,109	2,208,756
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,064,830	1,776,109	13,142,703	12,006,504
Total, Class III.	21,174,980	21,822,721	126,525,101	140,075,721
IV.—Animals, not for food	215,882	159,277	515,742	875,981
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles	173,935	289,144	1,836,281	2,106,699
Total	89,359,524	88,501,452	538,875,528	598,423,937

The iron and steel trade generally anticipate that the result will be fierce competition from Germany in the export trade. The outlook from this point of view is none too cheerful, but this pessimistic attitude is not in our opinion justifiable. Immense difficulties confront the Germans before they will be again in a position to recapture even the export trade they held prior to 1914, and meantime British traders have been steadily gaining a footing in new markets and consolidating the trade previously held. Steel sheets, black and galvanised, experience steady demand from all markets. Home trade is slightly quieter, but in the export trade for galvanised sheets makers of the better qualities report considerable activity among buyers, and some moderate sized parcels have been placed during the week. Deliveries in September and later are the best that can be had from most works. Prices are held firm at round £18 10s per ton, basis common quality. Iron makers and re-rollers have no fresh business of consequence. Export specifications are keenly sought, and price cutting to secure the orders is prominent. Home prices remain unchanged.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—On the Cardiff coal market this week there has been again an acute dearth of new business, and the colliery salesmen through their weekly meetings have not been able to resist the effects of the depression on current market prices. For practically every quality the spot and prompt prices have been reduced, and even at these reduced prices the demand is so small as to be wholly inadequate to absorb the normal output of the coalfield. In these circumstances few of the collieries have been able to keep their pits fully employed, and the accumulations on the sidings, and the consequent scarcity of empty wagons are aggravating the general situation. Everybody on the market is declaring that "something must be done," but neither amongst the colliery owners, coal exporters, nor even among the miners' leaders is there anyone prepared to advocate a drastic and water-tight scheme for the regulation of prices and of outputs. Foreign inquiries are even less active than they were during the depressed days of June, 1922, and with Continental outputs steadily improving, there are no prospects of any early revival either in the European or in the more distant markets. In the first half of the

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended June 30.		Six Months Ended June 30.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	496,807	522,607	2,030,003	3,274,083
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	177,750	197,739	905,736	1,594,873
C. Meat	125,986	96,884	623,113	781,390
D. Animals living, for food	36,701	26,989	68,895	148,174
E. And F. Other food and drink	2,532,412	2,451,737	13,133,413	16,223,008
G. Tobacco	570,379	518,151	3,127,070	3,363,335
Total, Class I.	3,940,035	3,813,807	19,888,230	25,314,863
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	8,950,779	5,728,045	50,415,430	38,002,992
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	181,729	168,761	917,172	1,097,790
C. Iron ore and scrap	37,118	47,690	291,043	249,609
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	131,372	90,257	1,321,175	640,490
E. Wood and timber	42,003	45,486	204,025	306,184
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	109,277	156,364	966,726	983,301
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	861,452	618,548	5,245,112	6,008,153
H. Silk, raw knubs and noils	3,308	2,303	61,077	82,816
I. Other textile materials	51,535	31,017	291,288	226,862
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	582,831	446,298	3,036,148	3,379,774
K. Hides and skins, undressed	180,605	159,285	1,426,336	1,477,944
L. Paper-making materials	134,285	135,702	843,102	928,078
M. Rubber	5,737	9,421	67,509	60,889
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	268,762	160,979	2,639,283	2,384,420
Total, Class II.	11,540,793	7,800,056	67,706,566	55,825,282
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	763,543	342,700	3,822,445	3,250,212
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	1,056,202	1,034,448	5,633,859	6,203,526
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	6,825,366	6,300,115	37,049,056	39,029,850
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,173,218	1,203,349	7,278,942	8,068,251
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	615,889	717,950	3,481,686	3,974,969
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	651,915	659,269	3,146,639	4,759,968
G. Machinery	3,467,521	3,536,289	24,022,809	21,310,440
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	183,881	164,405	800,464	986,626
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	13,534,150	16,076,057	89,404,868	98,984,597
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	5,279,534	5,725,235	30,618,438	32,192,804
K. Silk and silk manufactures	170,115	185,735	903,950	1,036,770
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,047,096	2,264,759	11,890,103	12,938,379
M. Apparel	2,148,663	2,022,593	11,789,623	13,660,487
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	2,383,860	1,902,644	13,116,979	12,989,313
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	648,496	858,746	3,451,345	4,501,590
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	477,156	542,715	2,809,575	3,387,495
Q. Paper and cardboard	717,791	702,459	4,213,697	4,327,709
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,451,611	2,112,819	17,965,725	11,438,763
S. Rubber manufactures	453,034	446,741	2,697,699	2,910,569
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,490,516	2,659,027	14,559,382	15,355,832
Total, Class III.	46,532,557	49,458,048	289,647,277	301,315,823
IV.—Animals, not for food	119,286	166,591	501,464	948,206
V.—Parcel Post	750,888	785,736	4,935,490	5,060,623
Total	62,883,559	62,024,238	382,679,027	388,464,802

current year the total quantity of coal exported from the South Wales ports to foreign destinations amounts to about 13 million tons compared with over 15½ million tons in the corresponding period last year, while in June the shipments totalled only about 2 million tons compared with 2,638,000 tons in June, 1922. From the colliery point of view the financial position was never as bad under the old agreement as it is now under the new wages agreement.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s; Black Veins, 26s 6d to 27s; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 17s to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 14s to 15s; coking smalls, 17s to 17s 6d; anthracite big vein large, 50s to 52s 6d; machine-made cobbles, 55s to 57s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; stove nuts, 50s to 55s; rubbly culm, 14s 6d to 15s; coke for export, 52s 6d to 55s; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s 6d to 29s 6d; pitwood ex ship, 25s 6d to 26s 6d.

In the tinplate trade the general position is very satisfactory. Current prices are slightly above the minimum, and both the inland and the foreign demands are active. In the heavier branches of the iron and steel trade a reaction has set in, and the Ebbw Vale Company is contemplating the closing down temporarily of some of its steelworks.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(BY OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

The Cumberland and North Lancashire hematite pig-iron trade remains in a sluggish condition, a tendency for the already limited volume of business to diminish rather than to increase having recently become somewhat accentuated, though it is hoped that the next six weeks, during which the Scotch holidays are held, and Scotch requirements are smaller, may pass without recourse to furnaces in blast between Workington and Carnforth. The trouble still is that users will buy only what they can sell, and as they themselves see little hope of improvement, they refuse to enter into commitments more than a week or two ahead. While this is their

attitude, the industry must just go on working from hand to mouth, and it will certainly be the autumn before any satisfactory change can be expected to set in. The small extent of the business offering has compelled a reduction in prices, Bessemer mixed numbers now being 2s 6d per ton lower at £5 7s per ton delivered at Glasgow, £5 10s at Sheffield, and £5 15s at Birmingham. For special qualities of iron there is only a fair demand by Sheffield steel-makers, and as regards manganese alloys business is very dull, with ferro at £16 10s per ton export, and spiegel £9 per ton home. The position in the steel trade exhibits no improvement. In the southern part of the district makers are assured some weeks' activity, but at Workington the rail mill works seldom more than one week in three. Foreign competition for rail orders is very severe, and here, as elsewhere in the country, the steel rolling plants have had a poor time the whole of the year. Native hematite iron ore production is largely, and, indeed, almost entirely, being absorbed by the local smelters, East Coast and Scotch needs rarely being more than 800 tons per week. Superior sorts of low-phosphoric ore are quoted at 22s to 24s, and ordinary kinds at 17s to 18s per ton.

The coal trade has been in a bad way since Scotch owners began to undersell Cumberland in the Irish market. Irish merchants will give little business to owners here for best house quoted at 26s per ton f.o.b., against the Scotch figure of 21s per ton, and there has been such a decline in the shipments across Channel that the pits cannot maintain their outputs, and many men have been dismissed, and two collieries have had to close down. Other prices are unchanged, best steam for the ironworks and iron ore mines being 30s, and washed steam 29s per ton delivered, while best house for local householders is at 38s 2d per ton at pit. Gas coal for export is 25s per ton f.o.b. Coke is a substantial make for the local smelters of ordinary iron at 25s to 26s 6d per ton, according to carbon content. Residuals are all dull.

METALS.

Tin displayed firmer features, though slight irregularity was noticeable at times, chiefly with regard to forward positions, while offers were fairly well absorbed. Standard, cash, sold at £225 15s to £231 10s, and three months £227 10s to £233. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £229 10s, c.i.f. At Thursday's market, prices, after opening firmer, gave way. Standard, cash, quoted at £229 10s to £229 15s, with business in near dates at £230 10s to £230, and three months at £235 10s to £231. Tin closed firmer, standard cash being dealt in at £231 12s 6d, and three months £232 10s to £233 5s to £232 10s to £233. English ingots quoted at £233 10s to £234. Copper ruled fully steady, with business on a fair scale, forward positions being accorded most support. Standard, cash, sold at £61, and three months £61 12s 6d to £62 to £61 18s 9d. The tendency on Thursday ruled in buyers' favour, with chief interest again confined to forward positions. Standard, cash, quoted at £60 12s 6d to £60 15s, with sales in three months at £61 17s 6d to £61 15s. Copper dealer at the close. Standard cash quoted at £61 2s 6d to £61 5s, with sales in three months at £61 15s to £62 to £61 18s 9d. Electro £65 to £65 10s, strong sheets £92, wire bars 65s 10s, strong sheets £92 per ton. Lead firm, and quoted at £32 10s 3d to £30 12s 6d, as to position. Spelter quiet at £31 18s 9d to £31 15s, according to position. Aluminium, home, £125; export, £130. Antimony, English regulus, £44 10s to £47 10s.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—One is able to report some improvement in the market to-day, though it cannot be said that any section of the industry is really active. The recovery in wool values in London last week has certainly helped this centre, and inquiries for matchings and tops have been more numerous. A fair turnover has also been done in both merinos and crossbreds during the last few days, and prices for all qualities are slightly firmer. There are plenty of offers about for good 64's at about 5s 10d, but most of the larger topmakers are now wanting more money, and in some cases 6s is quoted. The attitude of topmakers, however, is largely dictated by the price of the raw material, for it is realised that prices obtainable for tops in Bradford to-day are well below the cost of production based on the cost of wool in London. Another encouraging feature is that cabled reports from the United States show that confidence is returning in that country, and there is more doing in wool, tops, and yarns at higher prices. In this market, however, the effects of the financial trouble in Germany are still apparent, and to a very large extent the disappointing position in which spinners are placed is directly due to the holding up of the export trade with the Continent. Stocks of yarn continue to accumulate, and prices are simply anywhere, according to the position of the seller. Spinners of botany mixture yarns are not so badly off for work, but in the other departments it is becoming more and more difficult to keep machinery running. Business in piece goods is being conducted on hand-to-mouth lines, and manufacturers experience difficulty in obtaining prices to fit in with the cost of production.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The aftermath of the recent auctions appears to be fairly good, and as one reflects upon what took place recently in Coleman street Wool Exchange, we think that the final results were quite as good

as, if not better than, the majority expected. We are satisfied that things might have been very different, and had two or three importers decided to let their stocks go at any old prices bid, there would have been nothing short of a debacle. Wool is in strong hands, and half-a-dozen firms can be said to have financial resources which are adequate to very largely determine any market. It is quite true that in Coleman street there was no Japanese or American competition to support prices, it needing such outside competition to lift the whole market into a state of real confidence. There seems to us to be nothing wrong with the wool end of the trade; it is in piece goods where the mischief is being done. Those with a full knowledge of existing stocks and machinery requirements know full well that supplies are no more than sufficient to meet the requirements of the trade, but spinners and manufacturers bewail the unprofitableness of prices and the uncertainty regarding the future. We would like to see a real improvement commence in the demand for yarns and pieces, and until that does take place the home trade cannot possibly be said to be in a healthy state. The struggle to get orders and make ends meet is tremendous; in fact, as soon as one gets away from the raw material it is incredible the state of affairs which obtains. It is no uncommon thing to hear of botany yarns (2-48's) being offered at 1s and even less for spinning, whereas no man can possibly get back his own under 1s 6d per lb. on the price of the top, and yet manufacturers frankly say that they cannot get orders at prices current six months ago; in other words, the greatest difficulty is being experienced in selling worsted fabrics. However, we have known such times before, and it is to be hoped that spinners and manufacturers will eventually strike a better period. At present they are having to do the best they can under very adverse circumstances. One regrets American competition was markedly absent at the London auctions. The general impression prevails that with Boston houses doing a little nibbling in Bradford and making inquiries for the new clip English wools and colonial crossbred matchings, some trade will be doing with that important market before long. At the same time we cannot think America will be a big buyer until after the Presidential election. All the time American dealers are liquidating stocks, mills are running a good half-time, and this means stocks being shifted.

THE COTTON TRADE.

MANCHESTER, July 17.

Demand in the market this week has been rather more active. Inquiry has been of large dimensions, and has covered a wide range of fabrics. Although many people still anticipate lower values, some operators are less convinced that the raw material will be cheaper in the near future. In the cloth section the feature of interest has been the increased turnover in standard grey shirtings



Island Telegrams:
Arcosons Ave.
London.
Telephone:
London Wall 6626
(ten lines).

Cables:
Arcosons.
Codes:
A.R.C.
5th & 6th Editions.
Bentley's Market, Leam.

ARCOS LTD

SOVIET HOUSE

49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

TURNOVER (from June, 1920, to May, 1924) £36,826,214

BRANCHES:

MOSCOW: Tsvetkova 1.
(Ugol P. Revolutii.)
CONSTANTINOPLE:
Fou Vavroun Galata.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amstar
Trading Corporation, 136,
Liberty Street, New York.

LENINGRAD: Ul. Gorkova, 24.
KHARKOV: Chornogolovskaya, 1.
TIFLIS: 38 Rustaveli Prospekt.
RGA: Valdemara iela 61, dz. 3.

for India, some substantial contracts being arranged. Further operations have also occurred for India in light bleaching descriptions, and the undercurrent of demand for that outlet remains healthy. There have been a few more attempts at transactions for China, but no weight of business has been done. In small lots shippers to Egypt have given increased support. A little more activity has shown itself in home trade goods. In some weaving districts there is a tendency for production to increase. American and Egyptian yarns for home use have been firmer in quotation, and in certain quarters buying has been on freer lines. Trade has also been rather better in yarns suitable for India.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, July 17, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, July 10.	Price, July 3.	Price, June 26.	Price, June 19.	Price, June 11.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American ..per lb	17.12	17.26	16.57	17.37	17.64	17.48
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	23.75	23.45	22.85	23.60	23.90	23.60
Yarns—32's twist ..per lb	25	25.4	25	25.4	25	25
— 40's twist ..per lb	25.4	25.4	25.4	25.4	25.4	25.4
— 50's twist (Egyptian) ..per lb	34	34	34	34	34	34
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	35	35	35	35	35	35
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	40	40	40	40	40	40
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.	20	20	20	20	20	20
38-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 16, 8½ lbs.	18	18	18	18	18	18

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, July 17, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American ..per lb	17.12	15.71	13.70	8.34	27.29	21.16
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	23.75	15.65	19.75	15.50	67.00	27.09
Yarns—32's twist ..per lb	25	22½	20½	17½	54½	43
— 40's twist ..per lb	25.4	22½	19½	16½	50	42
— 50's twist (Egyptian) ..per lb	34	28½	30	31	98	58
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	35	31	32	32	87	61
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	40	34	31	31	81	59
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.	20	18	18	18	48	35
38-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 16, 8½ lbs.	18	16	17	16	42	31

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—July 11, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.
American	1400	1450	1550	1635	1760	1870	1504	1554	1604	1235	1320	1400
Brazilian	1400	1450	1550	1635	1760	1870	1504	1554	1604	1235	1320	1400
Parana, Maceio, &c.	1530	1680	1780	1880	1980	2080	1454	1504	1554	1175	1225	1275
Parana, Rio Grande, &c.	1530	1680	1780	1880	1980	2080	1454	1504	1554	1175	1225	1275
Ceara, &c.	1555	1605	1655	1705	1755	1805	1454	1489	1525	1225	1265	1305
São Paulo	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100	Fr. G. S. per 100
Upper	1985	2235	2285	2350	2410	2460	1505	1580	1620	1425	1500	1625
Sakellaridis	1985	2235	2285	2350	2410	2460	1505	1580	1620	1425	1500	1625
Brown	1985	2235	2285	2350	2410	2460	1505	1580	1620	1425	1500	1625
Peruvian	1985	2235	2285	2350	2410	2460	1505	1580	1620	1425	1500	1625
Rough	1850	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	1500	1550	1600	1275	1325	1375
Moderately Rough	1730	1780	1835	1885	1935	1985	1504	1579	1629	1300	1375	1425
Smooth	1730	1780	1835	1885	1935	1985	1504	1579	1629	1300	1375	1425
Tanganyika	2000	2100	2250	2350	2450	2550	1525	1625	1725	1200	1250	1300
West Indian, &c.	1675	1725	1775	1825	1875	1925	1575	1625	1675	1300	1350	1400
Do Sea Island	2400	2600	2800	2900	3000	3100	1900	2050	2200	2300	2400	2500
African, East, &c.	1410	1510	1660	1760	1825	1880	1175	1225	1275	1075	1125	1175
Do West	1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680	1479	1489	1499	1200	1215	1225
Machine Ginned Burpee	1180	1220	1260	1300	1340	1380	1150	1190	1230	1085	1125	1165
Machine Ginned Broach	1025	1075	1125	1175	1225	1275	955	1005	1055	975	1025	1075
Machine Ginned Bhowanagar	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Khandelah	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Comphah	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Bengali	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Machine Ginned Soind	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	965	1015	1065	985	1035	1085
Tinnivelly	1335	1375	1415	1455	1495	1535	1345	1385	1425	1255	1295	1335
American-Scinde/Punjab	1185	1260	1335	1385	1435	1485	1120	1160	1200	1030	1070	1110
M. G. Western	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
Western	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
M. G. Northern	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
Northern	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
M. G. Oconada, Red	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175
China, Smyrna, &c.	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1185	1225	1265	1095	1135	1175

THE TIMBER TRADE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

It has been a source of satisfaction to the wood trade that the arrivals of cargoes to the United Kingdom were on a smaller scale last month compared with June of previous years, as the country was so well supplied with building woods in the early part of the year as to relieve any anxiety on the part of consumers as to a sufficiency of supplies. On the spot market there has been little change during the past month, the demand has continued disappointing from both consumers and merchants, competition has continued keen, and the auction sales have failed to come up to the anticipations of the moderates, and a surprise to those who, a few months ago, predicted a shortage of supplies and a rise in values. In the f.o.b. market the very cautious policy of United Kingdom

importers in holding off buying late summer and autumn requirements have been fully justified by results, and though probably the shippers of first-class stocks in Sweden and Finland would claim that they still stand out for the full figures of £18 and £17 for unsorted 7-in. redwood bases respectively, the lesser known mills have already made concessions owing to Russian and mid-European competition, and the announcement of a shading off in prices of good stocks would not be surprising. Deals of the moderate qualities have fallen very much in value since the opening of the year, the tendency being for the narrower widths and for the more inferior qualities—cheap and nasty, but which are comparatively dearer than the good sorts. The most favoured dimension in the building trade is 2-in. by 4-in. wood.

In Canadian spruce the competition with mid-European white-wood has been a feature of the market for some considerable time. The Canadian producers are now making some efforts to regain the trade that had been lost to them, prices are lower, and if they can come down a little more, good business should result. Freight for Canadian cargoes are also slightly easier at about 65s to 67s 6d St John to West coast, Great Britain, which should help the Canadian market here.

The improved condition in the shipbuilding trade should call for more quantities of teak, the trade in which has been very disappointing of late months, both here and on the Continent. In the furniture wood market the mahogany logs still take first place with good prices and demand for well-squared and dimensioned logs. American woods have been overdone in import; buyers are carrying large stocks, and prices are unsteady. Cedar wood is not much in request, neither are the fancy woods in the hardwood branch of the market.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Market conditions generally are fully steady, and there is a good tone though the volume of trade possibly is not very heavy. Raw linseed oil has had an improved demand, and this and dearest seed have caused prices to harden again to about £30 per ton naked ex Hull mill for spot and delivery to December. Cotton oils, too, have become firmer, with a substantial advance in value. Other vegetable oils are steady, and late values maintained.

Plate linseed has recovered from the recent set-back, the official estimate of the yield of the new American crop not having justified the optimistic reports of the market, but showing no more than a possible increase of 50 per cent. over last year which had been generally anticipated. Up to £19 12s 6d has been paid for Plate linseed on passage to Hull, with sellers now holding out for £19 15s for afloat and shipment to August. London has been a buyer of Calcutta at £21 5s, July-August loading. Egyptian cottonseed has been in brisk demand, and new crop is much dearer on the week,

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH

DIRECT TO

NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 2 - - ss. "LAFAYETTE."
August 9 - - ss. "PARIS."
August 16 - - ss. "FRANCE."
August 30 - - ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent, or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

£12 15s being quoted for September shipment. Manchurian soya beans are in demand by the Continent, Hamburg having paid £12 10s for July, August. A good trade in ground nuts to the Continent is also reported.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Ox and heifer hides were unchanged at the public auctions held in Bermondsey this week, as was also the case with bulls. Light-weight cows made 4d per lb less money, while most classes of calfskins appreciated in value by from 4d to 4½d per lb. Pelts made from 4s 6d to 6s 4d, and lambs from 3s 9d to 10s per skin. An improvement has been noticed during the week in regard to the inquiry for foreign hides, and transactions have been fairly frequent at firm to slightly advancing prices. At origin parcels of frigorifics have changed hands on United States and Continental account, while Saladeros have been bought for this market. In regard to dry River Plates the Continent has been the best buyer, but business has been small on account of the firm attitude adopted in regard to price by shippers. Other descriptions of foreign hides have come in for attention at round about recent dates.

Sole leather has not experienced an active sale in Bermondsey during the week, and there seems to be a general impression that prices, if anything, are somewhat weaker. At any rate, offers have been made by tanners which show a reduction on the prices ruling a short time back, and this is attributed by the merchanting houses to the lack of demand. Shoe manufacturers have reduced their demand for light-weight bends, and so far trading in other weights have been of meagre dimensions. There is also less inquiry for bellies and shoulders, although so far prices for these goods show no alteration.

In upper leather the bulk of the business being done is in connection with box side leathers, presumably of German origin, which are being offered on this market at a low figure. Full chrome leathers are only in small request, as is also the case with glacé kid—the call for the latter in colours being practically nil. Patent is a fairly good seller, but the price must be low to attract business.

Boot manufacturers, on the whole, are well satisfied with the number of orders on the books, and in some of the provincial shoe centres the present demand is expected to keep them busy for some time to come.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, July 18.

SUGAR.—The market appears generally quiet though distributors record steady clearances with spot prices on balance showing no alteration. Moderate quantities of white Java are now reaching the London market. Of British refined and which continues to receive a good share of what demand arises at the moment, Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 42s 3d to 43s 3d; crushed, 40s 9d; granulated, 38s 10d; fine and coarse grain, 38s 10d; No. 1, 38s 7½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 38s 4½d; ditto, August, 38s 3d; yellow crystals, spot, 35s 10d; castor, 39s 6d to 41s 7½d as to quality. West India crystallised 34s to 38s 6d as to sample. White Java, spot, 35s 3d to 35s 6d; May-June, steamer, 21s 9d; June-July, 21s; July-August, 20s c.f. and i. London. American granulated, spot, 37s 6d; July-August, steamer, 24s 7½d c.f. and i. London. Czech granulated, spot, 37s; July shipment, 25s 3d; November-December, 20s f.o.b. Hamburg. Dutch granulated, spot, 36s 9d to 37s; November-December, 20s f.o.b. Rotterdam. Belgian granulated, November-December, nominally, 20s f.o.b. Antwerp. Cuban basis, 96 c.f., July, 18s c.f. and i. terms U.K. White Terminal market presented a rather quiet tone, and August delivery sold 22s 7½d to 22s 6d; October, 20s 7½d to 20s 6d; December, 19s 3d to 19s 1½d; October-December, 19s 9d; March, 19s 4½d cwt. Java shipments for June 247,650 tons against 240,300 last year.

COFFEES.—General firmness continues, and there is a sustained demand, particularly for the finer qualities, as supplies on offer are small. Bold sizes of Costa Rica, sold, 135s to 162s; Matagalpa, bold, 138s 6d to 145s 6d.

COCONUTS.—Only retail transactions were effected in spot parcels on about former terms. Accra, F/F grade, October-December, sold, 32s, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions amounted to 12,380 packages, and with active and well distributed competition, full rates were obtained in most cases. Some new season's Darjeelings fetched higher figures. Pekoe, sold, 1s 5½d to 2s 0½d; broken orange, 1s 6½d to 2s 4½d. Ceylon sales of 24,221 packages met a good reception regarding all the finer qualities at firm rates, but common proved occasionally a shade easier. Java and Sumatra auctions embraced some 9,800 packages. The more attractive qualities of broken, also fannings and dust, sold well, but demand otherwise proved rather quieter. Pekoe, sold, 1s 1d to 1s 4½d; broken ditto, 9½d to 1s 5½d; pekoe, souchong, 11d to 1s 3½d; orange, 1s 4½d to 1s 7½d; broken orange, 1s 2d to 1s 9d per lb in bond.

RICE.—Market remains firm for Eastern grain, owing to reserved offers on the part of shippers, but general demand is not fast. Two stars Rangoon, spot, London, quoted 16s 3d; August-September, 15s 7½d. 1,000 tons S.Q. shipment to Cuba, double bags, sold, 15s 9d, c.f. and i. terms. New crop, Italian, September-October, 15s 9d, with business rumoured in new crop, Spanish, September-October, at 21s, c.f. and i., London. Japanese peas steady, quiet. Spot, 20s. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 34s per cwt.

PEPPER.—Pepper steadily held, but demand only moderate. Black Singapore, L.S., July-September, quoted 4½d; Lampong, October-December, 4½d; Mentok, spot, 8d; ditto, August-October, 8½d; October-December, 8½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 1d to 1s 1½d;

October-December, sold, 10d. Tapioca steady, quiet on spot. Singapore, fair flake, spot, 3½d; fine Bendorejo, 4d per lb. Singapore, June, August, Havre, quoted 28s 6d. Penang seed ditto, to London, 22s. Sago flour, June-August, 14s 4½d. Desiccated coconut steady. Fine cut, spot, 39s; medium, 39s 6d per cwt. Ginger unaltered.

JUTE. received moderate attention, and market ruled generally steady. Firsts, new crop, August, quoted £28 17s 6d; August-September, £28 5s; September-October, £27 10s per ton. Hessians quiet, and forward positions easier. 10 oz, July-September, 32s 9d; October-December, sold, 31s 6d. 8 oz, July-September, sellers, 25s; October-December, 24s 9d per 100 yards. A twills, July-September, 98s 6d; B ditto, 82s; sugar, 97s; flour 98s 6d per 100 bags.

HEMP.—Manila again sparingly offered on the part of shippers, and a steady inquiry was experienced. J grade, July-September, quoted £41 10s; K ditto, £38 10s; L, £37 10s; M, August-October, sold, £35 per ton. New Zealand mostly nominal. African sisal quiet at the moment, but held for recent rates.

SHELLAC met with quiet support. Fair T.N., spot, 270s; August, 255s; October, 252s 6d per cwt.

COPRA.—With no extension in demand, prices were barely steady, though sellers were not pressing. F.M.S. Straits, April-June, Rotterdam, quoted £29 7s 6d; May-July, £29 3s 9d; June-August, £29; July-September, £28 17s 6d; August-October, £28 16s 3d. Dutch East Indies, April-June, £29 5s; June-August, £28 17s 6d; August-October, £28 13s 9d. Ceylon, July-August, £30 5s. Cebu, £28 12s 6d. F.M.S. South Sea, July-August, £28 5s. Palm kernels quiet. April-June, Liverpool, quoted £20 17s 6d; May-July, £20 18s 9d; June-August, £20 6s 3d, ex quay terms; July, to Hull, sold, £21 6s 3d; August, £20 6s 3d, ex quay terms; July, to Hull, sold, £21 6s 3d; and ditto to Hamburg, £21 8s 9d per ton, both ex ship terms.

RUBBER.—In fair demand, but market rather unsettled. Standard plantation crepe and sheet, spot, sold, 11½

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

Synopsis of ANNUAL REPORT for Calendar Year 1923.

The Annual Report for the calendar year 1923, which the President and Directors of The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company submit to-day to the Stockholders of the Company, marks the ninety-seventh year of the Railroad Company's existence.

The operated mileage of the Company is 5,207 miles and including 104 miles of its subsidiary companies, the total first main track mileage of the System is 5,811 miles. The total mileage of all tracks is 10,697 miles. In addition the Company exercises trackage rights for passenger traffic only from Philadelphia to New York, a distance of approximately 97 miles.

The Company's equipment, valued at \$189,764,832, consists of 2,546 steam locomotives, 11 electric locomotives, 100,036 freight train cars, 1,333 passenger train cars, 3,697 work equipment units and 172 marine equipment units.

The recorded investment at December 31, 1923, of the property devoted to and used in transportation service is \$753,130,840, an increase over the previous year of \$31,756,585.

The year 1923 was notable for the general revival in business and industrial activity in which the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company shared to a gratifying extent. In gross and net revenues and in the tons of revenue freight carried the year was the largest in the history of the Company, and clearly demonstrated the high physical standard of the property, and with an ease that indicated a capacity and ability to perform a much greater service with substantially the same facilities. At the same time the Company carried on an extensive programme of improvements to the line and in the rebuilding of its equipment. There was some congestion at times in the marine terminals at Baltimore caused by insufficient facilities, which situation will have been overcome upon completion of the large new grain elevator and new pier now in process of construction and in the readjustment of yard tracks incident thereto, all of which will be completed during 1924.

The financial results were equally satisfactory. The net railway operating income, that is, the amount earned in the actual operations of the railroad property was \$42,133,129 while the return from other investments was \$6,032,521

making a total income of \$48,165,650 from which was deducted for fixed charges, etc., \$25,743,614

leaving a balance of \$22,422,036 and after payment of dividend on the preferred stock of \$2,354,527

there remained \$20,067,509 showing an earning of 13.21 per cent. upon the outstanding common stock of the Company. These results, together with the underlying conditions, in the judgment of the Directors, justified the resumption of dividend payments upon the common stock which had been suspended in 1919 after nineteen years of continuous payments averaging about 5 1/2 per cent. per annum. Consequently declarations were made of two quarterly dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, effective for the second six months of the year.

The physical property, both road and equipment, was well maintained. The relations between the Company and the shipping public were increasingly satisfactory, and at no time has there been a better spirit of co-operation between the officers and the employees than exists at present. It is due in large part to the combination of circumstances just mentioned that the Company was able to make such a creditable showing during the year under consideration.

It is noted from the income account that the net railway operating income of the Company for the year 1923 was \$42,133,129, an increase over 1922 of \$18,398,124, or 77.51 per cent. For the purpose of the "Recapture" provisions of the Transportation Act of 1920, net railway operating income of the Company and its separately operated subsidiaries is combined and the rate of return computed on the investment in property used in transportation of the system as a whole. The combined net railway operating income for the Baltimore and Ohio System for 1923, including its separately operated subsidiaries, was \$43,026,131, equal to a rate of return of 5.37 per cent. on the recorded "Property Investment" aggregating \$800,648,023. The decrease in other corporate income and the increase in deductions from gross corporate income were relatively small.

The net income for the year 1923 transferred to surplus was \$22,422,036, an increase over 1922 of \$18,046,683, out of which there was appropriated \$5,250,000 to be devoted to capital expenditures, making \$17,500,000 which the Company had appropriated for similar purposes since July 1, 1919, and thus completing the Company's obligation with respect to the provisions of its \$35,000,000 loan agreement of July 1, 1919.

The Company declared the regular dividends on the preferred stock at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum as has been the custom since the year 1900. Dividend declarations on the Company's common stock were resumed in September, 1923, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and two quarterly dividends aggregating 2 1/2 per cent. were declared during the last six months of the year. In determining the question of resumption of dividends upon the common stock of the Company the Board concluded, in harmony with what has become the general practice, to adopt the plan of payment quarterly on both the preferred and common shares of the Company instead of semi-annually as heretofore.

The surplus income for the year, plus the appropriations for capital purposes, together with the net credit arising out of settlement with the United States Government for Federal Control and the Guaranty Period and certain other adjustments, brought the total corporate surplus from \$40,932,180 in 1922 to \$56,725,098 for the year 1923, a gain of \$17,792,918, or 43.47 per cent.

During the year there was carried out a more extensive programme for the betterment and enlargement of the property and for the purchase of additional equipment for the more efficient and economical handling of the business of the Company. The expenditures incident thereto are reflected

in the balance sheet, which shows there was an increase of \$31,756,585 in Investment in Property used in Transportation Service, as follows, viz:

Additions and betterments to road	\$ 6,704,907
Additions and betterments to equipment	25,094,423
Less—Net decrease in other accounts.....	\$31,799,330
Net increase	42,745
	\$31,756,585

During the year there was expended for additions and betterments to road the gross sum of \$10,749,968, and after deducting the cost of renewals and retirements there was a net increase in the investment amount of \$6,704,906.

Of the more important work undertaken during the year was the construction of a new grain elevator at Locust Point, Baltimore, Md., to replace elevators "B" and "C" destroyed by fire caused by lightning on July 2, 1922. The new elevator is of concrete construction throughout of the most modern type and reflects the latest development in elevator construction and practice. The elevator will have an initial capacity of 3,800,000 bushels and can be expanded indefinitely by the erection of additional storage units. The work house and storage bins are set back 500 feet from the water front, the grain being handled between the elevator and wharves by six continuous belts having a capacity of 150,000 bushels per hour. Storage tracks for 500 cars will be provided and the grain will be delivered to the elevators by means of will be a marine tower with a capacity of eight cars per hour. There unloading grain received by water. A drying and cleaning plant with structure will be equipped with dust-collecting devices, and no efforts have been spared to insure fire prevention and safety in operation. Most satisfactory progress has been made in this work and it is expected that the elevator will be ready for the reception of grain about August 1, 1924. To meet the increasing demands for wharfage at Locust Point, Pier 3 is under construction. This is a new pier and will be 1,000 feet long by 185 feet wide with a two-storey superstructure. Pier 10 is also being extended, and Pier 5 is being remodelled and a storage shed erected thereon.

To permit the more extended use of heavier power 187 bridges were reconstructed and reinforced during the year. To enable the Company to discontinue the use of lines of other carriers and to facilitate the movement of traffic a new double track line is being constructed between Millvale and Etna, Pa., 2.18 miles in length, and its completion is anticipated in the latter part of 1924.

The following equipment was acquired during the year: 115 locomotives, 91 passenger train cars, 11,659 freight train cars, 19 work equipment units and 6 floating and miscellaneous equipment units at a cost of \$31,259,059. After allowing for equipment retired and reduction account of age, the net increase in the value of equipment owned and in service at the end of the year was \$25,094,423.

There was an increase in tractive power of locomotives acquired over locomotives retired of 2,031,350 pounds and an increase in tonnage capacity of freight cars acquired over freight cars retired of 348,628 tons.

As of July 1, 1923, the Company disposed of all its interests in the Railroad Company, and also, as of November 1, 1923, disposed of its interest in the Long Fork Railway Company. These properties are all owned and operated by your Company, access thereto being dependent upon the lines of other carriers over which your Company did not have trackage rights. The original purposes for which the Company acquired these properties having been accomplished their further retention was deemed not necessary to the future interests of the Company, and they were disposed of to advantage. Each of the companies was separately operated in the interest of your Company up to the date of sale, and the results of such operations are included in the income account of the Company.

There were 63,974 employees in the service of the Company at December 31, 1923, of whom 54,037 were members of the Relief Department.

Pension payments to retired employees, while administered through the officers of the Relief Department, are contributed wholly by the Company and constitute a special roll. The number of pensioners on the roll at the end of 1923 was 1,274, a net increase of 41 for the year. Pension payments for 1923 amounted to \$435,502, an increase of \$27,775 over the previous year. Since the inauguration of the pension feature in October, 1884, the Company has expended \$5,473,605 on account of pensions to superannuated employees.

At the annual meeting of the Baltimore and Ohio Stockholders in November, 1921, the President, after presenting the Annual Report of the affairs of the Company for 1920, made the following statement:

"Notwithstanding all that I have said concerning the difficulties of the present situation, I am personally optimistic concerning the future, and I feel confident that if the Transportation Act of 1920 is left in its present shape until the railroads have had time and opportunity to give the law a fair trial, that we will be able, slowly and perhaps, but certainly able, to work out of our present difficulties, and I hope under the terms of the present Transportation Act to see public. While the Transportation Act of 1920 does not afford a perfect or final solution of the railroad problem, it is, in my opinion, a distinctly in advance of anything which we have heretofore had in that direction, and to my mind the Act, even in its present shape, is susceptible of being so applied as to measurably, if not fully, meet the requirements of the situation. In any event, I think it ought to be given a fair trial before any attempt is made to materially amend it."

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company—contd.

The real essence of the Transportation Act of 1920 is contained in that part of the Act known as Section 15a which provides, among other things, a rule for rate-making for the guidance of the Interstate Commerce Commission. While there have been demands from certain quarters for the repeal of this section of the Act, Congress wisely it is believed has so far refrained from making any changes in the Act as originally passed.

Realizing the necessities for the greatest improvement and expansion possible of the country's transportation facilities the Association of Railway Executives early in 1923 perfected arrangements for a more complete co-operation between the railroads themselves and with the shipping public, and an announcement was made at the same time that the railroads as a whole had authorized expenditures estimated at \$1,100,000,000 for new equipment and additional facilities. In that connection the following statement on behalf of the railroads was made:

"The railroads of the country are raising this enormous amount of additional capital largely through borrowed money, on the abiding faith in the fairness of the American people, and reliance on the continuance of the policy announced in the Transportation Act of 1920, as a measure of reasonable protection to investment in railroad property."

The programme then adopted resulted in the actual expenditure of \$1,059,149,000 during the year 1923 for new equipment and other improvements. It is extremely doubtful if such an enormous expenditure would have been undertaken at that time had it not been for the assurance, implied at least, in Section 15a of the Transportation Act.

During the year the railroads handled successfully and efficiently a volume of traffic greatly in excess of that ever previously handled during a similar period and did so with practically no car shortage and with no congestion. The more than 10 per cent. reduction in freight rates, effective in the last half of 1922, was, with further reductions subsequently made, fully effective throughout the year 1923. The return on property earned by the Class I railroads of the country as a whole was approximately 5.19 per cent.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY. INCOME ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET.

CORPORATE INCOME ACCOUNT.	Year 1923.	Year 1922.	Increase or Decrease.
AVERAGE MILES OPERATED.....	5,206.87	5,212.05	5.18
RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES:			
Freight	\$208,587,986.20	\$159,506,624.69	\$49,081,371.51
Passenger	\$0,752,790.80	\$8,801,741.73	\$3,581,049.07
Mail	\$2,526,213.34	\$2,593,804.83	\$67,591.49
Express	\$4,992,622.90	\$4,467,546.23	\$525,076.67
Other Transportation Revenue			
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,535,610.59	\$3,129,144.29	\$406,466.30
Total Railway Operating Revenues	\$5,199,201.43	\$4,344,307.90	\$854,893.53
RAILWAY OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Maintenance of Way and Structures	\$29,318,700.72	\$23,325,886.80	\$5,992,813.92
Maintenance of Equipment	\$3,881,472.30	\$4,439,422.37	\$15,452,049.93
Traffic	\$3,914,455.76	\$3,560,796.63	\$353,659.13
Transportation	\$4,878,651.18	\$2,408,878.33	\$12,267,772.82
Miscellaneous Operations	\$1,653,199.50	\$1,647,881.02	\$5,318.48
General	\$5,917,658.45	\$5,658,981.82	\$258,676.63
Transportation for Investment—Credit	\$0,166.55	\$0,478.57	\$19,693.98
Total Railway Operating Expenses	\$199,325,961.43	\$165,021,374.40	\$34,302,587.03
NET REVENUE FROM RAILWAY OPERATIONS	\$56,270,475.83	\$35,821,795.27	\$20,448,679.56
Ratio of Operating Expenses to Operating Revenues	77.98%	82.16%	4.18%
OTHER OPERATING CHARGES:			
Railway Tax Accruals	\$9,634,128.86	\$6,769,093.26	\$3,065,035.60
Uncollectable Railway Revenues	\$1,288.01	\$5,821.51	\$45,464.40
Equipment Rents—Net Debit	\$3,139,717.37	\$3,987,430.54	\$17,719.17
Joint Facility Rents—Net Debit	\$1,032,218.29	\$1,274,444.65	\$14,338.36
Total Other Operating Charges	\$14,137,344.53	\$12,086,790.06	\$2,050,554.47
NET RAILWAY OPERATING INCOME AS DEFINED IN THE TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1920	\$42,133,129.30	\$23,735,005.21	\$18,398,124.09
OTHER CORPORATE INCOME:			
Income from Lease of Road	\$17,144.80	\$17,895.46	\$750.66
Miscellaneous Rent Income	\$68,560.11	\$1,068,200.18	\$9,619.07
Miscellaneous Non-operating Physical Property	\$213,044.90	\$121,454.97	\$91,589.93
Separately Operated Properties—Profit	\$266,451.94	\$423,242.51	\$156,790.57
Dividend Income	\$1,914,723.50	\$1,866,567.50	\$28,556.00
Income from Funded Securities	\$1,628,601.42	\$1,768,486.86	\$139,885.44
Income from Unfunded Securities and Accounts	\$902,393.33	\$493,684.89	\$408,708.44
Income from Sinking and Other Reserve Funds	\$7,450.45	\$595,818.08	\$588,367.63
Miscellaneous Income	\$24,149.84	\$1,801.84	\$2,348.00
Total Other Corporate Income	\$6,032,520.34	\$6,167,132.39	\$134,612.05
GROSS CORPORATE INCOME	\$48,165,649.64	\$29,922,137.60	\$18,243,512.04
DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS CORPORATE INCOME:			
Rent for Leased Roads	\$394,266.36	\$223,213.71	\$111,052.67
Miscellaneous Rents	\$19,196.58	\$32,855.06	\$8,341.28
Miscellaneous Tax Accruals	\$75,576.96	\$271,855.21	\$7,741.75
Separately Operated Properties—Loss	\$794,268.78	\$1,186,411.02	\$392,142.24
Interest on Funded Debt	\$2,533,142.78	\$2,810,618.55	\$277,475.77
Interest on Unfunded Debt	\$904,519.52	\$436,448.19	\$468,071.33
Miscellaneous Income Charges			
Total Deductions from Gross Corporate Income	\$118,625.96	\$122,585.57	\$3,959.61
NET CORPORATE INCOME	\$47,540,023.68	\$29,799,552.03	\$17,740,471.65

Italics indicate decrease.
*Excludes the 96.71 miles of passenger trackage rights between Philadelphia and New York.

As its participation in the 1923 programme of betterments the Baltimore and Ohio Company expended for new equipment and additions to its property \$31,799,329, and operating under the terms and subject to all the restrictions of the present Act, the Company, as previously stated herein, moved in 1923 the largest volume of traffic in its entire history and realized therefrom the greatest gross and net earnings ever earned during a similar period of time. The surplus remaining after providing for upkeep, fixed charges and taxes, was over \$22,000,000, a larger sum than ever realized before from one year's operation, and after providing for the dividends declared upon the preferred and common stocks there remained a balance of approximately \$16,000,000 available for the payment of capital obligations and for improvements and additions to the property. It is believed that the results of the Company's operations in 1923 fully confirm the President's forecast to the stockholders in 1921 quoted from above.

Once more it is suggested that stockholders ought to use their influence to prevent, if possible, any change in the Transportation Act until it has had a further and more complete trial. It is not true, as sometimes claimed, that the Act guarantees to the railroads any fixed rate of return. At most, it simply assures to the roads an opportunity to earn a fair but limited return upon the lawfully ascertained value of the property used for transportation purposes, provided, however, that they are able to earn such return from the business to be moved and at the rates fixed in accordance with the rule prescribed by Congress itself. A further trial of the Act in its present form is urged not only in the interest of the stockholders, but in the larger interest of the public as well.

At December 31, 1923, there were 33,573 stockholders of the Company of record. The Board takes pleasure in according its appreciation of the fine spirit of loyal and efficient co-operation manifested by the officers and employees during the year. Its continuance should insure real and lasting benefits to the Company, to all those in its employ and to the public as well.

DANIEL WILLARD,
President.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY. INCOME ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET—CONCLUDED.

CORPORATE SURPLUS ACCOUNT.		
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:		
Credit Balance, December 31, 1922	\$20,015,265.03	
Net Corporate Income for Year 1923	\$22,422,035.90	
Miscellaneous Adjustments—Net Credit	1,309,248.63	
Total	\$43,746,549.56	
APPROPRIATIONS DURING YEAR 1923:		
Income applied to Sinking and other Reserve Funds	\$ 119,948.23	
Income transferred to "Additions to Property Through Income and Surplus"	5,250,000.00	
Dividends on Preferred Stock at 4 per cent. per annum	2,354,527.24	
Dividends on Common Stock at 5 per cent. per annum (six months)	3,798,569.74	11,523,045.21
Credit Balance December 31, 1923		\$32,223,524.35
ADDITIONS TO PROPERTY THROUGH INCOME AND SURPLUS:		
Credit Balance December 31, 1922	\$20,736,232.78	
Income and Surplus appropriated during the Year 1923	\$5,250,000.00	
Miscellaneous	321,497.92	5,571,497.92
Credit Balance December 31, 1923		26,307,730.70
SINKING FUND RESERVES:		
Credit Balance December 31, 1922	\$ 180,612.86	
Additions During Year	13,230.98	
Credit Balance December 31, 1923		193,843.84
Total Corporate Surplus, Credit Balance December 31, 1923		\$68,725,098.89
CONDENSED GENERAL BALANCE SHEET.		
ASSETS:	YEAR 1923.	INCREASE OR DECREASE.
Investment in Road and Equipment	\$442,860,719.28	
Investment in Constituent Companies	303,828,921.09	
Investment in Perpetual Leaseholds—(per contra)	6,441,200.00	
Total Property Investment	\$753,130,840.37	\$31,756,585.04 Inc.
Other Investments	75,250,984.21	6,532,847.38 Dec.
Total Investments	\$828,381,824.58	\$38,289,432.42 Inc.
Current Assets—Cash, Materials and Supplies, etc.	68,318,661.56	7,222,984.94 Inc.
Deferred Assets	977,004.18	84,033,608.08 Dec.
Unadjusted Debits	2,514,442.50	1,583,561.71 Dec.
	\$900,191,932.62	\$55,169,664.17 Dec.
LIABILITIES:		
Common Stock	\$151,945,428.54	
Preferred Stock	56,863,160.95	
Total Stock Outstanding	\$208,808,589.49	
Funded Debt	\$31,069,972.02	\$14,977,234.98 Inc.
Capitalized Leaseholds—(per contra)	6,436,200.00	
Total Capital and Leasehold	\$246,314,761.51	\$14,977,234.98 Inc.
Obligations	24,322,446.86	6,701,389.30 Dec.
Current Liabilities	2,696,964.89	\$5,464,500.35 Dec.
Deferred Liabilities	55,642,650.77	2,216,022.28 Inc.
Unadjusted Credits—Accrued Depreciation, Reserves, etc.	55,725,098.89	17,792,968.22 Inc.
Corporate Surplus	\$900,191,932.62	\$55,169,664.17 Dec.

(Continued from page 129.)

amber, £25 2s 6d. Ground-nuts firmer. Coromandel, machine-dried, July-August, £24 10s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., ditto, £22 17s 6d; Mombassa, ditto, £22 15s. Soya beans quiet. Manchurian, afloat, £12 10s; June-July, £12 10s. Castor seed dearer. Bombay, June-July, £27 17s 6d; Cawnpore, ditto, £27 12s 6d per ton.

OILS.—Lined firm, with a fair demand. Spot, net, naked, 40s 9d; July-August, 39s 3d; September-December, 39s 6d; January-April, 38s 6d. Rape firmer. Crude, spot, 45s 6d; refined, 48s 6d. Castor-oil firm. First pressure, spot, quoted 65s; second pressure, 63s; and pharmaceutical, 70s per cwt. Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton firm. Crude Egyptian, spot, 41s 6d; Bombay, 38s 6d; common edible, 47s; deodorised, 49s. Chinawood firmer. Hankow, spot (barrels), 75s; June-July, 62s. Coconut firm. Ceylon, spot, 48s; June-July, 44s 9d; Cochin, ditto, nominally 58s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, June-July, 42s; bulk, 37s 6d. Cod easier. English, spot, 33s 6d to 34s 6d. Groundnuts firmer. English, crushed, naked, spot, 47s 6d; deodorised, barrels, 53s 6d. Turpentine irregular. American, spot, 65s 9d; July-December, 66s 9d; January-April, 68s 6d. Rosin quiet, but pale grades steady. American, grade B, 13s 6d; G, 14s; W, 17s; WW, 21s 6d per cwt. French WW, 17s 6d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on July 16th as follows:—The tallow market was firm during the week, and prices were mostly 6d dearer to-day. Inferior qualities have not shown the same advance as the best kinds, and good medium sorts were scarcely represented in to-day's catalogues. At auction to-

day 785 casks tallow were offered, and 317 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 40s; good to fair, 44s 6d to 44s; dull to dark, 39s to 38s 3d; hard, 45s 6d. Australian beef: Fine, none; good to fair, 44s to 41s 6d; dull to dark, 38s 6d to 38s; sweet, none. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, nominal. Present shipment from South America, 43s 6d to 41s 6d. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 39s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 33d; melted stuff, 29s 6d per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 38s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 39s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 40s; fair to dull, 39s to 38s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 35s; melted stuff, 34s 6d, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—JULY 17.

Beasts not offered owing to foot and mouth disease restrictions.
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.
Beasts—Herefords nominal
Short-horns nominal
Devons nominal
Norfolks nominal
Scottish nominal
Irish nominal
Fat Cows nominal

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—JULY 17.

Per Cwt.
English—Epicures 8 0 0
Sharps Express 8 0 0
St Malo 5 0 0
Dutch 8 0 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.		INDIA RUBBER.—lb—s d		PROVISIONS—s d		SPICES.—lb—s d	
COCOA—Duty, British grown	9 4 4	Para, fine hard spot	0 11 0	Butter—per cwt.	185 0 0	Muntok, fair white	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	45 0 0	Plantation crepe	0 11 0	Irish creamery	160 0 0	Black Singapore	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	45 0 0			Do factory	160 0 0	White Siam	8 2 0
Grenada	38 0 0			Anstrall	170 0 0	Pinango	8 2 0
Ceylon, plantation	75 0 0			Argentine	170 0 0	Cinnamon—1st sort	1 1 0
do do	75 0 0			Do 2nd	170 0 0	Do 2nd	1 1 0
Brazil, forest	65 0 0			New Zealand	165 0 0	Cassia lignea	5 0 0
COFFEE—British grown	12 1 0			Do 3rd	165 0 0	Do 3rd	5 0 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Danish	200 0 0	Ginger—per cwt.	11 8 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Beacon, mgd.—Irish	105 0 0	Cochin, small rough	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Danish	101 0 0	Do wormy	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Canadian	81 0 0	Japan	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 2nd	81 0 0	Jamaica, ord. to good	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 3rd	81 0 0	Macae	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 4th	81 0 0	Wintessa, 65s	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 5th	81 0 0	110s and 80s	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 6th	81 0 0	Chillies—per cwt.	40 0 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 7th	81 0 0	TALLOW—per cwt.	41 0 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 8th	81 0 0	Good mutton	41 0 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 9th	81 0 0	Beef	41 0 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 10th	81 0 0	TAPIOCA—per lb—	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 11th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 12th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 13th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 14th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 15th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 16th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 17th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 18th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 19th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 20th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 21st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 22nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 23rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 24th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 25th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 26th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 27th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 28th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 29th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 30th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 31st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 32nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 33rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 34th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 35th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 36th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 37th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 38th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 39th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 40th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 41st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 42nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 43rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 44th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 45th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 46th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 47th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 48th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 49th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 50th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 51st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 52nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 53rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 54th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 55th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 56th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 57th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 58th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 59th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 60th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 61st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 62nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 63rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 64th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 65th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 66th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 67th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 68th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 69th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 70th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 71st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 72nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 73rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 74th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 75th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 76th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 77th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 78th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 79th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 80th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 81st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 82nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 83rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 84th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 85th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 86th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 87th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 88th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 89th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 90th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 91st	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 92nd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 93rd	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 94th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 95th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 96th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 97th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 98th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 99th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0
do do foreign 14s cwt.	12 1 0			Do 100th	81 0 0	do do foreign 14s cwt.	8 2 0

If the bonuses just declared continue uninterruptedly an assurance for £1,000 payable at the end of 25 years (or at death), which costs about £40 a year, will produce £1,500 at the end of the term.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

19, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

NO SHAREHOLDERS. NO COMMISSION.

Third Impression with additional Chapter and Statistics

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PRICES

with special reference to the History of the Nineteenth Century.

By WALTER T. LAYTON, M.A. 7/6 net.

The Economic Review:—"His excellent and clear little book ought to be in the hands of every student of social conditions."

The Practical Engineer:—"This book should be valuable to the student of monetary value and prices, especially of the nineteenth century."

MACMILLAN & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.2.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1924.

No. 4,222

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY.

"The Economist" will be published next week on the morning of Friday, August 1st.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

UNDER ITS
DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM
OF MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE
ISSUES

THE BEST POLICY
FOR A
BUSINESS MAN
FUNDS . . . £17,500,000

HEAD OFFICE . . . EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

suggest that but little effort has been made to minimise the effect of the July tax collections. Up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been freely paid for daily money at times, and there was a report that fixtures might be advanced. On Thursday $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid for week-end money, but its repayment will rather coincide with Bank repayments, and the market is not looking for any change in the direction of easier conditions next week. Discount rates have continued to harden under the influence of money, fine three months' bills being fully $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. towards the close of the week, and the hardening tendency was reflected in yesterday's allotment rate for Treasury bills, which went at 3 21-32.

	July 25, 1924.	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	8	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase of £70,100 in the note circulation, and the Reserve was £71,500 lower. Other securities were £3,329,200 higher, as the result of market borrowings, but this was counterbalanced by repayments on Government account, which were reflected in a decline of no less than £5,505,000 in Government securities, accompanied by a decline of £402,800 in Public deposits. Other deposits consequently were lower by £1,871,900. Thus market resources had been contracted in the week ending Wednesday, notwithstanding market borrowings on the two previous days. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £542,600 this week to £292,301,900, which includes £1,381,200 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £241,470,800, or £6,720,100 below the maximum.

The statement of the London Clearing Banks of their average weekly balances for June, which is printed in full on a later page, shows an increase in deposits and a further decline in acceptances as compared with May. The following table compares the aggregate figures of the nine English banks:—

	Dec., 1922.	June, 1923.	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.0	116.3	116.3	118.7	119.1	119.2
Acceptances	72.8	73.8	76.1	89.2	92.0	85.3
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,684.7	1,637.7	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,617.8	1,651.9
Total Liabilities	1,873.5	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,828.9	1,856.4
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	253.0	240.7	254.2	230.2	232.6	249.1
Money at call	106.0	113.3	111.3	93.5	101.1	108.1
Investments	384.5	355.5	363.8	361.7	352.4	349.3
Discounts	238.3	270.8	275.3	224.0	235.3	245.0
Loans and advances	732.7	746.9	756.5	785.5	788.2	791.7
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	99.0	100.6	123.4	126.2	119.3	113.2
Total Assets	1,873.5	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,828.9	1,856.4

Cash, money at call, and bills discounted show a substantial increase, and there was a slight increase in advances, but there was a further reduction in investments. As compared with June, 1923, deposits show an increase of about £14 millions, while advances are £45 millions higher, and discounts £26 millions lower.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Monetary considerations and the proceedings at the Inter-Allied Conference have been the principal factors influencing the Stock Exchange, which has this week entered upon a 21 day account. British Government stocks have dropped a little, but Home Railway prior charge stocks are better, though little business has passed. The output of new issues shows signs of slackening. Brazilian bonds have experienced another fall, and the possibility of a spread of the trouble to Argentina has depressed Argentine stocks. The dividend announcements of the Home Railway companies at the same rates as last year have stimulated a small amount of buying of Home Rails. Rubbers continue to harden, and oils have recovered slightly on bear covering. Among industrials, textiles have been prominent under the lead of Bradford Dyers. In the mining markets tin and copper descriptions have been the feature.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There has been no improvement this week in the position on the Cardiff coal market, the volume of export trade continuing a good deal below the average. From Middlesbrough our correspondent writes that the market is weak, with no sign of change. In manufactured iron and steel, some works are keeping fairly well employed, but others are working only partly or have entirely stopped. Our Sheffield correspondent writes that "the continued stagnation of the iron and steel market has resulted in the inevitable cutting of prices." Tin advanced sharply, while copper was firmer. There has been rather more life in the wool trade. In the cotton trade the event of importance has been the rise in raw material rates, as a result of the official report of the American crop being worse than expected. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market interest has again been centred largely in the dollar, business in most Continental currencies being quiet under the restraining influence of the Conference. From a closing price of \$4.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 18th, rates continued to rise steadily until \$4.41 $\frac{1}{2}$ was reached on the 22nd and \$4.42 in the earlier part of the 23rd. Later in the day came a sharp reaction down to \$4.39 $\frac{1}{2}$, followed by a recovery to \$4.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Thursday, and a somewhat hesitating quotation of \$4.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Friday morning. The main influences at work have already been referred to in these columns, Conference expectations, the exceptionally heavy tourist traffic, Continental selling of dollars, the hardening of money rates of this side, and the signs of a possible beginning of inflation in America. As the reaction on Thursday suggests, however, when the strong attitude of the bankers on the question of the German loan became known, sentiment is playing a large part in the movement, which makes it very difficult to see far ahead. A point of much interest is the extent to which our autumn requirements have already been covered, and whether or not the rate has still to bear the weight of the pressure normal at this season. Forward quotations are slightly wider at $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per month below spot. The Paris rate has been influenced almost entirely by Conference expectations. From 85.70 a week ago, there was a recovery in the early part of the week down to as low as 84.55, but after some fluctuations the hitch over the loan has brought a reaction to 85.95 yesterday morning. Brussels has continued to reduce the margin between itself and Paris, being quoted yesterday morning at 95.80, as compared with 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago. Forward quotations in Paris have narrowed to 6-10 centimes per month above spot, while Brussels stands at par-2 centimes per month above. The lira has moved up somewhat, but later recovered to 101 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 18th. Germany at 18 2-5 billions shows a slight depreciation from the 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ quoted a week ago. Amsterdam, contrary to its usual tendency of moving roughly with the dollar, has gone against us from 11.52 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11.51 $\frac{1}{2}$, after being lower. Switzerland also has appreciated from 24.03 to 23.92 $\frac{1}{2}$. Madrid at 32.94 $\frac{1}{2}$ shows little change. In Northern Europe, Stockholm has moved in our favour with the dollar from 16.43 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16.52 $\frac{1}{2}$. Copenhagen, where monetary conditions still give cause for uneasiness, shows some improvement at 27.20, but Christiania has depreciated further from 32.60 to 32.83 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Helsingfors at 175 $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{1}{2}$ mark higher. Warsaw and Riga maintain their nominal parity with the dollar. In Central Europe, Vienna has also followed the dollar from 309,500 to 312,000, while Budapest retains its recently stabilised quotation of 360,000. In the East the rupee remains very firm, and stands at 15 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 15 5 15-64d a week ago. The yen, however, is a little cheaper at 15 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The silver market has been quiet, with a slight price reaction on the fall in the value of the dollar. There is still no Eastern demand, but a fair amount of bear covering and Continental purchases. As compared with a week ago, Hong Kong and Shanghai are unchanged at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d respectively. In South America the Rio rate has fallen sharply from 5 15-32d to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d on unsatisfactory news of the revolt. Buenos Aires, however, has recovered some-

what from 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Montevideo at 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ d is rather cheaper than the 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ d quoted a week ago, while Valparaiso has also depreciated slightly.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended July 19th:—

EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Supply Services	9,625	From Revenue	18,350
Interest, &c., on Debt	598		
Sinking Fund	500		
Added to Exchequer Balances ..	277		
Reduction of Debt	6,516		
Sundries	824		
	18,350		18,350

Revenue came in very well during the week, and amounted to £18,350,000, against £17,569,500 in the corresponding week of 1923. The yield from Customs amounted to £1,217,000, against £2,317,000; but Excise receipts were higher at £7,407,000, against £5,923,000. Estate, &c., duties at £1,610,000 compare with £960,000. The yield from Property and Income-tax amounted to £5,756,000, against £4,841,000. Super-tax produced £550,000, against £520,000. Nothing came in from Special Receipts, as against £1,514,200 a year ago. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £6,515,700, and caused the following changes:—

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+ 2,807	National Savings Certificates ..	50
Treasury Bonds	+ 47	Bank of England Advances ..	1,250
Unemployment Insurance	+ 350	Public Dept. Advances	8,400
	+ 3,184		— 9,700

The floating debt was reduced by £6,880,000 to £787,118,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to July 19).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	248,606,374	Raised by Revenue ..	219,365,213
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,082,913
		Amount borrowed ..	26,158,248
Total	248,606,374	Total	248,606,374

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, JULY 21ST.—*Lords*: Debate on the position in India. *Commons*: Committee stage of Housing Bill concluded.

TUESDAY, JULY 22ND.—*Lords*: Committee stage of London Traffic Bill concluded. *Commons*: Debate on education.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23RD.—*Lords*: Debates on the British Garrison in Egypt, and the Drink Problem. *Commons*: Finance Bill passes third reading; Government statement on financial policy. Report stage of Old Age Pensions Bill concluded.

THURSDAY, JULY 24TH.—*Lords*: Debate on the growth of armaments. *Commons*: Report stage of the Housing Bill concluded. Old Age Pensions Bill read a third time.

FRIDAY, JULY 20TH.—*Commons*: Housing Bill—third reading.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Standard Bank of South Africa, Distillers, Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, and Malayalam Plantations. Mr W. D. Graham Menzies, at the meeting of the Distillers' Company, said that the directors hoped that they had at last found a substitute for molasses, the high cost and scarcity of which, as the chief source of raw material, had marred the success which had attended the introduction of "Discol" as a practical motor fuel. The Hon. C. H. Strutt, at the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java meeting, in giving an interesting review of the position and prospects of the rubber industry, said that the main cause of the fall in prices was the large output of the native producers. In referring to the question of

a selling combine, he said that he could not share the hopes and expectations of those who had turned to the possibility of a selling combine for salvation, but rather fixed his hopes on new uses for rubber, and heartily supported the propaganda scheme of the Rubber Growers' Association.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include an examination of the world's wool situation.

THE CONFERENCE AT A DEADLOCK.

THE proceedings of the Conference during the past week have justified our doubt whether the Allied politicians were in sight of an agreement on the difficult problem of France's claim to liberty of action if Germany defaults. To a great extent the discussion seems to have been carried on in an atmosphere of unreality, for it has shirked the fundamental issues. The French thesis is that France, as Germany's chief creditor, must retain the right to act again as she acted in 1923 if she considers that she has occasion to do so. A great part of the public opinion of Great Britain, the United States, and the neutral countries of Europe, holds that this action was not justified by the Treaty of Versailles, that the possibility of its recurrence is a formidable stumbling-block to the restoration of really peaceful relations in Europe, which would patently prejudice the solvency of Germany as a debtor. In the present negotiations Great Britain has carefully refrained from raising this question, but there can be no really harmonious agreement on any basis which by implication admits the French proposition or leaves a loophole for a repetition of the Ruhr adventure. The French journals of the Left seem to desire to leave the impression that France realises the ineffectiveness of the policy of the last eighteen months, that Great Britain can rest assured that she is not likely to repeat the experiment, but that France's present spokesman cannot formally throw over the Ruhr method without courting certain defeat when he returns to Paris. But whatever the motive, and however much he might wish to do otherwise, M. Herriot, like M. Poincaré, still maintains the claim to "liberty of action."

In these circumstances, the only sound line for this country to take would be to strengthen M. Herriot's hand at home by going as far as possible in the direction of satisfying France's natural desire for security, and of offering very liberal treatment of the war debt, while, at the same time, insisting that the claim to Reparations affords no ground for extending the military occupation of Germany; that the collection of German payments—which was only made possible at all by the joint victory of the Allies—must be a joint Allied task carried out by methods agreed upon by the Allies; and that the reconstruction of economic conditions in Germany and Central Europe is a world interest of paramount importance. The events of the last three weeks make us doubt whether Mr MacDonald sees these essentials as clearly as some of his colleagues or the bankers through whom must be floated the loan which is to start the Dawes scheme. This doubt first arose through what appeared to be the hasty proposals and patched-up agreements of the recent Paris conversations. It has, unfortunately, been greatly strengthened by the publication last week of the British reply to the League of Nations on the subject of the Treaty of Mutual Assistance—a reply which, in our opinion, has enormously diminished the prospects of a settlement. It was not expected that the British Government would give a categorical approval to this draft treaty as it stood. But it was to be expected that

the Government, whose representatives on the League were responsible for its initiation, would accept it as a basis of discussion, or, at all events, would suggest some definite alternative means of endeavouring to set at rest the fear which has underlain French national psychology since the tripartite agreement of 1919 fell to the ground. Instead, however, of sending a helpful answer, the Government bluntly rejects the Treaty. It declares—without any justification that we can see—that it would involve an increase in Britain's naval armaments; that it would throw too onerous a duty on the Council of the League, which it says should only be a consultative body; and it adds as a rider that it considers that when the time comes there should be a conference to discuss and, if possible, arrive at a scheme of disarmament which should not be under the League, but should include outside nations. This extremely ill-timed document overlooks several vital considerations. In the first place, the Council of the League is not merely a consultative body, but, according to the Covenant, has many highly important functions to perform in regard to the administration of territories under the Treaty of Versailles, the trusteeship of national minorities and many other similar tasks; and in its supreme duty of preserving the peace of the world it has many semi-judicial functions, including that of calling upon its members in certain circumstances to apply an economic blockade and to take other steps against a nation which commits an act of aggression. Moreover, the suggestion that a disarmament conference, merely called to discuss land armament, could make any headway if it were a merely temporary undertaking is an illusion. Disarmament can only be attained in so far as the sense of security is fostered, and this can only take place under a permanent organisation such as the League of Nations. We regard the Government's reply, therefore, as a distinctly retrogressive move. But it was also tactically foolish. Progressive opinion in France has for some time been endeavouring to find an alternative to M. Poincaré's sterile policy of relying upon military power, and has increasingly been turning its attention to the possibilities of the security which might be offered by the Covenant of the League—a guarantee which Belgium has definitely accepted as the alternative to the protection afforded to her before the war by the limited guarantee of England and other Powers. By the substance and the form of this reply—which bears the stamp of the ultra-pacifist tradition represented in the Cabinet by Lord Parmoor, fortified, curiously enough, by arguments supplied by the fighting services—Mr MacDonald has cut the ground from under the feet of the parties of the Left in France, with whom he is trying to reach an understanding. He has failed to move towards France on the only ground on which he could possibly make a real approach, but is endeavouring to meet her on matters which may seem to be matters of machinery, but are really questions of principle.

In the last few days, however, it has become increasingly evident that if France does not modify her claim to the right of independent action, the Dawes report cannot genuinely be put into operation, unless, indeed, the Allied Governments are prepared to ensure the success of the loan by putting their own guarantee behind it—a solution which is in the highest degree improbable. The attitude taken up by English and American bankers is no new thing. In the schemes that have been carried through in Austria and Hungary, the first conditions of the agreements have been ones under which the neighbours of the country in question have guaranteed the territorial integrity of the debtor. No one in London would have subscribed a penny to the Austrian loan without this undertaking, the assurance that Austria would carry out her part of the bargain being afforded solely by the fact that means of economic pressure were retained in the hands of the Council of the League acting on the one hand in the interests of Austria's own financial restoration, and on the other in those of Austria's creditors as a whole. There are two ways in which a similar result may be achieved in the case of Germany. One is that a satisfactory interpretation should be definitely laid down of the position of individual creditors under the Reparations section of the Treaty of Versailles—a conclusion which might be reached by submitting the disputed clauses to the Hague Court. The other is to treat the situation created

by the Dawes' Report as setting up entirely new conditions, which afford an opportunity of laying down fresh provisions in regard to default. The latter method avoids re-opening the question of France's action in 1923, but it will be abortive if the new rules leave any loopholes or ambiguities. The bankers, who have made their opinion known this week, will have done a great service if they have prevented the Conference from putting on record a superficial agreement which really conceals two conflicting principles. But it is not yet time to abandon hope. It would be too tragic a commentary on human folly if the tenth anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War is to be celebrated by the breakdown of the most promising attempt yet made to restore peace to Europe.

LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION IN THE U.S.A.

FROM the American employer's point of view the new immigration restrictions, which came into force on June 30th, are by no means regarded as an unmixed blessing. Wage rates are already at the straining point, and have reached unprecedented heights. The possibilities of labour shortage and further wage inflation, largely due to the falling off in immigration since 1914, and accentuated by recent legislation, are engaging the serious attention of industrial executives in the U.S.A. A few figures will quickly show the extent to which immigration has declined. For many years before 1914 the number of emigrants to American shores was often well over a million persons per annum, but in 1914 there was naturally a considerable decline, and the total dwindled to 326,000 in 1915. This decline continued during the war, and was further emphasised by the Restricted Immigration Act of 1917, and that of 1921, when "quotas" were first instituted. The net alien immigration in 1922, according to figures given by the National Bureau of Economic Research, was 265,194, and in 1923 680,440. The low figure for 1922 is accounted for in part by the effects of the quota law, and in part by the influence of the industrial depression of 1921. The large rise in 1923 is due to a marked increase in immigration from Canada and Mexico, which countries are not within the scope of the quota limit law. The following table, compiled by the same authority, gives for the years 1920 to 1923 inclusive the net alien immigration into the United States from the principal countries of origin:—

Country of Last Permanent Residence	Net Alien Immigration.
British North America	366,611
Italy	258,326
United Kingdom	244,780
Mexico	167,497
Germany	126,974
Poland	83,520

The total for the four years was 1,710,402. In 1923 alone the net immigration from Canada was 179,782.

The new restriction Act of 1924, among other things, (a) preserves the basic immigration law of 1917; (b) retains the principle of numerical limitation as inaugurated in the Act of May 19, 1921; (c) changes the quota base from the Census of 1910 to the Census of 1890; (d) reduces the percentage from 3 per cent. to 2 per cent., plus a small base quota for each country. Probably the most significant clause is that which changes the quota basis from the Census of 1910 to that of 1890. The aim here is not only to reduce the number of immigrants, but also radically to change the type of immigrant. The real significance of this clause will become apparent from a consideration of the fact that in the decade ending with 1890 the bulk of the immigrants were coming from north-western Europe, whilst in the later decade ending with 1910 the majority of the new arrivals came from south-eastern Europe. These latter were held to be much less desirable than those from the north-west; they introduced a lower standard of living were a less efficient type of worker, and were more prone to unrest and revolution. By changing the quota basis therefore, from the Census of 1910 to that of 1890, it is hoped to restore the racial balance in favour of the north-western type of immigrant. The report of the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalisation presented at the first session of the 67th Congress, say that during the decade from 1900 to 1910 immigration from Germany fell off more than 11 per cent., and from Ireland more than 16 per cent. All the countries of

southern and eastern Europe registered large increases. The increase from Greece was 1,089 per cent., from Italy 177 per cent., from Russia and Finland 170 per cent., and from Austria-Hungary 162 per cent. In fact, 72 per cent. of the immigration for that decade was from south-east Europe, and the same is doubtless true of the decade ending with 1920. One of the results of this unrestricted influx from South and Eastern Europe is shown in the remarkable fact that the care of the foreign-born in the prisons and eleemosynary institutions of the various States in the Union cost 7 per cent. of the gross income of the various State Governments. States with large alien populations, like New York, Pennsylvania, Mass., and Illinois, pay much more, but the average is 7 per cent. But this is not all. A more sinister aspect of the question is revealed in a recent official statement, to the effect that the present high cost of clothing in the States is not due to a shortage of workers, but to the tactics of the labour union known as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which recently received from the Soviet Government of Russia a concession to manufacture clothing in Moscow, an enterprise for which this labour union sold 5,000,000 dollars' worth of stock among its members in the U.S.A. This union's weekly organ, *Advance*, is one of the "reddest" permitted to circulate in America. Thousands of Russians without any experience of tailoring have been encouraged by the union to go to the States, where they have been able to earn—or rather to obtain—from 40 to 60 dollars per 44-hour week.

These things clearly indicate how imperative it was not only to limit the extent of immigration, but also to change fundamentally its character. Whether the change of quota basis from the census of 1910 to that of 1890 was the best method for accomplishing this, and whether it was indeed worth while, since labour in north-west Europe may be quite as intractable as that from the south-east, may well be open to question; but since it is supplemented by other important provisions in the Act of 1924, including preliminary examination overseas, the main object will probably be achieved.

From the standpoint of labour supply the reduction in quota from 3 per cent. to 2 per cent., and the change in basis will cause a net annual decrease of approximately 150,000 wage-earning immigrants. At an average daily wage of \$3.50—a low estimate—this represents a yearly wage bill of \$150,000,000. If American industry is to maintain its present level of productiveness this anticipated labour shortage must be made good. The view is generally held that this can only be done by means of better management and greater use of machinery. Increased effort by the workers themselves is presumably implied in this, since better management is meaningless otherwise. Some figures recently supplied by Mr Cadbury to the *Economist* are of interest here. In discussing how the effects of reduced hours—another form of labour shortage—could be counterbalanced, Mr Cadbury analysed the best means to this end, under the three heads of (a) increased effort, (b) better organisation and management, and (c) mechanical development. Doubtless these three factors are intimately related and interwoven, and difficult to estimate separately, but yet cost accounting at Bourneville seems to have been so perfected that Mr Cadbury was able to show how a percentage increase in total output per employee was to be exactly divided up among, or attributed to, these three factors (*Econ.*, May 17, 1924, pages 1014-5).

For some years, during and since the war, there has been a serious labour shortage in the U.S.A., and consequently a very considerable development in the use of machinery, and in what is called "scientific management," in order to maintain output at a high level. It has been generally supposed that this increased use of machinery had almost reached its limits in the U.S.A., but many of the leaders of industry in that country, anticipating a still more acute shortage of labour, intensified by immigration restriction, see no other way but by a great extension of the use of machinery, and a still more scientific management, to a degree indeed never before contemplated, even in America. It is urged by some that whilst American manufacturers have gone far in this direction they have merely scratched the surface; and the new immigration

restrictions, regarded as calamitous by many industrialists, may yet prove a blessing in disguise if they stimulate a wider appreciation and application of more efficient management and better mechanical methods.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS IN AUSTRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE financial crisis which has just swept over Vienna is declared by many to be the most severe since 1873. Of the eight big banks which dominated the market, only two can be said to have come out not only unshaken, but with resources undrained and unfettered. One, an institution closely connected with England, has kept its resources liquid, but the control imposed upon it by its English board has driven it into a position of splendid isolation, where little business can be done. The others have suffered if not in their credit, at least by the complete loss or tying up of their assets. The last of them, the Depositenbank, has succumbed to the strain, and is at present being compulsorily wound up. Of the so-called Mittelbanken (banks of medium size), the Lombard and Escomptebank share the fate of the Depositenbank, while the others, with one exception, find themselves confronted with the same difficulties as their once so powerful brethren. The smaller banks and private banking firms have mostly disappeared altogether. Some of them are being wound up under an official supervisor, but in many cases the public prosecutor had to intervene, and the directors and managers of some of these institutions are already in prison, or awaiting trial. On the Stock Exchange a similar state of affairs exists. The index of securities, which in September, 1923, stood at about 2,200, has been calculated for June last at 1,168. That it has not fallen lower is only due to the Intervention Syndicate, formed by the big banks at the outbreak of the crisis, which chiefly occupied itself in taking up their own and associated shares, and now finds itself saddled, as a result of its activities, with securities at a cost price of something like 2½ million pounds sterling. The position can best be gauged from the reports of the Austrian Nationalbank, where bills discounted rose from 1.6 milliard kronen at the end of March to 2.1 in the middle of May, reaching the figure of 3.1 at the end of last month.

At the outbreak of the crisis the reason given was chiefly the taxation policy both of the State and the municipality of Vienna, which it was said acted as an incentive to credit extension and stock exchange speculation. The rise in the value of the French franc was also blamed. Subsequent events have, however, done much to revise this judgment. Whatever the guilt of the authorities the chief blame to-day must be attached to the bankers and financiers themselves. The Austrian Republic celebrated its foundation, among other things, by the complete abolition of titles and decorations. Thus the upstart who in former times, eager to jump the social ladder, would have paid hundreds of thousands of gold crowns into the Exchequer for a prefix to his name or a star for his breast, robbed of this chance of social advancement, now turned his ambition and activity into the only channel left to him: to become a member or even the chief of the board of directors of an old-established institution and to rub shoulders with the pick of the industrial families of Austria. The history of the rise and financial deeds of these people is of an almost schematic likeness. An obscure youth, a somewhat chequered voyage into business, then the war, successful speculation in foreign exchanges, boots, shoes, foods, or anything else capable of being hoarded, and the start is made. Higher ambitions make themselves felt, and the slow acquisition of shares in respectable banking houses is indulged in. Thus the Depositenbank, the Lombard and Escomptebank, and other banks changed their masters. Sometimes this process failed, or the intruders' attacks were successfully withstood by the old owners. In this case a smaller firm is acquired, or a new one set up, and the board of directors staffed by the scions of old families and high civil servants themselves who have fallen upon evil times. The omnipotent master of the whole concern usually then proceeded to conclude an agreement with the bank, by which its resources are chiefly placed at his or his industrial concern's disposal, and a division of profits fixed,

by which he gained almost everything and risked nothing.

Even the "old institutions" were not altogether immune from the prevailing spirit of the time. Their managerial staff had been changed during the war, and most of the old figures in Austrian banking and finance had died. Their successors everywhere succumbed to the inflation spirit. Their speculation on the Stock Exchange, and on the foreign exchange market for their own and the bank's account, reached unprecedented proportions to the other business. This was all right as long as money came in easily, and the margin between debit and credit rates could be kept at 15 per cent. at least. The public clamoured and complained, but the banks remained adamant. This attitude towards the public is by no means confined to Vienna, but is unfortunately general east of the meridian of Zurich.

But there is one difference which has probably played a considerable part in shaking confidence in Vienna. In Czechoslovakia the bankers, after the sudden deflation of the krone, found their resources locked up almost within a single day, and in most cases their assets, measured by English standards, can by no means be called liquid, even to-day. Their plight was great and the danger of a collapse imminent. But in Prague the "higher authorities," as the banking office and the Ministry of Finance are somewhat euphemistically called, exercise an iron control over banking, industry, and newspapers; not a single word was breathed, and the banks stuck together in a solid phalanx—outwardly, at least. With one exception none failed, and bear attacks, both on exchange and shares, were successfully encountered or severely punished. In Austria, on the other hand, rumours set in almost before the crisis began. There can hardly be a firm in the City of London having any connection with Austria at all which has not received letters from correspondents, known and unknown, extolling their own position and slaughtering recklessly the credit of the others. The result was that foreign creditors who in March, in many cases, had withdrawn their deposits to probe the liquidity of their debtors, and had afterwards returned the money, now begun to call in their credits from Vienna in earnest, especially the English and American, many of whom paid the agreed penalty in cases where the money was not yet due. Austrian depositors soon followed, and for the first time since 1873 even the biggest banks had to experience a run, with the exception of three out of the five banks with English interests, and of the institutions under French influence.

If the Stock Exchange barometer can be trusted, the crisis in Vienna seems to have spent its force, but there is no use denying that, at least as far as London is concerned, it will take a long time for Vienna to regain its position. It is not for England to interfere with the internal affairs of the organisations of finance and banking in Austria. But as it is obvious that the present crisis has been created by reckless over-speculation on all sides, resulting in the complete locking up of all assets, it is the business of all friends of Austria to ask the question how similar events can best be avoided in future.

In the Austrian Parliament there is at present a Bill under consideration which by introducing a sort of unlimited liability for bankers will probably do more harm than good. Against these attempts to make banking safe by penalties a few proposals gained by reference to English and Canadian banking history and experience may be submitted which, if accepted by Austrian bankers, will certainly go further to restore their credit quickly than all assurances of their undoubted standing and complaints of foreign conspiracies against the supremacy of Vienna. The Association of Bankers in Vienna is a most powerful body, as far as the fixing of terms to be charged by the banks to the public is concerned. It would be certainly a good thing if the institutions united in this body would in future, whenever an emergency arises, declare somewhat earlier than this time that they will be liable for each other's obligations, as the Canadian, Dutch, and German banks have done, by word or deed, on many recent occasions. Further, that the associated banks do agree to publish as soon as possible balance-sheets, under the authority of the association, of their status on June 30, 1924, and continue to do so every month, like the London clearing banks and the Federal

Reserve Board. Thirdly, the rates on debit and credit accounts ought to be brought in accordance with each other, and a definite margin to the Bank rate fixed and readjusted from time to time. Fourthly, Austrian bankers should stop once for all attempting to undermine each other's credit abroad. It will always be easy to deal with anonymous correspondents, but what is the English or American investor to do if the recognised institutions assure him that others are on the verge of bankruptcy? There are many other points, amongst them chiefly the Revaluation Law, of which nothing has been heard of late, which cannot be touched upon here. The National Bank no doubt has by the course of events gained a new position among the bankers, and it is to be hoped that it will exercise in future as watchful and efficient control as the Bank of England in the City of London.

THE NEW BALTIC STATES.—III. LITHUANIA.

THE Lithuanian Republic has a population of a little over two millions within its present frontiers, and is even more completely agricultural than the other new Baltic States. The land is also in the main richer, though methods of cultivation are, for the most part, more primitive than in the former Baltic Provinces. The introduction of a fairly far-reaching agrarian reform has taken place here also, but its provisions, which were somewhat less radical, have been carried through more slowly than has been the case in Estonia and Latvia. Since 1922 agricultural production has actually been greater than in pre-war days, and the rapidity with which the Lithuanian peasant has carried through this work of reconstruction after the damages caused by the war augurs well for the economic future of the new State.

	Area in 1,000 Hectares.			Yield in 1,000 Metric Tons.		
	Average 1909-13.	1922.	1923.	Average 1909-13.	1922.	1923.
Rye	552.4	554.0	583.5	993.3	1,231.9	1,210.7
Oats	317.2	311.2	330.6	551.8	840.2	661.2
Barley	183.2	168.6	175.0	317.6	467.0	346.5
Potatoes	119.1	132.0	143.0	1,591.7	3,696.0	3,260.4
Flax*	55.2	51.2	52.1	48.3	41.0	60.4

* Yield of flax in hails.

In judging the figures of yield it must, of course, be remembered that during the last two years the harvest has been exceedingly good, though prospects for this year's crop are also very bright.

The chief difficulty facing the young Republic is that of transport. At present the railway system is not only totally inadequate, but such railways as do exist are not distributed as to encourage the maximum development of the country's resources. The roads, too, are for the most part primitive, and, apart from the river Niemen and one or two of its small tributaries, which are of importance for timber floating, there are no internal waterways worth mentioning. In view of the inadequacy of the national equipment in these respects, the trade returns of the last few years are in many ways surprisingly good:—

FOREIGN TRADE. (In Millions of Lits.)

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Exports as % of Imports.
1920	72.3	55.2	76.3
1921	95.3	57.6	60.4
1922	74.9	76.9	102.7
1923	156.6	146.8	93.7
1924 (4 months) ..	73.0	80.3	110.0

The most noticeable feature is the marked improvement in exports, the temporary setback last year, which was due to the disorganisation of rural transport by the bad autumn season, being made good this spring. While imports and exports have thus been about equal during the last two years or so, the actual balance of payments has throughout been favourable to Lithuania. This is due to the remittances from the Lithuanian emigrants in America, who number three-quarters of a million. This item was as high as some six to seven million dollars yearly from 1919 to 1921, while since that date it has stood at at least three millions dollars. In consequence of stable budgetary conditions and a favourable balance

of payments, the introduction of a sound currency was a relatively simple affair. The situation since the Armistice has, however, been so exceptional that a brief review of the currency policy of the new State may not be without interest.

The modern territory of Lithuania was occupied by the German armies during the latter part of the war, and its currency needs were supplied by the printing activities of the so-called Darlehenskasse Ost at Königsberg. These Ost marks gradually replaced the Russian roubles, which depreciated very rapidly after the revolution; and when the German troops were withdrawn from the country, the new Lithuanian Government maintained the Ost mark, which was interchangeable with the German mark as legal tender. In so far as this implied a renunciation of recourse to the printing press as a means of covering budgetary deficits, it was certainly a good thing, and in fact, from the very start, Lithuania was obliged to have a balanced Budget. On the other hand, however, several million dollars sent by Lithuanian emigrants were exchanged for marks, and found their way into Germany—a present that the little Republic could ill afford to make. Again, when the German mark itself depreciated rapidly, the country suffered all the disadvantages of this worst form of taxation without the Government profiting in the least thereby. It was not, indeed, until October, 1922, that the new currency, the lit, equal to one-tenth of an American dollar, was actually introduced, and the value of the marks presented for conversion in the whole country was then only 30 million lits. The delay in introducing the new currency was due in part to the general political insecurity of the earlier post-war years, but even more to fact that confidence in the mark was long maintained in the country. The Darlehenskasse Ost had won over the small business community by its open-handed credit policy, and several Lithuanian banks were closely interested in speculation in the mark.

The new notes were covered in part by the three million gold roubles, which were paid to Lithuania by the Bolsheviks in 1920 in settlement of outstanding claims, but since 1922 the reserves have increased to such an extent that the holding of gold and foreign currencies by the Lithuanian Bank, and its correspondents are together greater than the notes in circulation. The Bank itself buys dollars at par, and is a seller of dollars at a discount which varies from $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for Government purposes, to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to any exchange dealer. In this manner fluctuations are kept within very narrow limits, although exchange dealings are completely free.

The general policy of the bank is frequently criticised, as it has led to a very acute shortage of credit in the country. It is argued, however, that before normal methods can be resumed, complete confidence must be established in the currency, and, with the experience of depreciation in both roubles and marks fresh in their memory, it may be that the policy of veritably Spartan virtue must be pursued a little longer. It would seem probable, however, that the time is now at hand for a fresh consideration of the whole question, though when judging the total currency at present in circulation, it should not be forgotten that large numbers of American dollars are in active use in the country.

The chief need for the present is an extension of the railways in order to establish more direct communication with the port of Memel, which was acquired by force last year, and which has recently been recognised *de jure* as forming part of Lithuania. A credit for one million sterling was sanctioned under the Trade Facilities Act some months back for the purchase of the material necessary for carrying through a definite and well-thought-out scheme of railway construction, provided that the Lithuanian Government, for its part, provided the necessary funds for expenditure on the scheme within the country itself. The conditions were duly accepted, but a few weeks ago the whole question was once again thrown into the melting pot by the refusal of the Lithuanian Parliament to accord budgetary sanction for the expenditure of the sums involved, and the proposal at the last minute of an alternative construction policy. It is to be hoped, however, that this manoeuvre, which appears to have been undertaken for reasons of internal party politics, and which has had the desired effect of overthrowing the

Cabinet, will not be allowed to wreck the whole scheme upon the execution of which the future of Lithuanian trade so largely depends.

In Memel the country has acquired its natural outlet to the sea, and it is hoped that the Treaty according local autonomy to the region itself will soon be ratified by the Lithuanian Parliament. With the status of its only port, and the outstanding difficulties with regard to the railway loan once definitely settled, a new chapter should open in the history of what is perhaps economically the most promising of the new Baltic States. Conditions are still very primitive, and progress must needs be slow, but not any the less sure on that account, unless, indeed, political considerations once again make havoc of this sorely tried corner of Europe. Relations between Lithuania and Poland are at present anything but neighbourly. The frontier is closed, and through railway communications have long since ceased. The Lithuanians, for their part, are very sore that the terms of the Treaty of Suwalki, which gave them Vilna, should not have been carried out by its Polish signatories. The Poles, on the other hand, assert that the Lithuanians have no shadow of a claim to the territory in question, and affect to regard the whole matter as engineered by an interested third party. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the case, however, it is certain that until a solution of the Vilna question can be arrived at in a manner acceptable to both parties, the cause of peace in this part of Eastern Europe cannot be regarded as assured.

THE TINPLATE INDUSTRY.

THE manufacture of tinplates is one of the few branches of the iron and steel industry which have withstood successfully the depressing influences of recent months. The chief centre of the industry in this country is South Wales, and at the present moment the volume of the trade in that district is greater than it was in pre-war years. During the past twelve months its organisation has undergone one or two important changes. Towards the end of 1922 there was inaugurated a scheme for the regulation of prices, but another development has been the extension of the principle of amalgamation, and the Richard Thomas-Grovesend combination is now by far the greatest undertaking of its sort in this country. Last year the proposal was made for the centralisation of all the sales of tinplates. That proposal was supported by Richard Thomas and Co., but opposed by the majority of the manufacturers and merchants; but while for the time being it has been found impracticable to create a centralised sales agency for the whole of the industry, the Richard Thomas-Grovesend combination has formed a new company for the sale of the whole of its output, and that output amounts to about 60 per cent. of the total production in South Wales. These factors have served to add to the stability of the industry, and it is doubtful whether there are many employments in the country where the relations between employers and workmen are so amicable, and which can claim so notable an immunity from strikes. The relations between manufacturer and workmen are regulated by a Conciliation Board, whose constitution and operations exercise a very considerable influence on the scheme for the co-operation of Capital and Labour proposed by the Whitley Committee. During the past few years there have been many occasions when differences of an acute character have arisen concerning wages, but except for one or two local irregular stoppages, these differences have been adjusted without any break in the continuity of work.

The output of tinplates in 1923 was greater than in any previous year in the history of the industry. It amounted to over 720,000 tons, and of that over 605,000 tons were exported. The output during the first half of the current year, as well as the exports, are on a scale even greater than that of 1923. The average monthly output of tin, terne, and blackplates last year was 60,600 tons; in the first quarter of the current year the production averaged 66,100 tons; and it is quite probable that the figures for the second quarter of the year will show that that increased rate of production has been maintained. The

number of works open and the mills in operation are greater than they were in the first half of 1923, and the statistics also show increases in the number of sheet mills in operation. Moreover, both the export and the inland demand has been more active. The uses of tinplate for canning purposes are increasing, and in the six months ending last June the total quantity exported to foreign countries (including black plates) amounted to 321,600 tons, compared with 310,400 tons in the corresponding period of last year. In coated plates there has been an increase this year of about 22,000 tons, but blackplates have fallen off to the extent of about 10,000 tons.

Most of the iron and steel countries of the world have their own tinplate industries, and all foreign countries, as well as oversea possessions impose heavy tariffs for the protection of the native industry. The latest market to strengthen its tariff walls is that of India, where the Tata Steam Company, which is operating in conjunction with the Burmah Oil Company, and has built near Calcutta a magnificent tinplate works in which the best American and Welsh processes of manufacture have been combined, has been able to secure the support of the Government under the new tariff laws. Notwithstanding, however, the obstacles which these tariffs offer to the tinplate trade, the foreign demand for South Wales tinplates is increasing, and increasing at a greater rate than the inland demand. Moreover, the foreign demand possesses a remarkably world-wide character. It is not predominantly limited to any one particular market, as was the case before the McKinley tariff led to the loss of the United States demand. The evenness of the trade done with foreign countries and the relation of the exports during the first half of the current year to those in the first half of 1923, are shown in the following table giving exclusively the exports of tinplates:—

To—	First Half. 1923. Tons.	First Half. 1924. Tons.
Europe	98,847	97,605
Far East	57,505	53,245
Australia	20,986	30,753
Argentina	15,752	20,366
Canada	15,105	16,920
United States	8,772	819
Other countries	64,905	83,926
Totals	281,872	303,634

The markets included under the term "Europe" are Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Italy, and Roumania, but it is probable that the term "Other Countries" also includes European markets. It may safely be estimated, therefore, that Europe absorbs at least one-third of the total quantity of tinplates exported from this country, and in Europe the largest market is that of Germany, in spite of the fact that it was in Bohemia that the industry originated, and that the German industry continues under the protection of tariffs. The United States, it will be seen, has recovered practically the whole of the rebate trade which it lost last year owing to the enormous pressure of the inland demand, but the Canadian requirements and those of Australia are increasing, and in the first half of the year our exports to those two Dominion markets were 32 per cent. more than they were in the first half of 1923.

The most disturbing of the factors affecting the cost of production this year has been that of the price of tin. It is estimated that roughly one-third of the world's output of tin is absorbed by the tinplate industry, and the prices of this commodity this year have fluctuated between about £210 and £286 per ton. Every £5 rise or fall in the price of tin means about 3½d difference in the cost of tinplates per box, and in the light of this fact it will be easily realised how embarrassing to the tinplate manufacturers was the price of tin, when in March last it reached about £286 per ton. At that period the minimum price of tinplates was 23s 6d basis I.C. f.o.b. works port, at which it had been unchanged since November, 1923. The higher cost of tin, accompanied as it was by an active demand for tinplates, led to an advance in prices of about 1s per box above the minimum, but with the collapse in the price of tin in April and May the market prices of tinplates eased off, and as from the beginning of June the minimum basis price of tinplate boxed was reduced from

23s 6d to 22s 7½d, at which it has since been stationary. Under the stabilisation agreement, which provides the machinery for the fixing of the minimum prices for tinplates, the local tinplate manufacturers receive their supplies of tinplate bars from the local bar-makers at a rebate of 7s 6d below the minimum prices of such bars. Simultaneously with the reduction in the prices of tinplates at the beginning of June, tinplate bars were reduced from £8 18s 9d to £8 12s 6d. The imports of foreign blooms, billets, and bars have been phenomenally heavy during the past six months, but practically all these imports have been absorbed by the manufacturers of corrugated and other heavy sheets, rails, &c., in South Wales and the Midlands, for tinplate manufacturers who are parties to the stabilisation agreement—and over 95 per cent. of the output of tinplates falls under the control of that agreement—are under an obligation to take their supply of bars from the local mills. This is one of the reasons why the production of steel ingots and castings in South Wales continues greater than that of any other district in the United Kingdom. The tinplate industry in that district consumes over one million tons of steel ingots per annum, or nearly half the total output of steel ingots and castings produced in South Wales, and the latest returns published by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that in the first half of the current year South Wales and Monmouthshire have been producing at the rate of over 200,000 tons per month, and that this quantity represents, on an average, about 27 per cent. of the country's total output of steel ingots and castings. The general opinion is that the stabilisation agreement has justified itself, but it still remains to be seen whether it will be able to stand the strain of a prolonged period of depression.

THE RUBBER POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE rubber position since the end of June has undergone a very welcome change for the better, and sentiment would appear to be gradually improving. Demand is chiefly for spot rubber, but forward business is coming in also. The supplies of actual rubber are not too plentiful considering the potential needs of consumers with contracts maturing, and in the circumstances it is not surprising to find that some of the larger holders are becoming very reserved.

A careful survey of the whole position would certainly seem to justify fully the view that the market is now on the threshold of a gradual and more permanent recovery than anything witnessed since the official scheme of restriction came into force. About the middle of last May the London spot price of fine rubber collapsed to 9½d per lb. Last month it rallied at one time to well over 11d, but relapsed almost to the worst in the last week in June. This, however, has been followed by a much firmer feeling, and this week the commodity has been firm at round about 1s per lb, with a little more paid for forward deliveries. The recovery from the lowest of the year is thus fully 2½d per lb, and that this striking rally should have taken place in what may be termed the dead season of the year and very significant. It may be taken for granted that there will be a further curtailment of the standard production by 5 per cent. on August 1st, and this reduction will remain in force for a period of three months or longer, unless the average price within that period rises to at least 1s 3d per lb. Considering that the accumulations of stocks at the sources of production and in the consuming markets are now estimated to be considerably less than they have been at any time since the official restrictions came into force, and that the extreme spot prices recorded here last year were 1s 6½d and 1s 1½d, there is certainly a reasonable prospect of a further rise in the price from the present comparatively low level, although, of course, the ultimate course of the market will depend more on an increased and regular consumptive demand rather than fresh speculative activity.

There is no doubt, in any case, that a more hopeful sentiment has begun to characterise the market, and there

are pretty definite indications that all the adverse factors have spent themselves during the recent period of depression, and this remark may be applied with all truth to the American trade. The United States is the largest world consumer of the commodity; thus it is obvious that the bearish tactics pursued by the American rubber-consuming interests in order to pick up cheap rubber have rendered the recent depression more acute at times, especially when a good deal of "distressed" rubber was forced on to the market. With the elimination of weakly-held commitments, it was found that with the chief holders of actual rubber on this side completely out of the market at the low level of prices, the filling of only moderate trade requirements became more difficult except in a rising market, and this, together with the continuation of light imports, resulted in a steady depletion of the warehouse stocks at this end. These stocks, which amounted at the close of last year to over 61,000 tons, were within the last six months reduced by fully 12,000 tons down to about 50,000 tons, and they have varied only slightly from this amount within the last few weeks, the total at present being about 51,500 tons. This is a clear reflex of the falling off of our imports, which for the first half of this year were appreciably less than for the same period in either of the previous two years. The official figures of imports and re-exports, covering a six months' period for three years, reveal the fact that this country has been exporting rubber on balance to a considerable extent, the returns being as follows:—

	(In Centals of 100 lbs.)		
	1922.	1923.	1924.
U.K. imports January-June....	733,294 ..	749,844 ..	701,953
U.K. re-exports January-June..	643,808 ..	948,009 ..	791,089
Deficit or excess in re-exports ..	89,486 ..	+198,165 ..	+ 89,136

It will thus be seen that, whereas we imported 89,486 centals on balance in the first half of 1922, our re-exports for the same period of last year and this year indicated an excess of 198,165 and 89,136 centals respectively over the quantities imported. The large excess in the re-exports in 1923 was due to the exceptionally heavy American takings, which alone represented considerably more than half of the total re-exports in six months of 948,009 centals. For the first half of this year, however, the American takings were substantially reduced to only 319,167 centals out of the total shown above of 791,089 centals, but thanks to the considerably better takings from other countries the total re-exports, nevertheless, overlapped imports. In contrast to the decreased American takings from this side, which were so far this year, however, even better than in the first half of 1922, it is very satisfactory that the Continental takings have been generally steadily on the increase. As compared with two years ago, quite large increases are shown (with the exception of Germany) in the case of the chief Continental consuming countries. This more particularly refers to France, whose takings increased by roughly 50 per cent., which certainly speaks well of her absorbing capacity under somewhat adverse economic conditions. Italy's takings in two years were fully doubled on the six months' period, although her takings are only about one-fourth of those of France. Scandinavia and even Russia are also becoming more important buyers, and Canada has increased her importations continuously from this side. Fair quantities have been shipped in the last few months to Germany, but her takings are a good deal less than they were two years ago, and they are likely to be kept down until her trade can be restored.

On the other hand, the leading American consuming branch—viz., the tyre industry—has been this year most seriously handicapped by a considerable excess of output, combined with the hold-up of the outlet for tyres either through unseasonable weather over the spring period, or the introduction of a new style of tyres at a reduced cost. Owing to this, the disposal of the large stocks of old high-cost tyres has presented great difficulty even under persistent price-cutting, and consequent loss of profits in most directions in that important industry. Naturally enough, American tyre manufacturers have shown themselves the more circumspect in their dealings in raw material. Manufacturers' operations in the U.S. have been perforce more restricted owing to political and

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.
BUYING AND SELLING AGENTS IN LONDON AND ABROAD.
DEALERS IN ALL CLASSES OF EASTERN PRODUCE.

industrial uncertainties, but the difficulties under which the American tyre trade is labouring are only temporary.

According to the returns issued by the Rubber Association of America, the total American imports of crude rubber during the month of May this year amounted to 23,914 tons, of which 22,466 tons consisted of the plantation product, as against the exceptionally heavy returns for May last year of 36,184 tons and 34,609 tons respectively. The total imports of all rubber for the five months up to the end of May were 137,476 tons, which is roughly 20,000 tons short of the corresponding period of the previous year. While the returns have varied considerably from month to month, the monthly average out of the total given above represents about 27,000 tons, which is certainly not so bad as might have been expected in the light of the rather alarming reports so freely circulated about the state of the U.S. industry, possibly to some extent with the idea of influencing the market for raw rubber. Assuming that American conditions improve towards the autumn, and seeing that the deficit in the American imports is not very large so far this year, this setback may easily be made up over the remainder of the year in the event of a stabilised market as confidently expected from its present improved aspect.

The slump in rubber, accompanied as it was by a decline in tin (the two staple products of the Malay Peninsula), has hit a very important Empire industry rather hard, and thus it is satisfactory to be able to write about a recovery. There is not much in the recovery so far, but well-informed opinion is inclined to take a somewhat optimistic view of the outlook.

STOCK EXCHANGE RESPONSIBILITY.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

IT says something for the financial education of the public to find that the affairs of the Anglo-Burma Oil Company, Limited, have been brought to the notice of Parliament, and that they should be the cause of a good deal of comment in the Press. Hundreds of similar cases equally flagrant have passed into the limbo of oblivion in the past without a query being raised about them, and with no effort being made either to fix responsibility upon those who caused the loss, or to obtain any guarantee that further losses of the same kind shall be guarded against by the action either of Parliament or the Stock Exchange Committee. In this particular case of the Anglo-Burma Oil Company, the sum of £365,000 was called up, and the number of shareholders is stated in the official summary of the High Court of Justice as 1,710. There is a deficiency altogether of £516,372 14s 4d, against estimated total assets of 2s 8d. The report of the Assistant Official Receiver discloses an extraordinary state of affairs, and the public's interest is briefly summarised in the statement that: "In the meantime, there had been a settlement of 3,200,070 shares on the Stock Exchange, and there had been very heavy dealings on the Stock Exchange in buying and selling the shares by or on behalf of Munroe and the Constitutional Trust in order to make a market, apparently with disastrous results to almost everyone concerned in the transactions." The President of the Board of Trade, Mr Sidney Webb, promised in the House of Commons on Tuesday last that the Government will give consideration to the request that a departmental committee may be appointed to examine the Companies Acts for the purpose of ascertaining in what particular

these could be amended. The object of such amendment would be to render it less easy for the principles of liability to be used in future in such a way as to permit of results such as those disclosed in relation to the Anglo-Burma Company. Mr A. M. Samuel, M.P., asked whether protection should not be given to the public, and Mr Sidney Webb replied that if the question were repeated later he would be able to give him an answer. The shares were actively dealt in at one time by the Oil market in the Stock Exchange. The price was run up, and it may be shrewdly assumed that a severe proportion of the heavy losses sustained fell upon jobbers in the House, who were left holding substantial blocks of shares when the company came to grief. It is not the habit of Stock Exchange members to cry over spilt milk. They are too accustomed, in the first place, to making losses as well as profits for them to regard the results from dealings in any shares as more than an item in the year's work. The public, however, are not so easily satisfied, and, in the outcry which has arisen in connection with this concern, the matter of the Stock Exchange Committee's responsibility in having granted permission to deal in shares which subsequently turned out to be worthless is being discussed. It may be useful to remark in this connection that in applications for permission to deal in shares, the practice is for a Stock Exchange firm to supply, to the Share and Loan Department of the House, certain specified particulars which have to be produced, and to show that the company has complied with the requisitions demanded by the Stock Exchange Committee before permission to deal in the shares will be granted. Between permission to deal, and a quotation in the Stock Exchange Official List, there is a difference, not so subtle but what it can be generally understood by the public, although people may well be tempted to ask why the same amount of information, &c., shall not be required in all cases, whether shares receive or not an official quotation in the Stock Exchange lists. It is obvious enough that the Stock Exchange official attitude of disclaiming any approach at censorship is reasonable and businesslike. If the House were to affix its *cachet* to any stock or share, this would imply the shouldering of a grave obligation, and one which would, sooner or later, lead to undesirable complications. At the same time, the mere fact of the Stock Exchange Committee insisting upon certain formalities of detail from a company before permission to deal in its shares will be granted is, in itself, an oblique acceptance of a responsibility which the public understand to mean that examination has been made into the affairs of the concern. The Committee cannot grant in one case, and refuse to grant in another, permission to deal or an official quotation without by so doing taking upon themselves a certain degree of responsibility. Up to what point censorship shall extend is the matter now at issue. People who have lost money in swindles whose shares have been marketed in the Stock Exchange are apt to rush to the conclusion that the House lends its machinery without due examination into the affairs of a company, and so widens immensely the circle of harm which a ramp can do in the way of causing loss to the public. The case of the Anglo-Burma Oil Company makes an illustration of the way in which Stock Exchange, as a market, can be used as the happy hunting-ground for swindlers who want to sell worthless shares. It is not surprising that a demand should have arisen, from within the House as well as outside it, that the Stock Exchange Committee shall do more in the future than they have done in the past to see that a company shall have at least some foundation for making its appeal to the public for cash. Putting it bluntly, the present process is held to be too formal and mechanical for it to give the public that protection to which they are justly entitled to look from the Stock Exchange as the upholder of honesty and fair-play in the financial world. A gamble will always be a gamble, but there is wide distinction between that which offers a man at least a run for his money, and another which is nothing more than a trumped-up concern devised for the purpose of extracting money from the pockets of people who are impressed, *inter alia*, by the fact that permission to deal in its shares in the Stock Exchange has been granted by the Stock Exchange Committee.

Notes of the Week.

Coal and Power.—Mr Lloyd George has performed a useful and timely service in reviving the discussion of the basic problems of the coal industry. For the time being the position of the coal mining industry is better than some years ago owing partly to the existence of a sound wage agreement, which, though open to objection in detail, is sound in principle. Nevertheless, it cannot be long before its problems come up again in an acute form, and it is well that we should be well prepared in advance, and not find ourselves, as so often, trying to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted. The two or three main theses which Mr Lloyd George puts forward are none of them new. They are, in fact, a summary of opinions which have been developing in various quarters over the last five years. He proposes that the State should buy out the owners of mining royalties; that something should be done, by means of district and pit committees, to give labour a real voice in management; and that the ideas underlying the Electricity Bill of 1919 should be revived. All these proposals have in the past been discussed and supported by the *Economist*. The most important of them—namely, the proposal to purchase mining royalties, was advocated by all the parties to the Sankey Commission. As the Lloyd George Report* puts it, the function of the State is not to undertake productive functions, but to "see to it that the necessary conditions shall exist in which the creative enterprise and energy of its citizens can most effectively operate." The reasons which we advanced five years ago (*Economist*, May 24, 1919) in favour of royalty purchase still hold good. It would give the State the right at definite intervals to dictate the terms of exploitation, and enable it to proceed step by step by way of experiment in various districts. It would, from the financial point of view, be far less speculative than buying out the companies; and it would relieve the Government of the necessity of organising stereotyped management or becoming a great direct employer of industrial labour. "The control of mining leases would, moreover," as we then wrote, "gradually enable the State to group the mines into such units as experience proves to be the most economical." Since that time the State has compelled the production of accounts in a form which shows the public and the miners how the industry is faring. With the State as the granter of leases, more might be done in this way, and the plan for appointing advisory pit committees and the association of both consumers and miners with the Ministry of Mines would be a further practical and helpful step. We shall find future occasion to discuss these matters in more detail, and do not suggest that the plan which the Lloyd George Report puts forward may not need readjustment in some important particulars. Its framers themselves would regard their proposals as rigid and unalterable in detail, but they form a useful basis for practical discussion. Nor is less attention deserved by the section of the Report devoted to the problem of electric power. Hitherto the proper development of electric power in this country has been obstructed in two ways. It has grown up piecemeal, and has felt the obstructive power of vested interests in opposition to the development of large scale production. Secondly, it has been hampered by legal restrictions. As things are at present, the Electricity Commissioners' only weapon is persuasion. With the retail system in force, compulsory powers will be needed to attain electrical progress comparable to that of our industrial competitors. The vital points are, as is shown by the tenor of the discussions at the Power Conference at Wembley, that one of England's immediate necessities is a much more rapid development of large-scale power plant; and, secondly, that there is need to economise to the utmost in the use of our most important raw material of wealth.

The Problem of the Gold Standard.—Mr Graham, Financial Secretary of the Treasury, committed himself last Wednesday a little more definitely than any other members of the Government have yet done on the subject

* "Coal and Power." The report of an enquiry presided over by the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George. Hodder and Soughton. 1s.

of the gold standard. Having observed that, in his opinion, this country would never embark upon a policy of inflation, he said that, "weighing up the disadvantages and advantages of the situation, I think clearly the duty of this country is to work gradually and safely along the lines of deflation, and to make the best contribution we can towards the re-establishment of the gold standard." Mr Graham, who was careful to explain that he was speaking only for himself, and not for the Government, did not attempt to say how and when the policy should be carried out, or touch upon the vital question what we are to do if the American price level behaves in an unfriendly way and sinks away from the British level. Nor did he attempt to estimate the very baffling and conflicting forces that will operate on the exchanges in the next few months. But we may perhaps draw two firm conclusions from this, and from other recent Ministerial statements. The first is that so long as the present Ministers remain at the Treasury, the Labour Government will not succumb to the temptation to meet financial demands by the easy road of inflation—direct or indirect—and, secondly, that the Government will not attempt in any way to control or influence the monetary policy of the Bank of England. The recent strength of the dollar exchange is, we think, in part, at all events, due to removal of the fears of an inflationist tendency on the part of a Labour Government, and to the signs in the City of London of a more active determination to use every opportunity to foster and to hasten the return to parity.

Indian Problems.—Nearly two months have elapsed since the publication of the Report of the Lee Commission on the Indian Civil Services. In the House of Lords, on Monday night, Viscount Peel raised a debate on the state of affairs in India, and both he and Lord Lee himself emphasised the urgent need for taking action on the lines of the Report. The dual aim of its recommendations—which was discussed in the *Economist* of June 7th—was to satisfy the native desire for speedier Indianisation of the Services, and to remove grievances as regards pay and anxieties regarding security, which are felt acutely by the British members of Indian Civil Services. It cannot be said that the debate in the House of Lords throws any new light on these problems. The Lee Commission, like the Dawes Committee, presented their proposals as an homogeneous and indivisible plan, to be put into operation in its entirety. The Secretary of State for India, Lord Olivier, pleaded that before action could be taken upon so comprehensive and important a report, a considerable time for consideration was necessary, and Lord Lee admitted that the constitutional procedure was to submit the Report to discussion in the Legislative Assembly. The latter, however, and others with him, fear that majorities which have rejected Budgets and refused to vote Ministerial salaries are hardly likely to say, "Let us do the generous thing by the Civil Service." On the other hand, it is of urgent importance that some scheme of the nature of that propounded by the Lee Commission should be put into force without delay. Lord Lee went so far as to say that, unless the proposals of his Commission were adopted, there could not be stability and contentment in the Services, without which "no reform which could be devised for the government of India could possibly succeed." In a sense, the Lee Report has given to India the unique opportunity which the Dawes Report gave to Europe, and, like the Dawes Report, it carries the weight of unexpected unanimity among members of widely divergent views. Surely these facts will impress themselves upon the Legislative Assembly, sufficiently, at any rate, to preclude purely obstructionist opposition. In the debate in the House of Lords reference was also made to the recent disorders in the Punjab, but Lord Olivier carries us little further with his statement that: "The Punjab Government, with the approval of the Government of India, intended to maintain order and peaceful security by consistent application of the law against all offenders, while neglecting no means of arriving at a speedy and equitable solution with regard to the matters in controversy." He also proclaimed his faith that the Montagu-Chelmsford Constitution has not failed. Whether that statement can be repeated a year hence must in some

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

TRANSACTS ALL BUSINESS USUALLY UNDERTAKEN BY AN EASTERN PLANTATION TRUST COMPANY. APPROVED ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.

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

measure at least depend on the fate of the Lee recommendations.

Irish Free State Affairs.—The Oireachtas, writes our Dublin correspondent, is winding up its session and the holiday season, beginning with the famous Dublin Horse Show and the Tailtean games revived on a grandiose scale, is imminent. The Free State Government, as was stated last week, has released Mr. de Valera and his lieutenants. This is a sign of strength and a symptom of stability—yet the position is not free from causes for anxiety. The last two seasons were marked by great agricultural depression, and Ireland's principal industry is agriculture. The depression itself depending largely, as it did, upon world causes, was grievously accentuated by the insurrectionary sabotage of Mr. de Valera's friends and their Communist allies. The financial dislocation due to the change of political systems and the pensioning of officials on a large scale, has helped to bring prosperity to a low ebb—and the strictness of the Government in its collection of arrears of rates, taxes, and land purchase annuities has drained the country of money. There are some signs of nerves beginning to show a raw edge. Newspapers which have lectured the Government upon the necessity for the strictest orthodoxy in financial methods—upon the vital need of balancing the Budget—are beginning to cry out about the burden of taxation. It is a not unpopular cry, naturally, but the public understands that neither it nor the Press can have it both ways—and it sees that the Government is making great efforts to pull things through. But, of course, there is some grumbling amongst those who can, and have to, pay, and some discontent amongst those who are compulsorily kept standing idle. There is no serious harm done yet. The half-yearly reports of the principal banks—the Bank of Ireland has none, and the Royal Bank of Ireland period ends only on August 31st—show a perfectly sound position, though not without reflections of the prevalent depression. Nor must the ease with which the National Loan of £10,000,000 was subscribed be forgotten. Again the revenue is coming in abundantly—income-tax from April 1st to July 19, 1924, is £1,616,000, against £1,177,000 for period from April 1st to July 21, 1923; Post Office receipts are £400,000, as against £350,000 in the previous year; Customs duties are somewhat higher, in spite of the Government, in imposing certain increased duties, having provided a long interval for the benefit of traders desiring to fill up with stocks at the earlier and lower rates; and there is a cash balance in the exchequer of £5,315,731. Much will depend on the weather during the next few weeks—the crops are abundant, with heavy growth, but are badly in need of sunshine and warmth if the ear is to fill, the roots to swell, and the crops to be saved. A bad harvest would be a really serious calamity—and a recurrence of policies of violence might give the *coup de grace* not so much to our new political institutions, but to the whole machinery, economic and financial, upon which the well-being of the country in the present and the hopes of its future prosperity depend.

Employment in June.—Statistics published by the Ministry of Labour Gazette show that there was a decline in employment in the early part of June, followed by a recovery in the latter part of the month. Thus the total of registered unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland rose from 1,022,000 on May 26th to 1,052,000 at June 16th, and fell again to 1,015,000 at June 30th. The net result is a faint improvement, and the percentage unemployed of all the workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts fell from 9.5 to 9.4. On the other hand, the trade union percentage of unemployment, which refers mainly to skilled workers, moved slightly, in the other direction, namely, from 7 per cent to 7.2 per

cent. Monthly movements of the trade union percentage over recent years and before the war are traced below:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	..
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	..
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	..
October	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	..
November ..	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..
December ..	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

The chief industries in which employment conditions became worse in June were coal mining and wool textiles, but there was some improvement in the engineering and shipbuilding industries.

Cost of Living.—After ling for four successive months, the level of the cost of living to an average working-class family rose slightly in June, to become on July 1st 70 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 69 per cent. above on June 1st and 69 per cent. a year ago. Monthly movements of this index figure, as calculated by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, since the beginning of 1918, are shown below:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.—All items. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	% 85.90	% 120	% 125	% 165	% 92	% 78	% 77
February ..	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April	90.95	110	132	133	82	74	73
May	95.100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July	100.105	105.110	152	119	84	69	70
August	110	115	155	122	81	71	..
September ..	110	115	161	120	79	73	..
October	115.120	120	164	110	78	75	..
November ..	120.125	125	176	103	80	75	..
December ..	120	125	169	99	80	77	..

The figure is still hovering around the low level touched just a year ago. The slight advance in June was due to a rise of 2 points in the figure for retail food prices, which at July 1st were 62 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. Sugar showed on an average a further fall of about ½d per lb, and imported meat prices declined slightly, but these movements were more than balanced by small increases in quotations for eggs, butter, potatoes, bacon, British meat, and cheese.

Wheat Prices.—A Mark lane correspondent writes that the sensation created by the rise in imported wheat at the close of the old crop season is apparently due solely to the greatly increased dependence in the last months of the cereal year on the overseas sources of supply. The home crop last autumn opened at 9s per cwt, and is now closing at 12s 3d, an increase of 3s 3d to those who stored. The imported wheat measured not unfairly by the control type of best Canadian opened at 10s and is closing at 13s, a rise of 3s per cwt. To an inquiry, "Can a rise at the end of a season be prevented?" our correspondent's answer is, "Only by an equal distribution of the rise over the entire season." If growers, whether British or overseas, had refused to sell in early months at 9s to 10s they would not now be getting 12s 3d to 13s, but the total prices made for a whole season are governed by world production and not by local policy of holding or freely proffering for this or that month. The present stringency is, however, increased by the depleted state of the London granaries, which on July 1st held 14,000 quarters of wheat only.

The Advance in Cotton Prices.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Since last week important developments in the raw cotton markets of the world have taken place, there being a striking rise in prices. On Monday last the Department of Agriculture of the American Government published a sensational report on the crop for 1924-25. The condition figure was 68.5 per cent., against 71.2 per cent. a fortnight earlier. In market circles the general opinion was held that since the previous report there had been an improvement in the condition, and a report of about 71.5 per cent. was anticipated. When the official announcement was made, the effect in the New York market was described as amazing. Prices were pushed up in a short time by nearly two cents. In Lancashire trade circles there is a disposition to discredit the Government Report, but the fact remains that information from this source is the most reliable that can be obtained, and whether the Report be correct or not, operators take their lead from the Government statistics. The indicated crop is now 11,934,000 bales, exclusive of linters, against 12,144,000 bales a fortnight earlier. It may be said that October futures in the Liverpool market on Monday evening were done at 14.80d, but on Thursday sales were put through at 16.84d. For several weeks Lancashire traders have adopted "bearish" tactics, and it must be admitted that many local operators have been caught "short." The necessity for cover has resulted in the higher prices being maintained, as buyers have met with a scarcity of contracts in Liverpool. The crop in the United States has still to pass through a critical period, and the chief reason for "bullish" activity is the absence of rain in Texas, where it is needed. If the position in that State is relieved, there may be heavy selling and a fall in prices. It is feared that the rise in values which has taken place will have a detrimental effect upon trade in Lancashire, and those people who have expressed optimistic views as to industrial conditions this autumn are beginning to modify their views. The position at the moment is very unsettled, but in another month traders will be more favourably situated to estimate the probable crop for next season and the likely course of prices.

The Economic Situation in Denmark.—The very full Report (to April, 1924) from the Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Copenhagen, recently issued by the Overseas Trade Department, indicates that Denmark, like other countries, is recovering from post-war depression. The recovery is perhaps obscured by the almost continuous fall in the krone—from 20.55 to the £ in July, 1922, to 28 last March, and about 27 at present, a fall which has defied all efforts to stop it, and is ascribed chiefly to the recurrent Budget deficits and the large adverse balance of foreign trade. The current deficits, however, are gradually being lessened; public expenditure is largely on "social" objects, such as care of children and old-age pensions; the adverse trade balance is mitigated by the profits from shipping and the transit trade; the excess of imports is largely due to exceptional expenditure on fertilisers, cattle food, coal, and raw materials, and on replenishing stocks depleted by the war; and shipping, agriculture, and industry have profited by the depreciation. The apprehensions inspired by it, however, have led to extensive purchases of foreign currencies, defeating the influence towards stabilisation exercised by the Exchange Equalisation Fund. The Government is combating the adverse trade balance by fresh taxation, especially on luxuries; but the population clings to the higher standard of living set up by the war. The Landsmansbank has been reorganised under a Government guarantee, the insurance crisis has passed, bankruptcies are fewer, and the rise in shares of all descriptions indicates optimism. On the other hand, it is noted that the number of income-tax payers and the revenue from the tax have declined, but this may be the effect of past rather than present conditions, and revenue from indirect taxation has increased considerably. Labour troubles have been averted, and the harvest, in spite of a wet summer, was above the average, the hay especially; the arable area was considerably extended, the decline in pasturage being partly affected by the increased production of lucerne. More sugar beet was grown than in 1922, though less than in 1921, and Polish skilled labour is to

be imported for its cultivation; it is hoped to export beet sugar. The number and export of horses decreased through the growth of motor traction and the decline in the German demand. That of cattle remained nearly the same, except for a slight increase of milch cows; but pigs increased from 1,900,000 to 2,900,000. The export of butter, bacon, and eggs was greater than in the record year 1914. Great efforts are being made to improve the quality of the dairy produce and the bacon. Of the latter, 99 per cent. goes to Great Britain; the production is thought to have been overdone, but, were it reduced, the keen competition of the Dominions would seize and hold the ground lost. A full account is given of Danish agricultural co-operation. The fisheries, depressed by the loss of the German market, now export mainly to Great Britain. Of the import trade, the most salient feature, apart from those already noted, is the growing demand for motor vehicles, of which hardly any are manufactured locally, though many are now "assembled" from parts imported from America. Shipbuilding has shown renewed activity, in spite of the closing of many small yards, and there has been a notable Danish improvement in Diesel motor-engines. Trade agreements have been concluded with Russia, Roumania, Finland, Esthonia, and Lithuania, and renewed with Austria and Hungary. The mercantile marine, reduced by the elimination of sailing vessels and old steamers, seems to have gained in efficiency, and motor propulsion is being largely substituted for steam. Emigration is increasing, notably to Canada; a Danish colony in Nicaragua has failed. The Report almost defies summary, but it may be commended to the attention of all concerned with Danish trade.

American Silver Exports.—For the first time in nearly two years, writes our New York correspondent, commercial bar silver for future delivery has lately been commanding a premium over the spot quotation in the New York market. The spot price continues quite firm, having advanced last week to within ½c of this year's high record of 67½c reached in the early part of June, although for the present it has eased off more than one cent from that top level. It is still 3c above the year's lowest of 62½c on January 11th. The market's strength is due to the growing demand, especially from abroad. During the fiscal year just closed, silver exports were larger than at any time since 1920, when the heavy movement to India was under way. Complete figures for the fiscal year are not yet available, but for the ten months ended with April silver shipments from this country totalled \$80,450,570 in value. This compares with the preceding full fiscal years as follows:—\$55,906,956 in 1923, \$62,694,677 in 1922, \$52,536,171 in 1921, and \$179,037,260 in 1920. April was the seventh consecutive month to show an increase in silver exports, and the aggregate for that month, \$3,893,944, was the largest for any month in the past fiscal year to that date. Some bullion dealers report that Russia is acquiring silver here on a large scale for coinage purposes, but most authorities declare that the extent of the Russian demand has been exaggerated. The latest Department of Commerce figures available show that the heaviest shipments have been made to India and China. Of the \$80,450,570 exported in the ten months of the past fiscal year, \$66,957,529 went to those two countries; India took \$35,096,893, as compared with \$12,091,149 in the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year, while exports to China amounted to \$31,860,636, as against \$19,183,061 in the first ten months of the previous year. The domestic market for silver has continued strong, despite the failure of Congress to enact legislation designed to complete transactions under the original Pittman Act. Pressure had been brought to bear by silver interests to complete such purchases, and the Senate passed a Bill directing the Treasury to purchase 14,589,730 fine ounces of domestic silver at \$1 an ounce; the measure, however, was not adopted by the House of Representatives. The sustaining influence, as indicated, has been the heavy outward movement to foreign countries, particularly for currency purposes in the Far East and Europe. As European political and economic conditions improve, there appears to be a growing demand for metallic currency, and that demand is

reaching this country. Evidence thereof is found in the order recently placed here by the Government of Poland for new silver coins. A contract was entered into with various leading companies to furnish the necessary silver and alloys to provide 12,000,000 one-zloty and 6,000,000 two-zloty silver coins, which will be made by the United States mint. It is estimated that the contract calls for about \$4,800,000 worth of the new coins. This is said to be the first time since the war that an order for coins has been placed by a foreign Government with the United States mint.

Standard Bank of South Africa.—At the annual meeting on Wednesday, Mr Stanley Christopherson, chairman of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, gave his usual interesting survey of conditions in South Africa, which will be found printed in full in a later column under company meetings. He touched briefly on the change in the constitution of the South African Reserve Bank, under which the bank representatives are no longer eligible for a seat on the board, and although opposed to the change made by the Government, "needless to say, we readily accepted their decision." On the question of the gold standard, he urged that before the Union Government takes any definite steps, it should give the question the most careful and critical consideration. "It should not be a decision arrived at by a Department of the Government. The question bristles with difficulties and with debatable points, and all interested should be allowed to state their case." In reply to accusations of a policy of credit restriction, Mr Christopherson emphatically stated that, "given security and a good reason for a loan, 99 out of every 100 will obtain accommodation, but I say equally emphatically, that we are not going to be stampeded into undesirable advances by criticism from whatever quarter."

Furness, Withy, and Co.—A slight increase in profits is recorded in the report of Furness, Withy, and Co. for the year ended April 30th last, but the report mentions that owing to the continued depression in the shipping industry the profits are again derived mainly from other branches of the company's business and from dividends on investments. As will be seen from the table below, profits are now below the level of the years immediately preceding the war:—

	Total Profit.	Depreciation.	Reserve, &c.	Dividends.	Ord. Rate.
	£	£	£	£	%
1908-9	267,075	114,897	..	166,361	5
1909-10	332,992	145,417	..	163,302	5
1910-11	440,732	179,603	50,000	220,620	7½
1911-12	653,207	240,000	125,000	270,620	10
1912-13	756,141	350,000	125,000	270,620	10
1913-14	620,928	350,000	..	270,620	10
1914-15	653,548	350,000	15,000	268,431	10
1915-16	1,386,960	350,000	300,000	463,125	20
1916-17	*787,564	350,000	200,000	456,250	20
1917-18	645,077	200,000	..	456,250	20
1918-19	747,661	..	300,000	452,500	20
1919-20	1,004,821	500,000	..	452,500	10
1920-21	782,944	300,000	..	452,500	10
1921-22	655,207	..	200,000	452,500	10
1922-23	552,511	200,000	..	356,250	7½
1923-24	572,443	200,000	..	358,122	7½

* After payment of two years' Excess Profits Duty.

The depreciation fund is again credited with £200,000, and the ordinary dividend is maintained at 5 per cent., with a bonus of 2½ per cent., both free of income-tax, leaving £216,600, or £14,000 more, to be carried forward. The balance-sheet shows an increase of £1,003,700 in the item, "Steamships, investments in associated shipping companies, and payments on account of new tonnage," which stands at £5,402,900. General investments are £64,600 higher at £3,661,100, but debtors at £2,072,500 show a decline of £446,200, while creditors have risen by £900,200 to £496,800. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in a later column.

The Half-Year's Oil Trade.—The figures of petroleum imports published by the Board of Trade for the first six months of this year show an increase in quantity of 11.3

per cent. and a decline in value of 8 per cent. as compared with the figures for the corresponding period of 1923. The imports of crude oil are up by 29 per cent., of motor spirit by 17 per cent., of fuel oil by nearly 10 per cent., of lubricating oil by 9 per cent., and of gas oil by 2 per cent. There is, on the other hand, a decline of 28 per cent. in the imports of lamp oil. The quantities and values are as follows:—

SIX MONTHS' OIL IMPORTS for 1924.

	Gallons.	Value.
Crude oil	189,589,135 ..	3,243,389
Lamp oil	49,711,251 ..	1,265,712
Motor spirit	184,990,147 ..	8,181,275
Other spirit	1,035,296 ..	38,937
Lubricating oil	56,567,354 ..	3,400,950
Gas oil	36,448,191 ..	643,115
Fuel oil	181,464,408 ..	2,539,380
Other sorts	176,411 ..	22,696

699,982,193 .. 19,335,454

(Figures exclude direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State.)

It is interesting to observe the percentage of the total trade held by the large distributing companies. The imports of the four groups—Shell, Anglo-American, Anglo-Persian, and British-Mexican—amounted in this period to 89 per cent. of the total imports into the country, as against 87.2 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1923. This does not suggest that the big companies are losing any part of their trade to the small independent companies—in spite of the advent of the Blue Bird Motor Company and the more conspicuous marketing of unbranded petrol in the London district. Taking the companies individually, the percentages of the total imports this year work out as follows:—Shell, 29 per cent.; Anglo-Persian, 29 per cent.; Anglo-American, 24.7 per cent.; and British-Mexican, 6.3 per cent. The Anglo-Persian percentage is largely explained by the growth of the crude oil imports following upon the operation of its new refinery at Grangemouth in addition to its main refinery at Llandarcy. A proportion of these imports is exported from the country in the form of refined products. The exports of oil products have, in fact, increased during the six months' period by 34 per cent.—50,342,522 gallons as against 37,435,831 gallons in the first half of 1923. The Anglo-Persian share of the total trade is therefore probably less than that of the Anglo-American Oil Company.

Van den Berghs, Limited.—A slight improvement is recorded in the accounts of Van den Berghs, Limited, for the year ended December 31, 1923. Profits at £358,757 compare with £346,842 for the previous year. A settlement of "items accumulated during the war" apparently has not yet been arrived at. After payment of dividends on preference and preferred ordinary shares, a dividend of 2s 6d per share, absorbing £93,750, has been declared on the ordinary capital of £187,500. This leaves £114,624 to be carried forward, as against £108,327 brought into the accounts. Total assets are £5,655,733, as against £5,742,096 a year ago. Goodwill is still shown as £656,463, and the reserve as £500,000. It should be observed that this is partly a holding company, and that further "goodwill" is located in the holdings of "associated and subsidiary companies" at £1,476,342. Sundry debtors amount to £1,186,008, and include £407,233 in respect of "ex-enemy pre-war debts."

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Few gold mining companies operating in districts of the Transvaal other than the Witwatersrand can claim any considerable degree of success; but the undertaking above-named has in the course of its career paid dividends totalling 305 per cent. For both 1921-22 and 1922-23 the shareholders went empty away; in respect of the 12 months ended March 31st last, the company re-entered the list with a disbursement of 5 per cent. An improvement in the value of the ore was the chief factor, assisted by a moderate reduction in costs. At 685,700 tons the ore reserves stand at a higher total than for several years, the value being maintained at 8.3 dwts. Of this total, however, more than two-fifths is temporarily unavailable, being contained in safety pillars, &c.; and while this condition of affairs exists, it is difficult to control the mill grade. The results obtained on outside properties are described as "not very encouraging."

Work at the Elandsdrift property will be facilitated should the proposed new power-station be erected by the Electricity Supply Commission.

Tanganyika Group.—Our mining correspondent writes:—

A compilation of the capital engaged in the group of mining and railway enterprises connected with the mineral deposits of the Belgian Congo—more particularly copper—would give a rather astonishing aggregate. At the end of last year the "liabilities to the shareholders" of the Union Minière du Haut Katanga (excluding the "dividend" shares, but including the premiums received) totalled 134,000,000f, plus 60,000,000f of debentures, and powers have been taken for a large increase. Then there are the Benguela and Katanga Railway companies, &c. British capital is interested through the Tanganyika Concessions and Zambesia Exploring companies. The former last year made an issue of 400,000 preference shares, following upon an emission of some 750,000 shares in 1922. These shares carry 10 per cent. interest, and until the end of June, 1927, are convertible into ordinary at 22s. One year's interest has been paid; the second has just been announced, presumably following upon the receipt by the company of the dividend declared in respect of 1923 by the Union Minière Company, whose distribution of 35f per share in respect of 1922 brought £60,200 into the coffers of the Tanganyika Company. For 1923 the Union Minière dividend is at the rate of 80f per share. Despite the preference issue above referred to, the free resources of the Tanganyika Company are very limited, the bulk of the proceeds having been advanced to the Benguela Company. At December 31st last cash and loans totalled £37,600; loans from bankers stood at £170,000, as compared with £283,000 twelve months previously. The profit and loss account shows a surplus of £18,900 in place of a small loss. As regards the Union Minière, last year's working profit amounted to 78,872,800f, against 48,059,100f previously, and as the special appropriations are on much the same scale as before, the balance available for allocation comes out at 51,031,600f in place of 20,200,600f. The quantity of copper produced totalled 57,900 tons, a fresh record. Of this, some 1,000 tons were contributed by the test leaching works at Panda. Presumably, the results of the experiments were satisfactory, as a permanent plant is to be put up for the treatment of low-grade ores by this process. During the first half of the current year 36,850 tons of the red metal have been turned out, and it is expected that the total for the twelve months will approach 75,000 tons. From the Busanga Mine 705 tons of tin ore were obtained in 1923. Treatment of the company's copper-cobalt ores has lately been commenced. Last year the Union Minière supplied about two-thirds of the world's consumption of radium. At the end of 1923 the ore reserves were computed at the increased figure of 72,666,000 tons, containing 4,802,000 tons of copper. Altogether, the potentialities of this enterprise are decidedly good. An important factor in the future will be the completion of the Benguela Railway. Another section was finished last year, but some two-thirds of the distance from the coast to the copper area yet remains to be traversed. The investments of the Union Minière Company include participations in the Katanga Railway, the Hoboken Metallurgical Works, the Luena Collieries, and the Compagnie Foncière du Katanga. The Tanganyika's investments include 2,700,000 shares in the Benguela Railway, to which it has advanced £1,215,700; shares in the Katanga and Rhodesia-Katanga Railway companies; 103,050 capital shares of 100f each and 78,000 "dividend" shares in the Union Minière Company; also 10,750 shares in the Nile-Congo Divide Syndicate, whose operations have "confirmed the existence of large mineralised areas." The principal assets of the Zambesia Exploring Company comprise holdings in the undertakings above referred to, and on this basis the shares are considered to be relatively undervalued. Only a small surplus is shown by the accounts, but the directors announce that further profits have since been made, and they declare a dividend of 1s per share. This, in effect, is a maiden distribution. The company has been in existence since 1891.

Aramayo Tin.—Our Mining correspondent writes:—This international enterprise is one of the largest tin producers of the world, the monthly output ranging around 200 tons, supplemented by something over 100,000 ozs of silver. As was only to be expected, the report for 1923 shows an increased profit, but the increase is comparatively small, last year's net gain of 4,798,700f comparing with 4,557,500f in respect of 1922. The inference is that the advance in the price of tin was partially offset by decline in the output; but this is one of numerous points upon which the report, as usual, is silent. By the declaration of a bonus of 15 per cent. the distributions are brought up to the same total (35 per cent.) as for the preceding year. The directors explain that the absence of any increase is due to the fact that they have invested approximately 2,800,000f in the acquisition of new mining properties, "to which reference will be made at the meeting." As a matter of fact, the dividends of each of the past two years have somewhat exceeded the profits earned, the difference coming out of the substantial balances brought forward. The cost of the additional properties above referred to is met from the same source. A note in the balance-sheet explains that the profit and loss balance is subject to this investment, as well as to exchange account. It would have been preferable, perhaps, to have placed the 2,800,000f to the reserve account. Thanks to the appreciation of the Bolivian dollar, the exchange account has become reduced to less than 1,000,000f. The additional properties include a couple of British undertakings. Doubtless the shareholders will welcome the particulars to be given at the meeting, which is to be held on the 28th inst.

The fifth Norwegian Industries Fair is to be held at Christiania from August 31st to September 7th.

Oversea Correspondence.**UNITED STATES.—GOVERNMENT CROP REPORT—COMMODITY PRICES—STEEL INDUSTRY OUTLOOK—BUILDING ACTIVITY—MONEY, STOCKS, AND BONDS.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 11.

AMONG the outstanding features of the Government's July crop report are the marked improvement in the wheat crop outlook and the exceptionally heavy indicated loss in corn, compared with the prospect at this time last year. The report shows a recovery of about half the loss in the wheat yield forecast on June 1st, and an unprecedentedly low July 1st condition of corn, this being due to the prolonged cold and the generally wet spring season experienced in many sections of the corn belt. There is shown also a substantial increase in the prospective yield of oats, with smaller gains in barley and rye, over the June 1st estimates. As compared with a year ago, present indications point to a wheat yield 46,000,000 bushels less, and a corn crop smaller by 531,000,000 bushels, despite a fairly large increase in corn acreage this year; while the yield of white potatoes promises to be 39,000,000 bushels less, and that of tobacco 181,000,000 pounds less. The present outlook is for larger yields of oats and flaxseed, but no record crops seem possible except, perhaps, in the case of flaxseed, which was extensively planted this year to replace some spring wheat. One encouraging result of the heavy indicated decrease in yields of some crops, at least from the farmers' standpoint, is the expected advance in prices, which has already begun. This week crop passed the dollar mark for July delivery.

Prices of commodities moved irregularly last month, the most notable features being the strength in grain and the weakness in cotton, wool, and livestock. The net result of the changes was another slight drop in the average level of prices—the seventh reduction since December 1, 1923. Bradstreet's July 1st index number of commodity prices was \$12.2257, which represented a decline of one-half of 1 per cent. from June 1st, of 9 per cent. from December 1, 1923, and of 6.6 per cent. from July 1st of last year, but an advance of 15 per cent. over

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$13,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



the low point on June 1, 1921. Of the 106 articles used in computing the price index, only 22 advanced in June, while 35 declined and 49 remained unchanged.

Although the planning for new buildings usually slackens in June, the total sum involved in new building undertakings for which permits were granted last month was the largest for June in any year, while the total for the first six months of this year is much greater than that for any like period in this country's history. The aggregate expenditure at 159 cities for June, as shown by the permits issued, was \$247,868,460, as compared with \$281,196,883 at the same cities in May, and \$229,408,696 in June a year ago.

Much significance is attached to the United States Steel Corporation's report this week of unfilled orders on its books at the end of June. The total amounted to 3,262,505 tons, as against 3,628,089 on May 31st, and 6,386,261 on June 30th a year ago. The aggregate of forward business on hand at the beginning of this month was the smallest since November, 1914. Nevertheless, the latest report issued by the corporation is favourably construed in most quarters. A further decrease in unfilled tonnage had generally been expected, but it was considerably less than was anticipated, amounting to 365,584 tons; whereas the decrease in May was 580,358 tons, and in April 574,360 tons. The showing for June indicates the cutting into forward business is now less drastic, and this fact is regarded as a sign that the steel industry has passed the worst part of its depression. The corporation's shipments last month averaged 33,000 tons a day, or approximately 825,000 tons for the 25 working days. Since cancellations were few and light in the aggregate tonnage involved, new business for the month probably amounted to about 450,000 tons. Orders on hand on June 30th represent nearly four months' business at the June rate of shipments. Although June shipments were nearly 200,000 tons less than those in May, new business improved last month. While authorities in the steel trade do not look for any pronounced betterment until August, or possibly September, the outlook

is considered much brighter than it was a month ago.

In view of the exceptionally low rates prevailing in the Money-market, it is not surprising that the United States Treasury Department has suspended all sales of Treasury savings certificates and stamps, effective July 15th. For many weeks money rates have ruled at 2 per cent. for call loans, and at 2½ to 3½ per cent., depending upon maturity, for loans secured by Stock Exchange collateral. Bankers, generally, look for no pronounced change in money rates during the next month or two. Much will depend upon the extent of the expected revival in trade and industry.

Securities markets continue to display a strong undertone. Stocks enjoyed another substantial rise this week, the average price of representative railroad shares reaching a new high record for this year at \$87.32, while leading industrials rose, on the average, to \$97.56, which compares with the peak level for 1924 of \$101.31 touched early in the year. Easy and abundant money and the necessity of finding employment for surplus funds are the main factors responsible for the activity and strength in both stocks and bonds. In the past few days profit-taking sales, encouraged by the recent sharp advances, have resulted in some set-back from top levels, but all offerings have been readily absorbed. Market sentiment shows the relief felt over the nomination of a conservative Presidential candidate by the Democratic National Convention. Political considerations, however, are at present a minor factor, apparently, in shaping the course of securities prices.

FRANCE. — LONDON CONFERENCE — DEVASTATED AREAS—CREDIT NATIONAL—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 23.

FRENCH economic life is to a great extent marking time, pending the conclusion of the London conference, which, it is universally hoped, will produce some kind of practicable solution of the present deadlock in Europe. Now that the bankers have taken control of the problem, there is a widespread feeling that such a solution will be reached, but there is undoubtedly a fear that M. Herriot, in his anxiety to secure a settlement, will be inclined to go further in the way of concessions than the Chambers, when they come to pass on the details, will sanction, in which case much of the work may have to be done over again. The outstanding subject of nervousness is the fear that the supremacy of the Reparation Commission has been prejudiced by the inclusion of the American "referee," or, in other words, that a principle has been grafted on to the status of the Commission that will render it impossible for this country in future to exercise in that body the power which she claims to be entitled to in virtue of the fact that she has a claim to 52 per cent. of whatever reparation payments may eventually be extracted from Germany.

M. Herriot has pledged himself not to allow himself to be bound by any decision that may be come to until it has been approved by the Chamber and the Senate, and this factor accounts for much of the uncertainty surrounding the doings of the conference. For it must not be overlooked that, when it comes to a straight vote in either of the Chambers on the decisions of the conference, mere nominal party political strength will count for little. To a very great extent the reparation question and the question of French security stand above party considerations in the eyes of the vast majority of both deputies and senators, who will not hesitate to overthrow M. Herriot if they feel that he is allowing French interests to be sacrificed (just as they were prepared to dismiss M. Briand after the Cannes Conference if he had not anticipated defeat by resigning without venturing to meet the Chamber). There is undoubtedly a growing feeling of weariness here in regard to the reparation question, and expressions such as "*Le fantôme des réparations*" are becoming more and more common; but if French opinion is convinced that the decisions of the London Conference mean that France will not only have to leave the Ruhr, but will be unable to occupy it again, in the event of Germany again making default, there is little chance of those decisions becoming effective.

The suspension, for all practicable purposes, of the work of reconstituting the devastated area, which is now within an appreciable distance, is causing a good deal of anxiety, and there is much discussion as to the best means of minimising the hardships that must ensue. A meeting of contractors interested in operations in the devastated area is to be held in Paris at the end of this month, at which it is hoped some means may be found to enable private financiers to come to the rescue. M. Louis Marin, the Minister for the Liberated Regions, has advanced the suggestion that as a first step *sinistrés* shall be given a certificate recognising the debt owing to them by the State. The principal objection to this proposal is that such certificates would not be negotiable through the usual channels. M. Reibel, M. Marin's predecessor, urges that the whole of the cash credits still available shall be reserved for building construction alone, otherwise the skilled labour already mobilised will be dispersed, and much time would be required to get it together again. With most of the industrial plants reconstituted, he points out, it is useless to expend money that is badly wanted in other directions on furniture that would be useless if the houses to put it into do not exist. It would be difficult at present, M. Reibel agrees, to induce the public to subscribe to further loans. The principle of raising funds by lottery has already been admitted, but it is doubtful whether this method of raising money will ever be seriously considered.

Detailed figures of the operations of the Crédit National, which are now available, disclose that since this institution began work in 1920 the State has disbursed, in payment of war losses to *sinistrés*, a grand total of 56 milliard francs. These payments have been made either through the medium of the Crédit National (which has paid out a total of 24,162,586,978 francs down to the end of May) or directly by the State (through the Treasury through the Offices de Reconstitution Industrielle et Agricole, or in the form of advances in kind, &c.). The latest estimates place the amount yet to be secured for the purpose of completing the restoration work at "about 25 milliards." The total number of accounts with *sinistrés* that have been opened by the Crédit National alone is 1,542,241, representing 4,318,008 different credits of various amounts. It was originally estimated that the total number of accounts that would have to be opened would be about 1,500,000, but this figure has already been surpassed, and is eventually expected to reach 1,600,000. During 1923 the Crédit National granted new loans to traders and manufacturers for a total of 66,805,290 francs. The total amount of loans of this kind made down to the end of 1923 was 417,001,700 francs (which has since been increased to 441,561,489 francs). Practically the whole of these are long-term loans, which accounts for the fact that so far the total repayments by borrowers has amounted to only 14,681,090 francs. The categories of borrowers are shown by the following table:—

	Francs.
Food industry	73,611,023
Builders and builders' materials	32,383,399
Hotel industry, &c.	12,293,490
Electrical industries	4,918,000
Metallurgical industries	114,491,596
Chemical products	21,226,300
Textile industries	152,077,890

The loans made during the past year closely reflect the industrial activity of the country. Of these totals over 27 millions have been advanced to the textile industry during the past year, 20 millions to metallurgical interests, 9 millions to the foodstuff industry, and an appreciable sum to the brewing industry, which is gradually assuming pre-war importance in the devastated area.

The French foreign trade returns for June, which have been issued this week, show that during the month the value of French exports decreased appreciably, as compared with those for the previous month, while imports remained practically stationary. Exports, which had a value of 3,360,148,000 francs in May, fell to 2,922,304,000 francs in June, or a decrease of 438 millions as compared with May. As compared with March last, French exports showed a falling off of nearly 33 per cent. in June. This is attributed largely to the improvement in the value of the franc, the month's figures being consistent, from this point of view, with those for the previous three months. The drop

was especially in manufactured goods, which fell off from 2,453 million francs in April to 2,060 millions in May, and again to 1,794 millions last month. The effect of this comparatively heavy decline was that the visible foreign trade of the country, for the first time for several months, in June again showed an adverse balance, imports having exceeded exports by about 256½ millions. The detailed figures of French foreign trade for the first six months of 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, are as follows:—

	First Six Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
Imports—	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Foodstuffs	3,368,953,000	4,143,540,000	+ 774,587,000
Raw materials	9,201,393,000	13,191,862,000	+ 3,990,469,000
Manufactured goods	2,089,078,000	2,537,254,000	+ 448,176,000
Total	14,659,424,000	19,872,656,000	+ 5,213,232,000
Exports—			
Foodstuffs	1,485,157,000	1,996,841,000	+ 511,684,000
Raw materials	4,407,586,000	5,658,338,000	+ 1,250,752,000
Manufactured goods	7,459,927,000	12,689,197,000	+ 5,229,270,000
Postal parcels	796,193,000	937,924,000	+ 141,731,000
Total	14,148,863,000	21,282,300,000	+ 7,133,437,000

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—TARIFF POLICY—FOREIGN TRADE—FINANCES—CREDIT AND INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, July 21.

THE London Conference proceedings are commented on in the Press unfavourably, and semi-officially there are threats that the Cabinet will refuse to go further with the Dawes scheme if the final London decisions do not differ radically from the lines so far indicated. These threats may not mean anything. In the end, German Governments always give way, because their immediate interest is to avoid an acute crisis, and as the Allies always have their way, the responsibility for later failures and disappointments can be thrown on them. It is sometimes noticed that Ally policy closely resembles German, in that although Ally conferences begin by seeking ultimate satisfactory solutions, they are usually content with any kind of a solution that prevents a formal breakdown. The London Conference, as Germans see it, is repeating history; the real Reparations question is being pushed into the background by the necessity of escaping conflicts. The majority of Germans take quite as little interest as the Allies apparently take in the ultimate development of the Dawes scheme. That, apart from other indications, is shown by the neglect to formulate the comprehensive economical and social programme by which alone the execution of the scheme over a long term of years could be assured.

The Minister for Occupied Territory publishes a long programme of what he understands to be the restoration of economic unity recommended as essential in the Dawes Report. He includes not merely the complete evacuation of the Ruhr, but also the restoration of legal conditions in the old occupied territory, the abolition of the Rhine-land Commission's delegate system in the local administrative centres, of the veto right claimed against German laws where military security is not involved, and of the restrictions upon freedom of entry from unoccupied territory. The Foreign Minister's organ complains that even the British proposal recognises territorial sanctions in principle, contrary to the British Note of August 11, 1923, and declares that Germany will not accept this, and further complains that the British view that sanctions must be unanimously decided on has been abandoned. The Marx Cabinet's attitude to the whole Dawes scheme, it is declared, depends upon the ultimate decision on these points.

The project for Food Duties is being proceeded with. The only organised opposition is from Socialist and Labour quarters. A Trades Union deputation of protest to the Food Minister received an emphatic negative. There is a good deal of expert criticism. The Commercial Treaties Association, which fought high Protection before the war, has condemned the scheme, and the *Frankfurter Zeitung* shows that even without duties agricultural prices

were rising and industrial prices falling, so that the disparity, which is a main reason for the duties, was disappearing. The Government's announcement of suspension of the absolute export prohibition on wheat and rye led to a sharp price rise, but prices are still lower than before the war. Brandenburg wheat (average price in 1913, 198.85 marks per ton) rose from 138-143 marks on July 8th to 170-177 marks on July 19th; Brandenburg rye (average price in 1913, 164.30 marks) from 125-133 marks to 137-144 marks. The Minister of Industry, Dr Hamm, has made a statement to the Press concerning tariff policy generally. Germany, he says, is more than any country interested in the free exchange of goods, but the general tendency of the world is the other way. German trade is still hampered by Ally and neutral import prohibitions, differential duties, and even "exchange dumping" supplementary duties, though the excuse for the last no longer exists. The new German Tariff will not have high-protectionist tendencies. But the world will not voluntarily open its markets to German goods, and it must be induced to. Further, the German import prohibitions, as far as they now exist, will soon be entirely abolished, and in view of the general rise in gold prices, the old duties would prove too low. In some cases the home Sales Tax is higher than the duty on imports, and so constitutes an import premium.

Starting from January, the Government has resumed, after a ten years' break, the publication of trade with separate countries and continents. The following table shows that, while the absolute volume of trade has heavily fallen, the proportions done with the different continents have changed very little. If, however, allowance is made for the fact that the foreign trade figures of 1924 include trade with former German territory, and with Luxemburg, Europe's share in Germany's imports has increased 9.7 per cent. since 1913, her exports 5 per cent. :—

	Millions of Gold Marks		Percentage of Total.	
	First Quarter, 1924.	Quarterly Average, 1913.	First Quarter, 1924.	Quarterly Average, 1913.
Imports—				
Europe	1,041.5	1,475.2	52.4	54.8
America	578.2	748.7	29.1	27.8
Asia	184.4	262.5	9.3	9.8
Africa	102.9	124.2	5.2	4.6
Australia	80.9	81.9	4.0	3.0
Total	1,987.9	2,692.5	100.0	100.0
Exports—				
Europe	981.6	1,922.0	72.6	76.2
America	213.7	386.7	15.8	15.3
Asia	126.3	137.0	9.3	5.4
Africa	27.7	52.7	2.0	2.1
Australia	4.5	25.9	0.3	1.0
Total	1,353.8	2,524.3	100.0	100.0

The present trade balance with ceded territories is heavily passive, but Customs frontier conditions in the west make the exact extent of the passivity uncertain. All recent foreign trade reports have been issued, with the qualification that they are defective, owing to lack of full details from occupied territory. It is now stated that the real imports exceed those given in the reports by at most 100 million gold marks, and the real exports exceed those given by at most 150 million gold marks per month. As the following table (in millions of gold marks) for groups of European countries shows, export trade to Russia and England has suffered most as compared with before the war:—

	Exports.		Imports.	
	1924.	1913.	1924.	1913.
	First Quarter.	Quarterly Average.	First Quarter.	Quarterly Average.
Former Russia	56.9	356.2	74.7	220.0
Former Austria-Hungary ..	145.6	206.8	181.5	276.2
Balkans, Turkey	53.6	49.8	45.7	78.1
Great Britain	179.8	219.0	113.0	359.6
France, Belgium	61.2	232.2	36.8	335.2
Netherlands	83.3	83.3	134.4	173.4
Northern States	103.2	135.8	176.5	193.2
Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal	163.7	188.8	148.9	281.2

In comparing value figures of 1913 and 1924, the price rise should be allowed for. The present imports index (100 in 1913) is 131, exports index 121. In volume, exports to the United States were only half of the pre-war totals, while imports from there have declined a little.

Revenue received in the first ten days of July totalled 106,680,142 gold marks, expenditure 96,829,185 gold marks. After allowing for 3 millions spent on redemption of Gold Loan, there was a surplus of nearly 13 millions. Revenue in all June was 472,296,794 gold marks, against 518,737,345 gold marks in May. Revenue in the whole first quarter of the current financial year was 1,514,810,191 gold marks. The interest fine on unpaid taxes has been reduced from 5 per cent. to 2 per cent. per fortnight of delay. The Gold Discount Bank's outstanding credits to importers increased in the week ending July 15th to £6,980,163. The Reichsbank has been slowly increasing its gold reserve by buying gold, which is paid for out of its exchange holding. The money situation continues to become easier. Following their reduction of interest rates on current accounts, the Berlin banks have reduced the rate on deposit accounts from 15 to 12 per cent. The Reichsbank is relaxing its rigorous credit policy a little, apparently in the belief that the deflation policy has gone far enough. Since the embargo on credit was imposed in April, prices have fallen heavily, the home exchange market has been brought into equilibrium, and a large reserve of exchange has been accumulated. In trade quarters the demand for a moderate increase in the circulation, by means of expanding credit, is still heard.

The industrial situation shows no sign of improvement. The number of workmen on short time in the textiles branches is particularly high, and is rapidly increasing. The automobile branch is in a very bad condition. Germany, which before the war and after was a motor-car exporting country, in every month of this year imported more cars than she exported. As late as 1922 the net exports of cars were higher than before the war. In May only 80 passenger and 41 commercial cars were exported. Smelting is falling off on the Ruhr. The home market for Solingen steel products is very dull, and exports to most of the old chief customer countries have fallen badly. The total exports of fine steel cutlery in the first quarter of 1924 totalled 12,535 double centners (of 1-roth metric ton), against 16,442 double-centners in the corresponding quarter of 1923, and 22,068 double-centners in the corresponding quarter of 1922. Exports to the United States were only 977 double-centners, as against 4,599 double-centners in the same quarter of 1922 (the last normal year); to Great Britain, 1,141 double-centners, against 2,691 double-centners. The scrap-iron market is almost dead, and prices are less than half those of March. Ore prices are down. The Siegerland iron-ore mines have cut prices by 2 marks a ton. Most of the iron mines in the Lahn-Dill district have stopped work altogether.

HOLLAND.—ROTTERDAMSCH BANKVEREENIGING—GENERAL BANKING POSITION—STATE FINANCES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, July 20.

On July 1st, at the request of the Netherlands Bank, a communication appeared in the newspapers stating that the various reports in circulation concerning the financial position of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereniging had induced the management of that bank to apply to the president of the Netherlands Bank, before whom they placed all particulars as to the position of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereniging. The president of the Netherlands Bank, after examining the information submitted, declared himself prepared to co-operate with the management of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereniging to maintain its liquidity should this be found to be necessary. This communication was, shortly before, preceded by the sudden resignation of one of the principal managers of the institution, so that it is not surprising that all sorts of rumours were afloat—the more so because it was said that the Government was concerned in the communication issued by the Netherlands Bank. No definite information has as yet

been given by any of the parties concerned, except the very pertinent declaration of one of the managers of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereniging that the condition of the bank is perfectly sound. The communication of the Netherlands Bank, although well intended, could not prevent large offerings of stock on the Stock Exchange, that were taken up by a group, of which the composition is not known. Notwithstanding this, the quotation dropped from 92½ per cent. to 84½ per cent. The amount of stock taken up must be considerable.

The banking situation of the Netherlands, however, taken as a whole, may be looked upon as undisturbed. The shares of the other large banks have experienced no disturbance, or, at most, very little, and at no time was there, even for a moment, anywhere, any question of a run. Although the expansion during the war was rather too rapid, still the condition remained intrinsically sound. With the exception of a few small banks in the provinces, only two of the larger institutions have suffered very serious losses—these were Marx and Co.'s Bank, which liquidated, and the Bank-Association, which has greatly curtailed its operations.

The condition of the Dutch banks, as at December 31st last, shows up well in the following statistics:—

SIX LARGE DUTCH BANKING INSTITUTIONS—Amsterdamsche Bank, Twentsche Bank, Rotterdamsche Bankvereniging, Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij, Incasso-Bank, Bank-Associatie.

(In Thousand Guilders.)

Name of Accounts.	ASSETS.			
	1913.	1922.	1923.	
Cash on hand.....	21,332 ..	204,388 ..	136,192 ..	
Bankers	20,260 ..	14,384 ..	16,085 ..	
Discounts	112,386 ..	242,117 ..	271,710 ..	
Stocks and bonds	71,139 ..	125,946 ..	123,441 ..	
Debtors against collateral of shares, and loans	106,705 ..	251,033 ..	247,634 ..	
Debtors	190,169 ..	571,526 ..	618,241 ..	
Real estate	6,814 ..	31,502 ..	35,501 ..	
	528,805 ..	1,440,896 ..	1,446,804 ..	
Name of Accounts.	LIABILITIES.			
	1913.	1922.	1923.	
Paid-up capital	119,221 ..	278,312 ..	278,312 ..	
Reserves	34,893 ..	152,822 ..	154,276 ..	
Deposits	99,689 ..	231,338 ..	235,015 ..	
Creditors	161,003 ..	597,857 ..	596,207 ..	
Drafts and acceptances	69,305 ..	127,699 ..	129,561 ..	
Loans	31,039 ..	26,086 ..	27,170 ..	
Pension fund	2,159 ..	7,399 ..	6,051 ..	
Declared dividends	10,892 ..	17,949 ..	19,073 ..	
Undistributed.....	604 ..	1,434 ..	1,139 ..	
	528,805 ..	1,440,896 ..	1,446,804 ..	

From what has happened, apart from the institution immediately concerned, lessons of general interest may be drawn. The growth and the concentration of the banking business in this country has come about so suddenly that the organisation and, above all, the publication of the most important data have not been kept up to date.

The principal balance-sheets (with a few exceptions, where monthly reports of assets and liabilities are made) appear once a year, and then usually only four or five months after the closing of the year, so that one is entirely in the dark as to any changes which have taken place in that period. In addition, the composition of the various items is very different for the different banks, so that comparison is often impossible.

From the radio-speech of the Minister of Finance, made shortly before Parliament rose for the recess, it appears that the efforts made to balance the Budget have now practically succeeded. The shortage to be covered amounted to Fl 130,000,000. Of this, so far, the following has been found:—Through economies Fl 27,500,000. Savings in defences will have to develop Fl 12,500,000 more. On salaries of Government officials, which before the reduction amounted in all to Fl 210,000,000, Fl 35,000,000 less will be expended in 1925. The postal service will show a surplus, by which the shortage on the railways of some Fl 20,000,000 will be evened up. Further retrenchments could not be introduced, so that the balance of about Fl 35 to Fl 40 millions had to be obtained by new taxes. The taxes on tea, beer, and bicycles have already been put through. There still remain the increased tax on tobacco and the revision of the tariff law. Should both be accepted by Parliament, the Minister considers that for 1925 a practically balanced Budget may be looked forward to.

DENMARK.—EXCHANGES—CROP PROSPECTS—SECURITY PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, July 12.

A LONG period of steadiness in the exchange market was at the end of June succeeded by a new drop in the krone rate, the demand for foreign exchange far exceeding the supply. For three days about the beginning of the half-year it was even necessary to make an allotment of the foreign exchange supplied, which fact caused further difficulties for trade. On June 27th sterling was quoted Kr.26, and dollars Kr.601.50, but the rates rapidly rose, the quotations on the 1st inst. being Kr.27.50 for sterling and Kr.638 for dollars. Subsequently, however, the krone rate has appreciated, the rates quoted to-day being Kr.27.18 and Kr.624 respectively. It is now believed that the worst unrest has subsided, and the market has once more become so well supplied, that it transpires that the Nationalbank and the Exchange Equalising Fund have been able to supplement their holdings, which had gradually become very much depleted.

The cause of the tightening of the exchange rates has no root in the economic conditions, which cannot be said to have changed for the worse. For instance, unemployment is actually less in evidence than last year, the number being only 14,099, as against 21,800 a year ago—and a glance at the balance of trade will show that the deficit of the first five months of the year is on the average Kr.20,000,000 per month, as against about Kr.35,000,000 last year for the corresponding period. Neither has there been any appreciable rise of prices, the index of the *Finanstidende* for wholesale prices having risen from 227 to 228 points only during June. Generally speaking, the drop of the krone rate must therefore be ascribed to psychological causes and to the exchange transactions effected in various quarters, resulting in only part of the foreign exchange at disposal reaching the market. This is, for instance, indicated by the Census of the Danish exchange holdings at home and abroad undertaken on June 30th, which proved that, in spite of the exchange restrictions in force, which make it more difficult than before to obtain foreign exchange in the normal manner at the banks, the total holdings exceeded those of three months ago. This fact is favourable, inasmuch as the future exchange market is concerned, but it also indicates that some foreign exchange has been withheld from the market.

The general view on the exchange situation is more confident than at the beginning of the month. As previously reported, the "Valuta Central" has at an earlier date proposed that, provided certain measures be carried out, a loan of \$40,000,000 should be contracted, but this scheme did not entail a Government proposition, as the "Rigsdag" closed its session last month. From other quarters, however, it is maintained that, sooner or later, it will be necessary to contract a similar loan, and at the same time it is pointed out that just at present the money market in America is said to be favourable for a transaction of this description. It is known that the principal private banks, as well as the Nationalbank, are in favour of such a way out of the exchange trouble, as in their opinion the economical situation in itself is not unfavourable, but owing to the big investments of capital since the end of the war, there is a momentary shortage of working capital. Likewise the theorists maintain that a foreign loan would be required by the present conditions.

The prospects of the crops have improved to a not inconsiderable extent lately. Autumn-sown cereals have recovered somewhat in most places, and the badly wanted heat has benefited the spring-sown crops. It is believed that the spring-sown cereals will show an average return, while this result will not quite be reached from the autumn-sown crops.

Apart from bank shares, the Stock Exchange shows a general and considerable rise in quotations during the year July, 1923-July, 1924. During the last month, however, the tendency has been weak, which fact appears from a summary in the *Finanstidende*, showing that the average quotation for 33 companies has dropped from 122½ to 118½ from the beginning of June until July 4th.

The only exception is trading and transport concerns, which generally have maintained their quotations unchanged. The market for bonds is decidedly weak, the quotation early in July for 3½ per cent. unredemable Danish Government bonds of 1886 being 64½ per cent. only, as against 66½ per cent. a month ago and 70½ at the same time last year.

ROUMANIA.—THE CROP SITUATION—EXCHANGE AND POLITICS—BUSINESS SITUATION—MINING LEGISLATION—TARIFF REVISION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, July 15.

THE abundant rains which fell during June have at least saved the crops from ruin. Official data on this year's crop situation, both as to sowings and condition, are still incomplete; but the final figures are expected to show that wheat has been planted over an area of about 3,000,000 hectares—or a little more than last year. It requires the production of 2,000,000 hectares of a normal wheat crop to satisfy the domestic needs, and as this year's crop will undoubtedly be below normal, there will be no considerable amount available for export. Although the price of wheat on the domestic markets has recently increased by more than 50 per cent. over the controlled (but no longer enforced) price of 45,000 lei per carload, the Government has wisely announced that this grain is not to be restored to the "prohibited for export" list, from which it was removed only last December.

The areas sown to rye, barley, and oats this year are also slightly greater than last, but—as in the case of wheat—the increased sowings will be neutralised by the spring drought. Probably the combined total of these grains available for export will be less than 500,000 tons. Maize, however, as was the case last year, will provide a considerable surplus, and an export of 1,000,000 tons of this grain during the present year is being anticipated, or 25 per cent. more than last year. This, in brief, would leave the agricultural situation showing about the same rate of progress as was made during the years 1922 and 1923—disappointing, measured by pre-war standards, but at least on the road to recovery from the disturbing effects of agrarian reform. The basis of real agricultural prosperity in Roumania would be the sowing to wheat of 5,000,000 hectares.

A great deal of pessimism was let loose a week or so ago when lei exchange dropped to 1,100 to the £, and to 2.14 centimes on Zurich, which brought the gold value of the lei to 2.14 per cent., or the lowest ever recorded. Predictions were freely made that the country was on the verge of an economic and financial disaster, and Mr Vintila Bratianu's handling of the national finances came in for renewed criticism—with insistent demands that the Government resign. The later view, however, is that the decline was due to a "bear drive" engineered by foreign interests to express disapproval of recently enacted legislation—particularly the mining law.

While it is true that the financial policies of Mr Vintila Bratianu have done much to bring about the almost complete stagnation which is at present paralysing commercial activity throughout Roumania, his policies, nevertheless, in general are based upon sound economics. He has secured an almost complete documentation of external and internal liabilities, and arranged a large part of them so that they have become a definite charge on the country's productive capacity over a long period of years; the State Budget is expected to show a surplus this year of more than 2,000 million lei; an "active" trade balance has been definitely restored; and currency inflation ceased last December.

What is now needed is a large foreign loan to tide over the present acute financial distress, and a thorough reorganisation of the country's transportation system. A useful step as a preliminary to the latter is the recent decision to increase railway rates by 25 per cent. as from August 1st. The difficulties which the Government has so far experienced in obtaining foreign credits will certainly not be lessened by the enactment of the new mining law and the law for the commercialisation of State enterprises—with the provision in the latter for creating a

Government monopoly for the sale of petroleum products in the home market. While these legislative acts are naturally disturbing to foreign capital interested in the Roumanian oil industry, the practical application of the laws will be much more difficult than their Parliamentary enactment. A serious discussion on the new mining law is hardly merited; first, because no Roumanian Government would ever be likely to attempt to enforce it in its entirety; and, secondly, because the law could not be completely enforced except by confiscation.

The Tariff Commission has been at work for several months preparing a general revision of the import tariff schedule, which has been in effect since 1921, and which—owing to currency depreciation—no longer affords any real protection to domestic industries. The new rates will show a great increase over those at present in force, and it is expected that they will go into effect during the coming month.

HONG KONG.—OPIUM MONOPOLY—THE SUN YAT SEN RUMOUR—TAXATION IN CANTON.

HONG KONG, May 29.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Imports and Exports Department of the Hong Kong Government is a creation of comparatively recent years, but the annual report of its superintendent is of more importance to the community than that of any of the older branches of the Government service. The report for 1923 has just been issued, and, of course, contains full details of the complex trade of this colony. I have, in a recent letter, referred to the principal figures for the past year, and on this occasion I wish to touch on that portion of the report which is concerned with the trade in opium and arms.

The opium monopoly is now controlled by the Hong Kong Government, and contributes an appreciable sum to the Treasury chest. The Government has, from time to time, expressed its readiness to sacrifice the revenue brought in and prohibit the import of opium entirely, but until China falls into line it is useless to do so, for whatever penalties were imposed, the traffic and consumption would continue. When the cultivation of opium was officially prohibited by the Chinese Government it was hoped that in course of time the use of the drug would gradually diminish. The rapid weakening of authority in China has obscured any prospect of this coming to pass, and nowadays the poppy is grown on as large a scale as ever before in practically all the provinces of the Republic. It is therefore useless for the Hong Kong Government to take any further steps in the matter, and the present aim is to reduce local consumption gradually by maintaining the selling price at a high level, while at the same time doing all that is possible to keep in check the illicit traffic in cheap opium originating in the neighbouring provinces. The Preventive Service has to contend with enormous difficulties, for the drug is easily smuggled in, and any seizures are the result of information which has to be paid for at stiff rates.

The report states that the gross revenue from the sale of opium amounted to \$5,759,443 (approximately £670,000), the net profit being in the neighbourhood of \$3,500,000. The Government issued some 304,000 taels of prepared opium at \$14.50 per tael, but it seems that more than double this quantity was actually consumed in the colony. The Preventive officers seized 284,824 taels of raw and 15,659 taels of prepared opium, and documents which fell into the hands of the Government disclosed evidence of 600,000 taels of the raw drug having been smuggled into the colony, although probably a good portion of this was subsequently exported. The Department carried out a systematic campaign against opium divans, but suppression of these places is exceedingly difficult. The superintendent states:—

"Many of the divans are managed by paid keepers, one man owning several places while the real owner keeps in the background and is rarely caught. . . . The use of children to act as managers of divans is increasing, it being impossible to imprison children or punish them for doing what their parents or employers would punish them for refusing to do."

Nevertheless, 716 keepers of divans and 286 boilers of illicit opium were convicted during 1923, while 284 persons were banished for opium offences.

As regards the traffic in firearms, 1,685 weapons, including 11 machine-guns, were seized during the year under review, as well as 149,383 rounds of ammunition. The number of convictions obtained was 32. The United States was the principal source of supply, but a certain number of Mauser pistols came from Paris. The superintendent adds:—

"There were no seizures of Browning automatics, which used to be popular among the pirate and robber class of South China."

The reported death of Sun Yat Sen caused tremendous excitement amongst the Chinese, and the delay which occurred in issuing a denial appeared to be proof of the event. The stupidity of Sun's personal staff in making a mystery of their chief's illness led to a good deal of confusion, and although the English newspapers of the colony were ultimately satisfied that Sun was far from dead, there was considerable doubt expressed by the Chinese; and, even now, some are by no means convinced that the original report was untrue. The Chinese editor of a newspaper published in Canton in the English language has been held responsible for the rumour, and has been shamefully treated by the Canton authorities. He represented Reuter's, but it is stated that the news of Sun's death was circulated by Reuter's correspondent in Hong Kong, and that the Canton man was in no way responsible. However, the blame was fixed on him, and although he was not tried, he was promptly sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. Intervention on the part of European missionaries has resulted in the imprisonment being cancelled and the sentence amended to ten years' banishment. The incident will no doubt have its effect in the "Fleet Street" of Canton.

Trade in Hong Kong has been decidedly dull for months past, and there is little prospect of any improvement. The situation in Canton becomes more complicated every day, and the latest development is an attempt on the part of Sun's Government to impose a heavy tax on silk cocoons. The silk merchants were up in arms at once, and their remedy was the very one advocated by Sun Yat Sen in the days before the revolution, viz., the general strike. Other branches of trade were also apprehensive of extra taxes about to be enforced, and the whole commercial community had announced its intention of going on strike last Tuesday. The day before the threat was to be carried out the Government agreed to withdraw the new taxes, and so business has gone on without interruption. The Canton Treasury must be very nearly empty, and the Government is at its wit's end to replenish it. It looks as if the merchants have scored, for there have been other attempts to interfere with business, but these have been successfully repelled, and it would not be surprising to find a "public opinion" forming. Hitherto this has been lacking in China, but if it ever develops, there will be some hope of a stable government coming into power.

Letters to the Editor.

THE CHILEAN EXCHANGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—With reference to what your correspondent writes that the "Conversion Fund amounting to £8,000,000 is more than sufficient to cover all the paper money in circulation at an exchange of 18d to the peso, or even at a higher figure," I would beg to point out that this is entirely fallacious and misleading. The paper issue against the Conversion Fund amounts to 150,000,000 pesos, so that the £8,000,000 held in gold against same would only give an equivalent of about 12½d per peso. The amount of paper money actually in circulation is considerably more than 150,000,000 pesos, and, I believe, is in the neighbourhood of 300,000,000 pesos, caused by issues against the internal loans.

The last Presidential address, however, only states the amount of the internal loan owing by the Chilean Govern-

ment, and does not give the figures of the actual paper money in circulation. It is, therefore, difficult to arrive at this figure.

During the war, owing to the large exports of nitrate, copper, wool, and other produce, and the high prices obtained, exchange rose to 16d or over. When the Armistice came there was a sudden cessation of nitrate shipments, and consequently exchange began to drop. The fall in exchange was accentuated by the Chilean Government giving loans in Chilean currency to the nitrate companies to enable them to go on working and accumulate a stock of nitrate. These loans, however, have now been practically all repaid.

Owing to the falling off of the exports of nitrate, from which the Chilean Government obtains a large part of its revenue, the Government has had large deficits yearly. It has not only borrowed money both in London and New York, but it has had to raise internal loans from banks. All these factors have caused exchange to fall, and the first thing to be done in order to stabilise exchange is for the Government to balance its income and expenditure. The President is fully aware of this, and in his Presidential address has mentioned that he has no intention of trying to raise further foreign loans. His idea is to sell valuable sheep-farming lands which are at present rented to sheep-farming companies, and also nitrate grounds, and with the proceeds pay off the outstanding deficits. If this is done exchange ought to improve, but the most vital point of all for the future is that the expenditure of the Government should not exceed its income. The country has great natural resources, and there is really no reason why, with a little effort, exchange should not be stabilised.

H. C.

July 22, 1924.

Books and Publications.

THE TARIFF COMPLEX.

At the time, just twenty-one years ago, when the late Mr Joseph Chamberlain opened his campaign to convert this country to Imperial Preference, one of his right-hand men was Mr W. A. S. Hewins, then Director of the London School of Economics. Mr Chamberlain was a politician who had decided that the policy of Imperial Preference was necessary as a cement to keep the Empire from splitting up; he was not an economist. "I do not pretend to be an economic expert," said he to Mr Hewins. "I once read Mill and tried to read Marshall. You must supply the economic argument." Mr Hewins accepted the charge, he abandoned his career that he might supply arguments for Mr Chamberlain's campaign, and he has been doing his utmost with admirable sincerity and persistence to supply arguments ever since. His latest effort is entitled "Trade in the Balance: Protection or Free Imports?"

This book is not a history of the Tariff Reform movement; that history may come some day from Mr Hewins's pen—he hints the possibility. Told with the full knowledge which he possesses, and without regard to the feelings of living politicians, it would be an entertaining work. We should then read how it came about that Mr Chamberlain, who entered upon his last campaign on fire with red-hot zeal for the future of the Empire, allowed himself within a few months to be "nobbled" by the Protectionists, whose enthusiasm for a tariff on imported goods—which competed with their own—far surpassed any tepid sentiments which they may have felt for Imperial Preference. Mr Hewins would probably be able to tell us that campaigns cost much money, and that though there is not much money for Imperial Preference, there is any quantity on tap for a protective tariff. That happened which was bound to happen. While the ideal of a self-sufficing Empire attracted the young and ardent spirits of the Unionist party, the direction of the whole campaign fell into the hands of the crude Protectionists. What they wanted were "arguments" for a general tariff which might delude the country into acceptance. Mr Chamberlain, driven by those who supplied the sinews of war, became less and less a Missionary of Empire and

* Philip Allan and Company. 7s 6d net.

more and more a Jeremiah of British Trade. We remember as if they had been delivered last week that famous series of speeches in which it was sought to prove that coal, iron, wool, cotton, shipping were going, going, going and would soon be gone—unless a tariff of 10 per cent. were imposed upon imports of manufactured goods. Mr Chamberlain, in the desire to win support for Imperial Preference, killed himself in doing propaganda work for British Protectionists.

What is so surprising about Mr Hewins is not his deep-rooted tariff complex—for that is ineradicable from certain types of mind—but that he should still believe in the practical possibility of a general tariff, combined with Imperial Preference, in this country. He has passed like a Shadrach through the general elections of 1906 and 1923, and has carried away not even a smell of smoke. He lays down "An Immediate Policy" for this country—of course, a tariff—and regards confirmation by the people as wholly unnecessary. "My view certainly is," he writes, "that without asking for any further powers from the electorate, the responsible leader of any party which happens to be in power should forthwith introduce such a tariff as the circumstances require to prevent these great industries from being undermined by foreign competition." Mr Hewins maintains that the information in possession of the Government offices is sufficient to enable an effective tariff to be drawn up in a month. He himself, as a member of the Tariff Advisory Board, helped to draw one up last autumn in readiness for Mr Baldwin's victory at the polls. He does not worry about that election. His view is that since Parliament—and, maybe, the country—accepted the "principles" of the Safeguarding of Industries Act in regard to "dumping" and "collapsed exchanges," the method of interpreting them into legislation is no more than "machinery." It is easy to understand how a man with such naive views on practical politics did not succeed in Parliament as a politician, and is not likely to be any more successful as a supplier of "arguments" to politicians.

On the subject of Imperial Preference—the real love of Mr Hewins as of his chief, Mr Joseph Chamberlain—Mr Hewins is slightly disingenuous. He emphasises more than once in this book that "the Dominions have never asked us to put a duty on in order to give a preference," but only that we shall give all the preference possible in respect of duties which we have in force. Mr Hewins is, of course, carefully distinguishing between the official requests of Dominion Governments—delivered, so to speak *ex cathedra*—and the declared wishes of individual Prime Ministers of Dominions. It is true that, officially, no Dominion Government has asked us to put on duties in order to give a preference. But the whole burden of the speeches of the Prime Minister of Australia, for example, last year was that Imperial Preference was illusory unless we put on duties against foreign foodstuffs and remitted them for Dominion products. Many people, however they may disagree with the principle, are prepared to continue a preference on the duties which the Chancellor of the Exchequer sees fit to impose—in the interests of Great Britain and its revenue. But they and the country generally are totally opposed, and are likely to remain opposed, to the imposition of duties on foodstuffs in order to give remission to Dominion products. The Dominions may not ask us officially to do this. They cannot very well, because it amounts to a direct subsidy of the Dominions by Great Britain. Yet Dominion Ministers and Parliaments want us to do just this, and have no hesitation in saying so.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

M. JOSEPH-BARTHELEMY'S volume* is an exceedingly competent and convenient handbook on a subject of which the British public is strangely ignorant, considering the intimate bearing of French politics and institutions upon the fortunes of Great Britain. The book will thus be welcome to English readers for the mere information which it offers in a short and easily accessible form. At the same time, this is not a mere text-book or compendium, for the author has treated his subject throughout in its historical setting and from a broad point of view.

* "The Government of France." By Joseph-Barthelemy. Authorised translation by J. Bayard Morris. Allen and Unwin, 1924. 6s net.

Miscellaneous.

Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Ararat Bread (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2	Hudson's Bay (11) ..	5 1/2	1/2
Amal. Cottons (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Imperial Tobacco (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2
Anglo-Persian Oil (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Linggi Plantains (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) ..	2 1/2	1/2	Lipton (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
and Co. (11) ..	2 1/2	1/2	Liver Brs 7% Cmp (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
Asa. Pind. Cement (11) ..	2 1/2	1/2	Do 8% Cmp A Prt (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
Barker, John (11) ..	2 1/2	1/2	Do 9% Cmp P1 Ord (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
B'ham Small Arms (11) ..	2 1/2	1/2	Lister (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2
Brasil Traction (\$100) ..	5 1/2	1/2	Lobitos Oilfields (11) ..	9 1/2	10 1/2
British-American ..	5 1/2	1/2	Lyons (J.) & Co. (11) ..	5 1/2	4 1/2
Tobacco (11) ..	5 1/2	1/2	Mexican Eagle (\$10) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Burmah Oil (11) ..	5 1/2	1/2	Rubber Plantations ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Coast (J. and P.) (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Investment (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Courtauld (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Shell Transport (11) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Cunard (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Smithfield & Argentine ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Dorman, Long (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	Meat (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Dunlop Rubber (11) ..	3 1/2	1/2	United Dairies (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	2 1/2	1/2	United Serdang (21) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
(11) ..	2 1/2	1/2	United Tobacco (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Forestral Land (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2	Vallambrosa (21) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Furness, Withy (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2	Vickers (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Highlands and Low ..	1 1/2	1/2	Wayney Def. Stk. ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
lands Rubber (11) ..	1 1/2	1/2			

Mines.

Brakpan (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Knights ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill Prop. (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Modderfontein (10) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Chartered (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Modderfont. "B" (5) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Gold Fields (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
Crown Mines (10) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	Premier Def. (2/6) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
De Beers Def. (11) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines (5) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
East Rand Prop. (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Sekukwe ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Goldfield (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Sio Tinto (11) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Gov. Gold Areas ..	6 1/2	6 1/2	Spring Mines (11) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JUNE, 1924.

Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.	
Anglo-Nigerian ..	8
Gold Coast Consolidated ..	2 1/2
May output, 2 1/2 tons.	
Coal.	
Chinese Engineering ..	71,207
Witbank Colliery ..	61,876
Sales of coal week ended July 12th.	

GOLD MINES OF THE TRANSVAAL.—We are officially informed that the total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of June, 1924, amounted to £1,212,976 for the Witwatersrand district; £12,421 for the outside districts; total, £1,225,397. The estimated working profit in May, 1924, was £1,284,405 for the Witwatersrand district; £12,067 for the outside districts; total, £1,296,472.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

VAN DEN BERGHES, LIMITED.

December 31, 1923.

LIABILITIES.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.	ASSETS.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.
Amount.	£	Amount.	£
6% cum. pref. shrs. 450,000 ..		Goodwill ..	658,463 ..
6% "B" cum. pref. 1,000,000 ..		Properties ..	608,991 ..
7% "C" cum. pref. 1,000,000 ..		Associated & subsidiary cos. ..	2,408,698 ..
15% pref. ord. ..	937,500 ..	Sundry debtors ..	1,286,008 ..
Ord. shares, 5s ..	187,500 ..	Stocks ..	328,590 ..
Bills payable ..	226,699 ..	Sundry receivable ..	12,228 ..
Sundry creditors ..	1,023,164 ..	Cash ..	217,145 ..
Do associated companies ..	83,765 ..	Investments ..	101,432 ..
Reserve ..	500,000 ..	Reserve fund investments ..	111,849 ..
Profit and loss ..	247,105 ..	Expenditure carried forward ..	13,746 ..
Total ..	5,655,733 ..	Total ..	5,655,733 ..

FURNESS, WITHY, AND CO.

April 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.	Compared with April 30, 1923.	ASSETS.	Compared with April 30, 1923.
Amount.	£	Amount.	£
Ord. shares ..	4,000,000 ..	Steamships, investments in associated cos. and payments on account of new tonnage ..	5,402,906 ..
Pref. shares ..	1,500,000 ..	Investments ..	3,661,073 ..
Reserves ..	2,000,000 ..	Properties ..	348,777 ..
Sundry creditors ..	4,960,754 ..	Sundry debtors ..	2,072,515 ..
Profit and loss ..	216,537 ..	Bankers' balances, &c. ..	1,192,120 ..
Total ..	12,677,391 ..	Total ..	12,677,391 ..

MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION.

December 31, 1923.

LIABILITIES.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.	ASSETS.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.
Amount.	£	Amount.	£
Capital ..	1,192,726 ..	Plant, &c. ..	816,256 ..
5 1/2% mort. debts. 57,320 ..		Licences & rights in assoc. cos. ..	255,055 ..
General reserve ..	208,014 ..	Sundry debtors ..	251,468 ..
Reserve for obsolescence of plant ..	45,915 ..	Cash ..	45,660 ..
Sundry creditors ..	330,656 ..	Investments ..	547,182 ..
Profit and loss ..	126,896 ..		
Total ..	1,915,611 ..	Total ..	1,915,611 ..

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended July 18, 1924.	(c) Week ended July 19, 1924.	Miles Open	Week ended July 20, 1924.			Aggregate 29 Weeks, 1924.		
			Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,754	336,000	328,000	664,000	6,926,000	9,798,000	16,724,000	
Do for 1923	3,747	310,000	344,000	654,000	7,121,000	10,456,000	17,577,000	
London & North-Eastern ..	6,722	600,000	650,000	1,250,000	11,920,000	17,730,000	31,650,000	
Do same period 1923 ..	6,702	560,000	649,000	1,209,000	12,030,000	17,573,000	33,678,000	
London, Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	914,000	834,000	1,748,000	17,134,000	25,144,000	42,278,000	
Do for 1923 ..	6,941	800,000	787,000	1,587,000	17,418,000	24,752,000	42,170,000	
Southern ..	2,146	413,400	114,000	527,400	8,899,800	12,622,400	21,522,200	
Do for 1923 ..	2,146	403,400	117,300	520,700	9,036,800	12,443,900	21,480,700	
Metropolitan (c) ..	79 1/2	40,953	3,793	44,746	1,079,295	1,116,634	2,195,929	
Do for 1923 ..	79 1/2	31,129	3,510	34,639	924,140	1,101,009	2,025,149	
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	266,182	..	..	6,698,018	
Do for 1923 ..	..	..	..	238,145	..	..	6,501,326	
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	44,497	..	..	1,090,992	
Do for 1923 ..	..	..	..	42,909	..	..	1,158,525	
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	11,213	830	12,043	130,662	36,173	166,835	
Dublin and S. East (b) ..	160	7,705	3,522	11,227	166,495	104,468	270,963	
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	28,850	18,150	47,000	525,950	585,650	1,111,600	
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	28,375	29,881	58,256	649,356	1,022,003	1,671,359	
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	9,824	14,327	24,151	255,970	412,963	668,933	

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	12 weeks	June 21	1,072	Rs. 2,49,000 +	Rs. 49,567	Rs. 29,80,060 +	Rs. 4,34,091
Barsi Lt. Ry.	13 weeks	28	118	34,000 +	11,690	4,90,700 +	75,300
Bengal & N. Western ..	12 weeks	21	2,062	7,06,630 +	50,699	8,12,275 +	3,76,163
Bengal Nagpur	12 weeks	21	2,800	14,77,000 +	53,000	19,423,000 +	22,47,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	16 weeks	July 19	1,342	20,45,000 +	2,76,000	3,80,96,000 +	22,47,000
Burma.	12 weeks	June 21	1,342	6,66,951 +	48,890	88,62,843	5,03,704
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	15 weeks	July 12	239	99,000 +	5,115	15,45,974	38,993
East Indian	16 weeks	19	2,873	31,47,000 +	78,000	5,46,71,000 +	25,41,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	16 weeks	19	3,175 1/2	23,16,200 +	2,82,200	4,79,69,720 +	50,92,337
Madras & S. Mal.	11 weeks	June 21	3,029	16,80,000 +	1,86,775	19,43,979 +	13,59,685
Rohilk'd & Kumaon ..	12 weeks	21	259	68,273 +	8,498	8,07,870 +	91,924
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	12 weeks	21	314	74,868 +	5,295	10,02,559 +	91,924
South Indian	13 weeks	28	1,877	10,63,376 +	50,955	12,14,594 +	2,86,356

ARGENTINE (a).

Argentine N.E.	3 weeks	July 19	754	13,000 +	900	13,900
Argentine Trans.	2 weeks	12	..	2,446 +	398	2,844
B. A. and Pacific ..	3 weeks	19	3,362	170,000 +	43,000	213,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	3 weeks	19	3,948	200,000 +	50,000	250,000
B. A. Western ..	3 weeks	19	1,882	70,000 +	36,000	106,000
Central Argentine ..	3 weeks	19	3,305	100,000 +	28,000	128,000
Cordoba Central ..	3 weeks	19	1,205	230,000 +	23,000	253,000
Entre Rios ..	3 weeks	19	729	21,400 +	4,400	25,800

CANADIAN.

Canadian National ..	28 weeks	July 14	22,680	4,593,485 +	42,850	4,636,335
Canadian Pacific ..	29 weeks	21	13,814	3,134,000 +	120,000	3,254,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Gt. West. of Brazil ..	23 weeks	July 19	1,011	7,100 +	1,300	8,400
Leopoldina ..	23 weeks	19	1,831	34,409 +	2,826	37,235
San Paulo ..	26 weeks	June 29	1,534	45,323 +	18,612	63,935

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta ..	29 weeks	July 20	838	34,585 +	4,820	39,405
Nitrato (4-monthly) ..	28 weeks	15	366	40,915 +	4,380	45,295

CUBAN.

Havana Central ..	3 weeks	July 19	..	11,978 +	563	12,541
United of Havana ..	3 weeks	19	1,249	69,081 +	11,769	80,850

URUGUAYAN.

Central Uruguay ..	3 weeks	July 19	273	20,250 +	3,808	24,058
C. Urug. (East. Ext.) ..	3 weeks	19	311	3,709 +	161	3,870
C. Urug. (North. Ext.) ..	3 weeks	19	185	1,978 +	9	2,087
C. Urug. (West. Ext.) ..	3 weeks	19	211	2,016 +	560	2,576

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Alcoy and Gandia ..	29 weeks	July 19	33	20,000 ..	..	20,000
Egyptian Delta ..	12 weeks	June 30	575	7,035 ..	5	7,040
Gt. Southn. of Spain ..	28 weeks	July 12	104	15,527 +	79,604	95,131
Leankashire Railway ..	3 weeks	21	432	245,500 ..	18,400	263,900
New Cape Central ..	26 weeks	June 28	205	2,813 ..	166	2,979
Paraguay Central ..	3 weeks	July 12	274	4,270 +	1,310	5,580
Salvador ..	2 weeks	12	100	2,056 ..	165	2,221

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine....	29weeks	July 22	329	£84,307	+ 7,563	2,527,541	+ 81,784
Burnley Corporation	1 week	19	12	£3,118	5	..	..
Calcutta Tramways.	29weeks	19	358	Rs130,658	+ 2,393	..	+ 6,95,373
Chatham & District	28weeks	10	15	£1,646	208	37,502	4,859
Egyptian Markets .	29weeks	17	..	£619	1,045	61,654	4,271
Glasgow Corporation	7 weeks	19	106	£42,860	+ 12,043	317,977	+ 19,146
Isle of Thanet Tram.	41weeks	9	..	£2,257	166	35,686	9,375
Do Light & Power	41weeks	9	..	666	126	41,775	7,919
Leamington Trams	28weeks	17	28 1/2	£1,684	141	39,186	5,000
Liverpool Corpora- tion Tramways ..	15weeks	12	124	£26,056	3,764	363,380	40,012
L.C.C. Tramways ..	16weeks	23	163	£80,295	6,483	1,313,959	122,693
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	32weeks	15	..	Rs 54,151	+ 2,813	6,67,024	10,101
Perambur Trams.	29weeks	20	..	£3,694	+ 160	129,781	22,494
Singapore Trams ..	24weeks	19	..	£15,479	+ 3,482	77,626	..

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR.
THE GOLD STANDARD—STATE BANK AND COMPETITION.
POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIES.

DIST

Bank Property and Premises. Bank property and premises show an increase of, roughly, £113,000, chiefly on account of the expenditure on our premises in London and Cape Town, and also the purchase or erection of premises in various places in South Africa.

Profit and Loss Account. If you will turn now to the profit and loss account, you will see that the net profits for the year amounted to £456,396, as compared with £388,824 for the previous year, an increase of £67,572. The result is that, although the amount of undivided profits brought forward was about £73,000 less, the total is restored to within £6,000 of what it was a year ago.

Having regard to all the difficulties of the past year, I venture to think that the result of the year's working will be regarded by you as satisfactory and hopeful. (Applause.)

Allocation of Profit. With the sum of £117,967 brought forward from the previous year, and net profits amounting to £456,396, there is available a total of £574,364, from which we have already taken £156,041 for the payment of the interim dividend in January.

We have also appropriated £50,000 to write down bank premises, leaving £368,322 still to be disposed of. Out of this we recommend that £100,000 be allocated to the bank's pension fund, and a final dividend of 7s per share be paid, amounting to £156,041, leaving £112,281 to be carried forward to the next account.

Officers' Pension Fund. Perhaps I should say a few words with regard to the allocation to the officers' pension fund, as the amount is comparatively large. The Chairman explained to you at the meeting last year that the advice of a competent actuary is taken periodically with regard to the fund, and the amounts set aside each year are such as the board, in their discretion, think it right to recommend to the shareholders, and are not in excess of what the actuary recommends—indeed, they are less. You will realise that the staff of the bank has increased considerably during the last few years, chiefly owing to the absorption of the African Banking Corporation, and, in addition to this, the scale of salaries is, of course, much higher than it was a few years ago, with the result that the liability on account of pensions has been correspondingly increased. There is no doubt that the shareholders will recognise the importance of making adequate provision year by year for the retiring allowances to old officers who have spent the best years of their lives in our service.

In dealing with the accounts, I am glad to have one further item to speak to you about, as it is one, I feel sure, that will appeal to you.

Settlement in Respect of Dominion Income-tax. You will remember that, when the interim dividend was paid in January, British income-tax was deducted therefrom at the full rate of 4s 6d in the £ without the usual allowance for relief in respect of Dominion income-tax. This allowance could not then be dealt with, as the actual amount had not been ascertained. After protracted negotiations with the Inland Revenue authorities, a final settlement of the relief to be allowed has been effected, not only in regard to the current year, but also in respect of previous years, with the result that an adjustment of tax can now be made. On the basis of a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, the amount of relief due is about 5s 2½d in the £. Of this amount, as you will know for yourselves, 4s 6d in the £ will cover British income-tax, and the balance of about 8½d in the £, or about 3d per share, will naturally be added to the dividend.

For your dividend, therefore, on this occasion, you will receive about 7s 3d per share, free of income-tax, in place of 7s, less tax. I congratulate you on this little bonus. (Cheers.)

Trade Returns. You will, I am sure, be interested in the particulars of the trade returns for the period under review, and some details in connection with the most important of the South African industries.

The year 1923 showed a substantial improvement in the gold mining industry. Increased economy and efficiency have resulted in a great addition to the reserves of payable ore. Working costs have been reduced, and the appreciable advance in the price of gold has further assisted the industry.

Gold Mining. The Transvaal gold output during 1923 totalled 9,133,060 ounces, valued at £39,894,743, constituting a record in the history of the Transvaal gold mining industry, excepting only the year 1916, when 9,296,618 ounces were recovered.

Owing to the premium on gold, however, the value of the output for 1923 exceeded that of 1916 by £405,221, and is the highest on record.

Remarkable Improvement in the Mines. The total dividend distribution of the Transvaal Gold Mining Companies for the year 1923, viz., £8,482,421, is an indication of the remarkable improvement that has taken place in the mines since the pre-strike period.

A very satisfactory feature in connection with the operations of the mines for 1923 is that 29 out of the 37 producing properties on the Witwatersrand declared dividends during the year, whereas only 19 companies were in a position to do so during 1922.

Shipments to India. Under the new agreement with the Bank of England, which came into force on August 1st last, the gold producers were permitted to ship gold direct to destinations other than the United Kingdom. A number of shipments have since been made from Durban to Bombay, and the Transvaal Chamber of Mines reports that there are prospects of this trade assuming considerable dimensions. During the latter part of 1923 shipments of gold direct to India totalled 209,403 standard ounces.

Increased Activity in Rhodesia. The value of the Rhodesian gold output during the last three half-years was as follows:—

Half-year ending:	Value.
December 31, 1922	£1,523,255
June 30, 1923	1,441,568
December 31, 1923	1,467,591

The gold mining industry in Rhodesia is beginning to show signs of increased activity both as regards the small workers and the larger mining companies, since they are both assisted by the premium.

Diamond Mining. The diamond industry had a fairly good year in comparison with the previous year.

The exports of diamonds from South Africa during 1923 show an increase of £3,898,566 over the 1922 exports, the figures being £8,630,320 and £4,731,754 for 1923 and 1922 respectively. For the Union the figures were 2,428,849 carats, valued at £7,207,807 in 1923, and 1,330,664 carats, valued at £4,386,554 in 1922.

Coal. Coal production in 1923 was benefited by the French occupation of the Ruhr, the consequent shortage in Europe and higher prices affording the Union coal mines an opportunity to enter other markets.

The year 1923 opened quietly, cargo business being difficult to obtain. Increased cost of production in the British industry, coupled with the coal strike in Britain, created a big demand for both bunkers and cargoes which continued throughout the last nine months of the year.

The total output in the Union amounted to 11,915,000 tons, valued at £3,714,000 approximately, as against a production of 9,725,000 tons in the previous year.

Copper and Tin. Both copper and tin-mining witnessed an expansion of activity and growth of output during 1923 owing to the rise in the price of these metals, particularly tin. The outlook for the tin mines appears favourable, since tin-using industries in England and America are well engaged.

During recent years copper production had materially diminished as the result of poor demand and low values. For the year under review, however, a tonnage of 9,489,090 was produced in the Union as against 705,570 tons in the previous year.

Revival in the Industries. The expansion in electrical enterprises in the Union, notably the electrification of the Natal main line between Pietermaritzburg and Glencoe Junction, coupled with the Government bounty in respect of production in the Transvaal, have undoubtedly been the main causes of the revival in the copper-mining industry.

In South-West Africa and the Belgian Congo the copper production shows satisfactory improvement.

Tin-mining in the Union is almost exclusively confined to the Transvaal. Encouraged by the rise in price and improved demand, operations are being energetically pushed forward, while in South-West Africa alluvial tin mines which had been abandoned for years have lately resumed operations.

Asbestos. The value of asbestos produced in the Union and Rhodesia shows improvement, the output figures for the year being £121,453 in the Union and £626,880 in Rhodesia.

Farming. The very severe drought experienced in most parts of the country in 1923, and the ravages of locusts, affected farming industries, but did not in any way undermine the soundness of the position, which, on the other hand, was favourably affected by the strength of the wool market and the record maize crop harvested last year. The exceptionally good late rains have ensured winter feed for sheep, and made ploughing for winter crops possible.

In districts where mixed farming does not exist, the distress resulting from drought and locusts was more acute, and the Government introduced special legislation during the last session of Parliament providing for financial assistance to enable farmers who have suffered severely to tide over, and good rains have fallen in most parts of the country.

In Southern Rhodesia livestock of all descriptions are in very fair condition, and practically free from disease; but the market remains very inactive, and other than exceptionally good slaughter cattle are procurable at very low figures. The seasonal rainfall

just ended has proved to be far below normal. Maize prospects are fairly good. Cotton, despite weather conditions, is proving satisfactory.

Heavy rains fell in the South-West Protectorate at the beginning of last year, but the growth following the rains was practically eaten off by locusts. Since then the rainfall has been very patchy and rather late for the maize districts. The opening up of artesian wells in different parts of the country has done much to assist the position.

Nyasaland weather conditions have been satisfactory on the whole, and a record tobacco crop is expected. No serious damage has been done by rust. For cotton, too, the climatic conditions have been favourable, and the crop would have been better but for the severe damage caused by boll-worm.

In the East Africa Protectorate the seasons have been favourable on the whole, and good crops have been harvested.

Wheat and Maize. Last season's Western Province wheat did not command such a good price as in the previous year, owing to very good crops in the principal wheat-growing countries of the world. Large quantities of Australian, Canadian, and Argentine wheat were imported during 1923, with consequent depression of price for the local product.

Imports of wheat into the Union for 1923 were valued at over £1,292,000, representing over 140,000 tons and being over three times the value and quantity of wheat imported in 1922.

The acreage under wheat is being extended in East Africa. In 1920 only 2.6 per cent. of the entire area under cultivation in Kenya Colony was devoted to wheat production, while this has increased to 5.6 per cent. in 1923.

Last season's maize crop was excellent, and good prices were obtained, particularly on the local market towards the end of the year, owing to the serious drought in maize-growing districts in addition to damage done by locusts. Over 5½ million bags of maize were exported from the Union out of a total of approximately 17,000,000 bags produced. The production of maize in 1921-22 was 13,347,235 bags, and in 1922-23, 11,946,000 bags. The 1924-25 crop will not approach the 1923-24 figures, but a fair result is looked for. Exports will, however, be on a much smaller scale.

The grain elevators at the different points in the country, now rapidly getting into working order, will make for the more efficient marketing of grain.

In the East Africa Protectorate maize is proving a very valuable crop, and its cultivation is being largely extended. In 1920, 18.2 per cent. of the total cultivated areas in Kenya Colony was under maize; in 1923, 36.4 per cent. During the year ending June 30, 1924, the estimate of the crop for export is 700/750,000 bags.

Livestock. The ravages of locusts and drought resulted in heavy losses to many farmers, but the exceptionally good late rains have ensured winter grazing for sheep. Cattle are in good condition at present, but, on account of drought and the lateness of the rains, the winter veld will not be so good for big stock.

Prices of all classes of cattle, with the exception of prime slaughter oxen, remain low. The market for sheep has been very firm throughout the year as a result of the strong position of the wool market.

The total value of wool, mohair, and ostrich feathers exported from the Union in the last three years compares as follows:—

	1921	1922	1923
Wool, Mohair, and Ostrich Feathers, £	8,236,835	11,000,942	12,388,186
Wool	583,643	1,152,470	947,883
Mohair	461,533	393,919	339,903
Ostrich Feathers			

These figures indicate that while wool and mohair values have greatly increased, ostrich feathers have shown a progressive decline, but it is satisfactory to note that at the auctions in London recently concluded there was a good demand for feathers, and values improved.

The past season has been an exceptionally good one for wool farmers. In spite of political and economic complications abroad, the wool values maintained an upward trend during the whole of the year. At the close of 1923 fine crossbreds were about 20 per cent. dearer than in December, 1922, and medium crossbreds 25 per cent. and coarse 50 per cent. higher. Merinos, which were at a high level a year ago, advanced a further 15 per cent.

After a period of depression, mohair has regained some of its former popularity, and prices have substantially improved.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT and SICKNESS

Policies providing
CAPITAL SUMS
in case of Death or Loss of Limbs or Eyes by Accident,

ANNUITIES
for Permanent Total Disablement,

WEEKLY COMPENSATION
during Disablement through Accident or Illness and during Convalescence, are issued by The

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Prospectus free on request.

Head Office:—
1 Dale St., Liverpool. Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.3.
Branches and Agencies throughout the World.
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

The production of mohair is far below that of pre-war days, and, with increasing consumption, there is every indication of keener competition and wider markets. Bradford is the principal buyer, very little going to America.

Hides and Skins. The skin market was very firm in March, 1923, but weakened during the ensuing six months, particularly for capes and goatskins. About September last, however, sheepskins, in sympathy with the wool market, showed an improved tendency at increased prices.

South African prices for all classes of skins and hides have been for some time above London parity, and there has consequently been a scarcity of supplies on the London market, where little actual business has taken place.

The value of hides and skins exported in 1923 was £2,485,906, as against £1,953,355 in 1922.

Hides and skins exported from the East Africa Protectorate through Kilindini and Mombasa during 1923 were valued at £152,911, as compared with £141,084 during 1922.

Wine and Brandy. It is hoped that the passing of the Wine and Spirits Control Act during the last session of the Union Parliament will have the effect of assisting the industry, which has been in an unsatisfactory condition for the past few years. Owing to the short crop, and the drying of a portion of the wine grapes, it is expected that there will be little or no surplus this year, and wine farmers will consequently receive a better price.

A good trade is being done with Mauritius in certain wines; the export to England has also increased, and very fair prices are being obtained.

The Fruit Industry. South Africa is very well suited for the growth of almost any kind of fruit, and the fruit industry is making good progress.

Fresh Fruits. The values of shipments for the past four years are:

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
£173,561 ...	£421,591 ...	£521,500 ...	£539,114	

South African fruit has recently been meeting with consistent demand overseas at very fair prices, and it is encouraging to learn that fruit has this season been arriving in England in a much more satisfactory condition than before.

The drying, canning, and preserving of fruit are making rapid strides in the fruit-growing districts of the Union, and the immediate prospects for dried fruits are satisfactory on the whole.

The statistics of output and export for the past three years are as follows:—

	Total Output of Sugar.	Export.
The Sugar Industry.	Tons of 2,000 lbs.	Tons of 2,000 lbs.
Season.		
1921-22	155,194	34,500
1922-23	158,300	33,754
1923-24	203,300	32,150

The season has been a profitable one to both millers and planters, and, with the firm market overseas and the co-operation between the distributors, prices, after a temporary set-back in September, have steadily risen.

The capital employed in the industry is estimated to be well over £6,000,000.

This year's crop was even better than had been expected, but prospects for the coming crop are not so bright, as rain is badly needed in many parts, especially on the north coast of Natal.

There appears to be a good future for cotton growing within certain areas in South Africa, but transport costs will probably prove a heavy burden in many cases. In this connection keen interest is being taken by the Government in the possibility of opening up over a quarter of a million acres of suitable land in Zululand, by the construction of a railway line from near Somkele to the Pongola.

The production of cotton (not ginned) in the Union rose from 796,610 lbs in 1918 to 3,576,400 lbs in 1921. In 1922, the year when the last agricultural census was taken, the production was 2,806,367 lbs.

In Rhodesia cotton growing is still in the experimental stage. Crops have been grown in different parts of the country with varying success, but on the whole satisfactory results have been achieved. An encouraging feature of much importance is that the cotton plants have generally shown good drought-resisting qualities.

Exports of cotton from Nyasaland for the year 1923 amounted to 2,182,537 lbs, as compared with 2,227,674 lbs in 1922.

In East Africa cotton has begun to be cultivated by the natives in the Kavirondo Province (Kenya Colony), and great hopes of its future are entertained. In 1923 the exports of cotton from Uganda amounted to 92,642 bales of 400 lbs each, and this year it is estimated that the crop will amount to 120,000 bales.

Drought has unfavourably affected production, and considerable decreases in the yield are expected in many districts of the Union.

Exports of tobacco (all kinds) from the Union for 1922 totalled 1,677,667 lbs, valued at £66,541, and for 1923, 2,381,010 lbs, valued at £71,421.

The prospects for the coming tobacco crop in Rhodesia, which is the most important crop for export purposes, although very doubtful at the beginning of the season owing to the late rains, are now far better than for some years. Disease is almost totally absent, and this will mean a larger yield and better prices than for the two previous seasons, when disease did so much destruction among crops. In 1924 Virginia crop is not likely to be less than 2,000,000 lbs, while growers report fair prospects for Turkish tobacco.

The exports of wattle bark and bark extract from the Union during the past two years were as follows:—

	Year.	Weight. Lbs.	Value. £
Wattle bark	1922 ..	271,716,264 ..	799,942
	1923 ..	241,324,585 ..	659,297
Bark extract	1922 ..	24,341,472 ..	203,197
	1923 ..	34,935,358 ..	266,084

Coffee has proved a valuable crop in East Africa, and thrives in Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda. It is of high quality, and fetches good prices. Increased acreages have been planted in Kenya and Tanganyika. In the former colony 19 per cent. of the total area under cultivation was devoted to coffee in 1923, as against 15.8 per cent. in 1920.

The value of coffee exported from Kilindini and Mombasa during 1923 amounted to £620,897, compared with £544,876 for 1922.

The Nyasaland tea industry is growing, and in 1923 the exports of tea were valued at £756,674 compared with £737,165 for 1922. Satisfactory conditions have again prevailed this season, the estimate for the crop being considerably above the average.

In 1920 the areas under sisal in Kenya Colony amounted to 17.4 of the total areas under cultivation; in 1923 this had declined to 14.2 per cent. Sisal, however, is still a valuable crop in this colony. In the Tanganyika territory it is regaining its importance, and during the year some 10,000 tons were shipped from Tanga and 1,509 from Dar-es-Salaam, while regular shipments are commencing from Lindi.

The value of sisal hemp exports from Kilindini and Mombasa totalled £236,044 in 1923; the exports from Dar-es-Salaam for the same period were valued at £44,306.

I will now conclude by moving the first resolution:—"That the report and balance-sheet to March 31, 1924, now presented, be adopted," and I will ask Sir David Barbour to second it.

Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.: I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, before I put that resolution I shall be glad to endeavour to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

Mr Milton: You have already answered the questions I was going to put, but there is one point. I think we as shareholders should know what is the total amount of the pension fund up

to our last balance-sheet. I also want to ask why it is necessary to put £100,000 to this fund for two years running, and what the total of the pension fund is going to be.

The Chairman: It has never been the custom to publish the figures of this fund, but I am quite sure that, after your suggestion, the directors will consider the matter.

Mr Milton: My question was, what was the amount you expect the pension fund to reach? When are we going to be done with the amount of £100,000 a year?

The Chairman: That depends on the report of our actuaries, the growth of our staff, and other circumstances.

Capt. Chas. Slack, F.R.G.S.: I rise only to suggest whether it will not be useful to add to the information you give the number of those who receive pensions. There is another point I would urge that in the balance-sheet the figures for the previous year be also given for purposes of comparison. It is a convenience, that is all. Of course, we can refer to the previous accounts, but if we have them side by side they are useful.

The Chairman: We will certainly consider the suggestion.

Mr T. L. Gilmour: I do not want to detain the meeting, but I do not think it would be the wish of the majority of the shareholders that the board should have the impression that shareholders have not the most absolute and entire confidence in the way in which the board are dealing with the officers' pension fund.

There can be no objection to the question being considered as to whether any further information can be given to the shareholders, but my only object in rising is to assure the board, as I feel I can on behalf of the great majority of the shareholders, that in this, as in other matters, we have the most entire confidence in the way they are handling the situation, and particularly any question that affects the staff, because I think every member present is very fully conscious of the obligations under which we are to the staff, and anything that is done to improve their condition, and make their minds more easy, will, I am perfectly certain, receive at all times the support and approval of the great majority of the shareholders.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Gilmour. Now, with the permission of the meeting, I will put the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I have now to make the formal declaration of dividend by reading the following:—

"As empowered by the articles of association, on behalf of the board, I now declare a dividend for the six months ending March 31st of 7s per share on 445,833 shares, as a final dividend for the twelve months ending on that date (making with the interim dividend a total distribution at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum), subject to income-tax, to be paid to those shareholders whose names appeared on the register on June 25th, and to become payable on the 26th instant."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.: I beg to propose:—

Re-election of Directors. "That W. Reiersen Arbuthnot, Esq., the Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., F.R.S., and Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., be re-elected directors of the company."

Mr R. E. Dickinson: I beg to second the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr W. R. Arbuthnot: Thank you, gentlemen, for your kindness in re-electing us.

Mr W. H. Skeel then proposed the following resolution:—

Re-election of Auditors. "That A. T. Turquand-Young, Esq., F.C.A., Sir Gilbert Garnsey, K.B.E., F.C.A., and Roderick M. Peat, Esq., F.C.A., be re-elected auditors of the company for the ensuing year at a remuneration of 400 guineas each." I will call upon Captain Slack to second that.

The resolution was seconded by Captain C. Slack, F.R.G.S., and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: The next resolution is one proposed by myself, and seconded from the other side of the table. My duty is to propose the usual vote of thanks to the general managers and the officers of the bank. In the word "officers" I include the staff generally from top to bottom. Sometimes I think we all of us fail to realise exactly what this vote of thanks means. We directors appear here before you, and we give you an account of our stewardship, and you of your kindness often have given us a vote of thanks; but where should we be if we failed to find a loyal and devoted staff? To our high officers we owe very much; they have piloted us through a troublous time, and it has meant to them much anxiety, much

work—accepted ungrudgingly; and do not let us forget the managers of our branches scattered throughout this enormous territory—do not let us forget their accountants, their cashiers, their ledger clerks, and the many minor positions filled, and loyally filled, by a staff of something over 3,600. And then, what of our London and New York staff? Unhesitatingly I say that here, again, we on this side of the table and you on yours, in passing this resolution, must do so as no mere formality. We tender them genuine thanks for services well and faithfully done, and I would ask them to realise that what I have said is all contained in the somewhat stereotyped phraseology in which I propose:—"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the general managers and other officers for their valuable services."

Mr A. Dodds Fairbairn: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and in doing so I must say that we must all be indebted to the chairman for the interesting and full account of our work in Africa, and I am sure, with regard to the officers to whom we vote these thanks, that we are in very safe and good hands.

The vote was accorded with acclamation.

The Chairman: That, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Midleton, K.P.: Vote of Thanks Gentlemen, I am sure we shall not wish to separate without expressing our thanks to the Chairman and Directors for their care and charge of the bank in the past year. We are very fortunate in our board. The admirable result we see in the balance-sheet before us is largely due to them. With regard to our chairman, he has made a most interesting speech to us to-day, and I venture to say we will all feel that his presence on the board is in itself a guarantee of the solidity of any concern with which he is connected. I have great pleasure in proposing "That the cordial thanks of the meeting be awarded to the directors for their attention to the affairs of the bank, and to the chairman for his conduct in the chair."

Mr J. J. Retallick: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution. The past year has been a very difficult one, and I am glad to know that the prospects for the present year are most favourable in South Africa, and that continuing success is anticipated.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I thank you very much.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE DISTILLERS COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED AND RESERVES STRENGTHENED.

The forty-eighth annual general meeting of the Distillers Company, Limited, was held within the Caledonian Station Hotel, Edinburgh, on the 22nd instant, when Mr W. D. Graham Menzies, chairman of the company, presided.

Before moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said: With your approval I propose to hold the directors' report as read. Also with your permission I intend to follow the precedent established last year, and ask the managing director in due course to make such explanations of the accounts as may be necessary.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF PAST YEAR.

My first duty, then, is to congratulate you on the result of our operations during the past year. These operations have by no means been free from anxiety and difficulty. Nevertheless, as the accounts show, we have weathered the storm fairly successfully, and are able, notwithstanding the large increase of capital, to maintain the same uniform rate of dividend, with something over to strengthen our reserves. So far as industrial strife is concerned which has affected so many other trades we have been particularly free, and where any question of wages has arisen we have been able to meet our workmen's representatives, and adjust matters with them to our mutual satisfaction. The production of potable spirits has been well controlled during the past year with the object of preventing if possible that glut on the market which over-production inevitably brings about. Our difficulty, however, in so regulating the production is to forecast what the consumption of spirits is likely to be three years hence, when the present production is set free for home use. Sales of new potable spirits have been well maintained, while the business done through our subsidiary companies in blended whiskies has been satisfactory.

MOTOR FUEL SUPPLIES.

The only unsatisfactory feature under this head is the continuance of the present high rate of duty on spirits which stifles trade, and places spirits in a much more unfavourable position than any other commodity. Successive Chancellors of the Exchequer have been appealed to in vain for relief from this unfair differentiation and we are hopeful that in time this will make up in large measure for the shrinkage in the other. The success which has attended the introduction of "Discol" as a practical motor fuel has been marred by the high cost and scarcity of the chief source of raw material from which it is made, viz., molasses. Your directors have been unceasing in their efforts to find an alternative raw material, which might take the place of ordinary cane molasses, upon which we are now so dependent. While it is too early yet to say if their efforts have been successful, they have reason to hope that they have at last found a substitute made possible by the application of two Continental processes which have been amalgamated and formed into one company with the view of development. This company, which has been registered as an English company, under the name of the International Sugar and Alcohol Company, Limited, represents various participating interests, but our company has the controlling vote.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

Before closing I would again, as in past years, extend to the whole staffs both of the parent and subsidiary companies the grateful thanks of the directors—and, if I may be permitted, I would also include the thanks of the shareholders—for their loyal

service during the past year, which has produced such an excellent result.

I have now great pleasure in moving that the directors' report be adopted; that, after making provision for the various reserves mentioned therein, a final dividend of 3 per cent., equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, be declared on the preference shares; a dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. per annum, free of tax, be declared on the ordinary shares—both payable August 1st next—and that the sum of £119,530 16s 1d be carried forward to next year.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S SPEECH.

In seconding the adoption of the report, Mr W. H. Ross, the managing director, said: Before fulfilling the duty imposed upon me by the chairman, will you allow me to make an explanation? A year ago I indicated that it was the intention of the directors to form a new holding company to take over the shares of the various subsidiary companies engaged in the sale and distribution of blended whiskies. It was thought that this might be the best means of consolidating these interests, while preserving the distinctive names of the various brands of whisky. On further consideration it transpired that this would involve considerable expense out of all proportion to the benefits sought to be obtained, and the scheme in its original form was consequently abandoned. It was, however, deemed advisable to separate the export blending business carried on at South Queensferry from the strictly manufacturing portion of the company's business.

CO-ORDINATING THE SUBSIDIARIES.

A new company, which is called the Distillers' Agency, Limited, has accordingly been formed with a paid-up capital of £1,000,000, and embraces not only the blending business already referred to, but also the Highland Distillery at Knockdhu, Banffshire, hitherto carried on in connection with that business. While our various subsidiary blending companies, including the agency, will still be retained as individual units, and be separately managed, the directors have been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Thomas Herd, one of the late managing directors of James Watson and Co., Limited, Dundee, to whom has been entrusted the work of co-ordinating the policies of these concerns so as to obtain the same advantages for the parent company as if our original scheme had been put into execution. This explanation will help to simplify my analysis of the balance-sheet which I now propose to deal with.

DISTILLERY VALUES WRITTEN DOWN.

Turning first to the credit side of the balance sheet and contrasting the figures with 1923, you will observe that the combined values of land and buildings and plant and utensils show a reduction of £90,000 compared with last year. This in part is accounted for by the value of the properties at South Queensferry and Knockdhu, which have now been transferred to the Distillers' Agency, but, after making such deduction and placing against same the new capital expenditure incurred during the year at our various works, there has been written off from the value of redundant distilleries no less than £132,000.

INVESTMENTS CONSERVATIVELY VALUED.

We next come to investments, which this year stand at £4,051,655, against £3,227,895, or an increase of £823,760. I have already explained that these investments have been added to by

the transference of other assets into shares of the Distillers' Agency, Limited, to the extent of £1,000,000. Other new investments during the year account for £113,763, while the whole has been written down by £288,019. As this item in the balance-sheet has become a very important one, it will be satisfactory for you to know that the value at which it now stands in the books, whether regarded from an asset or a dividend-earning point of view, is on an extremely conservative basis.

Sundry debtors and stocks of spirits, grain, &c., are both materially affected by the proportions of these assets transferred to the Distillers' Agency, which now appear under the heading of investments, or as loans to subsidiary companies.

Cash in bank and in the form of bills receivable show a better position this year, while loans to subsidiary companies have, as indicated, been largely increased through the parent company having to finance to some extent the stocks requisite for the agency and other subsidiary companies.

ACQUISITION OF RECTIFYING BUSINESSES.

Turning now to the debit side of the balance-sheet, capital account has been enhanced by the issue of the new preference shares, also by the further issue of ordinary and preference shares mentioned in the report in part satisfaction of the price paid for a London rectifying business. While on this subject it may be appropriate to mention that the directors are in negotiation with and have practically concluded the purchase of two other rectifying businesses in London, which will secure to their company their outlet for spirits. These purchases, if ratified, will involve the issue of the remaining authorised share capital of the company.

Reserve fund has been affected by the withdrawal of the amount which it was agreed to capitalise, but you will observe that a substantial sum has again been carried to this fund from the past year's profits. A further £5,000 has also been added to the fire insurance fund and £25,000 to the superannuation and provident fund. The latter fund carries interest at 5 per cent. per annum against the company, and our aim is to make it self-supporting, so that in time it will be able to meet all claims made upon it without further capital contributions.

DIRECTORS' OPTIMISM JUSTIFIED.

The other items in the balance-sheet call for no special comment, but you will observe that the rather heavy overdraft of £518,000 which appeared in the previous year's balance-sheet has

now been wiped out, and the temporary security placed with the bank against that overdraft has consequently been returned.

YEAR'S PROFIT.

If you will now glance for a moment at the profit and loss account, you will see that the actual profit earned, after making the very special provisions for depreciation already referred to, is £57,277 greater than the previous year, while the sum required to pay the additional dividend on the extra capital issued, together with the higher rate of dividend on the preference shares, is £47,647, or about £10,000 less.

On the whole, I think you will agree with me that these figures fully justify the optimism of the directors in carrying through the large financial readjustment of the capital, and I have accordingly much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report.

SHAREHOLDERS' CONGRATULATIONS.

The Chairman having invited questions, Mr. J. M. Rusk, S.S.C., said that, seeing there were no questions, he would like to be permitted on behalf of the shareholders to offer the directors their congratulations on the presentation of such an excellent report. Last year the directors presented a scheme which was enterprising, ambitious, and promised good things to the shareholders. To-day they found the scheme completed and presented to them in a simple and intelligent manner, with an additional share certificate in their pockets, which would bear fruit in the future. The scheme was ambitious and enterprising, as he had said, and reflected very great credit upon the management of the company, because, as was apparent to the shareholders who took an interest in the company, the time was ripe for recognising its strength and dealing with its assets. The shareholders were satisfied that that had been done most effectively and intelligently, and had not been carried out without much thought and business acumen. Not only that, but after carrying through this very substantial transaction, including the flotation of a new company, which they hoped would bear good fruit, they found that the profit and loss account showed such a substantial balance that the directors were not only able to maintain the dividend and pay the dividend on the new preference shares, but to provide a very substantial nest egg with which to start a new reserve. The shareholders were encouraged to hope that the nest egg would prove as fertile as those that had gone before, although he could hardly venture to ask the managing director how long the incubation would take. The shareholders could await that incubation with

patience. On rising he did not intend to make a speech, but he thought it his duty to convey on behalf of the shareholders their thanks and congratulations, and, if it were in order, he would like to suggest that such acknowledgment and thanks should be recorded in some appropriate manner in the minutes of the company.

The Chairman said that, on behalf of the directors, he had to thank Mr Rusk for his kind remarks, and hoped that he voiced the feelings of all the other shareholders of the company.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS ADOPTED.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Sir James Calder moved the re-election of the retiring directors, Messrs David Alexander, J. B. Fergusson and A. A. Watt, and Mr Ebenezer Dawson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr William Stewart moved the re-election of the auditors, Messrs Moores, Carson and Watson, C.A., Glasgow, and Mr William D. Nairn seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

The proceeding terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, moved by Mr William M. Yool.

THE ANGLO-DUTCH PLANTATIONS OF JAVA, LIMITED. INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE RUBBER INDUSTRY.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, in London, the Hon. C. H. Strutt (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: We have taken one important step since we last met. We have separated what we may call the engineering part of our business from the agricultural. In our engineering part we include our railways, electrical works, telephone, water supplies, and shipping. We have accordingly floated a company, in which the Anglo-Dutch Company hold all the shares, called the Anglo-Dutch utilities, and in which we have issued 6 per cent. debentures for £350,000, and have sold them at 96 per cent. to a syndicate with our guarantee for principal and interest.

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

Perhaps some of you will be astonished to see that the profit of the year is quoted as only £2,000 more than in 1922, in spite of which you find we pay a 12 per cent. instead of a 9 per cent. dividend, and carry over more than the year before. This is easily explained. The profit in the 1922 accounts included a sum taken from the sale of investments, amounting in all to £100,000. This was a windfall which we could not expect to recur, and we thought it would be very bad finance to pay it in one year as dividend. This year a large portion of our profit has come from Java; that is, has come from the real business in which we are engaged—the production of tropical agricultural commodities—and even that is not the whole story. We have taken out £400,000 or more from the investments in 1923, and have spent it in development and improvements of our cultures, which up to the present bring no return, but which we hope will in the end bring our profits to a higher figure than the yield from Stock Exchange investments.

RUBBER MARKET.

The position of the rubber market, though not quite so bad as a month ago, is not satisfactory. It was generally expected that the price would, under the Stevenson scheme, be fairly stabilised round 1s 3d. This has not, so far, proved to be the case, without doubt due to the fact that only a portion of the industry is undergoing restriction. It was always felt that the refusal of the Dutch growers to come into the scheme would prejudice the position to a certain extent, but that is not the main cause of difficulty. It is the native cultivation in the Dutch East Indies, which is not subject to restriction, which is of greater extent than was formerly believed to be the case.

It is now, I think, generally accepted that the native, or, rather, non-European, acreage in Malaya alone is equal to the European. The extent of the native cultivation in the Dutch East Indies is not known at present. There are very different estimates made, and it is very important that the facts should be ascertained. Some well-informed people believe that the native cultivation throughout the Dutch East Indies is very large—nearly equal to the European. If this be the case, it would be obvious that there is too large an area of rubber not subject to restriction. We are credibly informed that this large area was only moderately tapped during the low prices before the days of compulsory restriction. Thus, when the prices were low there were large areas untapped. The lower price taken by the natives on account of their inferior produce may not continue for long, for we hear that the Chinese

have in some degree arranged to supply the native producers with machinery on the payment by instalments plan. Their first output from the new machines, we are informed, has produced very good quality light brown crêpe. If these schemes develop, the competition by native growers will be even more formidable to Europeans. I believe that the main cause of the fall in prices is the large output of the native producers; the Dutch planters have also ridden on our backs. The interesting question is at what price the native ceases to produce to such an extent as lately. It is considered that at 10d the natives would largely reduce their production, and some have even thought that a year or two at 10d would be the best under the circumstances for the European industry.

SELLING COMBINE.

It is very natural, under the present circumstances of the rubber industry, that the producers should look for further remedies to improve their position, and some of them have turned to the possibility of a selling combine for salvation. I wish I could share their hopes and expectations. There are only two ways of keeping a market artificially at a paying level—by restriction and by holding stocks. We have now restriction, and therefore a selling combine would only give us an advantage by encouraging outside capital to hold stocks which rubber combines are unable to do themselves. Personally, I much prefer restriction. Large stocks seem always a danger. A further objection to the selling combine is that the rubber companies who join will have to pay a considerable sum for the use of the capital for holding the stocks. We are now told of the large quantities grown by Dutch natives. In competition with us they will then not only have the advantages arising from our restriction, but also from the payments we make to banks to enable us to hold stocks. This may not only result in the natives producing to the extreme limit, but also in large extensions on their part provided we were in any way successful in raising the prices. I believe that we cannot afford to be opposed to the selling combine like that suggested to us a year or so ago, in which so large a proportion, if not half, of the producers would be outside. I have no idea of what the Rubber Growers' Association Committee intend to recommend, but it can only be a very moderate proposal that I could advise accepting, for the reasons I have advanced. To have our future results jeopardised, if not entirely destroyed, by the natives increasing their plantations fills me with dismay.

PROPAGANDA SCHEME OF THE R.G.A.

My hopes are fixed more on new uses for rubber. I heartily support the propaganda scheme of the Rubber Growers' Association. It appears that the consumption per head of raw rubber in the United Kingdom is one-fifth that of America, and is considerably less than in France, so there is still room for propaganda at home. I have been, and still am, in favour of the restriction policy, though my enthusiasm has been very much damped by the amount grown by those who do not restrict.

It is fairly obvious that the effects of the Stevenson scheme, if persevered in, will in the next few months raise the price to the neighbourhood of 1s 3d. When the scheme has its intended effect we shall perhaps be able to see whether the price of 1s 3d encourages still more native cultivation. While waiting to see what the result will be, surely it is better to hold our hands rather than enter into new schemes at the moment.

LOW COST OF PRODUCTION.

Our profit on rubber was over £100,000, but, then, we had advantages of climate, soil, and labour more than a great many other estates elsewhere. You will see that we averaged 1s 2½d per lb, with costs reduced to the satisfactory level of 6½d a lb. There have been some criticisms raised lately as regards selling our crop forward at whatever price may be realised on the London market. What tempted us to do this was that we were offered London prices for our rubber in our factories on the estate, and thus saved the whole of what would have been the cost of transport from our factories to London. It will be, I think, impossible to reduce the cost much lower in any direction except in bonuses than we have done during the past year, and therefore our profit on the lower price realised must tend to be smaller. The crop we are allowed under the restriction scheme by the Rubber Growers' Association is 3,202,500 lbs, compared with 2,692,500 lbs in 1923.

TEA

Our tea profit, as naturally expected, surpassed the results of the other products, and amounted to £112,000. This is a very large increase over the previous year. Our first forward sale of tea was at too low a price. This year we are doing considerably better—sufficiently better, we hope, to bring into revenue a much larger sum than what we expect to lose by the decline in the price of rubber. We have sold in advance at quotation average of 1s 1½d per lb when the spot price was 1s 2½d one-third of our crop of

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital	-	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	-	£8,734,660
Reserve Fund	-	£4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	-	£4,367,330

Northern District Office	-	-	-	69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch	-	-	-	19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

[July 26, 1924.]

practically all grades over the next three years. Our crop of tea for the first six months of this year amounted to 4,536,700 lbs. We are planting up 175 acres of tea on the P. and T. lands and 316 acres on our new estates.

COFFEE AND CINCHONA.

The coffee produced a nice profit of nearly £20,000. Owing to the heavy drought we had in 1923 the crop this year is smaller all over Java. The loss of crop will be somewhat compensated by the increase in price obtained, which, so far as we are concerned, is satisfactory.

Cinchona has done extremely well during the past year. The profit, though not reaching in total the level of tea and rubber, has produced a larger percentage on its capital than any other culture in which we are engaged.

SISAL.

We have already planted 2,625 acres of sisal in 1923, and we hope to extend it by 4,375 acres during the present year, and they anticipate in Java that they will be able to do still more. Unless the price falls to a great extent, I think there is no doubt that this will produce satisfactory results in the next few years.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MALAYALAM PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.

FORWARD SALE OF TEA CROPS.

The third ordinary general meeting of Malayalam Plantations, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 3 Idol Lane, London, Mr Charles Heath Clark presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The tea crop harvested was 7,718,902 lbs, as compared with an actual crop of 6,718,842 lbs from the same area in 1923, showing a satisfactory increase of over 1,000,000 lbs. The f.o.b. cost of production (excluding loss on exchange, .21d per pound) was 7.64d per pound, against 7.69d per pound in the previous year, while the average net price realised was 13.21d per pound, against 13.38d per pound in 1923. The yield per acre was 607 lbs, against 492 lbs in 1923. The estimate for the current year is 7,675,000 lbs, of which we had harvested to the end of June 1,859,172 lbs.

The whole output of tea for the current year has been sold forward at an average gross price of 1s 3.79d per pound landed London terms. As just recently announced in the Press, the board have considered it wise to accept an offer made them for the whole of our output of tea for the three years 1925, 1926, 1927, at a price showing an improvement on the current year's contract. I have no doubt whatever that you will approve the board's action in this matter. It secures us the benefit of the satisfactory rates at present ruling, and amid the uncertainties by which all business is at present beset, and may still be for some time to come, ensures the company getting a price for their tea crop, which, I estimate, upon a conservative basis, should show us 15 per cent. on the total capital of the company, without any addition to our profits from our large areas of rubber and our cardamoms crop.

RUBBER CROP.

The rubber crop harvested was 2,276,658 lbs, as against an actual crop of 1,135,419 lbs in 1923. The f.o.b. cost of production (excluding loss on exchange, .20d per pound) was 7.41d per pound, against 10.72d per pound in the previous year, while the average

net price realised was 12.62d per pound, against 12.64d per pound in 1923. The average yield per acre was 225 lbs, against 197 lbs in the previous year. The estimate for the current year is 2,185,000 lbs, of which 690,223 lbs have been harvested to the end of June. Forward contracts have been made for the sale of 35 tons at an average net price of 1s 4½d per pound.

Our cardamom crop was 22,431 lbs, which was harvested at a cost of 2s 2.86d per pound f.o.b., and realised an average net price of 5s 4.51d per pound. The estimate for the current year is 60,000 lbs.

Perhaps here I might mention to you the only point in any sense of an adverse character which I have to place before you to-day, and that is, that just before I came to this meeting we had news that there had been abnormal rainstorms in Southern India, and that these storms had affected—to what extent at present we are unable to tell you—districts in which some of our estates are situated. There is no reason to suppose that any damage which the company may have sustained will prove of a character in any way seriously to interfere with the prosperity of the company in the current year, but the probability is that there may be a certain amount of damage to be repaired.

The net profit for the year was £209,450, and adding thereto the balance of profit brought forward from last year, £17,823, and deducting the interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in February, leaves £176,610 available for distribution. Out of this the directors propose to write off the increase of capital expenses, £4,500, to transfer to reserve account £50,000, to pay directors' additional remuneration, £1,000, to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, making a total of 15 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward the balance of £19,783.

OUTLOOK FOR TEA AND RUBBER.

The future outlook for tea appears quite satisfactory. I think the current year will show again some increase in the world's production, but not on the same scale as in 1923, when the increased production amounted to about 80,000,000 lbs, in spite of which the stocks at the end of June showed only 10,000,000 lbs more, and, provided coarse plucking is not resorted to, I do not see anything at present threatening the continuance of good prices.

With regard to rubber, at the present time I am also inclined to be somewhat optimistic. During the first six months of the current year the world's stocks of crude rubber have been reduced by about 35,000 tons, and I believe the net reduction in the stocks of rubber for the present year will not be much less than 25,000 tons, allowing for the falling off in demand which commonly characterises the latter half of the year. The industry cannot go on indefinitely drawing on stocks, and with the further restriction which now appears inevitable under the Stevenson scheme, I do not think it unreasonable to expect a very considerable further advance in prices.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914	Dec. 31, 1919	Mar. 31, 1920	Mar. 31, 1921	Mar. 31, 1922	Mar. 31, 1923	Dec. 31, 1923	Mar. 31, 1924	July 19, 1924
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	683	683
3½% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% and 5% War Stock	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
National War Bonds	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	399	399	399	399	399
4% Funding Loan	..	409	409	406	401	953	924	903	903
4% Victory Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	325	325
Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	444	444	444	457
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certificates	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	365
Other Debt	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	..	652	588	595
Temporary Advances	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	192
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,695	7,720
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766	7,791

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 1, 1914	Dec. 31, 1919	Mar. 31, 1920	Mar. 31, 1921	Mar. 31, 1922	Mar. 31, 1923	Dec. 31, 1923	Mar. 31, 1924	July 19, 1924
Ways and Means Advances July 21, '23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Outstanding—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Advances by Public Deptts.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Includes £7,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

July 26, 1924.]

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Bank of England.	Silver Coin.	Redemption Account.				
				Gold and Silver Coin.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
Mar. 29	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177
June 29	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312	250
Sept. 27	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,556	169
Dec. 27	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922	137
1923.	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
Mar. 28	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294	190
June 27	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446	183
Sept. 27	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.5	238,595	140
Dec. 28	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.5	255,032	159
1924.	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
Mar. 26	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,867	130
June 25	280,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,198	140
July 16	292,814	12,532	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.9	248,804	122
July 23	292,302	12,576	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.9	248,295	133

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in by the Bank of England for £320,600,000, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £270,183,800, and for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,968,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from July 28-Aug. 2 were opened on July 25, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £50,035,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 is 7d, about 62 per cent., and above in full. Saturday at £99 is 10d, above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
June 20	35,000,000	47,995,000	2 19 3.39	94 13 0
June 27	35,000,000	59,625,000	3 2 9.42	94 13 0
July 4	30,000,000	65,220,000	3 6 5.43	94 13 0
July 11	30,000,000	61,060,000	3 10 9.29	94 13 0
July 18	35,000,000	56,300,000	3 12 9.94	nil
July 25	35,000,000	50,035,000	3 12 9.94	nil

Tenders will be received on July 31, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
	Apr. 1, 1924, to July 19, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 21, 1923.	Week Ended July 19, 1924.	Week Ended July 21, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	£	£	£	£
Bank of England	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£
Customs	29,955,000	39,264,000	1,217,000	2,317,000
Excise	39,654,000	45,027,000	7,407,000	5,923,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	3,011,000	2,712,000	..	960,000
Stamps	19,880,000	16,920,000	1,610,000	380,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	4,780,000	6,060,000	540,000	..
Property & Income Tax	560,000	440,000	10,000	10,000
Super-Tax	60,197,000	59,520,000	6,756,000	4,841,000
Excess Profits Duties &c.	16,740,000	16,740,000	550,000	520,000
Corporation Profits Tax	5,420,000	6,340,000	150,000	330,000
Post Office	14,700,000	14,100,000	1,000,000	750,000
Crown Lands	270,000	260,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	5,623,392	5,700,132	..	8,937
Miscellaneous	4,025,620	4,871,999	..	115,365
Ordinary Receipts	11,549,201	16,827,827	110,000	1,514,206
Special Receipts	219,365,213	233,212,358	18,360,000	17,569,508
Revenue	225,996,827	240,031,125	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid:—	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	4,270,000	2,700,000	330,000	790,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	270,000	..	..
For other issues:—	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bills	700,173,000	740,476,000	40,097,000	42,994,000
By National Savings Certificates	8,650,000	14,900,000	550,000	880,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,474,295	29,167,571	47,325	..
Other issues	280,241,580	284,903,500	6,300,000	13,550,000
Ways and Means Advances	..	..	..	..
Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919	..	..	..	..
Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919	..	..	..	..
Total	1,235,415,516	1,314,378,339	65,674,365	76,705,508

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	Apr. 1, 1924, to July 19, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 21, 1923.	Week Ended July 19, 1924.	Week Ended July 21, 1923.
National Debt Services:—	£	£	£	£
Interest, &c.	123,660,441	119,955,250	597,634	1,026,806
Sinking Fund	8,362,865	14,493,497	500,000	615,000
Road Fund	2,410,044	2,111,044	615,000	671,000
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	1,205,000	550,000	196,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	1,136,863	1,152,448	13,000	130,783
Land Settlement	261,488	122,747	..	15,520
Other Consolidated Fund Services	715,336	1,099,604	9,635,000	824,661
Supply Services	110,854,337	107,468,424	8,724,480	8,724,480
Expenditure	248,606,374	246,953,014	11,556,634	10,793,249
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances:—	..	5,000	..	..
Bullion	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—	£	£	£	£
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1921	2,320,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	1,000	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	1,510,000	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	3,320,000	..	..	..
Redemption of Debt:—	£	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	693,505,000	759,975,000	37,290,000	43,875,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	9,800,000	11,300,000	600,000	650,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	16,854,989	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	50	268,987	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	274,273,500	271,950,500	15,950,000	20,750,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—	£	£	£	£
Bank of England	1,231,862,815	1,311,179,595	65,396,834	76,068,249
Bank of Ireland	1,411,329	1,065,742	95,000	499,262
Total	3,549,701	3,198,737	277,691	364,741

Treasury, July 21, 1924.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON
ROYAL

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.
(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances, June, 1924.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Willis's Deacons Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	6,542	36,075	1,467	3,421	35,383	54,384	28,561	4,136	27,481	3,999	201,449
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom ..	1,941	7,869	670	1,287	9,356	12,149	7,978	181	9,241	1,334	52,006
Items in transit ..	4,357	23,204	2,899	8,448	15,235	14,766	16,685	3,551	19,457	3,002	111,604
Money at call and short notice ..	3,947	31,896	1,431	1,856	48,678	53,160	37,852	2,784	63,973	2,171	247,748
Bills discounted ..	9,372	64,325	4,172	9,686	87,090	40,400	47,410	17,474	56,097	5,111	341,137
Investments ..	37,497	141,565	7,153	6,801	151,714	194,886	127,076	16,524	104,577	20,486	808,279
Advances to customers and other accounts ..	4,400	10,053	43	1,896	15,614	33,039	8,846	162	10,292	1,073	85,418
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c. ..	1,720	5,168	346	695	5,380	5,514	4,329	745	4,063	741	28,701
Bank premises account ..	..	7,452	..	..	6,580	5,823	2,754	..	2,991	..	25,600
Investments in affiliated banks ..	69,776	327,607	18,181	34,090	375,030	414,121	281,491	45,557	298,172	37,917	1,901,942
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts ..	10.65	12.28	8.87	11.23	10.56	15.22	11.25	10.38	10.18	11.84	11.91
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up ..	2,349	15,592	800	1,060	14,373	11,974	9,479	1,500	9,025	1,875	68,027
Reserve fund ..	1,600	8,250	800	530	10,000	11,974	9,336	1,150	9,015	1,200	53,855
Current, deposit, and other accounts ..	61,427	293,711	16,538	30,438	335,043	357,134	253,830	39,842	269,824	33,769	1,691,556
Acceptances, endorsements, &c. ..	4,400	10,054	43	1,896	15,614	33,039	8,846	162	10,292	1,073	85,419
Notes in circulation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,903	16	..	2,919
Reduction of bank premises account ..	..	..	..	166	..	..	..	..	..	..	166
	69,776	327,607	18,181	34,090	375,030	414,121	281,491	45,557	298,172	37,917	1,901,942

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.	£	£	£	£	%	%
June 18	128,235,145	125,487,140	124,564,850	119,891,646	22,498,005	18
25	128,261,164	126,509,200	132,295,707	128,679,753	21,501,964	16
July 2	128,265,538	127,600,525	131,877,534	129,578,193	20,215,013	13
9	128,269,317	127,669,900	130,803,468	128,007,596	20,749,417	17
16	128,271,111	126,202,600	119,186,150	115,368,057	21,818,511	18
23	128,269,723	126,272,720	116,911,459	113,192,221	21,747,003	18

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to July 9	18,757,967	840,645	1,526,260	21,124,872
July 16	646,343	32,892	58,102	737,337
23	609,189	31,833	52,958	693,980
Total to date 1924	20,013,499	905,370	1,637,320	22,556,189
Do 1923	18,852,704	901,414	1,628,952	21,383,070
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,160,795	+ 3,956	+ 8,368	+ 1,173,119
	= 6.1 %	= 0.4 %	= 0.5 %	= 5.5 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923 ..	- 510,262	- 28,096	- 4,489	- 533,868
	= 1.6 %	= 1.8 %	= 0.2 %	= 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of June.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to July 19.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	24	26		
BIRMINGHAM	10,242,000	9,968,000	68,109,500	68,410,300
BRISTOL	5,090,000	4,533,000	34,083,000	33,115,000
DUBLIN	4,687,000	4,121,000	181,468,400	160,952,400
HULL	3,821,500	4,017,000	30,634,000	30,634,000
LEEDS	2,971,000	3,223,000	21,768,000	22,673,000
LIVERPOOL	35,097,000	32,949,000	256,344,300	262,969,200
MANCHESTER	62,698,000	61,234,000	432,538,000	440,533,700
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,914,000	7,402,000	58,651,800	54,889,700
NOTTINGHAM	2,528,000	2,503,000	18,413,800	18,130,600
SHEFFIELD	4,600,000	4,119,000	35,515,000	34,311,200
Total	141,086,000	134,069,000	..	..

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the *Economist* of April 12; Romania, in May 31; German Gold Discount, in June 21; Japan, in June 28; Portugal, in July 8; German Rentenbank, Denmark and Latvia, in July 12; Canada, Germany, Greece, Russia and Italy in July 19.

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	July 24, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion ..	5,543,407	5,543,384	5,537,874	5,537,874	5,730,826
Of which held abroad ..	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion ..	300,063	299,988	299,741	299,741	332,650
Discounts and advances ..	7,404,016	7,434,417	7,434,417	7,434,417	2,397,776
Advances to the State ..	22,700,000	22,900,000	23,000,000	23,000,000	..
LIABILITIES.					
Notes ..	40,081,713	40,155,862	40,224,979	36,939,324	5,811,876
Government deposits ..	15,305	14,282	15,235	32,277	183,700
Private deposits ..	2,174,048	2,181,752	2,200,242	2,039,439	946,960

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	July 27, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve ..	3,160,550	3,143,400	3,120,660	3,099,720
Legal tender notes and silver reserve ..	105,880	107,900	98,960	83,700
Bills discounted for member banks ..	305,240	310,710	363,000	805,830
Bills bought in open market ..	37,430	58,510	52,810	183,120
Government obligations owned ..	465,570	460,500	435,490	97,960
All other resources ..	84,960	84,320	82,950	66,430
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits ..	34,510	19,150	32,200	34,430
Other deposits ..	2,109,490	2,059,760	2,042,290	1,908,090
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation ..	1,812,710	1,855,010	1,874,270	2,216,990
P.R.B. Notes in actual circulation ..	..	..	..	1,300
All other liabilities ..	11,900	12,050	11,610	17,500
Capital and surplus ..	332,320	332,320	332,320	328,080
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	82.6 %	82.5 %	81.5 %	76.5 %

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion ..	549	549	549	549	533
Gold certificates ..	10,173	10,163	10,102	10,102	10,031
Subsidiary coin ..	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted ..	4,074	3,444	3,407	3,407	28,935
Loans and advances to Govt. ..	2,700	2,400	2,400	2,400	4,044
Investments ..	17	17	17	17	17
LIABILITIES.					
Capital ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve ..	152	40	40	40	40
Notes in circulation ..	10,789	10,236	10,348	10,675	13,088
Bankers' deposits ..	5,575	5,197	4,997	5,278	5,029
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public ..	65.7 %	69.7 %	69.7 %	67 %	59.3 %

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	June 13, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	June 29, 1923.
ASSETS.					
Total securities ..	11,74,84	11,66,90	11,70,96	11,81,66	9,39,43
Loans ..	21,30,08	21,04,57	22,57,42	24,37,32	24,05,89
Cash ..	41,93,61	39,11,67	37,75,42	38,14,84	15,46,55
Inland bills ..	5,76,17	10,06,07	12,54,04	12,71,21	29,64,02
Foreign bills ..	24,45	25,60	19,47	20,13	5,12,34
Dead stock ..	2,55,43	2,55,35	2,55,31	2,55,43	2,55,43
Bal. with other banks ..	1,62,73	1,63,68	1,68,29	1,62,92	2,50,22
Cash ..	21,54,13	18,34,30	16,55,74	15,34,63	18,21,79
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up ..	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve ..	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00
Total deposits ..	95,56,69	91,50,07	90,36,92	91,61,51	80,65,85
Loans from Govt. ..	..	2,00,00	4,00,00	4,00,00	1,91,67
The above includes—					
Deposits in London ..	1,457	1,440	1,476	1,427	742
Advances in London ..	442	444	443	448	442
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London ..	1,085	1,131	1,123	1,386	1,085
	..	..	..	..	509

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	July 15, 1923.
ASSETS.				
Coin and bullion—Gold ..	147,285	147,285	147,285	147,287
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	12,966	17,400	17,801	22,879
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities ..	9,003	9,008	9,008	9,044
Discounts and loans ..	443,821	445,903	446,214	476,425
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	392,258	394,210	395,297	407,609
Deposits at notice ..	88,121	100,516	107,541	113,494

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

	July 17, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	July 18, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion) ..	354,026	354,070	354,613	355,257	349,303	322,650
Securities ..	1,240,082	1,243,188	1,385,043	1,343,228	783,297	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	7,603,701	7,609,100	7,582,979	7,524,223	6,852,250	934,150
Current accounts ..	254,406	231,980	319,082	382,530	362,694	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	July 21, 1924.	July 14, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	July 23, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold ..	531,511	531,511	531,511	531,511	681,794	163,082
Silver ..	10,548	10,015	10,032	10,296	10,821	8,436
Discounts and advances ..	433,582	434,097	430,195	398,460	336,612	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	964,587	980,517	993,530	984,525	933,460	316,632
Deposits ..	80,532	70,028	65,400	47,308	30,289	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA.							Position
							May 30, 1924.
ASSETS.							
Gold	July 19, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	July 21, 1923.		
Silver	211,500	209,500	216,500	207,000	{ 147,821 61,606	{ 22,971 29,785	
Discounts, advances, and other investments	150,510	145,640	138,590	134,200	169,997	77,567	
LIABILITIES.							
Notes in circulation	256,000	260,000	256,500	253,000	263,534	109,499	
Reserve	100,000	80,000	82,000	71,430	99,784	11,250	

		QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
		Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.		Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s d	s d	s d
July 12	25,661	664	3,776	11 10	10 9	9 10	
13	20,765	1,856	5,692	12 0	12 3	9 6	
1920		17,396	1,104	5,529	19 9	24 1	21 2
1921	17,465	12,425	15,945	19 1	12 4	13 4	
1922	24,291	3,689	11,435	12 6	10 11	12 2	
1923	35,353	9,782	5,394	11 4	8 6	10 9	

† Tax free.

good demand for middlings. Broad bran quoted 7s 6d, ordinary 6s 6d-7s, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 11s 3d, bags included, ex-mill, light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 3d, feed oatmeal 9s 6d, ground oats 12s 3d, per cwt. Oatmeal maintained. London-made, flaked 17s 6d, rolled oats 17s, medium and fine cut 17s, coarse and medium pinhead 17s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 18s-18s 6d per cwt.

Our Middlebro' correspondent's report, dated July 24th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is no change here, and the market is as very weak indeed, with no signs of improvement at present. Ship-Cleveland G.M.B. is still offered at 87s 6d per ton. No. 3 export, and 87s per ton f.o.t. for home consumption, but the iron market, although makers are willing to accept 94s 6d per ton for mixed numbers and 95s for No. 1. Manufactured iron and steel: are only working partly, or entirely stopped. The demand for material shows no sign of improvement at present, and the following prices are still quoted:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9 10s; steel ship iron is no business doing in iron ore, with the exception of odd cargoes based on best rubio at about 22s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The continued stagnation of the iron and steel market has resulted in the inevitable cutting of prices and the usual quotations are now merely nominal. Consumers having firm orders to place can book pig-iron and billets at from 5s to 10s below recent prices, and Continental works are offering very low figures for forward delivery. Short-time is still the order of the day in local open-hearth steel, and unemployment is steadily increasing. There are leading members of the trade who seem fairly confident of a good recovery after August. The authorities, however, are preparing to deal with greatly increased unemployment during the coming winter. While things are about as bad as they can be in the heavy steel section, conditions continue active in the lighter and finished branches, such as motor steel, tool steel, files, machine knives and tools, the output of which steadily increases. Further Russian orders for steel, files and saws have been booked in Sheffield, and the work is causing a number of plants to run at their fullest capacity. The cutlery and plate branches are a little busier. While the conditions in the coal trade have not changed materially on the week, the tendency

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—Very little business was transacted in the pig-iron market last week, with prices tending lower. Shipments were below the total of the previous week on account of the holidays, which commenced on Thursday last. In the iron and steel trades quiet conditions prevail, and with the works at a standstill business is likely to remain quiet for some days. Shipyards, iron and steel works, engineering works, and all factories in this district are now closed down until the middle of next week. Some engineering and structural firms, however, are resuming operations on Thursday of this week, and others with urgent orders on hand have squads of men at work during the holiday period. Shipbuilders are fairly well off for work, most of the Clyde yards having several boats in hand. The tonnage under construction is 650,000, or about one-third more than last year's total at the corresponding date. This satisfactory advance in the volume of work, it is hoped, is the prelude to greater expansion, as we understand a number of modern cargo vessels will be placed as soon as trade generally shows sufficient increase to justify this. Structural firms and tube works are very well booked with orders, and generally the post-holiday outlook is considerably brighter than was the case a year ago. Inquiries for black and galvanised sheets continue to be numerous, and makers are now quoting October and later delivery for export parcels of galvanised sheets.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement this week in the position on the Cardiff market. The volume of the export trade continues a great deal below the average, and the demand from the European markets is still diminishing. Prices, however, have not given way to any appreciable extent. The colliery salesmen are doing their utmost to maintain stable quotations, and they are helped in this task by the absence from the market of any considerable quantity of free coal under the control of the middlemen. There is no co-ordinated policy being pursued in the restriction of output, but in a haphazard way this restriction is taking place by the closing down of the more unremunerative pits and the irregular working of the others. The colliery owners are making an effort to secure some concessions from the workmen with a view of reducing costs. One of the proposals which they have made to the workmen is one under which they would be conceded a greater freedom of action in the working of double shifts. In 1922 this expedient was supported even by some of the extreme Labour leaders in the Taff-merthyr area, but then on the ground only that the working of double shifts might help to absorb unemployed labour. The proposal, however, is now being resisted, and this is one of the reasons why a new local agreement has not yet been arranged to displace that which ended automatically last April with the termination of the national agreement of 1921.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 26s 3d to 27s; best

INCLUDING ITS AFFILIATED INSTITUTION THE NATIONALE
BANKVEREENIGING, UTRECHT, THE ROTTERDAMSCH BANK-
VEREENIGING IS REPRESENTED IN ABOUT 100 PLACES IN
THE NETHERLANDS.

Description.	Ord.	Same Period 1923.					Same Period 1922.											
		Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.								
American	1438	d	d	1588	1673	1808	1918	d	d	1474	1524	1574	d	d	1330	1315	1390	
Brasilian :		M	F	1583	1733	1833	Gd. Fne	M	F	1469	1519	Gd.	M	F	1170	1120	Gd.	
Pernam, Macao, &c.				1583	1733	1833				1469	1519				1170	1120		
Parayba, Rio Grande, &c.				1583	1733	1833				1469	1519				1170	1120		
Ocara, &c.				1583	1733	1833				1469	1519				1170	1120		
Sao Paulo				1608	1658	1708				1469	1504				1220	1300		
Egyptian :		F.	G.	F.	rev	Gd. Fne	F.	G.	F.	Gd. Fne	F.	G.	F.	Gd. Fne	F.	G.	F.	
Upper		2010	2260	2325	2390	2450		1520	1580	1620		1425	1500	1625				
Sakellarids		2055	2335	2385	2490	2610		1470	1545	1685		1475	1545	1685				
Brown		2010	2260	2325	2390	2450		1520	1580	1620		1425	1500	1625				
Peruvian :		M.	F.	G.	F.	Gd. Fne	M.	F.	G.	F.	Gd. Fne	M.	F.	G.	F.	Gd. Fne	M.	F.
Rough				2250	2400	2450				1875					1450			
Moderately Rough.				1850	1950	2000				1500	1650				1275	1400		
Smooth		1783	1833	1908	1933	1958		1519	1594	1694		1295	1470	1620				
Tangula		1783	1833	1883	1958	2083		1519	1594	1694		1320	1470	1620				
Miafa				2000	2100	2250	2350			1500	1600				1200	1350		
West Indian, &c.				2400	2500	2600	2690			1500	1625				2300	2500		
Do Sea Island				1725	1775	1825				1900	2025				1400	1500		
African, East, &c.	1445	1545	1695	1795	1850	1915	1975	1525	1525	1525	1075	1025	1450					
Do West		Mid.	F.	Mid.	F.	Mid.	rev	M.	Mid.	F.	rev	M.	Mid.	F.	rev	M.	Mid.	
East Indian :		G.	F.	rev	Gd.	F.	Gd.	F.	rev	Gd.	F.	rev	Gd.	F.	rev	Gd.	F.	
Machine Ginned Surtee				1485	1520	1565				1400					1230			
Machine Ginned Broach		1200	1240	1285	1330	1365		1150	1190	1270		1060	1110	1160				
Mach. Ginned Bhowngnah	1045	1095	1145	1185	1235	1285		955	1005	1105		855	905	1005				
Mach. Ginned Oomra. No. 1.	1055	1105	1155	1205	1255	1305		965	1015	1115		865	915	1015				
Mach. Ginned Oomra. No. 2.				1130	1175	1230	1285			930	1090				985	1065		
Machine Ginned Khandesh		1055	1105	1155	1205	1255		915	965	1065		810	860	1040				
Machine Ginned Kamphal	1255			1295						1185					1070			
Machine Ginned Benga.	1020	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220		880	920	1000		800	840	920				
Machine Ginned Soinde	1010	1055	1090	1130	1170	1210		870	910	990		790	830	915				
Tinnivelly	1355	1395	1435					1325	1365			1						

The event of importance in the market this week has been the striking rise in raw material rates as a result of the official report on the American crop being decidedly worse than expected. Business in yarn and cloth has been thoroughly disorganised. Some local operators have been caught short, and have been compelled to secure cover. Trade in cloth for India, which for some little time has been more active, has been checked. Operations for China have been practically at a standstill. More business has been done for Egypt than anticipated. American and Egyptian yarn quotations have been put up, but it has been quite impossible for spinners to obtain adequate advances, and apart from isolated transactions trade has been blocked. The higher prices for raw cotton are very detrimental to a revival of trade in Lancashire.

	Price, July 23, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, July 17.	Price, July 10.	Price, July 3.	Price, June 26.	Price, June 19.
		d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	18-60	17-12	17-26	16-57	17-37	17-04
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian per lb	25-15	23-75	23-45	23-25	23-60	23-90
Yarns—32's twist per lb	26	25	25	25	25	25
— 40's twist per lb	26-24	25-24	25	25-24	25	25
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	34	34-4	34	34	35	35-4
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 18 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	9	35	9	35	35 9
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 15, 32's and 40's	41	40	40	34 0	40	40 9
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	21	20	20	20 20	20	20 10
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	22	21 8	18	19 8	18	19 10

	Price, per lb., 1904.	Corresponding dates in				
		1903.	1921.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	18-80	d	d	d	d	d
Sakalariels Fully Good Hair	15-01	13-29	8-34	27-29	21-16	
Egyptian per lb	26-18	15-50	18-00	15-50	67-00	27-09
Yarns—32's twist per lb	26	21½	19½	17½	54½	43
— 40's worst per lb	26½	21	18½	16½	50	42
— 50's twist (Egyptian) per lb	36	28	28½	51	98	58½
	s	d	s	d	s	d
32-lb. Printers, 11d yds, 12 by 14, 32's and 50's	55	9	60	32	0	87
32-lb. Shirts, 12 yds, 12 by 12, 32's and 40's	41	0	33	31	61	61
32-lb. Gowns, 24 yds, 12 by 12, 32's and 40's	21	0	18	18	0	18
32-lb. Gowns, 24 yds, 12 by 12, 44 lbs	19	6	16	16	9	42

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—There has been rather more life in the trade during the last few days, and the market to-day reveals a firmer tone so far as wool and tops are concerned. Some fair transactions have been put through in wool in the bale and matchings, and a nice turnover has been recorded in merino tops. Crossbreds have not moved to the same extent, but here, also, the tendency is better for choice, and quotations are all against the buyer. A general market quotation for warp 64's tops is now 6s, a few sellers being willing to take slightly less, while others are wanting more. Sixty-fours average are now quoted at 5s 10d, and 60's are firmer at 5s 4d for super and 5s 1d for ordinary. In crossbreds, 58's are about 1d dearer on the week, average now being quoted at 4s 5d. In carded qualities, 46's and 48's are a fraction dearer, and 46's prepared are ½d up at 27d. Spinners are buying with caution, but it is evident that some are covering for future requirements in view of the scarcity of fine wools. Orders for yarn, however, are few and far between, and prices are still most disappointing. Weak sellers are standing in the way of those firms who are endeavouring to make prices more in keeping with costs, but price-cutting is likely to continue as long as stocks are accumulating. There is no real improvement in the export trade, and little is expected until the German financial question is settled. In the piece goods trade a moderate amount of business is being done, both on home and export account, but wholesale fabric buyers show no disposition to buy forward. The greatest activity is seen in the heavy woollen district, the bulk of the demand being for the cheaper lines of woollens.

COLONIAL WOOL.
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The entire trade is again indebted to Messrs Dalgety and Co., for issuing an important circular regarding the exports of wool from Australasia during the year ended June 30th. Their monthly list of exports from Australia and New Zealand is always useful, and none the less so to-day. It enables every section to see how supplies are moving, and their figures are now taken as authoritative. The appended details of exports during the year just finished (which are Messrs Dalgety's own figures) clearly show that the views entertained at the beginning that there would be a less clip have been fully confirmed:—

	Bales.	Decrease.
From Australia	1,705,000	610,000
From New Zealand	601,000	51,000

Total exports

2,306,000 ... *661,000
* As compared with the corresponding period last year.
It will be seen from the above that the decline in exports is actually 661,000 bales, a quantity which is larger than any New Zealand clip that has ever been produced. This appears to be a serious deficiency for a period of twelve months, but it must be borne in mind that for the wool year 1921-22 large quantities of old B.A.W.R.A. wool were included in the list of exports, these helping somewhat to give a false impression of the weight of wool grown. Last year's exports from Australia and New Zealand do not represent the actual production, and one would be glad to know what it was. To the above exports from Australia and New Zealand must be added the quantity of wool absorbed by the mills of Australia and New Zealand, but in any case the year's production must be down at least 250,000 to 270,000 bales. This is too much, but it just shows what one year's drought can do, and when there is a continuance of droughts for several years in succession it plays havoc with sheep flocks and wool supplies. It is to be sincerely hoped that we shall not have four to five years of drought such as terminated in 1902, for the repetition of such an experience would put the whole trade into queer streets. However, we are glad to know that so far there has been no actual shortage in West Riding consuming centres, and if it was possible to take stock, we are satisfied that the lessened consumption of both merino and crossbred wool would be found to be about equal to the shortage in the clip named above. What the trade will do when Europe and America begin to be busy it is difficult to foretell, but in the meantime we are glad to think that the clip which is now beginning to be shorn in Australia bids fair to wipe out the deficiency of last year. All our reports confirm the statement that Australia generally is having a bountiful season; sheep are clipping heavier fleeces, and therefore we may expect a larger aggregate production.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Abnormal conditions have ruled in respect of linseed and linseed oil, the market having been largely in the hands of speculators. Plate linseed (following wheat) has been very firm at advancing prices, £20 having been touched for seed afloat to the U.K. A reaction in Argentine options have caused a slightly easier tone and a reduction in values. On the whole, however, the market is firm, and forward positions at 5s premiums over "afloat." New crop for January-February shipment is now offering at £18 15s. London has been a buyer of Calcutta linseed up to £21 17s 6d for shipment. Crushers have not followed the rise. With regard to linseed oil, demand has fallen away in consequence of the high prices, which, on profit-taking, have, however, eased to £39 naked ex Hull mill. New Egyptian cottonseed continues to be dealt in, chiefly for early shipment, £13 being the value for September shipment to Hull. Quite a big trade has been done in crude Egyptian cotton oil round £41, with sellers now asking more. Castor oil has been advanced to £68 (barrels free) for first pressure owing to dearer seed. Other vegetable oils are in fair demand at late values.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market is steady to firm, as best ox sold from 6½d to 8½d at the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday, seconds making from 5½d to 7½d, and best cows 6½d to 6½d. Calf were decidedly firmer, and advances of ½d to 1d were made all round, best selling from 7d for heavy to 14½d for light. Lambs sold from 3s 9d to 10s 6d, and pelts from 4s 8d to 7s 6d each.

The demand for sole leather is still fairly good, a feature of business being a better trade in medium grades for repairing work. A good deal of rubbish from dry hides is, however, still going to shoe manufacturers, shoulders, bellies, and even cheeks being utilised for soles in extreme cases. Prices are fairly firm, but tanners prepared to concede a trifle for a large deal. French and Australian sole leather is again selling, and I hear of renewed attempts being made to unload American sole leather on this market again.

Dressed leather is slow of sale, and domestic manufacturers seem to have almost lost heart, in view of the heavy imports and low prices for their own productions. Imports of dressed leather up to the end of June were valued at £3,499,050, exports of British leather of all kinds for the same period being valued at £2,636,631.

The boot trade is well employed except in the districts catering for the artisan class of boots. Retailers are pressing for holiday delivery, and the export section remains good. Exports of British footwear of all kinds to the end of June were valued at £2,448,229, as against £1,904,110 for the January-June period of 1923. The figures, however, are inflated by the inclusion of the Irish Free State trade this year.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, July 25.

SUGAR.—The general tone of the market remains distinctly quiet, and there appears to be nothing in the general situation to induce distributors to operate beyond wants of actual necessity. No alteration was made in spot quotations, while offers from continental producing countries remain small. Certain quantities of Java are arriving, with offers of American sugars on a moderate scale. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 42s 9d to 43s 9d; crushed, 41s 3d; granulated, stoved, 40s ½d; fine and coarse grain, 38s 10½d; No. 1, 38s 7½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 38s 4½d; ditto, forward to August, 38s 3d; yellow crystals, spot, 35s 10½d; castor, 38s 4½d to 40s 3d to 42s 1½d, as to quality. West India crystallised 34s to 38s 6d, as to sample. White Java, spot, 34s 9d; May-June, 21s 6d; June,

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH

DIRECT TO

NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 2	-	-	ss. "LAFAYETTE."
August 9	-	-	ss. "PARIS."
August 16	-	-	ss. "FRANCE."
August 30	-	-	ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent, or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

ANGLO-ONTARIO MINES
LIMITED

(No Personal Liability.) (Incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL \$2,000,000

DIVIDED INTO

2,000,000 Shares of \$1 each.

A PROSPECTUS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON
MONDAY OFFERING FOR SUBSCRIPTION750,000 Shares at 4s. each, payable 1s.
per share on Application, 1s. per share
on Allotment, and the balance two
months thereafter.ALLOTTEES WILL BE ENTITLED TO AN OPTION AT
5/- PER SHARE TO 30th JUNE, 1925, OF ONE SHARE
TO EACH THREE SHARES ALLOTTED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Colonel RALPH PATTESON COBOLD, D.S.O., President, 58, Jermyn Street, London, S.W. Director of New Rhodesia Mines and Investment Company, Limited.

HENRY P. CLEMES, M.Inst.M.M., Roebourne, Grove Park Road, Weston-super-Mare. Chairman of Rhodesia Consolidated, Ltd.

ANDREW McLENNAN, Oakville, Sanquhar, Dumfries. Director Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Co., Ltd. and Rhodesia Exploration Co., Ltd.

WILLIAM PELLEW-HARVEY, M.Inst.M.M., 59a, London Wall, London, E.C.

Lieut.-General SIR ARTHUR T. SLOGGETT, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., 6, Bickenhall Mansions, London, W.1. Director of Bovril, Limited, and General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited. Captain The Hon. JAMES G. STUART, M.V.O., M.C., M.P., 36, Eaton Square, London, S.W.1.

BANKERS.

MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED, 60, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C. Head Offices and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & Co., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C. GALT, GODDERHAM & TOWERS, 49, Wellington Street East, Toronto.

BROKERS.

HULLEY, ALLEN, SOMERVILLE-STEVENS & Co., 83 & 84, Warncourt Court, London, E.C., and the London Stock Exchange.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

London—PELLEW-HARVEY & Co., 59a, London Wall, E.C.2. Canada—W. E. SIMPSON, A.R.S.M., M.Inst.M.M., M.Canadian M.I., Swastika, Ontario.

LONDON SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

ROBT. B. AUCLAND, 316, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

A Prospectus will be published on Monday next offering for subscription 750,000 shares at 4s. each, payable 1s. per share on application, 1s. per share on allotment, and the balance two months thereafter. Allottees will be entitled to an option at 5s. per share to 30th June, 1925, of one share to each three shares allotted.

The Prospectus will give full particulars of the properties and interests to be acquired, which consist of:—

- (1.) A large interest in three claims, known as the Keeley Extension Claims, adjoining the properties of the Keeley Silver Mines, Ltd., in respect of which arrangements have been already made to float them in conjunction with other properties under influential auspices.
- (2.) A large interest in the Bellel Silver Mine, which has already produced silver and is situated adjacent to the Frontier Mine, of the Mining Corporation of Canada. Sinking on this Mine to the Keewatin-Diabase contact is proceeding.
- (3.) A large interest in the British Porcupine Mines, Ltd., owning the Thomson Krist and Porcupine Crown claims adjoining the properties of the famous Hollinger Gold Mine and the Vipond Consolidated Mines. A complete milling and treatment plant is erected on the Porcupine Crown claim from which \$3,000,000 of gold has already been recovered.
- (4.) A contract for the purchase of the Taylor-Conkey claim adjoining the Bellel Silver Mine.

A copy of the full Prospectus, with Reports and Maps, will be forwarded on receipt of a postcard addressed to the Secretary, Robt. B. Auckland, 316, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

July, 20s 6d; July-August, 19s 10½d, c.f. and i., London. Czecho granulated, spot, 36s 9d; ready for shipment parcels largely nominal in absence of offers; November-December, 19s 10½d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, spot, 36s 6d. American ditto, spot, 37s; July-August, 24s; c.f. and i., U.K. Cuban basis, 96%, August, 17s 6d, c.f. and i., U.K. White Terminal market steady, but business moved rather quietly. August sold, 22s 3d to 22s 9d; December, 19s 1½d to 19s 4½d.

COFFEE.—With sustained inquiries both on home and export account, the market continues v.r.y firm, with prices in most cases again higher on the week. Meantime, only small supplies of mild kinds are available. Costa Rica, good to fine bold colour, sold, 137s to 160; Kenya peaberry, 122s.

COCOA.—There was a moderate movement in spot parcels, and recent rates were maintained. Accra, F/F grade, October-December, sold, 32s 6d to 33s 3d, f.o.b.

TEA.—Only 14,850 packages Indian were submitted to auction during the week, and met a fair demand at about steady prices. Some fine Darj elings and choice Assams were well competed for and realised higher figures. Pekoe sold, 1s 4d to 2s 1½d; broken orange, 1s 6½d to 3s 3½d. Ceylon sales of 25,000 packages passed with some irregularity. Fine, while in small supply, fetched full rates, but other kinds moved in favour of the buyer. Pekoe sold, 1s 3½d to 1s 8½d. There was a fair call for new season's China, especially for Keemuns of fine quality, round about 2s 6d per lb, in bond. About 8,000 packages Java and Sumatra were catalogued in auction, and with more active and better-distributed competition, firm to occasionally dearer prices were secured. Pekoe sold, 1s 3½d; broken ditto, 10½d to 1s 6½d; pekoe souchong, 1s 3½d; orange, 1s 4½d to 1s 5½d; broken orange, 1s 1½d to 1s 10d per lb, in bond.

RICE.—This market again disclosed very firm features, and in the case of Burma grain the situation was somewhat obscure, as shippers virtually withdrew from the market. Two stars, spot, London, quoted 17s, with 16s 6d bid and refused for August-September shipment. S.Q. double bags, August-September, to Cuba, quoted 16s 9d. No. 3 cleaned Rangoon, August-September, to Levant, 16s 9d, c.f. and i. terms. Spanish new crop for shipment, 21s 6d, c.f. and i., London. Japanese peas, spot, 19s 9d; September-October, done 20s 6d. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 34s; afloat, 3 s 6d cwt, c.f. and i., London. Rangoon bran, October-December, quoted £7 15s per ton, ex ship, London-Liverpool.

SPICE.—Pepper in fair request, chiefly forward, and market firm. Black Singapore, fair quality, spot, quoted 5d; July-September, steamer, L.S., 4½d, buyers. Lampung, October-December, done 4½d. Muntok, spot, 8½d; August-October, sold, 8½d; October-December, quoted 8½d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s 1d to 1s 1½d per lb. Tapioca quiet on about former terms. Sago flour, June-August, 14s 7½d. Desiccated coconut firm. Halves, on spot, sold, 39s 6d to 39s 9d; August-September, quoted 39s; October-November, sold, 39s 9d cwt. Ginger quietly steady.

JUTE.—A further substantial advance was registered in face of active support accorded, partially on Calcutta account, and meantime inquiries for manufactured goods are on a liberal scale. Firsts, old crop, July-August, Continent, sold £29 15s to £30; new, August, crop, July-August, Continent, sold £29 10s to £29 15s, £29 5s to £29 10s; ditto, August-September, sold £29 10s to £29 15s, £29 5s to £29 10s; September-October, £28 15s to £29 5s, £28 10s to £28 15s per ton.

HESSIANS firm, with a good demand. 10-oz, August-September, sold, 33s 6d; October-December, 32s 6d; 8-oz, August-September, quoted 25s 7½d; October-December, sold, 24s 9d 100 yards. B twills, August-September, quoted 85s; A, ditto, 100s. Bran bags, 56 by 28, August-September, 60s 9d 100 bags.

HEMP.—Holders of Manila required steady prices, but there was only moderate response from buyers. J grade, July-September, quoted £42; K, £38 10s; L, £37 10s; M, £35. New Zealand nominal, with only limited quantities finding their way to the U.K. market from time to time. Mexican sisal steady, with further business in good white; August-September, £40, c.f. and i., U.K./continental ports. African sisal quiet on about former terms.

SHELLAC quiet. T.N., spot, 270s; August, 250s; October, 247s 6d cwt.

COPRA dearer, with reserve shown on the part of sellers, and a good inquiry predominated. F.M.S. Straits, April-June, Rotterdam, quoted £30; May-July, £29 16s 3d; June-August, sold, £29 11s 3d; August-October, £29 7s 6d. Dutch East Indies, April-June, quoted £29 17s 6d; June-August, sold, £29 10s; August-October, quoted £29 5s. Ceylon, August-September, quoted £30 15s; South Sea £29 5s. ditto, £28 12s 6d; with ditto, kiln-dried, to Marseilles, £28. F.M.S., ditto, £28 12s 6d; with ditto, kiln-dried, to Marseilles, £28. Palm kernels firmer. April-June, Liverpool, quoted £21; May-July, £20 16s 3d; June-August, sold, £20 13s 9d; and August-October, to Hull, sold, £20 15s ton.

RUBBER.—A moderate volume of business resulted, and general tone of market proved steady. Plantation standard crepe and sheet, spot, also July and August, sold, 1s; September, 1s to 1s 0½d; October-December, 1s 0½d; January-March, 1s 0½d. To New York, standard European estate sheet, August-September, sold, 1s per lb, c.f. and i. terms. Wild sorts steady, unaltered.

DRUGS.—Public sales met with quiet support. Rhubarb easier in price. Cardamoms bought in, seed selling at 5s 3d to 5s 9d; pods, 4s 9d to 5s 5d. New crop senna, sold, 7d; pods, 8d; with Alexandria leaf, 9d per lb.

FRUIT (Dried).—The market remained without new feature, general tone being steady, though business was confined to very narrow limits. Currants: Pyrgos, ½ bags, quoted 41s; ½ cases, 46s to 47s; Patras, 50s; Gulph, 52s; Panarit, 56s; Vostizza, 60s to 65s; Aus-tralian, new, ½ cases, 55s to 60s. Raisins: Valencia, ½ boxes, 38s to 40s; Cape, new, 40s to 44s. Sultanias: Greek, ½ cases, 48s; Smyrna, boxes, 50s to 54s; fine, 60s to 62s; Cape, sulphured, 55s. Figs: Genuine naturals in bags, 36s; fine, 38s. There was a moderate call for dates at steady prices. Hallowses quoted 28s; Siar, 18s to 19s. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots quoted 72s to 76s; choice, 85s; extra choice, 96s; fancy, 110s. Peaches, choice, 48s; extra ditto, 50s; new crop, fancy, 65s. Apples rings, 70s to 80s.

and the day's indebtedness to the Bank was liquidated. For daily money $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent. have been commonly paid; and the weekly fixtures have been renewed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The discount market has kept firm under the influence of the stringency of the money market, fine three months' bills seldom being taken below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., though at the end of the week the usual tendency towards slightly easier conditions, both in money and in discounts, was apparent. A line of £2,500,000 Port of London bills for three months was placed on Tuesday at just over $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

	Aug 2, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3 (Jly. 5, '23)

The Bank return showed an increase of £819,400 in the circulation, presumably to meet holiday requirements, and an addition of £38,900 to the gold stock, leaving the Reserve £780,500 lower. Government securities rose by £6 millions and Other securities by £2 millions, while Public deposits were less than a million higher. Other deposits were thus £6½ millions higher. Currency notes outstanding increased by £3,264,000 this week to £295,565,900, which includes £1,380,300 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £244,735,600, or £3,455,300 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Holiday influences, though strong, have been partly offset by the political developments, and there has been some activity, although of the small-order variety, in the gilt-edged market. There is also more activity than usual in the oil market, and rises in the base metals have directed attention to copper and tin shares. In the foreign market, Brazilian bonds have fluctuated in accordance with the character of the news, though little stock has changed hands. Home rails have lacked support, and with the exception of the Underground group are dull, but Argentine rails have improved. Rubber shares have been better on the rise in the commodity, but industrials are mostly quiet, while South African mines have received a little speculative support.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Business in the cotton market has again been adversely affected by the unsettled raw cotton situation and the violent changes in prices, it being difficult to fix a basis on which to trade in yarn and cloth. The general tone in the wool trade at Bradford is good, and during the week evidence was forthcoming of greater confidence in the raw material. Prices for coal at Cardiff are on the easy side, although the approach of the August holidays has stimulated deliveries. The pig-iron market is very quiet, and the steel trade is stated to be suffering from foreign competition. Tin moved in an upward direction, but copper fell back on sellers becoming prominent. Wheat prices have advanced all round. Tea was firm. Rubber opened weak, but as the week drew to its close a steadier tone manifested itself. Further details will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the shadow of the Conference was again a depressing influence, and business throughout was on a restricted scale. The Paris rate, which closed at 86.35 on Friday last, rallied a little on Saturday under the influence of more optimistic views, but early in the week moved up to 87, and on Thursday morning was quoted at 88.90. The main influence has been, of course, the pessimism resulting from the failure, at any rate up to the present, to reach an understanding with regard to the issue of a German loan, but it is not to be forgotten that with the approaching autumn the pressure of French purchases abroad is becoming increasingly felt, and the difficulties of the internal financial situation are becoming more and more apparent. Brussels

has again slightly reduced the spread between the two currencies, having moved during the period from 95.87½ to 97. Forward rates in Paris have widened about 2 centimes to 8-10 centimes per month above spot; in Brussels they have also widened to 4-6 centimes above. The dollar rate, which closed on Friday at \$4.39½, was fairly steady on Saturday at \$4.40, but fell at one time on Monday to as low as \$4.38½. Afterwards there was another slight recovery to round about \$4.40, and on Thursday morning the rate was again quoted at \$4.41½. It is difficult to say how long this rate will hold, but it would appear that the movement of funds towards London remains strong, and as long as the marked discrepancy in money rates continues, this should exercise a powerful influence unless counteracted by political events. Forward rates have narrowed a little to about ½ cent per month below spot, as compared with ¾ cent per month a week ago. The lira, which has remained fairly steady, was quoted yesterday morning at 101½. Berlin also, at 18.4 billion, shows little movement. Among neutral currencies, Switzerland has continued its recent sharp appreciation from 23.94 to 23.74½. Amsterdam, however, has gone in our favour from 11.51 to 11.51½, and Madrid from 32.85 to 33.02½. In Northern Europe, Stockholm shows little change at 16.54½, but Christiania has recovered from 32.72½ to 32.38½, while Copenhagen has depreciated further from 27.20 to 27.28½. Helsingfors has moved from 175½ to 175. Riga and Warsaw retain their nominal parity with the dollar. In Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna is unchanged at 312,000, and Budapest at 355,000, while Prague has moved in our favour from 148 to 148½. Bucharest for the moment remains fairly steady at about 1,010. In the East, the rupee has moved from 15 21-64d to 15 5½d, while the yen has depreciated slightly from 15 10-32d to 15 10½d. The silver market has shown a stronger tone, and although India has been holding back slightly owing to uncertainties as to the monsoon, any offerings have been absorbed by bear covering. Hong Kong is unchanged at 2s 4½d; Shanghai at 3s 3½d. In South America, Rio at first recovered sharply on news of the reoccupation of Sao Paulo, but reacted later on less favourable reports to 5½d, the same quotation as on Friday last. Buenos Aires has appreciated from 40 10-32d to 40½d, Monte Video remains unchanged at 41½d, but Valparaiso has depreciated rather sharply from 43 to 44.60 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended July 26th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
Supply Services	£ 5,550	From Revenue	£ 11,693
Interest, &c., on Debt	445	Reduction in Exchequer Balances	139
Sinking Fund	713		
Reduction of Debt	4,843		
Sundries	281		
	11,832		11,839

Revenue amounted to £11,693,000 for the week ending July 26, 1924, against £12,469,000 for the corresponding period of 1923. Customs receipts were slightly lower at £2,331,000, against £2,339,000, but Excise yielded £1,036,000, against £947,000. Estate duties brought in £1,510,000, against £1,450,000, and Post Office receipts were also higher at £1,400,000, against £1,250,000. Property and Income-tax showed a decrease at £3,641,000, against £4,474,000, but Super-tax produced £730,000, against £540,000. Special receipts reached the small figure of £3,000, against £400,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £4,842,700, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	£ 3,762	National Savings Certificates	£ 150
Treasury Bonds	48	Public Debt Advances	8,750
Unemployment Insurance	250	Housing Act	1,903
	4,060		

The floating debt was reduced by £4,920,000 to £782,198,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to July 26).

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
Total Expenditure ..	£ 255,594,517	Raised by Revenue ..	£ 231,057,871
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,221,073
		Amount borrowed ..	21,315,573
Total	255,594,517	Total	255,594,517

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, JULY 28TH.—*Lords*: Statement on the position in Brazil. Committee stage of the Unemployment Insurance Bill and Report stage of the London Traffic Bill concluded. *Commons*: Agricultural Wages Bill read a third time. Resolution on Irish Land Purchase passed.

TUESDAY, JULY 29TH.—*Lords*: Finance Bill and Housing Bill pass their second readings. *Commons*: On Colonial Office votes debates took place on our position in Iraq, and on the Dominions and foreign policy.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH.—*Lords*: London Traffic Bill passes third reading. *Commons*: Ministry of Labour vote, and the Chancellor's statement on the Government programme of schemes for alleviating unemployment, followed by a debate.

THURSDAY, JULY 31ST.—*Lords*: Adjourned debate on India continued. *Commons*: Debate on the Navy.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Union Bank of Australia, Furness Withy, Cie. Aramayo de Mines en Bolivie, Van Den Berghs, Odhams Press, Threlfall's Brewery, Tanganyika Concessions, Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, and Zambesia Exploring. Sir Frederick Lewis, at the meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., said that British goods were, on the whole, renowned for their better quality, and, on equal terms so far as costs are concerned, he was convinced they would soon regain their old pre-eminence in the world's trade, more particularly as this country could give credit that was not possible with the greater number of its competitors.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

TEN YEARS AFTER.

ANNIVERSARIES are keys which open the floodgates of memory. The floodgates are opened this week, and the rush of memories which is let loose by the tenth anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War is still, even after the lapse of years, strong enough to sweep many of us off the plane of calm judgment or practical reflection. But the time has surely come when we should attempt to stand fast against the stream, and, looking across the span of a decade, to view in their true perspective the march of events which staggered the world in July, 1914, and the main lessons of the years that followed; for if we are yet too near for final judgments, we are far enough off to see, at least, the outline of the picture as it will be presented to posterity. If we cannot yet see with the eye of the historian, we can at least take a rather clearer view than the contemporary observer. Turn over the pages of newspaper files of ten years ago, and you will be surprised how easy it is now to see the errors of judgment and prophecy which in the business world were then accepted as commonplaces. Things that now seem small were hailed as portentous: things which almost escaped notice then now loom larger.

A perusal of the Press of August, 1914, reminds us at once of two profound miscalculations of which the consensus of opinion among experts was guilty. The first was that war on the grand scale among modern nations

could not last long. Financial exhaustion, it was confidently believed, would set narrow limits to the conflict. Few, indeed, were there in the City who took Lord Kitchener's three-years' estimate seriously. What did Lord Kitchener know of finance? But Kitchener was right, and the business world was wrong. The world now knows, to its cost, that whatever means may be found to prevent wars, to confine them to short duration, little reliance can be placed in the financial factor. The other belief which is writ large in the Press of ten years ago was that widespread unemployment would be one of the greatest of war problems. In the event, after the first shock of dislocation, unemployment fell to, and remained at, an abnormally low figure, and the requirements of the fighting services left trade and industry with an acute shortage of labour, in spite of the mobilisation of every hand capable of service. Unemployment, we now know, is not the concomitant, but the aftermath, of modern war.

How curious, too, it is to read to-day of the panic language used to describe a fall of 5 points or so in the price of Consols in the last three weeks of July, when Europe was slowly drifting to the crisis. British credit had—so some reputable authorities would have had us believe—received its death-blow. It was on the downward path that led to the level of credit enjoyed by a Balkan State or Central American republic. It must, of course, be assumed that the fall in Consols would have been greatly accentuated had the Stock Exchange not closed its doors on July 30th, and afterwards re-opened with minimum prices in force. Quotations were not freed until the public had adjusted themselves to war ideas and war conditions. But a glance back at those days, and a comparison of prophecies with results, is highly instructive. What the critics of those days overlooked was the immense economic strength of Britain, which enabled her to finance a £10,000 million war burden and emerge with her credit in relation with all other nations but one unimpaired or even enhanced. The war left all its participants poorer, but with Britain the impoverishment was relatively slight. The human loss was grievous. But the costs of the war were largely met by hard work and abstinence. To some extent we lived on capital, and to some extent mortgaged our assets. But to take the place of the millions drawn to the fighting services we mobilised female labour and other labour not normally employed. The new and the old workers worked harder than they or those they superseded had worked in times of peace. Industry abstained from new capital. The whole population adopted ascetic standards of consumption. We did not suffer the physical damage, the destruction of plant, the deterioration of health, the break up of the business machine, which fell upon Central Europe. Our present ills are traceable not so much to the degree of impoverishment which Britain has suffered, but to the greater impoverishment of other nations, the temporary exit of Russia from the orbit of world trade, the decline in the volume of world production, and the breakdown of the exchanges.

Perhaps the most striking economic feature of the decade that has just closed is that, roughly speaking, the first quinquennium saw prosperity and activity, the second quinquennium depression and difficulty. Soaring profits, in spite of drastic taxation, and labour shortage, owing to mobilisation, marked the first stage; unemployment and industrial struggles the second. For a while after the war ended we could not see clearly what had happened. The great demand for replenishing the world's stocks hid from us the facts of impoverishment and low world production. We awoke to these facts with a rude shock in 1920, when the great slump came upon us. The story of the years since then is a story of painful and gradual recovery of world production. Had the economists known ten years ago what everyone knows to-day, it would have been the economic problems, not of the war period, but of the long years after the war that would have claimed their apprehensions.

Amid the many anxieties of the present position, a brief retrospect over the past decade is peculiarly useful in that it provides deep reason for thankfulness and confidence. There was a time when it seemed, to the timid, almost inevitable that London's position as the world's financial centre should pass across the Atlantic. This has not hap-

pened. It might have been expected that the complete upset of the channels of international trade would have produced disastrous embarrassments to our overseas commerce. In the event the constancy of the proportions of our export trade with various parts of the world has been remarkable. We have retained our customers in much the same general geographical proportions as before the war. We have retained, too, or even increased our share of the world's trade. It is the fact that the aggregate of world-trade has diminished that lies at the root of our difficulties. A world that is under-producing is also under-consuming, and, incidentally, under-consuming British goods. It is upon the restoration of real peace, which is the only condition on which stability and recovery in Europe can be founded, that the eyes of all must be turned. At the moment the fate of the most hopeful of the great disappointing series of conferences for European settlement is hanging in the balance. That peace is so much more difficult to make than war is the greatest of all the examples of the frailty of the human mind. As a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the war's beginning a failure of the present conference would be an unthinkable tragedy. Although differences of view between the conferring statesmen appear still to be deep and dangerous, we cling firmly to the hope that the celebration of this anniversary will be an agreement to give Europe at long last a new chance. Must we really conceive it possible that the statesmen, with full knowledge of what incalculable results a failure might entail, will not move heaven and earth to take advantage of the unique opportunity for peace and settlement that has now appeared? The solemn memories which the present anniversary arouses should provide the last straw of compelling incentive to that harmonious team-work for peace and settlement for which after ten long weary years the world is still waiting.

THE SHIPPING POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

THERE is no industry more sensitive than shipping to movements, however slight, of the world's trade barometer, and none which under present conditions reflects more closely the underlying instability of European finance. Thus, in the period of six months between September, 1923, and March of this year a moderate expansion in general trade, accompanied in this country by a slight upward trend in commodity prices, resulted in a rise in the average level of cargo freights amounting to nearly 25 per cent. Notwithstanding the release from the Far East of a considerable quantity of shipping lately employed on "earthquake account," much laid-up tonnage continued to be re-commissioned during the spring. In view of the enormous surplus of grain available for export from the Argentine, and the patent potential requirements of Europe in the way of raw materials as well as foodstuffs, hopes were expressed in shipping circles that staple cargoes would continue in good supply throughout the summer, and freights be well maintained. So far as "tramp" shipping is concerned, these hopes have been falsified. Between March and June the barometer visibly ceased to rise; if tapped, it was perhaps inclined to fall. British trade as a whole might be just holding its ground; American production was certainly slowing down. Above all, the reparation issue was drawing to another crisis. This halt in upward progress was associated with a reaction on shipping as exaggerated as the improvement of the previous autumn. By June, charter rates had fallen over 10 per cent. Movements of grain were dwindling, the North American market was brought almost to a standstill, tonnage was everywhere too plentiful. The potential cargoes were there, but once more it had become apparent that, in spite of signs of broadening demand earlier in the year, the Continent of Europe, on whose purchases the shipping of all nations ultimately depends, still lacked power to finance sustained shipments. Repercussions of currency speculation intensified shippers' difficulties, and added to the dulness in sea-borne trade. Optimism in the shipping industry gave place to unrestrained pessimism and fears

that the summer of 1924 would outdo the depression of a year ago. Fluctuations in "tramp" charter rates, however, tell by no means the whole story, and require to be checked by other data if a fair estimate of the general position of shipping is to be attained. In the following table the first six months of the current and two preceding years are contrasted from the point of view of shipping activity.

TRAFFIC (In Millions).			
	First Six Months of—		
	1922.	1923.	1924.
Net tonnage cleared with cargoes from U.K. ports—			
British	16.8	19.6	17.8
Foreign	10.0	14.3	11.7
Per cent. British	62.7	57.8	60.3
Net tonnage entered with cargoes U.K. Ports—			
British	13.3	14.7	15.2
Foreign	6.6	8.3	8.4
Per cent. British	66.8	64.0	64.4
Bunkers shipped—			
Coal (tons)	8.8	9.1	8.7
Fuel oil (gallons)	50.1	104.9	123.8
Seamen shipped	23	24	24
Exports—			
Coal, coke, &c. (tons)	28.8	41.8	33.0
Manufactured goods	£281	£290	£301

The inferences which it is permissible to draw from these traffic figures are, on the whole, encouraging. It is true that, reflecting a diminution of coal exports as compared with the abnormal "Ruhr boom" of a year ago, clearances of shipping with cargoes in the first six months of 1924 were considerably below the 1923 level. Even so, the figures record a substantial improvement on 1922, and it is satisfactory to note that, as contrasted with 1923, British tonnage has fared relatively better than foreign in the competition for outward cargoes. The comparative figures given above of our manufactured exports probably afford a fair indication of gradual improvement in the volume of cargoes available for liners. As regards inward traffic, it will be observed that a steady recovery is continuing, while the fall in the quantity of bunker coal absorbed by shipping is more than offset by the expansion in oil bunkers shipped. The average voyage of each vessel has probably been longer in the first half of 1924 than in the first half of 1923, when so much shipping was concentrated on the near Continental trade—a consideration which reinforces the conclusion that the past half-year witnessed a greater volume of sea traffic than any period since the post-war depression began.

The pressure of available tonnage on demand continues, however, to act as a depressing factor on "free" charter rates, and in spite of temporary and seasonal fluctuations, the curve of freights as measured by the *Economist* Index still fails to show any definite signs of mounting to a permanently higher level. The highest and lowest points touched by the Index in the past three years indicate roughly the movement:—

Average, 1898-1913=100.			
	High.	Low.	
1922	157.95 (Feb.)	128.40 (Sept.)	
1923	134.31 (April)	116.53 (Aug.)	
1924 (1st 6 months) ..	144.01 (Feb.)	126.37 (June)	

On the analogy of the two preceding years it is doubtful if June will represent the lowest point of the Index in 1924. As an additional basis for comparison, the average Index Figure of each of the main trade groups is given in the following table for the first half of the last three years:—

Average, 1898-1923=100.			
	First Six Months of—		
	1922.	1923.	1924.
European waters	151.86	142.43	136.28
North America	160.60	125.35	143.36
South America	147.85	130.69	138.37
India	146.74	124.95	128.46
Far East and Pacific	120.78	134.07	131.40
Australia	167.73	132.27	140.13
Total	150.26	131.63	136.33

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

When it is borne in mind that the figure for European waters was inflated in the spring of 1923 by the artificial demand for coal shipments to Germany, the otherwise uniform improvement in 1924 over the past year is the more satisfactory. At the same time the general level is still unduly low in comparison with the price of commodities and other services, and it is possible that the situation will have to be met by many more "tramp" managements being absorbed by the strong groups operating liners on controlled freights. The running of vessels at a profit, with freights not only depressed but subjected to wide fluctuation from month to month, has not been rendered easier by the tendency of wages, particularly in the docks, to increase. The corresponding additions given recently to ships' crews are a less considerable factor. Fortunately the price of bunker coals has fallen sharply in the last three months, and substantially cheapened running costs. To illustrate the relative movements of charter rates and bunker prices, the quarterly averages of the *Economist* Freight Index are shown in the first column of the following table for each quarter since the beginning of 1922. In the second and third columns freights and bunker costs (based on the price of best steam coal) are expressed as a percentage of their respective means for the whole period:—

Period.	Freights. Av., 1898-1913 =100.	Freights. Mean, 1922-24 =100.	Bunker Costs. Mean, 1922-24 =100.
1922—1st quarter	156.24	116	94
2nd quarter	144.28	107	90
3rd quarter	131.09	97	92
4th quarter	136.21	101	99
1923—1st quarter	132.63	98	117
2nd quarter	130.62	97	126
3rd quarter	118.90	88	94
4th quarter	128.32	95	97
1924—1st quarter	140.77	104	99
2nd quarter	131.89	98	90
Mean	135	100	100

It will be seen from the above that the relation between freights and bunker costs in 1924 has favoured shipowners more than at any time since the first half of 1922. As the bulk of British shipping is still coal-driven, it is reasonable to infer that this reduction in the cost of bunkers accounts largely for the fact that without much consistent improvement in freights idle British tonnage continues (with fluctuations) to diminish, the net tonnage of laid-up British vessels in ports of the United Kingdom being now substantially less than a year ago, though slightly above the figure for April of this year:—

IDLE BRITISH TONNAGE ON JULY 1st. (Thousands of Net Tons.)	
1922	1,025
1923	687
1924	448

A sign of good augury for the future of shipping is that the total tonnage afloat in June, 1924, shows a drop, as compared with the previous June, of over a million gross tons. The net yearly increases, now converted for the

first time since the war to a decrease, have been as under:—

Year Ended	Million Tons.
June, 1913	+ 2.4
" 1920	+ 6.4
" 1921	+ 4.7
" 1922	+ 2.4
" 1923	+ 0.8
" 1924	- 1.1

When it is considered that the shipping depression has now lasted four years, the time taken by the industry to bring tonnage expansion to a standstill is remarkable. By this year, however, the process of scrapping surplus and obsolete tonnage can be described as fairly under way. In the period June, 1923, to June, 1924, about 1½ million tons of new shipping were launched in the world. Comparison of this figure with the net decrease shown above would suggest that, after allowance is made for vessels lost at sea, and for some American tonnage in Government employment withdrawn this year from the Mercantile Register, close on two million tons have been broken up during the twelve months. Continued scrapping of inefficient vessels remains a desideratum for shipowners of all countries. From the 15 million tons by which the world's fleet still exceeds that afloat in 1914, there can probably be deducted:—

	Million Tons.
Increase in tanker tonnage	4
War built, inefficient vessels	5½
Increase in tonnage over 25 years of age	3

There remains, after all permissible deductions, a net increase of 2½ million tons over 1914, and the sooner vessels whose keels were laid down before the South African war are handed to the shipbreaker the better. It is somewhat disconcerting to find that the British proportion of this class of vessel has increased since June, 1923, from 1,557,622 tons to 1,617,864 tons. Apparently the normal foreign buyers of our old vessels are no longer effective purchasers. The need for continued breaking-up of inefficient units is the greater in that shipbuilding construction is now on the upward grade once more, after its long decline:—

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION in the WORLD.	
	Million Tons.
1922, July	3.8
1923, January	3.0
1923, July	2.5
1924, January	2.4
1924, July	2.6

Stimulated to some extent by the Trade Facilities Act, this renewal in building betokens nevertheless increasing confidence on the part of shipowners that better times are in sight, but has not been accompanied, as would be expected, by rising values of new tonnage, values, in fact, being lower than a year ago, and likely to remain depressed while so much out of date and inefficient, but still potentially usable, tonnage continues to exist as a "casual" reserve liable to flood whichever market is temporarily profitable.

A considerable proportion of British cargo tonnage re-

mains hopelessly over-capitalised, and it is satisfactory to record that in several instances managements are appreciating the desirability of reducing the book values of fleets acquired during the boom to figures representing current market prices by means of a drastic writing down of capital. Nothing is to be gained by an industry carrying a deadweight of nominal capital which is not represented by equivalent assets, and in the case of many shipping companies the necessary capital reconstruction involves for the original subscribers nothing more than a squeezing out of "water" from the share capital.

THE AUSTRIAN CROWN.*

By far the most dramatic and happy of the monetary events that have surprised us since the war ended was the conversion, as if by magic and in the twinkling of an eye, of Austria's currency conditions from chaos to stability. Many of us, while hoping for the best, have felt a lurking fear that it was too good to be true. Everybody who takes any interest in the solution of the problems that now beset all nations wants to know exactly how it was done, what it means, and whether it will stand wear and tear; and will find the answer to these questions, in so far as they are yet answered, in the pages of this book.

As a member of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, Dr De Bordes has long been closely concerned with Austrian problems, both at Geneva and at Vienna, and we gather from an expression in his preface that the League authorities gave him the leisure necessary for conducting the inquiry that produced his book. No better means could have been taken by the League for winning that prestige which is so essential to the peace of the world. If it can bless distracted countries with the gift of sound currencies, and then give clear and convincing accounts of the conditions under which this miracle has been achieved, it will have gone far to establish its claim to solve the much easier task of keeping the peace between nations sick of the horrors of war.

With this wide claim on the attention of all mankind, Dr De Bordes at the same time throws a flood of interesting light on the currency problems that are exercising students, namely, the connection between changes in the amount and velocity of purchasing power, as compared with those of goods, the movements of prices and fluctuations in rates of exchange. With inexhaustible patience he has investigated the available facts that, in the case of Austria, help us to grope after answers to the questions whether an increase in currency precedes a rise in prices, and whether the price level has the influence on rates of exchange that seems to be assumed by exponents of the theory of the purchasing power parity. Exceptional difficulties faced him in this investigation. Since the pre-war Austria was a quite different area from the after-war fragment, it was impossible to be even as approximately certain as we could be in England of the difference in the amount of purchasing power at one date and another. And this difficulty was increased by the fact that even if a well-founded estimate could be made of the amount of Austrian currency circulating at one time or another, the problem is still complicated by another most elusive item, because during the time of extreme depreciation of the Austrian crown a large part of the business transacted in Austria was conducted not in Austrian currency, but in Swiss francs or other foreign currencies. As to the price level, the difficulties that lay the most carefully devised index numbers open to question as a sure guide were enhanced by the fact that in Austria no index number at all was regularly published before 1921, and no index number of wholesale prices before 1923; and prices, as need hardly be said, were warped from their natural course by the controls and regulations that the Government found it necessary to establish. Only in the matter of foreign rates of exchange was it possible to work with anything like a complete set of tools; and even here, though quota-

tions were available, it is difficult to be sure about their significance, owing to the severity of the restrictions on international trade and on international money dealings, with the complications of the Auslandskrone and the Inlandskrone, and of the crowning absurdity by which at one time the import of Austrian notes into Austria was prohibited.

From the patient and lucid exposition that Dr De Bordes gives of the result of his investigations, the chief conclusion that seems to arise is the need for extreme caution in expecting any particular result from currency fluctuations in influencing prices, or from price movements in influencing rates of exchange. As he puts it:—

"We have seen that the quantity theory, if sufficiently qualified, holds good even in the case of severe depreciation. The same cannot be said of the purchasing power parity theory. Exponents of that theory have explained the differences which often exist in practice between the purchasing power parity and the rate of exchange as being caused by the under- or over-estimations of the value of a currency on the exchange market due to psychological reasons. This would suggest an amendment to the purchasing power parity theory in the sense that during periods of depreciation the rates of exchange tend to coincide, not with the actual, but with the *expected future purchasing power parity*. In other words, the foreign exchange market may be so completely dominated by speculation and movements of capital that the rates of exchange move independently from the purchasing power parity, i.e., from the price levels. In Austria during 1922 a subsequent stage was, however, experienced; the rate of exchange and the price level no longer moved independently—on the contrary, the Austrian price level closely followed the movements of the foreign exchange rates, Austrian prices in general being fixed in accordance with the foreign exchange rate. We may, therefore, conclude that, whilst there exists a tendency of the rate of exchange and the purchasing power parity to coincide, in cases of deviation between the two factors, sometimes the one and sometimes the other will prove the stronger."

Dr De Bordes considers that "certainly the most surprising of all the remarkable phenomena which Austria has produced in the sphere of economics," is the fact that an enormous increase in the circulation, from 1,148 milliard crowns on August 23, 1922, to 7,126 milliards on December 31, 1923, had practically no influence at all on the price level, which reacted immediately on the stabilisation of the foreign exchange rates. As he explains, as soon as stabilisation had been effected Austrian merchants were able, for the first time for many years, to calculate selling prices with accuracy, while the public, "which in its flight from the crown had bought goods of every sort and description, regardless whether it had any use for them or not," could wait to see whether the League's action would bring a further fall in prices. Here, then, we find the expectation of a fall, with other influences, sufficing to resist the effect of a huge increase in currency.

Indeed, the overwhelming effect of psychology, under certain conditions, in economic matters seems to be the chief conclusion to be drawn from Dr De Bordes' very interesting study. "Just as we have seen," he writes, "that Austria was being ruined by lack of confidence, by pessimism, so now we see her reviving, when once she had regained confidence in herself. In this process there was a reciprocal action. Each step on the path to recovery increased confidence, and this increased confidence enabled the next onward step to be taken. Confidence was the chief benefit which the League of Nations conferred on Austria." This confidence, as need hardly be said, could only succeed because it was shared by foreigners; in fact, implies that foreign confidence made Austria's recovery almost too rapid and easy. After observing that the quickness with which the League's plan "has reacted on the economic life of Austria, has surpassed the most sanguine hopes of its supporters," he cautions us against the conclusion that this development is wholly normal, and adds that it is probably due less to the exertions of Austria than to the misfortunes of her neighbours. Disorder in their currencies led to flight from the German and Polish marks and the Hungarian crown, while confidence in the stability of Austria's crown quickly raised her to the proud rank of a centre of safety. "A steady stream of foreign savings flowed into Austria, stimulating

trade and commerce, and rapidly raising the revenues of the State, so that her public accounts had balanced more than 15 months earlier than was anticipated under the League's plan. But an equilibrium largely produced by the rather fortuitous flow of capital in such circumstances rests on precarious foundations. Austria will not have put her house in order until she is able to balance her Budget by revenues of a truly permanent character and of a size which will not handicap her productive capacity, even when she has to face the full blast of international competition. That competition will become a formidable factor when tolerably ordered conditions have been re-established in the countries surrounding her. She has made great strides towards that goal, and we need not doubt that she will reach it."

TEA PLANTATION COMPANIES IN 1923.

THE year 1922 witnessed in the tea-growing industry the inauguration of a remarkable period of prosperity, whilst in 1923 the grower made profits which have never been equalled. Last year saw some improvement in labour conditions, but good food crops and the establishment of manufacturing and mining concerns in many districts are competitive factors in the labour market. Other difficulties which hampered trade in previous years, such as fluctuating exchange, high freights, &c., have caused little trouble during the year under review. The rupee exchange has been fairly steady in the neighbourhood of rs 4d, while freights have been steady, ample tonnage being available from all markets.

The general statistical position of the progress made in the industry may perhaps be best gathered from a study of the following table of tea imports and exports:—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF TEA.

From—	1913.	1922.	1923.	1913.	1922.	1923.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
India	203,459,657	255,160,841	267,200,007	7,833,223	16,164,731	19,924,266
Ceylon	110,936,427	111,614,253	121,033,594	4,179,462	7,275,669	9,326,688
China	16,272,548	11,099,134	25,172,593	613,147	732,115	1,590,955
Dutch Indies	32,052,717	38,935,258	39,612,088	1,072,515	1,688,923	2,393,810
Other countries	2,322,115	2,285,871	4,180,971	78,558	126,712	370,913
	365,043,464	419,005,357	457,199,253	13,782,905	25,988,150	33,506,632
Re-exports	57,555,651	41,966,070	63,995,126	2,808,940	2,755,137	5,440,551

The consumption of tea continues to make big strides both at home and abroad. We do an excellent trade in the export of tea, although the larger markets are becoming increasingly interested in direct shipments from countries of production. Export trade from London has shown a gratifying increase of late, orders having come from various Continental countries. Russia, too, has been a spasmodic buyer. There is little doubt that quite considerable quantities of tea are now finding their way into Russia by various routes. Consumption in the United States is increasing slowly, prohibition not having the effect that was anticipated. But the quantity of tea taken by this country should steadily grow during coming years.

The following table shows crops and financial results over a period of four years of 13 selected undertakings:—

	Crops.				Net Profits.			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£	£
Amalgamated..	5,442,184	4,381,050	4,941,009	5,940,101	89,423	44,634	158,233	295,353
British Indian	1,650,987	1,226,499	1,511,911	1,633,096	24,178	16,293	48,137	51,908
Ceylon Plant.	4,896,727	4,157,041	4,874,383	4,926,809	66,811	187,346	125,902	181,031
Chunbwa	2,494,521	1,813,322	2,214,598	2,534,808	32,063	16,943	56,793	63,947
Cons. Tea, &c.	17,689,876	13,376,272	14,856,638	18,046,515	240,598	166,667	425,086	708,480
Dooars	4,978,093	3,122,721	3,962,441	4,872,949	46,347	64,853	24,654	40,168
E. Ind. & Ceylon	2,284,452	1,303,137	1,399,812	1,760,630	42,367	21,681	128,526	151,268
Eastern Prod.	5,320,659	4,594,868	4,522,084	4,930,152	34,839	38,215	84,655	97,605
Jhansie	3,194,911	2,627,337	2,977,720	3,261,822	18,949	39,026	222,902	235,846
Jokai	7,643,926	5,807,528	7,715,257	8,236,351	73,112	6,846	59,714	67,833
Lungia	2,661,689	1,599,972	2,240,463	2,590,069	21,272	27,006	89,767	150,808
Neddeem	5,356,834	3,879,194	4,423,150	5,390,069	21,272	27,006	89,767	150,808
Yatiantota ..	620,181	460,017	525,443	551,301	30,559	14,956	8,191	18,098

* Net profit.

It will be seen that, with one exception, every company experienced a loss on working during 1920. No words

of ours can convey more adequately the remarkable change which has overtaken the industry since the "black" year than the figures set out above. The Consolidated Tea and Lands Company has allocated £100,000 out of profits to reserve; the average price obtained for its tea was 17.07d per lb, being 1.26d per lb higher than the average price for the previous year. The Amalgamated placed £25,000 to reserve; its average price for tea was 18.25d per lb, being .65d per lb higher. Dooars is an undertaking which commands our attention because of its excellent table, giving a summary of results for 39 years; for 1920, when it made a loss of £46,347, the sale price of its tea was 9.07d, as against a cost of 11.56d; for 1921, sale price improved to 15.60d and cost was 10.33d; for 1922, costs had fallen to 8.55d per lb and sales increased to 16.61d, while for 1923 costs had a further fall to 8.00d and sales at 17.76d per lb were the highest in its history.

The following table shows the principal assets and liabilities of a number of leading tea concerns over the past four years:—

	Name.	Principal Liab.			Total Liabilities.	Principal Assets.				
		Total Share & Deb. Capital.	Re-serves.			Prop-erties.	Stocks.	Cash.	Invest-ments.	Debtors
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
	Amalgamated—									
	Nov. 30, 1920	898,350	261,000	1,607,761	772,650	54,054	14,898	476,009	55,207	
	1921	898,350	261,000	1,556,538	772,650	39,476	15,235	476,009	60,697	
	1922	898,350	261,000	1,640,316	772,650	28,482	18,198	480,488	72,470	
	1923	898,350	326,000	1,729,917	772,650	25,321	15,891	471,676	140,744	
	British Indian—									
	April 30, 1921	77,325	24,700	128,371	58,367	17,434	11,514	6,260	26,258	
	1922	77,325	25,381	138,421	57,146	22,440	29,958	6,260	27,616	
	1923	77,325	31,674	176,139	56,562	25,827	21,530	44,752	27,468	
	1924	101,655	31,467	205,729	56,463	29,437	34,118	49,787	35,923	
	Ceylon Plantations—									
	End 1920	470,000	..	762,816	407,841	92,234	87,207	29,432	106,413	
	1921	527,120	25,000	824,149	468,237	92,486	179,014	29,932	41,556	
	1922	527,120	50,000	828,436	480,184	95,094	147,081	46,126	43,230	
	1923	527,120	60,000	833,691	503,685	57,675	189,579	45,877	18,648	
	Chunbwa—									
	Nov. 30, 1920	106,000	37,500	220,707	106,000	77,780	872	9,750	..	
	1921	106,000	35,000	206,260	106,000	94,563	316	4,750	..	
	1922	106,000	35,000	235,473	106,000	81,392	47,451	..	..	
	1923	106,000	65,000	288,700	106,000	103,902	77,811	..	..	
	Consolidated Tea & Lands—									
	Nov. 30, 1920	2,550,000	563,000	3,884,416	2,026,644	128,166	26,247	828,456	265,058	
	1921	2,550,000	563,000	3,760,272	2,026,644	91,216	34,876	825,652	134,493	
	1922	2,550,000	563,000	3,808,902	2,026,644	83,022	26,330	775,977	183,570	
	1923	2,550,000	738,000	4,269,677	2,026,644	83,974	186,810	912,059	239,871	
	Dooars—									
	End 1920	348,000	40,529	484,427	266,252	91,123	12,667	48,148	14,636	
	1921	348,000	39,588	530,000	286,252	128,274	7,574	58,148	20,262	
	1922	348,000	51,305	592,442	286,252	122,337	79,348	58,148	30,118	
	1923	348,000	80,898	678,600	286,248	161,391	78,630	110,605	22,261	
	East India and Ceylon—									
	End 1920	200,000	125,409	346,066	258,951	37,316	1,811	..	8,629	
	1921	200,000	73,415	321,465	259,426	36,116	21,418	..	4,506	
	1922	200,000	80,409	313,635	259,711	33,733	18,050	..	2,140	
	1923	200,000	89,635	330,616	261,014	40,670	16,279	7,657	2,121	
	East'm Prod. & Estates—									
	End 1920	405,000	120,000	648,121	440,523	40,654	..	49,500	96,391	
	1921	405,000	90,000	672,929	436,828	76,487	36,206	..	43,062	
	1922	405,000	120,000	704,737	448,636	84,363	88,468	..	54,459	
	1923	405,000	135,000	769,633	451,045	99,450	52,652	58,501	57,828	
	Jhansie—									
	End 1920	100,000	58,876	232,070	112,568	..	18,139	8,625	388	
	1921	128,333	60,469	261,206	128,333	..	15,438	6,625	165	
	1922	115,000	72,010	236,236	128,333	..	39,681	31,810	603	
	1923	115,000	107,069	346,974	128,333	..	66,637	52,024	349	
	Jokai (Assam)—									
	End 1920	350,000	151,921	737,866	361,730	226,902	48,788	25,426	919	
	1921	350,000	146,328	787,315	361,730	254,877	59,808	25,426	10,847	
	1922	396,500	192,415	885,440	412,980	278,388	62,303	58,970	203	
	1923	485,450	205,467	975,320	412,980	201,319	144,447	138,623	797	
	Lungia (Sihet)—									
	End 1920	375,000	102,459	477,459	275,322	56,214	45,731	..	8,103	
	1921	375,000	..	430,601	275,322	64,960	23,167	..	80	
	1922	375,000	..	412,761	274,656	89,334	15,288	652	13,466	
	1923	375,000	..	449,853	274,656	73,762	27,705	36,473	9,362	
	Neddeem—									
	End 1920	540,000	40,749	683,976	456,061	121,751	7,033	34,307	380	
	1921	540,000	41,324	678,337	456,061	102,139	42,271	20,107	381	
	1922	540,000	42,803	683,457	456,352	74,939	72,821	35,364	785	
	1923	540,000	49,873	763,160	456,018	66,780	32,249	160,173	17	
	Yatiantota—									
	Ceylon—									
	End 1920	202,500	17,500	250,555	201,361	11,583	506	..	1,150	
	1921	221,630	17,500	242,919	201,868	19,079	7,048	..	406	
	1922	221,630	11,000	236,654	201,959	15,276	15,687	..	..	
	1923	221,630	12,333	233,164	202,173	24,112	4,904	..	..	

Our final table shows dividends and share prices over a period of years:—

Company.	Am't of Share	Dividends.				Prices.		
		For Year 1920.	For Year 1921.	For Year 1922.	For Year 1923.	End of July, 1914.	End of June, 1923.	End of July, 1924.
Amalgamated....	10	%	%	%	%	9½	14	28
British Indian ..	1	Nil	5	15	30	6½	15½	3½
Ceylon Plantations	1	12½	15	30	40	5½	3½	4½
Chubwa	5	5	15	30	45	17½	22½	4½
Con. Tea & Lands	10	Nil	10	25	50	15½	28	50
Doon	1	Nil	27½	32½	50	3½	3	4½
Jhansi	1	6	18	40	40	7½	19½	3½
Jokai	1	6	20	40	40	16½	37½	3½
Lungla Sylhet ..	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	15	2½	12	1½
Nedem	1	Nil	10	22½	35	3	2½	3½

‡ 45 shares. † £10 shares.

Share splitting on tea company shares provides speculative investors with an interesting field for exploitation. As the example has been set by some leading undertakings, it will probably be accepted as a *sine qua non* that share-splitting shall be accompanied by a bonus share issue. It is here, perhaps, worth while calling attention to the instructive table given in the accounts of the British Indian Company. In our table it will be observed that this company has distributed 5, 15, 30 and 40 per cent. over a period of four years. In the table drawn up by the company, it is shown that the average dividend for 21 years is £11 1s 11d per cent.—a not very generous yield when politico-geographical considerations are taken into account. We see no reason why tea drinking should decline. Masses of the people may waver from time to time in their allegiance to the beverage, but it apparently fills a definite place in our daily lives, and it would need much skilful propaganda to compel us to jettison the plant.

FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION IN POLAND.—I.

AFTER five years of inflation, the Polish currency had depreciated in value to such an extent by the beginning of this year that the economic life of the country threatened to become completely disorganised. It was admitted on all hands that drastic remedies were essential, and on January 15th a law was passed granting full powers to the new Minister President, M. Grabski, to restore order in the national finances without reference to Parliament. This state of affairs was to last until June 30th, and this month (July) the full powers have been renewed, though in a modified form, down to the end of the year.

In his "Report on Financial Conditions in Poland,"* Commander Hilton Young pointed out that, as the trade balance of the country was favourable in 1923, the depreciation of the currency was to be ascribed solely to the failure to balance the Budget. Indeed, last year the total receipts amounted only to 366 million gold francs, while the expenditure totalled nearly 962 million. Under such conditions, the introduction of a new currency ought not to be attempted until true Budgetary equilibrium is achieved. This conclusion was further supported by a consideration of the serious consequences which would ensue if the new currency should break down, and by the particular administrative difficulties of the new Polish State, of which the reader will find an admirable summary in the Report itself. In a word, the British experts counselled caution and a thorough cleansing of the finances before a limited currency, on a sound basis, should be substituted for the old Polish mark. As against this view, M. Grabski appears to have argued that such a solution would not be in accordance with Polish psychology, and he therefore decided to appeal to the patriotism of his compatriots for a united and immediate effort to stabilise the exchange, and to save the national finances. His plan was thus fundamentally different from that of Commander Hilton Young, though many of the detailed recommendations were duly incorporated in the Government scheme. The recent course of events in Poland is thus of very great interest to all students of

post-war economic conditions. It represents, in fact, a break with counsels of caution in financial and monetary policy, and shows us the picture of a young and inexperienced State, without even a tradition of settled monetary conditions and without external help, attempting the difficult problems of financial reconstruction and currency reform concurrently.

On February 1st last the new policy was inaugurated, and on the 7th of the same month the exchange was stabilised by Government intervention at the rate of 1,800,000 Polish marks to one gold franc. On April 28th the Bank of Poland, a new and semi-independent bank of issue, was solemnly inaugurated, and began straightway to put notes into circulation in zloty (or gold franc) denominations. By July 1st the zloty was declared sole legal tender for transactions throughout the country. Since the initial stabilisation was achieved in February, the rate of exchange has, in fact, remained constant, at 1.8 million marks = 1 zloty = 1 gold franc.

In order to achieve this somewhat remarkable success, the Government has carried through a vigorous budgetary policy. The stabilised exchange made revenue collection much easier, and this, in turn, by tending towards a balanced Budget, made it possible to abstain from inflation, and thus keep the exchange stable. It is, of course, often asked whether this state of affairs is likely to be permanent. While it must be admitted that it is as yet too soon to pronounce a final judgment on the whole experiment, the Budget returns for the first half-year throw considerable light on the general trend of events. The adoption of the principle of monthly Budgets, recommended by the British experts, has fortunately made it possible to follow developments in considerable detail—quite apart from the additional merit of making Treasury control much simpler. The summary of the first six months of this year presents the following picture:—

(In Millions of zloty.)		Total.
Revenue	472.9	581.7
Extraordinary	108.8	
Expenditure	559.9	693.1
Extraordinary	133.2	
Deficit	111.4	

At first sight, this may not appear entirely satisfactory, although it shows an enormous improvement on the returns for 1923. A closer analysis is, however, essential to a proper understanding of the situation. The following table gives further details of revenue during the six months. In the first column will be found the estimates for the whole year; in the second, the results for the six months January to June; in the third column (2) as a percentage of column (1); and, finally, in the fourth column, the average of the five months (February to June) during which the new scheme has been in progress, multiplied by eleven, with the January result added:—

	REVENUE. (In Millions of Zloty.)			
	(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)
Direct taxes (other than Property Tax)	297.8	110.0	%	234.7
Excise, &c.	173.7	86.9	50.0	181.2
Customs	120.0	79.9	66.6	169.3
Stamp duties	48.9	31.2	63.8	65.6
Export taxes	9.6	8.2	85.4	17.8
Monopolies	89.0	53.5	60.1	113.4
Total	739.0	369.7	50.0	782.0
Property tax	333.0	102.4	30.7	223.1
Other revenue	350.7	109.5	31.2	228.3
Grand total	1,422.7	581.6	40.8	1,233.4

One is struck by the fact that the revenue from taxes (other than the property tax) and monopolies during the six months was exactly half the total estimated for the year. This result was due, however, not to direct taxes (turnover tax, land tax, income-tax, &c.), but to the great improvement in the yield of indirect taxes which followed revenue, as compared with last year, is only explained in relatively small measure by receipts on account of the property tax (the Polish "capital levy"), on which there are many arrears for the half-year.

The next question of importance is the extent to which the figures given in our fourth column can be regarded as being likely to be realised when the books are closed at the end of the year. Here a number of unknown factors enter into the problem, the importance of which can only be guessed at. Poland is essentially an agricultural country. Much depends, therefore, on the harvest, which promises this year to be at least up to the average. It is true that rye, which is the principal crop, suffered considerably from the long and severe winter, and is therefore not quite so good as usual. The other crops, however, are practically all above normal. Unless anything unforeseen happens, therefore, no particular difficulty should arise from this quarter. It is worth remembering, too, that the financial position of the agriculturists is normally better in the autumn than in the spring, and the returns from the various direct taxes paid by them—including the property tax, one-half of the assessment of which falls on the rural classes—should therefore prove better in the second half of the year. It should be added further that our average, which is based primarily on the five months February to June, includes the first two months of stabilisation, during which the ordinary revenue had only partially recovered from the evils of previous period; and also the two months of May and June, which are normally rather difficult, from the fiscal point of view, in a predominantly agricultural country. The heading "other revenue" consists mainly of the proceeds of the State forests and of the postal service. The former is naturally more productive in the second half of the year, while the latter has been improving steadily in consequence of the reorganisation of the charges in terms of a stable currency. The yield from the tobacco monopoly has also increased rapidly with the restoration of more normal conditions. As against these factors, however, must be set the difficulties which now face the industrial life of Poland, a consideration of which must be postponed to a second article.

In order to complete this brief review of the budgetary situation, some attention must also be given to the expenditure side. The total realised expenditure, as we have already seen, amounted in the first half-year to 693.1 million zloty, or about 43½ per cent. of the estimate for the whole year, which was 1,592.3 million. Of this total, the Army accounted for over 38 per cent., and a reduction below this figure is not regarded as possible by reason of the general political situation of the country. In other directions, however, economies have been effected, and many more are either in process of execution or else in active contemplation. In the first five months of the year over 20,000 State employees were dismissed, though, as they received a grant of three months' salary, the relief to the Budget was not immediately apparent. Under this heading, therefore, the second half-year should show an improvement on the figures for the first six months. Again, the Budget for the year allowed for a loan to the railways for construction purposes of 100 million zloty, of which approximately 65 million has already been made available, thus reducing the burden for the second half-year.

At this point it may be possible to attempt a tentative conclusion. If revenue can be maintained at the estimate for the year contained in our fourth column, and if expenditure in the second half-year is the same as that of the first six months—less 50 million zloty on account of diminished expenditure on railways and on officials already dismissed—the budgetary year will close with a deficit of a little over 100 million zloty. (Expenditure 1,336 million, as against revenue 1,232 million.) This deficit would present no terrors to the Government, since two items, which are not included in any of the figures already given, would provide more than sufficient cover. These are the profits accruing to the State from the liquidation of the old Polish State Loan Bank, which already amount to over 100 million zloty; and, secondly, from the emission of small change, which is expected to provide a similar sum.

Of course, conditions are far from normal, and prophecy in the realm of economics is at best a highly doubtful undertaking. Even should this estimate prove too optimistic, however, it is nevertheless clear that Poland has already gone far to restore order in a financial organisation which had become truly chaotic, and six months

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA

KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr.182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE LEAGUE.

(BY A GENEVA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE British Government's reply to the League of Nations Secretariat, for circulation to the members of the League, on the draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance has excited a good deal of discussion. Much of it has been confused, some of it has taken the form of League abuse, and some of it has been marked by a too eager desire to back anything that emerges from the League; or even that has been blessed by the League of Nations Union. Those who rejoice in the reply as a "snub to the League," must be generously credited with pitiable ignorance of what the League is and of what the circumstances are. It would be just as ridiculous to speak of a British snub to the inter-allied conference in London because Britain refuses to do certain things. Great Britain is a member of the League, and if not already will probably be with the majority of Governments in the League in its objections to the draft treaty. What happened was that the League Governments appointed a more or less unofficial committee to consider and submit proposals for the reduction of armaments: this committee presented the draft which was sent for discussion to the last Assembly. Considerable differences were apparent and were frankly recognised. The arguments and difficulties were set out in a report which, together with the draft treaty itself, was circulated to all States for the purpose of obtaining considered observations before the following Assembly. The last Assembly took no other decision, and now the Governments are pooling or exchanging their views on a draft plan to see whether or not it is the most promising approach to a highly complicated problem. The Assembly in September will thus be thoroughly prepared to consider future action. The consequences of the British reply do not, however, seem to have been fully realised. The arguments, which in many respects are lamentable in their misunderstanding of the League and even of the facts of the draft treaty, lead to the conclusion that the British Government is unprepared to give its assent to any measure involving ultimate military or naval assistance to any State wrongfully attacked, and this conclusion is reinforced by Lord Parmoor's speech in the Lords unless and until it be repudiated by the Prime Minister. Neutralised zones under international control may be of considerable value, but the British constructive suggestions are so vague as to be virtually negligible, and such neutralised zones, without the assistance of force in some ultimate given circumstances, would be open to the same objections of inadequacy as the Government attributes to the draft treaty. This means inevitably that unless the Government goes to the Assembly in September with carefully considered—and feasible—proposals, there will be a postponement of any effective reduction of armaments, and if these proposals omit any eventual resort to armed resistance, States will seek their security in their own ways, one of which may be an increase in partial

* Published by Waterlow and Sons, London, 1924. Price 3s 6d.

treaties, which the British Government regards as provocative of war. Perhaps it might not be wholly unwise to risk that, provided the situation is not allowed to drift, for the reduction of armaments depends primarily on the settlement of political difficulties, and the development of international good feeling; what might appear as an artificial arrangement of peace by threat of war might not be effectual in the long run, but this is all dependent upon a deep change of spirit. Armaments are not a single problem of humanitarian or moral character only: it is fundamentally part of the whole problem of international politics, and cannot be isolated. What the British Government seems to be aiming at is a deepening and extension of more rational ways of settling differences, and thus eliminating to the greatest possible extent the chances of war. Its reference to the Court of International Justice implies this, but it is arguable whether that is enough, and the Government's reply completely loses sight of the fact that the Covenant already places Britain under obligations in certain defined circumstances to go to the armed assistance of another State. If the Government objects, or thinks it impossible to arrange (for which purpose it makes its own the out-and-out militarist theses to prove a ridiculous case) its only honest course is to bring forward definite proposals for the amendment of the Covenant. It is, in fact, extremely difficult to classify the British reply. It contradicts itself, and lays itself open to damning analysis; nor is there any doubt that it constitutes a complete reversal of the Prime Minister's recent reply to a speech by Mr Asquith in the Commons. It is hard to believe that the Prime Minister could have given any attention to the subject beyond appending his signature to the reply placed before him. Its author is entitled to no congratulations.

Finally, if the British Government, in speaking of a general conference on armaments, has in mind a non-League Conference such as Genoa, it will be performing an ill service to the cause of the League which it says it has so devoutly at heart, and it will reap no advantages either for itself or for the cause of peace. A full League policy needs tenacity, courage, understanding, a knowledge of League constitution and League facts, and some initiative. Negatives and perorations are not enough. Since January the other States members of the League have been vainly awaiting something more than immobile goodwill, and Britain will cut a very poor figure at the Assembly if the Government does not realise this within the short interval that remains. It has so far succeeded in thoroughly disheartening both League realists and League idealists, and in rejoicing the hearts of the reactionaries.

Notes of the Week.

The Progress of the Conference.—It was expected that the middle of this week would have seen either the failure or the success of the inter-Allied Conference. But that expectation has been falsified. No very pronounced change in the position has occurred since we wrote last week. It would be foolish to deny that the delay arises from deep cleavage of opinion on fundamental issues. But it would be equally wrong to suppose that the cleavage is unbridgeable. In fact, in spite of the doubts and difficulties that have marked the past few days, the week ends on a more hopeful note. If the main basis of hope is nothing more tangible than the refusal to believe that the statesmen can face the responsibility of rejecting the present unique opportunity, there are also some more concrete foundations. The French and Belgian delegates have completed a new memorandum on the Ruhr evacuation question, while the French have also produced a new and elaborate proposal with a view to satisfying the doubts of the bondholders. Whether these will prove to be stepping-stones to settlement it is too early to say. The members of the Reparation Commission, summoned from Paris for consultation, have arrived in London, and it is obvious that the critical moment of the Conference cannot now be long postponed. The amount of delay and deadlock that has already taken place has not made the position easier in Germany, and time is becoming an increasingly important factor.

The Government's Unemployment Programme.—In the House of Commons on Wednesday evening the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a detailed exegesis of the Government's programme for relieving the pressure of unemployment by carrying out various public works. Prefacing his able speech with a remark that "positive remedies for chronic diseases did not effect a cure in a day or a night"—a variant on Mr Shaw's much-quoted metaphor on an identical theme—the Chancellor showed that "abnormal" unemployment was almost entirely the result of depression in three industries—shipping, engineering, and cotton—all mainly or largely dependent on foreign trade. While there was no evidence that Great Britain was failing to maintain her proportion of the world's commerce, the fact that her exports were priced at 90 per cent. above the pre-war figure, whilst the corresponding figure for imports was but 50 per cent., suggested that home costs of production were unduly high. The Government's object, he declared, was the cheapening of these costs by bringing about the full development of the nation's natural resources, on lines of scientifically organised production, and the elimination of waste in every department. Mr Snowden then proceeded to give a practical interpretation to these somewhat nebulous ideals, along two main lines—improved transport and improved power. The Government was to expend £5,000,000 on the reconstruction of main trunk roads. Approval had been given for a further road programme of £13,500,000, of which the Government would contribute £10,400,000. The first sod of the Glasgow-Edinburgh road would be cut in a few days' time, and the question of the much-debated Liverpool-Manchester road would be settled one way or the other in the very near future. Definite progress had been made with the plans for a new Thames tunnel, a big new road to the London docks was under consideration, and the Government had undertaken to pay the cost of obtaining a report on the engineering aspects of the proposed Tay tubular bridge. On the subject of electric power, Mr Snowden expressed views similar in many respects to those put forward in Mr Lloyd George's "Coal and Power." The process of retrieving the mistakes of our piecemeal policy of the last forty years would be expensive, but would be amply justified, he believed, by ultimate results. Legislation would be introduced giving to the Electricity Commissioners the compulsory powers denied to them in 1919. Frequency of current would be standardised throughout the country, at a cost of £10,000,000, spread over three years. The various electricity bodies would be consulted as to the laying down of main transmission cables, with State subsidy. A Board of Trade Committee would examine the practicability of the Severn Barrage scheme, £95,000 being allocated to cover the necessary technical inquiries. Schemes for municipal works amounting to £3,000,000 would be carried out in the coming winter. The four main railway companies had agreed to spend a total of £55,500,000 on maintenance, renewal, and reconstruction. Negotiations for carrying out the Great Ouse drainage scheme had reached an advanced stage. Finally, the home sugar-beet industry was to be encouraged by a system of excise duties, and subsidies during the next ten years. Altogether Mr Snowden's list of contemplated developments reached an imposing total, and though the Government's widely advertised plans turn out to be largely an anthology of the idea put forward by members of the other two political parties, the Government deserves a certain amount of credit for the courage and vigour with which, apparently, these schemes are to be taken up. The underlying idea that work of a public or capital nature as is frequently the case, undertaken chiefly in periods of trade activity, is sound enough. Whether some of the grandiose schemes contemplated are expedient at the present, or at any time, is another matter. In particular, the Government's declared intention of feeding the sugar-beet industry with the bread of financial subsidies is likely to provoke a good deal of criticism in quarters hostile to all forms of protection, whether direct or inverted.

The Trade Enquiry.—The Board of Trade announced on Wednesday that the Government has appointed a Committee to enquire into the conditions and prospects of British industry and commerce. The *personnel* was simultaneously announced as follows:—Sir Arthur Balfour, K.B.E. (chairman), Mr John Baker, Sir W. H. Beveridge, K.C.B., Mr Henry Boothman, Mr W. T. Charter, Mr C. T. Cramp, Mr Hugh Dalton, Sir Harry Goschen, K.B.E., Mrs M. A. Hamilton, Mr F. A. Hargreaves, Sir Norman Hill, Bt., Sir John S. Hindley, Mr David Landale, Sir W. Clare Lees, O.B.E., Mr P. J. Pybus, C.B.E., Mr Arthur Shaw, Sir Allan Smith, K.B.E., Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith, G.C.B. Although it might be possible to strengthen the team, the list includes some first-class names, and the blend of various views and interests appears to be satisfactory. Industrial capital is well represented by Sir Norman Hill, Sir Allan Smith, Mr Pybus, and the chairman, and banking by Sir Harry Goschen. Mr Cramp will be the chief exponent of official trade unionism, while Mr. Dalton and Mrs. Hamilton represent the intellectual side of the Labour movement. The abundant official experience of Sir H. Llewellyn Smith will be useful, while Sir William Beveridge is a very sound choice from the ranks of economists. The terms of reference are as follows:—"To inquire into and report upon the conditions and prospects of British industry and commerce, with special reference to the export trade, and to make recommendations in regard thereto." These terms are so wide that the Committee will obviously be faced with the danger of ranging superficially over an almost unbounded field. Whether or not they can escape this temptation depends in the main on the organising ability of the chairman, who, in this case has also the assistance of an official memorandum which, without attempting to define the enquiry, enumerates some of the subjects on which investigation is specially required. Even so, the task of presenting a thorough and practical report is exceedingly formidable, and the likelihood of minority reports obvious.

Wheat Supplies and Prices.—The latest advance in wheat prices, as and from July 29th, brings the official London figure to 48s 6d per sack of 280 lbs, as against 37s as recently as the beginning of May last. The steepness of the rise during the last three or four weeks has taken the market by surprise to some extent, and excited considerable comment in the Press and in Parliament. A week ago a Mark Lane correspondent pointed out that wheat prices tend always to be unusually sensitive in the last few weeks of the cereal year, owing to the increased dependence of consuming countries on overseas rather than on home sources of supply. "The Agricultural Market Report" refers to another factor, namely, uncertainty as regards Canadian crop prospects, aided, as is usual in such circumstances, by market speculation. Imperfect crop reporting systems and the climate and other vagaries to which wheat is subject from seed-time to harvest make it impossible to forecast the ultimate yield of this season's harvests with anything like accuracy at this stage, but the following table, showing areas sown in some of the chief producing countries north of the Equator (based on data given in the July Bulletin of the International Institute of Agriculture), may serve as a corrective to undue pessimism:—

AREAS SOWN (in Thousand Acres).				
Country.	Average, 1918-22.	1923.	1924.	
United States—				
Winter wheat	42,682	39,522	36,898	
Spring wheat	21,724	18,786	16,920	
Canada	20,079	22,672	21,676	
India	28,645	30,835	30,919	
France	12,648	13,673	13,464	
Spain	10,311	10,489	10,158	
Italy	11,257	11,554	11,243	
Jugo-Slavia	3,640	3,843	4,071	
Hungary	3,042	3,320	3,460	
Roumania	5,898	6,648	7,245	
Poland	2,574	2,514	2,441	
Czechoslovakia	1,549	1,507	1,515	
Algeria	3,070	3,166	3,435	
French Morocco	2,004	2,249	2,331	
Tunis	1,379	1,559	1,025	
Total (14 countries) ..	170,502	172,337	166,801	

While the United States shows an appreciable decline as compared both with last year and the 1918-22 average,

BANK OF ATHENS

Paid-up Capital
Drs. 72,000,000

With offices in all the principal towns in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and Crete, the Bank extends exceptional facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally.

Enquiries Invited.

London: 22, Fenchurch St. E.C.3.
New York: 25, Pine Street

Head Office: ATHENS.

the sown area in Canada and India is well above the latter level, and the same applies to Roumania, Hungary, France, and most of the French North African colonies. The total area in the fourteen countries (which do not, however, include Russia) is 3 per cent. less than in 1923, and 2 per cent. behind the average for the preceding five years. On the basis of information available at the time of publication of the July Bulletin, the International Institute of Agriculture gives the following figures for prospective yields:—

(Million Centals of 100 lbs.)				
Countries.	Average, 1918-22.	1923.	1924.	
European (8 countries) ..	241.0	303.8	257.1	
United States	528.6	471.5	444.0	
Asiatic (3 countries)	215.3	239.4	232.2	
African (2 countries)	24.5	30.3	24.9	
Total (14 countries) ..	1,009.4	1,045.0	958.2	

These totals omit Canada, the doubtful quantity in the equation. The latest returns under this head seem to indicate a "good" crop, though not a "bumper" crop like last year's, which was exceptional. The first official forecast puts the possible yield at 171,000,000 cwts, compared with the 1923 final estimate of 254,000,000 cwts. Home consumption and seed requirements averaging about 52,000,000 cwts annually, an exportable surplus of 120,000,000 cwts is indicated, and as climatic conditions have improved lately, this figure may quite possibly be exceeded. The United States should be in a position to export something over 70,000,000 cwts. Argentine and Australian crops have been unusually good this year, India has a substantial surplus of the 1923 crop in hand, and stocks in Canada and the United States are thought to be far from negligible. About Russia little is known. Last year a certain amount of wheat export took place, but it is improbable that supplies from this quarter will have much influence on the general situation. On the whole, the facts seem to bear out the Ministry of Agriculture's conclusion that, while prices may for some time remain at higher levels than last year, there is no justification at present for suggesting a coming shortage, much less a dearth of wheat.

The Rising in Brazil.—The city of Sao Paulo was captured by the Federal forces on Monday, at a heavy cost in lives, and probably in material damage, and the rebellion has apparently been definitely overcome. Non-official news is again permitted to come through from Brazil: hitherto the direct information obtainable has been scanty, and purely official, while that from Buenos Ayres and Montevideo has been brought there by travellers and ships' crews, and must have been largely con-

jectural. South American politics are so little studied in Europe that it is not easy for observers at a distance to account for the rebellion. It appears to have been provoked by unspecified grievances of the Sao Paulo military police; but an interesting article in Monday's *Times* suggests that it is a secessionist movement on the part of the progressive commercial population of Sao Paulo, which is chiefly of Italian and German origin, and resents the domination of the Portuguese population of the northern States, which is largely of mixed blood. There are reports that the disaffection has spread southwards among the so-called "Germans" (mostly, however, born in Brazil, and many of them descended from Austrians, Holsteiners, and Poles), who have been occasionally suspected by their Brazilian neighbours of disloyalty, but, in spite of the efforts of Pan-German emissaries, have never, we believe, been actively political. But it is hard to understand why a commercial population should scare away the foreign capital needed for their own enrichment, or why the placid "Germans" of the adjacent States should support them. The heavier taxation contemplated by the present Federal Government, and necessary to put the country in a sound financial position, is also assigned, with perhaps greater probability, as one cause of the rebellion; but it seems hardly an adequate one. The revolt, again, is stated to have been engineered by disaffected Army officers, belonging to the group who acted similarly just two years ago at Rio Janeiro. President Bernardes is notoriously detested by them, but it is difficult to understand why they should take part in a movement the success of which would split the Federal army into two separate bodies and so reduce their own importance—even if it created two War Offices, and consequently a greater number of official posts. Besides, the pay and numbers of the army are apparently not menaced by the financial reforms.

Home Railway Dividends.—The interim dividends of the Home Railways so far announced are all at the same rate as at this time last year, with the exception of the Metropolitan, which has increased its distribution by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. actual. In the table below we show comparative dividends, together with present prices and yields, and the lowest prices of 1923:—

Name of Line.	Interim Dividends R. to % per Annum.		Prices of Ord. Stocks.		Present Yield.
	1923.	1924.	Lowest, 1923.	July 28, 1924.	
Great Western ord. stock	6	6	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 8 d
London and North-Eastern pref. ord. stk.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	82	7 7 d
London, Midland, and Scottish ord. stk.	5	6	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	6 2 d
Metropolitan cons. stock	3	4	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 4 d
Southern pref. ord.	5	5	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 10 d

The increase in the Metropolitan dividend was discounted some months ago in the price, which was pushed up in anticipation of heavy Exhibition traffic. We have calculated the yield on Metropolitan stock on the basis of the dividends for the past two half-years, namely, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the twelve months. For the current half-year the dividend may quite possibly be at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, as against 5 per cent. for the second half of last year. In this case the yield will work out at £6 2s 8d per cent. The Southern Company leaves the declaration of a dividend on its deferred stock until the close of the year.

Bawra's Future.—At the annual meeting at Melbourne of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, Limited, on May 29th, the full report of which has now reached this side, Sir John Higgins threw some light on the company's future. He said:—"The carry-over wool having been realised, your directors feel that a great portion of their labours has been completed; on the other hand, they recognise that the settlement of many matters, embracing sums of money exceeding £3,000,000 sterling, connected with the winding-up of the association's affairs, will give those responsible a great deal of worry and anxiety. In view of threatened legal proceedings, and the uncertainty of the position respecting taxation, your directors cannot recommend the association going into im-

mediate liquidation. Indeed, the weight of legal advice received is strongly against the adoption of such a course until all litigation is out of the way. Many of the matters to which your directors will have to direct their attention during the next six or nine months require a great deal of thought, and these complex problems would appear perhaps still more involved to men unfamiliar with the operations of the Central Wool Committee and B.A.W.R.A. It is the earnest desire of your directors to call an extraordinary meeting of shareholders at the earliest moment to consider the question, and determine the method of liquidation of the association. As such procedure is mainly of a legal character, your directors must be guided largely by their legal advisers, but shareholders may be assured that the meeting will be convened at the earliest date possible compatible with due regard to the protection of their interests." The accounts to December 31st last, to which reference was made in the *Economist* of May 10th (p. 956), showed a surplus to date of £2,547,200. From January 1st to May 24th last there was a net surplus of £1,340,300, making a total of £3,887,500.

Stock Exchange Loan Accounts.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—In recent months a public demand has quickened for carry-over facilities. It frequently happens that misunderstanding arises in the public mind over various restrictions which are laid upon this branch of Stock Exchange practice. Under Law 82 of the Stock Exchange, a member "shall not transact speculative business directly or indirectly for or with an official or clerk in any public or private establishment without the written consent of his employer." Like so many other rules of the Stock Exchange, this law can be reduced to absurdity by showing that, whereas the broker is at liberty to transact speculative business for a costermonger who owns his barrow and stall in the Old Kent road, yet, at the same time, the broker is forbidden to undertake such dealings for the manager of a big bank, for instance, unless the latter client receives the written consent of his employers. A recent Stock Exchange case had to do with a request from an employee who wanted his brokers to buy him industrial shares and to finance the purchase for him with their own bankers upon his putting up 20 per cent. of the purchase money as cover. If the client in such a case went direct to his banker, no doubt the latter would willingly carry through the transaction, provided, of course, that the shares were sound, and such as commend themselves for loan operations in the ordinary way. The bank would buy the shares in the market and would receive half commission, with the result that the Stock Exchange, if it refused this particular business, would receive only 50 per cent. of the brokerage, and the bank would get the order in the first place. As a matter of fact, a good deal of this kind of business has been going on for the last year or so. While there is nothing like the speculative account open now that there was before the war, speculation is not so dead as to refuse to snatch at some of the chances which come its way. Some Stock Exchange firms flatly refuse to carry over stocks and shares, and others transact this kind of business only with reluctance. Clients, however, who remember the opportunities offered them in pre-war days are sometimes persistent in their desire for contango facilities, and in such instances as those where a man is consent of his employer, a way round is sometimes sought upon payment of a certain proportion of the cash as cover. This condition of affairs has now been brought to a head by the case before the Stock Exchange Committee, whose ruling was simply that, in the circumstances stated, the consent of the employer would be required, from which it is obvious that this class of business is regarded by the Stock Exchange Committee as permissible, provided that the employer knows about it. As a matter of fact, not many employees care for their heads to know anything about their speculative dealings, and doubtless the ruling just quoted of the Stock Exchange Committee will curb activities in a transaction which, after all, is not altogether unlike a carry-over. The objection will be raised at once that, if the Stock Exchange refuses such business,

outsiders will rush in, gladly enough, to fill the gap. The danger is that where the business is transacted with an outsider the latter may not buy the shares at all, but merely run them as a bear against his client, taking from him his deposit money and the rate of interest, trusting to the accident of fortune to come home with a profit. Many of the "bucket shop" fraternity do indeed invite the public to deal with them on this instalment plan. To this objection, the Stock Exchange would answer, of course, that a good deal of the business which might reach it on loan account, if general encouragement were afforded, would be of a character neither desirable nor profitable. The Committee's attitude in reference to the question just discussed is logical and wise, in that it neither turns away possible good business on the one hand, nor opens the door to laxity on the other.

Universal Cotton Standards.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—A most unfortunate state of affairs has arisen with regard to standards for American cotton. The conference of representatives of European Cotton Exchanges, which was attended by officials of the Washington Department of Commerce, held in London at the beginning of last week, failed to achieve a settlement of the differences. Since then further meetings have been held of the Liverpool Cotton Association and the Manchester Cotton Association, but we do not appear to be any nearer a definite settlement. The Manchester Cotton Association has accepted the supplementary agreement proposed by the United States Department of Commerce. On the other hand, the Liverpool Cotton Association are not satisfied with the position, as, in their opinion, the agreement does not offer any security for the future. According to Liverpool, the original universal standard which is kept at Washington is stated by the Department of Commerce to be liable to change from its original form. In making up copies of this standard, however, the experts who have to do this work would not be permitted to make up copies of the standard as it exists at the time of working, but as it was when originally made. It is, therefore, contended that naturally this creates uncertainty in the minds of persons trading in contracts based on these standards. This is admitted by the Department of Commerce, as they have pointed out the physical properties of cotton, particularly with regard to colour and lustre, may, and undoubtedly will, change after a reasonable length of time. These boxes, therefore, may not at any particular date truly represent the original standards. Liverpool also objects to the clause in the supplementary agreement which provides for experts to go to Washington at the expense of the American Government every year to make up copies of the standards for the ensuing year for arbitration purposes, and they say that, quite apart from the fact that this is exceedingly responsible and laborious work, as it would mean passing 800 to 1,000 boxes, it is felt that it would be impossible to ask any members of the Liverpool Cotton Association to give up practically two months of their time to travel to Washington every year to agree with these standards. The Liverpool Cotton Association entered the scheme last year with the intention to make every effort to carry out the agreement which was adopted, not only in the letter but also in the spirit, but now, after only twelve months, it has been found that its provisions are quite impracticable, and that the Department of Commerce in Washington is not able to carry out its terms in a reliable or satisfactory manner. Owing to the uncertain outlook, the Liverpool Cotton Association has decided not to allow for the present trading in futures in any month beyond July, 1925.

Rubber and Rubber Shares.—For the next three months the standard of production allowed to the rubber companies which have given their adhesion to the Stevenson Restriction scheme, becomes lowered to 55 per cent. of the normal amount that was taken as the criterion by which the percentage of production was to be gauged. All rubber shareholders know that if the price of the raw produce does not stand at an average of 1s 3d per lb over a period of three months, it follows that, at the beginning of the next quarterly term, the ratio of production is lowered by 5 per cent. From this week it will be 55 per

cent., and appearances point to the possibility of a still further reduction being made on November 1st next, which would bring down the production to exactly half the standard by which the companies work. The effect of this is already seen in an advance to about 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb in the price of rubber as compared with 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, the lowest touched this year, in May last. An advance of 3d per lb from the minimum seems to be an extremely modest acknowledgment by the raw market of the altered state of affairs which will prevail in the matter of production, more particularly in view of the possible further decrease to 50 per cent. on November 1st already referred to. The share market in the Stock Exchange reflects the continued uncertainty which is felt in regard to the outlook. Several of the chairmen at recent rubber companies' meetings have candidly confessed that the prospects for raw rubber are still obscure, though others take the robust view that, in a few years' time, the companies will be making very substantial profits out of their raw rubber. Obviously it is impossible to dogmatise in regard to what the future will hold. America takes by far the greater quantity of rubber which is produced, and the United States demand for the raw produce has fallen far short of what anticipation held would be the practical certainty of her requirements for the past twelve months. Meanwhile, in spite of all that is being done to-day in connection with the Exhibition, conferences, competitions, and such-like efforts, no fresh outlet of magnitude is discovered for the utilisation of rubber in such quantities as will make an appreciable difference to the output from the plantations. The good-class rubber companies can get along without difficulty—can, in fact, make respectable profits, with rubber standing at 1s per lb, but these producers are up against the continual competition from Dutch, Chinese, and other planters to whom the Stevenson Restriction scheme is a boon and a blessing, in that it enables them to produce as much rubber as they like, while their competitors are bound, voluntarily, of course, to curtail their own output. Last month certain of the Dutch interests were professing uneasiness at the prospect of British-owned companies in Java and Sumatra having to close down altogether, or to struggle along on a basis of profit so meagre that the money derived from taxation by the Dutch Colonial Government would be seriously diminished. This led to a suggestion that it might pay the Dutch-owned rubber companies to fall in with some scheme of restriction, though nothing has been done in this direction, and it speaks well for the loyalty of the British producers that there have been hardly any cases of going back upon the terms of the Stevenson plan. In the rubber share market the position is simply that most of those holders who became apprehensive of the outlook of rubber, when the price fell away so substantially, have cleared out of their shares. Proprietors that are left are of the type which will hold on indefinitely until such time as the industry fulfils their faith in it. This consideration it is which keeps the prices of rubber shares so firm. There are few shares about, and, at the same time, in spite of the quietude of business, it is common knowledge that a band of buyers stands behind the rubber market, eager to pick up any shares which come cheaply to market. As the price of rubber tends to improve, so will share quotations probably harden. Without ignoring the fact that the rise

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

in rubber must be due to restriction of output, the prospective purchaser will look ahead, as he has always been accustomed to in the case of rubber shares, and bank upon the day when these restrictions shall be removed.

The Outlook for Rice.—A correspondent writes:—It is at this time of the year very unusual to witness a brisk demand for such a commodity as rice, the real business not being done as a rule until the autumn, but the position now is so peculiar that users are evincing marked anxiety over the future of supplies. There has already been a certain amount of speculation, and reports from Rangoon tell of very firm markets there, with prices much about the level ruling at this time last year. On the London market the tone has been strong, with all descriptions well held, the stocks here being very moderate at 4,350 tons. Hamburg, of course, is the leading European market for rice, and values there have begun to advance. Thus it is perfectly certain that there will be some excitement in this commodity very shortly after the holidays are over owing to a very short supply and a brisk demand. In India, the chief producing country, the crops according to the Government figures, are several million tons below previous years, and the Burmah crop showed a falling off of fully 500,000 tons. The actual stocks in Burmah still unshipped are reduced to 275,000 tons, which compares with 1,250,000 tons a year ago, and this gives some idea of the stringent position that is developing. India will naturally turn to Burmah for supplies; thus this surplus may not be shipped to outside destinations. Saigon rice does not find much favour on this side, but China buys a lot of Indo-China rice, and there will not be much of this for Europe. The European takings of Indo-China rice for the past seven months have not been much over 40,000 tons compared with 175,000 tons in the same period of 1923. Siam should have an exportable surplus of about a million tons, but probably the bulk of this will be absorbed by Japan, China, and Cuba. Both Japan and China have had bad crops this year, and thus there is a very eager demand for Siam rice at high prices. The Japanese crop is fully 500,000 tons less than last year's output, and Japan, unable to buy wheat so much as formerly at current high rates, will have to look to Saigon, Siam, and Burmah for her supplies. Some rice came from Brazil to Europe last year, but that country has been placing orders recently for rice in Hamburg and also London. North America has been caught short, and already appreciable quantities have been shipped from Germany to New Orleans, &c. The total shipments from Burmah, Saigon, Siam, and Bengal for the first half of this year were a little over 650,000 tons, against 630,000 tons for the first six months of 1923. About half this quantity went to Germany. The stocks in Hamburg are reported to be down to 125,000 tons or so, and Germany will feel the loss of the importations from Burmah this year very keenly; in fact, it is impossible to avoid a shortage. The buying movement for rice should begin to develop about September, but old crop stocks are very short, and seeing that the bulk of the new crops will not be available until early in 1925 the outlook favours very firm prices. Holders everywhere are very cautious about accepting bids, and the marked strength displayed by wheat and maize, with prospects of still higher prices later on, serves to complicate the position still more. Buyers all over the world must come into the market shortly, and they will find a very stringent state of affairs. Well-informed opinion favours the view that all reserves will be quickly snapped up, and that there will be very strong markets for many months to come.

The Fishing Industry.—The landings of fish from the deep sea fisheries in the second quarter of the year were, with better weather conditions operating, larger than in the preceding quarter, and moreover a substantial increase on the corresponding period of last year. Though there has also been an increase in the aggregate of the first-hand value, it has not been proportionate to the larger quantity, thus indicating a slightly lower average price realised per cwt. The landings of wet fish by British-owned fishing vessels at ports in England and Wales, according to the returns of the Ministry of Agriculture and

Fisheries, in the April-June period amounted to 2,712,182 cwts, comparing with 2,463,559 cwts in the corresponding period of last year, the first-hand value (including shell-fish) being returned at £3,560,522, against £3,422,183. The landings at Scottish ports were 1,879,289 cwts, against 1,246,667 cwts, and the values £1,043,409, against £780,567, no advance being further indication of the improved conditions in the Scottish industry when contrasted with a year ago. In addition, foreign-owned vessels landed in the whole of Great Britain direct from the fishing grounds 545,943 cwts, against 475,348 cwts, the respective values being £292,897, against £323,951. Since the foreign landings at English and Welsh ports show a marked diminution, it would appear that a greater proportion is finding its way to Scottish ports, which from time to time have made complaint against the inroads made into the markets by the arrival of vessels under a foreign flag. Imports of wet fish from abroad in the quarter amounted to 309,555 cwts, against 517,057 cwts, the falling off being due in some measure to reduced imports of herrings from Norway, and to smaller arrivals from Denmark and Holland. The proportions of the various classes of fish caught in the deep sea fisheries are about the same. The main feature, however, is the inadequate quantities of prime fish (soles, turbot, &c.) to meet market demands, and this has led to the importation at Hull in particular of large quantities of this class of fish from Norway, the products of the fishing by Norwegian craft. The imports have met with a good reception from the merchants, and have been readily absorbed at apparently satisfactory prices. Another new departure is the importation of fresh salmon from Newfoundland and Labrador, several cargoes having arrived at Hull this season. Each cargo consists of approximately 200 tons packed in ice, and has been sold at prices enabling the fish to be sold retail at from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per pound in the inland markets. The statistics of the landings and imports of wet fish in Great Britain during the past half-year and the corresponding period of 1923 are as under:—

	Weight.		Value.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
By British-owned vessels—				
England and Wales	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Scotland	4,601,423	4,810,451	6,864,044	6,596,041
	2,185,428	3,442,569	1,586,954	2,096,166
By foreign-owned vessels	6,786,851	8,253,020	8,450,998	8,692,207
Imports from abroad	869,207	978,774	668,806	612,540
	996,824	796,211	1,322,942	1,414,532

The values of landings in England and Wales by British vessels include those of shell-fish, viz., £201,653, against £191,616 in the January-June half of last year. The magnitude of the trade in wet fish derived from the three sources embraced in the above tables is shown by the fact that in the past half-year the quantity handled at British ports exceeded ten million cwts, and that the value on landing was more than £10,500,000.

Assurance Companies Act Inquiry.—Recent events, more particularly the failure of the City Equitable insurance group, and the liquidation of the City Life Office, have led the Board of Trade to set up a Departmental Committee of Inquiry to examine the working of the Assurance Companies Act, 1909, and to report what amendments are desirable. The Committee is a strong one; there is a legal chairman in Mr A. C. Clauson, K.C., representative of the Government departments interested, and standing, who have been nominated by the highest insurance organisations. The official representatives are Mr Aliin, of the Government Actuary's Department; Sir Gilbert Garnsey, of Price, Waterhouse and Co. (nominated by the Board of Trade); Mr C. M. Knowles, of the Home Office; the Industrial Insurance Commissioner (Mr Stuart Robertson, K.C.), and Mr Winearls, Controller of the Companies' Department of the Board of Trade. The Accident Offices' Association have nominated Mr J. C. McBride, accident manager of the Commercial Union; the Fire Offices' Committee have selected Mr Morgan Owen, general manager of the Alliance Assurance Company; Lloyd's is represented by its chairman, Mr A. L. Sturge;

the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty (of Scotland) are jointly represented by Mr Phelps, manager of the Equity and Land; and the organisations of life offices of England and Scotland have a joint representative in Mr H. M. Trouncer, actuary and manager of the London Life Association. It would not have been possible to have chosen five insurance men of higher standing in their profession, or men whose judgment on the subject matter of the inquiry will be more likely to command general support. It is recognised that the Assurance Companies Act of 1909 needs to be stiffened, and the new Committee of inquiry should succeed in reaching conclusions acceptable to responsible insurance opinion as well as commendable to those who regard the public as not adequately protected at present. One considerable advantage of inquiry by a mixed Committee of officials and insurance representatives will be that legislation on the lines of the Committee's report should become non-controversial, and not more difficult to put through than was the Industrial Assurance Act of last year.

Watney, Combe.—Accounts for its last financial year have now been issued by Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., Limited. These show that this important brewery undertaking has maintained its prosperous position in 1923-4:—

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit.....	1,057,001	1,412,961	1,415,115	1,479,694	
Net profit.....	281,524	614,614	690,718	702,626	
Brought forward ..	277,265	150,962	194,494	215,372	
Total available	558,789	765,576	885,212	917,998	
Prof. & pref. ord. div.	216,683	216,249	215,007	213,955	
Def. ord. div.	191,145	254,833	254,833	318,540	
(24 %)	(32 %)	(16 %)	(20 %)		
General reserve	100,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Carried forward	150,961	194,494	215,372	185,503	
* Deferred ordinary capital doubled by capitalisation of £796,353 from reserves.					

The amounts showing how profits have been distributed are approximate figures in some cases. The deferred ordinary stockholders receive a 20 per cent. distribution, representing 10 per cent. on the original deferred stock of the company. The report states that the purchase during the year of Isleworth Brewery has fully realised anticipation. On turning to the balance-sheet (which will be found fully analysed on another page) we find that assets have increased from £13,689,569 to £14,297,072. As regards item "brewery buildings, freeholds, leaseholds, copyholds, goodwill and utensils," £10,862,775, it would be interesting to learn what value was placed on "goodwill."

Oroville Group.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The shareholders in the Oroville Dredging Company are, at the moment, almost more concerned with the affairs of the Colombian Corporation—by reason of the fact that the first-named company has since December last suspended the payment of dividends for the purpose of financing the latter—than with those of their own undertaking. The balance-sheet is made up to September 30th. In respect of the year ended on that date, the company paid four dividends of 9d each, leaving the slightly increased balance of £142,200 to be carried forward, subject to Excess Profits duty and certain contingent liabilities. It may be recalled that the Oroville Company took over from the Colombian Corporation a concession for the construction of a road from the mine to the Nechi River, reimbursing that company the amount it had expended thereon. The road in question was completed and opened for transport for its whole distance in October last. The steamer and barges were also placed in commission, but owing to the abnormal drought, have been able to give little service. Still, to the end of April last the tolls showed a small surplus over operating charges. With regard to the Constancia mine—the property of the Colombian Corporation—it is stated that all steps are being taken to accelerate the erection of the plant, so as to enable milling to begin at the earliest date; but no suggestion is put forward as to when that is likely to be. In reference to the position of the Oroville Company's two subsidiaries, the Pato Mines last year did not treat so large a quantity of ground as before, but the value recovered—

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.
TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
THE TRUST SPECIALISES IN PLANTATION FINANCE.
ADVANCES MADE UPON APPROVED SECURITY OF
ESTATES, SHARES OR DEBENTURES.
TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

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

\$404,200—represented 29.9 cents per cubic yard, as against 24.3 cents. On the other hand, the field cost rose from 9.01 cents to 10.09 cents. The profit came out at £58,050, but the dividends paid totalled £140,000, the carry forward being thereby reduced to £89,750. It is estimated that the proved ground will provide work for a further 6½ years. This may be regarded as conservative, although in some degree a revision of last year's estimate. The manager reports that there are several hills which can be hydraulised at a profit; the gross value of their contents he computes at \$268,400. Possibilities also exist in connection with an old river channel lately discovered. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, it was found impracticable on the part of the Nechi Mines to dredge certain ground which had been counted upon, and work was suspended in November last. Since that time the company's dredge has been operated on hire by the Pato Company. The intention is to liquidate as soon as possible. The amount which the shareholders are likely to receive in the shape of liquidation dividends depends upon the arrangement which may be arrived at with the Inland Revenue authorities in regard to Excess Profits duty. This is also a factor in the position of the Pato and the Oroville.

Rhodesia Broken Hill.—Some disappointment was recently occasioned by the postponement of the dividend announcement and the offer to extend the balance of the options subject to a proportion of the shares being taken up forthwith. The latter measure was interpreted to indicate the need for additional funds. This conclusion is correct, but not as regards the near future. At Monday's meeting of the Bechuanaland Exploration Company Mr Edmund Davis, who is the chairman of both undertakings dealt at considerable length with the position of the Rhodesia Broken Hill. On the question of finances he stated that the company had in hand the funds to provide the hydro-electric and certain treatment plant, but added that on the completion of that programme, zinc would be produced at such a cost that the board would be faced with the proposition of raising additional capital, so as to produce on a scale warranted by the large ore reserves on the property. The first unit of the zinc plant is due for completion in September.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—FOREIGN TRADE FOR THE YEAR.—ADVANCE IN GRAIN PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 18.

BOTH imports and exports of merchandise for the month of June were smaller in value than a year ago; export in fact, showed the smallest total of any month since February, 1923, while imports were the lightest since July of that year. The value of last month's export \$307,000,000, was more than 8 per cent. below May, nearly 4 per cent. below June of last year, and about one-third the total for the peak month of June, 1919, but 12 per cent. above post-war minimum of February, 1922. June imports, valued at \$277,000,000, showed a decrease of 8½ per cent. from May, about 13 per cent. from June 1923, and were approximately one-half those of the record month in imports—namely, June, 1920; they were, however, 55 per cent. above the low level recorded for July 1921. The June returns thus far published by the Department of Commerce make it possible to present some figures for the past fiscal year. Exports in the twelve months ended June 30th totalled in value \$4,311,625,795

or 9 per cent. more than in the preceding year and 14 per cent. above 1921-1922, but one-third under 1920-1921 and 46 per cent. less than in the peak fiscal year of 1919-1920. As compared with the pre-war year of 1913-1914, exports were 81 per cent. larger in value. The total value of imports for 1923-1924 was \$3,557,147,532, representing a decrease of nearly 6 per cent. from the preceding fiscal year, but an increase of 36 per cent. over 1921-1922. The falling-off from 1919-1920 was 32 per cent., while the gain over 1913-1914 was 87 per cent. The percentage increases of exports and imports over the year immediately preceding the war are strikingly similar. During the past fiscal year the excess of exports over imports totalled \$754,478,265, or nearly five times that of the previous year, when the excess amounted to only \$175,774,408. Last year's excess of exports, however, contrasts sharply with the record total of \$4,136,562,618 in 1918-1919. A study of foreign trade returns for the past eleven years shows that the total balance of merchandise exports in favour of the United States in that period reached the enormous sum of \$22,268,000,000, approximately. Details of foreign trade for the entire fiscal year are not available, but statistics for eleven months show that the slump in imports, as compared with the preceding year, was due to lighter imports of crude materials, the decrease amounting to \$246,000,000, or 18 per cent., whereas importations of manufactured goods were practically the same in value. The export figures show that the value of crude materials shipped out increased by \$390,000,000, or 41 per cent., and manufactured goods by \$262,000,000, or 15 per cent., while exports of foods declined \$199,000,000, or more than 20 per cent.

Imports of gold in the past fiscal year totalled \$417,025,638, and exports \$10,206,941, showing excess imports of \$406,818,697, or nearly double the previous year's excess. Silver exports amounted to \$98,785,586, or \$18,845,601 more than imports, as compared with an excess of \$9,040,069 in imports during the preceding fiscal year. In the past eleven years imports of gold into the United States have exceeded exports by \$2,220,201,514.

An important development in the grain trade, which is attracting considerable attention, is the formation this week of the largest co-operative grain marketing company in this country, through the amalgamation of five big Western grain companies. The concerns mentioned as being in the combination are the Armour Grain Company, the Rosenbaum Grain Corporation, J. C. Schaffer and Co. and Rosenbaum Brothers of Chicago, and the Davis-Noland-Merrill Grain Company of Kansas City. The new company, which is intended to be owned, controlled and operated, eventually, by farmers, and is to be known as the Grain Marketing Company, has been incorporated with an authorised capital of \$26,000,000 under the Illinois co-operative marketing law, which conforms to the national marketing Act. The company will control, it is said, grain elevator space in Chicago and other cities, including a number of export points, with an aggregate of more than 50,000,000 bushels. The financial plan, as officially announced, calls for the issue of one million shares of common stock of one dollar par value, a like number of preferred "A" shares of \$25 par value, and 500,000 of preferred "B" shares with a par value of \$50. The proposal is to sell the preferred "A" stock only to farmers, who are to have an opportunity to purchase an equal number of common shares. The common stock is not to be disposed of in any other way. According to the plan as announced, the preferred "B" stock will be redeemed as rapidly as the preferred "A" shares are sold, so that farmers eventually will become the only stockholders. Both classes of preferred stock are to bear an annual dividend rate of 8 per cent., and will be identical as to assets and in other respects. The preferred "B" stock will not be offered to the public; it will be used partly to pay for elevators and intangible assets of the companies forming the merger, and partly for working capital. The results which this enterprise is expected to accomplish include: Ownership by farmers of their own marketing agency; the adoption in a practical way of the principle of co-operation; control of ample credit for any transactions the company may undertake, and participation in economies resulting from the merger, as well as in the company's earnings. The new concern,

it is stated, will be at the service of all co-operative elevators and of any other farm organisations, and individual farmers. The directorate is to include farmers (who will constitute a large majority of the board), and representatives of elevator companies, grain dealers, bankers, and railroads.

Another development of far-reaching importance is the further sharp advance in grain prices. At this week's highest levels, wheat prices were 20 per cent., and corn prices 30 per cent. above last month's low points; both, in fact, reached the highest figures recorded in a number of years. The recent vigorous upturn in wheat is due largely to speculation based on the impairment of the domestic crop, although most of this week's advance is attributed to unfavourable reports regarding the Canadian crop. The rise in corn has occurred despite improvement lately in the condition of the crop. Other farm products have greatly appreciated in price, notably hogs, which, after last week's slump to this year's lowest levels, have rallied to top figures. This seems to bear out predictions that higher prices for corn, and less active breeding of hogs, would result in higher markets for pork. The advance in prices of grain and other farm products is considered of prime importance for a number of reasons. It will increase the purchasing power of agricultural communities, and place them in a much better position financially than they have occupied for some time past; the brighter outlook is, in fact, "putting new heart" into the farmers of the West. In some western districts frozen credits, which were largely responsible for numerous bank failures, are being thawed out, and banks are now able to liquidate their loans. The rise in grain prices is likely to have a very important bearing upon the political situation, and promises to be a big factor in the November election. Extremely low prices for grain heretofore prevailing have caused a great deal of dissatisfaction and unrest among agricultural communities of the West and North-West.

Largely on account of the advance in the grain market, and consequently the improved outlook for farmers, the Interstate Commerce Commission has refused to order a reduction in western railroad rates on grain, which was strongly urged by various interests as a measure of relief for grain growers. The commission, in a majority decision (five members dissented), held that present rates were reasonable, and, furthermore, that the financial position of western railroads did not warrant a cut in grain tariffs. The reduction had been requested by farm organisations in several States of the Mississippi and Missouri valley grain belt.

A more cheerful feeling prevails in most lines of trade, and in some directions business is beginning to revive. Retail trade generally is more active, and while wholesale merchants are still operating cautiously, they are buying somewhat more freely, and apparently with more confidence than in recent weeks. Industry generally, however, lags, and is operating in most lines at a very low rate of capacity. There are signs, nevertheless, of a change for the better. In primary textile markets especially there is a noticeable, though only moderate, improvement. Dry goods business continues light in volume in practically all lines, but inquiries and orders are more numerous, and actual purchases are larger in volume than for some time past. Demand is chiefly for supplies to meet current or nearby requirements. Buyers, however, in many instances are now showing interest in merchandise available for later deliveries, and are covering some of their future needs—in marked contrast with their refusal heretofore to make forward commitments. Cotton trade in cottons is attributed to a more general realisation that the prolonged and extensive curtailment of production has greatly reduced available supplies. Many merchants are now feeling the necessity of replenishing depleted stocks. Since a substantial part of business in dry goods comes from agricultural sections, the rise in grain prices is another factor responsible for the recent improvement in textile markets, because the increased purchasing power of farmers is expected to lead eventually to a more active demand from such interests for cottons and other fabrics. The recent advance in the staple has also helped trade sentiment.

FRANCE.—THE CONFERENCE AND FRENCH OPINION —RECONSTRUCTION PAYMENTS—NEW LOAN— RENT PROBLEMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, July 30.

At the time of writing the Interallied Conference in London has reached a point which French opinion regards as critical, and feeling here is wavering between indifference and pessimism as to what the eventual result may be. French hopes as to the probability that any settlement of the reparation question that might be arrived at by the Conference would result in this country receiving any tangible payments from Germany for several years to come, vanished long ago. No illusions now remain, and it is recognised that, even if a miracle be accomplished and real cash is extracted from Germany, the 52 per cent. of it to which France would be entitled would be more than swallowed up in other directions (interallied debts, maintenance of the Army of Occupation, and so on).

The Bourse, indeed, has already discounted whatever result the Conference may produce. If an agreement should be arrived at to apply the Dawes report, the fact would be received without enthusiasm here. In that event, it is anticipated there would be a substantial improvement in the position of the franc, but the good effect of this would probably be immediately neutralised by the appreciable rise in raw material and other commodity prices which has already begun in New York. On the other hand, if the Conference results in a failure, and consequent disappointment in London and New York, and the possibility of a return by France and Belgium to a policy of independent action, the fall in the franc that would follow would not, it is widely believed, make the situation much worse than it is, while France would have her hands still free (1) to take such steps as she thinks fit to make her creditor pay, or (2) to maintain her strangle-hold on the Ruhr. The colourless reception given in both the Senate and the Chamber yesterday to M. Herriot's telegram, explaining the situation at the London Conference, and the reasons why he was unable to meet the two Houses on their reassembly and ask their approval of his work, was strikingly significant of the general feeling here.

To the average Frenchman the whole tendency of the London Conference has been to reveal an organised attempt, under the influence of British and American finance, to get the French out of the Ruhr and prevent them from returning there again. Until this impression is removed, the chances of M. Herriot being able to make any really substantial concessions to British wishes that he could feel sure his own Parliament would ratify are distinctly remote.

The critical situation in the devastated regions was the subject of discussion by an important meeting of 400 architects and contractors in Paris yesterday, at which it was sought to find means to prevent the complete stoppage of reconstitution work, owing to the cessation of further payments of sums due by the Government to the *sinistrés*. At the present moment, it was reported, the Government is no less than 1,800,000,000 in arrears with payments of indemnities that have been authorised. The result of the Government's failure to furnish money due is alleged to have already been responsible for 109 failures or compulsory liquidations by contractors and others (exclusive of others in the department of the Nord, which is the most important of the devastated departments), and the most important of the devastated departments in Paris. Of yet other firms having their headquarters in Paris. Sixty other failures are forecast for the end of the present month. M. Despagne, vice-president of the organisation known as the Public Works Office for the Devastated Regions, and president of the Builders' and Public Works Contractors' National Federation, who presided, stated that, independent of money that would be derived from the sale of ten-year bonds, the Government had given him assurances that 565,000,000 of fresh money, which was theoretically requisitioned from the Crédit National for distribution during the first six months of the present year, but which has not yet been paid, will be paid out within the next three months, instead of being spread over the whole of the second half of the year, as previously arranged. Apart from these sums,

however, the amount that will be available for carrying on work during the second half of the current year will be only 35 millions, or about 4½ per cent. of the amount required for the work already in hand.

It is understood that the Government proposes to issue an important new loan in October or November next, for the purpose of consolidating part at least of the floating debt. The assembled contractors and architects passed practically unanimous resolutions urging the Government to allow *sinistrés* to subscribe to this loan for the amount of the indemnities due to them, which they have undertaken to re-employ; to deliver immediately and without further delay, to *sinistrés* who demand them, certificates of debt convertible into scrip of the forthcoming loan; to authorise *sinistrés* to hand such certificates over to their contractors or bankers in payment or as guarantee; to enable contractors, or holders of such certificates, to hand them to their bankers as collateral for credit already made or to be made; and to arrange for such certificates to be compulsorily converted into public loan scrip, from the day of the subscription of the projected loan, and to be negotiable on the Bourse in the same way as all other public debt scrip. The meeting decided that contractors should be asked not to continue work except to the extent of the amount of fresh money furnished by the Government.

A curious instance of paternal legislation is afforded by the promulgation last week of the law prohibiting the transformation into furnished houses, flats, or single rooms of premises that have normally been let unfurnished. This law is the sequel to an attempt made by many property owners in this country during the past two or three years to avoid the law passed to prevent profiteering in rents, which prohibits the increase of rents by more than 75 per cent. of the pre-war rate. No sooner was this law brought into force than property owners transformed their premises in a large number of cases into "furnished" holdings, which placed them outside the provisions of the new law. It is estimated that during the past three years 50,000 holdings in Paris alone have been transformed in this way, exclusive of some 2,000 houses that have been converted into residential hotels. An attempt was made to check this form of profiteering by rendering it obligatory on house-owners to notify the local authority of their intention to transform their property, but this failed to modify the practice. In the period January-July, 1924, 5,162 declarations of new *garnis*, or furnished holdings, were made in Paris alone. The new law provides for fines ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 francs to be inflicted on all who infringe it. As the Bill left the Chamber, the new law was made retroactive as from 1922, but the Senate decline to make it apply to cases that occurred prior to the end of 1923. The effect of this provision is that the whole of the 5,162 holdings that have been transformed since the beginning of the present year must now be restored to their former status, and will tend appreciably to diminish the shortage of unfurnished flats that has for so long prevailed in Paris.

AUSTRALIA.—COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, June 26.

The Commonwealth Bank Bill, which was introduced in the House of Representatives on June 13 by the Treasurer, Dr Earle Page, includes provision for a board of directors for both the general and issue departments in place of the present board, which controls only the note issue of the present board, and also a provision compelling the ordinary banks to settle clearing balances between themselves by means of cheques drawn on and paid into the Commonwealth Bank. The present system of settlement is based upon gold pools established by the ordinary banks themselves in connection with the clearing house system. Probably a system of clearing by means of cheques on the Commonwealth Bank would meet with friendly consideration by the banks if it were introduced as a voluntary matter by mutual arrangement. The mandatory provision of the Bill now before Parliament is, however, objected to, and in this and some other matters the Bill bears marks of having been framed with only moderate regard for

actual circumstances. If this provision is adopted by Parliament, it will necessitate balances being kept by the ordinary banks with the Commonwealth Bank for settlement purposes. These balances, however, would not require to be large. The Treasurer expresses the hope that "confidence in the new management will bring about voluntary placing of considerable credits with the Commonwealth, just as is the case with the Bank of England, which holds practically all the cash reserves of the ordinary banks, and which, in the true sense of the term, is a bankers' bank." That the ordinary banks would place any large amount with the Commonwealth Bank appears, however, unlikely. A question which would doubtless arise would be whether the amount would be really available if required by the banks, and whether the amount would be kept in cash by the Commonwealth Bank or used for lending purposes either to the Government or for general business in competition with the ordinary banks. On such matters there is nothing in the Bill or the Treasurer's speech to throw any particular light, while it is always necessary to keep in view possible political developments in the future.

The board of eight directors for the whole bank, including the issue department, is to consist of the Governor of the Bank (whose own position will then be practically that of general manager but not chairman of the board, unless elected by his fellow directors), the Secretary to the Treasury, two persons who are or have been associated with manufacturing industries or commerce, two similarly associated with agricultural, pastoral, or other primary industries, and two with a knowledge of currency and "declared by the Governor-General to have been chosen because of that knowledge." The Governor of the Bank and the Secretary to the Treasury, together with the two "currency" directors, will form a sort of inner board of four, as a decision of the whole board which affects the note issue department shall not be effective unless the directors voting for it includes two out of the four in question. This would mean that the Governor of the Bank and the Secretary to the Treasury, in conjunction with a sufficient number of the commercial and industrial directors to form altogether a majority of the whole board, could overrule the two currency directors, so that purely abstract theory, unconnected with any regard for actual circumstances and figures, need not form an obstacle to business of such primary importance as the financing of export trade. Other combinations of voting on the board are, of course, equally possible. In addition to the board of directors, local boards of advice are to be appointed in the principal Australian cities. Directors and members of local boards are to be appointed for terms of years, but in all cases subject to good behaviour.

No alteration is proposed in the gold reserve against the note issue, which remains not less than one-fourth of the outstanding notes. The portion not covered by gold may be invested (as hitherto) on deposit with any bank, or in securities of the United Kingdom, or the Commonwealth or a State, or in trade bills with a currency of not more than 120 days. These provisions continue to leave room for elasticity, subject to the discretion of the board in managing the currency, upon which the success of the issue in meeting necessary requirements and yet avoiding excess depends until an effective return to gold is possible.

The Labour Party, by which the Commonwealth Bank was founded, object to the present proposals, and their leader has moved in Parliament an amendment to the second reading. He proposes that "in order to preserve the Commonwealth Bank as a national institution, and to extend its operations for the purpose of controlling credit and exchange, it is desirable that financial experts, to be fully employed in the service of the bank, should be appointed to its management. The proposal of the Government to appoint persons representing squatting and commercial interests, who are diametrically opposed to national banking, is designed more in the interests of private financial institutions than of the people's bank."

The foregoing terms are of interest in view of the possibility of the return of Labour to power, in which case any arrangements made under the present Bill, if passed into law, would obviously be open to further alteration with the view of making the Commonwealth Bank a more active competitor against the ordinary banks.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—THE NEW GOVERNMENT—RAILWAY DEFICIT REDUCED—RESERVE BANK'S POLICY—EX-ENEMY SHARES—RAND PRODUCTION AND DIVIDENDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, July 2.

THE Nationalist-Labour political combination, familiarly known as the "Pact," achieved a far larger majority than was generally expected, namely, of 28 altogether. The Nationalists have not at present a majority over the S.A. Party and Labour combined, a combination which does not, of course, come within the range of practical politics, but a defection of five members from the S.A. Party to the Nationalist ranks, a by no means extreme contingency, would give a majority over all other sections. The understanding between the Nationalists and Labour avoided triangular contests so general in earlier elections, and there is no doubt that the forced deflation policy of the Minister for Finance, the Hon. Henry Burton, and the severe economies of the Minister of Railways, the Hon. J. W. Jagger, caused a large turnover of votes from the S.A. Party. The Ministerial appointments were announced on Monday. That of Mr Havenga to the portfolio of Finance has been well received. General Hertzog, the Prime Minister, has avoided any "provocative gesture," to quote the *Star*, in refraining from appointing Colonel Creswell to the Ministry of Mines (to be occupied by Mr F. W. Beyers) or General Kemp to Defence. The former becomes Minister of Defence and Labour, the latter of Lands. Mr Tielman Roos, K.C., is Minister of Justice and Deputy-Prime Minister. General Hertzog, at a meeting last night, declared that "the development of their industries would be in consonance with the motto, 'South Africa first.'" This would imply that he is as keen a protectionist as General Smuts. It is understood that there was a sharp cleavage of opinion in the late Government, Mr Jagger (Railways) and Mr Burton (Finance) being of the Free Trade school. Since the result of the elections, the share market has been remarkably steady, and there is a general disposition to give the new Ministry every chance to see what it can do. It is a hopeful augury that General Smuts was not opposed for Standerton.

The Union State Railways have a capital of £111,310,000; the net revenue last year was £5,613,910, after charging £1,261,625 depreciation. Interest on capital accounted for £4,025,800, interest on superannuation and other funds, rents of leased lines, and miscellaneous expenditure £410,000, leaving a balance of £1,725,000, after allowing for various credits, including £400,000 interest and £100,000 miscellaneous receipts. Harbours reduction of stores, stock, and betterment, each £250,000, and of £98,250 to reduce deficiency in pension fund, reduced the available balance to £1,450,000. The accumulated deficiency has been brought down to £770,000, practically only a third of what it was at the beginning of the financial year.

At the annual meeting of the S.A. Reserve Bank, Mr W. H. Clegg, the governor, and formerly a well-known officer of the Bank of England, explained that the bank was not entitled to increase its dividend beyond 6 per cent. per annum until the reserve fund was increased to £250,000, and so long as any restrictions on the export of gold or the convertibility of gold certificates were in force in the Union. The bank was being built up on a thoroughly sound foundation; indeed, it could not fail, if it followed its present lines, to occupy in course of time the same relative position in South Africa as the great central banks in Europe. It was a profound delusion to say that its policy in preventing either of the commercial banks from giving credit except on exorbitant security was strangling business and development.

The Reserve Bank, he said, had no such policy, and even if it had, could not impose it on the other banks. The restriction of credit had been caused by the slump in world prices. This caused trade depression, and the bank's customers had less security to offer. Commercial banks were bound to adopt a much severer criterion than

before the slump as to what constituted good securities. The commercial banks "did not cut down advances for the fun of the thing. They earned their main profits out of advances and discounts, and they refrained from making them only from motives of sheer prudence." The Reserve Bank had been in existence for barely three years, and in full operation for barely two, and began its life in the profoundest trade depression which the world had ever seen. To understand and appreciate the working of a central bank, its operation must be examined over periods of commercial activity and inactivity. The South African Reserve Bank had not had a chance of showing its full usefulness, yet that it had been useful was abundantly manifest. So far from causing restriction of credit, it had provided a means by which other banks could obtain additional resources for carrying on business such as they never had before. There was no lack whatever of available credit in South Africa to meet any possible development of business; the credit machinery was ample, and what was required was development of sound business to justify the increased use of that machinery. Credit-elasticity in this country was founded on the Reserve Bank's rate for the discounting of trade bills.

Up to the end of last year the Union custodian of enemy shares had sold some £6,500,000 of gold mining shares, the largest transactions being New Modderfontein 505,056 shares, which realised £1,674,473; Modder B., 241,760 shares, which realised £325,990; Geduld, 76,300 shares, which realised £191,203; Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, £181,585; Rand Mines, £160,639; and Brakpan, £154,696. Arrangements are being made to expedite the closure of the Custodian's office.

Some interesting predictions are being made regarding the progress of the Rand, which "should this year produce a larger gold value than has ever before been produced in any one year." The Transvaal output for May, given by the Chamber of Mines at 809,003 ounces, and by the Department of Mines and Industries at 807,805 ounces, is the highest ever recorded for a clear month's run, as the 830,723 ounces recorded as far back as March, 1912, included over 70,000 ounces from reserve, the carrying of which was abolished in that month. While it is scarcely likely that an aggregate of ten million ounces will be achieved this year, it is not at all improbable that the rate will be attained, thanks mainly to the inclusion of West Springs in the producing list, but also to expansion elsewhere, in July or October, which comprise only four week-ends, and modern plants are not allowed to run on Sundays. There are usually four companies which produce over 50,000 ounces a month, Government Areas having latterly wrested supremacy from the Crown Mines, but these two are actually in the 71,000—67,500 ounce range. For the five months completed the profits of Rand gold mines have exceeded £6,150,000; as this includes February, it may well be, assuming a good "currency" premium, from our viewpoint, that the year's profits will touch £15,000,000.

For the first half-year the dividends declared by Rand gold mining companies total £4,610,100. This takes no account of the 10 per cent. dividend of Randfontein Estates, which was not strictly a gold producer at the time of notification in April, though it has since become one consequent upon the absorption of Randfontein Central. Assuming that 5 per cent. is paid for the final half, and that the other companies paid the same rates, the indicated total for the year is about £9,375,000. But, as a rule, the final period is the better half, and the record of £9,310,750 is certain to be surpassed, while, if conditions continue satisfactory, a total of ten millions may be attained, which would imply a reasonable though by no means lavish return on the capital invested in the industry, after allowing for the redemption of capital inevitably associated with a wasting asset such as a mine, whose dividend is really in the nature of a terminable annuity. Out of 35 producers, 25 are in the dividend list, while 16 pay higher rates than in the corresponding period, the largest increase being from £100,000 to £287,500 being rapidly wiped off, while Crown Mines pays £115,400 more. Far ahead of all rivals is the New Modder, with a distribution of £700,000, compared with £455,000 by Government Areas (whose shareholders receive rather less

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.

On Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances. JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

than does the Union Government in terms of its lease), while the only other company to exceed £400,000 is Modder B (where development values latterly have improved), with £420,000.

RUSSIA.—HARVEST—FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MOSCOW, July 18.

THE main interest in the economic position in Russia is concentrated at present in the harvest estimates. According to the official declaration of Mr Rykoff, 5½ million of the 77 million dessiatines sown this year will be practically without harvest. Mr Popoff, head of the Central Statistical Office of the Soviet Union, says that on present estimates of yield the gross production of cereals will reach 2,600 million poods (43.3 million tons). After deduction of seed requirements, say 550 million poods, for next year's crops and allowing for the same carry over of stocks—estimated at present at about 62 million poods (1 million tons)—the net production on Mr Popoff's estimate would give a surplus over the actual consumption requirements of the population (say 1,900 million poods) of 150 million poods, or 2½ million tons. It should be borne in mind that Mr Popoff's figure of 43.3 million tons gross yield is considered by well-known Russian economists as optimistic, and that in fact the harvest will be less. The problem which now faces the Soviet authorities is the contrary of that which they had to solve last year. Instead of a depression of prices in the agricultural areas the prices of agricultural products are now rising, and threaten to increase further the cost of living. It is difficult to forecast exactly the consequences of the comparatively bad harvest, but they may prove to be grave—this has been recognised by the Government in the appointment of a special Commission with Mr Rykoff as President to "fight against the consequences of the bad harvest." Up to now the export of cereals has always played an important part in Russia's external trade, and for the next cereal year an export of 6 million tons was originally budgeted for. This figure, as a matter of fact, represents the present capacity of grain export from Russia as limited by the possibilities and slowness of rail and water transport and lack of elevators. The reduction of this grain export figure to 2½ million tons maximum will be reflected in the Government's financial arrangements for the next budget year. On the general question of the reconstruction of Russia's agricultural economy it seems clear that a radical revision of the Government's agricultural policy is called for if Russia is to resume her place as an important grain exporting country: as examples, the initiative and individual efforts of the hard-working and more intelligent peasants must be given freer play, and the large agricultural estates in the hands of the Sovkhs (Soviet agricultural economies) must be worked more rationally.

Professor Sirinoff, discussing possibilities for the 1924-25 budget, estimates the gross revenues of the Union, including the Transcaucasus and the Far Eastern Republic, at 1,350 to 1,400 million roubles on the supposition that the single agricultural tax will yield 170 million roubles, which is slightly less than in the present financial year, and that other direct taxes (industrial tax and taxes on property and revenue) will amount to 85 million roubles. Excise revenue is estimated at 200 million roubles, and Customs at 60 million roubles. Other tax revenue he puts at 60 million roubles. Gross revenues

from State industry, railways, &c., Professor Sirinoff puts at 780-800 million roubles. The deficit in the budget estimates (400 million roubles is the estimated deficit for 1923-24), Professor Sirinoff states, cannot be covered by credit operations only as the outlook is not favourable. This year's experience has shown that long term loans have encountered great difficulties. The peasant loan for 50 million roubles has given to date only 11 million roubles, the guarantee loan of 100 million roubles has given only 7,865,000 roubles, the second 6 per cent. lottery loan for 50 millions has only been placed for 7,980,000 roubles. Thus a serious deficit has resulted which can only be covered by money issue. The emission of rouble notes by the Finance Commissariat is based on the supposition that the trade of the country will increase and assimilate a further emission of rouble notes made necessary by the deficit in the budget, but the present economic position does not give hopes of any great development. The greater number of the State commercial and industrial organisations are in a position of financial embarrassment. The metal industry, for example, cannot obtain payment of 16.5 millions of gold roubles owed by various consumers. On June 13th, State industrial enterprises owed to their workers 13 million roubles (delay in wages payments), and at the same date the total debts of the industries amounted to 70 million roubles (excluding repayment of bank advances). The railways have contracted important debts to the naphtha industry (11.5 million roubles), and to the metal industry (13.5 million roubles), and their unsatisfactory financial position naturally stands in the way of the re-establishment of normal working and provokes difficulties in raising fuel supplies; in the Donetz, for example, the stocks of coal which had diminished in June (164,166,000 poods as compared with 188,798,000 poods on April 1st) are increasing alarmingly again in July. The possibilities of production of coal and naphtha are by no means unfavourable, but the limiting factor is that of disposal on the internal market. Thus the naphtha trust forecasts that in the year ending October 1, 1924, it will not be able to dispose internally of 10 to 11 million poods included in the year's programme of 195 million poods. This means in effect a reduction of earmarked income for further constructional work from 23½ million roubles to 13 millions. The foreign markets for Russian goods cannot be utilised at present to any large extent for the following reasons:—(1) Foreign values having depreciated on the Russian market (£1 on July 18th = 8.49 roubles), the State exporting organisations cannot realise profits on exports. Moreover, as the imports are strictly limited by the Commissariat for Foreign Trade, the sums realised abroad by exports do not come back to the country in the shape of goods at cheap cost. (2) The high cost of State production does not permit of organising the export of Russian goods on any scale, and the attempts made, for example, to conquer eastern markets (e.g., Turkey and Persia) have not given any noteworthy results.

NORWAY.—CABINET AND PROHIBITION—CHRISTIANIA'S NEW NAME—DOCKERS' STRIKE ENDED.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, July 21.

AFTER an existence of about a year and a half, the Cabinet of Abraham Berge has just fallen. Although the Berge Cabinet to a great extent had the sympathy and respect of all the political parties—the Communists, of course, excepted—there were naturally very considerable divergences of opinion between it and those parties in several directions. The question which brought about the catastrophe was Prohibition, which is closely connected with the State finances. The plebiscite, or referendum, does not form any part of the Norwegian constitution. Still, it has twice or thrice been resorted to for ascertaining the general trend of public opinion on specific questions. The Storting is not constitutionally bound to adhere to the opinion thus expressed, but naturally the view expressed by the majority of the people carries great weight. During the later stages of the World War the question

was put to the nation whether, with certain limitation, there ought to be a prohibition to the free sale of spirits, and there was a considerable majority in favour. When the outward aspects of things had changed, a few years later, the question was put, and the previous vote confirmed. Meanwhile, smuggling and private distillation became more and more rampant. Sobriety, so far from increasing, was thought by many persons to be decreasing among the people, and coupled with this circumstance was the evil fact that law-breaking and immorality, as some contended, increased. To put a stop to this presumed evil, the Berge Cabinet proposed to repeal the prohibitory Act founded upon the plebiscites. But this was only one side of the question. The Finance Minister had calculated that there will be a deficit in his budget of upwards of 30 million kroner for this year. He calculated that by making legal the importation and sale of strong liquors he will be able, through the charges on the trade, to cover that deficit. The Cabinet made it plain that the acceptance or refusal of their proposal would settle the question as to whether they would leave the helm of the State in other hands. There was, however, a majority against them. So they leave their posts. The new Prime Minister is a radical, and a well-known man in political life. He is an ex-Minister, and was for a great number of years a member of the Storting, of which, for a couple of years, he was a very capable president. He is a large shipowner from Bergen. His Cabinet has not yet been definitely nominated, but it is generally supposed that by far the most important seat, that of Finance Minister, will be filled by a Mr A. Holmboe, a bank manager, who is supposed to be a careful man. As far as can be gathered, he will make strict economy and retrenchment his aim to make up for the loss on income on the liquor trade.

About a fortnight ago the Storting, by a very large majority of members among all parties, from the Communists to the Conservatives, decided that as from January 1, 1925, the name of the Norwegian capital will no longer be Christiania, but Oslo. For about 900 years there was a town on the eastern side of the very innermost part of the present Christiania fjord which was called Oslo—a name that has puzzled etymologists up to this day. This town, by degrees, became the capital of Norway, splendidly situated as it is for that purpose. In 1624, however, it was devastated by fire. In September the King, Christian IV., who was also King of Denmark and resided at Copenhagen, came here, and he decided that the town should be removed to the western side of the fjord, just opposite to the old place, and renamed Christiania. This decision showed great foresight and wisdom, for the new place was in every way a better site for the new capital than the old one.

The dockers' strike, having lasted for about half a year, has at length been terminated, and normal work is going on. A number of wage rates will come up for settlement in a few weeks, and some of them have already been settled while others are in abeyance. The position is not a very easy one, as the cost of living certainly has increased, but at the same time competition from other quarters makes it difficult for the industry to increase wages.

The bright crop outlook is considerably darkened by excessive rains. Dry weather will have to set in soon if the crops, chiefly the hay and cereals, are to be saved. There is not much business to be recorded in any section of trade—which, of course, to a great extent is a seasonal phenomenon. The political crisis may, however, have terrors there is a rather strong demand for a reduction of the rather high rate of discount—7 per cent. Up till now stirred, and they may probably hesitate before they yield to pressure.

SPAIN.—BUDGET—MOROCCO—EXCHANGE—FOREIGN COMPANY TAXATION—RAILWAY PROBLEMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, July 22.

THE Budget for 1924-25, which came in force on July 1st, compares as follows with that for 1923-24, which ended March 31st. There has been a supplementary Budget for the three months of April-May-June.

	(In Million Pesetas.)		
	1923-24.	1924-25.	Differences.
Expenditure....	3,048.38	2,941.72	— 106.66
Income	2,617.04	2,777.84	+ 160.80
Initial deficit .	431.34	163.88	— 267.46

Although the deficit has not yet disappeared, it is brought to small proportions which will allow doing away with it in one year more, as it is the intention of the Directory to achieve this result by degrees, having recourse to reductions in expenditure and to obtaining the full yield from the present system of taxation, by the prosecution of fraud rather than by the introduction of higher taxation. The main reductions are 125 millions in the Army expenditure, 32 millions in Morocco expenses, and 27 millions in the Public Works Ministry. On the other hand, there are increases of 43 millions for the Navy and 10 millions for educational purposes.

The favourable impression made by the Budget in financial circles should have improved exchanges and helped the stock markets, which were favoured also by the receipt of money from July dividends and interest on public funds, but everything was overshadowed by the fresh trouble arising in Morocco.

The President of the Directory, who personally has always grasped the dangers of the system of military occupation, had recently announced a change of policy in Morocco to bring the problem within the economic possibilities of Spain, by restricting the armed occupation to lines nearer the coast and easily defensible. He has for that the full support of the country, but recent events may delay the change and strengthen the resistance to his project, coming mainly from the Army. The Marquis de Estella is now visiting Morocco for the purpose of getting direct information which will be the basis of future decisions.

Under that disturbing factor the peseta, which was already falling steadily during June, slumped heavily to 33 to the pound in the first days of July. The dollar appreciated from 7.31 to 7.46 in June, reached 7.60 at the beginning of July, and is now about 7.55. Public funds were also depressed, but have reacted since.

An agreement was signed on June 27th between the United Kingdom and Spain by which the companies or firms of one of the contracting parties doing business in the other country will be subject only to the same taxes as the national firms of the second country, and the taxation will only be applied to the portion of capital really invested in the second country; to the volume of business done in it, or to the profits obtained in the second country, according to which may be the basis of the tax, i.e., capital, business turnover, or profits. By exception any British bank with branches in Spain will pay the same taxes as a Spanish bank, on the capital, turnover, or profits corresponding to its Spanish branches, but in addition it may be subject to a tax not exceeding a quarter of one per mille on the whole capital and reserves after deducting the capital and reserves assigned to Spain. The most favoured nation clause is mutually granted by the parties.

On July 12th was signed the Royal Decree, so long expected, for a new organisation of the railways prepared by the Directory after careful study of the several projects discussed by Parliament in the last few years. The main difficulty with the railways is that the concessions of the lines are approaching the date of reversion to the State, and therefore the companies are reluctant to undertake any large work of extension or repair of the lines, not even the buying of the necessary rolling stock. By the new system the State will come to the assistance of the companies and afford the capital required for improvements in the services, so permitting the work of renovation and extension of the whole system to go on in spite of the approaching reversion to the State, as the law also provides new rules for such reversion to be effected under basis equitable to the companies and the State. The companies are free to come under the new organisation, or to abide by their present concessions, but only those which are in a sound economic position will be admitted to it. All the companies who are granted admission will come under the supreme authority of a railway council who will dictate a general policy aiming at the national interest instead of the private convenience of each company. Under the full authority of the railway council a new and

LEGAL & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE

EXCEPT MARINE

Head Office

10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1836

General Manager W. A. WOREMAN, F.I.A.

more organic regrouping of the lines may be effected for the best administration of the sectors of lines independent of the companies to which they belong; it will facilitate a general revision of the tariffs, avoiding the present elements of competition; it will permit the solution of the problems of wages on broad and general lines, and will allow the full employment of the rolling stock belonging to the several companies on all the lines with more economic results. The State assistance will, above all, afford the means for the construction of new subsidiary lines which are so necessary to complete the deficient system of railways. All these expenses will be provided for by the issue of a special Railway Debt and by certain taxes, as well as the surplus profits of the companies after paying all their obligations and a moderate dividend on the share capital. The financing of the system will be in charge of the "State Railway Fund." The new organisation will prepare gradually the nationalisation of the railways as the leases of the companies expire and the lines come to be the property of the State.

GREECE.—ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMISSION—COST OF LIVING—THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, July 22.

THE annual report of the International Financial Commission has just been published. On account of the change of the calendar, the report covers a period of 352 days only. The yield of the revenues for some years past has been steadily increasing, as the following table shows:—

(In Millions of Drachmæ.)	
Year.	Gross Receipts.
1918	90
1919	158
1920	210
1921	259
1922	462
1923	970 and £104,232

Receipts from Customs amounted in 1923 to 499 million drachmæ and £104,232, as against 270 million drachmæ in 1922. The Commission attributes this increase to the valuation of the gold drachma as expressed in paper drachmæ, which was much higher in 1923 than in 1922. The rise in Custom dues resulted in a decrease in the quantity consumed of monopoly articles, with the exception of Naxos emery. Receipts from stamp duty show, moreover, an increase in 1923. However, despite the apparent favourable returns of the year, interest on some of the old gold loans will be lower in 1924 than in 1923, and this because the conversion into foreign exchange of receipts in paper drachmæ was made in 1923 in higher rates, the exchange purchased during the year averaging 298.19 drachmæ to the pound. On the other hand, a substantial improvement in the interest to be paid next year may be anticipated, in view of the larger yield of the revenues, and the appreciation of the drachma during the current year. Imports from abroad show an increase in many articles, but total imports for the year have declined slightly as compared with the previous year.

Receipts from the assigned revenues for 1923, and for the four previous years, have been applied as follows:—
(In Millions of Drachmae.)

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
A. Yield of revenues	158	210	259	462.5	970.2 and £104,232
B. Applied for—					
Fees and expenses of the Société de Régie	7.5	11.3	17	31.5	41 and £347
Administration expenses of the International Financial Commission .	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.5	3.9
Service of the Foreign Debt	48.4	78.3	125.6	209.2	599
Service of the Internal Debt	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6
Total	62.9	96.6	150	248.8	650.5 and £347
Balance handed over to the Government	95.1	113.4	109	213.7	319.7 and £103,885
Grand total	158	210	259	462.5	970.2 and £104,232

The report again draws attention to the prejudicial effect of uncovered issues of money paper. It further contains some data regarding rates of exchange, money circulation, and Treasury bills, which have appeared from time to time in these columns.

Index numbers for the cost of living in Athens show a further decline in June, standing at 1,240.4, as against 1,285.4 in May, and 100 in 1914. The figures for the first and the second quarter of the year are 1,332.6 and 1,289.6 respectively, the average figure for the first half-year being 1,311. The improvement is attributed to the relative stability of the rates of foreign exchanges at lower levels.

After the fall of the Government, which was expected at any moment, the political situation seems somewhat clearer, and hopes are entertained that a strong, though temporary, Cabinet will be formed by the co-operation of various groups. Public opinion resents greatly any further intervention of militarists in the administration of the country, and it is hoped that the new Cabinet will be constituted exclusively of political persons. Foreign exchanges show already an improvement of about ten points, the pound standing around 253 drachmae.

BULGARIA.—THE BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, July 22.

AFTER somewhat summary debates the budget for 1924-25 has been voted and published in the July 19th number of the Journal Officiel. Its figures, the highest Bulgaria's finances have ever known, run up to a total of Leva 6,604,931,002 (about £11 millions sterling) for expenditure, and Leva 6,604,250,000 for receipts. The most important items on the expenditure side are:—

National Debt Service	Leva. 1,226,579,686
Ministry of War	1,167,961,980
Ministry of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs..	1,035,075,644
Ministry of Public Instruction	747,271,500
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour..	439,578,651
Ministry of the Interior	424,108,750
Ministry of Roads and Communications	316,086,570
Ministry of Finance	301,244,780
Ministry of Agriculture	246,852,290

The high figure for the National Debt Service is accounted for by the heavy indebtedness of the country after the war. The volunteer army system has proved to be an expensive one and thoroughly out of proportion with the real capacities of Bulgaria's finances. Rebuilding of railways and purchase of new rolling stock and materials are the most imperative of the country's economic requirements. The fairly heavy expenditure of the budget is to be covered chiefly out of the following resources:—

Direct taxation (of which land property tax Leva 340,000,000; and income-tax 236,000,000)	£30,000,000
Indirect taxation (of which Customs and Excise duties represent Leva 2,382,000,000)	2,717,000,000
Different duties for State Services	441,500,000
Revenue of Railways and Ports	917,000,000
Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones	278,000,000
State Domains and Investments	637,600,000
Revenue of districts and municipalities	494,000,000

To everyone acquainted with Bulgarian affairs there can be no doubt that a fiscal charge of Leva 1,300 (about £2 3s 4d) per head is a heavy burden. The high proportion of indirect taxes to the whole sum to be collected gives a fair illustration of the influence of the existing fiscal methods on the cost of living.

An extraordinary budget of Leva 1,437,000,000 has also been voted in the course of the final meetings of the Chamber. It is to be covered by the "proceeds of home and external borrowing, of short term advances by the National Bank, of profits obtained through the exchange of the old note currency and out of other sources to be determined later on." The official text states that for the current fiscal year no expenditure on account of the extraordinary budget will be effected, unless effective funds are available. The main items of the extraordinary budget concern railways and ports, Leva 733,000,000; commerce, industry and labour, Leva 190,000,000; army, Leva 200,000,000; public premises, roads, and communications, Leva 178,000,000. These sums are to be spent exclusively on constructive purposes, and will by no means serve to meet the regular running costs of the respective services.

Both budgets have met with sharp criticism in trade and financial circles. Expenditure is considered as thoroughly out of proportion with the present economic situation. The necessity of a serious and well organised policy of cutting down expenses is urged by all business corporations, and there is a growing disapproval of the Government's failing to take this matter into real consideration. The officially announced reduction of State officials had almost no practical application, and for the future there is little hope of a plain dealing in that direction. On the contrary, the Government has once more indulged in the very dangerous practice of raising salaries simultaneously with taking drastic measures for "fighting down speculation and high prices," all of which had the only effect of handicapping the still uneasy course of trade and industry and contributing to the rising of cost of living by about 40 per cent.

Letters to the Editor.

"THE PROBLEM OF THE GOLD STANDARD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your issue of the 26th inst. you refer to the favourable attitude of Mr Graham, the Financial Secretary of the Treasury, towards the restoration of the gold standard in this country, but at the same time you point out that he has not attempted to say how and when the policy should be carried out. May I venture to offer some suggestions? The present price of gold in our market is about 94 shillings per ounce in our currency. The mint price is £3 17s 10½d per ounce. The difference is approximately the measure of the depreciation which exists in our currency. Our object is to resume specie payments, and restore a free market in gold. If the Act which prohibits the export of gold was repealed to-morrow our gold would leave us, because it would be profitable to ship it to America at the present rate of exchange. I suggest, therefore, that the Government should fix a time, say, six months hence, when specie payments would be resumed, and the Gold and Silver (Export Control, &c.) Act, 1920, would be repealed. This would compel the Treasury and the Bank of England to contract their issues until their paper was equal in value to the gold they represented, and the mint price and the market price of gold was the same. The exchange would then become normal, and London would again resume its proud position as a free market in gold.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
July 28th, 1924.

D. M. MASON.

FOREIGN CAPITAL IN PERU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—With reference to the article in your issue of the 19th inst., headed "Foreign Capital in Peru," if, as is stated, the Government of Peru are proposing to raise another external loan it is very desirable that it should be known that Peru is still in default in respect to thirteen

quarterly coupons from January, 1918, to March, 1921, on £80,000 Deuda Interna Consolidada 7 per cent. bonds, which bonds came into my possession on my appointment as receiver for the debenture holders of the Chimbote (Peru) Coal and Harbour Syndicate, Limited.

Notwithstanding correspondence which I have had with the Peruvian Minister in London, and even with the President of the Republic himself, these coupons remain unpaid, and the President, in a letter to me dated the 12th ult., intimates that the coupons will only be paid "when and as the Government find it convenient to do so."

A Government which adopts this attitude is not likely to meet with much success in raising loans in Great Britain.

Yours truly,

WM. H. STENTIFORD, Receiver.

1 Broad street place, London, E.C. 2. July 25th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

LOMBARDY IN TRANSITION.*

THIS massive volume of nearly 500 pages exhibits the patient industry and wide knowledge now characteristic of Italian scholarship even more than of its German prototype. Lombardy, exhausted by the century and a half of Spanish rule, warfare, and exploitation following the death of the Emperor Charles V., passed in 1706 under the dominion of Charles VI. of Austria; but not till more than 50 years later could his daughter, Maria Theresa, turn her energies from the defence of her territories to the restoration of the prosperity of the naturally richest of them all. The interval, however, demanded fuller examination, especially in its economic and financial aspects, than it had received hitherto. Signor Pugliese fills the gap. From a careful and minute examination of the archives—often fragmentary and badly arranged—he has collected masses of interesting statistical and general information respecting the agriculture, land tenure, manufactures, taxation, and finance of the region during the period in question. He can even compare the productivity of the soil with that at present, and describe fully the terms of the metayer tenure; and he shows that the manufacturing system, even in the later Middle Ages, was in some cases decidedly "capitalistic." The nobles supplied part of the capital, and the workers, sometimes 40 or 50 in one establishment, were merely wage-paid. He notes, too, the disjointed character of the financial administration in Lombardy, Spain, and elsewhere—different departments with reciprocally independent chiefs and different financial years. He began the work in 1908, and notes how the economic regulations favoured by statesmen generally till well on in the nineteenth century, and then universally discredited, were reintroduced by the world-war—currency inflation, import and export prohibitions, price fixing, and so forth—and expresses a suspicion that, after all, they may not have been quite unjustified. We can only admire his zeal and energy, and commend the book to all students of economic history.

* "Condizioni Economiche e Finanziarie della Lombardia nella Prima Metà del Secolo XVIII." Da G. Pugliese. Turin: Fratelli Bocca, 1924.

BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

THIS book* is essentially a text-book for persons studying in business colleges. The author has endeavoured "to set forth the modern development and the present structure of business in so far as it (sic) is based upon economic principles." This task Mr Stephenson approaches with much detailed knowledge of the modern business world. He can explain the technicalities of naked mortgage, fixed, floating, legal, equitable, bearer, registered, terminable or redeemable, and perpetual or irredeemable debentures; and he is able to discover the mysteries of the charter party, the sales note, the stemming note, the bill of health, the bill of lading, the manifest, and the

* "The Principles of Business Economics." By James Stephenson Pitman. 1924. 10s 6d.

marine insurance policy. The book is crammed with many details—about the Stock Exchange, mint parities, the organisation of businesses, advertising, and taxation, to pick out examples almost at random.

So far as economic principles are concerned, the laws of diminishing utility and of diminishing returns are ignored; no form of the theory of value is stated; rent is never referred to (not even in the index); and the distribution of wealth remains unexplained. The chief principles which guide Mr Stephenson through the economic maze appear to be two: first, "it is the result of human nature which leads every economy (i.e., economic organisation) to give as little as possible to other economies, and in turn to receive as much as possible in exchange" (p. 5); secondly, "it is the function of the undertaking to produce goods and sell them in a market in such a manner as to leave a profit to the entrepreneur.....that is, the sum total of all receipts should exceed the sum total of all expenditure" (p. 183). One need not be surprised, therefore, to learn that inflation is never mentioned, or to observe that, whilst the merits of receipt stamps are discussed in seventeen lines (p. 479), the issues raised by the Capital Levy are dismissed in five (p. 459). Nevertheless, those for whom the book was especially designed may possibly find it useful.

PRACTICAL DIRECTORSHIP.

THIS volume,* which is addressed primarily to the director accepting office for the first time, might be perused to advantage by many directors who have been interested in joint stock enterprise for many years without realising the full burden and duties of the term "directorship." The book is not concerned with the explanation of the statutory duties of directors, but is devoted to the more practical work of control, the supervision of joint stock trading, the formulation of policy, and the presentation of accounts to the directors' employers—the shareholders. Recent unfortunate events have shown clearly that the time may possibly come when a standard of knowledge of practical direction will be as necessary a precedent to the appointment of a director as is a degree of experience in the case of all subordinate appointments. Information is given which should enable the inexperienced director to visualise the general organisation of companies, to understand the principles upon which accounts are prepared, the methods by which a board governs working capital and production and dictates the policy of companies. Chapters are devoted to internal audit as affecting the director, an outline of taxation, the control of foreign branches, the financing of subsidiaries, and the basis of speeches to shareholders.

* "Practical Directorship." By Henry E. Colesworthy and Sidney T. Morris. (London) Pitman and Sons. 7s 6d net.

TRADE TERMS.

MR MAUGHAN has brought together in very readable form in this small volume* a quantity of useful information about business phrases and commercial custom. He seems to have been directly in touch with those who actually use, in their everyday business, the trade terms which he explains. Special words employed in various trades are dealt with, as well as shipping and insurance phrases, so that a wide field is covered. The work has the defects, however, which unfortunately mar so many volumes based on newspaper articles. The matter appears to have been reprinted very much as originally published serially in "The Times Trade and Engineering Supplement." Consequently, it lacks co-ordination, and even cross references, which at the least might have been expected, as the author in some instances qualifies earlier statements in subsequent pages. There is an index by means of which scattered references to a particular matter may be traced, but it seems rather a pity that information which is good and first-hand was not condensed and the classified, so that the risk of error by missing part of the matter might have been removed. Still, many readers will be glad to have these particulars within the covers of a handy volume.

* "Trade Term Definitions." By Cuthbert Maughan. (London) Effingham Wilson. 1924. 4s net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Is Unemployment Inevitable? An Analysis and a Forecast.* Published by Macmillan and Co., Limited, London. 8s 6d net.
- Yield Tables for £1 Shares at Prices Differing by 3d. and Dividends from 1½ per Cent. to 10 per Cent. (3d. to 2s. per share).* Compiled by L. Spencer. (London) Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16 Copthall avenue.
- Redemption Profits.* A table showing how much a private investor may spend, of his ultimate gains, as income if he has capital available. Price 6d. (London) Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons.
- Capital Increase Table,* showing present value of ultimate capital increases on redemption of stocks standing at a discount. Price 6d. (London) Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons.
- Perpetual Yield Table and List of Stamp Duties on Transfers and Contract Notes.* Price 6d. (London) Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons.
- City of Birmingham. Financial Statement, 1923-24.* (Birmingham) Council House.
- An "All-in" National Insurance Scheme.* By T. T. Broad. (London) 123 Fernhead road. 6d.
- Free Trade and How to Keep It.* By Major-General B. M. Skinner, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O. (Colchester) Benham and Co., Limited. 6d.
- Revenue Act of 1924.* (New York) National Bank of Commerce.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.
SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET,	ACCOUNT,
August 13.	August 14.

POLITICS rule the markets more than holiday influences do. The Stock Exchange does not expect to be busy at this time of year, and it is a little unusual to find so much activity, although of the small-order variety, in gilt-edged stocks. There is also more animation than usual in the oil market, and the rises in base metals serve to direct attention to copper and tin shares, the F.M.S. sending insistent buying orders for local favourites. That new issues can still count upon support is shown by the prompt manner in which the subscription lists were closed for the Glass Houghton and Castleford Collieries 6 per cent. debenture stock, and for the Witan Investment Trust shares. Underwriters of the Hastings Corporation 4½ per cent. stock, which was offered at 95½, were left with 74 per cent., but support was forthcoming at 1 discount. In other recently issued securities, it is still obvious that a substantial amount of undigested stock remains with underwriters. While monetary conditions continue to check speculative energy, it is not surprising that a good many discounts still prevail in new-issue prices.

The statement may be ventured that the Stock Exchange will be heartily glad when the Bank rate rises to 5 per cent., and thus put an end to the suspense which is undoubtedly holding in check a good deal of investment willingness. The War Loan clings closely to 101, and other Consol market issues are moving within extremely circumscribed orbits. Some of the newly-issued colonial and municipal scrip stocks are slightly harder.

Brazilian bonds attract most of the attention in the foreign market. The movements in these have been lively and erratic. Prices were marked down, and then up, in accordance with the character of the news. Comparatively little stock changed hands. People who wanted to buy the bonds, upon the news that the rebels had weakened, found themselves unable to get the offer of stock at anything like the previous figures. San Paulo Railway ordinary rose from 142, at which it closed one night, to 149 24 hours later. Other Brazilian descriptions, municipal, railway, and industrial, were influenced similarly by the news. French bonds show little alteration, and Germans, after being good, drooped on the assumption that the Peace Conference may do nothing material in the way of advancing German credit at present. The Hungarian scrip remains at a discount, and Mexican bonds are flat.

Home Railways, after their improvement on the dividend announcements, took on a dull appearance for want of public interest or support. Nobody seems to be taking any interest in the stocks, and the prices, except those of the Underground group, reflect the lack-lustre character of the market. American Rails have gone back. Argentine Railway stocks move in sympathy with Brazilians. After being weak, an appreciable recovery occurred in the leading quartette.

Rubber shares are better, on a rise to a shade over 1s per lb in the produce. The oil market shows more activity than it has done of late, with the good-class shares on the rise. Another dramatic jump in Lobitos is an outstanding feature. Tea shares eased off, there being sporadic profit-taking. Reports of floods in Southern India led to a general decline in prices. The Egyptian group is firmer, upon advices to the effect that the country is settling down after the recent reported disturbances in Cairo and Alexandria.

Insurance shares go steadily higher, and the banking market is quiet, nor do shipping shares show noticeable movement. Textiles maintain their strength. The interest aroused by the Courtauld melon-cutting has given way to quietude in their market. Increase of the Imperial Tobacco Company's interim dividend led to a modest advance in tobacco shares. The wireless group, after being decidedly better, reacted as people took their profits on the eve of the holidays, and cable stocks tend to be dull, although the manufacturing companies connected with the cable industry are going ahead. On the other hand, electric manufacturing shares tend to be lower. Brewery stocks are firm, the Watney dividend of 20 per cent., against 16 per cent. in the previous year, serving to support this market as a whole, but there is little doing in hotel shares or in those of the big stores companies. Mexican utilities have gone back. The motor share market is unaffected by the rising of the McKenna duties this week. Cement and road-making shares are inclined to be a shade harder, in spite of the crisis in the building trade.

South Africans have hardened upon support by speculative investors attracted by the yields obtainable from the principal shares. In Rhodesians, the outstanding point of interest is a further fall in Cam and Motors. Diamonds are dull and neglected. Copper, lead, and tin shares strengthened, thanks to the rises in the metals, and, as already mentioned, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have been persistent buyers of Middle-East tin shares. West Africans make a better showing as regards prices, though business in them is very meagre. A few buying orders from Sydney and Melbourne made their effect felt amongst certain of the sulphide and lead companies' shares. There is nothing doing in Indians, Russians, or Mexicans, and what little trade has been transacted in Canadian shares turned out to be mostly of the selling order.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£125,772,454	£	£	£
4 % Treasury Bonds by public tender, July 25, 1924.....	nil	£	£	£

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.			
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED JULY 26, 1924.			
April 1, 1924, to July 26, 1924, Dr £1,400,000	£	Dr £150,000	£
To the Public—			
The Century European Timber Corp., 250,000 8% Cum. Ptg. Pref., £1, at par.....	250,000	250,000	31,250
Anglo-Ontario Mines, 750,000 Shares, \$1, at 4s.....	150,000	150,000	37,500
Glass Houghton and Castleford Collieries (1924), Limited, £550,000 6% First Mort. Deb. Stk. (red. at 102 % by annual drawings, 1925-45), issued at 96½.....	550,000	530,750	55,000
The Witan Investment Co., 100,000 £10 Shares, at £11 per Share.....	100,000	110,000	10,000
Total offered to the public ..	1,040,750	1,040,750	133,750

To Shareholders only—	£	To Shareholders only—	£
Home and Colonial Stores, 250,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at 50s	250,000	625,000	31,250
London Electric Supply Corporation, 50,000 6% Pref. Shares, £5, at par	250,000	250,000	50,000
Town Line (London), 250,000 7½% Cum. Pref., £1, at par.....	250,000	250,000	62,500
Total offered to shareholders only	1,125,000	1,125,000	143,750

Total offered for subscription to date	£	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	£
1924.....	127,788,204	1923.....	271,333,173
1923.....	200,663,567	1922.....	573,675,650
1922.....	498,315,387	1921.....	388,978,203
1921.....	143,198,781	1920.....	367,549,651
1920.....	262,301,986	1919.....	1,036,059,561
1919.....	425,519,400	1918.....	1,393,361,441

Total offered for subscription to date	£	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	£
1924.....	127,788,204	1923.....	271,333,173
1923.....	200,663,567	1922.....	573,675,650
1922.....	498,315,387	1921.....	388,978,203
1921.....	143,198,781	1920.....	367,549,651
1920.....	262,301,986	1919.....	1,036,059,561
1919.....	425,519,400	1918.....	1,393,361,441

Total offered for subscription to date	£	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	£
1924.....	127,788,204	1923.....	271,333,173
1923.....	200,663,567	1922.....	573,675,650
1922.....	498,315,387	1921.....	388,978,203
1921.....	143,198,781	1920.....	367,549,651
1920.....	262,301,986	1919.....	1,036,059,561
1919.....	425,519,400	1918.....	1,393,361,441

Total offered for subscription to date	£	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	£
1924.....	127,788,204	1923.....	271,333,173
1923.....	200,663,567	1922.....	573,675,650
1922.....	498,315,387	1921.....	388,978,203
1921.....	143,198,781	1920.....	367,549,651
1920.....	262,301,986	1919.....	1,036,059,561
1919.....	425,519,400	1918.....	1,393,361,441

The Railway Debenture and General Trust Company, Limited.—Authorised share capital £3,000,200, all of which has been issued and is fully paid. This is an issue of £750,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock, ranking *pari passu* with the existing 4 per cent. debenture stock. It is to be repaid August 1, 1964, at par, but the company has power to repay at par the whole or any part of the stock at any time after August 1, 1945, on three months' notice. The interest on the present issue of stock is payable half-yearly, on February 15 and August 1st in each year; the first payment (being for full half-year) will be made on February 1, 1925. Debentur

stock certificates will be ready for delivery on or before September 1, 1924. Of this issue £500,000 has been offered to holders of existing 4 per cent. debenture stock, and £250,000 has been sold by the company at the price of 90 per cent., less 1 per cent. brokerage. A prospectusless issue.

The Century European Timber Corporation, Limited.—Authorised capital £750,000, divided into 500,000 8 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each, and 500,000 ordinary shares of 10s each. Of the former, 250,000 have been underwritten and taken firm by the concessionaires and their associates, including certain Polish interests, and the remaining 250,000 are offered for public subscription at par. After payment of an 8 per cent. fixed cumulative dividend on the preference shares, any remaining distributable profits are divisible equally between the two classes of shareholders. Until a reserve fund of £500,000 has been accumulated, no dividend can be paid on the ordinary shares in respect of any year unless a sum of at least £40,000 out of the profits of such year has been first carried to reserve. The undertaking has been formed to acquire two concessions for the cutting and purchase of timber granted by the Polish Government. The forests cover a total area of over 700,000 acres, and it is stated, are well served by rail and water transport. During the war the Bialowieza forest was occupied for a time by the Germans, who equipped it with plant, light railway, &c., which the corporation is to use at a moderate rental. The timber in this forest was valued (standing) by German experts at £32,800,000. The purchase price is £15,000 and £212,500 in ordinary shares. The vendors have underwritten the £500,000 preference capital for a commission of £17,500 in cash and £37,500 in fully paid ordinary shares. These costly underwriting terms probably reveal the highly speculative character of the undertaking.

The Glass Houghton and Castleford Collieries (1924), Limited.—Share capital £650,000. This is an offer for sale of £550,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 96½ per cent. This stock is the total amount authorised, and is to be redeemed on or before January 1, 1945, by the operation of an accumulative sinking fund of 3 per cent. per annum, to be applied annually in purchasing debenture stock at or under 102 per cent., exclusive of accrued interest, or in drawings at 102 per cent., the first redemption to be made in respect of the year ending December 31, 1925. Power is reserved to the company to redeem all or any of the debenture stock outstanding on any interest date at 105 per cent. and accrued interest upon giving six months' notice. The company has entered into a contract to purchase from the Glass Houghton and Castleford Collieries, Limited (a private company incorporated in 1902), its collieries and other assets. The excess of the assets being acquired over liabilities is certified at £1,279,375. The aggregate average annual profits for the past five years are certified to have amounted to £131,615; for 1923 the profit is certified at £215,910. The amount required for the annual service of the debenture stock now offered is £49,500. Although an "offer for sale," the document is a clear statement of affairs.

The Witan Investment Company.—Authorised capital £2,200,000, of which £2,100,000 has been issued in £1,050,000 4½ per cent. cumulative preference stock and £1,050,000 ordinary stock. This is an issue of £100,000 in 10,000 shares of £10 each at £11 per share. These shares will, on October 15th next, when fully paid, be converted into equal amounts of preference and ordinary stock, and carry dividend from that date, and will rank thereafter in all respects *pari passu* with the other stocks of the company. The prospectus states that the company was formed in 1909 to carry on the business of a trust concern, and that it had as at April 15 last holdings of a book value of £2,148,487, of which 6.47 per cent. consisted of British Government and corporation stocks, 38.72 per cent. of railway and tramway securities, and 42.79 per cent. of commercial and industrial scrip. The revenue for the three years ended April 15th was £130,835, £132,736, and £152,955 respectively, after providing income-tax and expenses, and for the last year 6½ per cent., free of tax, was paid on the ordinary stock. It will be interesting to see how the market values the stock of the company.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.				Foreign Government Securities.			
	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
War Loan (3½%, 1925-28) ..	106½	106½	106½	Aust. 6% 1931-41.....	106	106	106
War Loan (4½%, 1925-45) ..	106½	106½	106½	Canada 4½% 1920-25, 100s	104	104	104
War Loan (5%, 1925-47) ..	101½	101½	101½	India 3½% Stock	86	86	86
War Loan (4½%, 1925-42) ..	101½	101½	101½	Do 7% 1926-31	113	113	113
Funding Loan 4½%	87½	87½	87½	Do 6½% 1933	103	103	103
Victory Bonds 4½%	83½	83½	83½	Do 4½%	86	86	86
Conversion Loan 3½%	77	77	77	N.S.W. 5½% 1922-30 ..	114	114	114
Consols 2½%	56½	56½	56½	Nigeria 6% 1923-30 ..	105	105	105
Irish Land Stock 2½% ..	59	59	59	U. of S.A. 6% 1930-40 ..	105	105	105
Local Loans 3%	64½	64½	64½	Victoria 5½% 1924-34 ..	104	104	104
				W. Aust. 6% 1930-40 ..	104	104	104

British Railways.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Great Western, Ord.	108½	108½	108½	Southern, Ord. "A" ..	38½	38½	38½
London & North-Eastern	81½	81½	81½	Do Ord. "B"	38½	38½	38½
5% Pref. Ord.	81½	81½	81½	Do Pref. Ord.	41½	41½	41½
Do Def. Ord.	28½	28½	28½	Do Def. Ord.	41½	41½	41½
London, Mid., and	96½	96½	96½	Underground Electric	2½	2½	2½
Scottish, Ord.	96½	96½	96½	(£10)	2½	2½	2½
Metropolitan	81½	81½	81½	Do "A" (1)	38½	38½	38½
Metropolitan District, 50s	50½	50½	50½	Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	38½	38½	38½

Banks.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) ..	21½	21½	21½	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	6½	6½	6½
Chartered Bk of India 19½	19½	19½	19½	National Provincial	10½	10½	10½
Clyde's (£5 with £1	23½	23½	23½	Standard of S. Africa	10½	10½	10½
Midland (£12 with	23½	23½	23½	(£20, with £5 paid) ..	10½	10½	10½
£24 paid)	8½	8½	8½	Westminster Bank	17½	17½	17½
Nat. Bank of Egypt	25½	25½	25½	(£20, with £5 paid) ..	17½	17½	17½

American Railroads.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	99	100	100	Southern	74	74	74
Erie	39	38	38	Do Non-cum Pref. 85	85	85	85
Do 4½ 1st Pref.	47	47	47				

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Antofagasta Cons.	85½	85½	85½	Leopoldina	22	23½	23½
B.A. and Pacific	72½	82	82	Mexican Railway	7	7	7
B.A. & Gt. Southern	86	87	87	Do 1st Pref.	24	24	24
Buenos Ayres West	71½	75	75	Do 2nd Pref.	11	10	10
Canadian Pacific	170	169	169	San Paulo	144	150½	150½
Central Argentine	71½	72½	72½	United Havana	85½	86½	86½

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Argentine 5%, 1886-7, 100	100	100	100	Japanese 4% 1910	62	63	63
Austrian 6% Guar. 90s	90½	90½	90½	Do 6% 1924	30	30	30
Belgian 3%	71	71	71	Mexican Cons. 1893 ..	33	33	33
Brussels 4% 1914	88	87	87	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	28½	29	29
Chilian 4½%, 1895	88	88	88	P.L.M. 6%	88½	89	89
Do 7½%	104	104	104	Portuguese (New)	25	26	26
Chinese 5%, 1912	69	69	69	Russian 5%, 1906	81	81	81
Egyptian 4%	75	75	75	Spanish 4%	66	66	66
French 5%	24	23½	23½	Seine (Dept.) 7%	100	100½	100½
Do 4%	19	18½	18½	Siam 7%	106½	106½	106½
Greek 5%, 1884	51½	51½	51½				

Telegraphs.

	Price	Week	Latent		Price	Week	Latent
Anglo-American "A" 23½	23½	23½	23½	Marconi Canada	1½	1½	1½
Marconi Wireless	1½	1½	1½	Marconi Marine	1½	1½	1½

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (fl)	1.5	1.5	-	Hudson's Bay (fl)	5	5	+
Amal. Cottons (fl)	1.5	1.5	-	Imperial Tobaccos (fl)	1	1	+
Anglo Persian Oil (fl)	3.5	3	-	Linggi Plantins (fl)	1	1	+
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)				Lipton (fl)	1	1	+
and Co. (fl)	2	2	-	Levebros' %Cuprd (fl)	1	1	+
Ass. Pind.Cement (fl)	2	2	-	Doer's Cup Prt (fl)	1	1	+
Barker, John (fl)	2.5	2.5	-	Do20% Cup Prd (fl)	1	1	+
Bartholomew (fl)	2.5	2.5	-	Lister (fl)	10	10	+
Brasil Traction (\$100)	50	52	+	Lobitos Oilfields (fl)	10	10	+
British-American				Lyons (J.) & Co. (fl)	4	4	+
Tobacco (fl)	5	5	+	Mexican Eagle (\$10)			
Burmah Oil (fl)	5	5	+	Pekin (fl)	3	3	+
Coats (J. and P.) (fl)	3	3	+	Rumrort (fl)	3	3	+
Cornwall (fl)	2.5	2.5	+	Investment (fl)	1	1	+
Cunard (fl)	2	2	+	Shill Transport (fl)	4	4	+
Dorman, Long (fl)	2	2	+	Smithfield & Argentine			
Dunlop Rubber (fl)	2	2	+	Meat (fl)	4	4	+
Fine Cotton Spinners				United Dairies (fl)	1	1	+
Foster and (fl)	2	2	+	United Land (fl)	1	1	+
Furness, Withy (fl)	1	1	+	United Tobacco (fl)	1	1	+
Highlands and Low-				Vallambrosa (fl)	1	1	+
lands Rubber (fl)	1	1	+	Vickers (fl)	1	1	+
				Watney Def. Stk.	220	222	+

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

CIE. ARAMAYO DE MINES EN BOLIVIE.

(ARAMAYO MINES IN BOLIVIA COMPANY.)

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

OUTPUT AND DEVELOPMENT.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Cie. Aramayo de Mines en Bolivie was held, on Monday, July 28, 1924, at the company's offices, 16 Quai de la Poste, Geneva, the chairman of the company (Mr F. A. Aramayo) presiding.

The Chairman said:
Ladies and gentlemen,—I have the honour to present to you the result of the operations of our company during the year 1923, the accounts, directors', and auditors' report of which have already been sent you.

As you will have seen from this report, the profit and loss account to December 31, 1923, remitted to us by the local administration in Bolivia, shows as a result of the year a profit of Fr. Swiss 4,870,432.12, after deduction of differences in exchange on local operations of 148,670.19f.

YEAR'S NET PROFIT.

This result is modified on the credit side by interest on cash on deposit and investments in Geneva, and on the debit by loss by depreciation of investments and exchange account in Geneva, leaving the sum of Fr. Swiss 4,798,698.87 as net profit for the year. Your attention is drawn to the fact that the account of exchange appearing in the balance-sheet has been considerably reduced this year, from Fr. Swiss 2,306,533.25, as it stood last year, to Fr. Swiss 997,879.59. The result is due to the enhancement of the Bolivian dollar from Fr. Swiss 1.60 in 1922 to Fr. Swiss 1.70 in 1923.

The sale of tin barrilla during the period under review amounted to 2,590.62 tons, at a mean price of £101 3s 5d, against 3,208 tons at the price of £68 16s 7d in the preceding year. The sale of silver sulphides was 815,798.42 ounces troy, at a mean price of 33.70d, against 762,405.72 ounces at 37.20d in the previous year; rich silver mineral amounted to 619,997.53 ounces at 29.77d, against 476,403.86 ounces at 34.56d in the preceding year. The sale of copper cement has been 124.6 tons at £37 11s 10d per ton mean, against 123.20 tons at £33 6s 11d of the year before. The sales of bismuth have been moderate, and we have been forced to again reduce the production and treatment of this product on account of competition.

The total production of tin barrilla in the various mines amounted to 2,506 tons, against 2,756.4 tons in the year 1922. Production of metallic bismuth in bars, flue dust, and export ores has been 163,635 kilos, against 10,208 of last year. The total production of silver in sulphides, export ore, and copper cement amounted to 1,369,497 ounces troy, against 1,330,984 ounces in the year 1922. Copper produced was 66.6 tons, against 70.3 tons of the previous year.

The cost of production of tin concentrates was Bs. 899.27 per ton, against Bs. 851.76 during the preceding year. That of silver has remained normal, and that of bismuth has been considerably reduced, due to the greater tonnage.

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORK.

Work of exploration and development has continued with the necessary activity, and the total number of metres run in this work during the year is 2,349.35, against 3,205 in the year 1922. The reduction is due to limitation of work in Chorolque and Chocaya. In Chorolque work is limited to exploration in depth, and with this end in view we are installing a new and much more powerful pump.

In Tasna preparatory work upon bismuth, being in advance of what production demands, has been limited, and that on the tin section remains normal.

Developments in Chocaya on silver and tin continue to be satisfactory, the reserves of mineral prepared for extraction having been increased this year by 36,743 metric tons of an assay value of 0.2646 per cent. silver and 4.284 per cent. tin.

RESERVES.

The reserves amount to 234,679 tons of 0.22625 per cent. silver and 6 per cent. tin, including the veins Llampera and Judios, which are poor in tin values.

The metallurgical establishment at Telamayu is working satisfactorily, fed by an aerial ropeway, upon the lixiviation of silver and the concentration of tin. Ore which is purely argentiferous is being treated at Asllani.

CURRENT YEAR.

In referring to the results of the six months of the present year—that is to say, to June last—I have to say the production of silver has increased by 40,000 ounces troy in comparison with the same period of 1923. On the other hand, tin has been lower by 87 tons. This decrease is due to the falling off of Chorolque. The production of bismuth is 33.5 tons more than during the same period of the preceding year; but, as stated before, this production has been suspended.

I have pleasure in stating that the technical staff under the direction of Mr Carlos Victor Aramayo, continues to give every satisfaction.

DIVIDENDS AND CARRY FORWARD.

Returning to the final results of the operations of the year under review, your directors propose that the interim dividends, amounting to 20 per cent. should be confirmed, that a bonus of 15 per cent. for the year 1923 be voted, and that the balance of 11,993,068.37f be carried forward. The carry forward is lower by 451,301.13f than that of the year 1922. As stated in the report which you have, a part of the carry forward is earmarked to cover payment for new properties acquired at a cost of £113,000, or approximately 2,800,000f. One of these properties, the mines of the Anglo-Bolivian Syndicate, has already been incorporated with the Compania Minera de Potosi, and we can hope that it will become soon an important enterprise.

TRIBUTE TO MR NICOLAS VEGA.

I cannot conclude my speech without making reference to the memory of my much-regretted colleague Mr Nicolas Vega, who died on December 5th last. This gentleman was during many years a faithful, intelligent, and devoted servant of our company. Your directors have nominated as a member of the board Dr Charpentier, one of our principal shareholders, who has already before filled a similar position, and I ask you to confirm his nomination.

It is also necessary to proceed to the nomination of four other directors, as the term of office of these gentlemen—viz., Messrs F. A. Aramayo, Léon Martin, Gustave Ferrière, and Louis Patry—expires on December 31st of this year.

These gentlemen, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. If any shareholder desires to have any further particulars, I shall be glad to answer any questions they may wish to ask.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

No questions being asked, and after the reading of the auditors' report, the statement of accounts to December 31, 1923, was approved, and the following resolutions passed by the board were carried unanimously:—

- (1) The meeting approves the statement of accounts presented by the board for the year 1923, and gives entire discharge to the directors.
- (2) The four interim dividends, totalling 20 per cent., paid during 1923 are confirmed.
- (3) The declaration of a bonus of 15 per cent., making the total of 35 per cent. for the year 1923, is approved.
- (4) Mr Albert Charpentier is duly elected as director of the company in the place of Mr Nicolas Vega, deceased.
- (5) The four other directors are duly re-elected.
- (6) Messrs Tribe, Clarke, Painter, Darton, and Co. are duly re-elected as auditors of the company.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman (Mr F. A. Aramayo) and directors for their services during the past year was duly proposed and carried. Mr Aramayo, in responding thereto, stated that he would like to refer to the able services rendered by Mr Malcolm Roberts, the company's consulting engineer, and the staff in Bolivia under the direction of Mr Carlos V. Aramayo, the general manager.

The proceedings then terminated.

FURNESS, WITHY, AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

GOVERNMENT-AIDED COMPETITION.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of Furness, Withy, and Co., Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the registered office of the company, Furness House, Leadenhall Street, London.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—

There has been no general improvement in trade as a whole, and consequently I think the shareholders will be satisfied to see that our profits for the year show a small increase, at £572,442, as compared with £552,510 in 1923. Even so, I am afraid we cannot place this slight improvement to the credit of the ship-owning business, and were it not for the fact, as I have pointed out on previous occasions, that we have a great many diversified interests, it would not have been possible to have achieved this result.

The final item in the balance-sheet is the carry forward, viz., £216,636 17s 10d, an increase of £14,321 4s 11d compared with last year. Altogether, including the amount brought forward, the profit and loss account shows £774,758 10s 7d available for disposal. The directors propose, after providing for the half-yearly preference dividend, and for the dividends on the ordinary shares, to make a bonus distribution of 2½ per cent. to the ordinary shareholders, making a total of 7½ per cent., free of tax, and to transfer £200,000 to depreciation, leaving £216,636 17s 10d to be carried forward, as shown in the balance-sheet.

FURNESS (PACIFIC), LIMITED.

We have during the past year opened offices at San Francisco and Vancouver under the title of Furness (Pacific), Limited, primarily to attend to the steamers engaged in our United Kingdom-Pacific Coast Service. The advantages of our own direct representatives, both to the ships and to the merchants and shippers, have already been clearly discernible. The service from New York to Bermuda, in which we are interested, carried a larger number of passengers than in any previous year, and the new Hotel "Bermudiana" at Hamilton, in which we have a financial interest, has had a most successful opening season. It would be wearisome if I were to refer in any detail to each of our regular trade routes, and whilst some of these services have necessarily had to be curtailed on account of scarcity of cargo offering, we have, nevertheless, maintained our full organisation and equipment in readiness for any eventualities.

During the year, in association with other important British groups, we became interested with the Russian authorities in the formation of the Russo-British Grain Export Company, Limited, and I am glad to be able to state that the export of grain from the Russian Black Sea ports was revived on a considerable scale last season. It has been a matter of great satisfaction to us to participate in this business, and after making due allowance for the difficulties which had to be overcome in the early stages, and which were perhaps natural in view of the complete suspension of this business for several years past, and the consequent necessity of building up an entirely new organisation for handling it, I am very pleased to be able to state that the shipping arrangements have all been dealt with satisfactorily, and we look forward to a continuance of this market, which in pre-war days afforded employment for a very large amount of shipping.

During the year one of our associated companies has entered into a contract for the construction of a large refrigerated steamer for the South American trade, and we have also ordered a new passenger and cargo vessel for our Liverpool-Newfoundland and Boston service. In this connection liner companies are, of course, in quite a different position from the ordinary tramp shipowner. The liners have the goodwill of their trade to maintain, and are under moral, and in some cases contractual, obligations to their merchant supporters to provide regular sailings on the trade routes, but, apart from this necessity, in my view the present is not a favourable moment for building new ships. When circumstances justify, your company will be in the market for additional ships.

SHIPPING CONDITIONS.

It may be that we are much nearer a trade revival than the present outlook would justify us in believing, but whether that is so or not, it is still an indisputable fact that on the one hand trade is still considerably short of the volume in 1913, and on the other hand the available tonnage is considerably in excess of requirements, as is evidenced by the fact that at July 1st there was approximately 1,150,000 tons d.w. of shipping laid up in British ports, apart altogether from that laid up in foreign ports, which I have no means of calculating. Whilst this state of affairs continues, and so long as foreign and Colonial Governments are prepared, as they apparently are, to operate State-owned ships at a great loss, it is impossible to expect trade to improve to a

sufficient extent to justify the building of new ships at the prices that are being quoted, although a certain number of new orders have been placed for liners, special types of vessels such as oil tankers, &c., and other orders have been placed no doubt under the encouragement of the financial facilities afforded by the Trades Facilities Act.

As a matter of fact, the statistics compiled by Lloyd's Register of Shipping show that there is at present under construction in this country about 179,000 gross tons of shipping more than at the same period twelve months ago, viz., 1,516,746 gross tons, which is the highest figure reached since March, 1922. On the other hand, the world tonnage on the Register shows a decrease during the past twelve months of about 820,000 tons of steam tonnage; this decrease being mainly due to the large amount of tonnage which has been broken up during the year, but it should not be overlooked that the bulk of this broken-up tonnage was previously laid up, and, therefore, its removal from the Register has not had any beneficial effect upon the world's freight markets.

We are still accustomed to make comparisons with pre-war days, although it is not by any means a reliable guide, and it is interesting to note that the world tonnage of steam and motor ships at present on the Register is some fifteen million tons in excess of the 1914 figures. This tonnage excludes wooden and composite ships, but it includes a considerable number of vessels of a special type, such as oil tankers, &c., and I think we can safely conclude that the serviceable cargo tonnage at present on the Register is much in excess of the supply in 1914.

BUILDING ABROAD.

I have made reference to the possibility of building abroad at lower prices than those quoted by British builders, and in this connection I am informed that apart altogether from the question of wages and cheaper material, Continental yards have in some instances received financial assistance from their Governments for the purpose of relieving unemployment. It is, of course, a perfectly natural thing for Governments to make every possible endeavour to relieve unemployment amongst their citizens, and the question of the best methods to be adopted to achieve this object is more or less for each Government to decide for itself. None the less, the artificial stimulation of shipbuilding when the supply of ships is already in excess of demand is a very serious menace to the shipping industry.

As a matter of passing interest it is common knowledge that all the Governments that have become steamship operators through circumstances arising out of the war have lost very considerable sums of money. The United States Shipping Board, it is stated, lost no less than \$40,000,000 last year. The Canadian, Australian, French, Brazilian, and Portuguese Government fleets all lost large amounts in trading, apart altogether from huge depreciation in capital values, and it is scarcely to be wondered at that freights keep at an unremunerative level when there are large volumes of tonnage being operated under conditions which could not possibly be maintained under private ownership.

I believe the French Government have already denationalised their fleet, but the continued existence and operation of the other fleets is a definite obstacle in the way of any substantial and permanent improvement.

The maintenance of the foreign trade of Great Britain is a matter of great importance to shipowners and merchants, and I am very glad to see this morning that the Government are appointing a Committee to inquire into these matters, and I hope it will be possible to evolve some satisfactory scheme for reducing the cost of living and the cost of labour, the effect of which, I feel sure, will be a speedy revival in our foreign trade. British goods are, on the whole, renowned for their better quality; and on equal terms so far as costs are concerned, I am convinced we would soon regain our old pre-eminence in the world's trade, more particularly as this country can give credit that is not possible with the greater number of our competitors.

MOTOR-SHIP CONSTRUCTION.

You will have gathered from my remarks that we have in commission and under construction several vessels fitted with Diesel engines. As a matter of fact, our experts are making a most careful study and comparison of different types of motor engines with a view to determining which type is most economical and suitable for our purposes. There is no doubt that from the point of view of operation the Diesel engine has already established itself; that is to say, the consumption of fuel is less, the number of men required in the engine-room is less, the space occupied in the ships is less than in the case of a steam engine, and the motor engine gives a very consistent performance at sea.

On the other hand, however, owners have to take into account the very heavy initial cost as compared with other types of marine engines; the amount that it is necessary to set aside for upkeep and depreciation is still unproved. Constant improvements are being effected; and, finally, but by no means the least important point,

the price of oil supplies and the very difficult question of the continuity of supplies, having regard to the enormous increase in oil consumption. Prices have been forced up to a level which is entirely disproportionate to the cost of coal, and many vessels which were fitted for burning oil have been reconverted to coal. The whole question of the supply and demand for oil is a most difficult one; but the oil companies should bear in mind that it is a matter of great importance to them to retain the constant business of supplying oil to steamers and motor ships; and it would doubtless mean considerable loss to them if, through excessive prices, there was not sufficient business to maintain the various oil fuel stations which have been established and upon which a considerable amount of capital expenditure has been incurred. The whole question of motor-ship construction is being very carefully considered by us, and it is to be hoped that as the Diesel engine becomes more standardised considerable economies may be effected in the cost of construction.

The resolution was seconded by Mr R. E. Burnett, and carried unanimously.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA. CAPITAL INCREASE SANCTIONED.

The annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Australia was held, on the 28th ultimo, at 72 Cornhill, London.

The Chairman (Mr Henry P. Sturgis) said that the net profit for the past year, after provision for doubtful debts and contingencies, amounted to £640,003, inclusive of £89,711 brought forward from the previous year. From this the directors had made an appropriation of £100,000 as an addition to the bank's reserve fund, which was thereby increased to £3,450,000, and had declared a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, carrying forward £90,003. The figures of the balance-sheet, compared with those of the year to February, 1923, showed an increase of £2,068,000. The increase in deposits was of a general character, and was very gratifying, in view of the increasing competition in many directions at high rates of interest. The liquid assets amounted to 9s 7d in the £ of the bank's total liabilities to the public.

The exports from Australia for the year ended December, 1923, amounted to £114,000,000, showing a decrease of £14,000,000 compared with 1922. The smaller amount of wheat exported in 1923 would probably account for some £8,000,000 of the above sum. Imports, at £136,000,000, showed an increase over the preceding year of £14,000,000, due largely to the increased imports of metal goods, machinery, and motor-cars. As regarded New Zealand, exports for 1923 were valued at £45,000,000, while the value of imports was £43,000,000. In 1922 the exports were £41,000,000 and the imports £35,000,000.

The financing of the Australian exports during the past season had presented many difficulties, but the general manager had conducted his exchange operations with great ability, and the requirements of the bank's customers had been adequately met. The wheat harvest was estimated to have yielded 126,000,000 bushels, leaving an exportable surplus of nearly 80,000,000 bushels. The wool clip showed a decrease in quantity from the previous season of nearly 300,000 bales, and the condition of a large proportion had been adversely affected by drought. Prices had been, and still were, very satisfactory, and the prospects for the current clip appeared to be very good. In a cablegram received last week the general manager stated that the season throughout the Australian Commonwealth generally was satisfactory, the crop outlook was favourable, and pastoral conditions were fair generally, but rain was still wanted in various districts. Wool clips were

estimated to be much larger than last season. In New Zealand conditions were favourable and prospects good. Since the receipt of the cablegram there had been useful rains in many of the districts to which the general manager referred.

The report was unanimously adopted, and at an extraordinary general meeting it was resolved that the capital of the company be increased to £10,500,000 by the creation of 100,000 additional ordinary shares of £15 each.

The Chairman stated that whenever an issue was decided upon the shareholders would be the first to be advised, and the shares would be offered to them in the first instance.

ODHAMS PRESS, LIMITED. SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT APPROVED.

The fourth annual general meeting of Odhams Press, Limited, was held, on the 28th ultimo, at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London. Lieut.-Colonel W. Grant Morden, J.P., M.P. (chairman of the company), presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that the improvements in the company's trading foreshadowed at the last annual general meeting had been realised during 1923, the gross profits for that year aggregating £139,729, as compared with £111,320 for 1922, while the profit carried to the balance-sheet had been increased during the past year to £88,689, as against £71,144 for 1922.

Having regard, however, to the large extraordinary expenditure which had been incurred and which was essential to re-establish *John Bull*, perhaps the best-known of the company's properties, it had been deemed expedient by the directors to prepare a scheme of arrangement adjusting the company's capital between its members which would also permit the re-establishment of dividends at an early date.

Turning to the accounts, he referred to the improvement which had taken place during 1923, and said he would like to state that, having regard to the special circumstances in which the company found itself, the directors, including the managing director, had again waived the claim to the commission payable to them under the company's articles of association and other agreements. While on that subject he would like to remind the shareholders that during the five years that he had been chairman of the company he had by agreement not received any commission for his services.

PROGRESS OF COMPANY'S PAPERS.

The chairman then gave particulars of the progress of the company's various activities. Naturally, he said, one thought first of the journal which was perhaps most in the public eye, and which had been the chief source of anxiety to the directors for some time past, namely, *John Bull*. Two years ago the company was faced with a very serious position in regard to that journal, owing to the proceedings against its former editor in regard to transactions in which the company was in no way concerned. As he had reported to the shareholders last year, the board had decided upon a bold policy of expenditure to re-establish the property, at the same time seeing that this expenditure was backed up by the production of a journal of the best possible value to its readers. The result of a further year's working proved that the expenditure had been well justified, and *John Bull* was now on a thoroughly sound foundation. Its net sales were well over 800,000 copies per week—the largest circulation of any twopenny weekly periodical in the world—and this without the adventitious aid of any free competitions; and, what was more important, it was now independent of the personality of any one man. As a consequence, advertisers had returned to the paper, and were returning in increasing numbers.

With regard to the company's other newspapers and journals, he was able to report, in almost every instance, a satisfactory and steady progress. *Sporting Life* continued to be the premier sporting daily newspaper in this country, and was a very successful property from a financial point of view. In the *Ideal Home* the company was fortunate in possessing a journal which was extremely successful and of substantial and profit-earning value to the company. The *Kinematograph Weekly* had done very well in the year under review. The *Passing Show* had been reconstructed and improved in the early part of this year, and the circulation had considerably more than doubled itself during the past six months, and was still increasing. The business of the Borough Billposting Company owned by Odhams Press—which was the largest outdoor publicity business in the country, had been extremely satisfactory during the year under review, and had shown a steady increase upon its trade of 1922; and the business of Messrs Dean and Son, the publishers of *Debrett's Peerage* and allied publications, and the owners of the well-known toy books, was making very satisfactory progress under the company's ownership.

THE CURRENT YEAR.

The improvement in the year under review was well maintained in the present year, and the directors had every confidence in stating that after the two very difficult years through which the company had passed, owing to circumstances over which it had no control, its business was now thoroughly re-established on a sound basis.

Mr. W. J. B. Odhams (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried.

Separate meetings of the holders of the preference shares, the holders of "A" preference shares, and the holders of ordinary shares were subsequently held, at each of which the scheme of capitalisation was considered and voted upon. The result of the vote will be reported to the court.

In view of the large number of proxies received in favour of the scheme, Sir Arthur Whitney stated that they could congratulate themselves that the scheme commended itself to the general body of shareholders.

At an extraordinary general meeting the resolutions approving the scheme of arrangement were approved.

TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.

'MR ROBERT WILLIAMS' REVIEW OF POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 30th ultimo, in London, General Sir Francis R. Wingate, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, after a brief speech, moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Robert Williams (managing director) dealing with the accounts, said that shares and debentures in other companies stood in the accounts at cost—namely, £3,996,631. At the date of the balance-sheet at the exchange and market price in Brussels, the sterling value of the Union Minière shares alone exceeded the amount by about £1,400,000. At to-day's quotation and exchange their Union Minière shares had a value of about £8,000,000, which was £4,000,000 over the book value of all their shares and debentures in other companies.

Since the last general meeting there had been an increase of about £3,600,000 in capital value of the Union Minière shares. Having regard to the credit balance on the profit and loss account, which did not include the substantial dividend recently paid by the Union Minière, shareholders were asked to sanction the preference dividend of 10 per cent. With regard to the operations of the Union Minière, a dividend had been paid for 1923 amounting to 80 francs a share, less Belgian tax of 6.40, which was more than double the dividend paid for 1922 of 32.20 francs a share after deducting Belgian tax. The proportion of the 1922 dividend transferred at an exchange of 96.82 francs to the pound had realised £60,212, and their proportion of the 1923 dividend transferred to an exchange of 96 francs to the pound had realised £138,600, which would appear in the next accounts.

BENGUELLA RAILWAY.

A satisfactory increase in traffic over the Benguela Railway had resulted during 1923, in spite of the fact that early in the year the line had suffered severely from abnormal rains, which necessitated the closing of the line for about a week and the curtailment of trains for nearly a month. The crops also suffered extensive damage, which resulted in a loss of receipts towards the end of 1923 and the beginning of 1924. The subsequent crops had been satisfactory, and the railway traffic would benefit accordingly. At the last meeting, he mentioned, it was hoped that after the introduction of the new rates at the end of March, 1923, the net receipts of the railway would realise nearly £70,000 per annum. The actual net receipts from April 1, 1923, to March 31, 1924, only

realised 6,083,648 escudos, which at the rate of exchange taken for the estimate would have represented £60,836, and at the actual exchange in force realised only £47,000. The railway company had succeeded in obtaining the consent of the Angola Government to a further increase of rates by means of a sliding scale. The net earnings for May, 1924, which was the first month of the new maize crop traffic, amounted to 1,120,000 escudos, which at the quoted rate of exchange of 160 escudos to the pound represented £7,000, or at the rate of £84,000 per annum. The Rhodesia-Katanga Junction Railway continued to show very satisfactory results. There was a surplus of receipts over expenditure of £95,583, of which the Rhodesia-Katanga Company's proportion was about £69,000, of which £44,000 was paid away for interest on debentures. The receipts for the current year showed further improvement, and it was estimated that the proportion to be received by the Rhodesia-Katanga Company would exceed the above sum, and would enable a further substantial payment to be made in reduction of this company's loan.

LEACHING PROCESS ADVANTAGES.

The results obtained by the Union Minière, excellent though they were, had been obtained by treatment recovering less than half the copper contents of the ore. The other half lay in stocks of rich fines and in tailings standing in the accounts at practically no cost, and would be recovered chiefly by the reverberatory furnaces and other processes to be installed, and this alone would carry the output of copper far beyond 100,000 tons per annum. It was, however, to the leaching process on a big scale that he looked for the great results from the Union Minière.

In his opinion, it was by that process alone and by the Benguela Railway that the Union Minière would be able to deliver copper on the market cheaper than any other company in the world, and it was necessary to do this to assure complete success. The copper which was recoverable by the present and contemplated processes from the reserves of concentrating and smelting ores amounted to about 1,262,000 tons, from which gross profits of about £24,000,000 would be made. If the same ore was treated direct by the hydro-electric leaching process, there would be a recovery of 1,489,000 tons of electrolytic copper, which, with the Benguela Railway available, would give a gross profit of £52,000,000.

The reserve of 40,402,000 tons of leaching ores, which would only be treated by the leaching process now about to be installed, would produce about 2,000,000 tons of electrolytic copper, giving about £8,000,000 gross profits. Taking the lowest figures, there was a recoverable tonnage of copper in the reserve of oxidised ores other than low-grade amounting to 3,262,000 tons.

The estimated gross profits from that tonnage by present methods and by leaching was £82,000,000. Taking the highest figures, the recoverable tonnage of copper would be 3,489,000 tons, and the gross profits from that tonnage would be about £110,000,000.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

VAN DEN BERGHS, LIMITED. A SUCCESSFUL YEAR'S TRADING.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of Van den Berghs, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr Henry Van den Bergh (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr A. G. Hales) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Since I last had the pleasure of addressing you another year has passed—a year that, like its predecessors, has not been without its difficulties. Under these circumstances, it is gratifying to me to be able to put before you such a satisfactory statement of the trading for the last 12 months. During the year under review the prices of raw materials have undergone important fluctuations, but I am glad to say that in our operations we have been successful in turning these fluctuations to our advantage.

Although the aggregate sales of margarine have remained at much the same level as last year, we are getting a larger share of the trade which is going. We attribute the former fact to the high prices which have ruled for butter, and the latter to the excellence of our qualities. The policy of your directors in promoting the sale of the higher grades of margarine has proved to be a sound one, and to this policy the success of last year's trading is largely due, and to this policy the success of last year's trading is following the attributable. Our associated company in Holland is following the same policy, and has successfully introduced the "Blue Band," which brand has in a very short time established in that country the same high reputation which it possesses in this country.

With regard to our allied companies abroad, you are aware that the chaotic conditions of trade in some parts of the Continent became accentuated during the past year, the great fluctuations in the rates of exchange bringing with them certain consequences that have a great influence on trading results. All possible precautions,



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

however, were taken, and the directors are satisfied that these have prevented what might have otherwise proved serious losses.

KEEN COMPETITION.

The keen competition which I indicated last year continues, and, in fact, in certain directions it has become more acute. This competition among manufacturers finds its counterpart in the retail provision trade. To our knowledge provisions are retailed at a very low rate of profit. It is, therefore, surprising to learn that people are under the impression that profiteering is going on in that trade. This is not a fact. The chairman of a well-known provision company expressed the same opinion a little while ago, and the Grocers' Federation stated that the retailers courted a public inquiry into the matter. We feel confident that such an inquiry would fully vindicate the retailers.

There are two points to which your directors have given very careful attention. The first is economy and the other is uniformity. Efforts have been made to effect economies in the manufacture, and in this I am glad to say we have been successful. We have also managed to produce qualities of a uniformity never before attained. The importance of this is very great, inasmuch as the retailer can only build up a sound trade by regularly offering his customers goods of a uniform standard. At one time it was necessary for the retailer to come to market and pick out his goods, but now he can safely conduct his business by correspondence. The factories of your company and of its associated companies have all been maintained in the highest state of efficiency, and nearly all of them have been visited by members of your board during the year.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Now, with regard to the accounts, I would like to draw your special attention to the balance carried forward. This amounts to £114,624, against £108,327 last year, being an increase of £6,297. The item "associated and subsidiary companies" is £2,408,608, against £2,332,652 last year, an increase of £76,046. "Sundry debtors" appears as £1,186,008, against £1,231,201, being a decrease of £45,193. "Stocks" are £328,590, against £454,526, being a decrease of £125,936. "Sundry creditors" are £1,023,163, against £1,076,512 last year, a decrease of £53,349. "Associated and subsidiary companies" are creditors for £83,765, against £2,458, an increase of £81,307. The profits, together with the balance brought forward from last year, amount to £467,084. After deducting dividends paid during the year—namely, £219,979—the sum of £247,105 is available. The directors propose that this should be applied in accordance with the proposal in the report before you. They recommend the payment of a final dividend of 1s 6d per share on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim dividend already paid, 2s 6d per share for the year. After providing for the payment of all the dividends, therefore, the sum of £114,624 remains available, which it is proposed to carry forward to next year's accounts. It is evident from these figures that our financial position is a very strong one.

Mr. Jacob Van den Bergh (one of the managing directors) seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

THRELFALL'S BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED. SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of shareholders in this company was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Major Charles Morris Threlfall (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, your board feels that the result of the trading for the year ended June 30, 1924, will be considered very satisfactory by the shareholders, especially when the existing disorganised state of the labour market in Lancashire is taken into consideration. In fact, little improvement can be observed in the industrial situation in the country as compared with a year ago, and great credit must be given to the management, and all who have worked under them in the interests of the company, in having achieved, in spite of many set-backs, the splendid result put before you to-day. You will observe from the balance-sheet that, compared with last year, the company's holding of Five per Cent. War Loan has been reduced by £130,000. This means that we have found an opening for a large portion of our unexpended capital in additions and improvements to our houses and in the purchase of valuable licensed properties situated in Lancashire and North Wales.

Opponents of our trade have been very active during the past year, and threaten to be more so in the future. I understand that still another Bill will be introduced for the establishment of Local Veto throughout England and Wales. Whilst there is little chance of this Bill making any progress this session, the situation will have to be carefully watched, and shareholders and debenture stock holders are urged to co-operate with your directors in their endeavours to uphold the little liberty left to this country.

I am pleased to say we are once more in a position to give all

our employees a substantial bonus, thereby ensuring them a direct interest in the welfare of the company; and another small mercy we have to be thankful for is the abolition of the Corporation Profits Tax, which ceased to be operative as from June 30th last. I informed you at our last meeting that it was intended to appoint Mr. G. M. Galloway a director of the company. He was duly appointed an assistant managing director in September last, in the place of Mr. Binns, who retired from the managerial board and became an ordinary director. Mr. Galloway comes before you to-day for election to our board.

Now, referring to the balance-sheet, the gross profit for the year is £404,228 15s 8d, and, after writing off for depreciation in the value of leasehold properties and plant, and making reserves for corporation profits tax to June 30, 1924, and salary and wages bonus to employees, amounting in all to £45,646 15s 8d, there remains a net trading profit of £358,582. After deducting interest on debenture stock, interest on deposits, directors' fees, and compensation levy, and adding transfer fees, bank interest, and interest on War Loan, there is a net profit for the year of £295,269 8s 4d, which, together with the carry forward of £244,562 16s 4d from last year, makes a total of £539,832 4s 8d to be dealt with.

I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and that a dividend be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, 1924, which, with the interim dividends, make 6 per cent. on the preference and 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year. These payments will absorb £276,517 18s, leaving £263,314 6s 8d to be carried forward—a slight increase on last year.

Mr. J. G. West (managing director) seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING ESTATES, LIMITED.

INCREASED REVENUE—LOWER WORKING EXPENDITURE.

A meeting of shareholders of Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Limited (incorporated in the Transvaal), whose registered address is elsewhere than in South Africa, was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Winchester House, London.

Mr. M. T. Brown, who presided, said the revenue from gold account at £324,819 showed an improvement of £45,579, while apart from outside prospecting the working expenditure at the mine at £266,299 was less by £12,528. The mine profit was £58,519, as compared with £413 last year. The board some time ago felt that, in view of all the contingencies, as a mining company like theirs was liable to the possibility of being called upon to equip new mines that might be discovered by prospecting operations, it would be a prudent policy to maintain a minimum cash reserve of £150,000, and that only when that amount should be exceeded would it be wise to distribute the surplus in dividends. It was in pursuance of that policy that the dividend recently distributed was fixed at 1s per share. On one side of the balance-sheet they had cash assets £205,444, while on the other side they had sundry creditors £24,526, unpaid and unclaimed dividends £29,300—together making £53,826, leaving in hand £151,618, which was just over the reserve amount desired.

In regard to prospecting, the greater part of their 300 square miles of land was situated within the same geological horizon as their existing mines, and it would be a foolish and short-sighted policy not to continue to examine it in a systematic way as they were now doing. As regarded the prospecting and development of their three groups of mines, Central, Elandsdrift, and Vaalhoek, the result of the vigorous policy that had been pursued had been the satisfactory increase by 39,175 tons of the ore reserve of the Central Mines with only a very slight decrease in the average value of 0.07 dwt. per ton. At Elandsdrift the reserves had been increased by 16,437 tons, with again a slight decrease of 0.39 dwt. in value; while at Vaalhoek the tonnage had increased by 4,300 tons, with a small improvement in the value of 0.14 dwt. The total ore reserves were now 685,712 tons, with an average value of 8.3 dwt., compared with 625,800 tons of practically the same value a year ago. The report for the quarter ended June 30th last showed a net profit of £13,236, as compared with £6,025 in the corresponding three months last year.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORING COMPANY, LIMITED.

"HIGHLY FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS."

The ordinary general meeting of the Zambia Exploring Company, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at River Plate House, London.

General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, Bt. (chairman of the company), presided, and, after a brief speech, moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Charles Frederick Rowsell seconded the motion.

Mr. Robert Williams, the managing director, in the course of his address, said that the profit for the year had been £9,536, which, added to the previous amount carried forward, made a total credit balance of £59,821. In view of the favourable position of the company, the board felt justified in declaring a dividend of 1s a share, less tax. As to the operations of the Union Minière du Haut Katanga, results had been very satisfactory, and the dividend declared had been 80 francs, or more than double that for 1922. This company's proportion of the 1922 dividend had realised £5,478, while the proportion of the 1923 dividend, which had realised £10,391, would appear in the next accounts. Although there had been a big increase in the dividend, the equivalent in sterling was still adversely affected by the exchange, which in both cases had been about 96 francs to the pound. In accordance with the programme laid down by the experts of the Bovril group of companies, their partners in Angola Estates, Limited, the land interests in Angola were being steadily developed.

As to the profit-earning capacity of the Union Minière, the copper recoverable by the present and contemplated processes from the reserves of concentrating and smelting ores amounted to about 1,262,000 tons, from which gross profits of about £24,000,000 sterling would be made. If the same ore were treated direct by the Hydro-Electric Leaching process, there would be a recovery of 1,489,000 tons of electrolytic copper, which, with the Benguela Railway available, would give a gross profit of £52,000,000 sterling, or £28,000,000 in favour of leaching and the Benguela Railway route. The reserve of 40,402,000 tons of leaching ores, which could only be treated by the leaching process now to be installed, would produce about 2,000,000 tons of electrolytic copper, giving about £58,000,000 sterling gross profits. Taking the highest figures, the recoverable tonnage of copper would be 3,489,000 tons, and the gross profit from that tonnage would be about £110,000,000 sterling. Shareholders would thus appreciate that the prospects of their company as regarded the undertakings with which they were closely connected, were highly favourable in view of the great developments which were bound to take place in Katanga and Angola.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts	Week Ended	Week Ended
	Apr. 1, 1924, to July 26, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 28, 1923.	July 26, 1924.	July 28, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England ..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland ..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
Customs ..	32,286,000	41,603,000	2,331,000	2,339,000
Excise ..	40,690,000	45,974,000	1,036,000	947,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	3,123,000	2,871,000	112,000	159,000
Stamps, &c., Duties ..	21,320,000	18,370,000	1,510,000	1,450,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty ..	5,040,000	6,440,000	260,000	380,000
Property & Income Tax ..	570,000	450,000	10,000	10,000
Super-Tax ..	63,838,000	63,994,000	3,641,000	4,474,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c. ..	20,470,000	16,710,000	730,000	540,000
Corporation Profits Tax ..	5,790,000	6,680,000	370,000	340,000
Post Office ..	16,100,000	15,350,000	1,400,000	1,280,000
Crown Lands ..	380,000	320,000	110,000	60,000
Interest on Sundry Loans ..	5,630,542	5,700,132	7,150	..
Miscellaneous ..	4,197,796	4,992,118	172,176	120,119
Special Receipts ..	11,552,533	16,227,827	3,332	403,000
Revenue ..	231,067,871	245,682,077	11,692,658	12,469,119
Total, Inc. Balance ..	237,699,485	252,500,244	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion ..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	4,520,000	2,877,000	250,000	177,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 ..	2,200,800	1,750,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	1,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	270,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills ..	747,580,000	788,054,000	47,407,000	47,278,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	9,000,000	15,600,000	450,000	700,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33 ..	13,521,620	29,208,627	47,325	41,055
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	280,241,500	289,403,500	..	4,500,000
Repayments:—				
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921 ..	505,894	115,136	..	..
Total ..	1,295,269,490	1,379,843,507	59,846,983	65,465,175

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.					
	£	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to July 26, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to July 23, 1923.	Week Ended July 26, 1924.	Week Ended July 28, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	..	124,105,328	121,235,089	444,887	1,279,839
Sinking Fund	..	9,075,465	15,313,547	713,000	820,050
Road Fund	..	2,410,044	2,111,014	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	..	1,308,000	861,316	103,000	311,316
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	..	1,301,560	1,152,448	164,697	..
Land Settlement	..	274,047	122,747	12,559	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	..	715,336	1,111,446	..	11,842
Supply Services	..	116,404,337	115,754,924	5,550,000	8,286,500
Expenditure	..	255,594,517	257,662,561	6,988,143	10,709,547
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	..	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	..	2,320,000	2,000,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	4,000	..	3,000	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed ..	..	3,320,000	1,510,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt:—					
Treasury Bills	..	737,150,000	801,780,000	43,645,000	41,805,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	..	10,400,000	12,000,000	600,000	700,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	..	17,005,096	..	150,107
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	..	50	269,036	..	49
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	..	283,023,500	283,999,500	8,750,000	12,049,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
July 26, '24	..	1,291,848,958	1,376,593,498	59,986,143	65,413,703
Bank of England	..	2,027,914	2,071,467	110,458	61,528
Bank of Ireland	..	1,382,627	1,178,742	28,702	113,000
Total	..	3,410,541	3,250,209	139,160	51,472

Treasury, July 28, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Dec. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1920.	July 26, 1924.
Funded Debt ..	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities ..	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	266	684	683	683	683	683
3% War Stock ..	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock ..	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock ..	2,047	2,040	1,935	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
National War Bonds ..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	963	984	903	903	903
4% Funding Loan ..	409	409	406	401	399	400	400	400	400
4% Victory Bonds ..	360	357	347	335	325	325	325	325	325
Treasury Bonds ..	20	323	319	289	453	411	444	444	457
Exchequer Bonds ..	267	274	285	342	364	367	366	366	366
National Savings Certificates ..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151	1,151
Other Debt* ..	..	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French) ..	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	652	588	599
Treasury Bills ..	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	183
Temporary Advances ..	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,749	7,801	7,695	7,715
Other Capital Liabilities ..	57	46	47	49	66	70	70	71	71
Total Liabilities ..	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766	7,786

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	July 28, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	July 26, '24.	Week Ended
Ways and Means Advances ..	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England ..	199,301,500	186,155,500	183,373,500	8,750,000
Advances by Public Debt Office ..	588,320,000	588,320,000	588,320,000	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding ..	602,255,000	588,320,000	588,320,000	..
Total Floating Debt ..	801,596,500	774,475,500	782,193,500	4,920,000

* Includes £75,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Reserve Account.	Silver Coin.	Redemption Account.				
				Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes	Ratio to Notes.	Govern- ment Secur- ties.	Balance at Bank of England.
1923.								
Mar. 29	300,351	14,255	5,000	25,000	19,480	16.9	261,479	177
June 28	396,374	13,138	8,000	25,000	18,550	16.3	354,312	260
Sept. 27	389,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.9	346,466	189
Dec. 27	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.9	266,922	137
1924.								
Mar. 28	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294	190
June 27	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446	181
Sept. 27	282,794	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.5	238,595	140
Dec. 26	399,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.6	256,032	159
1924.								
Mar. 26	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,367	130
June 25	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,198	140
July 23	297,302	12,576	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.9	248,295	133
July 30	395,566	12,478	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.7	261,497	117
Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,500,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £308,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,800.								

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.		
ASSETS	£8,048,905	
CLAIMS PAID	£33,813,270	
Accidents and illness. Employers' Liability. Burglary. Fire. Motor Cars. Fidelity Guarantees. Public Liability. Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts. Executors and Trusteeships.		
Head Office: 36-44, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.		

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, July 30, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,237,985	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion ..	126,487,985
146,237,985			146,237,985

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities	45,762,467
Reserve	3,471,950	Other securities	75,495,077
Public deposits	12,193,603	Notes	19,145,820
Other deposits	111,991,492	Gold and silver coin ..	1,820,680
Seven-day & other bills	13,999		
142,224,044			142,224,044

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
June 25	128,261,164	126,509,200	132,295,707	128,679,753	21,501,964	16 1/2 %
July 2	128,265,538	127,800,525	151,877,534	149,578,199	20,215,013	15 1/2 %
9	128,269,317	127,269,900	120,803,468	118,007,596	20,749,417	15 1/2 %
16	128,271,111	126,202,600	119,186,150	115,368,057	21,818,511	15 1/2 %
23	128,269,723	126,272,720	116,911,459	113,792,321	21,747,003	15 1/2 %
30	128,269,665	127,092,165	114,115,795	112,275,544	20,967,500	15 1/2 %

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to July 16	19,404,310	87,557	1,584,362	21,862,299
July 23	609,189	31,833	52,958	693,980
30	618,691	31,060	49,979	699,730
Total to date 1924	20,632,199	936,430	1,687,299	23,255,919
Do 1923	19,460,506	932,220	1,678,616	22,071,342
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,171,693	+ 4,210	+ 8,683	+ 1,184,577
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,579,661	2,806,185	37,166,481
Increase or decrease in 1923 ..	- 510,262	- 28,096	+ 4,469	- 533,895
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 0 2 %	+ 1 1/2 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of June.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to July 26.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	24 £	26 £	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,242,000	9,968,000	70,043,100	70,315,900
BRISTOL	5,090,000	4,533,000	35,191,000	34,265,000
DUBLIN	4,687,000	4,121,000	186,350,600	165,505,100
LONDON	4,259,000	4,017,000	32,592,800	31,529,800
LEEDS	2,971,000	3,223,000	31,543,900	31,925,800
LEICESTER	35,097,000	32,949,000	22,389,400	23,501,600
LIVERPOOL	62,698,000	61,234,000	264,316,400	271,089,100
MANCHESTER	8,914,000	7,402,000	445,555,000	453,721,200
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	2,528,000	2,503,000	56,741,600	60,603,000
NOTTINGHAM	4,600,000	4,119,000	18,918,000	18,634,100
SHEFFIELD			34,371,500	32,219,000
Total	141,086,000	134,069,000		

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.		
ASSETS EXCEED	£12,700,000	
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.		
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square. London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.		

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the Economist of April 12; Roumania, in May 8; German Gold Discount in June 21; Portugal in July 5; German Rentenbank and Denmark in July 12; Canada, Greece and Russia in July 19; Fr. nec. Lithuania, Danzig, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Egypt in July 26.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

RESOURCES.	July 25, 1924.	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	July 27, 1923.
Total gold reserve	3,167,530	3,160,550	3,143,400	3,113,550	
Legal tender notes and silver ..	106,020	105,880	107,400	86,650	
Bills discounted for member banks	290,830	305,240	310,710	760,540	
Bills bought in open market	31,530	37,430	58,510	176,860	
Government obligations owned	477,210	465,570	450,520	96,280	
All other resources	86,030	84,960	84,320	66,470	
LIABILITIES.					
Government deposits	40,120	34,510	19,150	34,780	
Other deposits	2,104,730	2,109,490	2,059,760	1,861,780	
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,782,630	1,812,710	1,855,010	1,494,870	
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation ..	nil	nil	nil	1,610	
All other liabilities	12,070	11,900	12,050	17,950	
Capital and surplus	332,320	332,320	332,320	328,000	
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	83.3%	82.6%	82.5%	78.2%	

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	June 7, 1924.	July 7, 1923.
Gold coin and bullion	549	549	549	549	549	533
Gold certificates	10,223	10,173	10,163	10,102	10,102	10,031
Subsidiary coin	50	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted	4,117	4,074	3,444	3,407	4,018	3,663
Loans & advances to Govt.	2,700	2,700	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,693
Investments	222	17	17	17	17	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	153	152	40	40	40	40
Notes in circulation	10,691	10,789	10,236	10,348	10,675	12,049
Bankers' deposits	5,540	5,575	5,197	4,997	5,278	5,760
Ratio of cash resources to liabilities to public ..	64.9%	65.7%	69.7%	69.7%	67%	60.3%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	June 13, 1924.	June 6, 1924.	July 6, 1923.
Total securities	11,72,35	11,74,84	11,66,90	11,70,95	11,81,66	16,08,87
Loans	21,95,69	21,30,08	21,04,57	22,57,46	24,37,32	18,10,69
Cash credits	42,19,99	41,93,61	39,11,67	37,75,42	38,14,84	31,91,00
Inland bills	5,51,28	5,76,17	10,06,07	12,54,04	12,71,21	5,00,15
Foreign bills	2,51,31	2,45,45	2,56,60	19,47	20,13	33,60
Dead stock	1,76,64	1,82,73	2,56,35	2,55,61	2,55,31	2,44,36
Bal. with other banks	20,67,62	21,54,13	18,34,30	16,55,74	15,34,63	29,75,28
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,45,00	4,22,50
Total deposits	95,40,89	95,56,69	91,50,07	90,36,92	91,61,61	93,44,03
Loans from Govt.	2,00,00	2,00,00	4,00,00	4,00,00	4,00,00	
The above includes:						
Deposits in London ..	1,555	1,457	1,440	1,476	1,427	753
Advances in London ..	445	442	444	443	448	244
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London ..	1,178	1,085	1,131	1,133	1,386	584

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Cash and bullion	1,113,625	1,124,124	1,124,124	1,124,124	1,124,124	221,320
Discounts	387,339	1,110,384	1,110,800	1,109,764	1,100,882	221,320
Advances	308,642	313,891	317,224	344,904	309,309	41,740
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	1,364,136	1,240,211	1,212,073	1,287,462	1,371,294	362,270
Govt. deposits	934,039	996,154	1,026,113	1,042,268	829,477	87,340
Other deposits	95,308	98,884	93,590	81,442	64,038	11,440

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 24, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	July 26, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
Coin gold & silver and bullion	352,751	354,026	354,070	354,613	350,060	322,650
Securities	1,306,935	1,240,082	1,243,138	1,325,043	821,385	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	7,602,784	7,603,701	7,609,100	7,582,979	6,888,836	934,150
Current accounts	299,828	254,406	231,960	319,082	346,179	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 28, 1924.	July 21, 1924.	July 14, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	352,751	351,511	351,511	351,511	351,511	351,511
Silver	431,723	433,582	434,097	430,195	439,756	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	964,532	964,587	980,517	993,530	949,210	316,639
Deposits	74,665	80,532	70,028	65,400	34,381	5,016

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.—In billions of marks.

ASSETS.	July 23, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 23, 1924.
Silver coin reserve	(a) 31	(a) 29	(a) 29	(a) 29
Gold and bullion	(a) 478	(a) 466	(a) 482	(a) 467
Treasury notes	573,000	573,000	573,000	573,000
Rentenbank notes	443,161,818	302,606,451	278,188,072	474,280,965
Bills of exchange and cheques ..	818,485,801	818,485,801	818,485,801	818,485,801
Rentenbank bills and cheques ..	979,283,707	1,062,468,519	1,062,468,519	1,062,468,519
Advances	13,248,995	14,616,310	21,748,210	15,001,560
Rentenbank discounts, &c.	55,394,820	76,971,440	87,041,100	85,333,850
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,009,529,887	1,105,518,439	1,097,308,572	891,345,752
Total deposits	1,080,778,324	811,288,791	773,327,319	1,071,699,350
Loan from Rentenbank	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000

(a) Millions of marks.

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 26, 1924.	July 19, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	July 28, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	212,000	211,500	209,500	216,500	152,380	22,971
Silver	139,020	150,510	145,640	138,590	61,510	29,785
LIABILITIES.						
Discounts, advances, and other investments	253,000	256,000	260,000	256,500	266,975	109,499
Notes in circulation	95,500	91,000	80,000	82,000	107,053	11,250

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	July 23, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	605,749	605,683	605,587	512,872	525,363	171,175
Silver	99,392	99,278	99,183	99,573	102,621	18,350
Assets & advances	251,903	240,755	249,760	255,833	245,025	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	816,230	827,713	850,191	877,104	834,011	275,925
Deposits	102,462	96,846	74,112	62,915	111,059	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	July 22, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	July 23, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,285	147,285	147,285	147,287	44,224

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 851 chervonetz.
\$1,000 " " " 1932 " " 1933 " "

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	July 26, 1924.	June 26, 1924.	July 3, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 24, 1924.
Call money.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Time money (90 days mixed coll).....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	July 26, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 24, 1924.
New York on—					
London—					
80 days.....		4.56	4.3062	4.3375	4.3775
Cable.....		4.5975	4.3362	4.3675	4.4075
Cheques.....		4.595	4.3371	4.365	4.405
Paris.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Brussels.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Switzerland.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Italy.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Vienna.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Madrid.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Amsterdam.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Copenhagen.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Stockholm.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Athens.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Montreal.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Yokohama.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Hong Kong.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Shanghai.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Calcutta.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Buenos Aires.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Sao Paulo.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Rio de Janeiro.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25
Valparaiso.....		19.30	19.25	19.25	19.25

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Buenos Aires.....	100	Sight London	July 12	17.18
Bolivia.....	100	July 23	23.03	
Brazil.....	100	July 23	89	
Colombia (Bogota).....	100	July 23	89	
Cuba.....	100	July 23	89	
Guatemala.....	100	July 23	89	
Honduras.....	100	July 23	89	
Managua.....	100	July 23	89	
Medan.....	100	July 23	89	
Panama.....	100	July 23	89	
Perth.....	100	July 23	89	
Rangoon.....	100	July 23	89	
Singapore.....	100	July 23	89	
Sourabaya.....	100	July 23	89	
Tientsin.....	100	July 23	89	
Yokohama.....	100	July 23	89	

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From May 10, 1924.	From May 10, 1924.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	100	99 1/2
Demand ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
30 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
60 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
90 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
120 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	100	99 1/2
Demand ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
30 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
60 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
90 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
120 days ..	99 1/2	99 1/2

BULLION.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Date.	Silver.
	Cash.	Forward.		Cash.
July 26....	93 9	34 3/4	Aug. 9, 1918..	46 1/2
28....	94 0	34 3/4	8, 1919..	55 1/2
29....	94 0	34 3/4	6, 1920..	56 1/2
30....	93 11	34 1/2	5, 1921..	38 1/2
31....	93 9	34 1/2	4, 1922..	35 1/2
Aug. 1....	..	..	3, 1923..	30 1/2

NOTICES.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open in the Silver Prize Band Room at Barnetby, under the management of Mr C. N. Jameson, of the Briggs branch. Attendance will be given on market days and sale days from 12 till 3. The branch at Ferryhill Village is now transferred to new premises at No. 1 Main street, and the hours of attendance are increased, being daily 10.30 till 3; Saturdays 10.30 till 12.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 6 and 8 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, under the management of Mr H. Manning.

The National Provincial Bank, Limited, announce that a new branch of the bank is now open at Cheltenham road, Bristol, the hours of business being 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat'st Year.	Pre-vious.
	Interim Div.	Final Div.	Method of Payment.			
Railways.						
Cavan and Leitrim, Gtd. Stk.	5	July 31	Less tax	..	..	..
Chatham and District Light	5	July 31	Less tax	..	..	..
Clonakilty Extension	2*	Sept. 5	Less tax	..	..	..
Cork, Brandon, and S. Coast	2*	Sept. 5	Less tax	..	..	..
Dublin and Eastern, Pref.	4*	July 26	Less tax 4/6 in £	4	4	4
Egyptian Delta Light, Pref.	1 1/2*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Great Southern and Western	3*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Midland Gt. Western, Ireland	9	Sept. 1	Tax free	..	..	..
Shadara (Delhi) Saharanpur	7 1/2	..	..	7	7	7
Banks.						
Australian of Commerce.....	10 1/2	..	Less tax	10	10	10
Bank of Roumania.....	10 1/2	..	Less tax	10	10	10
Commercial Banking of Sydney	10 1/2	..	Less tax	10	10	10
Queensland National	10 1/2	..	Less tax	10	10	10
Tea and Rubber.						
Beaufort Borneo Rubber.....	4 1/2*	..	Less tax	4	4	4
Besokei Plantations	5 1/2*	..	Less tax	5	5	5
Cicely Rubber	7 1/2*	..	Less tax	7	7	7
Java United	7 1/2*	..	Less tax	7	7	7
Juru Estates	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Kawie (Java) Rubber	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Mount Austin Rubber	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Valambrosa	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Atlantic First Leased Lines.	4	July 31	Less tax	..	..	..
Rental Trust	10*	Aug. 16	Less tax	..	..	..
Bent's Brewery	10*	Aug. 16	Less tax	..	..	..
Bristol and S. Wales Wagon	4/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..
British Wagon (S. Wales) ..	4/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..
Do (S. Wales)	1/4 p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..
Cardiff Gas Light	10/ p.s.*	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	..	..
City Offices Co. (£12)	10/ p.s.*	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	..	..
Courage and Co.	1/ p.s.*	Aug. 12	Less tax	..	..	..
Dublin (South) City Market ..	2 1/2*	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Eastern Smelting, Pref.	10*	Aug. 7	Less tax	..	..	..
Fife Coal	5%*	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Fleming, Reid, and Co.	7 1/2*	Sept. 1	Tax free	..	..	..
Folkestone Waterworks, Gtd.	1	..	..	..	..	..
Do New Ord.	5	..	..	..	..	..
Gas Light and Coke	5 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
General Hydraulic Power	2	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Canal	2	..	..	..	..	..
Henry Faulder and Co.	6	..	..	..	..	..
Holt Brewery	5	..	..	..	..	..
Hunters, the Teamen	2/ p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
International Paint	2 1/2*	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..	..
Isaac Holden and Sons	2/ p.s.*	Sept. 1	Tax free	..	..	..
J. and G. Cooper	2/ p.s.*	..	..	..	..	..
Jones' Sewing Machine	4 1/2*	..	Tax free	..	..	..
J. Sears and Co.	7 1/2*	Aug. 1	Tax free	..	..	..
Kensington and Knightsbridge	5/ p.s.*	Aug. 14	..	..	..	..
Electric	6 1/2	Sept. 2	Less tax	..	..	..
Les Bridge Gas	2/6 p.s.*	July 31	Less tax	..	..	..
Leahy, Kelly, and Leahy	10	..	..	..	..	..
Leatherhead Waterworks, Orig.	7	..	..	..	..	..
Do Remainder	10	..	..	..	..	..
Linen Thread	3%*	Aug. 30	Tax free	..	..	..
London Cemetery	10	..	..	..	..	..
London Dock	10	..	..	..	..	..
Maple and Co.	2 1/2*	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Metropolitan Gas of Melbourne	6/6 p.s.*	Sept. 1	..	..	..	..
Mitchells and Butlers	..	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Scottish Canadian Mortgage ..	7 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
"Sentinel" Wagon Works, Pref.	7 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
Spencer, Turner, and Boldero ..	10	..	..	..	..	..
Stock Conversion and Inv. Trust	11/7 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
Sutton District Water, Ord.	10*	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Do Max. Ord.	7*	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Thomas McKenzie and Son	5	..	..	..	..	..
Thomas Wallis	10	..	..	..	..	..
Tokyo Electric Light	8*	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..	..
Tunbridge Wells Gas (Con. Ord.)	13	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
Do "B"	10	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
Do "C" and "D"	10	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
U.S. and General Trust, Def.	4 1/2*	Aug. 15	Less tax	..	..	..
Vickers, Prentiss, and Pref.	2 1/2*	Aug. 14	..	..	..	..
Walker and Tompkins	15 (bonus)	1/9 p.s.)	Tax free	..	..	..
Watney, Combe, Reid, Def.	14 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
Westminster Electric	5/ p.s.*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Whitby Waterworks, Orig.	7/6 p.s.*	Aug. 16	..	..	..	..
Do New Shares	12 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
William Hancock, Def.	12 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
Wm. Franke, Fenwick	4%*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Woolcombers, Pref.	7 1/2*	..	..	..	..	..
York Street Flax Spinning	8*	..	Tax free	..	..	..
York Waterworks, Ord.	10	..	..	..	..	..
Do New Ord.	7	..	..	..	..	..

BRIMINGHAM RAILWAY CARRIAGE announce that they will pay the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference shares, but in view of the uncertainty of the outlook in trade and the keenness of competition both at home and abroad, they have decided not to make any interim distribution on the ordinary shares, but to wait until the end of the financial year.

PERRY and Co., Perry and Co. announce that no dividend on either preference or ordinary shares will be paid.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

	(b) Week ended July 25, 1924.	Week ended July 27, 1924.			Aggregate 30 Weeks, 1924.		
(c) Week ended July 26, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western.....	3,754	373,000	335,000	708,000	7,299,000	1,013,300	17,432,000
Do for 1923	3,747	363,000	343,000	706,000	7,484,000	1,079,000	18,283,000
London & North-Eastern	6,722	604,000	635,000	1,239,000	12,524,000	2,036,000	32,889,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	607,000	674,000	1,281,000	12,710,000	2,224,000	34,937,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,942	905,000	805,000	1,710,000	18,030,000	2,594,000	43,986,000
Do for 1923	6,942	848,000	821,000	1,669,000	18,266,000	2,757,000	45,399,000
Southern.....	2,446	439,800	129,700	569,500	5,329,000	3,353,100	12,712,100
Do for 1923	2,446	458,800	116,400	575,200	5,495,600	3,560,300	13,055,900
Metropolitan (c).....	79 1/2	42,073	3,793	45,866	1,121,369	115,427	1,236,796
Do for 1923	79 1/2	31,678	3,510	35,188	955,818	1,519	1,069,337
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	258,538	..	..	6,956,556
Do for 1923	..	..	..	232,261	..	..	6,733,587
Lon. & Sub. Group (c).....	..	..	..	42,672	..	..	1,133,664
Do for 1923	..	..	..	41,608	..	..	1,200,133
Belfast & Co. Down.....	80	6,815	1,104	7,919	137,477	37,277	1,745,000
Dublin and E. East (b).....	160	13,969	2,708	16,677	174,884	10,776	2,265,000
Do Northern (Ind. and Int.).....	568	23,650	18,850	42,500	549,600	604,500	1,154,100
Co. Dub. & Western (b).....	1,151	28,292	29,535	57,827	677,447	931,538	1,608,935
Midland & Gt. West. (b).....	538	9,723	13,970	23,693	265,693	423,943	692,626

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefee. Amount.	Ordinary. Amount.				
Banks.										
Bank of Roumania	Dec. 31	..	19,006	19,006	..	11,531	5	7,475	..	18,437
Breweries.										
Mitchells and Butlers	June 30	220,772	414,333	635,105	46,500	244,797	10	100,000	243,808	404,471
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	June 30	215,372	702,628	918,000	86,839	318,542	20 Def.	200,000	185,203	690,718
						127,416	4 P.O.			16 Def. 4 P.O.
Rubber, &c.										
Beaufort Borneo	April 30	5,235	10,898	16,133	..	7,500	5	3,000	5,633	9,742
Juru Estates	Mar. 31	4,835	3,174	8,009	..	3,100	5	500	4,409	3,905
Textiles.										
York Street Flax Spinning	June 30	19,846	96,875	116,721	36,000	48,000	8	10,000	22,721	88,554
Waterworks.										
Chester	June 30	..	3,881	3,881	1,379	2,155	3	..	347	3,534
Whitby	June 30	1,483	693	2,176	200	695	5	..	1,281	Dr 112
Other Companies.										
Anglo-Continental Guano Works	Dec. 31	5,396	494	5,890	11,250	..	..	Dr 5,360	..	..
Dublin (South) City Market	July 30	4,100	3,046	7,146	..	2,500	2	500	4,146	3,206
North Central Wagon	June 30	14,412	16,740	31,152	..	14,532	12	5,000	11,620	12,166

* Half-year.

† Tax free.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Wednesday Evening.

Climatic conditions during the week have not been altogether favourable to growing crops; heavy rains and storms furnished more than sufficient moisture for the time being, so that a spell of sunshine is necessary to absorb same from the rain-soaked land. In some districts cereals have been laid, while hay-making was interrupted, though fortunately the bulk of a heavy crop has been safely secured. Marked stability was again apparent with regard to all cereals, and prices were carried to still higher levels, particularly for breadstuffs, in sympathy with buoyant markets in North America and the Argentine, combined with a good general demand from Europe. Crop reports from Canada and the United States are of a variable character, but official advices do not confirm the gloomy accounts previously received regarding Dominion prospects. English wheat of the old crop is practically out of supply, but there is a small speculative inquiry for new wheat, in view of the present situation. Of imported, No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted at 64s 6d, No. 2 63s 6d, No. 3 62s, No. 4 60s 6d, Barusso 63½ lbs 59s, Australian 60s, choice white Karachi 58s 6d, and fed ditto 57s 6d per 496 lbs ex ship terms. In the floating and forward cargo section prices responded to a good demand, and stimulating foreign advices. Steamers of Rosafé 63½ lbs July sold 56s 6d, August 57s 7½d, August 15th September 15th 57s 3d, and resold at 58s, while a steamer of 35,000 quarters No. 2 hard winter August 25th loading was resold at 56s 6d, being an advance of 6s per quarter on the original sale just over a fortnight ago. Barusso 63½ lbs August realised up to 56s 3d, and a sailer of South Australian afloat 56s 6d per 480 lbs. Flour prices were advanced by 3s per sack in sympathy with the wheat position, and a good business transpired. London standard straight run quoted 48s 6d, patents 50s 6d to 51s 6d, town whites 48s 6d per sack delivered. Imported also dearer. Manitoba patents range from 46s to 51s, with Australian at 43s to 44s per 280 lbs ex store. Maize cargoes also in active request, and prices firmer owing to the American crop position and higher prices ruling in Argentina. Steamers of Plate afloat sold at 36s 6d to 36s 9d, July-August 37s 6d, and September-October 38s 3d per 480 lbs. Barley, firmer. Californian quoted at 60s-64s, Chilean brewing 56s-59s per 448 lbs ex ship. No. 3 Canadian Western ex ship 39s 6d, landed 41s, Karachi ex ship 39s 6d, ditto landed 40s 6d, Russian landed 40s all per 400 lbs. English, nominal. Oats, dearer. Plate f.a.q. ex ship 24s 3d, landed 25s 3d, No. 2 Canadian Western ex ship 29s 6d, landed 30s 6d, No. 3 ditto 29s, No. 2 Canadian feed landed 27s 9d, mixed feed ditto landed 23s 3d per 320 lbs. English, nominal. Maize, firmer. Plate ex ship 38s, landed 39s 6d, Bessarabian landed 40s per 480 lbs. Millers' offals, firm. Broad bran quoted at 7s 9d, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 11s 3d, bags included, ex mill, light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 3d, feed oatmeal 9s 9d, ground oats, 12s 3d per cwt free on rail. Oatmeal, firmer. London-made flaked 18s, rolled oats

17s 6d, medium and fine cut 17s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 17s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 18s-19s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to July 26	Cwts. 20,030	Cwts. 38,413	Cwts. 74,144	Cwts. 23,060
47 weeks to July 26	12,673,340	16,834,362	15,928,310	12,183,621
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	12 3	11 6	12 4	17 8



ARCOS LTD
SOVIET HOUSE
49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA
TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA
MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

Turnover (from June, 1920, to May, 1924) £36,826,214

BRANCHES:
MOSCOW: Tverskaya 1. (Ugol P. Revolutsii.)
CONSTANTINOPLE: Grande rue de Pera, No. 464.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg Trading Corporation, 136, Liberty Street, New York.
LENINGRAD: Ul. Gortsova, 24.
KHAIFOV: Chernoglasovskaya, 1.
TIFLIS: 38 Fustavali Prospekt.
RIGA: Valdemars iela 61, d. 3.

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.	Cwts. 20,765	Cwts. 1,895	Cwts. 5,692	12 0	12 3	9 6
July 19	20,765	2,845	5,665	12 3	11 10	10 0
26	20,730	2,845	5,665	12 3	11 10	10 0
1920	9,094	1,257	3,674	19 9	22 8	23 3
1921	25,061	22,786	25,601	17 7	12 7	12 5
1922	74,143	2,364	12,494	12 6	11 3	11 11
1923	38,413	8,667	5,712	11 6	8 4	10 9

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in the iron and steel market appears to be at its lowest, and little improvement is expected until the holidays are well out of the way. Pig-iron is in very little request, and such buying as is done is merely in small lots to meet early requirements. There is an almost complete absence of forward business, consumers apparently being rather apprehensive about the immediate future. The finished iron outlook is also depressing. The demand for acid steel is much below the level of production capacity, and basic steel similarly is on the quiet side. After a very busy period the steel tool section is becoming less active, and the railway material departments are completing orders faster than new ones are coming in. Makers of plant and machinery for the iron and steel industries have still plenty of work on hand. Some of the lighter trades are also well occupied, makers of hacksaws particularly so. In the cutlery trades business is only moderate. Makers of table cutlery are engaged almost entirely in the production of stainless. Solingen competition has fallen off, but considerable stocks of German knives are still held by merchants in this country. The silver and electroplate trades are by no means fully engaged. There is general weakness in the coal market. Best seam hards are moderate, with a good home demand, but little doing on export account. Cobbles and nuts are still weak, and spot lots are on offer at reduced prices. Slacks of good quality are in a strong position, and house coal is a shade better. Furnace and foundry coke shares the general weakness, but gas coke is moving upwards. Current quotations per ton at pits are: Best hand-picked branch, 32s to 33s; Barnsley best Silkstone, 26s to 28s; Derbyshire best brights, 25s to 27s; ditto best house, 23s to 25s; Yorkshire hards, 21s 6d to 22s 6d; Derbyshire hards, 21s to 23s; rough slacks, 12s 6d to 15s 6d; nutty slacks, 12s to 14s; smalls, 8s to 10s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Very few transactions took place in pig-iron during the past week, buyers being inclined to mark time until the works get into operation. The shipments from Glasgow Harbour were again small, the total being only 187 tons, as compared with 2,923 tons in the corresponding week of last year. Steel and iron works have not all resumed this week, but in most of the shipbuilding and engineering establishments in this district a good start was made on Monday morning, and, as there is a very fair amount of work in hand and several good contracts pending, the outlook for the immediate future is not unpromising. It is reported that Messrs Fleming and Ferguson, of Paisley, have contracted to build and engine for the Crown Agents for the Colonies a steamer of 750 tons gross and 950 i.h.p., which is intended for service on the West African Coast. Inquiries for bar iron and steel structural work have been fairly numerous during the holiday period, and steel sheetmakers have resumed work on the heavy commitments already booked. Demand for galvanised and corrugated sheets has only slightly slackened, and it is fully expected that the autumn season will be marked by further heavy purchasing from overseas. Generally speaking, the prospects in the iron and steel trades may be said to be brighter than was anticipated in some quarters a short time ago. Prices for steel materials, bar iron, and sheets remain unchanged, and for G. and C. sheets makers are holding out for £18 10s per ton for October delivery.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated July 30, 1924, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The market remains absolutely stagnant. Makers are willing to sell at 86s 6d, and would even accept lower for definite business in No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. The hematite trade is also very dull, with very few orders passing, and whilst makers are quoting 94s 6d per ton for mixed numbers, this figure could be shaded for definite business. Manufactured iron and steel: We cannot report any improvement in the steel trade, as German billets and bars are being delivered into this district at about 30s per ton less than our local works can produce at. However, the prices are unchanged at:—Steel ship plates, £10 to 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9 to 5s; steel market is very quiet. Odd cargoes are being sold on the basis of 22s 6d per ton for best Bilbao Rubio ore, c.i.f., Tees.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The approach of the August holidays has stimulated the shipment of prompt coal at the South Wales docks, but there has been no appreciable change in the state of the market, and, perhaps with the exception of those of the leading Admiralty large coals, prices have continued on the easy side. The weakest coals have been those of the dry steam

qualities, and these are a glut in the market. A new factor has been introduced into the market by the renewed uncertainty of the situation in the Ruhr. During July the German Government undertook to finance the delivery of reparation coals, but the Rhenish Westphalian coalowners have been informed by the Government that this assistance cannot be extended in August in consequence of the severity of the restrictions on credit facilities. For this reason the conference held at Dusseldorf early in the week between the representatives of the colliery owners and the M.I.C.U.M. proved abortive, and was adjourned until Friday to allow further communication between the colliery owners and the German Government. It is only necessary to extend the existing agreement until the provisions of the Dawes Report are brought into operation, and under the proposals of the London Conference the economic evacuation of the Ruhr is to be completed in the autumn; but the German coalowners protest that it is a financial impossibility for them to carry the burden of the cost of the reparation deliveries, partly in consequence of the exhaustion of their financial resources, and partly in consequence of the severity of the present depression in the Ruhr mining industry. These developments are being closely watched, but it is very uncertain what, if any, effect they will have upon the demand for South Wales and other British coals. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; seconds, 26s 3d to 27s; best drys, 26s to 26s 6d; Black Veins, 26s to 27s; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s to 14s; coking smalls, 16s 6d to 17s; anthracite Big Vein large, 50s to 52s 6d; machine-made cobbles, 55s to 57s 6d; French nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; stove nuts, 50s to 55s; rubbly culm, 14s to 14s 3d; coke for export, 52s 6d to 55s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s 6d to 29s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 28s to 29s. In the tinplate industry business continues active and prices firm, but in pig-iron trade is very slack and production has been considerably reduced.

METALS.

Tin commenced the week with an easier tone due to selling pressure, though offers were fairly well absorbed. Standard cash sold at £244, and three months £243 15s to £245 10s to £242 10s. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £245 10s c.i.f. By the middle of the week rates moved in an upward direction, with business on a liberal scale. Cash sold at £246 to £246 5s, and three months £244 10s to £246 10s. Copper: Firmer at commencement on better American cables and reserve on the part of sellers, with trading on a liberal scale. Later, however, values gave way on sellers becoming more prominent. Cash was dealt in at £63 12s 6d, and three months at £64 2s 6d to £64 17s 6d to

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH

DIRECT TO

NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 2	-	-	ss. "LAFAYETTE."
August 9	-	-	ss. "PARIS."
August 16	-	-	ss. "FRANCE."
August 30	-	-	ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.

22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

	Price, July 30, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Fully Mid. American . . . per lb	19-17	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakalastide Fully Good Fair	14-01	13-45	8-73	28-15	19-64	
— Egyptian per lb	26-15	15-25	18-00	16-00	68-00	31-00
Yarns—32's twist per lb	26-2	20-2	19-3	17-1	55	42-1
— 40's twist per lb	27-4	20-2	18-3	16-2	50-4	41-3
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	37	28-5	28-3	31	98	60
32-in. Primers, 116 yds, 18 by 16, 32's and 50's	37 9	d	d	d	d	d
32-in. Shirtings, 76 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	42 0	32 9	31 6	31 6	86 6	61 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	21 6	17 6	16 8	18 3	42 6	35 6
36-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 18 by 15, 6 1/2 lbs	20 0	16 0	16 0	36 9	48 0	31 0

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Wednesday, says:—The general tone of this market is well maintained, and during the week some further good business has been reported in wool and tops. There is evidence of greater confidence in the strength of the raw material position, and as stocks of fine combing wools are known to be light, there is a disposition on the part of spinners to buy quietly in anticipation of future requirements. While there is not much quotable change in prices, practically all qualities of tops are firm and against the buyer. Some of the larger top-makers are definitely adopting a more independent attitude with regard to new business in merinos, and while 6s may be taken as a general market quotation for good warp 64's tops, some firms are not sellers at that price. There are also indications that America is beginning to take more interest in the wool position, and as reports from that country clearly show that the trade is recovering from the stagnation of recent months, there is some probability of American operators exercising a decided influence on values in the not distant future. On the other hand, it is realised that business in semi and fully-manufactured goods is bound to be uncertain until conditions on the Continent become more satisfactory, and while wool will doubtless continue to sell well at firm prices, it will be more difficult to move tops and yarns on to a corresponding basis. The interference with the export trade in yarns, caused by the financial trouble in Germany, has had a serious effect on this centre, and business will continue to be conducted under difficulties until there is a wider outlet for the production. There is not much change in the piece goods trade, but hopes are entertained of a better demand after the holidays.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Australian mail to hand this week makes very satisfactory reading. Reviewing the last season's business at all the selling centres throughout the Commonwealth and New Zealand, nothing but satisfaction is expressed, and growers appear to be well satisfied with the prices they realised in their own markets. The other side of the question is that so far there has been a very poor response in the manufacturing industry. The arrival of the wools in Europe has brought to the purchasers the realisation that they paid the utmost value for them; indeed, the opinion is frequently expressed that in many cases limits were exceeded. Many are feeling rather sore, because notwithstanding the partial improvement that has taken place in values since the close of the London sales, an advance of 10 per cent. is needed in both merinos and crossbreds if importers are to get back their own on the wools that remain unsold. This advance is well within the range of possibility between now and September 16th, when the next London sales open, but we doubt very much if that will materialise unless

Fredriksstad.

**Banking and Exchange
Business
of every description.**

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank, Limited Westminster Bank, Limited; Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

Markets on the eve of the holiday showed firmness practically all round. Plate linseed has continued to advance until £21 15s is required by holders for seed afloat and in any position up to December. A feature has been that crushers who had not hitherto followed the rise have been steady buyers of old seed, while there is a strong speculative demand for the new crop, which has advanced from £18 15s to £19 15s for January-February. The Argentine surplus available over the remaining months of the year has been reduced to 292,000 tons, which, with 117,000 tons yet to come from India, gives a total of 409,000 tons to meet world requirements between now and the end of December, against 300,000 tons actually shipped in the same period of last year. In addition the quantities of linseed (Plate and Indian) afloat to the U.K. and the Continent is 140,500 tons, against 90,500 tons a year ago. A better demand for linseed oil has been experienced for export, America being the principal buyer for shipment in bulk from Hull. The value on spot is about £40, naked, ex Hull mill, a slight premium being asked for August to December delivery. Egyptian cottonseed has continued a firm market, and prices for shipment show a further advance. Cotton oils are steady, but not very active, crude Egyptian now offering at £41 15s, and soap makers' grade of refined at £44 per ton, naked, ex Hull mill.

The hide market is distinctly firmer, and higher prices are expected to be made at the Bermondsey auctions this week. Prices have appreciated at the leading provincial markets, and best ox are now selling from 7d to 9d per lb. The imported hide market is also more active, and cables from the River Plate report sales of about 75,000 hides, the quantity being distributed between British, American, and Continental buyers. At the conscription of Liebig hides last week, 21,000 hides were sold, best grades making as high as 8½d. Dry hides are firming up again, and tanners seem very keen on buying very cheap parcels to fill the demand for a low-priced bend for shoe manufacturers' requirements. Latest cables from New York report a firm packer market, with advances in several directions. Best heavy packers are selling now at 15 cents, and native cows have gone up to 13 cents.

Upper leathers are quiet, although there has been a demand for cheap box and willow, glacé and patent. German chrome calf is again arriving, and competes seriously with the domestic production. Carriers are closing down for the whole of next week.

The boot section is well employed, and large deliveries have been sent out to retailers this week for the holiday trade. Most of the factories, however, will be closed for at least a week for the August holidays.

SUGAR.—The market remains quiet and rather featureless at the moment, and it is apparent that quite a holiday tone already pervades the market. Of British refined, Messrs Tate and Lyle's reduced prices of granulated, mineral-water and crystals by 6d per cwt, also forward granulated. Cubes quoted 42s 9d to 43s 9d; crushed, 41s 3d; nibs, 43s 9d; mineral-water, 38s 3d; granulated, fine and coarse grain, 38s 4½d; No. 1, 38s 1½d; No. 2, also London

RUBBER opened with a quiet tone, but disclosed more steadiness later on, buyers becoming more prominent. Standard plantation crepe and sheet, spot, also August delivery, sold, 15 cgd to 15 cgd September, 15 cgd to 15 cgd; October-December, 15 cgd to 15 cgd January-March, 15 cgd to 15 cgd. To New York, standard European estate sheet, August-September, sold, 15 cgd; September-October, 15 cgd per lb. c.f. and i. Wild steady, but trade quiet.

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

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

loans $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent. have been common rates on most days, while fixtures have been renewed at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. by the clearing banks. Towards the latter part of the week a little buying of short Treasury bills by the banks has suggested that supplies of cash were increasing slightly, but the general tone of the discount market has remained very firm indeed, and the November Treasury bills have been freely offered at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. For fine three months' bills $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. has generally been maintained as the minimum quotation. On Thursday the New York Federal Reserve Board reduced its rate of rediscount from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent., the latter rate to become effective as from yesterday.

	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	July 18, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills) ..	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	..

The Bank return showed a slight further increase in circulation, amounting to £14,150, and a loss of £1,100 in the bullion stock left the Reserve £15,200 lower. Other securities increased by £2,641,900, as the result of market borrowing, but Government securities were £2,520,000 lower, and there was an increase of £1,117,300 in Public deposits. These movements were reflected in a reduction of £1,055,000 in Private deposits, and the ratio of the Reserve was unchanged at 16.8 per cent. The circulation of currency notes increased by £3,259,000 to £298,824,700, which includes £1,379,100 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £247,995,600, which is only £195,000 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Renewed hopefulness has sprung up in Stock Exchange markets as a result of developments at the London Conference over the week-end, and prices have been marked up, while a certain amount of business has been attracted. Violent gambling in German and Prussian bonds sprang up, and French bonds improved. The foreign market was also treated to some excitement in an all round rise in Russian bonds on the agreement between the British and Soviet Governments. Home Railway stocks have improved on the better showing of the traffic returns, but apart from an improvement in the rubber and tea share markets, and increased activity in Kaffirs there were few changes of importance.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Most of the commodity markets have been under the influence of the August holidays. In South Wales there was only a partial resumption of work even on Thursday. There has been no pig-iron market. Some steel works are idle, some are partly employed, while others are going fairly steadily. In the cotton trade an improvement is recorded, while the wool market continues to manifest many sound features. Wheat quotations were easier. Sugar was steady, and rice inclined to quietness. Rubber was irregular, but firm towards the close of the week. No hide sales were held at Bermondsey. Linseed shows signs of a hardening movement.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The sudden agreement reached by the Inter-Allied Conference resulted in a lively week in the foreign exchange market. Most of the Allied countries, led by Great Britain, experienced a remarkable rise in the value of their currencies in terms of gold. The New York rate quoted in London, which had risen from \$4.41 on Friday last to \$4.42½ on Saturday, jumped to \$4.47 on Tuesday, and after a slight reaction on Wednesday, mounted further to \$4.47½ on Thursday. Yesterday morning it touched \$4.52, which is the highest rate recorded since last October. In addition to the news of the Conference, it would seem that a further factor in this movement has been

the extent to which dollars purchased at the time of the inflation scare in this country last autumn have been reconverted into sterling. In particular, yesterday's sudden movement is largely attributable to the reduction in the rediscount rate of the New York Federal Reserve Bank from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 3 per cent. So far there has been little indication on the market of any large purchases of dollars to meet the autumn seasonal requirements, but they can scarcely now be long delayed. Forward rates are steady at $\frac{1}{2}$ cent for one month and $\frac{3}{4}$ cent for three months below spot. The Paris rate has also shown a great recovery, but has followed more closely the day-to-day current of feeling. Thus from 85.80 on Friday last and 84.85 on Saturday it had fallen to 80.85 on Tuesday. A reaction to 82.35 on Wednesday was followed by a further fall to 81.70 on Thursday and to 80.35 yesterday morning. This movement is the more remarkable in that the note issue of the Bank of France has recorded considerable increases during the past few weeks. Brussels has been subjected to the same influence, falling from 95.00 on the 1st to 88.60 on the 5th, and after a relapse to 89.35 on 7th stood yesterday morning at 88.25. Forward rates in Paris are 2 centimes narrower at 6-8 centimes per month above spot, but in Brussels they have changed to 1 centime per month above spot. The lira has, however, shown little variation, and stands at 101, as against 101½ a week ago. Berlin, somewhat surprisingly, has risen from 18½ to 18¾ billion. Among neutral currencies, Switzerland continued to appreciate from 23.72 on 1st to 23.66 on 7th, but reacted yesterday to 23.90. The improvement in the value of the Swiss franc is attributed chiefly to the exceptional tourist traffic this year, coupled with the return of money which had left the country for New York at the time of the proposal to introduce a capital levy. The fall in the rate has, however, been so rapid that a certain reaction was to be anticipated. Amsterdam has once again moved with the dollar, and stood yesterday at 11.61½, as against 11.53½ a week ago, while Madrid has moved in our favour from 33 to 33.40. In Northern Europe Stockholm and Copenhagen have also followed the dollar, moving from 16.55 to 16.72, and from 27.40 to 27.75 respectively. Christiania, on the other hand, has fallen from 32.53 to 32.38. Helsingfors has followed the general movement, and stands at 180, as against 175½ a week ago, and Warsaw also has moved from 22.85 to 23.30. Riga, after rising from 22.80 on the 1st to 23.16 on the 7th, fell again to 22.38 yesterday morning. In Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna has risen from 312,000 to 318,000, and Prague from 148½ to 152. Budapest has fallen from 355,000 to 345,000, and Bucharest from 1,020 to 1,000. In the East, the rupee has moved from 1s 5½d to 1s 5½d, and the yen from 1s 10½d to 1s 10½d. In the silver market the appreciation of sterling as against the dollar led to a restriction of business and weakening prices. The Eastern markets did little business, but small purchases are reported from the Continent. Hong Kong is ½d cheaper at 2s 4½d, and Shanghai ½d cheaper at 3s 3d. In South America, Rio has recovered from 5½d to 5½d on better reports of the situation. Buenos Aires is unchanged at 40½d and Valparaiso at 44.60 pesos, but Monte Video has appreciated from 41½d to 42d.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 2nd:—

(000's omitted.)			
EXPENDITURE.	£	From Revenue	£
Supply Services	6,510	Increase in National Debt	14,233
Interest, &c., on Debt	8,861		2,625
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	902		
Increase in Exchequer Balances ..	85		
	16,858		16,858

Revenue for the week ending August 2, 1924, amounted to £14,233,000, against £14,551,000 for the corresponding period of 1923. Customs and Excise were lower at £1,722,000 and £971,000, against £2,052,000 and £1,063,000 respectively. Estate duties were £310,000 higher at £1,420,000, and Post Office receipts yielded £1,400,000, against £1,250,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £7,086,000, against £6,971,000, and Super-tax £590,000, against £570,000. Ordinary receipts were under £1,000, compared with £200,776 last

year. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £2,625,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
	£		£
Unemployment Insurance	270	Treasury Bills	2,411
Land Settlement	16	National Savings Certificates ..	100
Public Dept. Advances	4,850		
	5,136		2,511

The floating debt was increased by £2,440,000 to £784,638,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to August 2).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	272,367,365	Raised by Revenue ..	245,291,012
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,135,450
		Amount borrowed ..	23,940,903
Total	272,367,365	Total	272,367,365
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.			
£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4TH.—*Lords*: Committee stage of Housing Bill concluded. *Commons*: Premier's statement on Inter-Allied Conference agreement. Debate on trade disputes on motion for second reading of Appropriation Bill.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH.—*Lords*: London Traffic Bill and Agricultural Wages Bill debated. *Commons*: Debate on London Conference agreement. National Health Insurance Bill passes third reading.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH.—*Lords*: Agricultural Wages Bill debated. *Commons*: Colonial Secretary makes statement on Government's Irish Boundary question proposals. Treaties arranged with Soviet delegates explained by Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and debated. *Lords*: amendments to London Traffic Bill, Housing Bill, and Agricultural Wages Bill debated.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7TH.—Russian Treaties debated in both Houses. Appropriation Bill read a third time in Commons. Both Houses adjourn.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—General Mining and Finance Corporation, Watney, Combe, Reid and Co., British North Borneo Co., Oroville Dredging, and Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCES.

THE first phase of the Conference came to an end last week-end with the conclusion of an agreement among the Allies on some of the main questions at issue, and the second phase has begun with the arrival of the Germans in London. To have reached this stage is in itself a sign of very definite progress, for which the principal negotiators must be given full credit. Certainly none of them have spared personal effort, time, and trouble in reaching this result. Moreover, it is all to the good that in this new phase the Conference will be face to face even more definitely than before with the realities of the situation, and will have to deal with the German side of the situation at first hand. But the Conference has in its favour the enormously important incentive that all parties are desperately anxious to settle. The national interest of each of the chief countries concerned calls loudly for agreement. For Germany, it is probably the last chance of avoiding complete economic collapse, of which 1923 gave so serious a foretaste. France, also, cannot afford to drift into a position of political and

military isolation and of financial insecurity, while Great Britain is anxiously concerned to see a general revival of world trade. Moreover, the position of the parties in power is, in each case, no less engaged to the same end for internal political reasons. This desire to agree makes it likely that some sort of arrangement will be reached. Whether the settlement arrived at will be the right one or a lasting one, or one that will give an opportunity to the spirit of goodwill to grow up and overcome the rank weeds of hatred, suspicion and enmity which have flourished so abundantly in the last five years in Europe is another matter, and the whole world is anxiously watching to see whether the foundations of real peace are being firmly and squarely laid.

Let us look at what has so far been accomplished. The Allies have agreed upon a time-table for the economic evacuation of the Ruhr, and after discussion with the Germans the schedule has been put forward by ten days. We also understand that outside the agreement, of which the text has been published, much progress has been made in arranging the detail of the transference of duties to the new officers to be appointed under the Dawes scheme, e.g., the apparatus for transferring assigned revenues to the Agent-General. But the most substantial achievement is the agreement on the method by which will be decided whether or not Germany is in default. The agreement provides for the amendment of the default section of the Reparation clauses of the Versailles Treaty. An accusation of default will continue to come, as at present, to the Reparation Commission, but if the Commission is not unanimous, any dissenting member may ask within eight days that the issue go to an arbitral commission, to be composed of three impartial persons appointed for five years by a unanimous vote of the Reparations Commission, or, failing unanimity, by the President of the Permanent Court at the Hague. In any case, the President of the Arbitral Commission is also to be an American, and to the Reparation Commission is to be added, whenever questions of default are under consideration, an American member. This plan is a radical change from the present situation, under which France, in effect, controls decisions so long as she has the support of Belgium, since her member is President and has a casting vote. It ensures that Germany's case will at least attain a fair hearing. The scheme has in the last two or three days been further improved by France's reported acceptance of the phrase, "wilful default," as a result of which Germany will not be condemned unless the arbitral tribunal is satisfied that she has deliberately evaded her obligations and failed to make payment which lay within her power.

As a counter-weight, the agreement has modified the Dawes Report in certain details. For example, the transfer Committee, as outlined in that Report, was a sovereign body, taking its decisions purely on economic considerations. To it was assigned the difficult task of deciding whether German financiers were conducting manoeuvres to prejudice its own operations. The agreement now provides that if the Transfer Committee is divided on such a question, the matter shall be referred to an arbitrator appointed by the members of the committee or by the Court of International Justice. But in spite of such changes, the work of the Expert Committee has undoubtedly advanced the technical side of putting the Dawes Report into effect.

But this is far from being the whole or most difficult part of the problem. There remains the question of the military evacuation of the Ruhr—a matter on which the Conference is keeping up the absurd pretence that it is a subject which concerns only Belgium, France, and Germany. French troops are in the Ruhr to-day for the purpose of safeguarding the civilians who are carrying out the economic occupation. That, at all events, is the only explanation which France has ever vouchsafed to her Allies and to the world. What ground is there for dissociating the military from the economic evacuation now that a joint effort is to be made to secure such payments as Germany is in a position to make? Behind this is the even more important question of principle as to what may be done if Germany defaults. The relevant clauses of the Conference report state that if default is declared, the Repara-

tion Commission shall report to the interested Powers, and make such recommendations as it may think necessary. But the signatory Governments undertake not to take action against Germany without first conferring on the nature of the sanctions to be applied and the method of their application, "acting with the consciousness of joint trusteeship for the financial interests of themselves and those of the persons who advance money upon the lines of the said plan." If sanctions are taken, the Allies "will safeguard any specific securities which may be placed to the service of the loan." The Allied Powers further consider that the service of the loan is "entitled to absolute priority in relation to any resources of Germany on which a general lien may have been given to the loan, as well as in relation to any resources which may arise as the result of the application of sanctions." In other words, bondholders would be entitled to any proceeds, for example, that the French are to-day getting out of the Ruhr. The report, however, contains one ominous provision. *If the Allies do not agree upon their sanctions*, "the existing rights of the signatory Powers under the Treaty of Versailles read with the Dawes Report are reserved."

The meaning of these last words is that, in France's view, she retains the right to re-enter the Ruhr at her option if Germany defaults and if the Allies do not happen to agree on the next step. Great Britain, it is true, still maintains that the treaty rights do not justify such action. But the world must inevitably conclude that if a turn of the wheel should ever tempt France to repeat the costly experiment of 1923, Great Britain would stand by and do what she did last year, that is—nothing. In short, no advance has been made towards clearing up the fundamental basis of international rights and duties in the next few decades, nor is it settled whether military action is a justifiable means of collecting Reparations, or whether such action may be taken by a single country. In our view, this is a fatal flaw in the basis of Germany's credit, which, as Sir John Simon pointed out in the House last Tuesday, is in curious contrast with the Austrian and Hungarian schemes of reconstruction, the first clauses of which contain declarations by the signatory Powers guaranteeing the territorial integrity of those countries. If it were certain that this problem would never arise again, it would be a good political reason for shirking the issue. But bitter experience since the war has proved again and again that where arrangements have embodied unsound principles of international rights, sooner or later—and usually sooner than later—the chain has snapped at the weak link. In any case, if the negotiators hoped that these issues could be evaded by silence, the expectation has been in vain, for the Germans have inevitably raised as their first question the military evacuation of the Ruhr. The desire of France to reach a solution—to which we have already referred—leads us to hope that the success so far achieved may be followed by an understanding also on these more vital and certainly more delicate issues. M. Herriot's action in exchanging calls with the German Chancellor has created a very good impression, and ensures that the problems will at all events be discussed in a more accommodating spirit than formerly.

The effect of the Agreement announced last week has been a sharp recovery of the exchanges. This does not mean, however, that the bankers see their way more clearly to raise the loan that is needed to initiate the Dawes report. Under pressure of various kinds large sums can doubtless be placed with the more important finance houses of London and New York. But it is not pleasant for these institutions to be left with a mass of stock that the investor will not touch, and under present circumstances it will require very skilful manoeuvring indeed to persuade the private investor to take up a German loan. Hence the talk last week of a partial guarantee by the British Government to the German loan. But the credit of the British Government is an asset which must be very jealously guarded indeed, and should only be pledged to foreign Governments on the most stringent conditions. These conditions were fulfilled in the case of Austria; we do not think they are fulfilled in the Conference report in the case of Germany. The decision of the Government to ask Parliament to give a British guarantee to a Russian Government loan is a proposal which has produced some-

thing like consternation. The eleventh hour settlement has naturally created a very bad impression by the haste in which it was rushed through, leaving the Government spokesman in the House of Lords ignorant of whether it had been passed or not, the Prime Minister himself unacquainted with its terms, and the House of Commons without papers of any kind when the matter was discussed. But these evidences of the Government's disregard of Cabinet responsibility and the democratic control of foreign policy are less disturbing than the terms of the Agreement itself, for it embodies the proposal not merely that the Russian debts to Great Britain, together with Russian counterclaims, are to be put into cold storage, but that the claims of British bondholders are to be met in part only if the Government persuades Parliament to attach a British guarantee to the Russian loan—a condition not far removed from blackmail. We believe it to be very much to our interest that British capital should continue to be wisely used not merely in overseas development, but in the furtherance of European reconstruction; but we cannot afford to waste our substance in ventures where the elementary conditions of sound finance and of respect for obligations are lacking. The best test of Russia's credit as a borrower will be furnished by her fortune in the open market. We most strongly protest against the credit of the taxpayer being lightly pledged to Russia, or any other country which cannot otherwise satisfy the investor that it is fundamentally solvent and creditworthy.

FINANCIAL RECONSTRUCTION IN POLAND—II.

THE stabilisation of the Polish exchange and the introduction of a new currency on a gold basis, which we briefly described last week, have naturally had a very considerable influence on the general economic and industrial situation of the country. In the main the position is very similar to that of other countries where the process of inflation had suddenly been checked. Prices have risen rapidly, and, in certain cases, are now even higher than the general world level. There is a great shortage of circulating capital, and long-term credits are virtually unobtainable. The legal maximum rate of interest has been fixed at 2 per cent. a month, but in practice it is practically impossible to obtain accommodation at this figure. As the relative level of prices for agricultural products throughout the world has fallen, the purchasing power of the rural masses in Poland has naturally been diminished, a phenomenon the full effect of which has only been felt since the currency has been stabilised. There are thus, not unnaturally, complaints of a lack of demand within the country itself. Manufacturers, who have been virtually cut off from the Russian market, which, before the war, was by far the most important, are finding it almost impossible to compete abroad, and the present financial situation in Germany adds enormously to the difficulty of exporting to that country, which, since the annexation of Polish Upper Silesia, has been Poland's best customer. To add to all these difficulties, the burden of taxation has this year made itself felt virtually for the first time since the war, though the actual amount paid in taxes remains very low when compared with British standards. For example, the three taxes in respect of which complaints are most frequently heard are the income-tax, which only yielded 16.2 million zloty in the half-year; the turnover tax, which yielded 62.1 million; and the property tax (half of which falls on the rural classes), with 102.4 million during the six months. Of course, the payment of arrears will make the second half-year more trying, but while admitting to the full the difficulties of the present situation, one cannot but feel that the importance of the burden of the taxes actually paid has been overestimated by the industrialists, a phenomenon which is perhaps not confined to Poland!

During the earlier years of inflation, the uncertainty as to the future status of important portions of Polish territory, such, for example, as Upper Silesia, combined with the lack of cohesion between the different parts of a country which had previously been divided between three

Empires with widely divergent economic and industrial interests, to encourage the production of goods for direct consumption. In this respect, then, Poland differs considerably from Germany, where permanent capital investments were made on a large scale during the years of financial dislocation.* This factor has, of course, also been present in Poland; but more important, perhaps, was the tendency to produce goods for sale, where possible, abroad, and to accumulate supplies of foreign currency. How important this tendency really was it is virtually impossible to say, but one thing appears to be reasonably certain. Prior to stabilisation, an accumulation of stocks was already an item of some importance. At first the institution of a new currency led to a rise in prices, when measured in gold, and certainly did not check production. With the gradual return to more normal conditions, however, the lack of real purchasing power in the hands of the masses has made itself felt, and manufacturers are now faced with an accumulation of stocks which they are finding it virtually impossible to liquidate. The situation has been made all the worse by the policy which they have themselves pursued hitherto. Counting, no doubt, in part on the possibility that the new currency might itself depreciate, and influenced by what may be termed inflationist psychology, they have hitherto been most unwilling to cut their losses. At last, however, the necessity for something of the sort has become clearly apparent, and this way out of the impasse has recently been advocated in public by M. Wierzycki, the President of the Federation of Polish Industry.

It is, however, of the greatest importance that the cost of production should be reduced. Poland enjoys what is virtually a universal forty-six-hour week. Workers receive an annual holiday, on full pay, of from eight to fourteen days, according to their years of work, and religious holidays are of very frequent occurrence. All this, of course, leads to a diminution in productive capacity and to an increase in costs which Polish industry is at present ill able to afford. Again, the high protective policy hitherto adopted, with duties ranging from 30 to 100 per cent., and even more, has certainly not made for industrial efficiency, but has rather encouraged uneconomic production, and has enabled thoroughly unsound concerns to keep their heads above water. The high rate of interest or, better expressed, the difficulty of obtaining money at any price, to which reference has already been made, is also of the very greatest importance in this connection. It must be emphasised, however, that the real need is not for short-term accommodation, but for long-term credits, or, in other words, industry suffers not so much from a shortage of credit as from a lack of capital. In the absence of help from abroad, a readjustment of the balance by a resumption of saving, that is to say, by an excess of production over direct consumption, must take a long time to effect.

Perhaps the most striking thing of all to the foreign observer of Polish economic conditions is the wide divergence between wholesale and retail prices. This, it is true, is a frequent phenomenon in all countries which have passed through a long period of inflation, and was, in any case, a noticeable feature of pre-war Poland on account of the faulty organisation of the mechanism of distribution. To-day, however, the margin has grown to almost incredible dimensions. As this is a factor of the greatest importance in determining the cost of living, and has important fiscal consequences, it is receiving considerable attention on the part of the Government. The large number of small retailers, the relative absence of a large-scale organisation of commerce, and last, but not least, the prevalence of inflationist psychology together go far to account for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. Moreover, having regard to the number of hands through which goods must pass on their way from the producer to the consumer, the high rate of interest and the turnover tax—which probably has as important an influence on prices when payment is avoided as when it is actually made—also tend to widen the margin still further. In certain centres, again, the shortage of such institutions as slaughter-houses and bakeries have led to the establishment of local monopolies,

though in this last case attempts are being made to counteract the evil effects of the situation by a manipulation of railway rates with a view to establishing increased competition within the country.

At the present time, then, Poland is still suffering acutely from conditions inherited from the period of inflation. The official returns of unemployment stood at 109,500 at the beginning of April fell during the month to 84,300, the figure for May 1st, but have risen steadily since that date, and stood at 130,000 on July 7th. Short time is, however, very widespread, and the number working only one day a week is quite large. It is believed that the number of workpeople who would be in receipt of unemployment relief if the scheme which is now in contemplation were already law, would exceed 200,000, a figure which probably represents about one-seventh of the total industrial workers of the country. At present, however, the situation is made somewhat easier by the fact that this is the busy season of the agricultural year, and large numbers of industrial workers, temporarily unemployed in their own occupations, are finding work with relatives and friends on the land, the mobility of labour in this respect being infinitely greater in Eastern Europe than it is in the West.

In certain well-informed quarters—unofficial as well as official—it is believed that the industrial crisis is now at its height. The liquidation of stocks is already being slowly effected, and in two or three months' time the situation, from this point of view, should be more normal. By then, too, the purchasing power of the agricultural community will have increased as a result of the harvest. It seems not unlikely, therefore, that a certain improvement will be noticeable by the autumn, though many of the unsatisfactory features of the general economic situation will take many months, if not years, to right themselves.

Some attempt must now be made to estimate the bearing of this industrial crisis on the budgetary situation which, for the moment, is the paramount consideration. The total yield from taxes (including the tax on property) and monopolies was as follows during the first five months of stabilisation; in February, 63.5 million zloty; in March, 103.7 million; in April, 108.6 million; in May, 83.9 million; and in June, 84.7 million. If the June figure (which only contained 4.2 million on account of the property tax) is maintained during the second six months of the year, the total revenue from taxes and monopolies for the whole year will only be 25 million short of the estimate given in our article last week, on the basis of the first six months.* But the industrial crisis was already well under way in June, and, indeed, the official returns of unemployment for the middle of the month were not far short of those ruling in July (June 14th, 126,900, as against 130,000 on July 7th). The present time is thus a turning point in the whole experiment of financial reconstruction in Poland. If the industrial crisis is, indeed, at its height, and an improvement is to be looked for by the autumn, the budgetary problem this year can be regarded as practically solved. It is necessary to add, of course, that it has been assumed throughout that no unforeseen events will arise in the political sphere, and that Poland will not be disturbed by her Eastern or her Western neighbour.

To re-establish the financial and economic life of the country on a sound basis, further economies must still be made by the Government itself. The reduction of customs duties, which has already been effected for one or two articles, is a necessity in order to diminish the cost of living, and thus increase the competitive power of Polish industry in foreign markets. In all probability this could be effected without loss of revenue to the State. A consolidation and reorganisation of the private joint stock banks is also of the very greatest importance, as Commander Hilton Young pointed out in his Report, while every possible step should be taken to bring retail and wholesale prices into a more healthy relationship with one another. With the advent of a stable currency, reorganisation, in these as in many other respects, has become much easier to accomplish, but much united effort will be necessary before Poland can play the part in economic life of the world to which she is entitled by the great natural resources of her territories.

* As, for example, the development of electrical power production. *Vide Economist of June 7th last.*

* Cf. *Economist*, Aug. 2nd, p. 184: fourth column of the table.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

OUR Index Number for the end of July shows a substantial rise for the month owing largely to an advance in cotton, wheat and flour prices. The total is now 4,657, which is 126 points higher than a month ago, and is the highest point recorded since the end of February last. At this time last year the figure was at the lowest level touched since the Armistice, namely, 4,182, or 475 points below the latest figure. The following table compares the figures for the five groups and the total for the end of July with those of preceding months:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Timber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	%
End July, 1914	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
Dec., 1915	579	352	516	464	553	2565	116.6
Dec., 1917	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.1
Dec., 1918	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	265.2
Nov., 1918	1289	782	1848	908	1389	6212	282.6
Mar., 1920	1808	914	2974	1246	1709	8352	379.6
Dec., 1921	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.8
Dec., 1922	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
Dec., 1923	861	706	1184	705	807	4264	193.8
Mar., 1923	824	752	1178	840	797	4392	199.6
June	815	773	1177	773	761	4301	195.5
July	819	756	1155	744	746	4182	190.1
Sept.	823	782	1214	732	745	4297	195.8
Dec.	853	815	1382	774	755	4580	208.2
Jan., 1924	899	845	1349	789	769	4662	211.9
Feb.	899	859	1308	819	783	4668	212.2
Mar.	897	843	1313	805	780	4640	210.9
Apl.	904	802	1364	788	778	4637	210.8
May	912	730	1357	753	774	4527	205.8
June	914	736	1347	764	769	4531	205.9
July	951	732	1423	777	773	4657	211.7

The increase of 37½ points in primary foodstuffs is almost entirely accounted for by wheat and flour. During July the price of flour was raised in successive stages from 40s to 47s 6d per sack of 280 lbs. The price of wheat, both home and imported, has also risen almost proportionately. Wheat prices tend to be sensitive towards the close of the cereal year, and the position has this year been accentuated by uncertainty as to crop prospects and the consequent market speculation. In last week's issue (p. 187) we gave some figures which indicated that the pessimism in regard to crop prospects has been overdone, and that there is no ground for suggesting a coming shortage of wheat supplies. Other cereals have also risen, including rice, in which a shortage of supplies has produced considerable speculation. There has been a seasonal fall in potatoes, and beef is also lower on the month. In other foodstuffs small declines in tea, coffee and sugar have been partially offset by a rise in butter.

In the textile group the principal movement was in raw cotton. Here, again, crop reports have been largely responsible, the third American crop report of the season giving the condition as 68.5, whereas the market had expected a report of 71.5. The present crop is now forecast as 11,934,000 bales, against 12,144,000 bales a fortnight earlier. Prices naturally rose on the publication of this report, and quotations for Egyptian cotton have moved in sympathy, while yarn and cloth prices have also hardened. In their monthly report Messrs Robt. Barbour and Brother write: "Had prices only remained steady there is a general belief that a fair quantity of the substantial inquiry before the market would have materialised into orders. The world generally is still reported to be bare of supplies of cotton goods, but dealers are showing very great reluctance to raise their limits, which are in the majority of cases hopelessly inadequate." Home-grown wool has risen, but there is no change in Australian wool. Silk, hemp and jute have contributed to the rise of 7½ points in textiles.

In the mineral group there was a further small reduction in pig iron and rises in the non-ferrous metals. A rise in vegetable oils was the only movement of note in the miscellaneous section.

In the table below we show the changes in each commodity's index number in comparison with that for the end of

June, the figure 50 representing in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	102	+ 12	Cotton, A	174	+ 16	Copper	52	+ 1
English	98	+ 10	Cotton, E	180	+ 17	Minerals	77	+ 13
Flour	95	+ 15	Yarn	160	+ 5			
Barley	91	+ 8	Cloth	154	+ 9			
Oats	81	+ 13	Wool, Eng.	169	+ 10	Baltic timber	103	..
Potatoes	112	+ 18	Do Aust.	145	..	Amer. timber	89	..
Rice	131	+ 13	Silk	96	+ 5	Leather	60	..
Beef	81	+ 5	Flax	180	..	Petroleum	108	..
Mutton	90	+ 1	Hemp	59	+ 2	Oils	78	+ 3
Pork	69	..	Jute	104	+ 10	Oilseed	83	+ 1
						Tallow	68	..
Cereals & meat	951	+ 37	Textiles	1,423	+ 76	Indigo	83	..
Tea	152	..	Pig-iron	95	..	Crystals	12	+ 1
Coffee	112	..	Steel rails	73	..	Rubber	12	..
Sugar, cane	128	..	Iron bars	96	..			
Sugar, beet	130	..	Coal, steam	136	..	Miscellaneous	77	+ 3
Butter	92	+ 5	House coal	88	..			
Tobacco	116	..	Lead	140	+ 6	Total	4,657	+ 126
			Tin	96	+ 8			
Other foods	732	..						

These changes have raised the percentage increase over the pre-war level from 76.6 per cent. at the end of June to 81.6 per cent., as may be seen from the table below in which the indices for the end of July, 1914, are taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1921	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1922	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
June, 1922	174	192	184	149	160	171.1
Sept. "	151	194	181	150	148	163.3
Dec. "	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
June, 1923	141	220	191	167	137	167.7
Dec. "	148	231	225	167	136	178.8
Mar., 1924	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
Apl. "	156	228	221	170	141	180.8
May "	157	208	220	162	140	176.5
June "	158	210	219	164	139	176.6
July "	164	208	231	167	140	181.6

At the end of July last year the percentage increase was 63.1 and two years ago 71.4.

RUSSIAN HARVEST PROSPECTS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THIS year Russia is once again faced with a partial failure of the harvest. According to Soviet statistics, out of 67,000,000 desyatins (1 desyatin is equivalent to 2.7 acres) said to be in cultivation 10,000,000 are estimated to be affected by this failure. The harvest over an area of 52,000,000 desyatins is regarded as about normal, while 5,000,000 desyatins—most of which lie in the so-called consuming region, where more grain is required than can be produced locally—are above the average. Some doubt may be entertained as to whether 67,000,000 desyatins is not an optimistic estimate of the total area in cultivation this year, for while the resumption of cereal export last year might be expected to stimulate an extension of sowing, the widespread complaints of the inadequate return made to the peasant-producer by the Soviet Government's grain-collecting organisations suggests that the encouragement afforded by export must be discounted to a considerable extent. It is, in any case, significant that *Economic Life* (Moscow) for July 24th shows that serious criticisms of the Soviet Cereal Export Company (Export-Khleb) have been made by the Commissariat for State Control, which draws attention in its report to the fact that the overhead charges of this body are 100 per cent. above those of private firms operating before the war; that not one of the local organisations actually engaged in collecting grain in the Ukraine has found it possible to get any final settlement of its accounts with the Export-Khleb; and that the existing system of paying grain-producers is cumbrous and calculated to discourage them.

THE COPPER OUTLOOK.

THE first half of the year did not give much encouragement to the copper producers. Price movements, both here and in the United States, were generally in favour of buyers, and usually below the average for the three years from 1921 to 1923.

COPPER: Standard Cash.

	Official London Quotations.				Price of Electrolytic, New York.	
	Highest.		Lowest.		Per lb (cents)	
	£	s	d	£	s	d
1921	75	12	6	65	5	0
1922	66	2	6	57	0	0
1923	76	17	6	59	5	0
1924 (Jan.-June) ..	68	15	0	60	10	0

From the above table it will be noticed that the lowest price officially recorded on the London market for standard copper during the first half of the present year was 25s per ton above the worst registered during the whole of 1923, and this figure of £60 10s is 25s below the lowest seen in 1913. The highest reached during the six months from January 1st to June 30th last is, however, no less than £8 7s 6d below the best recorded in the year 1913, and the low level of the quotation for electrolytic in New York is also very striking. The average price of electrolytic copper in New York for all 1913 was 15.52 cents per lb. For the first half of the current year we get 12.98 cents; thus the claim that copper has been selling below the pre-war level and at too low a price would appear to have some justification, as obviously the production cost is heavier than it was ten years ago. The average selling price in New York for the first half of 1924 was no less than 2.54 cents below the full average for 1913, and this does much to support the theory that an upward reaction is more than overdue.

People who follow the movements of the non-ferrous group of metals have been rather puzzled by the way the commodity has persistently clung to this low level, but actually there is no great mystery about it. The wildest statements have been made about the prospects of copper, many writers on commercial matters having rushed in where the experts fear to tread, and some of the sanguine forecasts have done nothing much except keep buyers out of the market. The reason for the low level of values lies in the heavy production, the absence of demand from German sources, and the competition among the sellers. There have been spurts in the American price from time to time, but this has always attracted larger offers, and it was only after the turn of the half-year that standard copper on the London Metal Exchange began to attract attention again, this being due, of course, to enlarging speculative interest based on the better prospects for the metal, assuming that the Dawes scheme would go through before the close of the year, and that Germany would be helped financially. All the American predictions that electrolytic copper would rise to well over 15 cents before June 30th turned out to be as false as the forecasts emanating from the same source that tin would fall well below £200, and even a burst of aggressive buying on this side in support of the commodity was unable to change sentiment. During the last month or so, however, the feeling has been much more confident, and after weighing up carefully all the points for and against the copper market, it must be admitted that there are fairly hopeful prospects of producers doing better before the close of 1924.

The statistical position is certainly much healthier than it was. Copper figures, it is true, have to be very carefully handled, but it is possible to obtain a very satisfactory idea of supply and demand from the data available, although the American producers do not seem to be so willing to publish their returns as they used to be:—

COPPER PRODUCTION, DELIVERIES, AND STOCKS.

	U.S. Production.	U.S. Deliveries.	U.S. Stocks.	Great Britain.
	Tons.	Tons.	Lbs.	Tons.
1921	507,000	569,000	459,000,000	16,655
1922	675,000	820,000	216,000,000	26,780
1923	965,000	1,025,000	310,000,000	30,211
1924 (half-year)	578,500	617,750	220,000,000	36,515
			(June 30)	(June 30)

From the above it is possible to gain a very good insight into the general position, and also to gauge to a certain extent the future course of prices. The U.S. production

based on the half-year's returns is at the rate of 1,157,000 tons per annum, which is 192,000 tons in excess of last year's full outturn, and the deliveries are at the rate of 1,235,500 tons a year, or more than 200,000 tons over the full figures for 1923. The deliveries for the first six months were 39,250 tons over the production, and the stocks, at 220 million pounds at the end of June last, must be regarded as extremely moderate. The falling off in the U.S. domestic consumptive demand has turned out to be only temporary, and this is a point that must be kept in mind now that the export inquiry shows signs of expanding.

The chief factor in the export market over the next five months should be German buying. The success that so far has attended the London Conference and the prospect that the £40 million loan to Germany may be floated in another month or two, point to a brisk autumn demand for the commodity, and this is bound to influence prices, as they are at present too low. Previous to the war Germany was the largest foreign buyer of American copper, and in 1913 two-thirds of the copper exported from the United States went to German destinations. For all 1923 Germany took 20 per cent. of the U.S. exports of the metal, against 22 per cent. for this country and 21 per cent. for France, but during the first half of the present year Germany has been unable to buy copper in the States in any quantity, and the actual supplies in Germany are cut down to next to nothing. The reduction in the U.S. stocks (assuming, of course, that the returns are correct) to 220 million pounds by the close of the half-year, in the face of the slowing-down of the home demand and the absence of German business, is certainly very striking, and it is perfectly obvious that if there is a general improvement in European industrial and economic conditions over the remainder of the year following a settlement of the Reparations question, a considerable expansion in the demand for copper is bound to arise, and this should have a very favourable effect upon the present low values.

The producers have about a full month's requirements on hand, and that is all. The production looks heavy, but if European developments are favourable to the copper producers, they should have no difficulty about holding their own. It has been reported that there are stocks in Europe running into 100 million pounds held at the expense of the U.S. producers, and this, if correct, would do much to hold back the rise; but, of course, a lot depends on the weight of the Continental demand after the Dawes scheme has been adopted. Presumably the German users would wish to restock at once while the price is comparatively low; thus electrolytic should be able to move over the 14-cent level, and possibly get near to the 1913 average before the end of the year.

Towards the close of last month and early this month increased attention was given to the standard copper market here, and sales very often went over 2,000 tons per day. The rise in values was not very important. Cash copper, which on June 30th last stood at £61 16s 3d, rose on July 31st to £62 18s 9d, and at the beginning of August went over £63. The American price for electrolytic just before the holidays was put up to 13½ cents, and some large sales were made to France round about this level. The tendency since then has been a little harder, but there is no desire to force matters. The U.K. stocks at the end of July were 783 tons above the total for June 30th at 37,298 tons, but this is mostly rough copper, and the Havre stocks are under 10,000 tons. The technical position of the market, taking it all round, is sound enough, and the upward movement so far has been very gradual, which is as it should be, as there is nothing to be gained by trying to push prices up before the real demand sets in. Should the Reparations settlement go through, it will not be difficult to hold the gains made since the half-year ended, and from that point copper should share in any general buying movement of metals, raw materials, and commodities which may be expected under improved financial conditions in Europe. Prices, once the second-hand metal is absorbed, should move more in favour of the producers. Sentiment in regard to the metal is much more optimistic than it was, but it would be a mistake to try to carry the rise too far under the present movement, as it will take the German and other Continental users a long time to settle down.

BRANCH SHOP COMPANIES.

In our issue of April 26th last we reviewed the accounts of a number of companies engaged in retail trade in London. We now propose to supplement this with a brief survey of the reports of a number of retail companies whose business is run on somewhat different lines, namely, that of branch distributing centres with centralised management. Our list comprises fifteen branch shop companies, including four grocery concerns, three drapers, four men's outfitters, and two chemists. In most cases the latest reports refer to the year 1923, but in one or two instances come down to a later date. On the whole the results disclosed by the accounts are better than in the previous year, although set-backs here and there are recorded. Four companies, however, have raised their rate of dividend, while one has reduced it, as may be seen from the record below:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Bobby and Co.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Baker (Charles) and Co.	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Boots Pure Drug	5	7½	6½	3	7½	8	8	12½	25	10	5	5	nil
Home and Colonial (A.)	20	20	20	25	30	30	30	30	15	25	20	25	25
Hope Brothers	6	6	6	5	4	30	30	10	15	10	6	10	10
Home Brothers	8	8	9	10	7	10	12	12	12	12	16	18	19
International Tea Stores	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Isaac Walton	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Lipton	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Maynards	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Maypole Dairy (Def.)	200	212½	158½	100	100	25	125	100	100	37½	12½	12½	12½
Meadow Dairy	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Parke's Chemists	nil	nil	4	6	4	7	7½	10	10	10	7½	7½	7½
Pim Bros.	7	7	7	7	9	10	12	12	12	12	5	5	5
Plummer, Roddis	5	6	8	5	5	7½	8	10	15	10	10	10	12½

* Free of income-tax.

A year ago the only company to make a reduction was the Home and Colonial, but it should be mentioned that this concern two years ago raised its capital from £100,000 to £400,000. This year the old dividend rate is paid on the increased capital. The deferred capital of the Maypole Dairy was also increased three years ago from £1,233,300 to £2,158,300. On the whole the dividend list is a fairly good one from the shareholders' point of view, considering general conditions during the past few years.

Net profits also make quite a favourable showing, as may be seen from the summary below:—

	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Bobby and Co.	£ 19,456	£ 29,595	£ 32,249	£ 51,136	£ 44,400	£ 52,900	£ 75,704	£ 70,285
Baker (C.) & Co.	17,631	14,990	21,207	97,314	44,400	52,900	75,704	70,285
Boots Pure Drug	179,486	226,156	235,650	249,290	267,023	580,579	595,811	628,620
Home & Colonial	41,553	58,171	64,353	116,043	267,023	309,875	341,969	354,504
Hope Brothers	132,733	206,741	156,831	240,974	251,581	305,020	366,717	381,348
Home Brothers	140,286	354,044	380,270	378,229	162,155	205,710	281,057	236,246
International Tea	10,716	43,332	80,468	148,427	86,508	54,250	41,046	77,586
Isaac Walton	492,555	736,354	703,169	1,069,577	962,969	551,808	463,383	189,794
Lipton	4,326	6,675	12,234	15,979	7,383	6,613	7,730	8,283
Maynards	18,366	29,472	23,445	34,725	27,449	Dr 6,277	13,330	3,065
Maypole Dairy	20,787	20,361	22,111	36,887	16,852	21,878	26,674	33,460
Meadow Dairy	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,301	17,832

Five companies show a decrease. The chairman of Lipton's, in explaining the set-back, stated that "the main cause in bringing about the set-back in the profits was the continued fall in market values of most of the principal commodities the company supplied to the public. This item alone represented a loss of profit greater than the total decrease in net profit shown in the accounts. They had made, during the year under review, an exceedingly large number of reductions in prices affecting the majority of the lines they handled, as the directors believed it to be good policy to pass on to the consumer any benefit obtained from lower market prices at the earliest possible moment. These reductions in prices had almost always been caused by falling market values of the various commodities concerned. A striking illustration of the effect of these falling market values could be found in a comparison of the average prices of some of the company's biggest lines during last year compared with those of the previous year. For instance, several of the most important lines sold by the company, including bacon, cheese, and butter, showed decreases in value ranging as high as 30 per cent. They were, of course, obliged to keep considerable stocks of these lines in their branches, warehouses, and in transit, and it was impossible to avoid altogether the losses caused

by the fall in market values, but such losses were kept down to the absolute minimum."

The Maypole Company ascribes its decrease "mainly to the continued and severe competition, and consequent reduced margin of profit." We are now officially informed that the Home and Colonial Stores have acquired a substantial interest in the Maypole Company.

The amount of money provided by the recent Home and Colonial issue of its ordinary shares was rather more than £600,000. It has been pointed out that this would represent the value of just about 3,000,000 Maypole deferred shares. Bobby and Co. continue to expand, but the fire at its factory resulted in a considerable disturbance of trade during the year.

The following table shows the principal assets and liabilities of 15 companies over three years:—

Name.	Principal Liabilities.				Principal Assets.			
	Share Capital.	Debentures and Loans.	Creditors.	Reserves.	Properties, Plant, &c.	Stocks.	Debtors.	Cash and Investments.
Bobby & Co.—								
Feb. 10, 1922	£ 596,129	£ 317,817	£ 115,759	£ 45,000	£ 684,794	£ 237,802	£ 84,729	£ 81,882
Feb. 10, 1923	750,000	287,078	115,809	50,000	805,751	282,350	86,539	55,001
Feb. 10, 1924	750,000	358,312	125,476	60,015	847,244	311,284	97,124	65,495
Chas. Baker and Co.—								
Jan. 31, 1922	215,500	142,830	68,452	75,770	161,599	275,959	11,934	25,501
Jan. 31, 1923	215,500	164,000	67,703	25,560	121,319	272,589	8,348	25,447
Jan. 31, 1924	215,500	164,000	48,469	13,648	121,611	245,803	9,131	11,281
Boots Pure Drug—								
Mar. 31, 1923	1,500,000	..	474,568	337,226	1,500,894	974,812	273,446	1,005,713
Mar. 31, 1924	2,400,000	..	484,839	787,446	1,535,600	868,962	569,164	1,009,112
Home & Colonial—								
End 1921	1,800,000	..	..	532,689	602,496	1,116,668	93,145	660,004
End 1922	1,800,000	..	..	565,885	1,002,466	902,095	76,838	621,001
End 1923	1,800,000	..	..	634,335	1,029,545	955,438	66,797	725,681
Hope Bros.—								
Feb. 28, 1922	648,696	..	149,542	133,204	258,111	411,120	8,209	49,779
Feb. 28, 1923	648,696	..	119,672	136,630	280,383	387,018	7,790	61,718
Feb. 28, 1924	700,000	..	90,309	146,653	238,640	388,150	6,597	99,759
Home Bros.—								
Feb. 29, 1924	1,000,000	..	36,782	10,221	609,965	234,817	3,571	85,153
Internat. Tea Co.—								
Apr. 22, 1922	1,700,000	103,025	407,455	184,906	845,514	706,724	250,018	150,951
Apr. 21, 1923	1,700,000	116,427	390,774	284,906	979,015	677,718	271,181	154,100
Apr. 26, 1924	1,700,000	83,545	406,317	381,906	1,055,786	704,760	265,500	163,793
Isaac Walton & Co.—								
Jan. 31, 1923	240,000	46,450	30,940	55,000	256,160	66,477	8,756	27,930
Jan. 31, 1924	240,000	46,450	25,653	55,000	269,608	58,812	9,846	14,207
Lipton—								
Mar. 31, 1922	2,850,000	1,100,000	790,681	500,000	2,724,008	1,501,067	752,568	544,433
Mar. 31, 1923	2,850,000	1,100,000	624,610	426,108	3,026,883	1,266,867	561,787	493,738
Mar. 31, 1924	2,850,000	1,100,000	509,673	400,000	3,117,002	1,161,016	495,773	391,465
Maynards—								
June 30, 1921	153,900	..	51,829	75,000	174,629	94,371	16,624	202,726
June 30, 1922	153,900	..	100,650	100,000	200,607	74,819	19,506	245,719
June 30, 1923	153,900	..	41,300	127,846	254,180	77,948	25,864	155,652
Maypole Dairy—								
End 1921	2,958,333	..	632,717	800,535	2,761,167	602,248	43,478	835,613
End 1922	2,958,333	..	664,914	813,824	2,769,075	671,026	36,871	1,213,957
End 1923	2,958,333	..	636,030	572,049	1,978,431	722,115	28,539	920,347
Meadow Dairy—								
Jan. 7, 1922	654,737	..	348,704	73,301	218,912	226,383	22,676	638,928
Jan. 6, 1923	679,737	..	29,863	326,032	204,844	251,382	22,757	771,334
Jan. 5, 1924	975,000	..	64,180	372,803	105,000	342,886	19,775	920,017
Parke's Chemists—								
Feb. 28, 1922	99,694	..	8,611	25,252	39,037	63,299	4,099	6,744
Feb. 28, 1923	99,694	..	10,240	26,243	39,186	58,049	3,114	16,322
Feb. 28, 1924	99,694	..	16,610	26,838	41,299	58,465	3,510	16,725
Pim Bros.—								
Jan. 31, 1922	250,000	50,000	65,080	65,000	160,000	119,500	156,637	4,257
Jan. 31, 1923	250,000	50,000	71,510	65,000	160,000	109,760	178,692	2,921
Jan. 31, 1924	250,000	50,000	51,347	65,000	160,000	116,030	148,554	7,200
Plummer, Roddis—								
Feb. 7, 1922	275,000	49,178	81,619	67,889	282,126	120,031	49,081	3,193
Feb. 7, 1923	275,000	75,993	73,466	74,245	300,630	118,425	49,373	18,606
Feb. 7, 1924	275,000	77,742	73,288	83,131	304,137	118,940	49,776	29,642

We have included Boots Drug Stores in our list this year. It may be recalled that last year a dividend of 360 per cent. was paid on the £100,000 ordinary shares in the company, while the issued capital bearing fixed interest amounts to £1,400,000, and receives a little less than one hundred thousand pounds. This remarkable dividend did not comprise all the good fortune of the ordinary shareholders. Certain reserves, both in this and subsidiary companies, which were built up against a fall in prices, were not all required. Altogether there was a surplus account, amounting with the balance from the previous year to £1,443,071. As a sequel, the issued share capital of the company has been increased to a total of £2,400,000. Under resolution of the company, 900,000 unissued ordinary shares were paid up in full by the appropriation of £900,000 from the surplus account, and distributed amongst the holders of ordinary shares. Thus the 360 per cent. distribution is maintained.

The Meadow Dairy has increased its share capital from 504,727 £1 preference shares to 600,000, and 3½ million 1s

ordinary shares to 7½ millions. The International Tea Stores still retain the goodwill account at £626,675, a rather startling item in assets totalling £2,816,514. There is a reserve account of £384,906.

We conclude with a table of share prices and yields:—

Description.	Share.	Price July 30, 1914.	Price July 31, 1920.	Price July 31, 1921.	Price July 21, 1922.	Price Aug. 27, 1923.	Price End July, 1924.	Present Yield.
Boots Pure Drug	£ 1	54½	44½	44½	44½	54½	54½	6 10 9
Chas. Baker, 8% cum. pref.	5	54½	44½	44½	44½	54½	54½	6 10 9
Home & Col., 6% cum. pref.	1	24½	14½	14½	24½	24½	24½	6 10 9
Do 15% cum. pref.	1	24½	14½	14½	24½	24½	24½	6 10 9
Do 15% cum. ord.	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Hope Bros.	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Do 5½% cum. pref.	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Horne Bros., 7% cum. pref.	1	54½	44½	44½	44½	54½	54½	6 10 9
Internat. Tea, 6% cum. pref.	5	54½	44½	44½	44½	54½	54½	6 10 9
Do 7% cum. "A" pref.	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Lipton, Limited, ord.	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Maypole Dairy, def.	2½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Meadow Dairy, 7½% cum. pref.	5	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Pim Brothers	5	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9
Plimmer, Roddis	1	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	14½	6 10 9

foreign competition, its capital and labour can be transferred, and must be, in order to provide goods to pay for the imports; and (g) that left to themselves, people will buy what they want at the cheapest price; "this, therefore, must be their interest. And since the State is a collection of consumers, and individual interest is social interest, the ultimate criterion of the interest of the State is the interest of consumers."

In these propositions and their corollaries, Sir William contends, "consists the whole of the generally accepted economic doctrine of the century which followed upon the great work of Smith." With one very important exception, this contention may be granted; and surely most people who read them with a mind clear of fiscal prejudice must agree that they are, in the main, and with the qualifications which their exponents would certainly have admitted, as true to-day as when they were first written, and that the present economic conditions under which the world is groaning can only be cured by the recognition of their truth and the practical application of them to the guidance of the policy of the nations.

One of the most difficult to swallow is the first, because Sir William has very cunningly confused it with the irrelevant doctrine of the beneficence of Nature. But when we translate this first proposition into plain business language it becomes a very simple truism. For it merely means that every normal man, in his economic activities, naturally tries to secure his own advantage, and consequently works to produce some commodity or service that is wanted by his fellows, so that by selling it to them he can get as many as possible of the goods and services that they produce. In an economic society, each man can only prosper by serving the rest, or some of them; and to leave each man free to carry out that service according to his lights is a policy which may not necessarily be perfect—for Sir William rightly reminds us of the necessity for Factory Acts and sanitation laws—but certainly has a great deal to be said for it when compared with its only possible alternative—public regulation. And it is this alternative of public regulation that, by its blunderings and futilities, inspired the old economists with their passionate devotion—doubtless carried to the point of prejudice, but justified a thousandfold in the main—for "the simple system of Natural Liberty." In the fourth proposition every individual is said to know his own interest "better than anybody else." Sir William gives McCulloch's authority for this view, but the well-known passage in the "Wealth of Nations" puts the matter in a different and much more convincing light:—"What is the species of domestic industry," it says, "which his capital can employ, and of which the produce is likely to be of the greatest value, every individual, it is evident, can, in his local situation, judge much better than any statesman or lawgiver can do for him." It may be that some day we shall breed a race of statesmen and lawgivers able to teach every citizen the best way to earn his living, and so, as Adam Smith says, necessarily to "labour to render the annual revenue of the society as great as he can." But at present, in the midst of the wreckage caused by the failure of statesmen to carry out their chief business, of preserving and promoting the peace of the world, few of us will feel inclined to entrust to them the highly complicated task that would seem to be involved, if we are to follow Sir William Ashley in thinking that the doctrines on which Free Trade is founded are false. Their falsity, however, he implies rather than argues. He carps, nibbling at the fringe of the subject, but he never tells us that this or that proposition is wrong, still less does he attempt to provide an alternative. He quotes Bastiat's description of the State as the "great fiction by means of which everyone tries to live at the expense of everyone"; and Professor Sumner, of Yale, who wrote that "the State in practice is a little group of men chosen in a very haphazard way by the majority of us," and added that it, "instead of offering resources of wisdom, right, reason, and pure moral sense beyond what the average of us possess, generally offers much less of all these things." These views concerning the State are likely to be largely agreed with, at least by a considerable number of those engaged in business; and Sir William's candour compels him to admit that State action is now somewhat discredited; he says that "in the last half-century we have seen a high

doctrine of the State entering into England, and in a lesser measure into America, as part of the influence of the Hegelian philosophy and of a renewed appreciation of the Greek view of the State. We have seen the High-State doctrine confirmed by the visible efficacy of much positive State action. We have seen it, more recently, somewhat discredited.....and although the State in all countries undertook during the Great War, with quite unexpected success, novel functions, its activity has, for the time, undoubtedly left behind a certain soreness in some of the business interests affected. Moreover.....there are schools of political thought who are so indignant with the use which Governments calling themselves 'the State' have made of their powers that they propose to abolish the State altogether.....For these reasons," he continues, "I naturally do not intend to set forth any view of my own either as to Society or the State. I am content to have reminded you of the view entertained by the economists of the century we are considering. I do not suppose it would satisfy any serious thinker now. He might think Free Trade expedient; but he would not base it upon so one-sided and unhistorical a conception of the social union." In other words, Sir William, instead of lighting an economic beacon to illuminate the darkness of a distressed world, gives us a cloud of learned verbiage which leads to no conclusion for or against Free Trade. He cites Professor Taussig as a witness to the success of Protection in the case of the American iron industry, but surely all Free Traders admit that it is possible to benefit a particular industry by Protection at the expense of the rest of the community; and he is easily able to show that the diversion of capital and labour from one industry to another, owing to foreign competition, causes loss and friction, and that Governments can, by a Protective policy, encourage an influx of foreign capital into given industries; but he does not thereby prove that the balance of advantage, to the community as a whole, is against foreign competition in the one case, and in favour of Protection in the other. In fact, we have good reason to thank Sir William very heartily for his exposition of the foundations of international Free Trade. At a time when the barriers set up by after-war nationalism, developed to the point of hysteria, are gradually being weakened by commercial treaties forced on the new nations by recognition of the benefits brought by the exchange of commodities across the frontiers, it is most pleasant and timely that this distinguished Protectionist should vindicate Free Trade by his clear exposition of its doctrine and by the thin trickle of his criticism.

Notes of the Week.

The Irish Crisis.—The fond hope of the majority of people in Great Britain that they had done with the Irish question has received a disagreeable shock. When the Privy Council decided the other day that the refusal of Ulster to appoint its member of the Boundary Commission could not be overcome by the British Government appointing a member on Ulster's behalf except by special legislation amending the Act by which the Free State was established, the Government was immediately faced by the demand of the Free State that it should take the necessary steps to implement the Treaty. Clearly it had no other course than to decide to do so, and after several days of acute and critical negotiations a Bill for this purpose has been given a first reading in Parliament. At the same time, the Government has wisely decided not to rush by agreement. On the other hand, it has gone some way to meet the difficulties of the Free State Government by undertaking to call Parliament together on September 30th, which is a month earlier than had been intended, for the purpose of carrying the Bill through its remaining stages. Mr MacDonald has indeed already signed an agreement with Mr Cosgrave, subject, of course, to the ratification of Parliament to remedy the defect in the treaty. His Government is therefore deeply committed to carry the Bill if it can. If Ulster will appoint its member, in return for some understanding with the Free State with regard to what kind of modification the Boundary Commission is to make, all may yet be well. But if the Free State adheres to its hope of securing the

transfer of the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh while Ulster insists that nothing but the smallest adjustments are to be made, the question may yet precipitate a political crisis in this country, and put in peril the whole Treaty under which the status of the Free State is at present determined. The Free State Government has accepted the Government's plan, and public feeling in Southern Ireland as well as in Ulster is marked by a greater restraint than might perhaps have been feared. But Ireland is an explosive country, and it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of straining every nerve to reach a settlement by consent. Our Dublin correspondent writes of the situation in the South that "The Boundary controversy is the subject of the moment, and is canvassed in all its aspects by the Press. The newspaper campaign in England in favour of the Treaty, followed by the announcement by Mr Baldwin that the Conservative party is once more committing its fortunes to the Ulster die-hards, is causing serious reactions upon the public mind. The pressure of public feeling is making it difficult for the Government here; arguing from the precedents of 1914, of 1916, of 1918, and of 1920, Nationalists of various complexions are beginning to believe that the anti-Irish elements in British public life will again be victorious even to the point of swaying British State policy to an open violation of the Treaty. A good many, consequently—some in mere irritated and unreasoning precipitation, others from a desire to be in the lead of popular feeling—are beginning to demand repudiation of the Treaty on this side. The Government, however, may be trusted to realise the extreme unwisdom of any such step or of any other course which would give any pretext or excuse for the British would-be Treaty breakers. It must be realised that the attitude of the British Government is scrupulously correct, though the pending delay is very trying, and fraught with many sinister possibilities. It is suggested here that the Free State should withdraw all its uniformed men a few miles behind its north-east frontier, as France did in July, 1914, in order to avoid all opportunities for frontier incidents which might be created or used to precipitate matters."

The Russian Treaty.—A correspondent writes:—"People in the City struggled very manfully with the bewilderingments of the Russian Treaty situation in the concluding days of this week, trying to keep calm heads in the strangest diplomatic whirlpool of modern times. When it was officially announced early on Tuesday that the four months of Anglo-Soviet negotiations had broken down on a somewhat mysterious Article 14, many City prophets said they had told us so. Then on Wednesday morning came the astonishing news of a resumption of negotiations, and on Wednesday evening the announcement in the House of Commons of the fact that an understanding had been arrived at. The Treaty, or treaties, were not then forthcoming, although Mr Ponsonby gave a somewhat indefinite and halting outline of what they contained. The extremely hard service he had done, including a final all-night sitting in conference, and the haste of the last hours of the negotiations, certainly form a considerable excuse for any shortcomings in his announcement. To say that anything which could justly be called City opinion was formed from Thursday's newspapers would be ridiculous. A few people hastily ran away with the notion that an immediate loan to the U.S.S.R. was to be guaranteed by the Government, and, of course, bristled with indignation at such a possibility. More patient and painstaking people made sure of the facts which were available, and said that "satisfaction" of at least 50 per cent. of the bondholders by an arrangement as to their claims and the payment of some compensation to our nationals, including juridical persons (companies) for confiscated properties, were envisaged as indispensable preliminaries to the recommendation to Parliament that a loan to the Soviet Government should be guaranteed. But, although the fear that the credit of the country might have been misused was thus partially set at rest, the actual position remained too vague on the vital points of our investors' and our industrialist and commercial claims for any just opinion to be formed. Yesterday came the publication of the two Treaties—a

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

ENQUIRIES INVITED ON ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RESPECT OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS. ADVANCES MADE ON APPROVED SECURITY. SECURITIES PURCHASED OR UNDERWRITTEN.

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

General Treaty and a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation. Since these documents run to nearly seven columns of newspaper space, it is manifestly impossible to digest or summarise them in half a day. The above sketch of the position as to the loan and the British claims is, however, substantially correct. There are limitations as to the bondholders whose claims are recognised. They are those of loans issued or guaranteed by the former Imperial Russian Government or municipalities of towns in the territory now included in the Union, payable in foreign (non-Russian) currency, and the holdings to be negotiated upon must be other than such as were acquired by purchase since March 16, 1921, being in other than British ownership on that date. When the figures of these claims have been agreed upon, as well as those for compensation for confiscations, a second treaty will be made containing the sums, and on the signature of that document, the guarantee of a Russian loan of undefined amount will be recommended to Parliament. It is very important to note, however, that the Treaty is so drawn that Chapter III. of the Treaty, dealing with claims and loan, are stated in Article 13 to "constitute a single and indivisible unit." In other words, it would seem, no loan, no compensation. In general, it may be said that the feeling is that Moscow has made some small advance towards what we regard as honest dealing. Since Russia's insolvent condition is recognised in the Treaty itself, and has long been recognised in financial circles, it would be ostrich-like blindly to expect a promise of full satisfaction of all claims at the first definite asking. But she will need to go a great deal further than this agreement before any confidence in her will return to the City.

The Housing Act of 1924.—On Wednesday evening the House of Commons rejected the chief amendments which the House of Lords had made in the Housing Bill, and as the Lords did not insist, the Bill has become law. This is the most considerable measure of the session, and we should like to think that it will be a great and beneficent measure for the amelioration of the home conditions of a great part of the nation. But an Act which, in our view, is based upon unsound finance, fails to tackle adequately the causes of the shortage of houses, takes no steps to consider in a big way the distribution and layout of the 2½ million houses which it aims at building; and introduces a new and confusing level of rents, is not likely to remain long without radical modification. Indeed, few of the members who have voted for it expect that it will work according to plan. One of the Lords' amendments would have done something to remedy the last, at all events, of these anomalies. The Bill contains a vague clause, under which the rents to be charged are those now paid for pre-war houses in the locality occupied by the working classes, which, of course, will vary very much from place to place. It was proposed to lay down that the comparison should be with pre-war houses of similar class and amenity. The Minister of Health declared that this would wreck the Bill. It would, of course, do nothing of the kind from the point of view of getting more houses. It would only modify the type of tenant who occupies them. Manchester experience shows that 48 per cent. of the houses built under the Addison and Chamberlain schemes are occupied by artisans and 48 per cent. by clerks, and there is still a large unsatisfied demand at current rents. Clearly, then, the policy is relieving the housing pressure in the only reasonable way in which it can be relieved. But Mr Wheatley is determined to get into similar type houses a poorer class of tenant, and is therefore insisting on a lower basis of rent. In other words, as Mr E. D. Simon

clearly pointed out in the debate, there is to be discrimination, and the community, including all classes who pay rates as well as taxes, is to contribute to the rent of the favoured few. Thus an additional confusion is introduced in regard to rents, and we have postponed yet again the time when the free play of economic forces will be allowed to revitalise the building industry.

The New Crisis in Mexico.—The atrocious murder of Mrs Evans has again directed attention to the condition of Mexico and the anomalous relations between Great Britain and President Obregon's Government. It may be convenient to recapitulate such of the antecedent circumstances as are not in dispute. Mrs Evans, an American by birth, but a British subject by marriage, had inherited from her deceased husband a ranch of 2,300 acres in the State of Puebla, some 50 or 60 miles from the City of Mexico. Part of it had been designated in 1922 for expropriation and division into small holdings under a recent agrarian law. The expectant holders, aided by the State authorities, had repeatedly attempted to anticipate the transfer and occupy the land by force. In 1922 she had sought the aid of President Obregon, and had received satisfactory assurances, followed by protection, at various times, by Federal troops. But in July of last year he had issued a decree of expropriation, and since then the State authorities and peasants had repeatedly attempted to carry it out. She had appealed to the Supreme Court for a stay of execution, and had also, very properly, sought the aid of Mr Cummins, the diplomatic representative of Great Britain in Mexico. But his attitude in this and other matters offended President Obregon's Government, which had already demanded his supersession, and last June it made the manner of his interference an excuse for expelling him from Mexico. Last Saturday, when Mrs Evans was returning from Texmelucan, her nearest town, with about \$1,200 to pay her employees, she was murdered, her overseer wounded, and the money carried off. If, as the Mexican Government contends, the motive was robbery, the crime is one that might have been committed in any wild and imperfectly policed region—in Sicily, or Southern Italy, or Texas, for instance, thirty or forty years ago. But, apart from the probability that it was agrarian, an explicit statement has been made to the American Embassy in Mexico that the murderers were members of the Rural Guards, a force nominally under direct Federal control. In any case, they were encouraged by the previous attitude of President Obregon's Government. Dr Dillon's article in the *Fortnightly Review* for August (substantially a plea for the recognition of Mexico and an attack on Mr Cummins) shows that the Press had ridiculed her efforts at self-defence, and that President Obregon's Government had made light of her danger. It has been shocked and startled by her murder, and has hastened to promise a thorough investigation and the punishment of the criminals. A telegram has even announced—probably prematurely—that the executions have begun. But the crime suggests that the Government does not, or cannot, adequately control either the State authorities or its own police. Until it has fully made such reparation as is possible, the visit of Sir Thomas Hohler must be postponed, and with it the questions of a settlement of the outstanding difficulties and the recognition of the Mexican Government. Meanwhile, the defence of the ranch has been undertaken by Mrs Pettus, sister of Mrs Evans and an American subject, backed by her Government, which President Obregon is especially anxious to placate. It remains to be seen whether the Nationalists and Agrarians will be too strong for him, and whether he will be able to achieve the settlement with the American oil companies, of which there have been hopeful predictions in the New York Press.

The Financial Crisis in Austria.—The President of the Union of Vienna Banks, who is at present in London, has been in communication with us in regard to an article

which appeared in the *Economist* a fortnight ago on this subject. He considers—and his opinion is supported by the authority of the chairman of the Austrian National Bank—that this article gave too unfavourable a view of the effect of the crisis upon the big Vienna banks, and in particular that it conveyed a false impression to say that the majority of these banks had suffered from either complete loss or tying up of their assets. Clearly our correspondent did not intend to convey that all the assets of these important institutions were either lost or tied up, for if this had been the case they would have been compelled to close their doors. If the impression of our article was that these institutions are on the brink of bankruptcy, we hasten to disclaim any such suggestion, and nothing was farther from our thoughts than to increase the embarrassments of an already difficult enough situation. Exception was also taken to the statement that newcomers who had got a footing in the older institutions had speculated both for their own and for their banks' account on the Stock Exchange and foreign exchange markets to an unprecedented extent, and the director of one of these large banks, who believes his experience to be representative, has given his personal assurance that none of the bank's funds were used for franc speculation, though naturally it is impossible for any banker to be absolutely sure that none of the advances made by his bank were used by individuals for such purposes. Indeed, generally, it is objected that the account of the Banks of Vienna was too highly coloured, and that to speak of the withdrawal of deposits from the big banks as amounting to a "run" is unjustified. Readers of our article will appreciate that our correspondent was careful to say nothing that could undermine the position of particular institutions, and we are delighted to receive and give publicity to assurances of the essential soundness of important institutions of Vienna. This journal has strongly supported and done all it can to encourage measures for the economic restoration of Austria. Our article was not published without consideration, but because, in our opinion, banking conditions in Vienna have suffered from the undoubted fact that the element of speculation has been much too closely associated with the banking community in that city than is desirable, at all events according to British standards. An unsound financial situation in the capital is one of several ways through which the whole campaign for Austrian economic rehabilitation might be jeopardised. We suggested in the article in question some ways in which Viennese financiers might restore their credit, not the least important of these being the monthly publication of bank balance sheets on a systematic and uniform basis.

World Crop Estimates.—A correspondent writes:—The most important producing regions for wheat and oats lie in the zones or belts which see those crops ripen in the months of June, July, and August, and the "intensive period" during which two-thirds of the harvesting has to be accomplished is from June 15th to August 15th. With respect to barley and rye, these are still more the products of this same belt, for rye is completely neglected in the Southern Hemisphere and barley is a much less important crop than wheat or maize, oats, or linseed in South America. Wheat, of the regular cereals—for maize belongs to another botanical group, more fattening, but less digestible—still holds the leading position for the 20 countries of the north temperate and north sub-tropical regions. In Great Britain oats are the chief cereal, and still more so is this the case in Germany, Poland, and Scandinavia. India, however, with an immense area under wheat, does not grow oats at all; Italy, France, Spain, and Hungary all go to swell the wheat total, and rank emphatically as wheat countries. The crops of 1924 are, of course, not yet at all fully ascertained, but four main features may be regarded as already determined. Wheat will be quite 10 per cent. less as a total crop than in 1923. In Great Britain, India, the United States, and Germany the decline is less than this, but in Canada, France, Italy, and Roumania it is more. Barley is decidedly deficient in Canada, the United States, and Rou-

mania, but it is not much below an average in Great Britain, France, Spain, or Germany, and it is a good crop in India and North Africa. Oats are the crop over which opinion this season has been slowest to crystallise, but the general lateness of growth, combined with the wetness of July all over Western Europe, induces the latest estimators to state their belief in a full average crop of inferior quality. The estimates of oats, however, must be taken as the least assured of the four white crops. Rye is extremely important to Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, and if these three great consumers of "dark bread" do not get enough of it they eat white bread; but much against their will, for they are all thrifty people. The cost of transport, however, makes their wheat cheaper than imported rye would usually be. The rye yields this year are probably a full average.

Unit: One million cwt.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.
Great Britain	30	20	42	1
France	140	18	90	20
Spain	80	40	9	16
Italy	100	4	10	3
Germany	60	45	125	125
Czechoslovakia	20	20	25	25
Jugoslavia	35	5	5	3
Roumania	50	20	15	4
Bulgaria	22	5	3	10
Austria	5	3	6	8
Hungary	35	9	6	15
Poland	30	30	65	120
Belgium	7	2	12	3
Holland	2	1	6	7
Scandinavia	10	20	50	18
North Africa	50	45	4	1
India	200	65	none	none
Japan	12	35	2	none
Canada	225	32	150	10
U.S.A.	400	72	425	30

Twenty countries: Total.. 1,513 .. 491 .. 1,050 .. 419

The above estimates are not carried nearer than a million cwt, and are conservative in the sense of not accepting current rumours at a very high level. They are, moreover, based on the new areas, and where, as in the case of Canada, the United States, and France, these show a marked diminution, a corresponding decline in production is inevitably shown as a result. The decline in white crop area is chiefly in wheat. In the above listing of 20 countries, Scandinavia includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland; North Africa includes Egypt, Tunis, Algeria, and French Morocco, but not the Sudan or the quite appreciable areas of native Morocco, now cultivated under French auspices. The Japanese estimates include all the islands, Formosa, &c., but not the mainland possessions and protectorates. Russia it is impossible to estimate, neither is any very important surplus to be expected even of rye, the one crop which is usually above the home wants even under the rule of the Soviets. It is a North Russian crop, and that is the portion of the whilom Russian Empire which has had the most unfavourable weather from May to the end of August. The export of barley from French possessions in North Africa was prohibited by decree on August 6th, but it is not yet known if this veto is intended to be permanent.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The 1923-24 cotton season ended on July 31st, and Mr H. G. Hester, the Secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, has lost no time in publishing his statistics for the twelve months. The actual growth is given as 10,988,000 bales, against 10,300,000 bales in the previous year. The commercial crop is stated to be 11,290,000 bales, as compared with 11,283,000 bales in the previous season. The world consumption of American cotton is given as 11,242,000 bales, against 12,630,000 bales in the previous year. The carry-over on July 31st is estimated at 2,319,000 bales, as compared with 2,573,000 bales at the same date in 1923. The growth for the new season is now passing through a very critical period. At the end of this week the Department of Commerce at Washington will publish an important condition report, and the figures will probably give some indication of the yield. On Thursday this week reports were received from America of rains in Texas. These were badly wanted, and prices weakened. There seems to be a likelihood of an output of 13,000,000 bales, given favourable climatic conditions henceforward.

Shipping Freight Index.—As measured by our index of "tramp" chartering, shipping freights in July were 4.5 per cent. lower than in the previous month, the July index figure, 120.70, being almost identical with that recorded in July, 1923. The movements of the component groups of the index are given below:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	529.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December ".....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.57
December, 1923.....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February ".....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March ".....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April ".....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May ".....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June ".....	128.56	133.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37
July ".....	123.66	121.87	121.91	120.13	114.69	121.96	120.70

The month's changes in the index of each group and subgroup are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	112.90	- 0.49	S. America—outwards	96.33	- 3.34
Bay—outwards.....	132.11	- 12.10	India—outwards	147.99	- 11.27
homewards.....	135.48	- 12.10	India—homewards	122.10	- 8.43
Mediterranean—outwards	134.34	- 12.62	" homewards	118.16	- 10.24
homewards	114.27	- 3.68	Far East, &c.	114.69	- 3.64
North America.....	121.87	- 11.93	Australia.....	121.96	+ 3.12

Tonnage was taken up by the Plate fairly steadily throughout the month, and rates from this market were latterly firm on the somewhat lower level established. Elsewhere demand for "tramp" vessels was very quiet, and rates tended to weaken all round. Coal exporters found tonnage ample for their requirements; unfixed tonnage discharging in the Mediterranean proved to be in excess of ore shippers' demands; unexpectedly little chartering was done on North American account; and the East was satisfied almost completely by "liner" space available. Exceptionally, chartering at improved rates for winter loading was effected towards the end of the month on Australian account. The relation of the index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

Month.	(1913 = 100.)	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January.....	194.59	..	131.60	..	114.05
February.....	164.54	..	135.76	..	123.73
March.....	162.17	..	135.53	..	115.23
April.....	147.48	..	129.46	..	115.45
May.....	158.42	..	125.12	..	114.55
June.....	165.73	..	117.45	..	106.82
July.....	169.87	..	114.52	..	103.39
August.....	170.60	..	113.16	..	100.16
September.....	154.47	..	110.37	..	103.04
October.....	141.85	..	114.42	..	107.86
November.....	136.47	..	119.43	..	111.21
December.....	134.66	..	117.39	..	111.81
Mean for year.....	158.40	..	122.02	..	109.69

While there are no positive signs as yet of a seasonal revival in freights for whole cargoes, there are indications that the recent downward movement is approaching, if it has not already reached, a turning point.

South Wales Coal Audit.—Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—It is doubtful whether the South Wales coalfield has been worked in any month in its history, excluding the period of State control, at so heavy a loss as it was last June. The official audit for that month shows a deficit of £241,198, without making any allowance for capital and other necessary charges that are excluded by the terms of the national agreement from the audit, and on the reduced output for the month that was equivalent to a loss of 1/4.9 per ton at the pit-head. This is the first month since December, 1922, when the South Wales coalfield has not been worked at a profit. There were four months in 1922 when the costs per ton exceeded the pit-head proceeds per ton, but the loss in June was more than twice the heaviest loss incurred in any single

month that year. The two chief factors responsible for the deficit were an increase in the cost of production and a decrease in the volume of trade. The fall in the average selling price was very slight. The pit-head value realised was 19/2.67, compared with 19/3.64 in May, and the practically stationary character of this pit-head price is in a measure due to the operation of the scheme originally introduced in 1922, under which the colliery salesmen, representing different groups of collieries, meet weekly with a view, as far as possible, of avoiding unnecessary underselling and of stabilising prices. A fairly stable price, however, has failed to meet the increased costs arising partly from the national wages agreement and partly from the reduced production. Under the national agreement the South Wales miners now receive a minimum wage of 42.22 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates compared with a minimum of 28 per cent. under the 1921 agreement. The new agreement also secures for the lower paid workmen larger subsistence allowances than they received under the old agreement, and, as the result of these two concessions, the wages cost per ton in June was 13/10.81 per ton, compared with 11/10.75 in April. There was an increase also of between 4d and 5d per ton in other costs. The production of coal in June was the smallest, with one exception, in any month since 1921, while the quantity of coal exported from the South Wales ports was the lowest since July, 1922. The wage certified for August under the June audit is only 24.05 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates. That is 18.17 less than the general wage rate which the coalowners must pay under the national agreement, and to fulfil their obligations under that agreement the coal owners have not only had to forgo the whole of their standard profits of 15 per cent. of standard wages, but also to find an additional sum of over £240,000 to pay the new minimum wage. The deficiency carried forward now amounts to over £1,000,000.

Norway: Trade and Finance.—Like other countries, Norway has lately experienced currency depreciation, exceptional foreign competition, monetary stringency, and deficiency in public revenue; and the report (to March 1924) of the Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Christiania, recently issued by the Overseas Trade Department, shows how these difficulties have been intensified by special factors at home. The banking crisis in the spring of 1923, due to deflation, was perhaps made worse by the earlier of the remedial measures. There were prolonged labour conflicts (ended last May); a poor harvest; a lessened catch of fish, with consequent difficulties in the fishery districts; the yield of the direct taxes fell far short of the estimate, that of indirect taxation was kept down by the continuance of restrictions on the liquor traffic—which the legislature a fortnight ago declined to remove. The National Debt in 1914 was 363 million kroner, in 1923 1,503 million; the municipal debts in the same period rose from 223 millions to 1,391 millions; the floating debt, consequent on accumulated Budget deficits, has been met by new loans. But the currency depreciation assisted exports and favoured home industries, already aided by increased protective duties, and latterly by the rise of prices in competing countries, notably in Germany; bankruptcies were fewer and unemployment less; the prices of agricultural produce and the value of the fish exported were higher, and the markets for Norwegian fish have been reopened by the commercial treaties with Portugal and Spain. The whaling industry, extending now to South Georgia and West Africa, and shortly to Kamschatka, has been profitable; new Government and municipal electric power schemes are projected, and improved organisation is contemplated under Government control. Power is to be exported to Denmark whenever the Danish demand becomes adequate. The old stocks of imported goods have been cleared off, with some exceptions, chiefly in certain textiles, and the rise of prices on the Continent may give British exporters their opportunity; but the shipping communications from British ports are insufficient, and the demand so far is moderate. Commercial treaties have been concluded with Portugal, Czecho-Slovakia, and Lithuania; that with Spain is to be revised; others are pending with various Baltic and Succession States, Roumania, and (as regards shipping) Finland. Details are given of the increase of

Customs duties, temporarily and for revenue, but the majority of the Tariff Commission appointed in 1915 has reported in favour of Protection. Industries, on the whole, improved, especially pulp and paper, mining, granite (of which Great Britain takes by far the largest share), aluminium, and matches. British exporters should study the particulars given of the manufactures for home consumption, and may note that the Public Works Department prefers home-made goods. Railway extension and electrification goes on; but some of the smaller lines planned may be abandoned in favour of public motor services, which are multiplying. Apparently there is an opening for a certain type of car. The mercantile marine seems to have gained in efficiency, in spite of decreased tonnage and scanty profits: very little tonnage was laid up, and 25 per cent. now consists of liners regularly trading with or between foreign ports. State grants are a feature of the economic policy, especially in aid of home colonisation, unemployment, road maintenance, and motor traffic, and the import of grain and flour is still a Government monopoly. Very full particulars are given of the recent labour troubles and of legislation affecting labour and the liquor trade. The general impression left by the report is decidedly hopeful.

Politics and Finance in Ecuador.—While it was hoped that the considerable vote, a majority of more than 30,000, in favour of the new President, Dr Gonzalo S. Córdoba, would have led to the establishment of more peaceful conditions in Ecuador, late reports from that South American Republic prove that a revolutionary movement is still in progress. The new Executive takes office this month, is not regarded as a particularly strong man, and it seems doubtful whether he will be permitted to complete his full period of four years of office without some further disturbances among the partisans of the Conservative, Dr Lasso, one of the three candidates for the Chief Magistracy. While Señor J. Fredérico Intrigao, the rival Liberal candidate, withdrew his candidature, it is not expected that he will long remain quiescent under the injunction imposed by Dr Córdoba; the pretensions of General Plaza, who has also announced his intention of moving when Congress meets on the 10th inst., at Quito, cannot either be disregarded. The law passed by the Legislature in February, guaranteeing freedom of suffrage, making Government intervention impossible, and punishing corruption, bribery, and fraud, has proved, as it was feared, a dead letter. Up till now recorded, while the main source of revenue derived from agricultural products, such as cacao, rubber, &c., promises a less favourable yield than that of last year. To divert the attention of the labouring classes from the pursuit of mineral production to a wider and more successive cultivation of the soil has been the object of even in part, a steady flow of foreign capital to assist in the agricultural development of the country might be depended upon. Funds for this purpose have already been promised from several different directions. Swiss, United States, and Italian syndicates have promised to cattle-breeding capabilities of the country, the new President having also promised Government co-operation. This will necessarily depend upon the Administration being left undisturbed in the pursuit of their offices. Unfortunately, the troubles of Ecuador do not end here. The national Treasury is practically empty, while revenue is pledged almost up to the limit. Liens have been granted upon Customs receipts, special taxes, and other outstanding, and is in default with interest and sinking fund payments upon all except the Prior Lien 6 per cent. Bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway. The total foreign debt at the end of last year amounted to about £21,000,000 (£4,200,000).

The Oil Depression.—Over-production in the American oilfields is not yet checked, but the usual preventive measures—organised limitation of pipe-line runs and the posting of lower prices—are now being put into practice. The daily average crude oil production reached its highest

level this year in the week ending July 12th with 1,992,850 barrels, but began to drop off in the following week with a decline of 15,350 barrels a day. The fall in oil prices this year has not, however, been severe, as will be appreciated from the following index numbers, published by a well-informed firm of stockbrokers in their monthly oil report:—

INDEX NUMBERS OF AMERICAN OIL PRICES (1913 = 100).						
	Crude Oil.	Gasoline.	Kerosene.	Fuel Oil.	Lubricating Oils.	
1924.						
January	151	97	164	124	137	
February	182	113	170	144	156	
March	189	115	171	137	158	
April	194	115	171	127	162	
May	192	114	166	121	157	
June	187	108	165	118	150	

During July the fall in crude oil prices was much more pronounced. A mild war was also waged in gasoline prices. The one chance that the American oil industry has of higher prices next year lies in the continued fall in the production of California. During the first half of this year Californian shipments to the Atlantic seaboard averaged rather less than 100,000 barrels a day, as compared with 200,000 barrels in the period of its peak production. As the consumption of oil on the Pacific coast approaches a balance with the production of oil in California, there will be less crude oil available for the Atlantic coast, and if, at the same time, the production in the Mid-continent fields declines as a result of the restricted operations, the oil position in the whole of the United States will begin to improve. But it will take time.

Canadian National Railway Finance.—The report of the Canadian national railways for 1923 is a much more hopeful document than its predecessor, but much scope clearly exists for further improvement. Revenue amounted to \$254,900,000, an increase of \$20,900,000 on 1922, while expenses, at \$234,700,000, were but \$3,500,000 more than those of the preceding year. Net earnings were thus returned at \$20,200,000, as compared with \$2,900,000 in 1922. This represents a considerable achievement, credited in the report to better crop conditions, but also, one may imagine, not altogether unconnected with the general "tightening-up" of the administration under the presidency of Sir Henry Thornton. For the first six months of 1924 gross earnings amounted to \$114,862,558, and operating expenses to \$112,233,128, net earnings thus amounting to \$2,629,429. But these surpluses exist only on paper. The accounts for 1923, the last completed year, show that when various charges are deducted (including \$65,000,000 for interest on funded debt, and on Dominion Government advances), a "net income deficit" of \$51,700,000 is revealed. The debit balance to profit and loss of \$235,000,000 brought forward from 1922 is increased to \$289,700,000. Apparently the Canadian Government and the Canadian investor have shared the burden of financing the national system. Of the \$74,550,000 voted by the Dominion Parliament for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1924, there was advanced in cash by the Government to the railways \$24,550,000, the balance being represented by \$50,000,000 of 30-year 5 per cent. guaranteed bonds issued in February, 1924. As at August 1, 1923, an issue was made of \$22,500,000 of 15-year 5 per cent. bonds guaranteed by the Dominion Government. The report makes it clear that the question of writing down the Government's investment in the railways is receiving serious attention. A solution is sought which would give due weight to the interests of the Canadian people, whose trustees the Government are, and would not, at the same time, burden the national railways with a load beyond their conceivable earning capacity. The varied nature of the securities outstanding complicates an already difficult position, as is shown by the following enumeration:—

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3,
AND BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE EAST.
ESTATE MANAGEMENT. GENERAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.
ESTATE SUPPLIES. SHIPPING AGENCIES.
ENGINEERING. SALES OF PRODUCE.
BANKING AND INSURANCE.

Securities held by public	\$ 823,099,056.10
" Dominion Government	33,048,000.00
Receiver's certificates re Grand Trunk Pacific	53,177,668.18
Loans from Dominion Government, including interest	580,314,081.34
Appropriations account, Canadian Government railways	447,643,526.03
Governmental grants in aid of construction	16,204,520.40
Total	1,953,486,852.05

The question of freight charges is also intimately connected with present difficulties. Railway rates in Canada are, and have been for many years, the lowest in the world. At the end of 1920 they stood at an average of 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. A series of reductions, beginning in January, 1921, has forced down the general level to 32 per cent. above 1914, while the cost of labour, materials, and supplies averaged last year 90 per cent. over the pre-war year. As the report puts it: "The Canadian national railway system is the property of the people of Canada, and it is for the people, through their duly elected parliamentary representatives and the Board of Railway Commissioners, to determine what the freight and passenger rate policy of the Dominion in its relation to the Canadian national railway system shall be; but there is no way by which freight and passenger rates can be continually reduced, and net earnings at the same time increased; and, moreover, restricted net earnings must inevitably mean additional taxes to provide for annual deficits."

The Marconi Report.—The directors of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, in issuing their accounts for the year ended December 31, 1923, state that profits have been adversely affected, from three causes. These are given as (1) losses through currency depreciation, (2) losses on account of broadcasting licences being held up, and (3) loss of revenue in consequence of the destruction of Clifden station. Although our figures do not reveal it, the report states that the volume of business showed an improvement over the preceding year. In the following summary we show the progress of the company over a number of years:—

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Gross profits	£ 246,682	£ 766,263	£ 1,538,040	£ 564,838	£ 554,515	£ 557,419	£ 552,924
Expenses	124,359	168,325	317,500	267,156	279,154	254,471	380,381
Net profit	122,323	597,938	1,220,540	297,682	275,361	302,948	172,543
Prof. dividend	42,500	55,000	117,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	17,500
Ord. dividend	150,000	305,912	617,824	391,567	397,098	412,507	275,007
To reserve	..	150,000	..	..	..	..	..
Balance	Dr 70,177	87,026	491,416	Dr 123,883	Dr 151,737	Dr 139,559	Dr 119,964
Brought forward	146,726	376,760	463,786	944,452	818,567	664,830	523,272
Carried forward	76,549	463,786	955,802	820,567	666,830	525,271	403,308

Thus the preference shares obtain their minimum dividend of 7 per cent. and the ordinary shares 10 per cent., as against 12 and 15 respectively a year ago. The balance-sheet has been made clearer since our comments on the accounts previously issued. Patents and patent rights are shown separately at £352,942, and "shares and debentures" as £2,346,575. These, the directors state, now figure in the accounts at the price at which they were quoted on June 30th last. "Where there is no market quotation for shares they have been taken into the accounts upon what your directors consider a conservative basis." The most important changes in the balance-sheet are the drastic writing down of various assets and the substantial amount taken from reserve for this purpose. In the last balance-sheet the general reserve was £3,986,355. From this has been taken £2,335,609, leaving £1,650,746. In the report it is not clearly stated how much of this may be regarded as a total loss and how much is in the nature of special reserve. It is stated that the claim against the General Post Office in respect of war service "is expected to be disposed of within a

few days." The report also announces the signing of the agreement between the Government and company for the provision of stations between this country and distant parts of the Empire.

Dunlop Rubber Scheme Revision.—The directors of the Dunlop Rubber Company announce that after conference with the representatives of the "A," "B," and "C" preference and ordinary shareholders an agreement has been arrived at for the reorganisation of the capital of the company, and the scheme will be submitted in detail to the shareholders in general meeting in September. Briefly, the terms of agreement are as follows:—1. The payment in cash of practically the same dividends as under the original scheme were to be satisfied by the issue of ordinary shares. 2. The "C" preference shares to be reduced to 16s each, and rank for 20s on a winding-up, while the dividend is to remain, as originally proposed, at 10 per cent. (equal to 8 per cent. on £1). 3. The ordinary shares to be reduced to 6s 8d each, but preserving to the ordinary shareholders the entire equity.

Guinness's Progress.—In the accounts now issued for the financial year ended June 30th last, the directors of Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co., Limited, announce a final dividend of 8 per cent., making, with the interim dividend paid in March last, a total of 14 per cent., and, in addition, they recommend a bonus of 12 per cent., both dividends and bonus being free of income-tax. This makes a total distribution of 26 per cent. It will be recalled that a bonus distribution took place in May, 1923. The paid-up ordinary stock was then increased from £5,000,000 to £7,500,000. To calculate dividends upon the basis of the stock as it stood prior to this bonus distribution, the rate for the year just closed is equivalent to 39 per cent., as against 36 per cent. for 1922-3. The net profit, as may be seen from the following comparative record, is the lowest since 1918-19, though it is still more than double that of the last pre-war year:—

	Gross Profit.	Ex-penses.	Net Profit.	Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Ordinary Dividend.	Rate %
1908-9	£ 2,218,160	£ 1,096,522	£ 1,121,638	£ 280,000	£ 700,000	14
1909-10	2,465,713	1,195,090	1,270,623	325,000	775,000	15½
1910-11	2,629,180	1,301,511	1,327,669	335,000	825,000	16½
1911-12	2,541,030	1,328,241	1,212,789	255,000	825,000	16½
1912-13	2,527,237	1,443,119	1,084,118	185,000	825,000	16½
1913-14	2,752,974	1,514,726	1,238,248	235,000	700,000	14
1914-15	4,181,655	2,721,206	1,460,449	585,000	700,000	14
1915-16	5,472,922	3,962,122	1,510,800	531,000	800,000	16
1916-17	4,920,287	3,014,157	1,906,129	235,000	800,000	16
1917-18	4,105,393	2,083,307	2,022,086	235,000	800,000	16
1918-19	5,858,854	3,808,174	2,050,680	285,000	800,000	16
1919-20	12,941,420	9,677,513	3,263,907	735,000	1,000,000	20
1920-21	18,187,514	14,558,324	3,629,190	519,407	1,250,000	25
1921-22	14,570,320	11,691,967	2,878,353	235,000	1,450,000	29
1922-23	13,759,584	11,084,264	2,675,320	235,000	1,800,000	24
1923-24	12,528,137	10,017,504	2,510,633	200,000	1,950,000	26

Expenses consist mainly of Excise and licence duties, which, in the latest accounts, took £9,130,202, as against £10,854,679 for 1922-23. The reserve fund is credited with £200,000, bringing this item to £1,100,000. In addition to this there remains, after providing for the dividend and reserve, £715,822 at credit of profit and loss account. Total assets are £17,707,130, as against £17,431,781 a year ago. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in another column.

Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited.—The "affair" staged between the Royal Dutch-Shell group and the independent directors and shareholders of the V. O. C. Holding Company with regard to the position of the subsidiary, Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited, has been suitably composed. The committee which negotiated with the Royal Dutch-Shell managers of the V. O. C., Limited, claims a decided victory. In a circular issued to the shareholders it declares that the Royal Dutch-Shell group have given way all along the line—that is, they have agreed to waive their right to appoint a majority on the boards of the two companies, that they have agreed to a new sale-of-oil con-

tract to run from January 1st this year to June 30, 1936, on terms favourable to the V. O. C., Limited, and that they have consented to waive the perpetual royalty payable to them by the V. O. C., Limited, as from December 31, 1924. The Royal Dutch-Shell group, on the face of it, have acted handsomely. What we suspect to be the case is that they have in the meantime purchased in the open market sufficient shares of the V. O. C. Holding Company to give themselves control, so that they could afford to act handsomely without hurting the shareholders of the Royal Dutch and Shell Transport and Trading companies. The feelings of the ordinary shareholders of the V. O. C. Holding Company have been somewhat mixed by the announcement that followed that the company was to make a new issue of 600,000 shares at 45s. If the V. O. C., Limited, is to maintain its important position in the Venezuelan fields, it will have to incur heavy expenditure on drilling and tank-steamship construction. Already the Lago Corporation, in which the British Mexican-Agwi group is interested, is offsetting the V. O. C. wells at La Rosa, and has a large drilling programme on hand, while the British Mexican-Agwi group is building six "lake" tankers at Messrs Harland and Wolff's Belfast yards to carry their production away. The V. O. C. will perforce have to go forward now at a greater pace.

Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton.—The accounts of Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton, Limited, for the year ended June 30, 1924, show a considerable improvement as against the slight setback experienced in 1923. The following table gives results for a number of years past:—

Year ended June 30.	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Gross trading profit.....	£ 749,607	£ 890,294	£ 1,113,121	£ 1,158,172	£ 1,205,795	£ 1,167,115	£ 1,222,864
Expenses	455,611	568,151	817,546	880,771	925,946	857,617	851,301
Sundry revenue.....	293,996	322,143	295,575	277,401	279,849	309,518	371,563
Balance forward.....	143,153	232,693	282,965	236,894	200,528	204,394	236,796
	64,593	61,570	60,080	61,970	73,085	66,748	63,571
Deb. interest	501,742	616,406	638,620	576,265	553,462	580,660	671,930
Bad debts and invest. depreciation	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800	80,800
Ord. dividend	34,266	24,646	43,450	29,980	13,514	43,889	64,501
Prof. dividend	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000	68,000
Rate	204,000	217,500	224,400	224,400	224,400	224,400	255,200
Reserve, &c.	15 %	16 %	11 %	11 %	11 %	11 %	13 %
	50,020	165,280	150,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Carried forward	64,676	60,080	61,970	73,085	66,748	63,571	83,429

The actual dividend this year is 11 per cent., which compares with 8 per cent. for the preceding 12 months. This, together with a bonus distribution of 2 per cent., makes 13 per cent. in all, as against a total of 11 per cent. a year ago, and is payable free of tax. Turning to the balance-sheet, we find that, including the £100,000 allocated this year, the reserve fund amounts to £950,000. Total assets are £8,762,053, in which goodwill and trade-marks represent £800,000; investments, £1,908,562, and stocks, £1,419,957. A year ago investments amounted to £1,781,469, and stocks, £1,690,030; total assets were £8,802,153. Cash in hand, at £665,879, shows little change.

Jagersfontein Diamond.—Our mining correspondent writes:—At first blush it seems a little anomalous that with a substantially increased output last year's dividend total should fall somewhat below that of 1922-23. The position, however, is this:—The actual sales for the 12 months ended March 31, 1924—£496,000—only exceeded those of the preceding period by some £40,200, the sales for 1922-23 mainly coming out of stock. After the payment of an interim dividend of 3s per share, and a final of 2s 6d—as against 6s in all for 1922-23—the reduced balance of £86,500 goes forward. Of this, £19,000 is represented by diamonds unsold. The actual surplus of cash assets over liabilities amounts to £147,000—a sum substantial, but by no means excessive in view of the fact that the company is faced with an expenditure of about £100,000 upon a new power plant and additional treatment machinery. At the annual meeting, which was held in Kimberley on July 4th, the shareholders were promised a dividend in September and another in March next, the company having sold its output of diamonds for the second half of 1924-25. In the course of his speech at the said meeting, the chairman, Colonel Sir

David Harris, dealt at some length with the change which has taken place in the position of the Cape diamond producers. Prior to 1902 the De Beers and Jagersfontein mines (excluding the alluvial diggings) furnished approximately 85 per cent. of the world's output; to-day their proportion does not exceed 35 per cent. This is the result of the new discoveries in British Guiana and Angola, with the developments in South-West Africa and the Belgian Congo. Increase in the supply of stones would exert an adverse effect upon the price. As a matter of fact, the Jagersfontein company last year received 5 per cent. less per carat than in 1922-23.

West Springs.—Much interest has attached to the initial return of this, the latest entrant to the ranks of Witwatersrand gold producers. In anticipation of such event, the shares were earlier in the year up to nearly 30s. Then came rumours that the first output was likely to be a poor one, and that further substantial expenditure upon the treatment plant would be found necessary. On the strength of these statements a considerable amount of "bear" selling was indulged in. As officially intimated would be the case, the actual figures relative to the preliminary runs during May and June have not been published. The return for July is 37,700 tons, giving the satisfactory profit of £28,400, equivalent to rather over 15s per ton. With reference to the rumours anent the plant, there would appear to have been a certain amount of fire behind the smoke. It is explained that as the new type of tube mill liner has not come up to expectations, orders have been placed for two additional tube mills, with accessory plant. These appliances will, however, increase the capacity of the reduction works by 25 per cent. As we pointed out when commenting upon the annual report, the date of the commencement of dividends will depend largely upon the policy followed in connection with the loan which has been found necessary in addition to the debenture issue of £350,000.

Conditions in Japan.—Cable advices from Tokyo state that, although short money has risen to the basis of about 8 per cent. per annum, the general tendency of the market for longer date loans is still weak in anticipation of easier conditions in future. Issues of various debentures have increased, and although the yield on these issues is somewhat lower compared with those of last spring, the results have been good. Stock exchange business and commodity markets remain dull. There have been rather big transactions in raw silk since the middle of July, and the price has risen about two hundred yen above the low price of last June, being quoted at 1,750 yen. The export of cotton yarn is not brisk, but the tendency is expected to improve. During the last ten days of July the exports of the eight principal ports of Japan exceeded the imports, although the excess was only slight.

Industrial Welfare.—The value of the work done by a host of agencies for smoothing the relations between employers and employed is usually underestimated by the general public, who are more impressed by one strike or lock-out than by 99 disputes amicably settled without, in many cases, the outside world's having been cognisant of their occurrence. For the sake of a right perspective it is as well at times that such bodies as the Industrial Welfare Society should bring their achievements into the limelight. The society has for the last six years been responsible for bringing to the notice of employers the value of welfare work as an instrument for creating better relations with their workers, and as an aid to practical management. The fruits of its endeavours are seen in the existence of organised schemes for ensuring the safety, health, and comfort of the worker in more than a thousand industrial concerns, covering all the branches of manufacturing, as well as the distributing and retail trades. The evidence of those responsible for the management of representative concerns such as the British Thomson-Houston Company, General Electric Company, Salt McVitie and Price, Josiah Wedgwood and Sons, the Salt Union, and Stewarts and Lloyds, is a testimony to the seriousness with which the work is taken by those in the

best position to judge of its merits. Industrial welfare schemes entail a certain amount of expenditure, but provided they are wisely administered so as to arouse no doubts as to their *bona-fide* intention in the mind of a possibly hostile worker, the evidence given in the society's latest publication* seems fairly conclusive that the gain in reduced absenteeism, less frequent staff changes, fewer accidents, &c., leaves in the long run a significant balance on the right side.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—RISE IN SECURITIES—MONEY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK—BANKING PROBLEMS—SIGNS OF BUSINESS REVIVAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 25.

INCREASED activity and buoyancy are the feature of markets for securities, particularly stocks. Daily transactions in the latter have been exceptionally heavy this week, approximating 1,300,000 shares in some sessions, with trading on a broader scale than in many months. While buying has been largely for the account of speculative operations for the rise, there has also been an extensive investment demand, as well as some purchasing by the outside public. All groups of stocks, including rails, industrials, public utilities and specialties have participated in the vigorous upturn, although lately the tremendous activity in railroad shares has overshadowed dealings in other groups. Numerous stocks have reached new high levels, not only for this year, but in many instances the highest in a number of years. The average price of 20 representative rails establishes a new high record for 1924 at \$90.10, while the average for an equal number of industrials rose to \$99.40, or less than \$2 under the best previous level for this year. The continued easiness of money rates and the enormous supply of funds seeking employment are still largely responsible for the heavy buying at rising prices. But other factors have contributed. Perhaps the most important are the signs of improving business in some basic industries, notably steel and textiles, and expectations of a general revival of trade as the result of the increased purchasing power of agricultural communities, due in turn to the higher prices now prevailing for grain, cotton, and farm products generally. The rise in sterling to a new high point for this year, and further advances in commodities, particularly cotton, have also made a strong impression upon stock market sentiment. Interest in railroad shares has been stimulated by the increased volume of traffic, as disclosed by the latest car-loading figures, and rumours of impending consolidations of carriers into new systems. Among industrials, the advance has been led by steel, oil, copper, and motor shares, all of which have been heavily bought on indications of a turn for the better in their respective fields. Bonds, though somewhat less active than in recent weeks, are still being purchased extensively by institutions, corporate interests, and individuals, and most issues have enjoyed further sharp gains, notably railroad bonds.

Money rates, as indicated, continue extremely easy. On the Stock Exchange the call-loan rate seems to be virtually pegged at 2 per cent., for it has remained unchanged at that figure for both new loans and renewals since the early part of July; although demand for accommodation has increased somewhat with the greater activity in the stock market, the volume of borrowing is sufficient to absorb only a small part of the daily offerings. Time money is in abundant supply at 2½ to 3½ per cent., depending upon maturities. The fact that loans against Stock Exchange collateral are readily obtainable at 3½ per cent. for periods up to six and eight months is taken to indicate that bankers expect present interest rates will prevail for some time. Whether or not such expectations will be realised will depend largely upon commercial and crop-moving requirements. Should such demands reach

* "Industrial Welfare: Opinions of Manufacturing Firms." Issued by the Industrial Welfare Society, 51 Palace street, Westminster S.W. 1.

tions raised in direct defence of German interests, there is, in impartial circles, doubt whether the resource of arbitration, even if it makes for fairness, is suitable for the solution of commercial and currency questions, which are mainly matters of policy and opinion. However, not much faith is felt in the German delegation's ability to attain radical amendment of a scheme which the Ally representatives themselves agreed upon only after differences and compromises, and the separate provisions of which are largely inter-dependent. The general public here hopes that the scheme, in the best practicable, if not in a satisfactory, form, will be put through, it being realised that immediate advantages will be gained by Germany in the shape of relief from Ally pressure, and of a substantial improvement in the Ruhr situation. The details under debate in London, which at present seem to be of dominant importance, are likely soon to be submerged by the question of principle which lies in Germany's ability or non-ability to make the payments at all.

The financial situation continues to be fairly satisfactory, but the trade decline is sharply affecting the yield of some important taxes. The Federal Economical Council has approved in principle of the Food Duties Bill and of "the Government's plan to provide a system of homogeneous protection for the whole national work." It has recommended that the sales tax be reduced from the present 2½ per cent. to 1½ per cent., instead of to 2 per cent., as the Bill proposes. The reopened question of the restoration (*Aufwertung*) of secured debts is still before a Reichstag Committee. Representatives of the banks, mortgage banks, insurance companies, industry, and wholesale trade, expressed themselves against increasing the 15 per cent. already conceded, the grounds given being that debtors and creditors have adapted themselves already to the 15 per cent., that a further increase would merely disturb business, and that debtors could not bear a higher rate. Labour representatives also oppose the demand, complaining that the petty savers, who also lost everything through the currency depreciation, have been shown no consideration. On certain conditions the houseowners are willing to have their mortgage debts restored beyond the 15 per cent. They demand the abolition of the present house-rents tax, which is levied in order to take for public purposes part of the gross rents which formerly went in paying interest on mortgages. The creditors' agitation for further *Aufwertung* continues. The question is of great importance for Reparations, because even though the proposed industrial bonds are first charges, an increase of private bonded indebtedness would weaken the position of industrial and commercial concerns.

The Finance Ministry's report for July 11th-20th shows receipts 166,549,298 gold marks, expenditure 143,813,993 gold marks, surplus 22,735,305 gold marks, the expenditure containing 2,114,942 gold marks spent on redeeming Gold Loan. Receipts in the financial year so far (April 1st to July 20th) total 1,949,021,139 gold marks, expenditure 1,951,482,084 gold marks, deficit 2,460,945 gold marks. Expenditure included 228,785,779 gold marks for Gold Loan redemption. If expenditure on this redemption is left out of account, every month of the first half calendar year 1924 except February showed a surplus, but the surpluses tended to decline. Whereas receipts from Customs and Excise increased without a break, yielding 93.5 millions in June, against 76.2 millions in March and 41.2 millions in January, the yields of taxes directly connected with trade activity have of late gone back. The sales tax yield increased from 104.2 millions in January to 165.9 millions in April, but fell to 134.6 millions in June; the corporation (income) tax fell from 34.9 millions in January to 20.9 millions in June; the capital transactions tax (Bourse transfers, &c.) fell from a maximum of 33.9 millions in February to 20.9 millions in June. The highest yield from all taxes of this class taken together was reached in April, the month when the Reichsbank initiated its credit-restriction policy. The Bourse transfers tax is now yielding only about a third of its maximum (February) yield.

The money situation still improves. Interest rates on long-term loans have declined, but the security conditions are ever severer, and not much lending is done. The rate for day money, which for some time past had been fall-

ing, stiffened last week, and is at present around ½ per mille per day, double the rate of a fortnight ago. Deposits in the banks are increasing. Balance-sheets are still not published, but the Reichsbank states that deposits in private banks about doubled in the first four months of the year. This is mainly a result of the currency stability. The Reichsbank announces that it will in principle adhere to the credit restriction policy adopted three months ago, but that it is inclined to help in individual cases, while continuing to be guided by currency-stability considerations. The Bank is supporting the Prussian State Bank in giving agriculture a credit of 200,000,000 gold marks to facilitate realisation of the harvest. The Reichsbank has further decided to lend in future on security of the "real value" (coal, rye, gold, &c.) loans up to 40 per cent. of the Bourse value of loans in units of commodities, and 50 per cent. of the value of loans expressed in gold or foreign currencies. The demand for foreign exchange has increased, and quotations last week rose. The Gold Discount Bank denies the report that it is about to relax its rules by granting credit to importers of raw materials, who cannot guarantee repayment out of the yield of the re-exported finished goods. The Bank's discounts on July 31st totalled £6,471,911, against £6,394,387 on July 22nd. The Reichsbank's return for July 23rd shows a decline of paper mark circulation by 52,330,191 billions to 1,009,529,887 billions, and of Rentenmarks circulation by 66,365,046 Rentenmarks to 1,607 million Rentenmarks. The Bank's discounts and loans in paper marks and Rentenmarks together fell by 33.8 trillion to 1,942.9 trillion paper marks. The gold reserve has risen further by 8,680,000 gold marks to 478,052,000 gold marks, half of the increase being attained by exchange of foreign bills for gold. The circulation of all kinds of currencies on June 30th was equal to 3,128,600,000 gold marks, against 2,917,600,000 gold marks on May 31st. The former figure is 51.54 per cent. of the pre-war combined note and gold circulation. The increase in May mainly comes under the headings Reichsbank and Rentenmark notes. In May disappeared the last paper marks other than those issued by the Reichsbank, while the Gold Loan emergency note circulation fell to 9,500,000 gold marks, against 234,700,000 gold marks at the beginning of the year, and the railway emergency note circulation to 55,500,000 gold marks, against 141,900,000 gold marks. With the exception of 65,500,000 gold marks, the whole circulation at the end of June consisted of Reichsbank notes, Rentenmark notes, and coins (value, 194,700,000 gold marks). The withdrawal of the numerous emergency currencies is, therefore, nearly complete.

The industrial situation is getting worse. The Prussian Trade Ministry's monthly report shows serious stagnation in the iron, machinery, cutlery, chemicals, textiles, and boot branches. Building alone improves. Few new orders are being given, and old orders are being cancelled. Despite the May strike, the coal production of the first half of the year was satisfactory, being 51,498,099 metric tons, against 38,776,959 tons in the first half of 1923, and 69,878,503 tons in the first half of 1913 (within the present German area). Brown coal production is declining. The renewal of the Ruhr Coal Syndicate, which is itself only a provisional organisation due to expire at the end of 1924, is in doubt, owing to differences between the member firms, and the formation of a compulsory syndicate is being discussed. The mutual trade boycott with Russia, which arose in May through a conflict between the Berlin police and the Russian Trade Mission, has been brought to an end by an agreement in which Germany admits the irregularity of the police action. An agreement facilitating import on both sides has been concluded with Czecho-Slovakia. The Cabinet has authorised free export of fodder products, sugar beet, oil cakes, and buckwheat. The People's Party has demanded immediate submission to the Reichstag of the Food Duties Bill, and from this is concluded that the party has come to an agreement with the Agrarians for higher industrial duties. The Reichsrat's slowness with this Bill had created the impression that the Cabinet wished to postpone the inevitable sharp controversy until the parties' attitude on the Dawes Report became clear. The June foreign trade report shows a

slight decline in the import surplus. Comparative figures (in 1,000 gold marks) are:—

	IMPORTS.		
	June.	May.	Jan.-June.
Livestock	4,871	9,090	44,488
Food and drink	138,237	169,584	1,033,705
Raw materials	303,164	424,886	2,004,495
Half-finished materials	71,560	79,769	440,661
Manufactured goods	216,446	202,499	924,304
Gold and silver	18,486	782	32,987
Total	753,124	886,810	4,480,640
	EXPORTS.		
	June.	May.	Jan.-June.
Livestock	530	620	2,612
Food and drink	30,985	32,792	150,682
Raw materials	26,526	31,883	170,090
Half-finished materials	33,403	33,526	181,155
Manufactured goods	383,013	415,082	2,315,137
Gold and silver	791	2,267	7,603
Total	475,248	516,170	2,827,279

POLAND.—TRADE DEPRESSION—FINANCIAL SITUATION—POLISH BANK—SPECIAL POWERS BILL—ALCOHOL MONOPOLY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, July 25.

THE trade depression from which Poland has been suffering since May has become more acute. The number of unemployed has reached 135,000. The Government has hitherto tried in vain to master the crisis. Its causes are very deep-rooted, and it will be several months before the present depression can disappear. The circulating capital which has been destroyed during the period of inflation cannot be reproduced in a few weeks. The lowering of the high costs of production is proceeding equally very slowly. The crisis is accentuated by the events in the Ruhr. During last year Poland benefited by the French occupation, because the Reich was obliged to import coal and iron from Polish Upper Silesia. Since conditions in the Ruhr have become more normal Poland has lost this market and is obliged to seek new outlets for her products.

Upper Silesia has been unable to compete with German products since the introduction of a ten-hours day in the Reich. After long negotiations the Government suspended for a period of three months the eight-hours legislation for the iron industry. Though pressed by the Industrial Union the Government refused to apply the same measure in the mining industry. The suspension of the eight-hours day is considered as a purely temporary expedient, and efforts will be made by Poland to persuade Germany to bring her labour legislation into conformity with the generally applied international standards.

When the trade depression began to make itself felt, it was generally believed that the difficult economic conditions would necessarily react on Polish finances and on the stability of the zloty. These fears, however, were unfounded. Mr Grabski has succeeded, during the last very difficult months, in balancing the budget. The revenue is even increasing.

The comparatively favourable financial situation is partly reflected in the returns of the Polish Bank. The amount of gold and of foreign coins and bills held has been steadily increasing since the issue of the first zlotys at the end of April, as shown by the figures below (million zlotys):—

	Gold.	Foreign Coins and Bills.	Total.
May 10	70.3	207.2	277.5
" 20	70.8	203.5	274.3
" 31	71.7	214.2	285.9
June 10	72.3	223.4	295.7
" 20	82.8	224.4	307.3
" 30	83.4	256.9	340.4

The zloty was maintained during the whole period on a stable level without a diminution of the reserve of foreign coins and bills held by the bank. During May and June this amount increased by 50 million zlotys. The upward movement of this item may be partly due to the small imports of raw materials from abroad. The industry requires actually only small amounts of foreign currencies for this purpose, and is obliged to convert the reserves accumulated during better times in dollars, pounds, &c.,

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



into zlotys, which are necessary for the liquidation of liabilities and for the payment of taxes.

The ratio of gold and of foreign bills and currencies to the zlotys in circulation is comparatively high, as may be seen from the figures below (million zlotys):—

	Zlotys in Circulation.	Gold, Foreign Bills and Currencies.	Ratio.
May 10	111.1	249.9	224.9
" 20	136.0	246.1	180.9
" 31	244.9	258.3	105.4
June 10	256.9	264.1	102.8
" 20	267.1	275.6	103.2
" 30	334.4	280.5	83.9

The legal minimum ratio is fixed by the statute of the Polish Bank at 30 per cent. The authorities of the bank have, however, decided not to let it fall below 60 per cent.

The old currency—the Polish mark—is disappearing very rapidly. On July 1 it had ceased to be legal tender, and of 596,000 milliards which were printed only 141,000 milliards remained at the end of June in circulation. Their value corresponds to 8 million zlotys, so that the total Polish circulation amounts to 413 million zlotys. This is only a small fraction of the pre-war circulation, which is estimated for the territories forming the Republic of Poland at two milliard gold francs.

Mr Grabski's task during the second half of this year will be very much facilitated by the Special Powers Bill, which was read the third time in the Diet and passed. Though the Sejm was very reluctant to divest itself for another six months of its prerogatives, it did not oppose the Bill, and introduced only modifications of secondary importance. The Bill does not simply renew the powers given to Mr Grabski six months ago, but covers partly a wider field. Not only matters connected with public finance, but partly also with the reorganisation of the credit system of the country, are to be administered according to the rules of the Special Powers Bill. The modifications of the existing legislation will not be presented to Parliament for approval, but they will become law by a decree signed by the President of the Republic.

The most important reforms which the Government will

be able to effect under the Special Powers Act are:—(1) Changes of the existing organisation of the different departments of the State with the purpose of securing a more economic working of the whole administration. (2) Formation of independent undertakings for the exploiting of State railways and State forests. (3) Extension of the salt monopoly, which hitherto exists only in the former Austrian Poland. (4) Sale of Government property for an amount not surpassing 100 million zlotys. (5) Floating of a loan to the amount of 300 million zlotys. For securing this loan the Government may give special privileges and guarantees, which, however, cannot involve a lease of monopolies and of State railways. In the domain of credit the Government is empowered to give special facilities to institutions issuing bonds. The control of banks, the organisation of savings banks, the unification of the usury legislation are equally subject to the provisions of the Special Powers Bill.

Together with this Bill, the Bill establishing the Government monopoly for alcohol passed the third reading. This monopoly will be organised in a similar manner as the alcohol monopoly in Russia before the war. The Government will control the production and marketing of alcohol. It is expected that the revenue from the monopoly will be much greater than the amount obtained hitherto from the excise duties. Probably the yield of this monopoly will serve as a guarantee for a loan which Mr Grabski intends to place abroad.

SWITZERLAND.—HOME AND FOREIGN BORROWING—TRADE IMPROVEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, August 5.

THE rise in money rates, which originated last year in Switzerland, continued during the first half of 1924, so that interest on public loans rose from 4½ to 5½ per cent. This is principally due to the fact that there has been recently an increasing demand for capital, a demand which was emphasised in consequence of the financial requirements of the federal railways for electrification purposes. The most important loan offered for public subscription in Switzerland during the first half-year was the 150 million francs 5 per cent. loan issued by the Federal Railways at 98½. The Federal Government did not borrow from Swiss finance, but placed in the U.S.A. a 5½ per cent. loan for 30 million dollars at 97½. The placing of this loan in New York was widely criticised in Swiss financial circles on the ground that the loan might have been placed in Switzerland on better, or at least on equal, conditions. The Federal Government stated that it took the step in order to ease the Swiss financial market, to prevent, if possible, a further drop in the value of the Swiss franc, and to avoid a new rise in money rates in Switzerland. It was also said that as the value of the dollar was very high when the loan was launched, the Swiss Government got the most out of its 30 million dollars, which it intends to repay by purchasing dollars when they are at a lower value.

The fact that during the first half-year borrowings by industrial concerns totalled 10,700,000f, against 46,009,000f during the corresponding period of 1923, shows that the situation of Swiss industry has slightly improved, though business is not as active as had been expected. The position is good in agriculture, owing to the high prices fetched by land products; it has very much improved in the building industry, which is very active in many cantons, and especially in some agricultural districts, where the peasants are employing their profits of previous years to improve and develop their farmhouses; it is very satisfactory in the watchmaking industry, the exports of which are steadily progressing, and in various classes of the foodstuffs industry, which is well protected by Customs duties. On the other hand, business remains difficult in all export trades, which are handicapped by the competition of countries with a low currency; by Customs barriers, and principally by the high cost of production, as well as by the fact that it has been impossible to increase the number of working hours, as had been proposed.

If the economic situation is far from being normal in Switzerland, it would be wrong to infer that trade and

industry are in a hopeless state. It is now believed that the worst of the crisis is over, and that Switzerland is now on the way towards recovery, but that it will take many years before trade and industry will recover their former prosperity. This mainly depends on the stabilisation of foreign exchanges, and on the settlement of those post-war problems which are maintaining a feeling of uneasiness and insecurity in the world.

Positive signs of a general improvement may be found in the fact that the number of Swiss unemployed has decreased by over 20,000 since the beginning of the year, and that the receipts of the various federal services are on the increase, while their expenses are generally decreasing. The receipts of the federal railways, for instance, totalled, for the first half-year, £7,417,600, or £502,781 more than during the corresponding period of 1923, and expenses reached £5,180,178, thus leaving a profit of £2,237,422, or £476,211 more than that of the 1923 first half-year.

Moreover, the foreign trade returns for the second quarter, and for the first half-year, are very satisfactory indeed. During the second quarter the value of imports reached £23,770,280 (594,257,000f), compared with £20,161,240 (504,031,000f) in 1923, and with £21,201,520 (530,038,000f) during the first quarter of 1924; the value of exports amounted to £19,572,200 (489,305,000f), as against £14,615,800 (365,395,000f) during the corresponding period of 1923, and £21,561,560 (539,039,000f) during the first 1924 quarter; the fact that the value of exports is lower for the second quarter than for the first is not surprising, and is generally recorded every year.

During the first half-year the value of imports reached £47,279,480 (1,181,987,000f), compared with £41,363,400 (1,034,085,000f) in 1923, while exports totalled £41,133,760 (1,028,344,000f), as against £32,268,800 (806,721,000f) in 1923. The first half-year's results leave an adverse balance of £6,145,720, which advantageously compares with an adverse balance of £9,094,600 at the end of the first half of 1923. The rise in exports is especially striking in cotton, silk, and woollen goods, ready-made clothing, copper, aluminium, gold and silver goods, machines, watches, and chemicals.

It may be added that the recovery of the hotel industry, in consequence of the great influx of foreign tourists during last winter, is compensating to a certain extent the adverse trade balance, and also indirectly encouraging trade and industry. The economic situation in Switzerland can therefore be described as steadily improving.

INDIA.—JUTE CROP—CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE—INDUSTRIAL FINANCE—COTTON PROFITS AND LOSSES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, July 17.

THE consolidated jute forecast is 2,690,684 acres, against 2,741,434 acres, the revised forecast for 1923. This should imply, according to market estimates, a crop of anything up to 80 or 85 lakhs of bales, of which Indian mills may take 55 lakhs, there or thereabouts, leaving the balance for export, Continental requirements necessarily depending largely upon general trading conditions, as determined to no small extent by the Reparation negotiations now in progress. The mills remain on short time, but nevertheless manage to earn respectable profits, as instanced by two reports just issued, disclosing a dividend in each case of 80 per cent. The smaller acreage allotted to jute suggests that, while political propaganda may have exerted some effect, their profits are not in proportion to mill dividends; indeed, they never have been, and they were never more poorly remunerated than during the war years, when mill profits mounted to figures probably unequalled by any industrial undertakings in any part of the world. It is the rapacious army of middlemen who are mainly responsible, it being estimated that if cultivators receive a fifth of the published prices of the raw material, they count themselves fortunate representatives of their day and generation. Schemes are frequently submitted for curtailing middlemen's profits, but until the landholders, who are mainly interested in rent considerations, join hands with the mills in some large buying and financial corporation, progress will be nil. It is difficult to feel optimistic of action on these lines.

The Finance Member's speeches at Bombay and Calcutta disclose no new orientation of policy concerning exchange, Sir Basil Blackett preferring to hold his hand pending a Reparation settlement, conjoined with more reliable indications than are yet forthcoming concerning the ultimate disposal of the enormous stocks of gold in America. He had no difficulty in converting his Bombay critics to the view that, in present conditions, the only method of forcing the rupee to 1s 4d gold would be to create a certain increase of stringency in the money market, a suggestion the mere enunciation of which sent a shiver down the spine of every business man in the country. Last season 24 crores of emergency currency was issued, without, however, preventing the bank rate rising to 9 per cent., or even from remaining in force longer than in previous years. Sir Basil Blackett, much to the indignation of exchange bankers, ascribed this impasse partly to the latter's supposed action in taking undue advantage of official promises of help, thus:—"If one of the results of the provision of emergency facilities is to lead to the locking-up during the summer by banks and others of funds which they would otherwise have kept liquid for use in the winter, the emergency provisions can contribute nothing to a solution of the problem, and we are just as well off without them"; an insinuation the exchange banks took immediate steps, through the accredited commercial organisations, to repudiate. In the Finance Member's view, which nobody combats: "It is the function of the banker to immobilise some part of the currency in Calcutta, Bombay, &c., in order to keep his resources liquid against the period of stress. If, in addition, banking can spread up-country, it will be able to render an additional service by increasing the rapidity of circulation in the up-country districts, and thereby tend to make the rate at which money circulates more even between the mofussil and the banking centres. In course of time it will thus provide both up-country and in money centres an agency practised in the art of regulating the flow of currency."

India's greatest handicap is the existence of what may be described as a series of independent currency circles, linked neither with one another nor with any common centre. The difficulties thus created have, however, been temporarily accentuated in the past season by two abnormal circumstances, both, curiously enough, arising from the situation in the cotton industry: (1) The abnormal demand and value of India's export of raw cotton, due to the American shortage in three successive seasons; (2) arising from dear cotton, the reluctance of consumers to take the normal quota of piece-goods which serve normally to bring money paid out for crops back to the monetary centres. The present year should see more normal conditions in both these directions.

An important point alluded to by Sir Basil Blackett concerns the peculiar methods of industrial finance in operation exclusively at Bombay. He said: "An industrial concern ought not to be in the position of being liable to have to repay to the lender on demand or at short notice any part of its capital which it has locked up in bricks and mortar and plant, or even which it requires for the purpose of day-to-day working capital. So long as it runs the risk of a sudden demand to repay deposits, an industrial concern, however well managed and however adequate its rate of profit, may be forced to close down by some unforeseen monetary development leading to a general demand on the part of depositors for the return of their money. The habit of using short deposits to provide capital for industrial concerns has the further disadvantage that it restricts the supply of good industrial securities—shares, preference, debentures—available for the ordinary investor, and unduly narrows the market for such investments."

According to *Capital*, the lesson of the parable is so lost on India as to make it possible for the cotton manufacturing companies of Bombay to be involved to the extent of 50 crores through this pernicious system, so akin to wild-cat speculation. "Is it any wonder," it is asked, "that the once magnificent cotton industry of Bombay is dying of galloping consumption?" Certainly the depression is acute, and some mills, in consequence, are changing hands. The above system of finance is, indeed, already breaking up, and its disintegration is producing exactly the difficulties which the disappearance of an old-

established financial prop might be expected to produce. As reported from Bombay, the system of managing industries through the intervention of managing agents must undergo serious change in future on account of the serious defects which are now coming to light. "Shareholders' interests are not always safeguarded even in the best firms of managing agents, who, it is well known, keep their own commissions in the sale of yarns and cloth, and in brokerages, transport, and other charges with reference to cotton. Some of the best firms in Bombay are not free from these charges of overpaying on behalf of the mill for services rendered. It is further known that most of the mill agents pocket considerable sums by way of discounts offered by insurance companies."

It is now calculated that in 1923-24 India received for exported raw cotton little, if anything, short of 100 crores of rupees. Meantime, partly in consequence of these high values, mill exports and profits show declines, in most cases verging upon actual losses on working. Export markets for manufactured cottons are surrendering to the Japanese attack, and India, in the pursuit of new markets, is being pushed further and further West.

JAPAN.—FOREIGN TRADE—NEW IMPORT TARIFF.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, July 2.

JAPAN's new import tariff, increasing enormously the duties on certain items of trade, is quite in accord with the nation's traditional protective policy, to keep up the specie reserve and to promote home industry, and is the result of the great earthquake, with its colossal losses and consequent necessity of imports. With a heavy adverse balance of trade at the close of last year, and still steadily piling up, the national specie reserve is dwindling to an alarming extent. For the four months ending April last, the excess of imports over exports amounted to more than 682,000,000 yen, over 400,000,000 yen more than for the same period last year. For the month of April alone the excess was nearly 100,000,000 yen. At this rate the national gold holdings must fast decline, in spite of the embargo on export of gold, which still obtains.

The situation is thus somewhat disappointing to a country that so vastly increased its specie holdings during the European war; and the yen has fallen lower than for a long time. When Japan entered the war her specie holding did not total more than 341,000,000 yen. At the end of the war it had increased to over 2,000,000,000 yen. With the adverse trade balance of the last three years it has now fallen to something below 1,600,000,000 yen. Of course, the situation is to some extent extraordinary owing to the abnormal import of construction materials after the earthquake and to the 20 per cent. decline of output for export due to destruction of factories. Shops and offices not only have to be rebuilt, but restocked. Orders for over 27,000,000 cubic feet of timber have been placed in Canada, and other orders elsewhere. For the first four months of this year the increase in value of imports was over 372,000,000 yen. The principal items of increase were 78,138,000 yen in foodstuffs, of which 40,506,000 yen was for wheat only; and the increase in rice imports was over 18,167,000 yen. There was an enormous increase of 132,814,000 yen in raw materials, of which 53,971,000 yen represents raw cotton, the total value of raw cotton imports being 275,000,000 yen for the four months ending April last. Construction wood and timber imports increased to the extent of 43,801,000 yen in value, the total value of imports for the period amounting to 62,888,000 yen. The increase in semi-manufactures, too, was considerable, amounting to 97,639,000 yen, of which 71,391,000 yen is taken up in iron bars, rods, sheets, and tubes; and there is an increase of 10,740,000 yen in worsted yarns; while in articles wholly manufactured the increase in imports was valued at 59,422,000 yen, of which the largest items are machinery and motor-cars or parts.

As to exports, the only important increase is one of 19,213,000 yen in cotton tissues. Other increases of over a million yen were in aquatic products, waste silk, silk tissues, and vegetable oil, as well as menthol crystal. But

various other European descriptions. The Foreign market has another, though mild, excitement in an all-round rise in Russian bonds, in consequence of the agreement that has apparently been reached between the British and the Soviet Governments.

Home Railway stocks are up on balance. The traffics are beginning to make a more favourable showing, and trade is "talked" better. Good Argentine Railway returns had little effect upon the market for these stocks, though prices keep tolerably steady. Brazilian rails are inclined to harden again, and nitrate rails are better, though Mexican railway stocks have weakened. In nitrate-producing shares there is a firm tendency.

Rubber shares are a little better, owing to the further rise in the price of the produce, caused, of course, by the latest restriction of output from the companies. The tea market took a turn upwards, and thus attracted prospective purchasers who had sold their shares earlier, and were waiting for an opportunity to replace them when the recent depression appeared to be wearing off. Amongst oil shares, Mexican Eagles are noticeably good, though the market as a whole shows comparatively few changes of importance. The iron and steel group is higher, thanks to the idea that any peace settlement is likely to be followed by early resumption of trade activity, a consideration which is affecting some of the other branches of industrialism whose shares are negotiated in the miscellaneous market. The shipping market, however, is dormant.

Banks are good, and so are insurance shares. Marconis are disposed to ease off after their spurt, and the cable group shows no improvement. Most of the Exhibition stocks, amongst which may be reckoned the shares of the stores, hotels, catering, and other such companies, are marking time, Whiteleys being something of a feature of strength. Dunlops were little affected by the new reorganisation proposals. The brewery market is strong, by reason of the excellent dividends just announced by Guinness, Bass, and some of the other leading companies. New issues, as a whole, fail to make headway. Harland and Wolff preference came on offer at 2s 6d discount.

The Kaffir Circus is hardening up again, and a good deal of trade is taking place in a few speciality shares, of which Central Wests and West Springs are outstanding examples. Diamonds have sympathised with the advance, and a number of copper shares improved. The tin markets, West African, Cornish and Malayan, are decidedly firm, the Middle East shares being in persistent request from the Straits Settlements. Russian mines went a little better, on the reported completion of the treaty. Other mining shares are steady, and exhibit no conspicuous features of interest.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£127,788,204	..	..	..
4 Treasury Bonds by public tender, August 1, 1924.....	..	nil	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

	£	Dr100,000	£	Dr100,000
April 1, 1924, to Aug. 2, 1924, Dr£1,500,000 ..	£1,500,000	..	£1,500,000	..

To the Public—	£	Dr100,000	£	Dr100,000
British Malayan Tin Syndicate, 30,000 5s Shares, at par ..	7,500	..	7,500	..
Total offered to Public ..	7,500	..	7,500	..
To Shareholders only—	£	Dr100,000	£	Dr100,000
Bertam Extended Rubber, £15,000 7% Debts. (red. at 102% 1940, or 103% earlier), issued at par ..	15,000	..	15,000	..
Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, 14,150 Shares, £7, at par ..	99,050	..	99,050	..
Total offered to shareholders only ..	114,050	..	114,050	..
Total offered for subscription to date in—	£	Dr100,000	£	Dr100,000
1924.....	127,803,754	..	127,803,754	..
1923.....	201,909,067	..	201,909,067	..
1922.....	502,528,887	..	502,528,887	..
1921.....	146,859,781	..	146,859,781	..
1920.....	272,385,547	..	272,385,547	..
1919.....	426,553,533	..	426,553,533	..

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
War Bonds (30% 1925-28) ..	86 1/2	86 1/2	..
War Bonds (4% 1925-45) ..	101 1/2	101 1/2	..
War Bonds (4% 1925-42) ..	101 1/2	101 1/2	..
Funding Loan 4% ..	87 1/2	87 1/2	..
Victory Bonds 4% ..	83 1/2	83 1/2	..
Conversion Loan 4% ..	77 1/2	77 1/2	..
Consols 2 1/2% ..	56 1/2	56 1/2	..
Irish Land Stock 4 1/2% ..	58 1/2	58 1/2	..
Local Loans 3% ..	64 1/2	64 1/2	..

British Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Great Western, Ord. ..	107 1/2	108 1/2	..
London & North-Eastern 5% Pref. Ord. ..	81 1/2	82 1/2	..
Do Def. Ord. ..	28 1/2	28 1/2	..
London, Mid., and Southern, Ord. ..	96 1/2	97 1/2	..
Metropolitan ..	81 1/2	81 1/2	..
Metropolitan District ..	50 1/2	50 1/2	..

Banks.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	19 1/2	19 1/2	..
Lloyds ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
Midland ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	..
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) ..	25 1/2	25 1/2	..

American Railroads.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	100	101	..
Erie ..	38	38	..
Do 4% 1st Pref. ..	47	48	..

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons ..	86	85 1/2	..
B.A. and Pacific ..	82	81 1/2	..
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	87	86 1/2	..
Buenos Ayres West. ..	75	74 1/2	..
Canadian Pacific ..	169	167	..
Central Argentine ..	72 1/2	72 1/2	..

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Argentine 5%, 1886-7, 100 ..	99	99	..
Austrian 6% Guar. 90% ..	92 1/2	92 1/2	..
Belgian 3% ..	71	70 1/2	..
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914 ..	71	71 1/2	..
Chilian 4 1/2%, 1895 ..	88	88	..
Do 7 1/2% ..	104	104	..
Chinese 5%, 1912 ..	69	69	..
Egyptian 4% ..	75	75	..
French 5% ..	23 1/2	25 1/2	..
Do 4% ..	18 1/2	19 1/2	..
Greek 5%, 1884 ..	51 1/2	51 1/2	..

Telegraphs.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" ..	23 1/2	23 1/2	..
Marconi Wireless ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	..

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (£1) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	..
Amal. Cottons (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) and Co. (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Ass. Ind. Cement (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Barker, John (£1) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
B'ham Small Arms (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Brazil Traction (£100) ..	52 1/2	53 1/2	..
B'ham Small Arms (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	..
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Courtaulds (£1) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
Cunard (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	..
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	..

Mines.

	Price Last Week.	Price.	Rise or Fall.
Brakpan (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Broken Hill Prop. (£1) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	..
Chartered (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Crown Mines (10) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	..
De Beers Def. (£2 1/2) ..	11 1/2	12 1/2	..
East Rand Prop. (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Geduld (£1) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	..

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE CALTEX OIL COMPANY.—July production, 2,780 barrels, or 461 tons. MacFarland well closed on account of high water.

THE TRINIDAD FRIENDSHIP PETROLEUM COMPANY.—The production from No. 1 well for the month of June was approximately 70 tons. The well was only pumped at intervals owing to sanding-up troubles. The directors are considering the advisability of deepening the well some 300 feet, as they are informed there is every prospect of obtaining considerably increased production at that depth.

STEAUA ROMANA COMPANY.—Production for July was 24,920 tons, as compared with a production of 22,000 tons for the previous month, and 17,843 tons for July of last year.

LOMITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—Production for July is cabled as 15,988 tons.

THE VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.—Production of crude oil from the La Rosa Field for the four weeks ending July 26th was 32,444 metric tons (production for the previous five weeks having been 31,947 metric tons).

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—Oil produced during July, 19,700 tons; oil purchased during July from other companies, 8,400 tons.

The NET COST
of an **ANTICIPATED BONUS POLICY**
in the **NATIONAL PROVIDENT**
is considerably less
than that of
any **NON-PROFIT** policy.
Write for particulars to:—
48 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

[INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.]

IMPROVED RESULTS—BOARD'S SOUND DIVIDEND POLICY.

The twenty-fourth annual general meeting of shareholders was held at Johannesburg, on Friday, July 4, 1924, Sir George Albu, Bart., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I feel sure that you have all been pleased to see that the financial position of the corporation has been further considerably strengthened.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

The net figure of issued capital, at £1,014,580, shows a decrease of £13,218, representing an equivalent number of shares purchased from the Custodian of Enemy Property during 1923.

Deposits, at £162,059, reflect a decrease of £51,327, representing amounts refunded to sundry companies during the year.

The amount of £233 appearing against "Creditors for stock bought not yet taken up" is insignificant, and is no less than £39,700 below the figure for the previous year. The reduction represents the value of ex-enemy shares of companies of our group delivered by the custodian and paid for during 1923.

Sundry creditors and credit balances, at £53,144, also exhibit the substantial decrease of £114,235, being the net amount liquidated during the period under review.

The next item on the balance-sheet, under the head of "General reserve, £100,000," is a new departure as far as this corporation is concerned, but I hope this item will continue to appear regularly in future balance-sheets, and at a greatly enhanced figure. It would have been possible to declare a dividend to shareholders instead of carrying the whole of this sum to reserve, but your directors felt that our first consideration should be the financial stability of the corporation, so that when the distribution of dividends is resumed there will be some prospect of these being continued on a reasonable scale.

The assets of the corporation still consist mainly of shares and debentures in mining companies under its control, and at £814,812 show a decrease in value of £38,777, representing in the main the net result of share transactions during the year. All our shares and debenture holdings appear in the balance-sheet at or under the market prices at the end of the last financial year, and I am pleased to say that, even at the present time, in a dull market, there is a very substantial margin in our favour between the figure at which our holdings stand in the balance-sheet and the market quotations now ruling.

Mining properties, claim holdings, real estate, &c., at £57,315, are practically unchanged, and the balance-sheet figure is more than represented by the realisable value of the assets which fall under this heading.

Advances against securities are decreased by £15,332, and the balance of £22,476 is fully covered by the security held.

Sundry debtors at £263,566 exhibit a decrease of £38,324, this being the amount of sums recovered during the year on account of loans made by us to certain of our subsidiary companies.

The item "Debtors for stock sold but not yet delivered," at £1,225, has decreased by £13,481, and does not call for any comment.

Cash at banks and in hand, £197,834, shows an increase of £3,241 over the balance at the end of 1922. In view of the fact that our total liabilities, other than to shareholders, have been reduced during the year by over £200,000, it must be considered extremely satisfactory that we are still able to show this increase in our cash, the total of which is now only £21,575 less than the entire sum of the liabilities I have just referred to, so that the whole of the other assets, which are very conservatively valued, are available to represent the value of the net issued capital of the corporation.

PROFIT AND LOSS-ACCOUNT.

From the profit and loss account you will see that the revenue in respect of dividends, &c., has decreased by £6,784, but this is more than counterbalanced by an increase of £14,306 in the profit on stocks and shares.

Interest, at £7,304, represents amounts actually received on loans, less interest paid by us. Following our usual practice, all interest which, for the time being, we were unable to collect has been carried to suspense, and not included in revenue.

Administration expenses exhibit a decrease of £6,446 for the year. The other items of expenditure are small, and call for no special comment.

The net profit of £100,332, carried to appropriation account, shows an increase of £21,474 over the previous year, which must be considered very satisfactory. To this falls to be added the difference between the par value and purchase price of ex-enemy shares of the corporation acquired during the past year, amounting to £11,678, giving, together with the balance brought forward from 1922, a total amount available for appropriation of £123,240. Of this sum £100,000 was placed to general reserve for reasons which I have already given you, and the remainder, amounting to £23,240, was carried forward to the current year.

The Chairman having referred briefly to the results of the various working mines, the usual formal business was transacted and the proceedings terminated.

WATNEY, COMBE, REID, AND CO., LIMITED.

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATES AND PROHIBITION.

The annual general meeting of Watney, Combe, Reid and Co. was held, on the 8th instant, at the Charing Cross Hotel, London.

Mr H. Cosmo C. Bonsor, J.P. (the chairman), presided, and in moving the adoption of the report said that after providing for debenture interest and the first preference dividend they had a profit this year of £671,889 to deal with, out of which they proposed to pay a final dividend of 2 per cent. on the preferred ordinary stock—making the full 4 per cent. for the year—and a final dividend on the deferred stock of 14 per cent.—making 20 per cent. for the year—and to carry £200,000 to the general reserve, and carry forward £185,202. The trading profit showed an increase of £65,000. It would be remembered that in their report for 1923 the directors viewed with concern the burden thrown on the trade by the Budget of that year, and in his speech he had pointed out that its consequences might be serious unless they had an increased trade to help them. Happily, they had had an increase of about 10 per cent. This increased trade, fortunately for them, had been in their higher class of products, which gave them the best profit.

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATES' METHODS.

This year had not been free from attack by those who would like to see their trade "exterminated," and he trusted the shareholders would forgive him if, for a few minutes, he criticised the methods of those so-called "temperance advocates." He would remind shareholders that these "temperance advocates" to-day were better organised, more active, and better financed than at any time in their history. They stated that their desire was to educate the people to the acceptance of local option, and the number of meetings they held and the amount of literature they published was a proof of considerable financial power.

It was a hopeful sign that citizens were beginning to see the danger signal of prohibition, and to fight for their rights and liberty as individuals. He would state at once that the temperance party did good so long as they preached and taught temperance habits, and so long as they confined themselves to that propaganda they would always have the support of brewers and licensed victuallers. They had, however, adopted a legislative programme which they claimed to be moderate, but which in reality was framed by the Anti-saloon party in America. As evidence of that connection he would quote the Rev. Henry Carter, the leading advocate of local option and of the legislative programme of the Christian churches. That gentleman said at the National Convention in Washington in 1919: "In the name of the living God let us federate ourselves as friends of mankind and servants of the Almighty God, that in our day and our generation mankind may see the last days of the dominance of this curse upon the earth." The "curse" alluded to was British beer produced by this and other firms. This was the statement of the advocate of the Temperance Council of the Christian churches, and following it was Mr Hopkin Morris's Local Veto Bill for Wales. Despite the suggestion that this Bill would allow the people of Wales to settle an important social problem, it met with such violent opposition, particularly in South Wales, that the House of Commons would not entertain it.

BISHOP OF OXFORD'S BILL.

Then they had had the Bill promoted by the Bishop of Oxford in the House of Lords; that Bill was adopted by the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches. Mr. Carter again. The Bill was described by many members of the House of Lords, both spiritual and temporal, as undemocratic, disingenuous, spoliation. The Bishop of Durham said: "The compensation offered was disguised as confiscation." Lord Long, Lord Cave, and Lord Sumner, among others, opposed the Bill, and endeavoured to show what it would lead to. Lord Astor supported the Bill, and quoted the Carlisle experiment as justifying its financial proposals. Other noble Lords quoted Carlisle as a wonderful instance of the success of State Control, but one noble Lord opposing quoted the hon. treasurer of the United Kingdom Alliance as stating that from a teetotal point of view it was a failure. The brewers had paid large

sums under the 1904 Act into the compensation fund. They were to-day investing large sums out of earnings in the cause of temperance, and if the Bill had become law, all their licences might have been taken away in four years without any compensation. The Bill was defeated by a large majority.

There was no doubt that the conscience of the country and the action of licensing justices had lately moved for the provision of an improved type of public house. He thought he might claim that for many years the board had advocated this reform. They were using their reserves in this direction, and their programme of works in progress, plans approved by the magistrates, and plans to be submitted to the magistrates, amounted to the large total of £426,000. Surely they deserved fair consideration and just security for this outlay of capital, which certainly was in the cause of true temperance.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO (CHARTERED) COMPANY.

PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

The eighty-third half-yearly meeting of the British North Borneo (Chartered) Company was held, on the 5th instant, at River Plate House, London, the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., the president, being in the chair.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that although in the year 1923 there was no marked increase of prosperity, the year's results gave no ground for despondency. It was true that their hopes of a revival of trade had not materialised, but the industrial activity of the country had on the whole been satisfactorily maintained. A bright feature was the steadily rising ratio of exports to imports. For every £100 worth of goods imported £102 had left the country in 1921. In 1922 the ratio had improved to £121, and in 1923 it had mounted to the high figure of £159.

In conclusion, the President said: I shall not have many more opportunities of addressing you. Possibly this may be the last occasion on which I shall enjoy that privilege. Consequently it is, I assure you, very disappointing to me that towards the end of my long term of office as president of the company that owing to the devastating war, and still more to its withering aftermath of trade depression, I have been obliged to disappoint you in the matter of the dividends which under happier conditions you would have been entitled to expect for the money which you have invested

in the territory. In these circumstances shareholders naturally are inclined to turn on the men who have the management of their affairs and blame them for reverses of fortune for which in their calmer moments they must admit that they cannot be held responsible. We have worked for you to the best of our power; we have not spared ourselves and have suffered many moments of anxiety, for I assure you that it is no easy matter to administer a territory under Royal Charter.

I am making no apology; we have nothing to apologise for. On the contrary, we maintain that your territory has been wisely and efficiently administered. Indeed, you are fortunate not to have suffered more than you have, for you have fared better than your neighbours.

You have not to lament the financial retrogression of your territory. For many years prior to the war the prosperity and revenue of your territory increased by leaps and bounds. Even during the war it steadily but slowly increased. In 1914 the revenue was £209,000; in 1923 it was £357,000. When the clouds which now darken the world have finally dispersed North Borneo will again thrive and prosper, and you will be compensated for the sacrifices and disappointments which you have suffered during recent years.

A discussion followed, and the report and accounts were adopted.

OROVILLE DREDGING COMPANY, LIMITED.

PATO MINES SUCCESSFUL RESULTS.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of Oroville Dredging Company, Limited, was held, on the 6th instant, at River Plate House, London, Mr F. W. Baker presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the company received by way of dividends from its holding in the Pato Mines (Colombia) £125,400. Four dividends of 9d per share had been paid, and they proposed carrying forward a balance of £142,198. In his annual report of field operations the manager of the Pato company (Mr John Doyle) stated that 1,337,886 cubic yards were dredged, as compared with 1,966,287 yards in the previous year. The gross value of the gold recovered was \$404,232, averaging 29.9 cents per cubic yard, with an average depth of gravel dredged of 31.4 feet, as against \$479,247, averaging 24.3 cents, with an average depth of 28.1 feet. The field cost for the year averaged 10.09 cents per cubic yard, as compared with 9.01 cents. In addition, 447,308 cubic yards of tailings were dredged, the gross value of gold recovered being \$81,344, so that,

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - - - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

allowing for rehandling of these tailings, the results for the year under review compared favourably with the previous year's operations. Results of drilling carried out on one section of the property outside the tested areas had disclosed an old river channel estimated to contain 4,000,000 cubic yards, averaging 24 cents per cubic yard, of which 18 cents was considered recoverable. Further discoveries of payable gravel on the extension of this river channel were more than probable, and should materially add to the life of their property.

In regard to Nechi Mines (Colombia), Limited, Mr Doyle reported that field operations to September 30th showed that 1,260,708 cubic yards were dredged from the ground, as compared with 2,251,336 for the previous year. The gross value of the gold recovered was \$209,286, as against \$323,551. It was the intention of the directors to liquidate the Nechi Company at the earliest possible moment. As to the Colombian Corporation, Limited, a report had been received from Mr Hoffman, who states that he was not able to see or sample the reserves of the Constanca mine mentioned by Mr Prichard at the time of the purchase. Mr Hoffman did not say the reserves did not exist; what he did say was that he was not able to see or sample those reserves because he was not able to get at that portion of the mine from which the tonnages indicated by Mr Prichard were disclosed, as at these points cavings had taken place. The board felt to-day that no evidence had been produced which would shake their confidence in Mr Prichard's views as to the ultimate outcome of this property.

The report and accounts, after some discussion, were unanimously agreed to.

TRANSVAAL AND RHODESIAN ESTATES, LIMITED.

CAPITAL REORGANISATION APPROVED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at River Plate House, London.

Mr H. G. Latilla (chairman of the company) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, including loans and a minimum of £50,000 for quoted shares held, they had roughly £135,000 in liquid resources, and this did not include any Gem share or Globe Oilfields shares. Referring to the reorganisation proposals, he said there was really no loss of capital, most of the assets having been written down to a figure well below their value, and were it not for the fact that the directors thought the shareholders would appreciate a distribution free of tax it would be difficult to justify the recommendations before the meeting. To deal with the Fred Mine, the reorganisation scheme and the future of the Gem Company in one paragraph was a little difficult. The Fred Mine, although only a small proposition, had been running since 1913 and never looked better than it did now. Since February work at the 11th level had continued to open up a very rich body of ore, and these results were expected to continue below this level. In the meantime they had secured the Redwing property, situated about two miles from the Fred. The ore from the Redwing would be treated at the Fred mill. It should not cost more than £2,000 to establish whether or not it had the makings of a mine. The Gem Company had also secured a 40 per cent. interest in a property which was being worked by the Goldfields Rhodesia Development Company, and upon which highly satisfactory results were being obtained. To put the matter as shortly as possible, the position was that the Gem Company would be freed of its liabilities, and if the resolutions were passed the Transvaal

and Rhodesian Estates would possess, even after making the proposed distribution, the controlling interest in the Gem Rhodesia Company. There should be no difficulty of finance in any of the properties mentioned, and, to come to the crux of the whole matter, he could say that as a setoff against the sale of one-fourth interest in the Fred they had, in effect, acquired the whole of the Redwing, an option of 40 per cent. interest in the property now being worked by the Goldfields Rhodesia Company, and the option on the ground adjoining the Turkois mine. His view was that, as from November next, when the Gem Company should be able to haul and treat the rich ore now being opened up at the Fred, and also ore from the Redwing, profits would be earned at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the increased capital—which rate should be improved upon during the next twelve months.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the resolutions for the reorganisation of the capital were approved.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Aug. 11-Aug. 16 were opened on Aug. 8, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £46,625,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 os 9d, and above in full. Saturday at £99 os 11d, about 62 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £32,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
July 4.....	30,000,000	65,220,000	3 6 5-43	94 13 0
July 11.....	30,000,000	61,060,000	3 9 5-96	94 13 0
July 18.....	35,000,000	56,300,000	3 10 9-29	94 13 0
July 25.....	35,000,000	50,035,000	3 12 9-94	nil
Aug. 1.....	35,000,000	44,460,000	3 13 5-41	nil
Aug. 8.....	35,000,000	46,625,000	3 15 4-32	nil

Tenders will be received on Aug. 15, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £30,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1924, to Aug. 2, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1923, to Aug. 4, 1923.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 2, 1924.	Receipts. Week Ended Aug. 4, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of England....	..	5,069,613	5,442,685	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,562,001	1,375,602	..	..
	..	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	101,800,000	34,008,000	43,655,000	1,722,000	2,053,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	41,661,000	47,037,000	971,000	1,063,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	15,600,000	3,223,000	3,385,000	100,000	512,000
Stamps.....	21,000,000	5,640,000	6,860,000	600,000	430,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty ..	1,250,000	580,000	450,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax ..	265,000,000	70,924,000	70,965,000	7,086,000	6,971,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	21,060,000	21,280,000	590,000	570,000
Excess Profits Duties &c.	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax ..	20,000,000	6,050,000	7,010,000	280,000	330,000
Post Office.....	63,500,000	17,500,000	16,600,000	1,400,000	1,260,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	380,000	320,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	5,704,247	5,772,648	73,705	72,516
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	4,198,232	5,192,894	436	200,776
Ordinary Receipts ..	30,000,000	11,552,533	16,227,287	..	..
Special Receipts.....	..	..	..	..	..
Revenue.....	794,050,000	245,291,012	260,333,369	14,233,141	14,551,292
Total, Inc. Balance ..	..	251,222,626	287,051,536	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1911.....	..	4,790,000	3,170,000	270,000	293,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922.....	2,300,000	1,750,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	1,000	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1911.....	..	..	370,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills.....	797,209,000	833,213,000	49,829,000	45,129,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	9,500,000	18,450,000	508,000	850,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1921-23 ..	13,521,000	28,202,000	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	288,291,500	300,703,800	8,050,000	11,500,000	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	..	522,224	161,028	16,375	..
Total.....	..	1,367,567,970	1,453,042,281	71,682,471	72,134,124

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000 Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000 Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

Northern District Office - 69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch - 19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS.

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE	Estimate for the year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Aug. 2, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Aug. 4, 1923.	Week Ended Aug. 2, 1924.	Week Ended Aug. 4, 1923.
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	132,966,651	130,068,813	8,861,323	8,833,729
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	9,575,865	15,813,547	500,000	500,000
Road Fund	15,000,000	2,410,044	2,111,044	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	13,150,000	1,876,891	861,316	568,891	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	1,376,560	1,227,448	75,000	75,000
Land Settlement	750,000	279,205	147,071	5,158	21,324
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	967,812	1,121,307	252,476	9,861
Supply Services	408,919,000	122,914,337	121,354,924	6,510,000	8,600,000
Expenditure	793,759,000	272,367,365	275,705,475	16,772,848	18,042,914
OTHER ISSUES					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Housing Act, 1919	..	2,320,000	2,300,000	..	300,000
Under the Housing Act, 1924	..	4,000	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	..	3,320,000	1,510,030	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills	..	789,190,000	852,590,000	52,040,000	50,810,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	..	11,000,000	12,650,000	600,000	650,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	..	17,005,096	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	..	50	269,036	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	286,223,500	286,249,500	3,200,000	2,250,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	..	1,364,461,806	1,448,646,219	72,612,848	72,052,914
Bank of Ireland	..	2,052,612	2,105,613	..	..
Bank of Scotland	..	2,443,552	1,290,866	..	..
Total	..	3,496,164	3,396,479	..	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 65 of 1924.
Treasury, August 5, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Aug. 2, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14
5% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3% War Stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% War Stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% and 5% War Stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National War Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Funding Loan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Victory Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National Savings Certs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766	7,789	7,789

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 4, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Aug. 2, '24.	Week Ended Aug. 2, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	5,000,000	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England	203,351,500	186,155,500	188,223,500	4,850,000
Advances by Public Deposits	596,725,000	588,320,000	596,415,000	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding	..	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	805,076,500	774,475,500	784,638,500	2,440,000

* Includes £76,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.		Investments in Government Securities.		Redemption Account.		Balance at Bank of England.	
	£	000's	£	000's	£	000's	£	000's
Mar. 29, 1923	300,351	14,255	5,000	38,500	19,450	159	261,479	177
June 28, 1923	295,374	13,338	5,000	38,500	19,450	133	261,479	177
Sept. 27, 1923	289,127	12,648	7,000	37,000	21,150	169	248,458	169
Dec. 27, 1923	301,337	12,872	7,000	37,000	21,150	159	258,923	157
Mar. 28, 1924	285,616	12,318	7,000	37,000	22,450	173	241,294	190
June 27, 1924	286,503	12,616	7,000	37,000	22,450	173	242,440	193
Sept. 27, 1924	282,784	12,401	7,000	37,000	22,450	173	238,538	140
Dec. 26, 1924	289,070	12,571	7,000	37,000	22,450	165	255,032	159
Mar. 26, 1924	281,538	11,938	7,000	37,000	22,450	176	236,667	130
June 25, 1924	290,316	12,472	7,000	37,000	22,450	170	246,198	140
July 25, 1924	292,302	12,576	7,000	37,000	22,450	169	248,295	133
Aug. 6, 1924	295,566	12,478	7,000	37,000	22,450	167	251,477	117
Aug. 6, 1924	298,825	12,911	7,000	37,000	22,450	166	255,244	122

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum statutory issue for 1920 fixed at £320,000,000, for 1921 at £317,500,000, for 1922 at £309,900,000, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 6, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	146,238,250
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	8,734,900
Gold coin & bullion	126,488,250
Total	146,238,250

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,517,899
Public deposits*	13,310,943
Other deposits	110,936,442
Seven-day & other bills	12,475
Total	142,330,759

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Aug. 6, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	3,517,899	+	45,949
Public deposits	13,310,943	+	1,117,340
Other deposits	110,936,442	+	1,055,650
Government securities	8,734,900	+	3,541,264
Other securities	78,137,020	+	2,641,943
Reserve	20,951,272	+	15,228
Note circulation	127,106,315	+	1,015,150
Coin and bullion	126,307,587	+	1,078
% of reserve to liabilities	16%	unchanged	14%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.
1924.	£	£	£	£	%
July 2	128,265,538	127,805,525	151,877,534	149,578,199	20,215,013
9	128,269,317	127,269,900	150,803,468	148,007,596	20,749,417
16	128,271,111	126,202,600	149,186,150	147,368,057	21,818,511
23	128,269,723	126,272,720	149,191,459	147,368,057	21,747,003
30	128,308,665	127,092,165	149,185,095	147,368,057	21,747,003
Aug. 6	128,307,587	127,106,315	149,185,095	147,368,057	21,747,003

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted.)

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to July 23	20,013,499	906,372	1,637,320	22,556,189
July 30	618,691	31,060	49,979	699,730
Aug. 6	606,311	29,686	50,998	686,995
Total to date 1924	21,238,501	966,116	1,738,297	23,942,914
Do 1923	19,935,482	961,503	1,734,092	22,631,077
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 1,303,019	+ 4,613	+ 4,205	+ 1,311,837
%	6%	0%	0%	5%
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,664	36,627,592
Total for year 1924	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 510,262	+ 28,096	+ 4,499	+ 542,857
%	1%	1%	0%	1%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	1923.	1924.
Month of July.	£	£
Number of Working Days	24	26
BIRMINGHAM	20,416,000	11,319,000
BRIISTOL	5,060,000	5,671,000
DUBLIN	3,787,000	4,732,000
HULL	4,618,000	4,660,000
LEEDS	3,401,000	3,846,000
LIVERPOOL	35,098,000	41,199,000
MANCHESTER	63,836,000	67,703,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,518,000	7,889,000
NOTTINGHAM	2,688,000	3,091,000
SHEFFIELD	5,236,000	5,131,000
Total	142,658,000	155,241,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the *Economist* of April 12. Rumania in May 31; German Gold Discount in July 12; Canada and Greece in July 19; Lithuania, Bulgaria, and Egypt in July 26; Japan, Poland and Serbia in August 2.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	July 18, 1924.	Aug. 3, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,154,310	3,167,530	3,160,550	3,109,670
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	105,090	106,020	105,880	84,060
Bills discounted for member banks	29,900	29,830	305,240	806,440
Bills bought in open market	24,440	31,530	37,430	182,630
Government obligations owned	505,280	477,210	466,570	93,790
All other resources	87,350	86,030	84,960	66,540
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	45,390	40,120	34,510	41,580
Other deposits	2,119,410	2,104,730	2,109,490	1,902,970
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,761,570	1,782,630	1,821,710	1,560
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	nil	nil	11,900	17,900
All other liabilities	12,130	12,070	352,320	327,870
Capital and surplus	332,400	332,320	332,320	332,770
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.	83%	83.3%	82.6%	77.3%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	July 12, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion	549	549	549	549	549	533
Gold certificates	10,223	10,223	10,173	10,163	10,102	10,011
Subsidiary coin	50	60	50	50	50	50
Bills discounted	3,715	4,117	4,074	3,444	3,407	3,009
Loans & advances to Govt.	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,400	2,400	2,850
Investments	223	222	17	17	17	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	153	153	153	40	40	40
Notes in circulation	10,339	10,691	10,789	10,236	10,318	11,291
Bankers' deposits	5,492	5,540	5,575	5,197	4,997	5,514
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	66.5%	64.9%	65.7%	69.7%	69.7%	63.9%

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	July 23, 1923.
Gold	108,126,662	107,932,371	107,817,527	73,390,999
Foreign bills	3,166,109,329	3,159,570,248	3,243,705,289	2,917,993,289
Bills discounted	3,196,915,589	3,173,491,676	3,190,914,431	668,382,527
Treasury bills	2,231,172,566	2,231,172,566	2,236,862,016	2,547,211,870
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	5,305,936,293
Notes in circulation	7,336,128,365	7,533,740,510	7,764,047,420	813,368,780
Deposits	1,360,462,390	1,067,439,800	944,314,814	

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-issuing Department.

(In Tchernovets—000's omitted.)

Assets.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	July 1, 1924.	June 16, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	11,429	13,314	9,269	8,841	6,140
Silver in bullion	743	743	743	743	74
Platinum	10,003	9,962	10,007	9,853	551
Foreign bank notes	243	341	343	343	397
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	15,891	14,546	13,783	12,244	4,113
Bills (less 10% discount)	5,891	5,933	5,995	6,094	3,130
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	41,750	40,650	38,750	38,000	13,500
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	2,550	1,300	1,500	250	905
Balance to which notes may still be issued					

(Note: 1 Tchernovets = 10 gold roubles.)

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	Aug. 4, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	2,534,613	2,534,525	2,534,489	2,534,454	521,778
Silver	660,877	660,584	657,403	657,403	745,650
Loans & discounts	2,172,712	2,163,059	2,191,015	2,237,388	320,796
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	4,396,334	4,364,047	4,378,229	4,394,223	901,550
Deposits	904,988	924,811	933,185	959,381	477,500

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 10, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	June 10, 1924.	June 3, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash	1,572,404	1,613,459	1,567,435	1,550,095	1,524,638	1,221,875
Inland bills	3,319,434	3,386,031	3,120,342	2,974,056	2,959,022	418,400
Foreign bills	15,623	15,643	15,801	15,783	13,149	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	5,652,918	5,651,905	5,657,591	5,667,655	5,834,921	nil
Other advances	1,720,593	2,118,781	1,744,401	1,636,467	2,341,717	79,175
Securities	420,508	416,420	374,605	375,489	406,886	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,268,029	13,355,386	12,698,961	12,441,419	13,069,056	1,556,925
Deposit & drafts	1,866,359	2,004,195	2,079,844	1,957,801	1,811,751	193,975

LONDON RATES.

	Aug. 1, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	Aug. 3, 1924.	Aug. 4, 1924.	Aug. 5, 1924.	Aug. 6, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
3 months' do	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 months' do	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4
6 months' do	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Short	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Deposit allowances: Banks	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Bank Bills.						Trade Bills.					
		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.		3 Months.		4 Months.		6 Months.	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
July 18.....	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4
25.....	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4
31.....	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4
Aug. 8.....	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	5 1/4

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	%	Changed.	%
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924 .. 5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923 .. 5
Athens	Jan. 24, 1923 .. 7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 27, 1924 .. 6
Belgrade	Sept. 15, 1923 .. 6	Prague	May 27, 1924 .. 6
Berlin	Jan. 22, 1923 .. 90	Rome	Feb. 16, 1924 .. 8
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923 .. 5 1/2	Rosario	July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6	Sofia	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 7
Bombay	Sept. 10, 1920 .. 10	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 7
Calcutta	July 30, 1924 .. 4	Swiss Bank	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 7
Christiania	Nov. 10, 1923 .. 7	Tokyo	July 14, 1923 .. 4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924 .. 7	Vienna	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Danzig	Mar. 17, 1924 .. 12	Warsaw	June 4, 1924 .. 12
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924 .. 9		(See note below)
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923 .. 9		
New York Fed. Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3		
		Irish	July 5, 1923 .. 5

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).
Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Aug. 9, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 24, 1924.	July 30, 1924.	Aug. 6, 1924.
Call money	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Time money (90 days' mixed call)	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	Aug. 9, 1923.	July 24, 1924.	July 30, 1924.	Aug. 6, 1924.
New York on—					
London—					
60 days	4.8665	4.8325	4.3775	4.3750	4.4650
Cable		4.5675	4.4075	4.4050	4.4950
Cheques		4.5650	4.405	4.4050	4.4925
Paris		5.6675	5.15	5.07	5.54
Brussels		4.30	4.62	4.60	5.0650
Switzerland		18.29	18.4	18.64	18.91
Vienna		19.30	4.27	4.3325	4.3275
Madrid		19.30	000142	0014	0014
Amsterdam		19.30	13.37	13.36	13.50
Copenhagen		18.36	18.29	18.21	18.78
Christiania		16.20	13.42	13.55	13.81
Stockholm		26.59	26.68	26.62	26.65
Athens		1.90	1.725	1.7250	1.78
Buenos Aires		100	99.31	99.68	99.75
Yokohama		48.82	41.17	41.04	41.40
Hong Kong		51.85	52.75	53.06	53.30
Shanghai		69.60	51.5	51.50	51.80
Calcutta		30.52	31.861	32.02	32.29
Bombay		134.00	134.25	133.75	131.25
Rio de Janeiro		10.05	9.65	9.65	10.00
Valparaiso		20.60	12.40	10.375	9.82

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Aug. 10, 1923.	July 31, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	80.40-50	88.30-35
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	24.02	13.17,000,000	124.184bills
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	320,000,000	19.191 bills
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	310,015,000	320,325,000
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	155 1/2-156	148 1/2-149
Reval	Est. mks. to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	22-30.95	23.50-75
Riga	latas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	18.25	15.925
Bucharest	lei to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	940-950	22.69.94
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	100-100.000	1010-1025
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	800-820	335,365,000
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	475-525	862-872
Belgrade	dinara to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	600-610	600-610
Amsterdam	dollar to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	410-430	355-365
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	11.594-603	11.514-52
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	104.40-50	11.844-65
Christiania	kronor to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	28.13-18	32.50-55
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	17.15-18	16.51-54
Copenhagen	marks to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	24.32-97	27.33-38
Helsingfors	marks to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	164 1/2-165 1/2	175 1/2-176 1/2
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	175 1/2-176 1/2	181-181 1/2
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	107 1/2-107 1/2	252-257
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	25.09-12	1010-1014
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	33.32-37	33.82-85
Lisbon	escudos to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	53 1/2	33.73-76
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Buenos Aires	pesos to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pesos to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Lima	soles to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Calcutta	rupees to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Madras	rupees to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Hong Kong	dollars to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Shanghai	dollars to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Yokohama	dollars to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Manila	pesos to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2
Mexico	pesos to £1	T.T.	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2	4.86 1/2

Sellers. † Rate for previous day.

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador	Soles to £1	10.00	Sight London	17.18
Venezuela	Bolivares to £1	25.25	"	23.05
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	100	"	90.13
Nicaragua	Colonos to £1	4.8665	"	4.8
San Salvador	Colonos to £1	9.75	"	9.05
Guatemala	Pesos to £1	80.23	"	26.50
Costa Rica	Colonos to £1	10.45	"	17.375
Salvador	Pesos to £1	19.20	"	17 1/2

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

		Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
		From May 13, 1924.		From May 10, 1924.	
		London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
		Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
				(a)	(b)
T.T.		*1 % prem.	2 1/2 % prem.	2 1/2 % dis.	1 1/2 % dis.
Demand		1 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
30 days		1 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
60 days		1 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
90 days		1 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
120 days		1 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	1 1/2 %

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Aug. 1, 1924.	(c) Week ended Aug. 2, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Aug. 3, 1924.			Aggregate 31 Weeks, 1924.		
			Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western.....	3,754	500,000	322,000	822,000	1,124,000	1,045,000	1,254,000	1,948,000
Do for 1923.....	3,747	435,000	330,000	765,000	1,095,000	1,112,000	1,341,000	1,948,000
London & North-Eastern	6,722	788,000	664,000	1,452,000	2,240,000	2,190,000	2,539,000	4,729,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	677,000	685,000	1,362,000	2,044,000	2,029,000	2,459,000	4,483,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,942	1,134,000	809,000	1,943,000	2,842,000	2,750,000	3,288,000	6,038,000
Do for 1923.....	6,942	1,035,000	815,000	1,850,000	2,680,000	2,590,000	3,150,000	5,740,000
Southern.....	2,146	576,000	126,900	703,000	1,005,000	992,000	1,165,000	1,527,000
Do for 1923.....	2,146	576,000	126,900	703,000	1,005,000	992,000	1,165,000	1,527,000
Metropolitan (c).....	79	43,671	3,793	47,464	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000
Do for 1923.....	79	43,671	3,793	47,464	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
London & Sub. Group (c).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b).....	80	6,495	1,241	7,736	143,972	143,972	143,972	143,972
Dublin and S. East (b).....	160	9,336	3,439	12,775	183,920	183,920	183,920	183,920
Gr. Northern (Ireland) (b).....	562	25,600	22,950	48,550	575,200	575,200	575,200	575,200
Irish, & Western (b).....	1,151	28,577	29,166	57,743	706,024	706,024	706,024	706,024
Midland Gt. West. (b).....	538	12,416	14,743	27,159	278,109	278,109	278,109	278,109

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal.....	14 weeks	July 5	1,072	Rs. 2,78,000	+ 51,914	Rs. 35,20,060	+ 534,148
Barsi L. Ry.....	12 weeks	12	118	86,500	+ 66,600	6,11,900	+ 155,000
Bengal & N. Western	14 weeks	5	2,062	5,55,450	+ 74,010	96,27,145	+ 3,11,033
Bombay Nagpur	14 weeks	5	2,800	15,03,000	+ 21,000	2,23,05,483	+ 22,21,338
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	17 weeks	26	..	20,22,000	+ 2,54,000	4,01,18,000	+ 26,61,000
Burma	13 weeks	June 28	1,342	6,92,654	+ 53,005	95,55,497	+ 3,56,709
Delhi, Umballa & Kalaka	17 weeks	July 19	2,339	93,000	+ 5,353	16,38,971	+ 3,64,000
East Indian	17 weeks	Aug. 2	2,873	3,206,000	+ 3,93,000	6,10,68,000	+ 31,70,000
G. Indian Peninsula	17 weeks	July 26	3,175	22,53,300	+ 2,76,000	9,46,49,078	+ 55,28,237
Madras & S. Mahor	14 weeks	12	3,029	15,40,000	+ 1,08,441	2,41,69,250	+ 15,87,193
Rohilk'd & S. Mahor	14 weeks	5	259	55,733	+ 8,100	9,40,650	+ 94,834
Do Lucknow-Breilly	14 weeks	5	144	67,964	+ 6,572	11,45,873	+ 98,030
South Indian	14 weeks	5	1,877	10,61,821	+ 16,751	1,44,76,418	+ 2,68,607
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	5 weeks	Aug. 2	754	£ 13,900	+ 3,700	£ 62,200	+ 9,500
Argentine Trans.	4 weeks	July 26	..	2,288	+ 720	8,453	+ 4,141
B. A. and Pacific	5 weeks	Aug. 2	3,362	175,000	+ 40,000	791,000	+ 127,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	5 weeks	2	3,948	199,000	+ 37,000	938,000	+ 153,000
B. A. Western	5 weeks	2	1,832	100,000	+ 25,000	333,000	+ 127,000
Central Argentine	5 weeks	2	3,305	227,000	+ 19,000	1,095,000	+ 59,000
Cordoba Central	5 weeks	2	1,205	75,000	+ 9,000	362,100	+ 17,900
Entre Rios	5 weeks	2	729	21,700	+ 5,800	100,700	+ 23,700
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	30 weeks	July 31	22,860	£ 5,34,320	+ 288,993	£ 13,84,228	+ 1,88,544
Canadian Pacific	30 weeks	31	13,814	4,510,000	+ 494,000	98,98,000	+ 2,455,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil	31 weeks	Aug. 2	1,011	6,900	+ 1,100	276,200	+ 21,600
Leopoldina	31 weeks	2	1,831	30,414	+ 3,292	876,800	+ 127,941
San Paulo	26 weeks	June 29	1,534	45,323	+ 18,612	1,08,42,300	+ 399,261
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta	31 weeks	Aug. 3	838	42,115	+ 525	1,155,735	+ 58,235
Nitrato (monthly)	30 weeks	July 31	366	44,740	+ 4,615	564,014	+ 90,247
CUBAN.							
Havana Central	4 weeks	July 26	..	11,616	+ 486	44,201	+ 1,676
United of Havana	5 weeks	Aug. 4	1,249	66,991	+ 6,716	332,726	+ 39,481
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay	5 weeks	Aug. 2	273	24,193	+ 1,920	109,518	+ 7,645
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	5 weeks	2	311	4,124	+ 52	20,250	+ 1,306
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	5 weeks	2	185	2,648	+ 159	11,085	+ 593
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	5 weeks	2	211	2,586	+ 665	11,201	+ 1,864
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Alcoy and Gandia	31 weeks	Aug. 2	33	15,000	+ 1,000	758,000	+ 79,200
Egyptian Delta	14 weeks	July 20	575	6,348	+ 741	78,774	+ 5,986
Gt. Southern of Spain	30 weeks	26	104	£ 120,357	+ 75,574	£ 3,042,132	+ 175,319
Mexican Railway	4 weeks	31	432	£ 384,300	+ 1,300	1,136,200	+ 75,400
New Cape Central	28 weeks	12	205	2,860	+ 224	77,675	+ 945
Paraguay Central	5 weeks	Aug. 2	274	4,590	+ 760	21,720	+ 7,650
Salvador	5 weeks	2	100	3,121	+ 865	12,922	+ 745

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine	31 weeks	Aug. 5	329	£ 86,286	+ 1,972	£ 2,697,574	+ 87,296
Burnley Corporation	2 weeks	12	12	£ 3,177	+ 26	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	31 weeks	2	354	£ 129,264	+ 19,082	..	+ 6,19,715
Chatham & District	28 weeks	July 10	15	£ 1,646	+ 208	37,502	+ 4,946
Egyptian Markets	31 weeks	31	..	£ 1,424	+ 199	64,476	+ 5,145
Glasgow Corporation	9 weeks	Aug. 2	106	£ 39,880	+ 3,272	392,096	+ 20,250
Tramways	12 weeks	16	..	£ 2,696	+ 60	38,364	+ 2,315
Ile of Thanet Trcn.	12 weeks	16	..	701	+ 117	42,478	+ 8,036
Do Light & Power	12 weeks	16	..	1,587	+ 110	42,366	+ 5,242
Lanarkshire Trams	30 weeks	July 31	283	..	..	..	..
Liverpool Corpora.	18 weeks	Aug. 2	124	£ 24,759	+ 4,018	444,643	+ 47,327
L.C.C. Tramways	18 weeks	16	163	79,655	+ 8,499	1,470,903	+ 139,884
Madras Elec. (2 wks.)	31 weeks	31	..	Rs 50,400	+ 5,713	7,17,764	+ 15,874
Pernambuco Trams	31 weeks	31	..	£ 3,697	+ 213	137,153	+ 23,129
Singapore Trams	26 weeks	2	..	£ 13,875	+ 1,474	372,062	+ 101,695

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim Final.	Date of Pay-ment.	Method of Pay-ment.		
Railways.					
Cork and Macroom	3*	Aug. 14	..	%	%
L. and N.-E. Prefd. Ord.	2½	..	..	..	..
Banks.					
Bank of N.S.W.	10*	Aug. 27	..	..	..
Industrial of Japan	10	June 30	Less Jap. tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Mercantile and General	9 p.s.	Aug. 7	Tax free	5	5
New Zealand	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
British Rubber of Java	8½	..	Less tax	15	nil
Dhamat Tea	..	..	Less tax	5	..
Do Deft.	..	..	Less tax	25	40
Hanipha (Ceylon)	10%*	Aug. 30	Less tax	..	..
Sumatra Cons. Rubber.	..	..	Less tax	74	74
Sumatra Prop. Rubber.	..	..	Less tax	32	24
Mining.					
Ipho Tin.	1/ p.s.†	Aug. 29	Less tax	15½	34
Do	9 p.s.†	Aug. 29	Less tax	..	..
Rambutan	8 p.s.†	Aug. 21	Less tax	..	..
Siamese Tin	10%*	Aug. 14	Less tax	..	..
Tekka	¼ p.s.†	Sept. 3	Less tax	..	..
Other Companies.					
Aberdeen Grain Warehousing	4%†	..	Less tax	10	..
African and Eldon Trade	9½ p.s.†	..	Less tax	8	8
Altrincham Gas, Orig.	7/ p.s.†	..	Less tax	..	..
Do New	34%*	..	..	..	..
American Trust	8½	..	(£ bonus) 12% Tax free	26	(a)
Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co.	10½	..	..	10	..
Australian Knitting Mills	8½	..	(£ bonus) 2 % Tax free	13	11
Bass, Ratcliff, and Grettton	5*	Aug. 18	Less tax	17½	17½
Benn Brothers	5%*	..	..	..	..
B. Morris and Sons	3%	Aug. 1	Less tax	..	..
Boddington's Breweries	8½	Sept. 2	..	..	..
Bristol Tramways, &c.	£5/15/6	% Sept. 2	..	..	..
Bristol Waterworks, 10%	10%*	..	Less tax	15	..
Do 7%	1/3 p.s.†	Aug. 16	Less tax	10	10
British Tea Shares Trust	6%	..	Tax free	..	..
Buenos Ayres Trams	7/6 p.s.†	Sept. 12	Arrears	20	..
Cardiff Exchange	1/3 p.s.†	Aug. 15	..	..	..
Car ni Sugar	6%	..	..	..	..
Chandamary Jute	5%†	..	..	..	..
Charing Cross Electricity	4*	..	..	..	..
Chester Waterworks	7½ p.s.*	..	Tax free	..	..
Consent Spanish Ore	5	..	..	..	..
Copestake, Crampton	6½	..	..	..	..
Crowe, Wilson, and Co	5	..	..	..	..
Croydon Gas Max. Stock	5	..	..	..	..
Do Sliding Scale Stock	5	..	..	..	..
D. and J. Fowler	5	..	..	..	..
Edinburgh Mortgage	..	..	..	10	10
Electrical Distribution of York-shire	34%*	..	Tax free	7	..
Empire Transport	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Enfield Cable Works	6%*	Aug. 16	Less tax	12½	10
English and Velvet Cord Dyers.	5%	..	..	15	15
Fife Linoileum	1/3 p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Grantham Waterworks	3%*	..	..	..	..
Greenlees and Sons	1/3 p.s.†	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..
Holborn and F. Ascati	33%	..	..	..	..
Hollins Mill Company	8*	..	..	..	..
H. Williams and Co.	1/3 p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Hyde Spinning	1/6 p.s.†	Sept. 30	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Illinois Car and Equipment	3%*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..
Ipswich Gas Light (Standard)	1/ p.s.†	..	Tax free	..	..
Isaac Walton	8½†	..	..	124	5
Jackson's Stores	10*	..	Tax free	5	..
J. and J. Cunningham	10*	..	..	..	..
Jeremiah Rothemann	2½	..	..	..	..
J. Grayson Lownd	1/6 p.s.†	Sept. 1	..	..	..
John Anderson's Polytechnic	2½	..	Tax free	2	7
John Power	2½†	..	Tax free	1	2
Jones' Sewing Machines.	2/3 p.s.†	..	..	17½	2
Lang Bridge	4*	Sept. 1	Less tax	8½	..
Lochely Iron and Coal.	4½†	..	..	..	..
London Electric Supply	1/6 p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Maldstone Gas.	10*	Oct. 1	Tax free	10	1
Maple Spinning	2%	..	..	..	..
Marcant's Wireless Telegraph	7½†	..	Less tax	10	1
M. B. Foster and Sons	5%	..	..	..	..
Mercantiles' Trust	1/ p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Miners' Safe	7½†	..	..	..	..
Moss' Empires.	1/ p.s.†	..	..	..	..
National Electric Theatres	5%	..	Less tax	10	1
Do Deft.	2½	..	..	20	2
New Moncton Collieries	1/ p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Newport (Mon.) Gas	5%†	..	Tax free	1/ p.s.†	2
North Central Wagon	2½	Aug. 4	..	10	..
Parkinson and W. and B. Cowan	15†	..	Less tax	12½	1
Plummer B. & Co.	5½†	..	..	..	..
Old Silkstone Collieries	6*	Aug. 31	Less tax	15	8
Railway Invest., Deft.	..	..	..	..	..
Regent's Canal and Dock	..	Aug. 23	Less tax	1/6	7
Rhonda Valley & Ely Breweries	12	..	..	..	..
Rylands and Sons	6*	..	Less tax	..	..
S. American Light and Power	10	..	Less tax	..	..
Scottish Northern Investment	12*	..	..	7	..
S. Frost	9%†	..	..	..	..
Shielly Collieries	2½*	Aug. 22	Tax free	12	..
South Metropolitan Gas	5*	..	..	..	..
Spratt's Patent	1/ p.s.†	Aug. 26	Less tax	..	..
Spratt's Patent (America)	1/6 p.s.†	Aug. 23	Less tax	..	..
S. Staffs Waterworks	6*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..
Stk. Conversion, &c., Def. Charge	5	..	..	2/17/6	2
Swindon United Gas	3%*	Sept. 1	Less tax	..	..
Tyneside Electrical, Pref.	1/ p.s.†	Aug. 30	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Unity Spinning	1/7 p.s.†	..	..	..	..
Walker and Son	..	..	Tax free	..	..
W. and H. M. Goulding	14%*	Aug. 30	Less tax 4/6 in £	6	..
Waste Heat and Gas	10*	July 30	..	12½	..
Wembley Park Estate	8½†	..	..	..	..
Western Wagon and Property	10*	..	..	..	..
Whitbread and Co.	17½†	..	Less tax	..	..
William Fulton and Sons	..	..	..	20	..
William McEwan	..	..	..	10	..
Wilson Peck, Limited	..	..	..	10	..
Wm. McLaren, Pref.	5	Aug. 21	Less tax	10	..
Wye Ring Spinning	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Yorkshire Elec. Power	1/3 p.s.†	..	..	..	..

Reports and Notices.

Lovell and Christmas, Limited, announce the resignation of Mr. V. G. Graae of his seat on the board of the company, and his appointment of chairman and managing director of the Maypole Dairy Company, Limited.

The Council of the Institute of Public Administration has approved of the appointment of Mr Michael F. Duggan (of the Accountant-General's Department, G.P.O.) to the honorary secretaryship to the Publicity Committee. Mr Duggan (whose address is the Post Office, Tunbridge Wells, Kent) will answer inquiries, and furnish information as to the activities of the institute from time to time.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

CONSOLIDATED EXTERNAL DEBT OF COLOMBIA.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the payment of the August instalment of the Debt Service in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1924.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the receipt of a sight draft for £4,390 15s 4½d, being the moiety of the first fortnightly instalment of the Debt Service payable to the Council in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1924.

NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT.—According to latest news received from Nicaragua, the Government has been able to cancel its debt with the American bankers, and has redeemed the Pacific Railway, which is now completely under Government control. Nicaragua has now paid all its debts, excepting the Ethelburga Loan of 1909, the service of which is being paid regularly, including the sinking fund. The internal revenue leaves monthly a surplus, which is being utilised for the development of the country.

ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.—Uruguay Consolidated 3½ per cent. Debt.—Sinking Fund.—Tenders of bonds of the above debt for redemption were opened at the office of Messrs Glyn, Mills and Co., 67 Lombard street, London, E.C., the amount available being £76,893 os 6d. Tenders received ranged from £57 to £59 5s per cent. Tenders under £58 10s were accepted in full.

RAILWAYS.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.—The London office of the National City Company has received cable advice that the \$10,000,000 Canadian Pacific 4 per cent. Consolidated Debentures which were offered in New York on Monday at 81 and interest, New York terms, by the National City Company and the Guaranty Company of New York, has been oversubscribed. They have further been advised that the National City Company is heading a syndicate which offered in New York \$25,000,000 Kingdom of Norway 6 per cent. Bonds at 97½ and interest, New York terms.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S LAND SALES.—For quarter ended July 31, 1924:—

	1923.	1924.
Farm lands—		
Acres.....	5,700	14,188
Sold for.....	£14,916	£40,407
Town lots—		
Sold for.....	£4,348	£9,018
Total receipts.....	£19,264	£49,425

For six months ended July 31, 1924:—

	1923.	1924.
Farm lands—		
Acres.....	10,158	25,057
Sold for.....	£28,210	£70,499
Town lots—		
Sold for.....	£10,396	£10,055
Total receipts.....	£38,606	£80,554

STEWARTS AND LLOYDS.—The directors, at their board meeting in view of the large expenditure incurred on additions to plant and works, decided to take steps to increase the share capital of the company by the creation of 2,700,000 additional deferred shares of £1 each, and to offer 1,335,579 of such deferred shares at par to the existing deferred shareholders in the proportion of one share for every two shares held, 10s per share to be paid on September 30 and 10s on November 29, 1924, the shares thus offered to rank for dividend from the respective dates of payment of instalments.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Recent heavy rains over most parts of the United Kingdom have not improved crop prospects, while retarding field work, except in Southern counties, where fair progress is being made with cutting of winter oats. Drier conditions and sunshine is needed, and given a spell of favourable weather, the outturn of wheat should be very little below the average. The market remained largely under holiday influences, consequently business was on a limited scale. Prices displayed irregularity and weakness for imported wheat on lower forward offers, but feeders generally maintained a steady level. The small quantity of English wheat available at country markets ranged from 13s 3d to 13s 9d per cwt, free on rail. Of imported, No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 62s 6d, No. 2 ditto 61s 6d, No. 3 60s 6d, Barusso 61½ lbs 57s 6d, Australian 58s 6d, choice white Karachi 57s 6d, and red ditto 56s 6d per 400 lbs, ex ship. Dull conditions prevailed in the floating and forward cargo section, buyers being reluctant to operate in view of

weaker cable advices from North America, and pressure to sell hard winter wheat. Maize cargoes also quieter, and prices inclined to sag on liberal Argentine shipments. Steamer of Dan-Gal-Foxanian loading sold at equal to 40s 9d to Continent, and yellow La Plata on passage at 38s 1½d per 480 lbs, c.i.f. terms. Flour in quieter request, and prices barely steady. London standard straight run quoted 48s 6d, patents 50s 6d to 51s 6d, town whites 48s 6d per sack, delivered in London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents range from 44s 6d to 49s, and Australian 42s to 44s per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley firm, with few offers. Californian quoted at 60s-63s, Chilean brewing 57s-60s per 448 lbs, ex ship. No. 3 Canadian western ex ship 40s 6d, landed 42s, Karachi ex ship 40s 6d, ditto landed 41s, Russian landed 40s 6d per 400 lbs. English nominal. Maize steady. Plate ex ship 38s 9d, landed 40s 3d, Bessarabian ex ship 39s, landed 40s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats firmer. Plate f.a.q. ex ship 24s 9d, landed 26s 3d. No. 2 Canadian western landed 31s, No. 3 ditto landed 29s 6d. Mixed Canadian feed, ex ship, 22s 6d per 320 lbs. English nominal. Millers' offals firm. Broad bran quoted at 8s 3d, middlings 9s 9d, fine ditto 11s 3d, bags included, ex mill; light oats 6s 3d, powdered oat husks 7s 9d, feed oatmeal 10s 3d, ground oats 13s 3d per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal maintained. London-made flaked 18s, rolled oats 17s 6d, medium and fine cuts 17s 6d, coarse and medium pin-head 17s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 18s-19s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Aug. 2.....	Cwts. 19,783	Cwts. 33,269	Cwts. 78,727	Cwts. 92,228
48 weeks to Aug. 2.....	12,693,123	16,867,631	16,007,637	12,295,849
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	12 9	11 5	12 6	17 5

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
July 26.....	Cwts. 20,530	Cwts. 2,645	Cwts. 5,685	12 3	11 10	10 0
Aug. 2.....	19,783	912	4,511	12 9	11 9	10 2
1920.....	5,263	1,461	2,697	20 0	23 10	22 8
1921.....	92,233	16,764	25,158	16 9	12 9	11 6
1922.....	78,729	2,543	9,427	12 8	10 7	11 10
1923.....	33,269	5,320	11,419	11 5	8 3	10 0

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH

DIRECT TO

NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 9	-	-	ss. "PARIS."
August 16	-	-	ss. "FRANCE."
August 30	-	-	ss. "PARIS."
September 6	-	-	ss. "FRANCE."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, FALM MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Breweries.										
Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co....	June 30	594,198	2,389,624	2,983,822	120,000	1,950,000	26	200,000	713,822	2,011,910
Bass, Ratcliff, and Grettton	June 30	63,571	463,057	526,628	68,000	265,200	13	100,000	93,428	389,223
Whitbread and Co.....	June 30	319,531	168,812	488,343	46,561	99,293	10	..	342,489	175,085
William Hancock and Co.	May 31	16,288	36,922	53,210	20,700	20,000	10	..	12,510	42,398
Canals and Docks.										
Regent's Canal and Dock	June 30*	1,587	13,715	15,302	..	11,882	1½	1,688	1,732	6,927
Financial, Land, &c.										
British Canadian and General ..	Dec. 31	2,667	601	3,268	..	..	..	3,268	302	..
Gas.										
Maidstone	June 30	15,324	13,375	28,699	..	10,918	8½	1,349	16,432	14,452
Malton	June 30*	3,189	1,922	5,111	..	1,440	6½	..	3,671	2,516
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Lochgelly Iron and Coal	May 31	65,348	128,832	194,180	5,425	73,500	17½	50,000	65,255	124,618
Rubber, &c.										
British Estates of Java.....	Dec. 31	6,913	21,699	28,612	..	16,432	15	3,000	9,180	276
Brus-Perak Rubber.....	Feb. 29	Dr 3,420	Dr 659	Dr 4,080	..	..	..	..	Dr 4,080	Dr 83½
Cicely Rubber.....	Mar. 31	10,695	8,605	18,300	900	7,337	10	1,000	10,663	10,320
Sumatra Proprietary.....	Apr. 30	428	4,001	4,429	..	3,749	3½	..	680	5,194
Vallambrosa Rubber.....	Mar. 31	7,072	9,466	16,538	..	6,536	16½	4,594	5,408	11,788
Shops and Stores.										
Mappin Stores (Brazil)	Feb. 29	2,770	14,891	17,661	..	..	(a)	15,049	2,612	5,919
Telegraphs.										
Marconi's Wireless	Dec. 31	523,272	172,543	695,815	17,500(7½%)	275,006	10	..	403,309	302,948
Textiles.										
Rylands and Sons	June 30*	158,735	141,600	300,335	46,500	77,500	10	10,000	166,335	129,591
Tramways.										
Tyneside	June 30*	503	1,573	2,076	601	..	..	500	975	1,213
Other Companies.										
Aberdeen University Press	June 30	398	1,917	2,315	916	941	12	..	458	766
Allied Produce	June 30	..	88,533	88,533	..	..	..	1,280	12,388	13,415
D. and J. Fowler	Mar. 31	14,163	29,786	43,949	8,250	20,000	20	..	15,699	28,586
Jones Sewing Machine	May 31	1,027	12,035	13,062	1,950	7,200	8½	2,500	1,412	11,152
Old Silstone Collieries	Mar. 31	48,780	70,808	119,588	28,000	39,092	15	..	52,496	..
W. and H. M. Goulding	June 30	3,904	27,197	31,101	6,875	15,750	5	5,000	3,476	..
W. H. Dorman	Mar. 31	Dr 47,003	579	46,424	..	..	..	..	46,424	..
Wembley Park Estate	June 30	266 (d)	10,451	10,718	..	9,328	12½	..	1,390	..

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

(a) Suspense account written off.

(d) Including £6,000 from Realisations Suspense Account.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated August 7, 1924, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There has been no pig-iron market this week owing to the holidays, but the position is unchanged. There is no improvement in the demand for pig-iron, either for shipment or home consumption. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is offered at 86s per ton f.o.t. or f.o.b., and mixed numbers East Coast hematite at 94s 6d per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The local steel works report no improvement. Some of them are idle, some are partly employed, whilst others are going fairly steadily. Prices are unchanged, as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: There is practically nothing doing. Odd cargoes have been sold on the basis of 22s 6d for best Bilbao Rubio, c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business had not been fully resumed after the holidays at the time of the despatch of this report, but there is reason to fear that most branches of the iron and steel industry have lost some ground since the stoppage began, and the immediate outlook for many of the large producing companies is such as to cause grave anxiety for the future. While pessimism is rampant, however, a fair sprinkling of traders still retain confidence that there will be a turn in the tide of depression before matters drift into a critical position. Some of the lighter branches of the steel trade are looking up at certain of the works, and there is more doing in tool steel and files. The demand for automobile and railway steel is the only bright spot in the situation at Sheffield, and the withdrawal of the McKenna duties has not affected appreciably the former, while builders of automobiles do not apprehend any considerably increased competition from foreign sources. British cars are now being made to a pattern and at a price which gives them a firm grip of the home market, and the export trade is improving. The motor-cycle and push-cycle trades are enjoying a spell of great prosperity, both at home and in the overseas markets. The output of steel in this district has been declining heavily since the beginning of the year, and if the downward movement continues it will soon fall to the pre-war level, when capacity was 50 per cent. below what it is to-day. The fuel market is going from bad to worse, as the demand from all sources declines week by week. Trade with the Continent is now quiet, and the home consumption of manufacturing coal and coke is 25 per cent. or more less than it was three months ago. Prices are weakening, and the official quotations may be regarded as nominal. Best hand-picked branch, 32s; Barnsley best Silstone, 26s; best Yorkshire hards, 21s 6d to 22s 6d; Derbyshire ditto, 21s to 22s; Blythe ditto, 20s to 21s; Durham ditto, 24s; rough slacks, 12s 6d to 13s 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The South Wales collieries were idle until Wednesday night, in consequence of the usual August official holidays, and even on Thursday there was only a partial resumption of work. Shipping was resumed on Wednesday, but loading operations did not become active until Thursday. Under these circumstances, hardly any business has been transacted on the market, but in so far as tendencies were apparent they showed a slightly firmer tone. Holidays also involved a general stoppage of work in the iron and steel industries, and the usual weekly meeting of the Swansea Metal Exchange was only very sparsely attended. The tinplate market was very firm, with prices tending upwards. Preparations are being made for a resumption of work at the Ebbw Vale steel-works, which were closed down a month ago in consequence of the trade depression.

Head Office:
7, PRINCES ST.,
E.C.2.

Regd. Office:
7, TOKENHOUSE YARD,
E.C.2.

Est'd 1862

Banking Facilities.

BRITAIN'S enterprise across the seas needs the service of a banking organisation specialising in individual markets. The Bank of London & South America Limited concentrates on the Latin-American market—with branches or agents at every point of commercial importance.

Monthly Trade Review and Status Reports sent on Application.
Paid-up Capital and Reserve Fund £7,140,000.

BANK OF LONDON & SOUTH AMERICA
LIMITED.

Formerly THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED, which is amalgamated THE LONDON & BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.
MANCHESTER. BRADFORD.

Affiliated with LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

Fairly large purchases of Cleveland pig-iron have been made by Scottish foundries, as a result of the lower prices which have been accepted recently. Scotch pig-iron makers are quiet, with moderate demand and slightly reduced values. Shipments from the Clyde for the week ending Saturday last totalled 635 tons. Work has been resumed at all the iron and steel plants here after the holiday cessation, but buying on the part of consumers is on a very small scale so far, and in the export side considerable hesitation is observable in quarters from which business is usually expected at this season. The reason for this is probably the persistent reports of cheap offers from the Continent of finished and semi-finished materials, especially the former, which are stated to have been quoted £5 17s 6d, f.o.b. Antwerp. German billets have been offered, delivered Glasgow, at £6 5s per ton, but no sales are reported. Re-rollers and bar iron makers are only moderately employed, and the home demand for black sheets does not show up very well. Black sheets for export are in request for Australia, Canada, and the Continent, but in the thin sheet trade with Japan no new business is reported, and so far as fresh buying is concerned the market seems entirely blank. Makers are still engaged on the tonnage of these which was placed during the May buying movement. Galvanised sheet manufacturers are full up till well on in October, and are holding prices firm at £18 5s to £18 10s for 24 gauge. Small lots only, and these by special arrangement, can be procured in August or September.

METALS.

Tin advanced sharply on stimulating advices from the East, also United States, combined with a good demand for all positions. Cash sold at £256 10s to £259 5s, and three months £254 to £257 2s 6d to £256, while later at £259 10s. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £258 5s, c.i.f. At Thursday's market values ruled irregular and easier. Standard cash sold at £256 to £255 10s, three months £258 to £256 10s to £257 to £255 10s to £256 5s. Irregular and easier at close, standard cash quoted at £255 5s, with sales in August at £255 15s to £255 5s, and three months £257 10s to £255 to £255 10s, English ingots £256 to £256 10s. Copper also firmer, with business on a liberal scale, though slight irregularity was noticeable at times. Standard cash sold at £63 15s to £64 7s 6d to £64 5s, and three months £64 12s 6d to £63 2s 6d to £65 10s to £65 5s. The tendency ruled in buyers' favour on Thursday, with active trading in force. Standard cash sold at £64 5s to £63 18s 9d, and three months £65 5s to £64 17s 6d to £65. Easier, but offerings were well absorbed. Standard cash quoted at £63 12s 6d to £63 15s, with August sold at £64 to £63 17s 6d, and three months £64 15s to £64 17s 6d to £64 12s 6d. Electrodes £67 10s to £68s, best selected £66 5s to £67 10s, strong sheets £94, wire bars £68 per ton. Lead easier, and quoted at £31 17s 6d to £31 7s 6d as to position. Spelter irregular at £31 17s 6d to £32 according to position. Aluminium, home, £125; export £130. Antimony, English regulus, £44 10s to £47.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 1, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.				Low Mid.				Mid.				Good Mid.				Mid. Fair.				Same Period 1923.				Same Period 1922.			
		a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d	a	d		
American		1553	1678	1818	1998	2098	2198	1311	1361	1411	1461	1511	1561	1611	1661	1711	1761	1811	1861	1911	1961	2011	2061	2111	2161	2211	2261		
Brazilian :	Mid	M	F	G	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F		
Pernamb, Macao, &c.		1688	1838	1938				1311	1361											1129	1279								
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.		1688	1838	1938				1311	1361											1129	1279								
Oceara, &c.		1688	1848	1938				1311	1361											1129	1279								
Sto Paulo		1713	1763	1813				1311	1346											1179	1259								
Egyptian :		G	F	G	F	G	F	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G		
Upper		2202	2252	2342				1220	1260	1620	1670	1720	1760	1810	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450		
Lower Middle		2202	2250	2260	2715	2810		1400	1450	1705	1755	1805	1855	1905	1955	2005	2055	2105	2155	2205	2255	2305	2355	2405	2455	2505	2550		
Brown		2202	2480	2545	2610	2670		1580	1680	1645	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500		
Peruvian :	M	F	G	F	G	F	G	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F	M	F	G	F		
Bough				2250	2350	2400				1850										1425	1575								
Moderately Bough				1900	2000	2100				1425	1575									1275	1400								
Smooth		1838	1903	2013	2038	2063		1336	1411	1511	1524	1549	1574	1599	1624	1649	1674	1699	1724	1749	1774	1799	1824	1849	1874	1899	1924		
Tangula		1838	1903	1963	2038	2163		1336	1411	1511	1524	1549	1574	1599	1624	1649	1674	1699	1724	1749	1774	1799	1824	1849	1874	1899	1924		
Mitah			2050	2200	2300	2400				1500	1600									1150	1500								
West Indian, &c.				1825	1875	1925				1475										1300									
Do Sea Island				2050	2060	2800	2900			1900	2500									2300	2900								
Do				1785	1835	1935	2015			1600	1700	1400								1075	1250	1450							
African, East, &c.	1545	1645		1715	1765	1815	1865	1915	1965	2015	2065	2115	2165	2215	2265	2315	2365	2415	2465	2515	2565	2615	2665	2715	2765	2815	2865		
Do				1788	1798	1808	1888	1968	2048	2128	2208	2288	2368	2448	2528	2608	2688	2768	2848	2928	3008	3088	3168	3248	3328	3408	3488		
Do West	G	F	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	F		
East Indian :				1630	1670	1710				1275										1060	1140	1180							
Maohine Ginned Surtee				1325	1365	1405	1445	1485	1525	1565	1605	1645	1685	1725	1765	1805	1845	1885	1925	1965	2005	2045	2085	2125	2165	2205	2245		
Maohine Ginned Broach				1325	1365	1405	1445	1485	1525	1565	1605	1645	1685	1725	1765	1805	1845	1885	1925	1965	2005	2045	2085	2125	2165	2205	2245		
Maoh. Ginned Bhowangur	1170	1220	1270	1320	1370	1420		8	75	9	25	1025	1075	1125	1175	1225	1275	1325	1375	1425	1475	1525	1575	1625	1675	1725	1775		
Maohine Ginned Comra. No. 1		1180	1230	1280	1330	1380	1430		8	75	9	25	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	1335	1385	1435	1485	1535	1585	1635	1685	1735		
Maoh. Ginned Comra. No. 2				1255	1305	1355	1405					9	10	1010						9	85	105							
Maohine Ginned Khandesh			1180	1230	1280	1330	1380		8	75	85	9	25	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	1335	1385	1435	1485	1535	1585	1635	1685		
Maohine Ginned Comphah.	1340			1420								1090								1070									
Maohine Ginned Bengal.	1145	1185	1225	1265	1305	1345		8	80	84	9	20	8	80	84	9	20	8	80	84	9	20	8	80	84	9	20		
Maohine Ginned Solinde	1185	1175	1215	1255	1295	1335		7	23	8	30	9	10	7	23	8	30	9	10	7	23	8	30	9	10	7	23		
Thainvelly	1482	1520	1558	1595	1635	1675		1220	1265											1230	1270								
American-Scinde-Punjab				1330	1405	1480	1530													1180									
M. G. Western				1370	140	1450				1025	1065									1005	1045								
Western				1330	1370	1415																							
M.G. Northern				1395	1435	1475																							
Northern				1395																									
M. G. Coomanda, Red	Fr.	1370								1065										1030									
Onha, Myanmar, &c																													

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—AUG. 7.									
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal.					Sheep, per stone.				
	s	d	s	d		s	d	s	d
Beasts—Herefords	7	6	to	8	0				
Shortborns	7	0		7	6				
Devons			nominal						
Norfolks			nominal						
Scottish			nominal						
Irish	7	0		7	4				
Fat Cows									

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—AUG. 7.									
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal.					Sheep, per stone.				
	s	d	s	d		s	d	s	d
Beasts—Heavy Bulls ..			nominal						
Do—Lean			nominal						
Sheep—Downs (clipped)	11	0	to	11	6				
Wools			nominal						
Ewes			nominal						
Crossbred			nominal						
Scottish									
Lamb—Downs	13	0	to	14	0				

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.

COCOA.—Duty, British grown
9.4d. foreign 14.0wt. 8 d 4
Trinidad, per cwt. 48 0 62
Grenada 39 8 46
Plantation 76 100
Guayquil 65 85 0
Bahia, finest 45 8 46

COFFEE—British grown
9.4d. foreign 14.0wt. 8 d 4
India, finest 125 125
Costa Rica, ord. to mid 9 120 0
Good to fine 133 0 160
Central American, gd.
ord. to mid 90 112 0
Mid. to fine 116 112 0
Columbian, ordinary 85 20 8
Do gd. ord. to low mid 95 115 8
Do mid. to fine 117 145 8

OREMICALS—
Acid, chloric . . . per lb 1 42 1 54
Do phosphoric 6 8 6
Oralic, net 6 8 6
Tartaric, English 1 14 1 14
Foreign 1 6 1 6
Alum lump per ton 12/18 12/18
Do bromide 13/18 14/08
Ammonia, carb., 37 8 8
Muriate, white, ton 25 31 15
Sulphate 415 16 8
Arsenic, lump, per ton 80 85 8
Do dry 45 47
Ashes, pot., per cwt 78 85 8
Pearl do 0 0 0
Bleaching pwr. p. ton 9/08 9/108
Borat, gran., cwt 24 10 8
Do dry 25 8 8
Do powder 25 8 8
Oream Tartar
987, powder 84 85 0
Colomel 8
Jodid, dry, per oz 1 8 1
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton 13/12 14/08
Potash—
Chlorate, net 9 34 8 4
Fusate 8 9 8 18
Do Foreign 8 9 8 18
Sulphate . . . per ton 15 17 6
Sal-Acetate . . . per lb 118 8
Sal-Ammoniac, per cwt 67 60 8
Soda-Bicarb., per ton 69/08 10/108
Crystals, per ton 61/10 6/0
Camdole . . . 15/17/6 18/7/6
Sugar of le'd white ton 0/08 0/8
Foreign white 449 6 50 8
Sulphate Quinine—
Do Brandy 2 3 0 0
Foreign do 2 2 3 0
Sulphate-Copper, p. ton 25/18 20/8
Zinc, cut 0 0 0
Shipbr Flour 9/108 10/108
Vermilion, Guinea, 9/108 10/108
English 3 9 4 0
Oil Pepper & H. G. H. 27 6

COFFEE—per ton, a.l.f. 8
Calabar, 1 July-Aug. nom
FES Brn 32 8 0
FM Brn 29 17 6
COCHINEAL per lb 2/2 6

DRUGS.

Alcane, fine E.L., pwt 108 8 188
Cape, good to fine 40 42 6
Balmam Peru . . . per lb 6 6
Capivi 1 4 1
Japan, refined 2 11 3
Cardamoms, Oeylon 4 9 8
Cardamoms, China 4 9 8
Gastero-cold 85 85
Gastero-cold 85 85
Olibanum, drops, 6 108 0
fair to good 68 108 0
Ipecacuanha 8 6 0
Jalap. 80 85 8
Ind. Cassia . . . per lb 7 3 7
Aniseed 2 4 0
Peppermint, H. G. H. 19 6 20 8
Berber, China, fr to fu 3 3 6

DIET STUFFS, &c.
Galla, China, per cwt 60 62 6
Madras, Bengal 72 6 0
Gambier, block nom
Outch, ord. to fair 35 8 46

DIETWOODS—
Brazil, . . . per ton 18 8
Frantic, Jamaica 18 8
Do 18 8
Lima Wood 18 8
Logwood, Campeachy 10 10
Honduras 10 10
Jamaica 18 8
Red sandal 18 8
Bapang Oeylon 18 8

FLAX—spot—a.l.f. 8
Flax ZK 124 8 0
Perman HD 120 8 0
Siameta U/A Medium 133 0 0
FRUIT—
Oranges, Val. selected 8 d 8
Do Caps, boxes 17 21 0
Lemons, Naples, cases 8 8 8
Do boxes 14 6 32 8
Do Sicilian boxes 12 15 6
Do Malaga cases 0 0 0
Grapes, Lisbon, boxes 13 6 16
Almeria . . . barrels 0 0 8

HIDES—Wet salted—
Australasian . . . per lb 6 64 8
Wet Indian 6 72 8
Lisbon 6 62 8
Opoto 5 84
Dry & Drysalted Cape 52 10 8
Madagascar 6 62 8
Central American 6 12 8
Buffaloes, Singapore 8 5 112
E. I. 8 5 14
Market Hides, London
Best hyr, or heavier do 8 82 8
Ind ox, heavy 8 72 8
Do light 8 58 8
Best cow 8 68 8
Ind do 8 64 8
Best calf 8 122 0

INDIA RUBBER.—lb.

Para, fine, hard spot 1 14
Plantation crepe 1 2 0

INDIGO—per red vici-
Best, good to fine 6 8 6
Mid. ord. vici. to good 6 8 6
Low to good ord. 4 8 6
Mitras, dry, light to 3 5 0
Mid. ord. vici. to good 4 8 6
Knapok, d. mid. to gd. 3 8 4
Low to mid 3 8 4

HEMP—per ton—
Italian P.C. £5 0
Manila, July-Sept. 41 15
"H" Grade 37 10
N. high point, fair, July-Sept. 37 10

JUTE
Native first marks Aug-Sept 30/0/1 0/0/0

LEATHER—per lb—
Sole Bonds 6/9 lb. 1 3 1 10
Do do 10/12 1 3 2
Do do 14/16 1 4 2 6
Do do 17/18 1 4 2 6
Do do 19/18 1 6 8
Bark Tanned Sole 2 6 3 0
Shlids fr DB Hides 9 9 1 0
Do Eng or W8 do 1 8 1 8
Do Eng or W8 do 1 8 1 8
Do Eng or W8 do 1 8 1 8
Dressing Hides 1 6 2
No. Eng. Calf, 20/50lb 3 6 6
Australasian Slides 8 11 1 3

METALS—B. Copper 8
Best selected 65 5 67 10
Sheet (strong) 94 0 0
Standard 63/12/6 63/15/1
Lead—Erv. Pig p. ton 35/5 9/0/0
Soft Foreign 31/7/6 31/7/6
Spelter G.O.B. 31/7/6 32/1/6
Tin—English ingots 25/0 228/1/6
Do bar 25/0 0 0
Standard cash 255/0/0 255/5/0

OILS—Fish, per ton—
Best, pale 40 8 8
Lined, per ton, net, naked 41 19 8
Rape, refined 10 0 8
Orude 47 10 8
Cotton-seed, crude 4 0 43 8
Gds refined 51 0 14
Cocoa-nut, crude 49 0 51 0
Refined 52 0 53 0
Palm 41 10 42 8
Lard, American 63 72 8
Petrol. Oil, per 8 lbs 3 4 8
Water-White 1 2 8
Oil Cakes, Lead, Eng. per ton 613/0/0 214/0/0
Oil Seeds—Lined—
Flax 10 Aug-Sept 20 7 6
Bombay, p. ton 20 7 6
Calcutta, p. ton, Aug-Sept 22 7 6

PORTLAND CEMENT—
Best English, per ton 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2 0
Do 50 2

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,225.

issued by the Company may be obtained on application from the Head Office or any of the Offices or Agencies of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

**Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.**

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

The Money Market	257	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		India and Emigration	278
A Sacrifice to Expediency..	259	Books Received	278
A Bad Treaty	260	Stock Exchange News—	
Government Control of		The Stock Markets.....	279
Investments	261	New Issues	279
Our Timber Imports	262	Active Securities	279
The Pulp and Paper In-		Company Meetings	281
dustry in Canada	263	Government Returns—	
Is Women's Employment		Public Income and Expen-	
Increasing ?	264	diture	285
Notes of the Week—		National Debt	285
The Trouble in the Sudan	265	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
U.S. Election Programmes	266	by Public Tender	285
The Free State and the		Currency Notes Account ..	286
Boundary	266	Bankers' Gazette—	
Overseas Trade in July....	266	Bank of England	286
American Money Policy ..	267	Banking Returns	286
Agricultural Wages	267	Overseas Bank Returns ..	286
Austrian Finances	268	Monthly Statement of	
Iron, Steel, and Coal Output	268	London Clearing Banks ..	287
Cotton Trade Short Time..	268	Loan and Discount Rates ..	288
Pig-Lead Prices & Supplies	268	Overseas Bank Rates.....	288
Some Motor Trade Statistics	268	Rates of Exchange.....	288
Irish Currency Questions..	269	Imports & Exports of Gold	289
South African Banking ..	269	Gold and Silver Prices	289
Lithuanian Finance & Trade	269	Company News—	
African and Eastern Trade		Analysis of Balance-Sheets	280
Corporation	270	Oil Outputs	280
Grand Trunk Pacific De-		Weekly Traffic Returns ..	280
bentures	270	Mining Outputs	280
Malayan Tin Shares	270	Reports and Notices	290
Esperanza	270	Dividend Announcements..	290
Parent Tyre	271	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	291
Transvaal Gold Output....	271	Commercial Reports—	
Russian Harvest	271	Corn Trade	291
Overseas Correspondence—		Iron and Coal Trade	291
United States	272	Overseas Trade Returns ..	292
France	272	Metals	293
Germany	274	Cotton Trade	293
Canada	275	Wool Trade	294
Austria	276	Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds..	294
Hong Kong	277	Hide and Leather Trades ..	294
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Produce Markets ..	294
A Silver Standard ?	278	Price Current	295

37 Avenue de L'Opera.

AFTER a slight relaxation on Monday in the stringent conditions which prevailed, the demand for short loans became as persistent as before, and although the market cancelled its indebtedness to the Bank of England, considerable difficulty was apparently experienced in doing so, short loans having been quoted up to 4 per cent. and occasionally $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On Thursday a further small amount was borrowed from the Bank for a week at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Yester-

day the disbursement of large amounts in railway and other dividends brought some relief. The discount market has been firm throughout the week, with $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. practically the minimum for three months' bills, November Treasury bills being quoted at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	..

Thursday's Bank return showed a decline of £1,072,000 in the circulation, and, with a small addition to the gold stock, there was an increase of £1,080,000 in the Reserve. Market repayments to the Bank were reflected in a reduction of £2,727,200 in Other securities, while Government securities were £385,000 lower. Public deposits rose by £95,000, leaving Other deposits £2,140,000 lower. The proportion thus rose by 1.2 per cent. to 18 per cent. The circulation of currency notes declined by £3,247,000 to £295,578,000, which includes £1,377,800 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue thus becomes £244,750,200, or £3,440,700 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances of the London Clearing Banks for July, printed in full on a later page, shows a drop of £9 millions in deposits, as compared with June. The July total, however, is still £25 millions higher than the May figure, and £5 millions higher than at this time last year. In the table below we summarise the aggregate figures for the nine English banks:—

	Dec., 1922.	June, 1923.	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.0	116.3	116.3	118.7	119.2	119.4
Acceptances	72.8	73.8	73.1	79.2	85.3	79.0
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.)	1,684.7	1,637.7	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,651.9	1,642.9
Total liabilities	1,873.5	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	253.0	240.7	254.2	232.2	249.1	236.7
Money at call	106.0	113.3	111.3	93.5	108.1	98.3
Investments	384.5	355.5	363.8	361.7	349.3	348.1
Discounts	298.3	270.8	276.3	224.0	245.0	259.3
Loans and advances	732.7	746.9	756.6	785.5	791.7	791.6
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	99.0	100.6	123.4	126.2	113.2	107.3
Total assets	1,873.5	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3

Cash and money at call have declined by £12½ millions and £10 millions respectively, while bills discounted have expanded by over £14 millions, but advances, which had been steadily increasing in preceding months, have remained stationary.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The usual holiday influences in the Stock Exchange have been counteracted by political developments and other incidents which have served to quicken business in some directions. The volume of trade, however, is restricted. Gilt-edged stocks have hardened a little, deriving benefit from the rise in New York Exchange, but the trouble in Egypt has produced a cautious tone in the foreign market. The excitement in German bonds has subsided to some extent, but dealings are still active. Home rails have moved up a little on good traffics, and there have been one or two bright features among industrials, but rubber shares are inclined to droop. In the oil market the feature has been a rise in Mexican Eagles. There has been very little doing in Kaffirs, but the shares of the base metal groups have improved.

THE COMMODITY MARKET.

Business in Manchester continues to be hampered by wide fluctuations in raw cotton rates. Our Bradford correspondent states that with the improved conditions in America wool prices are expected to advance. The wheat market ruled easier, owing to weaker American and Argentine cable advices. A slight improvement is reported on the Cardiff coal market, but pig-iron prices are weak. Our Middlesbrough correspondent points out that there

will be no market next week on account of the local holidays. The tin market developed a weaker tone, and prices declined on selling pressure. Copper was slightly irregular, but sales were good. The tea market was firm, Ceylon and Java descriptions advancing $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1 d per lb. Rubber lacked support, and the price was slightly lower. Other details of markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages from special correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Considerable activity once again ruled in the foreign exchange market during the week. The first few days witnessed a continuation of the improvement in the Allied currencies compared with gold, as the result of the settlement of the French political crisis, and a consequent rise in the rates of most other European countries. Later a slight reaction, owing to rumours of a hitch in the Conference, set in, but yesterday morning the market showed a firmer tendency. The New York rate jumped from \$4.51½ on Saturday to \$4.58 at one time on Monday, though the closing rate was only \$4.55½. This was the highest quotation since last July. On the two following days there were considerable fluctuations between \$4.56 and \$4.52½, but the closing quotation on both days was \$4.54½. On a continuation of the reaction, which is attributed chiefly to profit-taking on a general feeling that the top had been reached, the rate on Thursday was \$4.53½, but yesterday morning improved to \$4.55½. There is still little indication of autumn buying of dollars. Forward rates are steady at $\frac{3}{8}$ cent per month below spot. The Paris rate has followed similar tendencies in following the course of the Conference. Thus it rose from 81.40 on Friday to 82.25 on Saturday, as a result of M. Herriot's return to Paris, but after the agreement reached there it recovered to 79.15 at one time on Monday, though the closing rate was 80.50. A reaction to 81.80 on Tuesday was followed by a gradual recovery to 80.90 on Thursday and 80 on Friday morning. It would seem, therefore, that the Germans' opposition to M. Herriot's stand with regard to the period fixed for military evacuation of the Ruhr was not regarded as serious. Brussels has, as usual, followed the French franc, and, after rising from 89.25 on Friday to 89.80 on Saturday, fluctuated between 87.95 and 88.50 during the early days of this week, and was quoted as low as 87.25 yesterday morning. Forward rates in Paris are 2 centimes narrower at 4-6 centimes for one month and 11-14 centimes for two months above spot, while in Brussels they are slightly broader at 1-3 centimes per month above spot. Italy has not undergone such fluctuations, falling from 100.80 on Friday last slowly to 100.50 on Tuesday, and then rising again to 100.75 yesterday. Berlin has risen from 18½ to 19 1-5 billion, but this is due to the appreciation of sterling, and the dollar quotation has remained unchanged. Among neutral currencies, Switzerland is once more moving with the dollar, rising from 23.83 on Friday last to 24.16 on Monday, and then gradually becoming somewhat erratic, falling from 11.64½ to 11.61½ on Saturday, and after a recovery to 11.64 on Monday, falling again to 11.60½ on Tuesday. Since then it remained fairly steady till yesterday morning, when it rose to 11.61½. Madrid, after rising to 33.75 on Monday, is now 33.65, as compared with 33.70 a week ago. In Northern Europe, Stockholm and Christiania both followed the dollar, and after rising to 17.12 and 32.65 respectively on Monday now stand at 17.07 and 32.44. Copenhagen also rose from 27.87 to 28.18 over the week-end, but reacted again to 27.87 yesterday, and Helsingfors in the same way stands at 181 as against 180 a week ago. Warsaw and Riga also followed the general movement, and stand at 23.70 and 23.55, as compared with 23.35 and 23.45 respectively last Friday. In Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna has moved from 318,000 to 322,000, but Prague is once more at 152. Budapest is steady round 346,000 and Bucarest at 1,000. In the East the rupee has depreciated from 1s 5½d to 1s 5 1-32d, and the yen from 1s 10d to 1s 9½d. The silver market has been dominated by the sterling dollar exchange, and has fluctuated accordingly. On the whole, prices have fallen through Chinese sales and an absence of purchasers. Hong Kong is $\frac{1}{2}$ d cheaper at

2s 4½d, and Shanghai $\frac{1}{2}$ d cheaper at 3s 2½d. In South America, Rio has moved from 5½d to 5½d, but Buenos Aires has varied little from last week's figure of 40½d. Valparaiso, after some fluctuations, is at 43.90, as against 44.60 pesos a week ago, but Monte Video has weakened $\frac{1}{2}$ d at 41½d.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 9th:—

EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Supply Services	5,631	From Revenue	12,240
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,604		
Sinking Fund	100		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	306		
Decrease in National Debt	3,599		
	12,240		12,240

Revenue for the week ending August 9, 1924, amounted to £12,240,000, against £14,927,000 for the corresponding period in 1923. Customs and Excise receipts were down at £1,753,000 and £849,000, against £2,302,000 and £924,000 respectively. Post Office receipts were £300,000 higher at £1,800,000. Ordinary receipts were slightly lower at £248,588, against £357,956, and Special receipts only brought in £599, against £1,502,345. Property and Income-tax yielded £5,384,000, against £6,319,000, and Super-tax £610,000, against £470,000. The week's operations decreased the National Debt by £3,599,000, and caused the following changes:—

	£		£
Anglo Persian Oil Co.	+ 23	Public Dept. Advances	- 3,800
Treasury Bills	+ 1,759	Unemployment Insurance	- 1,250
		W.I. Islands (Telegraph)	- 181
		National Savings Certificates	- 150
	+ 1,782		- 5,381

The floating debt was decreased by £1,995,000 to £782,643,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to August 9).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	280,702,205	Raised by Revenue ..	257,531,199
		Decrease in Balances ..	2,828,731
		Amount borrowed ..	20,342,275
Total	280,702,205	Total	280,702,205

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—National Bank of South Africa, Mitchells and Butlers, and Marconi's Wireless Telegraph. The chairman at the meeting of Mitchells and Butlers emphasised the need for an improvement in licensed premises, and discussed the means for attaining this end.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

A SACRIFICE TO EXPEDIENCY.

At the time of writing the Conference is at the crisis of its fate. For several weeks the delegates have been trying to maintain the fiction that the Dawes plan has no connection with the military evacuation of the Ruhr, and that the inauguration of the scheme could be arranged without discussing the subject. But the pretence could not be maintained, and the only result has been that Mr MacDonald has been manoeuvred into an entirely false position. The result was seen this week in the astonishing spectacle of the British Prime Minister urging the German delegates in private and in general conference to agree to the occupation continuing for another year,

instead of terminating on January 10th, which was the latest date the Germans were prepared to accept. The latter date can be justified on practical considerations connected with the evacuation. The prolongation for a year can only be based on ulterior motives. It is true that Mr MacDonald continues to repeat that he has not changed his view about the occupation, but he urges the Germans to accept the best terms they can get, for he declares—what is manifestly incorrect—that it is a matter that concerns only Germany, France, and Belgium. We can better imagine than describe what the British public would have thought of a statesman who had said in 1918 that the question whether French troops should or should not occupy a vital part of German territory was a matter on which we should have no say. Mr MacDonald committed a disastrous blunder in agreeing that the matter should be excluded from the Allied discussions, or rather in not coming to an understanding with France on the matter before the Conference opened.

On the merits of the case there is very little difference of opinion in this country. In the opinion of the British Law Officers of the Crown the Treaty of Versailles affords no ground whatever for the military invasion of the Ruhr by France and Belgium. If this view is sound, the occupation was and is, under international law, an act of aggression. On the thesis of France and Belgium, the occupation was only undertaken for the purpose of making possible the economic exploitation of the Ruhr, which is to come to an end forthwith. But there is now no pretence that the soldiers are to remain in the Ruhr to protect civilians; on the contrary, the French actually put in a claim, which has since been withdrawn, that civilian railwaymen should be retained on certain strategic railways in order to protect the military. Even if France had ever claimed (and she has never formally done so) that the occupation was a punishment for default and a means of creating a willingness to pay, Germany's acceptance of the measures prescribed for her by the experts removes the ground for continued "punishment." But British policy rejects any such thesis, and as late as last week the Prime Minister himself declared in the House of Commons that if anything in the protocol of the present Conference seemed to imply approval of the policy of occupation, he would append a note categorically affirming that we had not in any way changed our attitude on this subject. Yet a week later his action has made us morally an accessory after the fact, for his attitude on the matter has made it almost impossible for the Germans to refuse their acquiescence. It is true they can reject the settlement altogether, but it is equally clear that they cannot turn the French out of the Ruhr. If they refuse the proposal everything is thrown once more into the melting-pot. If they accept, and succeed in what at the moment seems to be the impossible task of persuading the Reichstag to approve of the acceptance, at best the hope of the new régime being smoothly inaugurated has been gravely menaced.

While fully appreciating Mr. MacDonald's difficulties, we cannot regard this week's events in any other way than as a humiliating diplomatic defeat, for they advertise to the world that the attitude which has been taken up for the past 18 months by British statesmen with the approval of Parliament counts for nothing. This will no doubt affect British prestige in Europe generally; but it is particularly important *vis-à-vis* Germany. Every instinct of statesmanship and of fair play demands that towards a defeated adversary it is particularly important to be scrupulously just. Germany had every right to suppose that we shared her view of the Ruhr occupation, and to expect that in any discussion of the matter she would have our diplomatic support. Instead of that, we have acquiesced in a renewed period of occupation, from the supposed necessity of conciliating a certain section of French opinion. We believe this view to be based on a complete misjudgment of the position in France. By going some way to meet the natural misgivings prevalent in France in regard to security, Mr. MacDonald could have so strengthened the hands of the French Prime Minister that the latter could have safely followed the course indicated by his own expressed convictions. But this week pressure has been brought to bear upon him by M. Loucheur, and by a messenger from M. Poincaré.

The former, at all events, has always been willing to bargain, and, indeed, he is reported to have introduced once more the old subject of inter-Allied debts. Mr. MacDonald has it in his power to meet France in both these matters, and in our view he ought to do so on the merits. But he has preferred to acquiesce in a prolonged occupation rather than move a step forward on these related questions.

We cannot pretend to foresee on what grounds Mr MacDonald will justify the attitude he has taken up; but it clearly has imposed a new handicap in the way not only of putting the Dawes plan into effect, but also of restoring European peace generally. It has, for example, almost certainly delayed the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, for her first action as a member of the League would naturally be to demand the restoration of her territory. A point of more immediate importance is the effect of the decision on the prospects of raising the contemplated loan. Clearly this will now be more difficult. If political difficulties were out of the way, a loan at, say, 8 per cent. which is a first charge on German assets would be an excellent security. But from the point of view of the investor the questions asked by the Germans are very pertinent ones. What assurance is there that M. Herriot will remain in power and carry out his undertaking? What safeguards will be taken to prevent unpleasant incidents, reprisals, &c., particularly when the expelled Germans are reinstated? What assurance is there that some new ground may not be found for again prolonging the occupation? What security will the Dawes scheme officials have against arbitrary interference? Who is to pay the cost of these twelve months of occupation? Is it to come out of the loan? The course of the Conference discussions had already made the investor shy, and such questions as these will make him doubly so. Indeed, if the loan is to be put through on the present terms, it is fairly clear that it can only be done by the use of pressure on the large finance houses of London who will have to "carry the baby" until the course of events creates confidence in the mind of the general investor.

It is perhaps possible that the final decision may be better than appears likely at the moment of writing. M. Herriot must clearly be most anxious to prevent a breakdown, and it is possible that, having secured formal acceptance of a year's occupation, he may see his way to whittle down the conditions of occupation in regard to areas, numbers of troops, and other matters to such an extent as to reduce very much the dangers that we have suggested. We cannot, however, undo the fact that the Prime Minister has failed to safeguard an important principle of international right on grounds of supposed expediency.

A BAD TREATY.

OPPOSITION to the Russian Treaty, which broke out before Mr Ponsonby had finished his curiously vague speech in the House of Commons, is not dying away, and does not seem likely to do so. To a certain extent critics of the Treaty have weakened their own case by indiscriminate denunciation of everything that it contains, and by talking at large about matters of which only experts of a particular trade have any knowledge. The fishing claims, for example, have been described as sacrificing British interests, but it is doubtful whether any of the critics could tell us where the "parallel of 67° 40' North latitude" lies, or know where the British trawlers which penetrate to these remote waters have been in the habit of fishing. Trawling is not an industry that we Londoners understand, and it is certainly not a subject on which we can dogmatise with safety. Actually the trawling interests do not appear to be dissatisfied, for the Murmansk Coast Fishing Committee meeting recently at Hull, passed a resolution approving the fishing sections of the treaty, while the Fleetwood President of the British Trawlers Federation estimates at 4,200 square miles the area that will be opened up by the new agreement. In view of these opinions, it is ridiculous to taunt the Government with having sacrificed British fishing interests to Soviet greed.

It is particularly unwise to take bad points in attacking the Treaty, because the Treaty itself, and the method of its signature, are full of points that can and ought to

be attacked as bad business, bad diplomacy, and bad precedent. It has been brought out with every sign of haste, every indication of having been forced to premature birth, to satisfy the clamour or avert the anger of its expectant God-parents. It is an embryo unfit to bear the fierce light of day, and we may safely prophecy for it either a death in infancy, or a sterile and fruitless existence.

Leaving aside the fishing sections and the commercial sections, we may concentrate on the financial chapter which carries the essence of the scheme; and, ungainly and shapeless as it is, is by the last article declared to constitute a single and indivisible unit—a significant condition that throws a clear light on the bargaining that has been going on already, and the still more oriental bargaining that is expected in the future, a "cash against documents" condition that proves the confidence of each side in the integrity of its opponents, and their capacity to carry the bargain through. Briefly, the chapter may be summarised as follows:—

Great Britain undertakes, after certain things shall have happened, to guarantee for the Soviet Republics a loan. The amount of the loan is not stated in the treaty, nor is the relation that the size of the loan shall bear to the *quid pro quo* payments of the Soviets.

In consideration of this promise to guarantee, and forming with it part of "an indivisible unit," we have promises from the Soviet Republics that they will:—

(a) By way of exception to their principles do something to satisfy the claims of British holders of Russian Imperial Government bonds acquired before March, 1921, on terms which must obtain the agreement of holders of not less than one-half the total value.

(b) Reserve for discussion at a later date debts and claims outstanding between the two Governments.

(c) Agree to a settlement by way of lump sum payment of the claims of nationals for loss or injury due to events between 1914 and 1924, the claims to be inspected by a committee of six persons, who will report the sum at which they consider the lump sum should be fixed. Whether the committee will have the power to fix the lump sum below the equitable figure if they decide that the equitable figure is too large to be practical is not clear.

(d) Agree, again by way of exception, to negotiate with British nationals for compensation for businesses nationalised by the Soviets. Again, a commission of six persons is to sit, and in this matter if the members are unable to agree on a joint report in respect of any particular property, they may "present separate reports," but what is to happen to these separate reports, and what effect they will have on the final agreement is not clear.

(e) Agree, when all these agreements to agree with one another, and to agree with thousands of other parties have finally led to agreement with them all, to sign another treaty with Great Britain, and so reach a final agreement.

The moment the terms of the treaty are expounded it becomes obvious that here is no proper matter for a treaty. There is no real understanding or agreement, no single concrete fact on which the two Governments can honestly claim to be at one. After long bickerings and disputes, negotiations have reached a point which might ultimately have proved to be an early milestone on the road to an agreement, and—if the cardinal principles of the negotiation had been sound—we are prepared to believe that some memorandum could have usefully been drawn up (but not published) showing the stage at which the discussion should subsequently be resumed. But to cast into treaty form this embryonic shapeless mass is simply to open the floodgates of criticism and make a final understanding practically impossible. The British public is filled with suspicion, wondering why so extraordinary a step has been taken, speculating on the political and party intrigues which have made it necessary, and guessing things that have not been agreed (must surely have been provisionally and secretly agreed between Mr Ponsonby and the Russians). It is too much to imagine that all these claims have been drafted and printed without any understanding as to how large the loan—final objective of the whole proceeding—is to be.

Secondly, the Treaty is objectionable because it has been rushed through and signed before any of the Dominions have been consulted, and because it raises in

acute and undesirable form the very difficult problem of adjusting British diplomacy to Imperial policy. That the Dominions will like the Treaty; that they are pleased to hear of its signature without their advice being asked or given; that it will make them more willing in the future to back up the policy and action of our Foreign Office, is unbelievable. They have for years been feeling that if the Empire is for diplomatic purposes to be one they ought on all important matters to be consulted and considered, and few things could make them more dissatisfied with the present loose arrangement than the hugger-mugger signing of an important treaty at the dictates of one section of one party in the British Parliament.

Lastly, the Treaty is bad because it is based on a vicious principle. We will, say the Soviet Republics, consent to recognise certain obligations, and consent to discuss the payment of our debts to you, if you will lend us money. We have declared ourselves free of all those obligations that elsewhere are universally recognised; we still declare ourselves free of them and refuse to admit that they have any binding power. But for a cash consideration we are prepared to make an exception in your favour, and agree to certain *ex gratia* payments, which will spring, not from any alterations in our principles, but from our need of ready money. That is an utterly vicious chain of reasoning, and already sums are being worked out in Moscow to decide how much of the loan will be left over after the necessary payments have been made out of it to fulfil the obligations taken on under the Treaty. Payments to bondholders and others are to be made out of the loan, and the balance will be used for any purposes that seem good to the Bolshevik Government, which is apparently to have unfettered enjoyment of the money. It is bad morality and bad business suitably incarnate in a bad Treaty.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF INVESTMENTS.

ONE of the consequences of recent international negotiations is likely to be that Government influence may shortly be brought to bear in the London money market to persuade British investors to lend their money to Germany—possibly even to Russia. It is even proposed in the latter case that the credit of the British taxpayer should be pledged in order to make the loan a success. In both cases the reasons for the Government using its influence are partly political and partly economical. But whatever the grounds for action may be, the suggestion naturally raises the question whether it is proper for the Government to seek in this way to influence the investment of British capital, and, if so, what principles should guide it in directing these resources, which are very far from limitless. The discussion naturally broadens into the wider question of foreign investment generally; whether the interests of the nation as a whole are in this respect the same as those of the individual investor, and whether existing custom or legal restraint produce the best results. On this subject Mr Keynes' paper recently delivered at Oxford is much the most arresting statement. In it he deals with two separate subjects. On the one hand he brings forward a number of criticisms against the accepted view that it is best to leave the investor to place his money where he thinks he can get the best return, and on the other he discusses the influence of the Trustee Acts.

Mr Keynes commences by dividing foreign investment history into three periods, or perhaps we should say three overlapping phases. Firstly, there are investments in trading, mining, and other speculative occupations—a custom of immortal antiquity, which Mr Keynes heartily approves. The second type of investment is associated with the railway age. Railways and other public utility works were to an enormous extent promoted during the last half of the 19th century by British capital, and hastened the rate at which distant parts of the world were opened up. These also, at all events at the outset, are held to have been to our advantage. Mr Keynes, however, points out in this connection that there are few countries in the world in which a foreign investor can rely absolutely upon the impartial treatment in the matter of fixing rates in taxation, &c., that would be accorded to investors if the capital had been provided by the nationals of the country in question. British capital in-

vested in such undertakings is, therefore, not as secure as the investor originally believed it to be. Thirdly, the latest phase relates to loans to foreign or colonial Governments. Mr Keynes makes a trenchant attack on these investments on the ground that they have often been used for purposes of armament and of war, and that a very large part of them have been lost as a result of repudiation through bankruptcy or revolution. The enormous pre-war investments in Russia of the French middle classes are a notable case to which both criticisms reply. Mr Keynes does not give quite the whole story in regard to these classes of investment. We have not attempted to make a detailed analysis, but we are disposed to think that the greater part of the loans made to Governments outside Europe have been used for development purposes. For example, a very large proportion of colonial and Indian loans prior to 1914 were raised for the purpose of building railways, and have thus directly increased the openings for international trade. At the same time, there is much force in Mr. Keynes' criticism, for it can hardly be of any lasting benefit that large amounts of British and French savings should have been used for such purposes as, say, the financing of the Russo-Japanese War.

Mr Keynes, however, does not limit his criticism of foreign investment to Government loans, and he uses some arguments against foreign investment generally which we find unconvincing. Thus he imports prejudice into the argument in citing the case of Brazil, to whom, he estimates, British investors have lent some £250,000,000, which "yields at present a precarious rate of interest of barely 4 per cent., and, allowing for the fall in the value of money since the investment was made, about 2½ per cent." But this effect in the fall of the value of money is not confined to foreign investments. It applies equally to both speculative and gilt-edged pre-war investments in this country. For example, the real returns on all categories of British railway stock have fallen in something like this proportion. Again, Mr Keynes suggests that much more serious consequences follow from the point of view of our national wealth when foreign than when home investments respectively are repudiated. Thus, if a popular housing loan is repudiated, we still have the houses; but if a colonial railway loan is repudiated the railway belongs to the colony, and not to the shareholders. This, again, is only part of the story. If it is to our national advantage to employ our industrial resources in building equipment for a port, say, in some Crown colony where it is badly needed to open up trade rather than for a British port where it may be needed—but less urgently—it is to be presumed that in the former case the higher rate of profit is a true indication that the general benefit to trade will be greater. If in the end the loan is repudiated and the equipment not paid for—or, rather, is paid for by the lenders of the capital—the port will in both cases have got its equipment at less than cost. In both cases the equipment will continue to function and influence trade development, though not repaying its cost to the lender. The experience is one not confined to foreign investment. It is hardly a ground for confining capital to home uses that by so doing, some people in Britain rather than people overseas may sometimes get windfalls of this kind.

Lastly, Mr Keynes doubts whether there is as much merit in export trade as is commonly assumed, and throws out the suggestion that perhaps, after all, it would be best for Great Britain if our exports were restricted to what is necessary to pay for our imports, and for any surplus production that we might have invested abroad to be invested in home development. It is at this point that we join issue. We are strongly of opinion that the advance of the standard of life in this country will depend in the twentieth century, as it depended in the nineteenth, mainly upon the extent to which we engage in foreign trade, or are able to persuade foreign countries to make use of our shipping and other commercial services. The idea that the dense population of this country can rapidly progress from the material standpoint by an intensive investment of capital, and thus "developing our own estate" seems to us doubtful. We are likely to make more headway by extending our over-seas activities and by

specialisation along what may be called our natural lines of development.

In his analysis of the effect of the Trustee Acts, Mr Keynes' argument is a very strong one. The Trustee Acts are in themselves an artificial interference with the natural flow of capital. The total loans to Colonial Governments he estimates at about £670 millions, and to the Government of India at £260 millions, and in both cases the total is rapidly rising. This development has occurred since the Colonial Stock Act of 1900, which, in effect, brought almost all the loans of Colonial Governments within the field of trustee investment. The result is that loans for harbour works in New South Wales can be borrowed more cheaply in London than loans for the Port of London itself. Again, to quote an extreme case, early this year £2 millions was borrowed by Southern Rhodesia on about the same terms as a large English borough would have to pay, and more cheaply than most of our great industrial undertakings at home can borrow. These colonial investments are given an artificial appearance of safety by the fact that they are legally available for trustee funds, of which there was an increasing amount available for investment before the war. The discrimination was originally made partly for political reasons, and to some extent these reasons still exist. But there is little doubt that the Acts do in fact place colonial credit on a more favourable basis than it would enjoy in open competition.

Mr Keynes' solution is twofold. He proposes to abolish the Trustee Acts, and to give the British Treasury the power of licence which presumably would cover a much wider range than the present Trustee Acts, and would judge each case upon its merits. Secondly, he would refrain from repaying Government debt unless at the same time there were being created new trustee stocks in which the funds repaid could find an outlet. These proposals are ingenious, but we doubt whether they are the right solutions. In the first place, the power of licence is one which we should hesitate very much to commit to the Treasury. Nor do we think it is one the Government would care to undertake, for the Treasury would be taking a much more definite responsibility for each issue than is now the case when whole classes of security are enumerated. The second proposal was not perhaps very seriously intended, but it enables Mr Keynes to bring out the fact that as time goes on there will be need for an increasing field for safe investments into which the growing mass of small savings can be placed. Even in theory the suggestion is not entirely logical. If funds of a trustee character are growing, the opening for such funds should not merely remain constant, but should increase at the same rate. Mr Keynes would hardly suggest that the Government should borrow at the rate required to meet this growing demand. The fact of the matter is that the total volume of securities in which trustees can invest is so large that sinking-fund payments form only a small proportion of the total. We estimate that at par value the chief classes of trustee securities amount to the following totals :—

	Million £.
Trustee securities included in the National Debt	5,350
Local Loans Stock	217
Irish Land Purchase Loans	130
Miscellaneous guaranteed loans	60
Loans guaranteed under the Trade Facilities Act	20
Total of British Government securities	5,777
Indian Loans	285
Colonial Loans	633
Loans of Corporations and Public Boards	300
Home Rails	950
	7,945

On the basis of market value these totals would be reduced to about £7,560 millions. On the other hand, repayments of Government debt are only in part made to people who are limited to trustee investments. For example, the repayment of floating debt exerts no influence on trustee investments when the result is merely to cause the banks to substitute trade bills for the Treasury bills in their portfolio.

But the problem of finding an outlet for trustee investments is not answered by these criticisms. Perhaps, after all, the conclusion to be drawn from Mr Keynes' indictment of the effect of Government interference with the

investment of capital is to do away with such interference altogether. Financial knowledge on the part of trustees and the means of finding out the true position of a Government or a joint stock company are not sufficiently developed for this conclusion to be a practical one as yet, but we believe the solution lies in this direction. The development of the Investment Trust Company and the custom of entrusting large funds to insurance companies and other similar investing institutions will gradually introduce a skilled intermediary between the investors and the actual investment business, which will make it possible to leave the actual choice much more to individual judgment without running too great a risk of the loss of modest savings.

OUR TIMBER IMPORTS.

THE timber import trade is under a shadow at present, both for free on board and spot business. As regards the former, it is still an open question whether the Swedish and Finnish shippers will bring their free-on-board prices of best unsorted quality down to attract British importers, or whether, by some chance—it will have to be speedy—the Continental consuming demand will assert itself, or a boom in trade here stimulates the call for timber on the spot. Fortunately we have got away from the days of early 1921, when unsorted 3 x 9 Swedish red deals were offered free on board at about £40 to £42 a Petrograd standard of 165 cubic feet, with 7-inch battens at £30 to £32 basis prices. Those basis prices caused a buying strike in the summer of 1921, which terminated in a great fall in the market in July of that year, when prices fell to almost pre-war level. Values later stiffened, and are at present about £22 for deals and £18 to £18 10s for best quality Swedish unsorted red, as against £10 10s to £11 for deals and £8 10s for battens ruling before the war.

From the beginning of this year the heavy stocks on the spot have been a source of great anxiety to operators abroad and at home, but hopes were high in the first quarter that big house-building schemes would be started early—hopes that have been shattered, at least for a time. With slackness in other leading industries, notably shipbuilding, iron and steel, furniture and cabinet, packing-cases and boxes for export, little encouragement has been afforded the importer and merchant of building woods. Spot prices from the opening of the year have failed to come up to the grandiose ideas of foreign exporters of good-class stocks, the result being that shippers of the second-class qualities have been more in evidence, and ready to meet the demand of buyers here as regards free-on-board prices.

More than once reference has been made in the *Economist* to the fact that Russia and the Middle European timber-producing States (Poland, Latvia, Memel, &c.) would have a great influence on free-on-board prices of our imported timber, and this has been proved during the past half-year. The Russian supplies of good-class timber have been most successful in competition with the best Swedish productions; the increase in export of Soviet wood from the former is so far this year 6½ per cent. of our total import of soft woods (against only 2.2 per cent. last year), and reports reach us that the volume of import from Russia this season will show a decidedly greater improvement unless unforeseen circumstances forbid. In the lower qualities, Sweden and Finland have felt the effects of mid-European competition. In Polish wood there are great expectations, much British money having lately been invested in the exploitation of the vast forest resources there. The following statistics will show at a glance from whence we obtained our imported building and general wood requirements during the first half of this year, and, for comparison, the first half of 1923 and 1922 :—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Russia	4.1	2.2	6.5
Finland	17.6	10.6	11.4
Latvia	8.7	13.9	14.7
Sweden	24.0	26.7	19.2
Norway	8.0	5.2	1.8
Poland	4.0	6.7	12.7
Germany	2.1	2.0	1.0
United States	8.0	11.8	8.0
Canada	10.5	9.5	7.8
Other countries	12.6	11.0	16.6

Our imports of sawn soft woods for building and general construction work were as follows, the figures being in thousands :—

	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Loads.	£	Loads.	£	Loads.	£
Russia	42	248	27	171	82	413
Finland	179	819	133	740	145	800
Latvia	89	392	174	802	187	922
Sweden	244	1,379	335	1,810	242	1,417
Norway	81	436	65	394	23	130
Poland (including Danzig)	40	195	84	457	161	786
Germany	21	123	25	119	12	67
U.S.A.	81	727	148	1,323	102	1,012
Canada	107	696	118	767	99	700
Other countries	128	658	137	708	211	1,039
Total	1,016	5,677	1,251	7,295	1,269	7,290

PLANED OR DRESSED.

	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Loads.	£	Loads.	£	Loads.	£
Finland	0.2	1	5	29	3	27
Sweden	57	380	81	594	114	805
Norway	79	525	78	546	34	222
Germany	0.6	5	0.3	0.4	0.2	1
U.S.A.	1	27	2	40	3	55
Other countries	0.6	6	3	31	3	27
Total	139	946	171	1,243	159	1,140

With the position fairly favourable to consumers during the early months of the year (we have already mentioned that the wood trade was depending upon hopes of a much larger consumption which have not yet been realised), it is surprising that the free-on-board market has kept up so well, and even now there are many under the impression that the market will firm up later in the year owing to the smaller purchases for autumn requirements. Taking the quantities and c.i.f. values for the first six months of 1924, 1923, and 1922, as supplied by the Government returns, we find that this year the sawn soft woods, the most important item of import for general purposes, cost, c.i.f., £5 14s 10d a load, compared with £5 16s 6d a load last year, and £5 11s 9d in 1922. Imports of planed wood have cost us, c.i.f., £7 3s 5d this year, against £7 4s 5d for the corresponding half of 1923 and £6 15s in 1922. This branch of the market would have been more favourable had not labour troubles (now happily passed) occurred in the Norwegian planing mills.

In other departments of the trade c.i.f. prices are fluctuating. Mahogany logs are still a strong feature (perhaps the strongest) of the market, and owing to short supplies the c.i.f. prices are 7d a cubic foot over those of last year (6s 3d—5s 8d). But in other hewn hard woods c.i.f. prices per cubic foot are 4s 1d, against 5s 8d last year; in hewn soft woods £6 1s a load, against £5 12s 4d. In sawn hard woods, mahogany boards are a small fraction under the 7s 10d a cubic foot of last year, but 5d a cubic foot higher than 1922 c.i.f. prices. Other sawn hard woods have cost us 5s 7d a cubic foot against 5s 5d, and would have been dearer but for very large supplies from the United States.

From the above it will be observed that in spite of good stocks and only a moderate demand, we cannot congratulate ourselves on any great fall in our timber costs. Indeed, for sawn and planed soft woods they show increases on the 1922 figures, whereas consumers are looking forward to a cheaper time for wood requirements.

In the colliery timber department of the wood trade—a branch totally exclusive from the others—we see a diminution of import values, a load costing, c.i.f., £1 13s 6d, against £1 19s 2d last year and £1 16s 6d in 1922.

The table below shows our timber imports for the first half of each of the past three years :—

	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Loads.	£	Loads.	£	Loads.	£
Hewn, hard	1,684	606	2,801	797	3,801	920
" soft	62	783	77	435	129	780
Sawn, hard	6,031	1,872	10,105	2,847	11,665	3,388
" soft	1,016	5,677	1,252	7,295	1,269	7,290
Planed	139	946	171	1,243	159	1,140
Pitwood	1,100	2,012	1,603	3,139	1,619	1,961

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr.182,000,000

Telegraphic Address : "Kreditbolaget."
THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

The total value of wood supplies for the first half of 1924, 1923, and 1922 are respectively £16,433,191, £16,522,379, and £12,365,083.

THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE manufacture of pulp and paper which has during the last decade proved itself an invaluable buttress of Canada's economic life, is a comparatively recent development in the Dominion. It is true that as far back as 1803 a group of Americans, after obtaining concessions from the local seigneurs, established a paper mill at St. Andrews on the Quebec bank of the Ottawa River and made paper out of rags, straw, esparto grass and other substances. Later, in 1825, a Mr Crooks built at Crooks' Hollow the first paper mill in Upper Canada and obtained a bounty of \$100 for the first sheet of paper produced in that province. But almost half a century was to elapse before any realisation came that Canada, in the possession of vast forest resources adjacent to unlimited water powers, had available the basic materials for a great and profitable industry. The conversion of trees into pulp requires an enormous expenditure of energy—about 100 h.p. per ton of paper—and steam-driven machinery is too expensive by far. The only form of power which can be used economically in this industry is hydro-electric power, and it is this ideal combination of abundant water powers and forest resources of the pulp-wood species which makes Canada the logical theatre for a huge paper industry.

Although the census report of 1871 contains no mention of wood pulp mills, it is claimed that the first mill of this type was erected by Logan and Co. at Windsor Mills in Quebec in 1870. Soon afterwards the Riordans, a lumbering firm, began to manufacture groundwood pulp, and in 1887 Charles Riordan brought the sulphite process from Austria and installed at Merriton, in Ontario, the first sulphite mill, which is still in existence. From five mills in 1881, with only 68 employees and an output valued at \$63,000, the industry by 1901 was able to show an expansion to 25 mills. But it is since this century began that the industry has really got into its stride and made phenomenal progress. The latest data given by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate that there are to-day in Canada about 50 pulp mills.

The industry in Canada includes three forms of industrial activity—the operations in the woods with pulpwood as a product, the manufacture of pulp, and the manufacture of paper. In the first form it is inextricably involved with the lumber industry, some pulp companies operating sawmills to utilise the large timber on their limits, and many lumbermen diverting a large proportion of their spruce and balsam logs to sawmills. Paper-makers have experimented with fibres from the stems, leaves and other parts of various annual plants, but the amount of paper-making material recoverable was trivial in comparison with what could be obtained from wood, and it has been definitely settled that spruce and balsam fir are the most suitable for the production of all but the finest grades of papers. Most of the pulp and paper mills own their own limits and employ their own gangs of men to secure the pulpwood, but large supplies are also obtained from indi-

vidual settlers, who cut them off their own woodlots. The wood is delivered to the mills in different ways. Logs eight feet and upwards are, wherever facilities are available, floated to the mills in booms or rafts, but the smaller lengths are delivered by cart or railway or barges. Generally speaking, wood delivered by farmers is cut to short lengths and peeled by hand in the woods. The longer logs are reduced to two or four-foot lengths in the "cut-up mill," and their bark is removed in a "rossing" mill.

The following are some figures showing the production, consumption and export of pulpwood in some recent years:—

	Total Production of Pulpwood.			Used in Canadian Mills		Exported Unmanufactured.	
	Quantity.	Total Value.	Average Value per Cord.	Quantity.		Quantity.	
	Cords.	\$	\$	Cords.	%	Cords.	%
1908..	1,325,085	7,732,055	5.84	482,777	36.4	842,308	63.6
1912..	1,846,910	11,911,415	6.46	866,042	46.8	980,868	53.2
1916..	2,833,119	19,971,127	7.05	1,764,912	62.3	1,068,207	37.7
1920..	4,024,826	61,183,060	15.22	2,777,422	69.0	1,247,404	31.0
1921..	3,273,131	52,900,872	16.16	2,180,578	66.6	1,092,553	33.4
1923..	3,923,940	50,735,361	12.93	2,912,608	74.2	1,011,332	25.8

Since the laws of all the pulpwood-producing provinces but Nova Scotia decree that wood cut upon Crown lands must be manufactured into pulp in Canadian mills, it is pulpwood cut on lands held in fee simple, usually by individual settlers, that has furnished all the exports. The quantity of the latter, which go almost exclusively to the United States, has remained practically stationary since 1912, during a period when the volume consumed in Canadian mills has increased about 236 per cent. But recently the pulp and paper mills in Canada, faced with a shortage of pulpwood in many districts, commenced a campaign for a general embargo upon all export. Their demand was resisted by American mills who get their supplies from Canada, and by the representatives of the farmers who rely for part of their income on pulpwood; the latter contend that they get better prices from the American mills and do not want to be left at the mercy of the Canadian companies. The Government met the difficulty by appointing a Royal Commission which has held sittings all over Canada. Its report is not yet published, but since the weight of evidence was against any embargo it is not likely to be recommended.

In 1917 the total pulp and paper production of Canada was 853,689 tons valued at \$58,750,341, of which newsprint accounted for 689,847 tons (value \$38,868,084). The year 1920 was the banner year for the pulp and paper industry with a production of 1,214,951 tons valued at \$132,022,767, of which newsprint furnished 875,696 tons (\$80,865,271). In the last three years the production of book, writing and wrapping paper and paper boards, as well as other paper commodities, has tended to show a decline, especially in value, but the newsprint industry continues to flourish and expand at an amazing rate. In 1923 Canada's production of newsprint was 1,263,000 tons, an increase of 83 per cent. over the figures of 1913. Old mills increase their capacity and new mills are built, but the additional tonnage so far has been consumed as fast as it has been available. The reason for this state of affairs lies in the insatiable appetite of the American Press and the enormous size of its papers. The average edition of the *Chicago Sunday Tribune* requires 500 tons of newsprint for whose manufacture a million gallons of water and 50,000 h.p. are needed. Every day of the year there are 29 million daily papers printed in the United States, and the thousands of weekly papers and monthly magazines account for many millions more.

To meet such a rate of consumption the domestic resources of the United States have been utterly inadequate, and more and more has reliance come to be placed on Canadian supplies. The Hearst papers, the *Chicago Tribune*, and many other of the great newspaper organisations of the States either control or have established close relations with Canadian pulp and paper firms, and the grip of American capital upon this branch of Canadian industry is notorious. In 1913 the United States pro-

duced 1,305,000 tons of newsprint; they imported 220,000 tons and exported 43,000, having thereby available for domestic consumption 1,482,000 tons. In 1923 they produced 1,485,000 tons, only 185,000 more than ten years before, but their consumption had jumped to 2,778,000 tons. Their exports had fallen to 16,000, and they had to import 1,309,000 tons, of which 1,100,000 tons came from Canada and the balance chiefly from the Scandinavian countries and Germany. How useful this trade has been to Canada can be judged from that in the fiscal year just ended pulp and paper contributed one-seventh of the total exports of Canada. Another gratifying feature of the record is that the exports of paper are growing more rapidly than those of pulp, for paper, being a completely finished product, brings more money to Canada for the same amount of raw material. Experience has shown that mills which produce paper have had better financial results than the mills manufacturing only pulp. In 1911 newsprint was responsible for only 45 per cent. of the total value of the pulp and paper exports, but in 1923 it accounted for 67 per cent., indicating a growing tendency to complete all the processes in Canada.

But while the pulp and paper industry has been enjoying great prosperity, there is another side to the picture which is receiving serious consideration. It is possible that if there comes a collapse of the American boom, of which there are now visible some signs, there will be a marked diminution of the American demand for newsprint, for poor business means less advertisements and smaller papers. But if the present rate of pulp and paper exports continues, the drain upon the forest resources of Canada is bound to have serious consequences in the near future. The depletion is not all caused by the saw, for the Bureau of Statistics estimates that while 2,377,845,182 cubic feet of timber was cut in 1922, a somewhat larger amount was lost through such destructive agencies as fire and fungi. It is very difficult to secure any accurate estimate of the forest resources of Canada, but one of the leading forestry authorities in the Dominions was recently responsible for the statement that at the present rate of depletion a serious crisis would be reached in 26 years. Mr F. J. D. Barnum, of Annapolis, N.C., a public-spirited lumberman, has been conducting at his own expense vigorous propaganda to enlighten the public upon the dangers of the situation, and the authorities at Ottawa have given their benediction to a "Save the Forests" campaign throughout the country. What is needed above all things is a national policy of reforestation, but there are difficulties about provincial control. However, the Commission appointed by the King Government will report upon the whole problem, and public opinion may thereafter force some action.

IS WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT INCREASING?

(FROM OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

In the remarkable analysis of population figures which he has recently published, Professor Bowley indicates that there will be no appreciable labour surplus after 1931, and, in 1941, a shortage is probable. Two factors, he suggests, might counteract this tendency—a rise in the "age of retirement," or an increase in the number of occupied women. Is there any probability of such an increase?

Prima facie, it might seem that there is. The proportion of women to men in the population has risen, partly, of course, as a result of war casualties; for 1921 there was a surplus of nearly two million women. The active co-operation of women, in every department of life, is one of the striking facts of the day. The barriers which excluded them, artificially, have largely gone; the war not only called vast numbers into new forms of work, but showed that, in most cases, they were quite fit, so far as competence went, to remain there. The official reason for the extension of the suffrage was this proved competency. Certainly, the general expectation was, after the war, that "women had come to stay"; and, as time went on, their numbers in industry and the professions would steadily and rapidly increase.

The figures actually available, however, give very little support to this contention. It is true that, so far as they refer to trade unions, they all show, mainly, the effect of the slump of the last three years, which has decreased membership, largely as a consequence of unemployment and wage reductions. But, in the case of women, the fall applies to practically all categories of employment. The movement in the general figures covering women's membership of unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress, is striking. In 1913 there were 358,000 women in affiliated unions; in 1921, women's membership touched the million mark; next year there was a sharp drop, the total being 615,349; for 1923 the estimated figure shows another drop, at 480,000. The more detailed figures, given by the General Registrar of Friendly Societies, show the same downward trend. These figures included employees' associations of all kinds, and take in many groups not recognised by, or affiliated to, Congress. They show the number of women in unions as 433,000 in 1913, rising to 1,209,000 in 1918 and to 1,341,000 in 1920, falling, in 1921, to 1,003,000, and, in 1922, to 868,000; the 1923 figures, not yet issued, will certainly disclose a further fall. The decline, it is true, is not so marked as in the case of men, but it is striking, and becomes even more striking when the figures are analysed in detail, as is done in the following table:—

WOMEN IN TRADE UNIONS.

	1921.	1922.	Per Cent. + or — 1922 on 1921.
Agriculture	2,221	1,506	— 32.2
Mining	5,187	4,690	— 9.6
Pottery and glass	21,453	17,514	— 18.4
Metal —			
Iron and steel	1,334	1,104	— 17.2
Ironfoundry, engineering, ship- building	747	635	— 15.0
Other	8,249	5,927	— 28.1
	10,330	7,666	..
Textile —			
Cotton	269,887	254,368	— 5.8
Woolen and worsted	34,499	53,348	+ 53.3
Linen and jute	34,480	26,433	— 23.3
Hosiery	21,554	22,360	+ 3.7
Other textile	20,301	18,833	— 7.2
Bleaching, dyeing, &c.	23,320	16,348	— 29.9
Leather (other than boot or shoe) ..	2,222	1,628	— 26.7
Clothing —			
Boot and shoe	27,008	24,175	— 10.5
Tailoring, &c.	55,982	45,603	— 18.5
Food, drink and tobacco	5,711	4,176	— 26.9
Woodworking and furnishing —			
Furnishing	3,819	3,902	+ 2.2
Other	581	520	— 10.5
Paper, printing, &c.	57,389	48,591	— 15.3
Transport —			
Railways	5,875	4,981	— 15.2
Shipping	284	188	— 33.8
Other	7,686	4,069	— 47.1
Commerce and finance —			
Shop assistants, &c.	61,483	44,240	— 28.0
Banking and insurance	7,538	6,081	— 19.3
Public administration	76,870	67,921	— 11.6
Teaching	139,144	143,460	+ 3.1
Entertainments and sports	9,381	7,343	— 21.7
Miscellaneous	8,166	8,060	— 1.3
General labour	72,033	48,922	— 32.1
Total	1,003,253	868,077	— 13.5

Except for small percentage rises in the teaching and furnishing groups, there is a fall in every department. There is no evidence, here, of any increase in the volume of women's employment, or of any effective tendency to their substitution in any category. The teaching profession is the only one where there is any marked gain of ground.

The war-time expectation that women had come in as effective competitors with men in men's employments was based on an insufficient study of the facts. It is true that at the time of the Armistice the number of women directly or indirectly replacing males was close on two millions. Of these, 363,000 were in the metal trades, 232,000 in Government establishments, 34,000 in agriculture, 55,000 on railways, 27,000 on buses and trams, 66,000 in banking and finance, 411,000 in "commerce," 155,000 in the

Civil Service, 107,000 in the textile trades. But practically all these women were governed by the pledge, faithfully maintained by the women and their leaders, to support and press for the "restoration of pre-war practices," i.e., an understanding that the men's claim for replacement was to be observed. "The women," said Miss Bondfield at the time, "are in honour bound to do everything they can through their organisations to see that the Government fulfils the pledges it gave to the men who went out." It was with a view to the redemption of that pledge that the men insisted upon the women coming into the unions, though, in some cases, e.g., the engineers, they refused to admit them to their own. For the same reason they put their weight behind the women's claim for "equal pay for the same job." The very success of the women in securing something approximating to equal rates meant that they were holding, but not keeping, the places of the men for whom they were temporarily substituted. In this they did much to clear from the minds of the men the old suspicion of and antagonism to female labour; and secured not only an effective and lasting solidarity between the sexes in industry, but security in the jobs for which they were specially fitted; but, at the same time, they prevented, on any large scale, lasting replacement of men by women. Such substitution, had it been effected, would mainly have lowered the standards of pay and employment without doing anything to increase the effective labour force. The ground women have actually won they will hold, but its extent is not yet very large.

There are, however, forces operative which are likely, gradually, to increase the industrial employment of women. Important among these is the change in opinion, which can be discerned as slowly going on, in all classes, and is affecting the view taken by parents of the future of their daughters. What this means, however, is that the employment of women will be in addition to, and not in substitution of, the employment of men. "Equal pay for the same job"—a formula which has a meaning, whereas the older one, "equal pay for the same work," very often has not—will compel the women to be at least as competent as the men. So far, however, there are no surface signs that the process is going on at all rapidly, or that the net addition of working women is more than offset by the emigration which, at present, affects them even more than it affects men.

Notes of the Week.

The Trouble in the Sudan.—The outbreaks on the part of Egyptian railway troops last Monday at Port Sudan and at Atbara (the junction of the railway connecting Port Sudan with the Nile Valley line) are an unfortunate prelude to the conversations between Mr MacDonald and Zaghul Pasha, which are expected to take place during the Egyptian Prime Minister's visit to Europe. At Port Sudan the men broke barracks and demonstrated in the town, but were induced to return to their quarters without the use of force. At Atbara, unhappily, there were casualties among the mutineers, who attempted to break through the cordon of loyal troops surrounding them, so that the latter were compelled to fire, killing two mutineers and wounding eighteen others, of whom two died later. Though a British warship has been sent to Port Sudan as a precautionary measure, there is no indication at present that any native Sudanese elements have taken part in the movement, and indeed the troops who fired upon the Egyptians at Atbara were Sudanese mounted rifles of Arab nationality. There seems to be little doubt that the mutiny was instigated by the "White Flag" Society—an Egyptian propagandist organisation supported by Egyptians on service in the Sudan, and directed, it is alleged, from Cairo. On June 28th last this organisation appears to have embarked upon a campaign of violence, owing to Lord Parmoor's somewhat brusquely worded declaration on June 25th in the House of Lords. Already, on June 24th and 25th, they had fomented riots in Omdurman and Khartum, as a result of which their leader was arrested, and it was in protest against this arrest that the cadets of the Military School at Khartum made an armed

demonstration on the 8th of this month. The main object of the organisation is, of course, to show that the native population of the Sudan are at one with the Egyptians in their desire for the union of the two countries, and from this point of view the present mutiny and its outcome must be regarded as a setback to their cause, since Egyptian malcontents acted alone and were put down by Sudanese. The last thing, however, that sensible British opinion desires is that a feud should be created between the two peoples, who must of necessity agree with one another over the allocation of the water supply and the other gifts of the Nile valley which they share between them; for if such a feud is fomented by misguided Egyptian action, it will make the future more difficult for all parties concerned—including ourselves, so long as we retain interests and responsibilities in any part of the Nile Basin. The Egyptian Nationalists possibly intended the mutiny as a demonstration that certain services indispensable to the promotion of civilisation and orderly government in the Sudan depend upon an Egyptian personnel, and as a warning to Great Britain that she would find it a harder and more expensive task to govern the Sudan without Egyptian co-operation. The latter proposition is no doubt true, but the Egyptians will gain nothing by attempting to prove it by violence. If they wish to put the question to the test, it is open to them to withdraw their financial, administrative, and military contribution to the maintenance of the Sudan, and leave us to carry on as best we can without them. The objection to this course from the Egyptian point of view is that it would be tantamount to a resignation of their rights to a condominium over the Sudan under the Anglo-Egyptian Convention of 1899—rights which are valuable to Egypt, since Great Britain cannot possibly abrogate the convention unilaterally, whether she wishes to or not, so long as Egypt holds to it and at the same time loyally discharges her obligations under it. The worst policy from the Egyptian point of view would be to retain the condominium as an instrument of sabotage, for that policy would almost certainly end in the ejection of the Egyptian personnel from the Sudan and the forfeiture of Egypt's moral and diplomatic rights into the bargain. The wisest policy for both parties is to reserve their existing rights—either by the continuation of the 1899 Convention or by the free negotiation of some mutually preferred substitute for it—to arrive at an early and definitive settlement of the economic question, and to leave the political settlement to time. Ultimately, the political orientation of the Sudan can only be determined by the Sudanese themselves, and at present they are in that transitional stage of political development which is described in the definition of "A" mandates in the Covenant of the League of Nations.

U.S. Election Programmes.—Mr Davis on Monday and Mr Coolidge on Thursday delivered important speeches when formally accepting the nominations of the Democratic and Republican parties respectively for the Presidential contest. The passages referring to American policy towards Europe naturally claim principal attention on this side of the Atlantic. President Coolidge described the foreign policy of the United States by the single word "Peace." He announced the Government's intention to become a member of a Permanent Peace Court, and further to call another Conference for the limitation of armaments and the codification of international law as soon as the Dawes plan has been put into operation. For the rest, Mr Coolidge's speech was in the main a studied defence of the work and policy of the present Administration. Mr Davis's statement was to a large extent an indictment of that work and policy, but his references to Europe were of first-rate importance. He went so far as to advocate the entry of the United States into the League of Nations, so soon as American public opinion is ready for such a step—which, in his view, it will be some day. "I refuse," he said, "to accept the dictum, unauthorised by any expression of the popular will, that the League of Nations is a closed incident so far as we are concerned." Russia, Germany, and Mexico, he predicted, would soon take their seats at the Council of the League, leaving only America's seat vacant. Meanwhile, he pronounced it the duty of the President to co-operate with all proper endeavours to prevent war, whether such endeavours

emanate from the League or not. Of the contribution of the present Administration to the cause of world peace he spoke in scathing terms. Turning to domestic questions, Mr Davis naturally made capital out of the oil scandals, and on the fiscal question pronounced for a tariff "designed primarily to raise revenue for the support of Government, and framed on a competitive basis." The idea of helping the farmer by a tariff he denounced as "the baldest political false pretence." The American fiscal issue is, of course, of direct and profound interest to this country. But for the moment the most arresting feature of the overtures to the Presidential campaign is the fact that Mr Davis should have devoted the major part of his speech to the League of Nations.

The Free State and the Boundary.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—Dail Eireann in special session on Tuesday last voted by 64 to 10 the first reading of the Bill to validate the supplementary agreement with Britain for the complete implementation of Article XII. of the Treaty. Dignity and restraint marked the utterances of Mr Cosgrave and Mr O'Higgins, the Government spokesmen, and their speeches have had a good effect upon the hotheads on both sides. It cannot be too clearly or too often stated that from the Free State point of view there can be no discussion or compromise of the basis of Article XII. being left unfulfilled. No Free State Government could stand for five minutes if it permitted a cutting down of the Treaty. But once it is assured of the execution of Article XII., discussion will be easy, and even probably compromise; but the compromise will have to be put into effect through the machinery of the Boundary Commission. It is stated that the Anglo-Irish Treaty has now been duly registered with the League of Nations, as the objection of Mr Baldwin's Government to this course has been withdrawn by Mr Ramsay MacDonald's Government. The origin of the objection, so far as law, international and constitutional, and reason were concerned, was never very clear. In the last resort, therefore, there is a further tribunal which may have to consider Article XII.

Overseas Trade in July.—The Board of Trade Returns of overseas trade for July show an all-round expansion in comparison both with the preceding month and with July of last year. A year ago, however, it must be remembered, the figures were affected by the dockers' strike then in progress. Below we compare the figures for July with those of June 1924, and of July, 1923, and also those of the first seven months of this year with those of the corresponding period of 1923:—

	July, 1923.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Increase in Comparison with	
	Mill. £.	Mill. £.	Mill. £.	July, 1923.	June, 1924.
Imports	76.9	88.5	108.1	+ 40.6	+ 22.2
British exports	59.5	62.0	71.3	+ 19.8	+ 15.0
Re-exports	8.8	10.0	10.0	+ 15.9	+ 2.0
Total exports	68.3	72.0	81.5	+ 19.3	+ 13.2
Excess of imports	8.6	16.5	26.6	..	..

	Jan.-July, 1923.	Jan.-July, 1924.	Increase.
	Mill. £'s.	Mill. £'s.	%
Imports	615.6	706.5	+ 14.8
British exports	442.2	459.7	+ 4.0
Re-exports	72.6	84.3	+ 16.1
Total exports	514.8	544.0	+ 5.7
Excess of imports	100.8	162.5	..

As compared with July of last year, the increase in imports is accounted for as to £12½ millions by food, drink, &c., as to £10½ millions by raw materials, and as to £8 millions by manufactured goods. From the figures quoted below it may be seen that the bulk of the increases are due to the larger volume imported:—

	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	Value, 1923.	Value, 1924.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	£	£
Grain and flour (cwt.) ..	13,671	22,893	7,220	11,800
Beef and mutton (cwt.) ..	1,454	2,017	3,903	5,248
Butter (cwt.)	419	443	3,086	4,051
Raw cotton (centals)	462	790	2,972	6,308
Raw wool (centals)	402	431	2,562	4,061

Higher prices have affected the value figures for wool and cotton, but increased quantities are mainly responsible for the higher total in the case of cereals and meat. On the exports side the increase of nearly £12 millions is accounted for entirely by manufactured goods, an increase of £1½ millions in food and drink being more than offset by a drop of £2½ millions in raw materials. The latter is accounted for entirely by the coal figures, the export values of which have dropped from £8,841,300 to £6,363,600, the quantity figures being 6,767,300 tons and 5,487,900 tons respectively. For the seven months the quantity figures have declined from 46.6 million tons to 36.6 million tons. The extent to which these figures are affected by the Ruhr episode may be seen from the fact that Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium together took from us in the first seven months of the year 16.2 million tons in 1922, 27.7 million tons in 1923, and 17 million tons in 1924. Exports to countries outside this area were 16, 18.9, and 19.6 million tons respectively. Among manufactured goods the principal increases are in machinery, cotton and woollen manufactures, and vehicles. In the last category the value of exports of motor-cars and parts increased from £280,700 to £587,600. For the first seven months of the year the increase of £91 millions in imports is made up of £21 millions in food and drink, £47½ millions in raw materials, and £21½ millions in manufactured goods. On the export side, food and drink increased by £7 millions and manufactured goods by £24 millions, coal exports being down by nearly £15 millions. The quantity figures of some of the leading exports for the first seven months of each of the past three years compare as follows:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,791,681	2,523,313	2,364,297
Cotton yarns	126,161,400	79,740,100	100,151,600
Cotton piece goods .. sq. yds.	2,294,469,800	2,422,952,200	2,607,773,600
Woollen tissues	68,282,700	83,990,700	96,279,300
Machinery	211,786	252,287	262,219

In another column we give the figures of motor-car exports, which show a substantial increase over the seven months. We hope to refer next week to the figures giving the direction of our overseas trade.

American Money Policy.—In view of the improvement in the dollar exchange and the cheapening of money in America on the one hand, and the certainty that we shall have to face difficult decisions in the coming autumn in connection with German credit hunger on the other, it is important that Europe should understand America's monetary situation. The current number of the *Chase Economic Bulletin* contains a striking commentary on this subject by Dr Anderson, who develops the thesis that while there has been very extensive long-term investment in America in which the banks have become heavily committed, and a large volume of short-time money market funds have been diverted to capital uses, Federal Reserve Bank policy has created an artificial cheapness in the money market. Contrary to expectation, the expansive capacity of the Federal Reserve banks, consequent on the influx of gold, has not caused prices to rise sky high, "but even if we have not blown up a price bubble we have been blowing up a credit bubble, especially in the form of long-time debts." But Dr Anderson does not think that investment capital is really abundant, and when the time comes when this capital ought once more freely to diffuse itself throughout the world the illusion will be dispelled. In his view the situation is "abnormal and dangerous." Dr Anderson thinks that the Federal Reserve banks have helped to produce the illusion of cheap money by their extensive investment in earning assets, a policy which he attributes to their desire to earn profits for their stockholders. But they also have a public responsibility, and he urges that they should reverse their policy by selling 100 to 200 million dollars worth of Government securities, and thus reduce the balance of Member Banks by this amount. He suggests, incidentally, that the difficulty about paying dividends should be met by the Reserve banks charging a commission for the services which they render at present to the

Government and the Member Banks free of cost, and that the enormous overhead expenses of these banks, which swelled during the war and post-war years to abnormal dimensions, are capable of being severely economised. Dr Anderson agrees with Prof. Cassel in thinking that for some years America could continue to absorb gold if this policy of restricting money market resources were followed, and if the National Bank note circulation were replaced by more gold or gold certificates in circulation. He does not, however, think that this is a permanently satisfactory state of affairs, and sums up his policy:—"The abnormal gold and money situation calls for two lines of operation. For the long run, we must earnestly co-operate with Europe toward such a stabilisation of European affairs as will restore the gold standard in the important countries of Europe, and restore European credit so that there may be a normal redistribution of capital throughout the world. We must lower our tariffs so as to permit Europe to send us more goods instead of gold in payment of debts here, we should throw into the general settlement the problem of the debts of our European Allies to our Government, and, above all, we must do everything possible to effect the prompt adoption of the Dawes plan. Pending this change in the European situation, we must, for the next two or three years, be prepared to offset the evil effects of inflowing gold. The main point here is a change of Federal Reserve Bank policy. Rediscount rates should be regularly kept higher than market rates, and open market policy should be reversed as explained above."

Agricultural Wages.—The imminence of the introduction of new machinery for the regulation of wages in agriculture warrants a brief examination of the position as regards such wages as it exists immediately before the coming into operation of the Government's new measure. The Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act of 1921, which abolished the machinery for the fixing of legal minimum rates, provided for the establishment of local joint conciliation committees for the purpose of making agreements as to wages in the various districts. These committees could, if they wished, submit their agreements to the Minister of Agriculture for confirmation, and the rates embodied therein then became statutory minima to be observed by all employers in the area. During the first year, agreements were arrived at by about 55 of the committees, confirmation being obtained in five cases. By the autumn of 1922, however, some of the earlier agreements, which had been made for specific periods, had lapsed, and the committees had found themselves unable to agree for further periods. This process continued, and the number of agreements actually in operation declined till at the present time agreed conditions apply in only 12 out of 63 areas, though in two other areas agreements are in force arrived at by methods other than through the committees. The agreed rates for ordinary labourers in the 15 areas are as follows:—

Northampton (North) 32s (52½ hours)	Suffolk	25s (50 hours)
Cumbria and Westmorland	Ashby (Bosworth District)	31s (54 hours)
Lancashire (South)	Loughborough District	30s (52 hours)
Lancashire (North)	Devon	30s (51 hours)
Cheshire	Carnarvon	30s (50 hours)
Shropshire	Denbigh and Flint	27s 1d (50 hours)
Staffordshire	Merioneth and Montgomery	30s (54 hours)
Norfolk		

In about six other areas, where no agreement has been reached, the National Farmers' Union has recommended its members to pay rates ranging from 27s to 30s a week. No information has been published as to the rates prevailing in the remaining areas, though the Minister of Agriculture has stated that cases have been found where rates as low as 20s a week are paid. From such information as is available, however, the Ministry of Agriculture estimate the average of the rates in England and Wales as a whole in 1923 to have been about 28s a week, or 56 per cent. above the average of the rates prevailing in 1914. As wages have been almost stationary since early in 1923, this figure is probably about correct for the present date. The particulars given above relate to ordinary adult male labourers. Except in a very few cases, no rates have been agreed upon or recommended for special classes of workers—horsemen, shepherds, and cattlemen—or for women and young persons. For such

workers there has, generally speaking, been no attempt at the regulation of wages since the Agricultural Wages Board ceased to function in 1921. Moreover, very few rates have been fixed since that date for hay and corn harvest, or for mid-week and week-end overtime. The district boards under the Corn Production Act dealt with all these points in considerable detail. The difficulties, therefore, which have arisen in the last three years, and which, in the majority of cases, have proved insuperable to the conciliation committees, appear likely to arise in even greater volume when the new bodies begin the task of formulating the new wage conditions.

Austrian Finances.—The financial condition of Austria will once again engage the attention of the League of Nations Austrian Committee during the current month. The members who have to reconsider the terms of Austria's normal budget when they meet in Vienna will be faced with a situation of considerable complication. Briefly, the facts are that during the past twelve months stabilisation has had such good effects upon the revenue that estimates of receipts have been very considerably exceeded. The recent financial crisis, however, makes it certain that the revenue and direct taxes will now shrink, while that from indirect sources has already fallen. The flourishing condition of the revenue has, however, created an undue sense of prosperity in Austria; expenditure has not in fact been kept down according to programme, and as our readers will remember, the Austrian Government recently asked the League that the normal budget figures should be substantially modified to allow of considerably larger expenditure and revenue. The League Council has agreed in principle to a modification of the budget, but since the application was put forward the effects of the recent financial crisis upon the probable budgetary situation have become more evident. According to our Vienna correspondent, whose letter will be found on a later page, it is now thought improbable that the budget will balance at the end of this year, and that it will be necessary for the control of the League to be extended over the year 1925. The situation has caused a slight setback in the price of Austrian 6 per cent. bonds, but, of course, the interest on the loan is still very amply covered by the receipts from Customs and the tobacco monopoly.

Iron, Steel and Coal Output.—The figures just issued by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, giving the production of pig-iron and steel in July, show that, although there were 11 fewer furnaces blowing at the end of July than at the end of June, production of pig-iron in July was 611,800 tons, compared with 607,800 tons in June. That the loss of 11 furnaces did not result in a decreased production of pig-iron was due partly to the fact that there was one more day in July than in June, partly that the furnaces went out towards the end of the month, and partly that three furnaces were blown in during the month which were of a higher average capacity than the average of those which were blown out. The production of steel ingots and castings, which had been exceptionally low in June owing to the Whitsun holidays, rose from 651,500 tons to 693,300 tons, the decrease in Scotland due to the holidays being more than offset by increases in other parts of the country. Imports of iron and steel in July amounted to 201,200 tons, of which 66,900 tons were billets, blooms, and slabs, 32,000 tons sheet and tinplate bars, 24,300 tons iron bars, shapes, &c., and 17,500 tons pig-iron. Exports of iron and steel rose by 15,300 tons compared with June, and amounted to 339,700 tons, of which 57,100 tons were galvanised sheets, 46,900 tons tinplates and sheets, 44,300 tons pig-iron and ferro alloys, 34,800 tons black plates and sheets, 29,400 tons steel bars, rods, angles, &c., 29,400 tons steel bars, rods, sections, &c., and 26,800 tons cast and wrought tubes, pipes, and fittings. The output of coal in the five weeks ending August 2nd averaged 4,878,500 tons per week, compared with an average of 4,674,800 tons in June, when output was affected by the Whitsun holidays. The exports of coal were the highest since December last, and amounted to 5,487,889 tons. Of the total, 1,222,100

tons went to France, 702,400 tons to Italy, 518,700 tons to Germany, and 391,300 tons to Sweden. Exports of metallurgical coke amounted to 144,600 tons, compared with 111,200 tons in June and 234,600 tons in July, 1923.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Since last March organised short-time has been in operation in the cotton spinning mills of Lancashire producing American yarns. The scheme provides for the factories to run only 26½ hours per week instead of the usual 48 hours. Some time ago it was agreed that this curtailment of production should go on until the end of September. The state of trade has again been considered by the General Committee of the Master Spinners' Federation, and it has been decided to recommend the members to continue the restriction of output until the end of the year. It may be said that out of the 56,000,000 spindles in Lancashire and adjacent counties about 36,000,000 are engaged on American cotton, and the owners are affected by this short-time scheme.

Pig-Lead Prices and Supplies.—There has been a very firm tone in the pig-lead market this week, and the recent setback has been more than offset. On Wednesday the market ruled very strong, with September commanding a small premium over August, this being followed by a general advance on Thursday, when both current position and next month were sold on the open market at £33 2s 6d per ton. At the close of last month there was some talk of a squeeze coming, and at one time prompt foreign lead rose to £34, but this was followed by a collapse. It is difficult to see what justification there is for the rise. The imports during July were on a liberal scale, the total being 24,536 tons, which makes 130,329 tons for the seven months. This is fully 6,000 tons above the average, and there can be no actual shortage of supplies, although it is true that there is no reserve in public warehouses. The market in the States is very firm again, and the rise this week owes something to that. The cable-makers are well engaged just now, but there is not much business doing in lead products and commodities; thus the upward movement and activity in pig-lead is based largely on speculative purchases, on the theory that there will be a brisk autumn demand after the London Conference, and when the building dispute is settled. Lead is now several pounds per ton over the price ruling this time last year, and certainly looks high enough. The available supplies seem to be in very firm hands, and this gives rise to the suggestion that the strength of the market is due in part to manipulation. Of course, if the political and industrial situation took a turn for the better shortly, and the lead consumers entered the market, there would be a shortage, as Continental requirements would show a very big expansion; but for the time being the interests of producers might be better served by steadier markets rather than these irregular up-and-down movements.

Some Motor Trade Statistics.—August 1st, the day on which the much-discussed McKenna duties of 33½ per cent. were allowed to lapse, has come and gone, and we have been spared a repetition of the hysterical outbursts on the part of some sections of the motor trade which greeted Mr Snowden's proposal to abolish them. In fact, the only outward and visible sign that we have seen of this historical event has been a reduction in the price in this country of a number of foreign cars and a somewhat naïve reference in the advertisement of a well-known brand of British car to the "stabilisation" of the motor trade, now that the duties have gone. The average reduction, according to the *Autocar*, is in the neighbourhood of 12½ per cent., a figure which we have checked so far as we are able. What will be the precise effect upon employment in the British motor industry of these reductions we will not attempt to forecast, but how utterly groundless were the jeremiads of certain sections of the motor trade as to the threatened wholesale unemployment which would immediately result if the proposal to drop the duties were sanctioned by Parliament may be seen from the official

monthly figures of unemployment from December, 1923, to June, 1924, under the heading "Construction and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Cycles, and Aircraft":—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
End December, 1923.....	18,199	1,254	19,453
" January, 1924.....	17,403	1,328	18,731
" February, ".....	15,949	1,254	17,203
" March, ".....	13,769	1,079	14,843
" April, ".....	12,139	1,048	13,187
" May, ".....	12,639	1,121	13,760
" June, ".....	12,560	1,058	13,618

The very substantial reduction in the numbers unemployed over the six months may be partly due to a seasonal increase in output, but the figures give the lie direct to the absurd talk indulged in three or four months ago. The total number engaged in the motor industry in July was 194,420, of whom 175,590 were males and 19,830 females. Up to the end of July the figures of overseas trade in motor-cars and parts thereof show that the British motor trade has been very much more than holding its own, while the statistics for the month of July alone show a substantial increase in the export of British cars, as may be seen from the following table:—

	July.		Seven Months.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Touring cars.....No.	236	1,238	1,176	5,659
" ".....value	£85,819	£286,737	£480,034	£1,495,994
Commercial vehicles.....No.	69	328	479	942
" ".....value	£34,787	£78,585	£373,804	£444,497
Total cars.....No.	305	1,566	1,655	6,601
" ".....value	£120,606	£365,322	£853,838	£1,940,491

The export of cars thus increased fivefold in number and threefold in value in July, as compared with July, 1923, a striking increase which may be partly explained by the dockers' strike of last year. Imports of cars, on the other hand, show a substantial decline, the total imported for the seven months being 6,884, valued at £1,196,700, as against 12,128, valued at £1,932,428, for the first seven months of 1923. The return of motor vehicles registered in this country from December 1st to May 31st last, issued by the Ministry of Transport, shows a substantial increase in private cars licensed, in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year, the total amounting to 433,212, as compared with 346,423, the revenue amounting to £5,943,300, against £5,013,400.

Irish Currency Questions.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—Premonitory symptoms, which it is impossible to ignore, indicate that strong influences are at work to push the Free State Government into measures profoundly affecting the currency. The daily Press has so far fought shy of the subject, but a new weekly called *Irish Truth* has brought the matter into the open, and bankers and merchants at least (the general public has not yet realised its significance) are relieved that public discussion has supervened to prevent dangerous hole-and-corner decisions. It is not believed that the Government has considered the matter (certainly it has not fully or exhaustively considered it), and the Minister of Finance is absent through illness from his Department. But *Irish Truth* has alleged that the whole issue may be prejudiced in advance by certain secret and confidential discussions recently undertaken with a view to immediate action touching (a) coinage, (b) legal tender, and (c) State policy as to the discharge of its obligations in future. There are known advocates of far-reaching changes in the Department of Finance, and it is feared that their influence may avail to such an extent that Irish currency policy may be virtually determined in advance and without adequate consideration, and that Irish credit may be affected very seriously. One or two advocate a change openly, and point to the circulation of British Bank and Treasury notes to the alleged amount of upwards of £22,000,000 in the Free State as constituting an interest-free loan to Great Britain. They advocate the Free State issue of notes to replace them, that the new issue alone shall be legal tender, and that the replaced notes shall be expended in the purchase of interest-bearing gilt-edged securities as collateral for the new issue. *Irish Truth* strongly urges exhaustive consideration of the whole

subject before any decision is come to, and points out the wisdom of taking the Irish bankers fully into consultation as representing Irish depositors.

South African Banking.—At the annual meeting of the National Bank of S. Africa, at Pretoria last week, Mr James Leisk, the chairman, criticised the proposal to form a State Bank for South Africa, expressing the opinion that from the point of view of the general public interest the entry of the State into the province of banking would be fraught with considerable danger. The expectation of cheap credit, from which the movement appeared to derive most of its support, could only be realised at the expense of the taxpayer. He presumed, however, that before any policy was decided upon the new Government and Parliament would fortify themselves with the advice of a commission of inquiry, and that the commercial banks, whose experience in these matters was extensive, would be given every opportunity of ventilating their views. With regard to the question of the gold standard, Mr Leisk said that the only safe course for South Africa to follow was to extend from time to time, as required, the period of inconvertibility in the confident expectation that the measures adopted in Great Britain to restore the gold standard would be successful, and thus pave the way for the restoration of a free gold market in South Africa with the minimum of risk and of local economic disturbance. He added, as a practical illustration of the uncertainties of the situation from the point of view of the South African banks: "We have established a reserve against the possibility of depreciation in our overseas sterling branches. The precise meaning of that precaution is that, if South Africa goes back to a free gold basis before the pound sterling moves closer to its gold parity, then all those South African concerns which have surplus balances in London will automatically see those balances depreciated in value by the amount which it would cost to return them to this country. Obviously that cost under conditions such as I have indicated would be greatly in excess of the present rates of exchange for remitting from London to South Africa." With regard to conditions in South Africa, the chairman said that, given a satisfactory solution to the reparations problem, South African conditions were ripe for an upward movement to share in the resultant prosperity.

Lithuanian Finance and Trade.—In spite of the loss of Vilna, and the dispute, now happily settled, over the possession of Memel, Lithuania last year made considerable progress, as is shown by the Report (to April, 1924) just issued by the Overseas Trade Department, from the British Consul at Kaunas (Kovno). Last year's Budget accounts closed with an unexpected surplus of 5,000,000 lits (about £113,000). The excess of the actual tax-revenue over the estimate was far more than counter-balanced by large deficits on the yield of the State forestry and on the payments under the new agrarian law, which reached only 5.3 per cent. of the estimate; but these deficits were more than covered by drastic retrenchment, and for 1924 the estimated surplus is 8,000,000 lits (about £181,000). The military expenditure, though swelled by difficulties arising out of the strategic position of the country and the uncertain conditions in Eastern Europe, is much less than in 1923. Railway extension and road improvement, the next largest item of expenditure, has been temporarily checked by the Legislature since the Report was written; the plans involve the opening up of important grain and timber districts and the improvement of thorough and transit traffic. The new currency (dealt with in our article of July 26th) is fully secured on gold (deposited abroad) and reserves of foreign currencies, chiefly American dollars, a coin in use through the remittances of emigrants; but the care taken by the new State Bank (founded in October, 1922) to avoid inflation keeps the quantity of the circulating medium far below the national need; credits are restricted, and the usual rate of interest is 36 per cent. per annum. Business is thereby hampered, unemployment has been increased by the retrenchment in the State services, and the cost of living has risen 10.5 per cent. since September, 1923. Industry has suffered from the political situation and the

loss of the Polish and Russian markets, but the timber, paper, and match manufacturers are making progress. Still, agriculture must always be predominant; and here the Government is encouraging improvement—for which there is ample room—through the importation of pedigree cattle and pigs, and assistance to the co-operative societies to set up modern dairies, in the belief that Russian competition will eventually necessitate the production of meat, cheese, and butter, rather than grain. Possibly the peasants are as yet hardly fit to profit by these efforts; but Danish farmers have immigrated, and may show them the way. The creation of small holdings is proceeding rapidly, but as yet the expropriated owners have received no compensation. Timber, linseed, flax, and foodstuffs are now the staple exports; of these Great Britain takes a large share. Her exports to Lithuania are 5.27 per cent. of the total, Germany's (including the transit trade) 81.89 per cent.; but there are openings for an increase of British exports, notably in woollens, agricultural machinery, tools, and railway and telegraph material for the Government. British prices, however, are often too high, and credit must be given; but competition with Germany is now becoming more practicable. "Stability of political and social conditions, sound currency and a wise financial policy are needed for the attraction of foreign capital"; and the readiness of foreign States, especially Sweden and Great Britain, to grant loans to Lithuania in the form of manufactured goods, for her reconstruction argues an increasing confidence in her future.

African and Eastern Trade Corporation.—A year ago the report of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, stated that owing to the complicated nature of the computation in connection with the excess profits duty adjustment a final settlement had not been reached, but taking into account the adjustment so far accomplished, a trading profit for the year of £739,800 was recorded. This permitted of a payment of an 8 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, after allocating £200,000 for depreciation of stocks and paying the preference dividend for the year, the balance carried forward being £242,394. The directors transferred £300,000 from the reserve to make "ample provision for future contingencies," and also transferred £650,000 from reserve to reduce further the book values of investments in subsidiary companies. A sum of £250,000 was also set aside to meet claims during the next three years for income-tax on excess profits duty repayments, so far received by the corporation and credited to subsidiary companies. In the accounts now before us profits for the year ended December 31, 1923, are shown as £442,353, which, added to the amount brought forward, make an available balance of £684,747. How profits compare with those set out for the previous year is not quite clear. Apparently the generous allocation for depreciation and other contingencies a year ago are considered ample by the directors, for this year, after payment of preference dividends, only £25,000 is placed to depreciation fund, £25,000 to income-tax reserve, and £10,000 to other reserves. It should be added that profits this year are shown after providing for "the usual depreciation on stocks." The dividend on the ordinary shares is 8 per cent., the same as for the previous twelve months, and £271,985 is carried forward. The directors report that trade during the year under review has shown a gradual improvement, and the outlook in their opinion is now better than it has been for some years.

Grand Trunk Pacific Debentures.—Holders of Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures received a pleasant surprise on Monday when it was announced that they were to receive the full rate of interest for 1923, and the welcome news was reflected in a rise of 14 points to 58 in the price of the stock. Less than three months ago stockholders were officially informed that the surplus revenue of the guarantor company, the Grand Trunk, available for meeting the interest was equivalent to less than 1 per cent. Now, as a result of an audit on behalf of the debenture holders by a private firm, a sum of nearly \$2 million has been brought forward, "on which the railway legal department has ruled in favour of the debenture holders." Further

details from Ottawa will be awaited with interest for an explanation of this striking alteration in the position, for the sum mentioned covers the amount required for the 4 per cent. interest by a wide margin.

Malayan Tin Shares.—Tin, the metal, has been up to nearly £300 and down to £202 per ton in the course of the present year. The margin of £95 per ton within seven months is sufficient in itself to show the extraordinarily meteoric character of the fluctuations which occur in tin, and which render, therefore, the dealing in shares of tin companies a matter of so considerable speculation. At present the price of tin stands about £250 per ton, and as this allows a very substantial profit to most of the sound companies working in the Malay States, a good deal of quiet interest is being taken in the shares of these concerns. This interest is stimulated by the persistency of the demand for such shares from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. British speculation in these Malayan tin shares is spasmodic, the reason being that the market in most of them is strictly limited. The companies mostly possess capitals so comparatively modest, that this tends to restriction of activity, because there can never be an active market in any shares, for long at a time, if there is no supply wherewith to meet demand. Moreover, the wildness of the fluctuations in the price of tin serves to enforce caution upon the ordinary speculator, who is apt to complain that whereas on one day he may find it exceedingly difficult to buy shares, the course of a few days, or even hours, may result in his discovery that it is then quite as difficult to sell them. Nevertheless, the good shares pay well on the money, and taking dividends over a period of years, the share proprietors have little cause for complaint in cases where they have acquired their holdings at reasonable prices. The year 1922 proved a severe test for tin companies as a whole, for in that year the price of tin fell to £140 per ton, whereas in 1920 it soared at one time to £420 per ton. The speculative investor in mining shares will find it interesting to glance at the dividends paid by a selection of the leading companies for the past half decade, and these can be tabulated as follows:—

Company.	Dividends per Share.					1924 (to date).
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	
Gopeng Consolidated	4 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	2 3
Idris Hydraulic	4 0	0 6	..	..	1 0	1 6
Iphoh Tin Dredging, 16s shs.	2 0	..	..	..	0 6	3 3
Kramat Pulai	4 0	3 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0
Kinta Tin Mines	5 0	1 0	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 6
Kamunting Tin	2 0	..	..	..	1 0	2 0
Malayan Tin Dredging	4 0	..	..	..	3 0	2 0
Pengkalan	1 0	..	..	..	1 0	5 0
Rambutan	3 0	2 0	2 8	2 0	2 0	2 4
Renong Tin	3 0	..	..	..	1 6	..
Siamese Tin Syndicate	7 0	2 0	1 0	5 0	7 0	..
Sungei Besi	4 0	..	2 0	4 0	2 0	..
Tekka	0 9	0 9	0 9	1 6	1 1	1 1
Tekka Taiping	1 0	1 0	..	1 0	2 0	..
Tronoh Mines	2 0	..	..	4 0	2 0	..

In putting money away through the purchase of these Malayan tin companies' shares, it is advisable to obtain as much information as possible in regard to the number of dredges which are at work. Obviously, if a company has only one dredge, it is liable to mischances which would affect to a considerably lesser extent a company which owned two or more dredges. There is a tolerably free market in a few of the shares, for instance, in Malaysians and Siamese Syndicate, but the prospective purchaser will do well to bear in mind that in all these Middle East undertakings he cannot expect to find such flexibility of market as characterises the shares, say, of the leading South African gold producers.

Esperanza.—Our mining correspondent writes:—It is seldom—fortunately—that the Stock Exchange is subject to such a bombshell as that received this week in connection with the Esperanza. The original company was a highly successful undertaking, for one year paying as much as 160 per cent. Following the exhaustion of the abnormally rich ore, the dividends fell away, until for 1918 only 5 per cent. was paid. This proved to be the last. In 1920 rich ore was again struck, and in the hope that

it might be another "bonanza," the shares were rushed up to £2 10s. The deposit, however, turned out to be only a patch. Subsequently the company secured an option on a property on the West Coast of Mexico, but the results of exploration did not justify acquisition. About the middle of last year the company was reconstructed, the shareholders being offered two 10s shares credited 8s paid for every five £1 shares. It was stated that a portion of the new capital was to be devoted to the alteration of the treatment plant, so as to permit of the crushing of 30,000 tons a month of low-grade ore—whereof it was calculated that 1,000,000 tons were available and could be dealt with at a profit of 50 cents per ton. The first return from the modified plant showed the disappointing result of \$15,000 loss, but the manager reported that the June loss would be much lower, and that money would be made in July. He added: "We now feel justified in giving you positive assurance of future profitable operations." In these circumstances it is no matter for surprise that indignation and astonishment should have been aroused on the part of those interested by the publication on Tuesday of a cable from the consulting engineer announcing the low-grade programme to be a failure, and intimating that as a "last resort" operations are to be confined to the treatment of 10,000 tons monthly of the highest-grade ore available. On Monday evening the price of Esperanza shares closed at about 4s; on Tuesday it was only 2s, and some unfortunate holders who elected to sell got as little as 1s 5½d. The shares were picked up on the fall by people who have a penchant for such speculations, but the outlook is very uncertain. The company's resources must have been pretty well depleted by the alterations above mentioned, the payment of the old company's liabilities, and the losses since incurred; the June deficit, by the way, was almost as great as that for May. No very substantial profits can be expected to result from the new programme, and the chance of another rich discovery—although it exists—is small. Meantime, an explanation is required of the divergence between the official statements.

Parent Tyre.—The net revenue of the Parent Tyre Company, Limited, for the 16 months ended April 30, 1924, amounted to £96,703. This compares with £53,321 for the preceding 16 months. The balance brought forward amounts to £3,483, thus making a total of £101,186 available for distribution. Preference shareholders secure £38,245, being an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax for the 12 months ended December 31, 1923, leaving a balance of £61,941 to be carried forward. The directors report that the company is emerging from "a somewhat prolonged period of difficulty, with its assets steadily appreciating, its business prospects enhanced, and its earning power increased." Gross profits for the 16 months amounted to £175,683, as compared with £86,156 for the previous 16 months. Of this profit, approximately £63,000 was derived from old investments, and £112,000 from new business. In this connection, it is stated that the investment in Joint Industries, Limited, and the working agreement with that company have operated satisfactorily. It is observed that no income was derived from the company's holding of Dunlop Rubber preference shares, and dividends have accrued to the company on this investment for three years and five months to April 30th, the date of the company's accounts. The scheme of capital reorganisation recently submitted to the shareholders of the Dunlop Rubber Company, it is stated, was found to be unacceptable, and was therefore withdrawn. A committee representing all classes of Dunlop shareholders was thereupon appointed to confer with the board, and unanimous agreement has since been reached by the committee, a fresh scheme having been approved which is to be submitted for the approval of Dunlop shareholders without "undue" delay. Under this scheme it is proposed that Dunlop "C" preference shareholders will be paid a sum of £470,000 net in cash, in settlement of the arrears of their dividends up to December 31, 1923, while their £3,000,000 of capital, carrying interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (i.e., £240,000 per annum) will be reduced to £2,400,000 of capital, carrying interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (i.e., £240,000 per annum), with, however, the right to

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

a return of £3,000,000 on a winding-up. Under this arrangement the company should receive this year a sum of, approximately, £300,000 in cash, in settlement of its arrears of Dunlop dividends for the 37 months to December 31, 1923. The directors of the Dunlop Company have announced that they expect to resume the payment of regular dividends as from January 1, 1924. Although the company's earnings, it is stated, during the past six months have been more than sufficient to pay dividends on the preference and ordinary shares to date, "all available cash resources are, at the moment, embarked against the current transactions of the company." Upon the passing of the Dunlop scheme of reorganisation the directors propose to convene the annual general meeting of the company, when they "will be in a position to clear off all accrued dividends, to recommend the payment of substantial dividends on the deferred shares, and thereafter, as they hope, to resume the payment of regular dividends on all classes of the company's shares."

Transvaal Gold Output.—The production of gold from the mines of the Transvaal in July was 829,437 fine ounces, which is easily the highest monthly total since the war, and compares with 773,053 ounces in June, and 754,306 ounces in July, 1923. The following table gives the monthly outputs since the beginning of 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ..	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728	704,469	798,768
February ..	652,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	639,728	704,469	768,617
March ..	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	639,728	704,469	768,617
April ..	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	511,338	743,651	788,923
May ..	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	629,786	786,564	809,003
June ..	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697	755,309	773,053
Total (6 months) ..	4,256,235	4,147,484	4,104,846	3,928,501	2,456,549	4,516,549	4,704,035
July ..	732,199	725,697	736,029	689,555	730,635	754,306	829,437
August ..	740,310	706,659	702,083	711,526	752,490	769,371	..
September ..	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,028	747,089	739,504	..
October ..	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,842	..
November ..	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	..
December ..	641,245	650,191	632,215	681,847	790,712	778,949	..
Total (12 months) ..	8,420,560	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	..

The average monthly output for the first six months of this year was 772,005 ounces, as against 761,090 ounces for the whole of 1923. In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of each of the past eight months by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Dec., 1923.	Jan., 1924.	Feb., 1924.	Mar., 1924.	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.
Gold mines ..	177,779	181,659	182,055	176,483	173,022	172,586	174,198	174,247
Coal mines ..	16,142	16,109	15,958	15,763	15,800	15,863	16,042	16,074
Diamond	3,239	3,482	3,419	3,170	2,762	2,863	2,999	3,158
Total ..	197,160	201,250	201,432	195,416	191,584	191,312	193,239	193,479

The number of natives at work in the gold mines is the highest since March, but well below the average for the winter months.

Russian Harvest—A Correction.—In the article in our last week's issue on Russian Harvest Prospects, our correspondent inadvertently stated that the Agricultural Tax will be collected this year entirely in kind. He now informs us that the opposite is the case, and that the tax will be collected entirely in money.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—STEEL CORPORATION'S EARNINGS—GERMAN SUGAR CREDIT—RESERVE BANKS AND GERMAN TRADE BILLS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 5.

CONSIDERING the lessened activity in the steel industry during the second quarter of this year, the earnings statement of the United States Steel Corporation for that period made a very favourable showing. A substantial decrease in profits was looked for, but the actual falling off was much less than had generally been expected. Total net earnings for the quarter ended June 30th amounted to \$41,381,039, as against \$50,075,445 for the quarter ended March 31st, which was the record total for any peace-time quarter in the corporation's history, and with \$47,859,181 for the second quarter of 1923. After taxes and all other charges, the surplus available for dividends in the June quarter was \$23,775,291, or the equivalent after preferred dividends of \$3.44 a share earned on the \$508,302,500 common stock. This compares with \$31,918,836, or \$5.03 a share on the common, in the first quarter of the current year, and \$29,864,112, or \$4.63 a share, in the second quarter of last year. The net earnings by months reflected the slackening of steel business. The corporation's profits dropped from \$19,065,475 in March to \$16,048,011 in April, \$13,419,194 in May, and \$11,912,934 in June, which was one of the worst months experienced by steel manufacturers for years. Nevertheless, the second quarter's earnings were more than sufficient to meet all charges, as well as preferred and common dividends, including the extra distribution to common stockholders. On account of the trade depression, and especially since one of the largest independent steel companies, the Bethlehem, recently passed its quarterly common dividend, there was much speculation as to action the Steel Corporation would take with respect to an extra dividend. But the directors declared the usual 50 cents a share additional dividend, thus virtually establishing the common stock on a 7 per cent. annual basis. The corporation has always emphasised the fact that any extra distribution to common shareholders will depend upon earnings and prospects. Since the extra dividend was made at the same rate as heretofore, despite the well-known depression in the industry in recent months, and since steel business has now begun to revive, it is considered highly probable that at least the same extra distribution will be made in future quarters, barring, of course, any unforeseen and adverse developments. The corporation's report for the first six months of this year showed exceptionally large net earnings. The total amounted to \$91,456,484, as compared with \$82,638,250 in the first half of 1923, while net income, after all charges, reached \$55,694,127, as against \$47,382,163 in the corresponding period of last year. After taxes, charges, and preferred dividends, the net income for the first six months of this year was equivalent to \$8.47 a share on the common stock, compared with \$6.83 in the like period of last year. In other words, the corporation's net income of \$55,694,127 for the six months was sufficient to pay the full year's preferred dividends and leave a balance equal to \$6 a share on the common stock. That is to say, in the first half of this year the corporation earned all but \$1 a share of its total 1924 dividend requirements, including extra quarterly distributions of 50 cents a share on the common stock.

The recent announcement that an American banking group, headed by the Equitable Trust Company, had arranged a credit here for the German sugar industry to finance a part of the German crop, its refining and exportation, attracted much interest in financial circles. It is understood that the credit is for approximately \$4,000,000, and that it is to run for six months with interest at the rate of 7 to 7½ per cent. While the amount of the credit is rather small, the undertaking is regarded as an important development in that it enables American bankers, individually, to secure a foothold in Germany

and compete for business on even terms, apparently, with British banks. The machinery set up by the American banking group for this financing, in order to eliminate any element of risk in the operation, is quite unique. In a general way it may be described as a combination of some features of the contract covering cotton loans advanced to southern co-operative associations, and certain principles established in the recent acceptance credit provided for German industrialists, and the new Schacht Gold Bank. The basis security for this sugar credit is the commodity itself. Bills are to be drawn by German sugar mills on German refining companies, endorsed by prime German banks, and then forwarded to the New York banking group, which will advance the dollar credits. As a further measure of protection, the American banks or institutions will not advance the sums requested until presentation has been made by the borrower of export licences received from the German Government as evidence that German sugar has actually been shipped in amounts sufficient to repay the sums advanced. Although no official statement has been made, it is said that the loans will be secured by such export contracts on the basis of less than 2 cents per pound of sugar. In some respects the German sugar loan is similar to credits arranged by other American bankers, headed by the Chase National Bank, for the Russian textile industry. Under that arrangement, credit was provided for the importation of raw cotton into Russia, the loan to be repaid by sales in world markets of finished Russian cotton fabrics.

In anticipation, evidently, of the adoption of the Dawes plan by the Allied Governments, the Federal Reserve Board at Washington recently ruled that the Federal Reserve banks may purchase German trade bills endorsed by the German Gold Rediscount Bank. This step was taken in order to make the machinery of the Federal Reserve system available for facilitating financial transactions that are expected to take place in the United States following the adoption and application of the Dawes plan. Regulations of the Federal Reserve Board prescribe that a bill of exchange or trade acceptance eligible for rediscount shall be payable in the United States in dollars. There is no requirement, however, that the bill be drawn in the United States.

The fact that the Federal Reserve Board made this ruling in advance of any actual offer of such bills for purchase is taken to indicate that American banking interests, who will handle this country's portion of the proposed loan to Germany in connection with the establishment of the gold banks, are prepared to advance the necessary credits. With German trade bills endorsed by the German bank, eligible for absorption in the Federal Reserve system, the extension of credits to the proposed German gold bank will be greatly facilitated.

FRANCE.—REPARATION COMMISSION'S FIGURES—REVENUE RETURNS—COMMODITY PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 13.

THE critical point of the Inter-Allied Conference in London, from the French point of view, was reached yesterday, when M. Loucheur arrived in the British capital for the purpose of conferring with M. Herriot. M. Loucheur has gone to London in the rôle of stormy petrel. Although a member of M. Poincaré's last Cabinet, in which he was Minister of Commerce, it is a matter of common knowledge that, when the victory of M. Herriot was assured, he was ambitious to enter the new Ministry, but failed to attain his object. Since then M. Loucheur has created in the new Chamber the group known as the Gauche Radical, whose voting strength of 44 deputies has hitherto been thrown on the side of M. Herriot. This group may be regarded as holding the fate of the Herriot Ministry in its hands. M. Herriot has a normal majority of 70 at the best, so that the transfer of the 44 votes of the Gauche Radical group would place him in a minority of 18. The Loucheur group may be said to represent to an appreciable extent the big French industrial interests, who are by no means anxious to see German industry rise from its ashes, by the aid of an inter-Allied loan, and wrench itself free from

French domination. The friends of the group include political leaders of the first rank, like M. Klotz, one of the framers of the Versailles Treaty, who, like M. Loucheur, are dismayed at seeing not only French security more menaced than ever, as the result of M. Herriot's work in London, but the whole French system of alliances and the European order created by the Versailles Treaty in imminent danger of collapse. In the circumstances, it will be well to focus attention closely on M. Loucheur's action in London, for the result of his conferences with the French Premier—or rather, of his negotiations—may quite possibly bring about either the success of the effort to apply the Dawes Reports, or the downfall of the present French Ministry and the conclusion of quite different inter-Allied agreements.

The customary half-yearly statement of the Reparations Commission shows that the total payments made by Germany since the Armistice down to June 30th last have amounted to 8,405,932,000 gold marks, of which 5,570,942,000 gold marks have been distributed among the Allies, while the balance of 2,834,990,000 gold marks has been carried to suspense account. This suspense account consists for the most part of the value of property ceded by Germany and portions of the German public debt (Poland, 1,913,163,000 gold marks; Dantzig, 311,845,000 gold marks), and the balance of 100,000,000 gold marks on the value of the Saar mines. Of the total amount actually distributed, the principal recipients have been:—

	Gold Marks.
France.....	1,724,601,000
Belgium.....	1,715,685,000
Great Britain.....	1,297,528,000
Italy.....	391,434,000
Serbia.....	265,140,000
Japan.....	68,392,000

The forms in which these amounts have been distributed to France, Great Britain, Belgium, and Italy are as follows:—

	Paid in Cash.	Deliveries in Kind.	Ceded Property.
	Gold Marks.	Gold Marks.	Gold Marks.
France.....	144,027,000	1,278,532,000	302,042,000
Great Britain.....	641,334,000	655,656,000	538,000
Belgium.....	1,083,800,000	631,250,000	635,000
Italy.....	33,382,000	358,052,000	..

The 1,724,601,000 gold marks (in cash and kind) which have been received by France, on account of her 52 per cent. share in the total German Reparation payments, have been employed as follows:—

	Gold Marks
In reimbursements of advances made to Germany by the Spa Conference (for coal, &c.).....	238,771,000
In repayment of cost of army of occupation.....	1,381,809,000
Profit on exchange operations.....	2,147,000
Balance to credit of reparations account proper.....	101,874,000

It should be noted that, owing to the recent revision of the valuation of rolling stock and other material, and the fact that higher value has been placed, since the earlier statements were issued, on the property ceded to Poland and Dantzig, it is impossible to check the above figures by comparing them with those included in previous half-yearly statements.

The taxation returns show that several new records in collection were set up during the month of July, when the yield from all sources exceeded that of any previous month. A certain proportion of the exceptional yield was due, of course, to the rush of people who were in arrears to clear these off in order to avoid the threatened penalty of an increased demand of 10 per cent., which was provided for in the last Finance Act. This provision should have come into force on July 1st, but the outcry was such—principally on account of the fact that the revenue collection offices were unable to cope with the payments offered at the last moment—that the operation of the penalty clause was postponed for a further six months. A large proportion of those affected, however, paid up their arrears during the first days of July, and thus considerably swelled the total for the month. Other reasons for the enhanced total yield were that the operation of the additional *double décime* on most of the indirect taxes and monopolies is now giving its full yield, and the continued increase in the yield from the *ad valorem* taxes owing to the present high commodity prices.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

The total revenue for the month is returned as 2,529,693,700f, as compared with 2,122 millions in June, and 1,968 millions in May. Of the total for the month, only 108,715,400f was from exceptional sources (including the payment of 68,858,900f off the outstanding arrears on the now expired special tax on war profits). The increase during the month of 612 millions in the receipts from normal and permanent sources was especially due to an increased yield of 525½ millions from indirect taxes and monopolies, which may be regarded as proof of the continued improvement in the economic condition of the country. The outstanding feature of the return, as in previous months, is the remarkable yield from the tax on turnover, which produced 380,333,000f during the month (the highest total registered since the creation of the tax), or 87½ millions (nearly 23 per cent.) more than Budget estimates. In view of the extraordinary success of this tax from the fiscal point of view (it yielded nearly 50 per cent. more than the income-tax in July), it is difficult to see how the present Government is going to carry out the promise for its abolition which was so freely made during the recent elections. It is significant that during July the luxury tax yielded only 686,000f, or over two millions less than Budget estimates. Taxes on Bourse operations were 948,500f less than expected, but registrations were nearly 108½ millions above the estimated yield, taxes on securities over 73 millions in excess, and stamp duties 7,380,000f. Income-tax produced 251,783,000f during the month, or 77,364,100f more than in July last year. The total yield from all permanent and normal resources during the first seven months of the year has been 14,180,511,400f, or 3,156,511,300f more than during the corresponding period of 1923. The figures show that the total increased yield this year has been nearly 50 per cent. greater than the amount represented by the revenue secured by increasing most of the indirect taxes by 20 per cent. That this result has been achieved without involving any manifestations whatever of marked or exceptional discontent on the part of either the middle or working classes is a striking tribute to the general prosperity of France. It also offers a striking commentary to the charge which is often made on the other side of the Channel to the effect that the Frenchman is far more lightly taxed than his British brother.

The index figures for both wholesale and retail prices at the end of July, which have just been issued by the Statistique Générale, once more emphasise the curious anomaly that, while wholesale prices as a whole, including those of foodstuffs, have been rising substantially during the past four months, the retail price of articles of prime necessity have during the same period been steadily falling. As a matter of fact, the general index figure, embracing the wholesale prices of 45 categories of commodities, has risen from 459 to 491, or 32 points, since the end of April, while that representing the retail prices of the usual 13 categories of common necessities (bread, meat, bacon, butter, eggs, milk, cheese, potatoes, beans, sugar, oil, petroleum and methylated spirit) has fallen during the same period from 392 to 360, or by exactly the same difference of 32 points. In each case the base figure of 100 represents prices in July, 1914. The anomaly is partly explained, of course, by the fact that practically the whole of the commodities represented by the index figure for retail prices are (with the notable exception of petroleum) of French origin, while coffee is not included in the categories selected; whereas the commodities on

which the index figure for wholesale prices is based include copper and other metals (the figure for which alone rose 23 points last month) and cotton and other textile staples (a category which rose 27 points last month). The detailed wholesale index figures for July and the previous months are as follows:—

	No. of Articles.	July.	June.	May.
General index figure	45	491	475	468
Foodstuffs, general figure	20	436	428	425
Vegetable foods	8	416	421	423
Animal foods	8	423	406	401
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	4	514	492	488
Raw materials	25	539	517	506
Minerals and metals	7	479	456	440
Textiles	6	677	650	653
Various	12	493	474	456

The index figure for retail prices in Paris, which stood at 392 in March (equivalent to an increase of 292 per cent. in the cost of the 13 commodities, as compared with July, 1914), is returned for July as 360, as against 365 in December last, 305 at the end of 1923, and 426 in Paris and 452 in the Provinces in November, 1920, these latter figures representing the maximum recorded. As against these figures established by the Statistique Générale, the Regional Commission d'Etudes on the Cost of Living recently published figures indicating that, if rent, clothing, heating, &c., be included, the cost of living has not decreased during the present year, the figure for the second quarter of 1924 being returned as 366, as against 365 for the previous quarter.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—FINANCES—FOREIGN SPECULATION—CURRENCY—INDUSTRY—AGRICULTURE—DUTIES—STOCKS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 12.

THE proceedings in London since the arrival of the German delegates have in general caused satisfaction. A collision of principle on the military evacuation question was feared; and the discovery that this is mainly a question of dates and conditions has brought relief. In the coming Reichstag struggle over the Dawes Bills nothing would do so much to strengthen the Cabinet's hands as a favourable settlement of the evacuation question. This is only another way of saying that the proposed settlement will appeal to Germans in such measure as it guarantees them immediate relief. There is still very little interest in the question of the possibility and the manner of its execution. The Government shows no sign of coming forward with a national programme to meet the entirely unprecedented situation which will arise as soon as the annual liabilities begin to take considerable dimensions. It is noted by the few Germans who have studied the Dawes Report carefully that the schedule of payments is based wholly upon the assumption that prosperity will automatically and immediately begin to increase. The function of the mechanism provided by the Report is merely to collect and control. The underlying idea of the Report that Germany—apart from Reparations—is already self-sufficing, and could both exist nationally and balance her Budget is apparently true, though it was denied—mainly on the grounds of the unfavourable trade balance—both in the inflation years and in the first ten months of stability. The Dawes Report, however, gives no ground for its assumption that prosperity will automatically increase far past the limit of self-sufficiency. In the Experts' minds was apparently merely the pre-war precedent of increasing prosperity, which may or may not be repeated. Some inquirers here have been examining the possibilities of Reparations fulfilment if the precedent is repeated. One statistician, adopting the Dawes six-item index, and setting the average figure of each item for the period 1897-1902 as 100, shows the following index for 1913:—

Foreign trade	200
Federal and State budgets	181
Railway traffic	179
Sugar and liquor consumption	136
Population	118
Per capita coal consumption	138

The resulting combined index, according to the Dawes method, is 160, which would involve a 60 per cent. increase in the annual payment after eleven years. After five years the increase would have been 126 per cent. Germans have always understood that if production increases in value as rapidly as it did after past great wars the Reparations burden might be very small, and the advantage (if any) to the claimant countries equally small. The Government here, finding enough trouble in the mere mechanical features of the Dawes scheme, fights shy of anything like a national programme aimed at increasing production, and it is relieved by the character of the Dawes scheme from the need for preparing the nation for heavily increased taxation. The plan to take only half of the annual sum (in the standard years) directly out of taxation obscures in the public eye the real nature of the scheme. The citizen is led to regard the expected railway profits and the earnings for Reparations industrial bonds as new resources, which are to rid him of part of the Reparations burden, instead of regarding them as new burdens. The whole question of what will happen after the scheme is put into force is, in fact, ignored, except by some outright pessimists who believe that in no conditions could the payments be made.

The Finance Ministry's return for the third ten-day term of July shows revenue 260,638,600 gm, expenditure 211,411,900 gm. For the first time for many months no money was spent on redeeming Gold Loans. In all July there was a surplus of 81,800,000 gm, against 1,400,000 gm in June. The surplus since the beginning of the financial year (April 1st) is 46,800,000 gm. Of 472,300,000 gm revenue received in June, 378,400,000 gm came from direct taxes, 93,500,000 gm from Customs and Excise, and 600,000 gm from miscellaneous receipts. Railway receipts, for which a separate account is kept, are falling off as a result of the trade stagnation, being 282 millions in June, against 287.7 millions in May, and 305.9 millions in April. The Government has extended the term for submission of gold-bank balance-sheets by public companies. The question of the further restoration of secured debts continues to be the subject of controversy. It is intimately connected with the present boom in Federal, State, and municipal bonds, into which many foreigners have precipitately rushed. These foreigners ought to understand that there is no possibility whatever of the question of partial restoration of Federal or State loans being taken up within visible time by the Governments concerned. The question of municipal bonds, into which large sums of American money went in 1920, is not quite on the same level. In principle these bonds are in the same position as federal and state loans; but the Third Taxation Decree, which practically repudiated the latter two classes by postponing their consideration until after Reparations are fully paid, admits of the possibility of favoured treatment of municipal loans by federal law, and by action of the State Governments. Those municipalities which are in a position to recognise a part of their debts may be compelled to do so; this in particular would take place where the borrowings went into profit-earning local enterprises. It is characteristic of the recklessness with which foreigners have indulged in the new bonds boom that this distinction has been ignored, and that federal and state loans which are certainly excluded from the smallest measure of restoration have been bought at five to twenty times the quotations of early in the year.

This speculation is favoured by the abundance of short-term credit. Money which would normally go into long-term loans is diverted to speculation owing to the prevailing insecurity. The number of protested bills is increasing. The European exchanges have risen here in accord with the general movement as against the dollar. No shortage of exchange prevails. It is stated unofficially that this last fact will be taken advantage of to pay back, by agreement with holders, the Dollar Treasury bills of 1923, which first fall due on April 15, 1926, and that possibly the bills, which are legally payable in gold or in drafts on New York, will be paid, again by agreement, in marks. At present half the Reichs-

bank's gold reserve is tied up as security for these bills. The Reichsbank during the past months has been steadily increasing its gold reserve, mainly by purchasing gold abroad with its exchange holdings. The return for July 31st shows the gold reserve at 484,322,000 gold marks, against 441,815,000 gold marks at the lowest point on April 23rd. Gold held in Berlin is 439,374,000 gold marks, against 425,677,000 gold marks; held in foreign central banks 44,948,000 gold marks, against 16,138,000 gold marks. The Rentenbank's monthly return for July 31st shows the definitive burden imposed on industry and agriculture as 3,068,397,236 gold marks. This is the result of allocation in unoccupied territory only. The estimate was that 3,200 millions would be raised in the whole Republic. Rentenmark circulation is 2,071,442 Rentenmarks, against 2,049,788,266 Rentenmarks on June 30th. The Reichsbank has repaid to the Rentenbank 100 million Rentenmarks borrowed for the institution of Reichsbank Rentenmark current accounts, and for the conversion of the post-check system from paper marks to Rentenmarks. A Bill has been prepared for conversion of the Rentenbank into a permanent Agricultural Bank. The Gold Discount Bank's discount credits on July 31st were £6,471,912. This item has fallen slightly during the past month, while rediscount credits, which first began on June 14th, are now £7,334,685, against £3,995,173 a month ago.

The weekly cost-of-living index number for August 6th is unchanged at 114. The Railways Council has recommended a reduction of transport rates for coal. Manufacturers and traders continue to press for an all-round reduction in rates. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* estimates that railway freight rates average 75 per cent. more than in 1913, which is much more than commodities have risen. Reports concerning industry are still unfavourable. The shortage of working capital is general. The sugar industry has obtained from America a six months' credit of four million dollars, and negotiations for a credit of one million dollars for the aniline concern are stated to be under way. Export to Russia has recommenced, considerable new Russian orders are being given, and negotiations are proceeding for the opening of more consignment depots in Russia. The Wupperthal textiles industry reports a slight revival of business in certain branches, and states that foreign credit is being given on easier terms. The discharges of workmen have ceased. The boot and shoe industry reports that sales can only be made at a loss. Ruhr coal production is declining. No progress has been made towards reconstitution of the Westphalian Coal Syndicate. The present provisional selling syndicate, which is organised as a public company, may be dissolved at the end of this year. Attempts to create syndicates and conventions in the iron and steel branches, with the aim of rationing orders and of reducing production all round, have so far failed. The Mannesmann interests refused to join a sheets syndicate. The shortage of pig-iron, which, like the shortage of coal, until recently seemed to be chronic, has ceased. Prices are still slowly downward.

The Reichsrat, by 35 votes to 26, has sanctioned the Food Duties Bill, and reduced the sales tax from 2½ to 2 per cent. Prussia sharply opposed the duties, declaring that agriculture must be helped by credits, that the duties would bring nothing to the farmers, that measures must be taken to reduce middlemen's profits, and that the present time, with the Reparations settlement pending, is not propitious for increasing the cost of living. The crop reports for August 1st are more favourable than was expected. Winter wheat, spelt, and barley are over medium or medium, winter rye under medium, and all the spring bread grains over medium. The potato, sugar-beet, and fodder-root crops are all between medium and good.

The Bourse boom continued last week and yesterday, while stocks were irregular and weakish to-day, and bonds weak. After the big rise, a reaction in the boom was due. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* industrial index between July 11th and August 8th rose from 361.85 to 540.26, while the home paper mark loans index rose from 3.13 to 8. Compared with last winter, stocks are still low, but loans average nearly twice as much as then. The movement of loan quotations in the last weeks (in

milliards of paper marks per 100 marks nominal) has been:—

	June 27.	Aug. 11.
War Loan	260	795
Fours	500	1,275
3½ per cents	375	1,275
Threes	900	1,625
Forced Loan	5.5	20 (Aug. 8)
Colonial Fours	2,500	4,000
Prussian Three, Consols	425	1,650

The disparity in the rates of rise of securities, which are really identical in that all have the same paper mark bases, and that none pay any interest, shows how irrational this new gamble is.

CANADA.—CROP CONDITIONS—BUSINESS—STOCK AND BOND MARKETS—PROBATION OF PARLIAMENT—COMMONWEALTH TRADE POLICY—DEBATE ON BRITISH PREFERENCE—THE HOME BANK REPORT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, July 21.

JULY is the month when the eyes of the whole business world of Canada are concentrated upon the western grain crop, for it appraises its prospects for the autumn and winter by its varying condition. Up till the middle of last week the news was exceedingly gloomy; all over the West there had been a long spell of hot dry weather, continuous in many areas, and in others relieved by a few scant showers. On the 16th the drought was broken in many areas of the West by thunderstorms and substantial showers, but all chance of repetition of last year's record crop has disappeared, and the West will be glad to salvage 300 million bushels. If the price of wheat, as is thought probable, goes to \$1.50, the returns to the farmer will not be materially smaller than last year, but the great diminution of the volume of grain available for export will seriously affect the earnings of the railways, and reduce employment at the ports.

However, crop prospects in Eastern Canada have materially improved in the last fortnight. Winter wheat is in good condition, and is now beginning to ripen. Haying is now in progress, and the crop averages between 1½ and 2 tons per acre, which is light, but the yields of clover and alfalfa are very heavy. There has been sufficient rain to keep pastures in good condition, and dairy farmers are well satisfied. There are some bad spots in the fruit crop, but on the whole it is good, and one of the chief difficulties is a shortage of labour in some areas.

Business generally finds itself in the midsummer doldrums. Wholesalers get a steady flow of orders from storekeepers at the numerous summer resorts on the seaboard and among woods and mountains, to which American visitors, especially since the advent of prohibition in the U.S., are coming in increasing numbers every year. But retail trade in the towns and cities is quiet. Industrial production proceeds at a very cautious rate, and manufacturers adhere steadily to a very conservative policy in regard to the forward buying of raw material and the production of finished goods.

The stock markets have shown more activity during the past fortnight, and new high marks for the year have been reached by a number of stocks like Winnipeg Electric and Canada Bread. On the other hand, a great deal of Canadian money is invested in Brazilian enterprises, notably the Brazilian Traction Company, and the anxiety of investors about the effects of the rebellion in San Paulo is reflected in a decided recession of Brazilian stocks. The bond market continues quiet, and the only flotation of importance was an issue of 5 per cent. bonds by the Province of New Brunswick. Its Government preferred to accept the highest bid for 10-year bonds payable in New York Funds rather than the 20-year tenders in Canadian Funds. Substantial blocks of Canadian bonds held in Britain are being offered at intervals in Canada. The Acting-Finance Minister, Mr J. A. Robb, has sailed for Europe, and his departure makes it definitely certain that the projected Federal loan will not be floated before the autumn. Immigration returns during the first four months of the year showed a marked improvement over last year's figures, but in May and June they have been disappointing.

and the increase of 10 per cent. recorded in these months is rated unsatisfactory.

Parliament prorogued on July 19th, after sitting continuously, with the interruption of a brief Easter recess, for almost five months. The most important measure which it passed was a Redistribution Bill, which registers a rearrangement of constituencies made in conformity with the census of 1921, and alters the balance of political power by giving 12 extra seats to Western Provinces and depriving Nova Scotia of two. The Budget embodied tariff and taxation reductions sufficient to secure for the King Ministry the support of the Progressives, and thereby provide them with a Parliamentary majority; but the controversy over it revealed once more the serious cleavage in the Liberal party on the fiscal issue, and it will probably come to a real climacteric next year. Owing to strong opposition, the Government was compelled to abandon its plan to establish a special taxation board, but it secured authority to add some tariff experts of the Finance Department and to transfer from the latter to the Department of Customs and Excise the collection of the income-tax. The session opened with heroic professions of zeal for economy on the part both of the Government and the Opposition groups, but it closed amid an orgy of fresh expenditures. In the last week sanction was obtained for financial provision for a huge new bridge across the St Lawrence at Montreal and a large viaduct to give access to the water-front at Toronto; Vancouver is to be consoled with an expenditure of 5 million dollars on its harbour, and Prince Rupert, Edmonton, and other places get lesser doles. In most of these cases the liability upon the Federal Government is indirect, but it is to-day meeting many indirect obligations out of its funds. The Senate killed a number of indefensible branch lines planned for political purpose, but a substantial contingent were endorsed. The net result is, at a time when the revenues are falling ominously and crop prospects are far from good, authority is gaily given to spend more than a hundred million dollars more on increasing the physical plant of a country, which already possesses a plant thrice too large for the needs of its population, and carries thereby a serious handicap. The last day of Parliament saw a dramatic declaration of war against the Senate by the Prime Minister, who proposes next session to seek authority to curtail its powers; but his ground was not happily chosen, for Senator Dandurand, the Liberal leader in the Senate, had counselled the application of drastic surgery to the Bill, whose amendment aroused the Premier's wrath.

Considerable interest is being manifested in Canada in the proposal of the British Government to investigate through a special committee the problem of marketing Dominion food supplies in Britain. The promoters of the co-operative wheat pool movement in the West are particularly interested, and they are establishing liaison with British Labourites who are urging the plan for State control of the importation of food supplies. One of their hopes is that, if the British Government decides to embark seriously on this scheme, and establish a system of State storage and refrigerator plants, special terms for the use of this equipment will be available to co-operatively marketed products from the Dominions. The basic idea is to bring into direct contact the producers of the Dominions and the consumers in Britain, and to eliminate as far as possible a number of toll gates and obstructions, which are to-day blamed for lowering prices to the producer and enhancing them for the consumer.

There has lately been a prolonged debate in the Senate on the subject of the British preference. It was initiated by a veteran Liberal, Senator David, who moved that there should be a review of the whole preference situation, and suggested that the special privileges given to British goods should be cancelled pending such time as the British people saw fit to accord reciprocal privileges. He was supported by a number of Conservatives and a few Liberals, but the majority of the Liberal senators opposed the motion, and the most effective speech against it came from Sir George Foster, a Conservative who was Borden's chief lieutenant. Sir George is a convinced protectionist, but he is also a strong advocate of closer Imperial trade relations and he demolished very effectually the arguments of the enemies of the preference. He pointed out that as it was now an integral part of

Canada's tariff system, its abolition would entail enormous confusion, and was at the moment politically impossible; Canada had lately concluded a series of trade treaties with other countries, and the abolition of the preference would at once give their goods more favourable access to Canadian markets than British goods would have. He also argued that the depression in Canadian industry must be credited to other factors than the British preference, and this point has been more fully emphasised in a long memorandum published by the Canadian Associations of British Manufacturers and Importers. It adduces evidence, supported by definite figures, that in many lines the increase of imports from France has been much greater since the war than from Britain, and contends that the preference has been of great benefit not only to the Canadian people in general, but also to the industrialists as a large proportion of the British imports are the raw materials of Canadian factories.

In the closing week of the session the House of Commons, without debate, gave unanimous endorsement to a report of the Banking Committee, which declared that while the Home Bank depositors had no legal claim for recompense, they had a strong claim on equitable and moral grounds. The Government intimated that they must have more time to consider a decision, which involved great responsibility, and promised that as soon as Parliament reassembled a declaration of policy would be made.

AUSTRIA.—POLITICAL SITUATION—STATE FINANCE —CENTRAL FINANCE INSTITUTE—METAL CURRENCY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, August 1.

PARLIAMENT has just closed its session. It was the first after the new elections in October, 1923, full of incidents, but rather poor of economic results; only with the greatest difficulties were the Budget for 1924 and various tax bills passed. Also the thorny question of the division of the tax revenue between the Government and the County Council was solved after endless negotiations. The new Tariff Bill, however, which will have to form the basis for the commercial treaties between Austria and the surrounding States, could not yet be passed owing to the general disapproval of the members to extend the session into the month of August.

The effect of the present economic crisis on State finances is beginning to be gradually felt. Until July it had not been necessary to utilise the League of Nations' credit to meet State expenses, so that the General Commissioner had reckoned on a surplus of 46 milliard kronen (3.2 million gold kronen) for the first four months of the year. The estimate for expenditure for July, however, shows a deficit of 110 milliard kronen, i.e., 8 million gold kronen, so that the General Commissioner was obliged to come to the assistance of the Government. He could only place 46 milliard paper kronen at the disposal of the Finance Minister; it is, however, hoped to meet the balance of the deficit out of reserve funds at the disposal of the Government. The outlook for the development of the State Finance is rather bad, because it is expected that the revenue will greatly decrease during the coming months. Last year, not only companies, but all business men, had considerable profits, and therefore not only the profit tax, but also the income-tax, showed exceptionally good results, which, in view of the present economic crisis, will shrink very soon. It will, therefore, be hardly possible to balance the Budget at the end of this year, as was provided for by the League of Nations Reconstruction Scheme. The initiated reckon on the probability that the control of the League of Nations will have to be extended over the year 1925.

Although the situation has not changed very much during the month of July, a slight revival of confidence was noticeable on the market during the last few weeks, and has gradually extended to all branches of economic life. In order to help in the solution of the financial crisis, the Government intends forming a "Central Finance Institute" jointly with the National Bank, the

Post Office Savings Bank, and the Union of Vienna Banks. The object of this institute will be:—

1. The control and support of the market.
2. Supervision of the management of all banks in Austria.
3. To provide credits from abroad for the Austrian banks.
4. Financing of public works.
5. To act as trustee in the event of the liquidation of a bank, or a merger of smaller banks.

Although the object of this institute will practically be a public one, it is intended to organise it as a Joint Stock Company with a share capital of 200 milliard paper kronen.

This project is greeted in all financial circles as the best solution of the present financial crisis in Austria, and it is generally hoped that it would lead to a revival of business on the Stock Exchange. It appears, however, that the Commissioner-General of the League of Nations fiercely opposes the participation of the Government in this Finance Institute, which, of course, would jeopardise the whole scheme.

The Austrian industries are at present working less on foreign than on home orders, prominent among the latter being those recently placed by the Municipality of Vienna, by which not only the electric industry and the building industry itself, but also a number of accessory industries will profit largely. Unemployment has reached its lowest mark since the beginning of the reconstruction work, no more than 63,083 unemployed being registered on July 15th (as against 92,789 in July, 1923).

Although the trade balance statistics show a slight improvement as against the first two months of this year, the deficit of the trade balance still remains very high. During the first five months the imports had a value of 872,055,000 gold kronen, and exports a value of 447,859,000 gold kronen, giving a deficit of 424,196,000 gold kronen.

The Austrian National Bank, which works in closest contact with the other banks, has done its utmost to assist banks, industries, and trades in the present difficult situation. As a consequence of this the amount of bills discounted is continually rising, in spite of the increase in the Bank rate from 9 to 12 per cent., and reached on July 15th a total of 3,197 milliard kronen. The bank-note circulation amounted, on the same date, to 7,336 milliard kronen; the gold security of these bank-notes, which according to the Bank Law has to be 20 per cent., actually amounts to 38.5 per cent. The Bank has started to issue metal coins, viz., silver "Schillings" (equal to 10,000 kronen), a 100 "Stüber" (1 Stüber = 100 kronen); the 10 Stüber (1,000 kronen) coins are of nickel, the 2 and 1 Stüber (200 kronen and 100 kronen) are of copper.

HONG KONG.—TRADE SITUATION—METAL STOCKS —FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONG KONG, July 5.

WITH the close of the first half of 1924 we seem to be as far off from the long-looked-for revival in business as ever. There has been a perceptible slackening in the trade of the colony during the past six months, and to-day there is scarcely a market which shows signs of any vitality. Civil war, piracy, brigandage, currency depreciation, illegal taxation are all impeding the normal flow of trade between this centre and the neighbouring provinces, and it appears to be beyond the powers of any Chinese leader to clear these obstacles away. Throughout the length and breadth of China conditions go from bad to worse, and we have now reached the stage where the 400 million inhabitants of the Republic are held in bondage by a handful of self-seeking militarists.

Despite the gloom which enshrouds us here, we still struggle to carry on until the tide turns. The mushroom firms of the post-war boom have long since disappeared, and the volume of business during the past year or two has been sufficient to enable most of the older firms to clear off indebtedness incurred during the slump and re-establish themselves on a sounder basis. The same applies

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF PLANTATIONS FINANCE
AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN.

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

to the majority of Chinese dealers, who have had no incentive to launch out on a bigger scale than they could cope with. There is, therefore, no cause for anxiety at the moment, but it is quite clear that unless the situation in China improves within the next six months, there are difficult times ahead. One Chinese bank with its head office here recently failed, and other Chinese banks with foreign connections are not in too strong a position, but so far this has had little effect on the general situation.

The metal market is perhaps in as moribund a state as any other branch of foreign trade, and the warehouses are full up with steel bars, angles, joists, wire nails, galvanised wire, &c., which cannot be moved owing to conditions prevailing up country. A good deal of this material has accumulated on account of speculative transactions entered into after the Japanese earthquake of last September. The general impression then was that Japan would be forced to draw on the neighbouring markets of Shanghai and Hong Kong for metals. A certain quantity of material was actually taken off these markets during the early days of reconstruction, but prices rose to such a height that Japan turned to America for further supplies. Contrary to expectations, prices in America and Europe did not bound up to any extent, and so the large orders which were wired home from here during the autumn have found no outlet in Japan. Meantime, the goods have arrived, and are piling up with little prospect of being cleared for many a long day.

On the other hand, the market for cotton and woollen piece goods is in a comparatively healthy state, and there has been little, if any, speculation. There has been a restricted demand for staple lines, such as greys and white shirtings, but fancies like cotton brocades have found a ready market, owing to the price of silk being beyond the reduced purchasing power of the average customer. Clearances of piece goods generally have been excellent until quite recently, and if the future were more promising dealers and merchants would have little to grumble at.

The local industries of Hong Kong have a comparatively small effect on the general prosperity of the Colony, but it is gratifying to find that practically all branches are in a flourishing condition. This is due to a combination of causes, but underlying all is the fact that Hong Kong is British territory. A vast amount of money has found its way here, in most cases from the reserves of a thrifty peasantry through the treasuries of their oppressors to the sanctuary of Hong Kong, where it is safely invested for the benefit of some Tuchun or general who is probably keeping his followers months in arrears of pay. The influx of this capital has sent up the value of land to a ridiculous level, and it is just as well that a slight reaction appears to have set in. There seems, however, little doubt that real estate throughout the Colony is permanently enhanced in value, and as practically all the industrial companies here own the sites on which their factories stand, their assets have been appreciably strengthened. Surplus funds have overflowed from property deals into the share market, which, for the past six months, has been booming on and off with no actual slump in the intervals of quietness. The rise in purely local securities has been general, and several companies have taken advantage of prevailing conditions to increase their capital. The new issues have been readily absorbed, and most industrial concerns are in a healthy position.

However pleasant it may be to watch one's holdings of shares steadily rising in value, the fact remains that Hong Kong's trade can never expand while Canton and the provinces of the South are in a state of turmoil. Whether the country will ever be restored to law and order is a moot point, but we have not given up hope of seeing some enlightened leader come to the fore in sufficient strength to control the Southern provinces effectively.

Letters to the Editor.

A SILVER STANDARD?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I am asking this question of you as an undergraduate would of his tutor in economics, seriously and for information, for I cannot puzzle it out myself; it is this: What would be the effect upon the world if one or more of the nations trying to struggle to their feet were to discard gold as a standard of value and as a circulating medium, and take to silver? The value of silver would, of course, immediately alter in its relation to gold, and I can conceive that if Germany and Russia did this, and other debtor nations followed their lead, some considerable advantage over their creditors would accrue to them through the fall in the value of the yellow metal, for a fall would ensue when it was known that half the world had no use for gold except for ornament. I put a few further questions to follow this: What would be the effect on the United States with their buried hoard of gold? Would they relish being compelled to take more from us and their other debtors when the article was depreciating? And, above all, what would be the effect on us at home, for that is what matters most?

This is not bimetalism, by the way, though I think that had not the Rand deposits been discovered the world would have had to come to that solution before this; the discovery of the Rand made monometallism on a gold basis possible; the supply then met the demand.—I am, yours faithfully,

CHARLES ROBERTSON.

Arundel, Sussex, August 5th, 1924.

[Most of the world abandoned the gold standard in the War, and thus made possible the rise in gold prices in U.S.A., which is the measure of the depreciation of gold. The first question to be answered is what would be the effect on the value of gold if it were restored to its former position as a general standard. This will depend on the economies in its use which will be retained as well as on future output; but it is unlikely to be restored to its old pre-war value. If other countries were to go on to silver (and thereby create for themselves a new exchange problem), or remain on a paper standard, gold is unlikely to appreciate at all, but is more likely to depreciate, in spite of the monetary policy of the U.S.A., which is referred to in a previous column. (See also the *Economist* for June 14th, p. 1190.) Nevertheless, the advantage of paying debts in a cheapening medium does not seem to us a sufficient reason for adopting a policy which would have much greater disadvantages.—Ed., *Economist*.]

Books and Publications.

INDIA AND EMIGRATION.*

The first few pages of this admirable volume suffice to show that Indian emigration had no history before the 'thirties of last century. Legally defined in 1869 as "the departure of any native of India out of British India for the purpose of labouring for hire in some other place," it was the practical sequel to the abolition of slavery. The plantations needed labour to replace the slaves of the former régime; India supplied the need, and the indentured system developed in response to the call for organisation; the result was what has happily proved to be only a transition period of "helotry," as our author euphemistically terms it—let us frankly call it semi-slavery.

* "India of To-day." Volume V.—Indian Emigration. Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Price 3s.

Public opinion—both British and Indian—has summarily terminated that phase. In doing so it has, so far as one can judge an event of our own time fraught with such far-reaching possibilities, closed the door to Indian emigration and opened up in its place a political problem of infinite difficulty—a problem that must vitally affect the future of the British Empire.

India cannot be expected to view with equanimity the indefinite cooping up of its teeming population in a restricted space. She claims the right to emigrate, and, with it, a position of equality in the Empire. That, under present conditions, she will probably never secure. Our author would seem to be unduly optimistic on this point, but, to tackle the problem sanely, we should appreciate the difficulties, the fears, and—let us be frank—the prejudices of the Dominions and the Colonies. The problem is no longer an economic one. It is political. Great Britain can never override the attitude of her children abroad, even in the interests of the Empire. And there is an alternative—one to which internal developments in India already point the way, and which the Empire itself must seriously face before it finally refuses the Indian demand for unrestricted equality. That alternative is Indian autonomy—within the Empire, of course, but complete and involving a subordination of the European in India to balance the subordination of the Indian elsewhere. If the Empire cannot stomach this implication of the accepted principle of reciprocity, the Imperial Conference resolution of 1921 cannot be regarded as more than a tentative approach towards a solution of the problem.

More than half the volume before us is devoted to a careful and valuable statement of the facts relating to Indian emigration in so far as they affect the various Colonies and Dominions. But it is its beginning and end that will chiefly attract the attention of the general student and give him food for thought. The author does not, perhaps, sufficiently emphasise the fact—at least so it appears to us—that the Government of India showed itself distinctly lacking in imagination when, in 1912, with its official majority, it defeated a unanimous vote of all the Indian members of the Legislature in favour of Mr Gokhale's resolution for the complete "prohibition of recruitment of Indian labourers under contract of indenture, whether for employment at home or in any British colony." Lord Sanderson's Committee, which had then recently spent three years studying the problem, and reported in favour of continuing the indenture system, stands equally discredited. At any rate, in 1915 "the time had come.....to assent to a total abolition of the system of indentured Indian labour....." Indian opinion had correctly anticipated the inevitable verdict. The war hastened it.

Imperial citizenship for all, including Indians and complete autonomy for India, are the extremes between which we must finally choose. The controversies of the past have left no middle way. And it is of the irony of fate that General Smuts, one of the foremost champions of the League of Nations ideal, should have found himself unable to solve at home this issue between conflicting national ideals.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Eastern Exchange Currency and Finance.* By William F. Spalding. Fourth edition. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman. 15s net.
- The New World.* By Isaiah Bowman, Ph.D. (London) George G. Harrap and Co. 21s net.
- The Reparation Plan.* By H. G. Moulton. (New York) McGraw-Hill Book Company. \$2.50.
- With Stefansson in the Arctic.* By Harold Noice. (London) George G. Harrap and Co. 7s 6d net.
- International Insurance Guide, 1924.* First edition. (London) Post Magazine and Insurance Monitor, 9 St Andrew street, E.C.4.
- South African Railways and Harbours.* Compiled and issued under authority of General Manager. (Johannesburg) Publicity Department.
- 1,000 Miles up the Amazon.* (London) Booth Line, 11 Adelphi terrace.

Tourists seeking "fresh fields and pastures new" will be well advised to write for a copy of this excellent illustrated pamphlet.

A Century of Sea Trading, 1824-1924. The General Steam Navigation Company. By L. Cope Cornford. (London) A. and C. Black, Limited. 10s 6d net.

The Mauritius Almanac and Commercial Handbook for 1924-25. Foreign edition. Compiled by A. Walter, F.R.A.S. (Port Louis) General Printing and Stationery Company.

The Timber Industry of Finland. By Martti Kovero. (Helsingfors) Government Printing Office.

Annual Statistical Report of the American Iron and Steel Institute for 1923. (New York) 40 Rector street.

Coffee and Sugar Facts. By Nortz and Co. (New York) 96 Front street.

The Rubber Quarterly. No. 1. (London) London General Press, 3 Arundel street, Strand, W.C. 1s.

A concise guide to the rubber industry. In the pages of this little publication we notice many tables which must include most of the available statistics relating to the rubber trade. There are also interesting letters from apparently expert correspondents in the consuming and producing countries throughout the world.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 105, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester.
Bradford Foreign Branch 18, Market Street, Bradford.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, August 27. ACCOUNT, August 28.

The unexpected gathering of trouble clouds along the north coast of Africa, and their extension to Egypt, checked, though only temporarily, the mild optimism which Stock Exchange markets developed owing to the Peace Conference decisions. Nor does it seem certain at this particular moment whether the latter will be finally accepted in the form that would ensure peace in Europe. The Board of Trade returns for last month are held to be satisfactory, and the usual holiday influences have been counteracted to some extent in the Stock Exchange by a variety of incidents that have served to quicken business in some directions. At the same time, it must be stated that trade in the Stock Exchange as a whole is quiet. Many members are experiencing the truth of the convention that nobody can expect to pay expenses during August.

The sharp rise in the value of sterling as compared with the dollar helped to cheer the Consol market, and to remove the immediate likelihood of a rise in the Bank rate. Although this latter is deemed to be sufficiently close to render it a factor of consequence, the gilt-edged market has been good, with the Funding Loan and Victory Bonds distinctly harder, the War Loan keeping to the neighbourhood of 101½.

The trouble in Egypt and the excitement in Morocco have induced caution in the foreign market. Turkish and Egyptian bonds are, naturally, weaker. The wild gamble in Germans has given way to a quieter condition of market, though there is still a lot of business being done in Germans and Prussians, the prices moving up and down in volatile fashion. French issues have been better, though without holding their best prices. Brazilian, Chilean, and Argentine bonds are disposed to mark time, there being little business afoot even in the first named. Czechos continue to be a good market.

Great Western, London Midland and Scottish, and several other Home Railway stocks went ex dividend on Thursday, and, in advance of the deductions, the prices improved. The railway market as a whole is a shade better, thanks to publicity given to the reserves of the four principal groups. Undergrounds are quiet; the £10 shares of the Underground Electric Railways stiffened with the rise in sterling. Argentine railway stocks enjoyed a moderate amount of support, and Brazilians are steady, resumption of traffics publication by the San Paulo company reflecting the return to normal conditions after the strike.

The rubber market barely holds its prices, without there being any fresh movement of interest, while tea shares have gone ahead again, in some cases to a fairly substantial extent, the outlook for the industry being regarded as bright. Amongst oil shares, a sudden rise in Mexican Eagles caught the bears short. This was accompanied by talk of new discoveries

having been made on the field. Insurance shares are one of the strongest markets in the House, prices rising with clockwork regularity every day. In some cases the jobbers refuse to sell shares at all, saying that they have none left on their books, and they do not know where to go for fresh supplies. Banking shares keep firm. In the tobacco market a further rise in Carreras is the outstanding feature, leading to talk of a possible bonus. Amongst textiles, Courtauld preference have taken a turn for the better, the ordinary shares in this company being very placid. Hotels and other Exhibition stocks show little change. Egyptian land shares are weaker, following upon the news from Cairo, and the shipping market is practically unchanged. More attention is being paid to Nitrates, in consequence of the expectation that, if peace were to be assured, Germany would be a substantial buyer; prices are higher on the week. Iron and steel shares show many, if small, improvements. Marconis strengthened in advance of yesterday's meeting, and Canadian Marconis sympathetically improved. Cable stocks are steady; rises in Henley's, Callender's, and British Insulated are deemed to forecast probable dividend increases. Motor shares are rather better.

Four and twenty Kaffir prices went ex dividend on Thursday, without the market being stimulated into any semblance of activity. A sharp drop in Cam and Motors is the feature amongst Rhodesians. Diamond shares lie dormant, but the base-metal groups contain a number of rises. Tin shares, particularly Malayan, have again been well supported. The copper market is better. Lead, silver and zinc shares, e.g., Burina Corporations, are also higher. Russian and West Australian shares are quiescent. No great part of the activity in the mining markets is due to public orders; holiday-makers do not care, as a rule, to be bothered with mining speculation.

The Committee for General Purposes have given instructions for the quotations of the Chinese 5 per cent. 1896 and Chinese 4½ per cent. 1898 Loans to be reinstated in the Stock Exchange Daily Official List on the intimation that the full service of the loans in question has been resumed.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£127,809,754	..	..	..
4% Treasury Bonds by public tender, August 8, 1924.....	..	nil	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED AUGUST 9, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Aug. 9, 1924, Dr £1,600,000		Dr £100,000		Dr £100,000	
To Shareholders only—					
Folkestone Electricity Supply, 50,000 New Ord. Shares, £1, at par	50,000	..	50,000	..	40,000
Fruit and Produce Exchange of Great Britain, 57,950 Non-Cum. Pref. Shares, 6s, at par	17,397	..	17,397	..	..
Total offered to shareholders	..	..	67,397	..	40,000
Total offered for subscription to date	127,777,151	..	1923	271,333,173	..
1924	202,020,317	..	1922	573,675,650	..
1923	605,332,637	..	1921	388,978,303	..
1922	152,658,080	..	1920	367,549,656	..
1921	274,718,416	..	1919	1,636,059,861	..
1920	822,917,730	..	1918	1,353,381,441	..

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Week	Change	Price	Week	Change
War	101 1/2	101 1/2	..	101 1/2	101 1/2	..
Loans	101 1/2	101 1/2	..	101 1/2	101 1/2	..
Funding Loan 4%	88 1/2	88 1/2	..	88 1/2	88 1/2	..
Victory Bonds 4%	93 1/2	93 1/2	..	93 1/2	93 1/2	..
Conversion Loan 3 1/2%	77 1/2	77 1/2	..	77 1/2	77 1/2	..
Consols 2 1/2%	87 1/2	87 1/2	..	87 1/2	87 1/2	..
Irish Land Stock 2 1/2%	59 1/2	59 1/2	..	59 1/2	59 1/2	..
Local Loans 3%	85 1/2	85 1/2	..	85 1/2	85 1/2	..

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. 100 1/2	100 1/2	..	Southern, Ord. "A" ..	102 1/2	..
London & North-Western, Ord. 82 1/2	82 1/2	..	Do Ord. "B" ..	102 1/2	..
Do Pref. Ord. 82 1/2	82 1/2	..	Do Pref. Ord. ..	102 1/2	..
Do Def. Ord. 29 1/2	29 1/2	..	Do Def. Ord. ..	102 1/2	..
Do Mid. and Scottish, Ord. 97 1/2	97 1/2	..	Do "A" (1) ..	102 1/2	..
Metropolitan ..	81 1/2	..	Do "A" (2) ..	102 1/2	..
Metropolitan District, Ord. 80 1/2	80 1/2	..	Do "A" (3) ..	102 1/2	..

American Railroads.

Cheapeake & Ohio ..	101 1/2	..	Southern ..	71 1/2	..
Erie ..	38 1/2	..	Do Non-cum Pref. 84 ..	83 1/2	..
Do 4% 1st Pref.	48 1/2	..	..	..	..

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

	Miles Open.	Week ended Aug. 10, 1924.			Aggregate 32 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Western	3,754	442,000	211,000	653,000	1,391,000	1,056,800	18,309,000
Do for 1923	3,747	440,000	201,000	641,000	8,559,000	1,133,300	19,683,000
Gond. & North-Eastern	6,722	672,000	566,000	1,241,000	1,894,000	2,159,800	55,582,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	675,000	589,000	1,264,000	14,080,000	2,352,100	37,601,000
Gond., Mid., & Scottish	6,942	957,000	642,000	1,599,000	201,300,000	2,398,000	47,528,000
Do for 1923	6,941	937,000	630,000	1,567,000	202,366,000	2,901,800	49,254,000
Southern	2,146	507,600	83,200	590,800	1,042,950	1,588,400	10,417,000
Do for 1923	2,146	520,800	94,100	614,900	10,959,800	3,781,300	14,375,200
Metropolitan (c)	79	45,099	3,568	48,667	1,210,139	122,788	1,332,927
Do for 1923	79	31,745	3,022	34,767	1,020,491	120,058	1,140,549
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	276,806	..	..	7,422,811
Do for 1923	..	..	..	252,102	..	..	7,781,244
Gen. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	47,137	..	..	1,222,562
Do for 1923	..	..	..	49,963	..	..	2,231,938
Do for 1923	80	5,332	1,264	7,596	150,304	39,782	1,090,086
Dublin and G. Down (b) ..	160	10,441	2,564	13,005	194,361	113,179	307,540
Do for 1923	160	10,441	2,564	13,005	620,500	648,100	1,267,610
Do Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	27,500	17,650	41,950	739,488	987,495	1,726,983
Do Sth. & Western (b)	1,151	33,464	26,791	62,255	739,488	987,495	1,726,983
Do Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	535	12,352	10,856	23,208	290,461	452,532	742,993

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	15 weeks	July 12	1,072	2,72,000	+ 38,134	Rs. 3,72,060	+ Rs. 5,74,262
Barsi L. Ry.	16 weeks	Aug. 19	118	83,900	+ 29,000	65,800	+ 1,94,000
Calcutta & N. Western ..	15 weeks	Aug. 19	2,062	5,73,100	+ 15,590	1,68,915	+ 5,82,000
Calcutta Nagpur	14 weeks	Aug. 5	2,800	15,03,000	+ 21,000	2,23,05,483	+ 22,21,300
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	18 weeks	Aug. 2	..	19,98,000	+ 2,51,400	40,27,700	+ 21,99,000
Burma	15 weeks	July 12	1,342	6,28,744	+ 36,146	1,07,26,397	+ 3,35,739
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	19 weeks	Aug. 2	2,399	97,000	+ 8,800	18,33,974	+ 16,168
East Indian	18 weeks	Aug. 5	5,041	5,04,000	+ 4,67,600	64,01,090	+ 66,37,000
Indian Peninsula	18 weeks	Aug. 5	1,773	21,51,900	+ 1,99,403	5,45,00,471	+ 64,71,311
Madras & B. Mahr.	15 weeks	July 19	3,029	14,20,000	+ 23,426	2,99,55,564	+ 19,76,953
Rohilkh. & Kumaon	12 weeks	Aug. 12	259	58,755	+ 7,029	9,99,585	+ 1,01,924
Do Lucknow-Breilly	15 weeks	Aug. 12	314	63,903	+ 5,495	1,98,076	+ 1,03,525
South Indian	15 weeks	Aug. 12	1,877	10,54,143	+ 55,629	1,55,30,561	+ 3,24,236

ARGENTINE (a).

Argentine N.E.	6 weeks	Aug. 9	754	12,300	+ 1,000	74,500	+ 10,500
Argentine Trans.	4 weeks	July 26	..	2,288	- 720	8,453	- 4,141
B. A. & Pacific	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,362	171,000	+ 31,000	982,000	+ 158,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9	3,918	198,000	+ 37,000	1,136,000	+ 190,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	6 weeks	Aug. 9					

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION.

OIL OUTPUTS.

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

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(a) Week ended Aug. 8, 1924.		Week ended Aug. 10, 1924.			Aggregate 32 Weeks, 1924.		
(b) Week ended Aug. 9, 1924.	Miles Open	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,754	442,000	213,000	655,000	8,241,000	1,068,000	18,909,000
Do for 1923	3,747	440,000	201,000	641,000	8,359,000	1,133,000	19,689,000
London & North-Eastern	6,722	672,000	595,000	1,267,000	13,984,000	2,159,000	35,584,000
Do for 1923	6,720	670,000	589,000	1,259,000	14,080,000	2,352,000	36,722,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	9,424	957,000	642,000	1,599,000	20,320,000	2,737,000	33,528,000
Do for 1923	9,414	937,000	630,000	1,567,000	20,236,000	2,801,000	33,425,000
Southern	2,146	507,600	81,200	590,800	1,042,950	3,588,400	14,017,900
Do for 1923	2,146	520,800	94,100	614,900	1,059,260	3,781,300	14,373,900
Metropolitan (c)	794	45,099	3,568	48,667	1,210,139	122,768	3,323,927
Do for 1923	..	31,745	5,022	36,767	1,020,491	120,058	3,140,515
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	276,877	..	..	728,815
Do for 1923	..	..	..	255,102	..	..	721,244
London & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	47,137	..	..	1,222,568
Do for 1923	..	..	..	49,965	..	..	1,231,952
Great Belfast & Co. Down (b)	80	6,332	1,264	7,596	150,304	39,782	190,086
Do for 1923	160	10,441	1,755	12,196	194,361	113,179	307,540
London & North-Eastern (b)	563	27,300	17,650	44,950	602,500	645,100	1,247,600
London, Mid., & Scottish (b)	1,151	33,464	26,791	60,255	739,498	987,495	1,726,993
London & Sub. Group (b)	538	12,352	10,856	23,208	309,461	452,102	742,993

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
				Rs.		Rs.	
Assam Bengal	15weeks	July 12	1,072	2,72,000 +	38,334	37,32,060 +	572,462
Barsi L. Ry.	16weeks	19	118	83,900	28,500	6,95,800	1,94,000
Bengal & N. Western ..	16weeks	19	2,062	5,73,100 -	15,590	1,08,21,915 +	5,11,790
Bengal Nagpur	14weeks	5	2,800	15,03,000 +	21,000	2,23,05,485 +	29,21,358
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	18weeks	Aug. 2		19,58,000 +	2,51,000	40,70,000 +	29,19,000
Burma.	15weeks	July 12	1,342	6,28,744 +	36,146	1,07,26,397 +	3,36,739
Delhi, Umballa & Kalika	19weeks	Aug. 2	2,339	97,000 +	8,800	18,33,974 +	15,168
East Indian	19weeks	9	2,873	3,04,900 +	47,607	64,01,090 +	36,37,000
E. Indian Peninsula	18weeks	9	3,175½	2,151,000 +	1,99,403	5,45,00,671 +	64,71,311
Madras & S. Mahr.	15weeks	July 19	3,029	14,20,000 +	23,426	2,39,55,564 +	19,76,953
Madras & Kumaon	15weeks	12	258	68,735 +	7,090	9,99,385 +	1,02,994
De Lucknow-Breilly	15weeks	12	314	63,803 +	5,495	12,09,076 +	1,03,525
South Indian	15weeks	12	1,877	10,54,143 +	55,629	1,55,30,561 +	3,24,236
ARGENTINE (a).							
				£		£	
Argentine N.E.	6weeks	Aug. 9	754	12,300 +	1,000	74,500 +	10,500
Argentine Trans.	4weeks	July 26		2,288 -	720	8,453	1,411
B. A. and Pacific	6weeks	Aug. 9	3,362	171,000 +	31,000	982,000 +	158,000
B. A., Gt. Southern ..	6weeks	9	3,948	198,000 +	37,000	1,11,000 +	190,000
				Net	68,000 +	21,000	400,000 +
B. A. Western	6weeks	9	1,882	102,000 +	28,000	562,000 +	128,000
				Net	38,000 +	24,000	209,000 +
Central Argentine	6weeks	9	3,305	230,000 +	27,000	1,325,000 +	86,000
Cordoba Central	6weeks	9	1,205	75,000 +	5,900	437,000 +	23,800
Entre Rios	6weeks	9	729	19,600 +	1,700	120,300 +	25,400

CANADIAN.

Canadian National.....	31 weeks	Aug. 7	22,680	4,008,501	—	721,107	138,857,729	—	2,964,752
Canadian Pacific.....	31 weeks		7,13,814	3,036,000	—	462,000	102,014,000	—	1,193,060
BRAZILIAN (b.)									
St. West. of Brazil.....	32 weeks	Aug. 9	1,011	6,800	+	500	283,000	—	21,300
Leopoldina	32 weeks		9,18,831	32,486	+	1,085	909,369	+	128,026
Santos Paulo	32 weeks		10 1534	27,414	—	7,138	1,154,883	+	264,497
CHILEAN.									
Antofagasta	32 weeks	Aug. 10	838	37,135	—	2,125	1,192,874	+	56,110
Nitrate (s-monthly)	30 weeks	July 31	368	49,740	+	4,615	1,664,014	+	90,247

CUBAN.

Havana Central	6 weeks Aug. 9	9	..	11,807 +	536	67,974 -	034
United of Havana ..	6 weeks	1	249	67,470 +	6,881	400,196 +	46,362
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay ..	6 weeks Aug. 9	9	273	21,635 +	1,823	131,153 +	9,468
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	6 weeks	1	311	3,651 -	-	411	1,717
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	6 weeks	9	185	2,050 -	-	13,135 -	685
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	6 weeks	9	211	2,334 +	690	15,535 -	2,569

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Alcay and Gandia	32 weeks	Aug. 9	33	15,000 +	1,000	774,000 +	80,200	
Egyptian Delta	5 weeks	July 31	575	9,170 +				
G. Southn. of Spain	31 weeks	Aug. 2	102	1,880		87,948	7,806	
Mexican Railway	5 weeks	7	434	Poll.1,564 +	72,905	3,163,696	248,224	
New Cape Central	29 weeks	July 19	205	\$239,100 -	16,100	1,375,300	55,300	
Paraguay Central	6 weeks	Aug. 9	274	2,359 +	39	80,044	984	
Salvador	6 weeks	9	100	4,786 +	880	26,480	8,540	
(a) Converted				2,960 +	679	15,917	1,424	

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine....	32 weeks.	Aug. 12	339	\$25,913	+ 7,452	2,785,487	+ 94,748
Burley Corporation ..	1 week	9	12	\$3,228	+ 88	..	..
Calcutta Trams ..	22 weeks	9	354	Rail\$1,898	+ 9,957	..	+ 5,29,672
Chatham & District ..	28 weeks	July 10	15	\$1,646	- 208	37,502	- 4,946
Egyptian Markets ..	32 weeks	Aug. 7	..	\$1,507	+ 207	65,383	+ 5,352
Glasgow Corporation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tramways ..	10 weeks	9	106	\$42,263	- 1,035	434,360	+ 18,75,750
Isle of Thanet Tram.	42 weeks	July 16	..	\$2,698	+ 60	38,384	- 2,315
Do Light & Power ..	42 weeks	16	..	701	+ 117	42,476	+ 8,036
Lanarkshire Trams ..	31 weeks	Aug. 7	228	1,881	- 239	44,247	+ 5,482
London Corporation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
L.C.C. Tramways ..	19 weeks	9	124	\$27,194	- 3,994	471,840	- 51,315
Madras Elec. (2 wks.)	19 weeks	13	163	76,875	+ 4,785	1,547,793	- 144,457
Pernambuco Trams ..	32 weeks	July 31	..	R\$ 50,740	+ 5,773	17,776	- 15,874
Singapore Trams ..	32 weeks	Aug. 10	..	\$3,718	+ 263	140,871	+ 23,392
..	27 weeks	9	..	\$14,900	+ 2,795	386,362	+ 104,484

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA,
LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.)

GREATLY IMPROVED RESULTS.

BOARD'S SOUND DIVIDEND POLICY.

COMMERCIAL BANKS AND CREDIT FACILITIES.

RETURN TO GOLD STANDARD PROBLEM.

ALLOCATION TO PENSION FUND.

At the annual meeting of the National Bank of South Africa, held at Pretoria, on August 8th, the chairman, Mr James R. Leisk, C.M.G., in moving the adoption of the directors' report and accounts for the year ended March 31, 1924, said the conditions under which they were met contrasted very favourably with those that prevailed on the occasion of the two previous meetings. The satisfactory results shown were achieved notwithstanding the continuance of the most depressed conditions in the general business situation and the disastrous losses which farmers have sustained through the drought and the locusts.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Reviewing the balance-sheet, Mr Leisk said the contraction in the aggregate figures of some £10,000,000 was largely attributable to the exclusion of bills rediscounted and now shown as a contingent liability, and that of the drop, only some £4,000,000—or roughly 7 per cent. of the aggregate—was due to general trade contraction. The cash balance at bankers and other quick assets represented 53 per cent. of the liabilities to the public, as compared with 48½ per cent. last year—a very liquid position.

ASSETS.

Coming to a survey of the assets, he said that bills of exchange, bills discounted, advances, &c., showed a substantial drop as compared with the previous year's figure, due partly to the general contraction in trade and industry, partly to an altered method of representing the balance-sheet, and partly to adjustments made with amounts taken from capital and reserve.

LIABILITIES.

Turning to the liabilities side, the Chairman explained that the contraction in capital, which now stood at £2,075,500, was in pursuance of the resolutions taken at the extraordinary general meeting in October last, and the fall in the note circulation was accounted for by the operation of the Currency and Banking Act of 1920. In the terms of this Act, he mentioned that the amount of just under £250,000 had been paid over to the reserve bank on June 30th last, representing the value of the bank's Union notes outstanding on that date. The deposits, current and other accounts at £34,000,000 reflected a drop of some five and a-half millions as compared with the March, 1923, figures. This, he said, was another indication of the trying time through which the country had been passing.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The profit and loss account showed that gross revenue for the 12 months was £1,496,000, an improvement over the previous year of some £137,000. It cost £1,240,000 to earn this revenue, a decrease of £28,000. On the 1923 figures the net profit was £203,000, which, with the carry forward from the preceding year, gave a sum of £228,127 10s available for allocation. This, the Chairman said, would be allocated as follows:—To the reserve fund £150,000, to the pension fund £60,000, to the carry forward £28,127.

QUESTION OF DIVIDENDS.

Continuing, the Chairman said the directors are not unmindful of the claims of the shareholders to receive a distribution of profits as soon as possible. On the other hand, they must not ignore the obvious principles of sound and prudent finance. Applying these principles to the question under discussion, the directors came to the decision that the past year's profits should be retained in our business and utilised towards the rebuilding of our reserves and the maintenance of our pension fund. A few shareholders have expressed disappointment that they are not to receive a portion of the year's available profits, but the directors feel confident that the great majority of shareholders approve of their recommendation and endorse their policy of conserving profits until the reserves have reached adequate dimensions. Now, it is not improbable that we shall be asked this morning to define the expression "adequate dimensions," and to give some approximate indication of the date when the dividend distributions are likely to be resumed. It is desirable, therefore, to anticipate such inquiry by stating that this is a point into which the directors decline to allow themselves to be driven at the present time.

So many factors enter into the situation—factors that are quite outside the control of the bank—that it would be unwise for us to commit ourselves to-day to a definition of the term “adequate dimensions.” There is only one certain factor in the dividend situation—namely, that it is impossible that by the completion of our approaching half-yearly balance at September 30th the obscurities of the outlook can be so far dispelled as to permit of any dividend announcement on the results of the current half-year’s trading. With respect to the proposed allocation to the pension fund of £50,000 out of these profits, it is on record that at the extraordinary general meeting last October some discussion took place regarding the expediency in the existing circumstances of keeping up our annual contributions to the pension fund. Upon this point our views are very clear and definite. It would be fatal to the peace of mind, and consequently to the efficiency, of our staff if any feeling were to be created that the bank was ignoring its obligations to the pension fund.

The result of an actuarial investigation has established the fact that our usual annual contribution of £50,000 is fully required.

STAFF MATTERS.

Speaking about the staff, Mr Leisk said it was with the greatest pleasure that he was able to announce that the year under review had marked a very distinct advance in the restoration of harmony and goodwill among all ranks in the bank's service; that it was clear that the process would continue, and that as a consequence of this happy state of affairs there had been noticeable an improvement in efficiency. Continuing, he mentioned that during the past year the bank had engaged upwards of 200 youths straight from college, that the majority of these were young South Africans and were of an excellent type and promised to make their mark in the banking world. He had no hesitation in stating that, as the conditions are to-day, banking offers a promising career for the educated youth of this country, provided he is prepared to work and become thoroughly proficient in his profession. Referring to the closing of branches, he said that little more remains to be done in that connection, the position happily being that, with the exception of one or two small and unimportant branches, the policy of closing might be said to be at an end. On the question of the adequacy of the bank's existing capital, regarding which there was some discussion at the last annual meeting, the Chairman said the conditions at present were not favourable for the raising of additional capital on terms which the directors would be prepared to recommend. In London, which would be the most likely source of supply, the bank already had large cash balances which were earning a somewhat limited return, and were immobile owing to the prevailing trade and exchange situation. To raise additional capital in London would, therefore, be unprofitable. The directors would, however, continue to give close attention to that subject, and the shareholders need not fear that delay would be harmful to the bank's interests.

Thanks to the reserve bank system, the means of supplementing the bank's ordinary resources was at hand in the shape of rediscounts of trade paper and Treasury bills, and full advantage was taken of this source of supply, with the result that the bank had experienced no difficulty whatever in meeting the needs of clients and in financing all sound business that came in its way.

PROPOSED STATE BANK.

Mr Leisk next referred to the proposed State bank, and expressed the opinion that from the point of view of the general public interest the entry of the State into the province of banking would be fraught with considerable danger. The expectation of cheap credit, from which the movement appeared to derive most of its support, could only be realised at the expense of the taxpayer. He presumed, however, that before any policy was decided upon the new Government and Parliament would fortify themselves with the advice of a commission of inquiry, and that the commercial banks, whose experience in these matters was extensive, would be given every opportunity of ventilating their views.

On this subject, Mr Leisk said there seems to be a persistent

feeling that the existing commercial banks are pursuing a deliberate and malicious policy of withholding or restricting legitimate credit facilities. Speaking for our own bank, I can give you the assurance that since I was appointed 2½ years ago to the chairmanship of the National Bank I have not known of a single case in which we have declined business that satisfied the well-understood tests of sound and prudent banking. I am confident, too, that the experience of our competitors is precisely the same.

RETURN TO GOLD STANDARD.

Referring to the controversy as to the merits and demerits of a general return to a gold standard, Mr Leisk remarked that recently there had been noticeable a revival of interest in the subject, that expert and public opinion had undergone a considerable change, and that the advocates of an early return to gold were now very much in the ascendant.

In so far as South Africa was concerned, he said, according to existing legislation the inconvertibility of Union Gold certificates would remain in operation until June 30, 1925, or until the market price of gold was restored to 77s 10½d per standard ounce, whichever date might be earlier. There was so little prospect of the price of gold returning to that level before June 30th next that that aspect of the question might be eliminated. What then, he asked, should be the Union's attitude towards the problem? Should the period of inconvertibility be extended beyond June 30, 1925, or should Parliament refrain from an amending law, and thus automatically bring about the return to a free gold market in South Africa on July 1st next?

ONLY SAFE COURSE.

He ventured to think that the only safe course for South Africa to follow was to extend from time to time as required the period of inconvertibility in the confident expectation that the measures adopted in Great Britain to restore the gold standard would be successful, and thus pave the way for the restoration of a free gold market in South Africa, with the minimum of risk and of

local economic disturbance. The Chairman said: As a practical illustration of the uncertainties of the situation from the point of view of the South African banks, I would point to the directors' report which is in your hands this morning. It is there stated that we have established a reserve against the possibility of depreciation in our overseas sterling balances. The precise meaning of that precaution is that if South Africa goes back to a free gold basis before the pound sterling moves closer to its gold parity, then all those South African concerns which have surplus balances in London will automatically see these balances depreciated in value by the amount that it would cost to return them to this country.

Obviously that cost, under conditions such as I have indicated, would be greatly in excess of the present-day rates of exchange for remitting from London to South Africa.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

With regard to the economic outlook, the Chairman said the determining factor was beyond our control, as it was to be found not in South, but in the Council Chambers of distracted Europe; that our economic troubles were almost entirely due to the delay in reaching a settlement of the reparations tangle, but that there was evidence that this problem was nearer solution than at any time since the Versailles Conference. If, he continued, the hopes of an early settlement were realised, then the South African conditions were ripe for an upward move to share in the resultant prosperity. Our gold industry would see a revival of activity, the effect on unemployment would be manifest, and the demand for our base metals, wool, maize, sugar, fruit, coal, &c., would be stimulated. Meanwhile, it was essential that the greatest care and prudence should continue to be exercised in all business dealings. Mr Leisk then gave an interesting review of the advancement in South African industries and agriculture, and the growth of imports and exports, and said the country was making steady progress, and that there was every reason for confidence.

The directors' recommendations were adopted.

MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR'S TRADING RESULTS.

WELSH LOCAL OPTION AND BISHOP OF OXFORD'S BILLS.

IMPROVED LICENSED HOUSES THE SOLUTION.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the White Horse Hotel, Birmingham, on the 14th instant, under the presidency of Mr W. Waters Butler.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Taking into consideration all the regrettable industrial conditions prevailing during the past year, your directors feel that they have presented to you a balance-sheet which indicates far better trading results than were anticipated this time last year, fearing, as they did, that the amount of the reduction in the beer duty of 20s per barrel, which took place in the Budget of 1923, being less than the accompanying decrease of 24s per barrel in the retail prices, would impose a heavy charge upon the trading operations of the company unless we had a big increase in our sales. Our sales are much better than we expected through the reduction in the retail prices, due not to an increase in the spending power of our customers—for there is every evidence it has been less during the year than in the previous year—but to the gratifying fact that our products are becoming more widely popular through the maintenance of their quality and strength, no attempt having been made to recoup ourselves for the charge imposed upon us by offering a weaker or inferior article to the public.

PENSION FUND.

During the past year the income-tax authorities have approved of a scheme in connection with our pension fund, which will be augmented by the investments in connection therewith being exempted from income-tax. The scheme provides a very liberal scale of pensions without any contributions from those who benefit from it. Last year the sum of £6,813 was paid as pensions. At the present time the fund totals £127,958, which sum is not included in the assets of the company.

You will have noted that we have paid off in the year £80,000 of the loan in connection with the purchase of the Midland Brewery, although only £40,000 was due. This loan was originally £400,000, of which £240,000 has been repaid.

PUBLIC'S APPROVAL OF COMPANY'S PREMISES.

It is exceedingly gratifying to hear almost daily from persons in the highest quarters their approval of our artistically designed and well-equipped licensed premises which we have erected, and are erecting in our trading area. I can assure you the return on the capital expended in such new premises is at present a meagre one,

but we are building for the future, feeling confident that our policy of the closing down of redundant, badly-constructed premises, which offer poor service to the public, and the substitution of more up-to-date premises, not only will tend to strengthen the defence of the industry by the public, for whose needs they are erected, but also advance the sobriety of the nation, which the trade is as eager to promote as the most ardent true temperance reformer.

The seven years' service agreement existing between the four senior managing directors and the company expires this year. The board has renewed the same for a further seven years, without any alteration in the terms.

The board has appointed Mr William Owen Butler a managing director, and Mr Lauchlan Campbell a director of the company. I feel sure that the confidence reposed in my son, who will be the first representative of the third generation of the Butler family to go on. Mr Lauchlan Campbell has served us during the past 27 years as a member of the staff, and fully deserves recognition of his valued services by our offering him a seat on the board.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

Altogether I think we may look back on the financial results of the past year, and the present condition of the company as in every way satisfactory. Our prospects for the coming year are promising. Although there is every indication that the cost of barley and malt will show a material increase during the coming year, I am glad to say we are in the fortunate position of holding, or having contracts fixed for, sufficiently barley and malt for our requirements during the current financial year.

Since the advent of the Labour Government, two important bills affecting the trade have been discussed.

WELSH LOCAL OPTION BILL.

The first of these measures was the Welsh Local Option Bill, which was introduced as a Private Member's Bill. The Government realised what was thoroughly exposed by the debate—that there was a strong element in its own party against the proposals contained in the Bill, for Welsh and English Labour leaders spoke against it, so much so that in the Division which terminated the discussion and killed the Bill for the time being, many Labour Members aided by their votes to bring about that result.

Daily we have evidence that Prohibition is no solution of the so-called drink problem. We find that countries which have

attempted to so solve it are now rescinding their former legislation, and returning to controlled forms of sale, plainly indicating that where Prohibition is imposed upon people who do not recognise its need or value, it is not only fore-doomed to failure, but that resistance to its operation creates far worse evils than existed before the change.

BISHOP OF OXFORD'S LIQUOR BILL.

The most interesting event in connection with licensing legislation has been the re-introduction of the Bishop of Oxford's Liquor (Popular Control) Bill. It was almost word for word the same Bill as presented by him in the House of Lords in 1921.

The Earl of Birkenhead, in his admirable criticism of the Bill, seemed to indicate that he personally would not oppose an increase in the present Compensation Levy under the Act of 1904 to accelerate the rate of reduction of those licences which, he said, must still be pronounced to be redundant.

Lord Dawson of Penn, the King's Physician, speaking against the Bill, said: "It may be taken that the opinion of the medical world, both in this country and abroad, is by a very large majority in favour of alcohol as a useful substance."

Viscount Astor, who strongly supported the Bill, stated that it proposed to give compensation on a lower scale than was given at Carlisle. He was entirely against trying to commit the country to any drastic change as a whole, and said he had spent a great deal of time explaining to Prohibitionists that the country does not want Prohibition.

Viscount Milner, who supported the Bill, said he believed the true method and ultimate solution of this most harassing problem was a system of public management and control. Referring to Carlisle, he said that "above all by the elimination of the competitive supply of drink, a great and conspicuous improvement was effected in that district, and has been maintained since, in spite of the great difficulty of maintaining an isolated experiment of that kind, and the great attacks to which it has been exposed from many sides." He wanted "to know why, in the name of common sense, the system which has succeeded in that instance should not be applied to other districts if the people of those districts desire to apply it, and why they should not follow that example, especially as that example has shown that it is possible to get rid of private interests in the liquor trade on absolutely fair terms without any loss, and, indeed, with the prospect of ultimate substantial profit to the community."

LORD LAMINGTON'S RESOLUTION.

Arising out of the debate, Lord Lamington moved a resolution, which was agreed to, and was as follows:—

"That it is desirable that an inquiry should be made, and a report made to Parliament, on the different systems of disinterested management of licensed houses, and in particular on the working of the licensing system in Carlisle."

After perusing the reports of the debate on the Bishop of Oxford's Bill, in which so many references were made to Carlisle and disinterested management, I was pleased when I read that Lord Lamington had moved the resolution which I have just read. I am sure an impartial investigation will confirm my view that this scheme has attained a great success, which is unattainable elsewhere without the exercise of special powers such as were applied to Carlisle.

Viscount Astor made a strong attempt to widen the reference of the inquiry by including other towns of similar character to Carlisle, to see exactly the nature and extent of the improvement in Carlisle.

Although the House of Lords would not agree to extending the inquiry beyond the question of disinterested management, including Carlisle, the Lord Chancellor (Viscount Haldane) announced that the Government propose to hold an inquiry into the system of disinterested management, and also other points germane to such inquiry, but not in such a way as to divert the inquiry from its plain terms to see whether there is any system which renders the work of temperance on the Carlisle model possible. While guarding himself against anticipating the results of the inquiry, he said that the inquiry might be adverse to disinterested management, or it may be that the inquiry will say that you must go further in the direction of the limitation of facilities for the sale of drink. Earlier in the debate he said: "I think it would be rather an absurdity to refer the question of Prohibition to any tribunal of any kind. That must be a question for Parliament and for the nation."

So we are to have another inquiry as to the manner in which the licensed trade should be conducted. I trust we shall have a report that plainly indicates which form of trading is the best to meet the requirements of the consuming public under the best conditions of service.

"DISINTERESTED MANAGEMENT."

I fear many people are not clear what is meant by "disinterested management." Originally it referred to that method of trading

set up by Public House Reform Associations and trust companies, the shareholders of which agreed that they would not take out of the net trading profit a greater dividend than their capital would receive if invested in an ordinary average investment, say 5 per cent. At one time these undertakings were referred to as "philanthropy at 5 per cent." The limited profit does not prevent them from affording every facility to encourage patrons to come there. If good service and environment result in "pushing the sale of liquor," then we get it here just as much as in a well-managed licensed house of a brewery company.

To-day the term "disinterested management" has been widened to include the form of trading carried on by the State at Carlisle, where all the managers of the licensed houses have a fixed salary free from any commissions on the sales of alcoholic beverages.

INTENSIVE AND UNHEALTHY COMPETITION.

You may say that exactly the same method of trading is carried out in the 750 directly-managed houses of your company.

The fact is, no matter whether houses are conducted under the auspices of the State as at Carlisle, or under the management of companies who limit the profit distributed to their shareholders—which limit they find it difficult to attain—you are offered no better service and certainly no better fare or at lower charges than in the best type of licensed house, of which your company possesses many. One wishes we had more, and that the conditions were favourable to bring about a great increase in their number here and throughout the country. What are the conditions I have referred to which do not facilitate the increase in the number of these desirable houses of refreshment? The main obstacle is that a trader in endeavouring to obtain a proper remuneration for his labour, and the property owner an adequate return on his capital, have to combat with intensive and unhealthy competition, which is not to the advantage of the consumer or the general well-being of the community. From whence and how does this competition arise? Mainly through licensed houses being not only too many in number, but worse still, badly distributed, resulting in districts having redundant licences, while other areas have not proper facilities afforded them, mainly through the action of land owners restricting their estates against the distribution of liquor in any properties erected thereon, and through the licensing justices in certain districts not favouring the removal of licences from congested areas to more thinly licensed districts, contrary to the action of the Birmingham justices, who have favoured such removals, adding, I venture to say, to the well-being of the city. The improved conditions brought about by such removals and the closing of redundant licences under the Licensing Act of 1904 at the present rate of reduction, is not sufficiently rapid to attain the desired conditions even in Birmingham, where a group of brewers have worked together, unequalled in any other licensing area, and have greatly aided the justices in accelerating the reduction of licences.

CASE OF CARLISLE.

A big reduction in retail trading centres, and in addition a decrease in the number of manufacturing establishments, have been mainly responsible for the profitable character of the trading operations in Carlisle. The licensed trade in Carlisle, had it not been transferred to the State but remained under private ownership, would have a very hard struggle to exist, and certainly would not be in a position to show the trading results and the improvements in the licensed houses which are now obtained under State management aided by a Local Advisory Committee.

My reasoning brings me back to what I have said to you on several occasions, that the improvement of licensed houses must be coupled with the policy of "fewer and better." As a trader, I agree that unless the improvement in licensed houses is accelerated, we help the clamour of those who would abolish alcoholic beverages, notwithstanding there is abundant evidence that there has been a great advance in temperance during even the past ten years, the convictions for drunkenness to-day being less than one-half of what they were ten years ago, an improvement which the Archbishop of Canterbury admitted was constantly under-rated and under-stated by those who advocate temperance reform.

I am glad to note the growing determination of the leading brewers not only to thoroughly investigate the methods whereby the demand for reform may be met, but also by the expenditure of large sums in the provision of improved licensed houses showing an earnest of their willingness to meet the requirements of the times. The problem is how we can accelerate this improvement.

STATE PURCHASE.

Many have thought, among them myself, that it can only be accomplished by the State purchasing the trade outright. That solution of the problem in consequence of the present financial position of the country cannot, I fear, come about, but I do not see why any municipality should not signify its desire that the State should, or the municipality be permitted to, take over the breweries and the licensed houses within its area. The Treasury aid and

backing in either event need not necessarily be a heavy, or any, charge on the country, as the purchase price, which at Carlisle was paid in cash, might be met by the issue of terminable annuities (which annuities would be transferable just as any share certificate) extending over a reasonable period. A State ownership scheme to be under the direction of a central authority such as applies to Carlisle to-day, aided by a thoroughly representative local committee with some measure of executive power, so as to bring about what Lord Haldane refers to as "popular management"—a management in the interests of the people themselves. Or, if a municipality should prefer to be the owners of the property rather than the State, then, of course, there would be no necessity for direction by any State Department, but the trading would be carried on under modified national licensing regulations such as is the case to-day at Carlisle.

ACCELERATION OF REDUCTION OF LICENCES.

If we cannot have similar schemes to Carlisle in other towns, then there is the less effective course still open, which has been available since the Act of 1904 came into operation, but which for some unknown reason has not been taken. It is that to which I referred last year, and is the power given to the Home Office to consent to the licensing justices of an area borrowing sums on the security of the compensation levy for the purpose of accelerating the reduction in the number of redundant licences. Personally, I see no reason why "off" licences should not also contribute to the fund, seeing that they gain betterment by the closing of other licences; in return, they should be given protection against refusal of renewal of their licences without compensation, except on the grounds of misconduct.

COMPETITION OF CLUBS.

Without a redistribution of licences and also a diminution in the number of licensed houses in many of the towns, and even in some villages, you cannot advance the coming of the improved licensed house of refreshment. Of course, such a reduction would be valueless if clubs could freely increase by simple registration as they are allowed to do to-day, adding, as they do, to the prevalent severe competition. The growth of clubs is the natural outcome of the severe limitations imposed upon the recreations permitted in licensed houses, the freedom to construct club premises as is thought desirable, and the liberty to vary the hours of supply to their members; in fact, to the absence of that restrictive control of justices and police imposed upon licensed traders in such directions.

Since the termination of the war, the licensing statistics for 1922 show that the increase in the number of clubs has exceeded the net decrease in the number of licensed premises.

There are many clubs which reflect the highest credit upon their founders and those who make use of them; the management and conduct are beyond reproach, but there are also clubs which, if they were licensed houses, would not be allowed to exist.

No matter where alcoholic beverages are sold, whether in privately owned licensed houses, or in houses under so-called "disinterested management" owned by the State, or a trust company, or distributed in a co-operative club, if competition between these sources of supply is so severe as to result in an uneconomic return on the capital employed in them, then the distribution of such beverages will take place under conditions not conducive to good service or to that advancement of temperance which all, including brewers and publicans, are so pleased to see is taking place, and desire to continue.

I am sure that the shareholders of this company hope with me, that the inquiry which the Government proposes to make will result in a report being presented recommending practical reforms which, while conferring benefits upon the public generally, will be

attained only by methods which are in accord with that spirit of fairness and equity which has always been characteristic of our race and legislation.

With these remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move the adoption of the report, and will ask Mr Herbert W. Bainbridge to second the resolution.

Mr Herbert W. Bainbridge seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

"BEAM" SYSTEM—AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT.

The 27th ordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Limited, was held, on the 15th instant, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen-street, London, Senator G. Marconi, G.C.V.O., LL.D., D.Sc. (chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr A. Ogle, M.C., A.C.I.S.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the trading profit for the year showed little change from that of 1922, and, but for the fact that they had had serious losses of an exceptional nature to write off, the result of the year would have compared favourably with the preceding year, notwithstanding the deduction in respect of interest on debenture stock amounting to close upon £100,000. As regarded current year, there was every reason to expect a substantial improvement over last year. In those circumstances, and having regard to their brighter prospects generally, they felt justified in recommending the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent. on the preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

THE FUTURE.

Looking forward, he thought it was not too much to say that the prospects of the company were brighter to-day than they had been at any previous period in the history of the company. For the last 14 years at least the directors had realised that the company's main objective must be the creation of a world wireless telegraph service. At the present moment the directors were able to say with some confidence that there was every probability of that ideal being realised. As far as the directors were able to judge, the company had reached a turning point in its history, and they looked forward to a more sure and prosperous future.

Since their last meeting their work on what was known as the "beam" system had made a great advance. Not only had they been able to establish satisfactory communication with South America by that system, but for the first time in history the human voice speaking in England had been easily and distinctly heard in Australia. It was that system, with its fascinating possibilities, which had contributed to the favourable change in the prospects of the company. By reason of its directional characteristics, it increased the secrecy of wireless communication; it eliminated to a large extent the atmospheric disturbances which had always been the bane of the wireless engineer; in capital cost and in operating charges it was far more favourable than the old system of super stations working on long wave-lengths, and, in addition, it gave a rapidity of communication which the old super station could never do. The new system offered a prospect of reductions in rates far in excess of anything which had been previously contemplated, but which, nevertheless, would secure to the company a substantial margin of profit.

AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT.

The House of Commons had recently ratified an agreement between the Government and the company for the erection in this country of stations to work the "beam" system; the company would be erecting reciprocal stations in Canada, South Africa, Aus-

tralia, and India, on behalf of the associated companies which would operate them. That, however, they regarded as only the beginning of a great scheme of Empire wireless communication, for the "beam" system, by reason of its relatively small capital requirements and its economic cost of working, would permit of every part of the Empire, however remote and sparsely populated, being brought into communication with this country and the Dominions. It was exceedingly gratifying to the directors that, after so many years of negotiation, the Government had at last entered into another agreement with the company, which this time should lead to the practical realisation of an Empire wireless scheme.

A basis of an agreement had been reached with the Post Office in regard to the payment by that Department for the company's war services. They were not yet in a position to state the exact amount which would come to the company, but there was every reason to expect that it would be settled in the course of a very few days.

COMPANY AND THE FIGHTING FORCES.

Last year the managing director had to refer once more to the fact that no definite decision had yet been come to in regard to the promised arbitration on the matters in dispute between the company and the three Government Departments representing the fighting forces. The arbitration should begin immediately after the holidays, and should at last secure to the company fair and equitable payment, both in respect of the use by the fighting services of its very many patents during a great many years, and would also provide the basis upon which the company would be paid for the continued use of the patents in future.

The directors had had to face difficulties and harassing problems. The unsettled state of the world which followed the Great War had created for them problems of the greatest difficulty, but he thought shareholders would agree that they now had an assured promise of growing and prosperous telegraph business, and they could now look forward to the future with much more hope than at any time during the past few years.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1924, to Aug. 9, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1923, to Aug. 11, 1923.	Receipts Week Ended Aug. 9, 1924.	Receipts Week Ended Aug. 11, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	..	5,069,613	5,442,685	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.		6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
Customs.....	101,800,000	35,761,000	45,957,000	1,753,000	2,302,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	42,510,000	47,961,000	1,819,000	2,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties..	15,600,000	3,848,000	3,491,000	625,000	103,000
Stamps.....	56,000,000	23,510,000	20,380,000	700,000	900,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	1,250,000	590,000	460,000	10,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax	265,000,000	76,308,000	77,284,000	5,384,000	6,319,000
Super Tax.....	61,000,000	21,670,000	17,750,000	610,000	470,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	8,000,000	..	..	..	390,000
Corporation Profits Tax	30,000,000	6,280,000	7,330,000	230,000	390,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	19,300,000	18,100,000	1,800,000	1,500,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	380,000	320,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,350,000	5,704,247	5,836,507	..	63,959
Miscellaneous—					
Ordinary Receipts..	11,850,000	4,446,820	5,550,850	248,588	357,956
Special Receipts....	30,000,000	11,553,139	17,730,172	599	1,502,345
Revenue.....	794,050,000	267,531,199	275,160,529	12,240,167	14,927,260
Total, Inc. Balance ..		264,162,813	281,978,756	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	5,010,000	3,170,000	220,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 ..	2,200,000	1,750,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	1,000	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	270,000	..	..	..
(c) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills.....	854,008,000	886,635,000	66,798,000	53,412,000	700,000
By National Savings Certificates ..	10,050,000	17,150,000	..	..	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-35 ..	13,521,680	39,208,527	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	290,581,500	303,703,500	2,300,000	3,000,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	23,109	50,081	23,109	50,081	..
Repayments—					
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	522,224	161,028	..	..	..
Total		1,440,888,248	1,524,138,039	72,138,266	72,088,341

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (Including Supplementary Grants.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1924, to Aug. 9, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1923, to Aug. 11, 1923.	Issues Week Ended Aug. 9, 1924.	Issues Week Ended Aug. 11, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	135,570,743	132,102,534	2,604,092	2,033,716
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	9,675,865	15,813,547	100,000	..
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	2,410,044	2,111,044	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c....	13,150,000	1,876,891	861,316	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	3,500,000	1,376,560	1,253,042	..	25,594
Land Settlement.....	750,000	279,205	189,472	..	42,401
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	967,812	1,121,307	..	..
Supply Services.....	408,919,070	128,545,085	129,849,979	5,630,748	5,490,055
Expenditure	793,759,000	280,702,905	283,297,241	8,334,840	7,591,766
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	5,000	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	36,891	36,891	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	270,000	..	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 ..	2,320,000	2,550,000	..	250,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	4,000	..	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924 ..	180,737	..	180,737	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	4,790,000	3,027,000	1,470,000	1,517,000	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	844,230,000	906,680,000	55,040,000	54,080,000	..
Treasury Bills ..	11,700,000	13,250,000	700,000	600,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates ..	..	17,005,096	..	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off ..	50	269,036	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid ..	292,323,500	293,599,500	6,100,000	7,350,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	..	55,214	..	..	..
Total		1,436,287,363	1,520,044,978	71,825,577	71,398,766
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	2,194,331	2,653,782	141,719	548,169	..
Bank of Ireland	1,608,552	1,433,272	165,000	142,406	..
Total	3,802,883	4,087,054	306,719	690,575	..

Note.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 62 of 1924.

Treasury, August 11, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Aug. 9, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	30	19	18	16	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan	..	..	256	256	256	684	683	683
3% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,963	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
National War Bonds.....	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	903	900
4% Funding Loan	409	409	406	401	399	400	400	400
4% Victory Bonds	360	357	347	453	411	444	444	457
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150
National Savings Certs....	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	364
Other Debt	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,151	1,151
American Loan (Anglo-French)	15	51	51	1,121	878	616	588	588
Treasury Bills	1	1,107	1,107	154	197	194	208	184
Temporary Advances ..	1	243	205	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities ..	57	46	47	49	66	70	71	70
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,766

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 11, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Aug. 9, '24.	Aug. 9, '24.
Ways and Means Advances ..	186,155,500	184,423,500	..	3,000,000
Advances by Bank of England ..	204,001,500	..	..	..
Advances by Public Deptms. ..	596,045,000	588,320,000	..	1,005,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding ..	800,046,500	774,475,500	782,643,500	1,898,000
Total Floating Debt	1,586,248,500	1,566,849,000	1,567,063,500	..

* Includes £122,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Aug. 18-Aug. 23 were opened on Aug. 13, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £47,390,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at 99 is od, about 82 per cent., and above in full. Saturday at 99 is 3d, and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—in bills at 3 months, £23,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
July 11, 1924.	..	..	..	..
July 18.....	35,000,000	61,050,000	3 9 5 96	94 13 0
July 25.....	35,000,000	56,300,000	3 10 9 39	94 13 0
Aug. 1.....	35,000,000	50,035,000	3 12 9 94	..
Aug. 8.....	35,000,000	44,460,000	3 13 5 41	..
Aug. 15.....	35,000,000	46,625,000	3 15 4 32	..
Aug. 22.....	30,000,000	41,390,000	3 15 3 24	..

Tenders will be received on Aug. 22, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £30,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000 Issued Capital - £8,734,660
 Reserve Fund - £4,000,000 Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its
 AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.
 54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
 ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
 (Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
 BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Treasury Notes and Bonds.	Redemption Account.				
			Silver Coin.	Gold Coin.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio of Notes to Gold.	Balance at Bank of England.
1923.							
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	38,500	19,450	16.9	261,479
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	6,000	36,500	19,650	16.3	254,312
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	37,000	21,150	16.6	246,456
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	37,000	21,150	16.9	258,922
1924.							
Mar. 22.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	37,000	22,450	17.3	241,294
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	37,000	22,450	17.3	242,446
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	37,000	22,450	17.5	238,595
Dec. 26.....	293,070	12,571	7,000	37,000	22,450	16.6	255,032
1924.							
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	37,000	22,450	17.6	236,867
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	37,000	22,450	17.0	246,198
July 23.....	292,302	12,576	7,000	37,000	22,450	16.9	248,295
July 30.....	295,556	12,591	7,000	37,000	22,450	16.7	251,477
Aug. 6.....	298,656	12,591	7,000	37,000	22,450	16.6	255,244
Aug. 13.....	295,578	12,534	7,000	37,000	22,450	16.7	251,841

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £230,000,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £329,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £246,130,300.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 13, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Notes issued.....	146,238,585	Government debt 11,015,100
		Other securities 8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion .. 126,488,585
146,238,585		146,238,585

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	£
Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities 42,857,467
Reserve ..	3,527,900	Other securities 75,409,790
Public deposits*.....	13,406,175	Notes 20,204,365
Other deposits.....	108,796,171	Gold and silver coin .. 1,826,527
Seven-day & other bills	14,903	
140,298,149		140,298,149

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Aug. 13, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Reserve ..	3,527,900	+ 10,001	+ 3,707
Public deposits ..	13,406,175	+ 95,232	+ 2,989,336
Other deposits ..	108,796,171	+ 2,140,271	+ 224,629
Government securities ..	42,857,467	+ 385,000	+ 2,978,134
Other securities ..	75,409,790	+ 2,727,230	+ 6,289,828
Reserve ..	22,030,892	+ 1,070,620	+ 534,531
Note circulation ..	126,034,220	+ 1,072,095	+ 1,205,390
Gold and silver coin ..	128,315,112	+ 7,252	+ 670,895
% of reserve to liabilities ..	18%	+ 18%	+ 8%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
July 9.....	128,269,317	127,269,900	120,803,468	118,007,596	20,749,417	17.4
16.....	128,271,111	126,202,600	119,186,150	115,368,057	21,818,511	18.1
23.....	128,269,723	126,272,720	116,911,459	113,192,221	21,747,003	18.1
30.....	128,308,665	127,092,166	124,185,095	121,257,544	20,966,500	16.4
Aug. 6.....	128,307,587	127,092,166	124,247,385	121,379,487	20,961,273	16.4
13.....	128,315,112	126,034,220	122,204,346	118,267,257	22,030,892	18

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted.)

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to July 30.....	20,632,190	936,433	1,687,299	23,255,919
Aug. 6.....	606,311	29,686	50,998	686,995
Aug. 13.....	601,554	28,820	55,002	685,376
Total to date 1924.....	21,840,055	994,936	1,793,299	24,628,290
Do 1923.....	20,489,381	989,328	1,786,125	23,264,834
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,270,674	+ 5,608	+ 7,174	+ 1,283,456
% ..	6.2%	0.5%	0.4%	5.5%
Total for year 1923.....	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1924.....	32,780,636	1,674,651	2,806,185	37,261,472
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 510,263	+ 28,086	+ 4,531	+ 542,880
% ..	1.6%	1.8%	0.2%	1.5%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of July.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to August 9.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	24	26		
BIRMINGHAM.....	10,416,000	11,319,000	74,485,900	74,997,400
BRISTOL.....	5,060,000	5,671,000	37,548,000	36,410,000
DUBLIN.....	3,787,000	4,732,000	196,504,400	174,951,200
HULL.....	4,618,000	4,660,000	34,425,200	33,595,700
LEEDS.....	3,401,000	3,546,000	23,543,900	24,723,000
LIVERPOOL.....	3,098,000	4,159,000	27,438,900	29,820,600
MANCHESTER.....	63,836,000	67,703,000	473,034,200	485,330,300
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.....	8,518,000	7,889,000	64,845,200	64,198,600
NOTTINGHAM.....	2,688,000	3,091,000	20,058,800	19,853,900
SHEFFIELD.....	5,236,000	5,131,000	36,844,300	34,540,000
Total.....	142,658,000	155,241,000		

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Estonia appeared in the *Economist* of April 12; German Gold Discount, in June 21; Canada in July 19; Bulgaria and Egypt in July 26; Japan in August 2; Denmark, Danzig, Russia, and Italy in August 9.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In \$'s (000's omitted.)

	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	Aug. 10, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve ..	3,125,740	3,154,910	3,167,530	3,118,640
Legal tender notes and silver reserve ..	103,310	105,090	106,020	77,480
Bills discounted for member banks ..	273,640	293,900	290,830	823,100
Bills bought in open market ..	22,100	24,440	31,530	177,410
Government obligations owned ..	536,520	606,280	477,210	90,210
All other resources ..	88,740	87,350	86,030	66,680
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits ..	35,080	45,390	40,120	21,940
Other deposits ..	2,124,580	2,119,410	2,104,730	1,882,860
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation ..	1,756,010	1,761,570	1,782,630	2,224,360
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation ..	nil	nil	nil	1,570
All other liabilities ..	12,010	12,130	12,070	18,510
Capital and surplus to gross deposit ..	322,410	332,400	332,320	328,040
Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	82.5%	83%	83.3%	77.3%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted.)

	July 19, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	June 28, 1924.	June 21, 1924.	July 21, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion.....	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,175	10,163	10,091
Gold certificates.....	50	50	50	50	50	185
Subsidiary coin.....	3,807	3,715	4,117	4,074	3,444	4,151
Bills discounted.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,400	2,500
Loans & advances to Govt.....	223	223	222	17	17	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.....	152	153	153	153	40	40
Notes in circulation.....	10,198	10,059	10,691	10,789	10,236	11,042
Bankers' deposits.....	5,744	5,492	5,540	5,575	5,197	5,352
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.....	66.1%	66.5%	64.9%	65.7%	69.7%	65.5%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted.)

	July 18, 1924.	July 11, 1924.	July 4, 1924.	June 27, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	July 20, 1923.
ASSETS.						
Total securities ..	11,609.7	11,586.6	11,725.3	11,744.8	11,669.9	16,249.9
Loans ..	19,615.1	21,765.3	21,955.6	21,308.1	21,047.7	18,587.7
Cash credits ..	40,424.4	40,86.34	42,19.99	41,93.61	39,11.67	30,52.74
Inland bills ..	5,329.99	4,97.76	5,51.28	5,76.17	10,06.07	5,12.14
Foreign bills ..	30.54	34.49	32.14	24.45	25.60	93.43
Dead stock ..	2,57.87	2,56.84	2,51.31	2,56.43	2,56.35	2,39.81
Bal. with other banks ..	1,73.22	1,79.19	1,76.64	1,62.73	1,63.68	21.08
Cash ..	26,25.18	23,75.74	20,67.56	21,54.13	18,34.30	34,26.47
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up ..	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50	5,62.50
Reserve ..	4,57.60	4,57.60	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,45.00	4,36.00
Total deposits ..	97,15.20	96,98.04	96,40.89	95,56.69	91,50.07	97,66.38
The above includes—						
Deposits in Lond'n ..	1,557	1,379	1,555	1,457	1,440	367
Adv'ces in Lond'n ..	463	457	445	442	444	326
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London ..	1,155	1,195	1,178	1,085	1,131	133

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted.)

	Aug. 14, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1923.	Position May 26, 1924.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion ..	5,643,744	5,543,589	5,643,539	5,537,912	5,730,886
Of which held abroad ..	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion ..	300,280	300,280	300,190	294,811	332,650
Discounts and advances ..	7,258,650	7,372,838	7,796,508	4,533,443	6,320,650
Advances to the State ..	24,900,000	23,000,000	23,300,000	33,400,000	2,387,778
LIABILITIES.					
Notes ..	40,399,968	40,571,700	40,394,615	37,258,406	5,111,978
Government deposits ..	12,089	12,534	15,544	14,787	123,708
Private deposits ..	2,037,111	2,158,765	2,142,742	1,953,044	845,980

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted.)

	Aug. 7, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 24, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	Position Aug. 28, 1923.
ASSETS.					
Coin (gold & silver and bullion) ..	353,369	353,575	352,751	354,026	322,650
Securities ..	1,297,951	1,336,964	1,306,935	1,240,082	874,741
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	7,685,195	7,764,487	7,602,784	7,603,701	7,034,935
Current accounts ..	265,268	254,713	259,828	254,406	292,858

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.—In billions of marks.

	Aug. 7, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 7, 1924.
ASSETS.				
Silver coin reserve ..	(a) 25	(a) 29	(a) 31	(a) 29
Gold and bullion ..	(a) 491	(a) 484	(a) 478	(a) 466
Treasury notes ..	455,000	473,000	473,000	473,000
Reserve notes ..	303,803,236	267,996,828	445,218,818	302,806,451
Bills of exchange and cheques ..	844,475,713	825,056,092	818,485,801	818,582,375
Reserve bank bills and cheques ..	955,209,039	979,040,749	979,040,749	1,069,468,519
Advances ..	11,706,725	13,209,945	13,248,797	14,616,510
Reserve bank discounts, &c. ..	43,462,340	49,278,300	56,394,630	76,971,440
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	1,201,445,755	1,211,038,485	1,209,829,887	1,105,614,439
Total deposits ..	798,624,785	742,987,101	1,060,778,324	811,282,261
Loan from Rentenbank ..	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000

BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	July 31, 1923.
*Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of England	10,096,984	10,096,984	10,096,974	10,096,974	10,096,974	10,096,911
Discounts & advances	1,952,712	2,084,270	2,193,740	2,193,740	2,193,740	1,573,599
Gold & silver holdings	1,050,208	1,050,689	1,049,244	1,048,721	1,047,933	1,054,975
Foreign bills and balances abroad	619,637	625,281	645,148	681,577	674,283	2,638,364
Other assets	216,527	215,078	220,642	248,576	246,034	712,460
LIABILITIES.						
State's share circ.	8,090,034	7,562,740	7,728,714	7,984,672	8,021,166	9,448,086
Deposits	4,415,703	4,976,024	4,878,220	4,828,777	4,836,608	5,740,787
Other liabilities	1,430,331	1,487,603	1,489,344	1,456,139	1,436,454	887,436

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

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 16, 1924.
Metal reserve—			
Gold coin and bullion	441,831,780	249,727,908	248,631,166
Drafts and notes	1,110,925,593	1,009,834,696	797,931,329
Silver coin and bullion	13,545,180	12,470,150	11,326,333
Share capital not yet paid up	34,118,547	198,254,412	205,498,937
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,257,596,672	1,154,894,901	1,105,401,046
Advances to the Treasury	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000
LIABILITIES.			
Share capital (old crowns 30,000,000*)	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986
Notes in circulation	3,277,943,007	2,872,195,934	2,852,187,432
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	1,424,577,881	1,439,912,539	1,113,123,151

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 12, 1924.	July 5, 1924.	May 10, 1924.	July 14, 1923.	May 12, 1922.
Gold	560,929	560,929	560,929	545,266	545,273
Silver, &c.	4,807	5,283	4,271	502	776
Government loan	11,489,402	11,489,780	11,479,760	11,855,732	11,855,130
Other advances	7,322,905	7,187,169	6,897,992	5,889,409	5,037,432
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	17,894,636	17,792,649	17,650,063	16,452,346	15,845,426
Deposits	7,016,008	6,993,232	6,761,713	6,256,066	7,077,350

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 30, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 15, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
Gold and balances abroad	2,697,668	2,807,205	2,822,895	3,189,255	1,537,428
Government loans and securities	3,987,190	4,000,407	4,003,980	3,964,735	4,081,962
Discounts and loans	1,860,731	1,806,368	1,806,240	1,824,980	1,902,260
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,542,260	4,577,186	4,613,245	4,699,856	4,341,547
Government deposits	751,012	791,667	755,329	703,291	201,402
Private sight deposits	1,878,251	1,761,614	1,804,319	1,946,702	1,499,595
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,070,916	1,066,343	1,063,403	1,067,644	991,644

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	July 19, 1924.	Aug. 11, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	2,534,603	2,534,613	2,534,525	2,534,489	2,525,779	521,776
Silver	656,183	660,877	660,694	659,069	660,992	728,600
Loans & discounts	2,196,065	2,172,712	2,163,907	2,191,015	2,126,447	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	160,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,430,211	4,396,334	4,364,047	4,378,229	4,202,992	901,550
Deposits	901,233	904,988	924,811	933,185	1,062,983	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 2, 1924.	June 25, 1924.	June 18, 1924.	July 4, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,491	9,486	9,435	9,439
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	146,823	101,406	94,964	67,862
Discounts	192,876	192,904	184,871	202,149
Government loans	1,445,560	1,401,096	1,405,237	1,045,393
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,614,778	1,580,680	1,583,117	1,553,038
Deposits	41,762	34,991	43,186	44,900

LONDON RATES.

	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 11, 1924.	Aug. 12, 1924.	Aug. 13, 1924.	Aug. 14, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Market rates of discount—							
30 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 month's do	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6 months' do	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
3 months'	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short—	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposit allowances at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
		Short Loans.					
		%	%	%	%	%	%
July 25.....	3 1/4	33	37	4 1/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Aug. 8.....	3 1/4	33	37	4 1/4	4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Aug. 15.....	3 1/4	33	37	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	5

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 881 chervonetz.

£1,000 " " 1933 "

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	%	Changed.	%
Amsterdam Jan. 24, 1924 .. 5		Madrid Mar. 23, 1923 .. 5	
Bombay Jan. 14, 1923 .. 7 1/2		Paris Jan. 17, 1924 .. 6	
Berlin Sept. 15, 1923 .. 90		Riga May 27, 1924 .. 6	
Brussels Jan. 22, 1923 .. 5 1/2		Rome July 11, 1922 .. 5 1/2	
Bucharest Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6		Sofia Nov. 9, 1923 .. 7	
Budapest July 30, 1924 .. 4		Stockholm Nov. 5, 1923 .. 5 1/2	
Calcutta Nov. 10, 1923 .. 7		Swiss Bank July 14, 1923 .. 4	
Copenhagen Jan. 17, 1924 .. 7		Tokio Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8	
Danzig Mar. 17, 1924 .. 12		Vienna Aug. 12, 1924 .. 13	
Helsingfors Mar. 5, 1924 .. 9		Warsaw (See note below)	
Lisbon Sept. 12, 1923 .. 9			
New York Fed. Reserve Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3			
Irish..... July 5, 1923 .. 5			

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Aug. 17, 1923.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.
Paris.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	82-90-83-00	80-60-70
Berlin.....	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	147-100-000	19-19-19 1/2
Vienna.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	320/330,000	318/324,000
Prague.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	156-156 1/2	152-152 1/2
Warsaw.....	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	23-50-75	23-55-85
Reval.....	Estons. to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	..	18-90
Riga.....	lats to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	..	23-40-67
Bukarest.....	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	1-100-1,125	990-1010
Budapest.....	forint to £1	T.T.	24-02	75/100,000	330/360,000
Constantinople.....	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	820-840	343/348,000
Sofia.....	leva to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	520-560	840-850
Belgrade.....	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	420-445	355-365
Amsterdam.....	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-59-60	11-61-62
Brussels.....	franc to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	103-90-104-10	88-9
Christiansburg.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-77-82	32-50-55
Copenhagen.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-12-15	16-97-17-00
Helsingfors.....	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	164-165 1/2	181-181 1/2
Greece.....	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	280-270	252-257
Italy.....	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	106-8	100-4
Switzerland.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-18-21	23-82-85
Madrid.....	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	33-58-63	33-73-76
Lisbon.....	escudos to £1	T.T.	53-4	..	1-7
Alexandria.....	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York.....	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-86 1/2	4-86 1/2
Moscow.....	rubles to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	39-39 1/2	40-76-40 1/2
Buenos Aires.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	16	5 1/2	5 1/2
Rio de Janeiro.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	51	38-39	41-42
Montevideo.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	36-40	44-60
Valparaiso.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	13-33	36-40	44-60
Lima.....	soles to Per. \$1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	9% prem.	9% prem.
Calcutta.....	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2
Bombay.....	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2
Madras.....	rupees to £1	T.T.	10 to 10 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2	18 1/2-18 1/2
Hong Kong.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2
Shanghai.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2
Singapore.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2
Yokohama.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2
Manila.....	dollars to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2
Mexico.....	pesos to £1	T.T.	..	38-38 1/2	38-38 1/2

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Aug. 16, 1924.	July 17, 1924.	July 24, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1924.	Aug. 14, 1924.
Gold money (90 days' mixed coll)	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bank acceptances—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	Aug. 16, 1923.	July 30, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 14, 1924.
London—					
80 days.....	Dollars for £1	4-86 1/2	4-3750	4-4650	4-3125
Cable.....		4-5687	4-4050	4-4950	4-5425
Cheques.....		4-5663	4-4050	4-4925	4-54
Paris.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	5-34	5-07	5-64
Brussels.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	4-45	4-60	5-0650
Switzerland.....	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	18-14	18-64	18-91
Italy.....	Cents for 1 lire	19-30	4-3050	4-3275	4-46
Vienna.....	Cents for 1 krone	20-26	0-01412	0-014	0-014
Madrid.....	Cents for 1 peseta	19-30	13-62	13-36	13-50
Amsterdam.....	Cents for 1 guilder	40-196	38-21	38-78	38-09
Copenhagen.....	Cents for 1 kroner	18-62	16-64	16-10	16-18
Christiansburg.....	Cents for 1 kroner	26-69	13-55	13-81	14-00
Stockholm.....	Cents for 1 krona	26-69	26-62	26-65	26-64
Athens.....	Cents for 1 drachma	19-30	1-75	1-7500	1-78

BURMA CORPORATION.—During July 22,955 tons of ore were mined; 22,400 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 11,470 tons of lead concentrate; 11,941 tons of lead bearing material were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 4,830 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were 4,802 tons lead and 435,000 ozs silver. Of silver production, 1,500 ozs were recovered from treatment of copper matte. Experimental zinc plant produced 1,320 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 10.1 ozs silver, 7.8 per cent. lead, and 5.5 per cent. zinc. In addition to above, 300 tons copper matte were produced from the treatment of 1,407 tons copper ore and accumulated smelter by-products.

MESEMA (TRANSVAAL).—Progress report for July:—Ore hoisted, 15,222 tons; concentrates produced, 1,033 tons, containing 388 tons copper. Smelter, copper ingots 115 tons.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—July—The production was as follows:—38,270 tons of crude ore were treated, producing 7,060 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63.5 per cent. lead, 28.9 ozs silver per ton, and 7.1 per cent. zinc; also 6,270 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47.6 per cent. zinc, 6.8 per cent. lead, and 8.1 ozs silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO.—Ore treated, 12,029 tons; lead concentrates produced 2,212 tons; zinc concentrates produced 2,354 tons. Estimated net smelter return on lead, \$124,978 (U.S. currency); on zinc, \$45,945; total, \$170,923. Operating expenses, \$71,211; estimated operating profit, \$99,712; capital expenditure, \$17,512.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER.—During July 2,948 tons of ore were produced; 3,125 tons, with approximately 1,000 tons quartz flux added, were smelted, producing 64 tons copper matte, assaying 23 per cent. This figure does not include total clean up. Everything points to increased output during August, improving grade of ore and water supply.

Reports and Notices.

The directors of the Friends' Provident and Century Life Office have appointed Mr D. Ridley Williams assistant agency manager at their head office. Mr Williams was previously joint secretary at the City office.

Resolutions for the voluntary winding-up of the Frank Smith Diamond Estates and Exploration Company, Limited, were passed at the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held at Johannesburg on August 12th.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

GREEK DEBT.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek debt from January 1st to June 30, 1924, compared with those from January 14th to June 30, 1923:—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamp Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts, June, 1924.....	Drachmæ. 8,443,756.35	Drachmæ. 32,447,545.40
Do June, 1923.....	6,111,375.90 (c)	7,324,989.00
Estimated receipts for six months (Law of Control) ..)	1924-14,450,000.00	1924-5,350,000.00
	1923-13,420,685.00	1923-4,969,890.44
Actual receipts for 1924, six months	51,380,059.70 (a)	198,249,231.85
Actual receipts for 1923, six months	42,001,721.40 (d)	113,058,834.70
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1924, six months	+ 36,930,059.70 (b)	+ 192,899,231.85
Do 1923, six months	+ 28,581,036.40 (e)	+ 108,088,944.26

NOTE.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and naxos emery, 49.15 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

Owing to the change in the Greek calendar from Old to New Style, both the estimated and actual receipts in the above statement are for 14 days less in 1923 than in 1924.

As regards receipts subject of the system of plus values, all increases in duties and prices are excluded therefrom in the above table, minimum receipts have, however, been fixed in order to guarantee the plus-values against eventual diminution in the consumption.

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).—In addition to these amounts import duties equivalent to £6,098 in the case of (a) and (b) and to £24,361 in the case of (c), (d) and (e) were paid in gold at the Piræus Customs.

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA GOLD BONDS, 1909.—With reference to the above bonds, the Council of Foreign Bondholders have received advice from the bankers in New York notifying the payment of the August, 1924, instalment of the debt service in accordance with the arrangement of May 25, 1912.

STATE OF BAHIA.—Under the scheme arranged with the State of Bahia, further funds have now been received by the Ethelburga Syndicate sufficient to pay the coupons, dated January 1, 1922, on the 6 per cent. Treasury bills, 1918.

MINES.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LIMITED.—Net profit for the year ending May 31, 1924, £279,339 2s 2d, after providing £156,153 11s 6d for ordinary depreciation, and £142,964 14s 1d special depreciation, and £121,546 6s 8d debenture interest.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.	Interim Date or Final.	Pay- ment.	Method of Payment.	Last Year.	Pre- vious.
Railways.						
Canadian Pacific.....	2 3/4%	Oct. 1	Quarter	Less English tax	2 5/8%	2 5/8%
Southern Punjab.....	5%	Sept. 10	Less	English tax	5%	5%
Waterford and Wexford.....	5%	Sept. 10	Less	English tax	5%	5%
Banks.						
British Linen.....	16%	Sept. 15	Less tax			
National of Egypt.....	8/ p.a.	Sept. 2	Less tax			
Mining.						
Boulder Perseverance.....	13 p.a.	Aug. 30	Tax free			
City and Suburban (in liq.).....	3 1/2 p.a.	Aug. 23	Tax free			
Leeuwport Tin.....	13 p.a.	Aug. 23	Tax free			
Otavi Mines and Railway.....	13 p.a.	Aug. 23	Tax free			
Tea and Rubber.						
Chardwar Tea.....	20%†	..	..	..	50	20
Elia Tea.....	19%†	..	..	..	35	20
Mocha Tea.....	19%†	..	..	..	10	20
Mount Austin (Johore).....	5%	..	Less tax			
Pahang Para.....	5%	..	Less tax			
Other Companies.						
African and Eastern Trade Cor- poration.....	4 1/2%	Oct. 1	Less tax		8	8
Alexandra Hotel.....	5%	..	..	..	5	5
Anchor Line.....	4/ p.a.	Aug. 18	Tax free			
Arnott and Co.....	5%	..	Less tax			
B. Morris and Sons.....	5%	..	Less tax			
Bournemouth Gas and Water (Orig.).....	8 1/2%	Aug. 23	Less tax			
Do "B".....	7%	Aug. 23	Less tax			
Bradford Dyers' Association.....	1/ p.a.	Sept. 1	Subject to tax			
Bridgend Gas.....	5%	..	Less tax			
Bridgewater Estates.....	5%	..	Less tax			
Brompton and Kensington Elec- tric.....	10%	..	Tax free			
Brooks, Thomas.....	10%	..	Tax free			
Burgess Bounders.....	15%	Sept. 2	Quarterly		5	6 1/2
California Petroleum.....	8%	..	Tax free			
Canal and Co.....	10%†	..	Less tax			
Central Hotel.....	3%	..	Less tax			
Clyde Valley Electrical.....	3 1/2%	..	Less tax			
Coatbridge Gas.....	£14/5/	..	Less tax			
Do (£10—four issues).....	£9/19/6	..	Less tax			
Con. Gas, &c., of Baltimore, Com- and Series "A" Pref.	8 1/2 p.a.	Oct. 1	Quarterly			
Crookers, Presl.....	5%	Aug. 27	For 2 years' arrears			
Dalhousie-Talisker Distilleries.....	2 1/2%	..	Tax free		20	
D. C. I. (Dunfermline).....	2 1/2%	..	Less tax			
Dixon and Corbitt, &c.....	5%	..	Less tax		5	5
Eastman Kodak (New Jersey).....	\$1.25 p.a.	..	..	..	5	5
East Worcestershire Water.....	4 1/2%	..	Less tax		9	9
Edinburgh and Dundee Invest- ment.....	4 1/2%	..	Less tax		12 1/2	
Ellie Ward.....	10%	..	Less tax		12 1/2	
Essex Gas Light, Orig.	7%	Aug. 12	Less tax		12 1/2	
Do New Ord.	7%	Aug. 12	Less tax		12 1/2	
Goodlass, Wall, and Co.....	7 1/2%	..	Less tax		15	13
Hall and Woodhouse.....	4%	..	Less tax		15	
Harrods, Limited.....	4%	Sept. 18	Less tax			
Hart and Levy.....	3%	Aug. 14	Less tax			
Hartley and Sugden.....	7%	..	..	..	5	
Horne Bay Water (Ord., 1867) ..	8%	..	..	..		
Do (Ord., 1871, 1899, 1906) ..	3 1/2%	..	..	..	7	
Hyolake and West Kirby Gas.....	5%	..	Less tax		4	4
Humber Graving Dock.....	5%	Sept. 4	Less tax			
International Inv. Trust, Del.	2/ p.a.	..	Tax free		15	15
Isaac Holden and Sons.....	2 1/2%	Sept. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £			
J. and R. Allan.....	2 1/2%	..	Less tax		15	15
John Oakley and Sons.....	2 1/2%	Sept. 1	Less tax		15	15
Johnson, Mooney, and O'Brien.....	18%	..	..	..	15	15
J. P. Restaurants.....	18%	Sept. 1	..	..	15	15
Kelsall and Kemp.....	2 1/2%	..	..	..	15	15
Lancashire Dynamo, Pref.	2 1/2%	..	..	..	15	15
Langham Hotel.....	10%	Aug. 24	Tax free			
Law Land.....	5%	Sept. 1	..	..		
London and Provincial Trust.....	2 1/2%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
London Pavilion.....	2 1/2%	Aug. 13	Less tax			
Mansfield Tramways.....	3%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Merchants' Trust.....	2%	..	..	..		
Milners' Safe.....	5%	..	..	..	7 1/2	10
New Monoton Collieries.....	5%	..	Tax free		10	10
Northampton Gaslight.....	2 1/2%	..	..	..	10	10
Old Albion Brewery.....	4/ p.a.	..	..	..	6 1/2	6
Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.....	1/ p.a.	Aug. 18	..	..	5	
Patent Victoria Stone.....	5%	..	..	..		
Pim Brothers.....	5%	..	..	..		
Plymouth Breweries.....	5%	Aug. 22	Less tax			
Do "C".....	£12%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Do "D" and "E".....	£10%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Do Max.....	£5%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Portsea Island Gas, "A" & "B" ..	£13%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Powell-Duffryn Steam Coal.....	5%	Sept. 9	Tax free			
Preston Gas, "A".....	5%	..	..	..		
Do "B".....	5%	..	..	..		
Pullman Co.....	3 1/2%	..	..	..		
Read Brothers, Pref.	2%	Aug. 15	Quarterly			
Scottish Metropolitan Property.....	5%	Sept. 1	Less tax			
Scottish Northern Invest.	12%	..	..	..	4	
Southend Gas, Orig. & New Ord. ..	6 1/2%	Aug. 30	Less tax			
Do (New "B").....	5 1/2%	Aug. 30	Less tax			
South England Dairies.....	10 1/2%	..	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Swan, Hunter, &c.....	3%	Aug. 30	Tax free			
Swansea Gas.....	5%	..	..	..		
Swedish Match Co. (Series "A" ..	4 1/2 p.a.	Oct. 15	..	..		
Taunton Gas, Cons. "A".....	7%	..	..	..		
Do Yellow.....	7%	..	..	..		
Do New 1897.....	7%	..	..	..		
Third Scottish American Trust.....	4 1/2%	..	..	..		
Todd, Burns, and Co.....	5%	..	..	..		
Tyneside Electrical Dev., Prefd.	3 1/2%	Sept. 1	Less tax		9 1/2	8 1/2
United Carlo Gatti, &c.....	3 1/2%	Aug. 30	Less tax			
Uxbridge, Maldenhead, &c., Gas, & 5% Stan. Stk.	6 1/2%	Sept. 1	Tax free			
Walkers, Parker, and Co.....	6 1/2%	Sept. 30	Less tax			
Waterloo Mills Cake.....	2 1/2 p.a.	..	Tax free		5	
Warneth Spinning.....	2 1/2 p.a.	..	Tax free			
West Surrey Water (1877, 1888, 1901).....	7%	..	..	..		
Do Ord.	10%	..	..	..		
Wilsons and Clyde Coal.....	1/ p.a.	Aug. 30	Less tax			
Winterbottom Book Cloth.....	18%	..	Less tax			
Worthing Gas, Pref.	£5/10/6	..	Less tax			
Do Cons. Ord.	£5/10/6	..	Less tax			
Wrexham, &c., Water (Cons. Stk.	4 1/2%	..	Less tax			
Do Ord.	7%	..	..	..	7	7
W. T. Henley's Telegraph.....	1/ p.a.	Sept. 1	Less tax		24/18	24/18

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distribu- tion.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.					
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.				
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Clarkson's Old (Barnsley)	June 30	5,227	27,019	32,246	3,900	11,375	17½†	11,000	5,971	20,818	15½†
Dalluaine-Talisker Distilleries ..	June 30	13,740	41,319	55,059	4,044	21,393	20½	10,000	19,622	38,235	20½†
Canals and Docks.											
Humber Graving Dock.....	June 30	..	10,000	10,000	..	6,000	4	4,000	..	6,000	4
Gas.											
Leatherhead	June 30	2,324	4,613	6,937	..	4,487	8	..	2,450	4,282	7½
Portsea Island	June 30*	36,186	25,690	61,876	..	18,682	..	..	43,194	29,474	..
Motor and Cycle.											
Karrier Motors	Dec. 31	Dr 350,188	Dr 60,351	Dr 410,539	..	..	..	..	Dr 410,539	..	..
Rubber, &c.											
Mount Austin (Johore)	Mar. 31	43,035	44,394	87,429	..	60,000	10	..	27,429	..	..
Shipping.											
Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.) ..	April 30	133,128	21,261	154,389	13,884	12,500	5½	..	128,005	23,238	5½
Hazelwood Shipping	May 16	2,933	25,763	28,696	..	11,250	5	15,000	2,446	44,556	10
Textiles.											
Isaac Holden	June 30	54,336	53,416	107,752	8,428	32,625	15½	7,762	58,937	150,200	15½
Trust.											
Third Scottish American	July 1	28,053	41,523	69,576	..	28,675	9½	5,000	35,901	35,539	8½
Waterworks.											
East Worcestershire	June 30*	4,665	4,031	8,696	..	1,987	3½	2,000	4,709	3,573	3½
Other Companies.											
African & Eastern Trade Corpn...	Dec. 31	242,393	442,353	684,746	133,799	218,962	8	60,000	271,985	539,774	8
Frederick Braby.....	June 30	40,817	64,343	105,160	10,150	48,366	15	5,000	41,644	62,060	15
Parent Tyre.....	(a) Apr. 30	3,483	96,703	100,186	38,245	..	..	..	61,941	..	..

* Half-year. † Tax free. (a) 16 months.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-CONTINENTAL GUANO WORKS.—The net profit for the year 1923, after providing for all trade charges, directors' fees, taxation, and doubtful debts, amounts to £9,923, to which is added the balance brought forward from the previous year, viz., £5,396, making in all, £15,319. After payment of debenture interest for the year and dividend on the preference shares for interest for the year ended June 30, 1923, totalling £20,679, there is a debit balance of £5,360 to be carried forward to next account. The report adds that a considerable amount having been expended during the year in maintaining the plant and machinery at the London factory in an adequate state of efficiency, no depreciation has been set aside in the accounts for the year. The directors regret that, owing to the prevailing depression in agriculture, the demand for fertilisers for the year 1923 proved very disappointing, and that the business done by this company and its subsidiaries was rendered unremunerative by persistent competition from the Continent, largely through depreciated exchanges, throughout the whole year. These two causes account entirely for the unsatisfactory result of the year's working

(Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended July 31.		Seven Months Ended July 31.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	311,702	574,809	2,541,705	3,848,822
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	101,716	215,489	1,097,482	1,761,142
C. Meat	94,156	94,614	717,259	876,004
D. Animals living, for food	11,736	14,841	80,651	163,015
E. Of and F. Other food and drink	2,042,925	3,106,661	15,176,338	19,399,669
G. Tobacco	569,138	640,222	3,636,208	4,003,557
Total, Class I.	5,131,373	4,646,416	23,019,603	29,961,279
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	8,841,301	6,363,621	69,256,731	44,366,613
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	102,721	138,828	1,019,893	1,236,618
C. Iron ore and scrap	37,075	40,589	323,118	290,198
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	118,806	109,596	1,439,981	750,086
E. Wood and timber	40,970	64,818	244,995	370,982
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	92,971	105,012	1,039,997	1,068,313
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	789,229	558,055	6,034,341	5,665,208
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	10,782	3,443	71,859	86,265
I. Other textile materials	59,596	33,611	351,424	280,373
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	134,554	479,302	3,430,702	3,859,076
K. Hides and skins, undressed	39,529	110,591	1,563,465	1,588,012
L. Paper-making materials	73,748	146,795	932,850	1,070,875
M. Rubber	13,455	7,353	80,964	68,245
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	122,935	125,190	2,782,218	2,509,610
Total, Class II.	10,835,672	8,286,187	78,542,238	64,111,469
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	902,896	470,269	4,725,341	3,790,481
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	1,043,592	1,219,710	6,677,451	7,423,336
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,820,025	6,690,764	42,869,801	45,720,714
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,175,789	1,300,446	8,454,731	9,368,697
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	601,034	761,773	4,082,720	4,738,132
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	587,087	779,322	4,733,719	5,549,978
G. Machinery	2,969,568	4,175,650	26,993,377	25,488,739
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	127,526	255,900	927,990	1,242,522
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures ..	14,168,254	17,753,345	103,573,122	116,507,922
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	5,710,176	7,532,465	36,328,614	39,725,969
K. Silk and silk manufactures	172,478	238,529	1,076,428	1,275,299
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,795,707	2,688,410	13,685,810	15,696,688
M. Apparel	2,343,364	2,899,463	14,132,987	16,568,155
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours ..	1,739,336	2,207,457	14,856,315	15,196,770
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured ..	517,388	822,511	3,968,733	5,324,101
P. Leather and manufactures thereof ..	449,352	580,237	3,258,927	3,967,733
Q. Paper and cardboard	579,716	899,512	4,793,413	5,227,021
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,376,187	2,755,131	13,313,912	14,194,536
S. Rubber manufactures	414,746	590,612	3,112,445	3,501,181
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,239,263	2,767,317	16,796,945	18,123,149
Total, Class III.	47,433,844	57,171,659	334,380,761	358,487,487
IV.—Animals, not for food	111,943	266,915	613,407	1,215,121
V.—Parcel Post	691,378	912,112	5,626,868	5,972,739
Total	59,503,860	71,283,289	442,182,877	459,749,967

Our Middleboro' correspondent's report dated August 14, 1924, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The weakness in the pig-iron market is further accentuated by the local holidays. There will be no market here next week. Prices, although nominally unchanged, at 85s per ton for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. and 93s per ton for East Coast hematite mixed numbers, can be shaded for prompt business, as stocks are accumulating and makers are anxious to sell. Manufactured iron and steel: Practically all the local works will be closed next week, and advantage will be taken of the stoppage to do necessary repairs. Prices are unchanged as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: What little business is doing is confined

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Although the holidays are practically over, buying in the iron and steel market is as quiet as previously, and few of the furnaces have contracts on their books. Some of them are consuming a certain proportion of their output in their mills and forges, and the balance is accumulating. It is feared, therefore, that output will have to be curtailed. The steel workers of the three largest steel firms in the district have arranged to strike at the end of the week, and that will mean the stoppage of practically the whole of the plants. The dispute relates to wages, and 600 men will be affected. The steel makers' association last week reduced their quotations of hard basic billets to 15s per ton, in order to bring them level with those of a firm which recently succeeded. Depression is acute in wrought iron, and the demand for hoops, steel strip, wire and wire rods, is now poor after a lengthy spell of activity in the last-named. More encouraging reports are heard of the higher qualities of steel. The engineering branches are ordering rather liberally of tools and steel used in the shops, and good business is being done in motor steels, motor parts and accessories, and railway steel. Exports of certain classes of steel are looking up. Cheap Continental billets, tin-plate bars, and similar material, are being offered in our markets, and considerable quantities have been bought. The demand for steel sheets for export is being maintained at a low level. Last month this country exported 339,748 tons of iron, steel, and their manufactures, and imported 201,000 tons of such material. These figures are rather higher than for June, in which month trade was interrupted by the Whitsun holidays. Cutlery and plate are looking up somewhat. Competition is keen in all classes of Sheffield products. The fuel market is weak in all sections, both home and export. Normal quotations are not much lower, but rates are being cut to induce orders. Quotations per ton at pits are:—Best Yorkshire hard, 21s to 22s; Derbyshire ditto, 20s to 21s; Blythesshire ditto, 21s 6d; Durhams, 24s; best branch, 32s; best Silkstone, 26s; rough slacks, 12s to 15s; smalls, 7s to 8s.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; best drys, 26s to 27s; Black Veins, 26s to 27s; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s 6d to 15s 6d; coking smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; anthracite Big Vein, large, 50s to 52s 6d; machine-made cobbles, 57s 6d to 60s; French nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; stove nuts, 52s 6d to 57s 6d; rubble culm, 13s 9d to 14s; coke for export, 52s 6d to 55s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s; pitwood, ex ship, 30s to 31s.

In the tinplate trade the position is unchanged, and this week the employers and workmen have satisfactorily adjusted the claims which the workmen have submitted to the annual meeting of the Conciliation Board. It has now been decided to create a joint Standing Committee, which in future will deal with disputes as they arise, and not defer them for consideration at the annual meetings of the General Industrial Council.

Tin market developed a weaker tone, and prices declined on selling pressure and lower cable advices from the East, though offerings were fairly well absorbed. Standard cash sold at £256 10s to £249 15s, and three months £256 10s to £250 10s to £253 10s to £250 10s. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £255 c.i.f. The tendency at Thursday's market was firmer, with sales on a fairly liberal scale. Standard cash dealt in at £254 to £254 10s to £254, and three months £254 to £255 to £254 10s to £255, while finally registered at £254 15s. Again firmer at the close. Standard cash being dealt in at £256 10s, and three months £257 10s to £256 5s to £257. English ingots quoted at £257 10s to £258. Copper market slightly irregular, but barely steady on balance, and a good turnover resulted, especially for forward positions. Standard cash sold at £64 to £63 11s 3d, to £63 12s 6d, and three months £64 17s 6d to £65 2s 6d, to £64 12s 6d, and £64 13s 6d. On Thursday rates moved in an upward direction, with liberal dealings. Standard cash sold at £63 18s 6d, and three months £64 17s 6d to £65 to £64 17s 6d. Closed rather easier. Standard cash sold at £63 17s 6d, and three months £64 17s 6d to £65 to £64 17s 6d. Electros quoted at £68 5s to £68 15s, best selected £66 10s to £67 15s, strong sheets £64, wire bars £68 15s per ton. Lead firmer, and quoted at £33 to £32 5s as to position. Spelter dearer at £32 13s 6d to £32 10s, according to position. Aluminium: home quoted at £125 export £130. Antimony: English regulus £44 10s to £47 per ton.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.			Low Mid.			Good Mid.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.			
		d	a	d	d	a	d		d	a	d	d	a	d	
		Good	Ord.	Low	Mid.	Good	Mid.	Watr.	Good	Ord.	Low	Good	Ord.	Low	
American		d							d			d			
Brazilian :															
Pernam, Macao, &c.....	Mid	1473	1598	1738	1918	2018	1382	1432	1482	1220	1283	1268	1257	1266	
Farabayo, Rio Grande, &c.			M	F	G	F	M	F	F	G	M	F	F	G	
Ceara, &c.....			1608	1758	1858				1382	1432		1140	1290		
Bahia, &c.....			1608	1758	1858				1382	1432		1140	1290		
Sakallarids			1608	1758	1858				1382	1432		1140	1290		
Brown.....			1633	1683	1733				1357	1407		1130	1270		
Egyptian			F	r.	G	b	r	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	
Upper			2105	2389	2445	2513	2675	2731	1560	1610	1650	1275	1350	1410	
Sakallarids			2145	2520	2580	2695	2810	2870	1510	1585	1725	1505	1585	1665	
Brown.....			2105	2389	2445	2513	2675	2731	1560	1610	1675	1325	1450	1595	
Fecarian :			M	F	F	G	F	G	M	F	F	G	M	F	
Rough.....				2350	2350	2400				1850			1275	1440	
Moderately Rough.....				1900	2000	2100				1425	1575		1250	1485	
Smooth			1783	1848	1958	1983	2008	2007	1482	1582		1253	1498	1573	
Tangals			1783	1848	1908	1983	2083	2047	1482	1582		1275	1452	1550	
Mittals				2050	2200	2300	2400			1500	1600		1150	1560	
West Indian, &c.....					1775	1825	1875			1590	1650		1275	1385	
Do San Island.....				2400	2500	2600	2650			1900	2000		2300	2500	
African, East, &c.....	1470	1570	1790	1880	1980	2080	1125	1275	1475	1075	1250	1450	1125	1450	
Do West			1708	1718	1728	1808	1888	1388	1393	1482		1153	1293	1483	
East Indian :			G	F	F	G	F	G	F	F	G	F	G	F	
Machine Ginned Surtee				1580	1620	1660				1300			1120	1190	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....				1275	1315	1355	1395	1435	1080	1120	1090	960	1010	1090	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....			1130	1170	1220	1270	1320	1370	900	950	1000	900	950	1000	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....			1130	1180	1230	1280	1330	1380	910	960	1000	970	1020	1100	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....				1090	1255	1305	1355			935	1035		995	1075	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....			1130	1180	1230	1280	1330		860	910	1010	920	970	1060	
Machine Ginned Surtee.....										1115			1080		
Machine Ginned Surtee.....			1095	1135	1175	1215	1255	1295							

Business in the market continues to be hampered by the wide fluctuations in raw cotton rates. There is a lack of confidence on the part of buyers, and no disposition to enter into commitments of importance. In cloth the general inquiry has continued extensive, and in small lots a fair amount of trade has been done. Operations for India have been somewhat checked by the fall in the value of the rupee. Rather more demand has been mentioned for China in bleaching descriptions and fancies. Useful lines have been put through for Egypt, the Near East, and South America, and towards the close of the week fancies have attracted increased attention for the Continent. Quotations in American yarns continue very irregular, and buying has been patchy. A fair inquiry has come through in yarns for export purposes, particularly for India. Rates in Egyptian spinnings have been well held, with a steady demand.

	Price, Aug. 14, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Aug. 7.	Price, July 30.	Price, July 24.	Price, July 17.	Price, July 10.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American per lb	17 08	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian per lb	26 15	25 45	26 15	25 15	23 75	23 45
Yarns—32's twist per lb	25 25	25 15	26 15	26 15	25	25
— 40's wafes per lb	26 15	26 15	27 15	28 15	25 15	26
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	36 15	36 15	37	36	34 15	35
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16 32's and 50's 36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19 32's and 40's 38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16 10 lbs. 39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 15 by 15 8 1/2 lbs.	a d c 1 21 16 19 19	d 36 40 21 21 21 21	d 637 942 01 02 620 620	d 9 41 21 01 18 18	d a 30 60 18 18	d 36 35 20 20 9 9

	Price, Aug. 14, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	d	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	17'08	15'43	12'80	8'81	26'70	18'89
— Egyptian	d	d	d	d	d	d
— 32's twist	26'15	16'30	17'75	16'00	69'00	29'50
— 40's twist	25'51	21	19	168	54	44
— 50's twist (Egyptian)	35	29	28	29	96	61
32 in. Printers, 118 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	30	31	31	60	60
36 in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	40	34	30	31	29	68
38 in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	21	18	3	17	9	35
	19	16	16	16	40	30

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 16	-	-	ss.	"FRANCE."
August 30	-	-	ss.	"PARIS."
September 6	-	-	ss.	"FRANCE."
September 13	-	-	ss.	"LAFAYETTE."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent, or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.

22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

'Phone : Regent 3270.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Some very good business has been put through during the week in both wool and tops, though the bulk has been in wool in the bale and matchings. The raw material market has received another fillip, and, with greatly improved conditions in America, there is a growing feeling that prices will continue to advance. The Australian selling season is expected to open next month with values on a high level, and the strong position of wool is undoubtedly influencing buyers in looking to their future requirements. Practically all top quotations have been advanced this week, and in some cases top-makers are by no means anxious to sell. A general market quotation for warp 64's is now 74d, super 60's are quoted at 66d, 56's average at 46d, 46's carded at 27½d, and 40's prepared at 26½d. Spinners appear to be doing a little better than for many months past, especially in the botany section, and hopes are entertained of a big forward movement if a satisfactory settlement is effected of the Continental difficulties. In the meantime, prices remain very irregular, but there are indications that most of the large firms are taking a firmer stand, and extreme price-cutting is not being indulged in to the extent that was common a few weeks ago. There is not much change in the piece-goods trade. Home demand shows some improvement, though it is very difficult to induce wholesale fabric buyers to pay prices commensurate with the cost of production. The overseas markets are quiet, but some business is being put through for the Colonies, and also for the Far East. Home-grown wools are very firmly held, but prices are still above the ideas of Bradford users. The tone of the market generally shows a distinct improvement.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A Melbourne cable received in the city last week made the startling announcement that a merino ram had been sold for 5,000 guineas, which easily makes a record. The previous record price was 4,000 guineas paid for a ram sold two or three years ago to South Africa. At the time this was regarded as a colossal figure. That anyone is prepared to pay 5,000 guineas serves to show the great faith that sheep men have in the future of the merino. Australian and South African pastoralists are to be commended for being very much alive to the needs of the times, and the investment of such a large amount of money in one sheep testifies to a recognition of the influence of good sires. When the first merino ram bred by the late Honourable James Gibson, of Bellevue, Tasmania, sold for 1,000 guineas, it was looked upon as a great feat, but since that notable event hundreds of stud sheep have been sold for over that amount, and the 5,000 guineas marks another step forward in the great pastoral industry of the Commonwealth. We hope shortly to learn that the ram was secured for shipment to South Africa. The wool growing industry throughout the Union of South Africa has taken on a new lease of life. Pastoralists are keen to acquire good stock, in order to produce sound, commercial wool, and we know no better means of achieving this than using the best stud stock, and protecting the sheep properties against the depredations of the jackal. In localities for which the merino is suitable, to-day high values for wool, which bid fair to continue a considerable time, are the greatest incentive possible towards the production of good fine wool.

A cable received last Tuesday from the Sydney office of Messrs Dalgety and Co., Limited, states during the year ended June 30th a clip of 1,779,738 bales was produced in Australia, this being a decrease of 138,214 bales compared with last season. The production of New Zealand was 588,673 bales, showing an increase of 5,233 bales. These figures indicate that the production of Australia last season was greater than had been generally expected. The drought was responsible for the lessened production, although even those in the best position to make an estimate were anticipating that the decrease would be 250,000 bales. The small increase from New Zealand is very significant. One wonders if this is due to increased killings on the part of freezing establishments, or the marketing of clips which many pastoralists had held over on account of the low prices prevailing during the two previous seasons. In any case, the sheep men of the Dominion are maintaining their flocks, and no doubt Australian pastoralists are doing their utmost, at least as far as natural conditions will allow them in this direction. It certainly is a startling statement, and greatly affects London sales, to be told that the actual sales in Australia last season amounted to 1,608,141 bales, which only left 81,647 bales to be shipped to London on growers' account. In New Zealand the actual sales were 503,896 bales, which means that 84,777 bales were sent to Coleman Street.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OLSEEDS.

Markets have been of an uncertain character, and in this fully reflect the crop outlook. Raw linseed oil has suffered a relapse, following lower seed prices and lack of substantial demand, having fallen to about £40 per ton naked ex-Hull mill for prompt delivery, with a discount for August and later positions. Last week America was a buyer to some extent for shipment in bulk from Hull to New York, but the demand from this direction is spasmodic, and only develops when values are markedly in buyers' favour. Cotton oils are in poor demand, and are offered at reduced prices. Crude Egyptian quoting £42, and technical refined £44, naked ex Hull mill.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Domestic cattle hides were distinctly firmer at the resumption of the auctions here in Bermondsey after the August holidays, most

weights of ox and heifer advancing from 4d to 4½d per lb, and selling at prices ranging from 6d per lb for light seconds to 9½d for best heavies. Cows were unchanged, while bulls made from 4d to 4½d per lb more money. Kip skins appreciated in value, as was also the case with calf, the advances in the latter ranging from 4d to 4½d per lb. Pelts made from 5s 6d to 9s, and lambs from 3s 10d to 11s 3d per skin. In the foreign hide market the firm tone is responsible for the limitation of inquiry to parcels to cover actual needs so far as the home trade is concerned, although a fair amount of business has been done at origin for United States and Continental tanners. Sales of frigorifics have been mainly confined to the United States, with considerable quantities of Saladeros taken on Continental account. Dry River Plates are very firm, and it is reported that some descriptions show as much as 3d per lb advance on the week. Other classes of foreign hides are firm in price, with a fair amount of business passing.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 15.

SUGAR.—Business continued to move with fair freedom, both on home and export account, while recent liberal absorption by the former leaves available supplies of the finer grocery sugars in a very narrow compass. Java descriptions are arriving at a very steady pace with a good many parcels of same still being lifted by exporters. British refined produce enjoyed a good demand, with an all round advance of 6d per cwt registered on Messrs Tate and Lyle's. Cubes now quoted 43s 3d to 44s 3d, as to quality: crushed, 41s 9d; nibs, 44s 3d; granulated, 41s 1½d; fine, also coarse grain, 38s 10½d; No. 1, 38s 7½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 38s 4½d; ditto, forward to September, 38s 3d; yellow crystals, spot, 35s 10½d; castor, finest, 42s 7½d; A, 42s 1½d; B, 40s 6d; pulverised, 41s 3d. A steady clearance was recorded in foreign kinds. White Java, spot, 35s 3d; ditto, due steamer, 22s 9d; June-July, 21s 9d; July-August, 21s, c.f. and i., London. American granulated, spot, 37s 3d; August, 24s 1½d, c.f. and i., London. Czech granulated, spot, 37s; November-December, 20s 6d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Meyer granulated, November-December, 20s 7½d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, spot, 37s; J, November-December, 20s 3d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. India still figures largely as a buyer, and B.R.B. crystals, November-December, sold, 21s 3d, c. and f. terms, Bombay. White Java, October-December, quoted 22s; January-March, 22s 4½d, c. and f., Calcutta. Raw refining kinds steady, with business still doing in parcels of Cuban early shipment at 18s, c.f. and i., Clyde. White terminal market manifested some irregularity in the new crop positions while attended by weakness. Fair transactions include August, 23s 1½d to 23s 3d and 23s; December, 20s 4½d to 19s 10½d, and 20s 4½d; March, 20s 6d, 20s, and 20s 4½d cwt. Cuban receipts last week, 60,698 tons, against 17,005 same time last year; exports, 95,571 tons, against 37,509; stocks, 535,929 tons, against 478,832.

Centrals, 1, against 1. U.K. consumption for July, 158,000 tons against 120,300 last year.

COFFEE.—The market remains very firm for all the finer qualities, which continue in demand, while supplies are on a small scale. Costa Rica, fine, bold blue, sold, 170s 6d to 171s. Kenya, greyish, 135s.

COCOA.—Spot market steady, but business proceeded quietly. Accra, F/F grade, August-October, 30s; October-December, 34s, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Auctions were resumed this week, and 22,000 packages Indian elicited active and well-distributed competition at full to higher prices. 28,150 packages Ceylon also offered were readily disposed at mostly 4d to 1d per lb advance. 9,000 packages Java and Sumatra were brought to auction, and with an active demand for all descriptions, a ready clearance was effected at mostly 4d to 1d per lb advance. Pekoe, sold, 1s 0½d to 1s 4½d; broken ditto, 10½d to 1s 6d; pekoe souchong, 1s 2½d to 1s 4d; orange, 1s 4½d to 1s 7½d; broken orange, 1s 0½d to 1s 10½d, with fine flowery ditto from Sumatra up to 2s 1d lb in bond.

RICE.—There is no improvement to note in the market for Eastern grain, business at the moment being at a standstill, while hampered by fluctuating rate of rupee exchange. Two stars Rangoon, spot, 17s. Italian and Spanish steady, but rather quiet at recent figures. Japanese peas, spot, 20s cwt.

SPICE.—Pepper in moderate request, and market steady. Black Singapore, August-October, L.S. quality, quoted 43d; Lampong, October-December, sold, 43½d; Muntok, August-October, 88d; October-December, 88d. Zanzibar cloves, October-December, 99d. Fair flake tapioca, spot, 3½d for Singapore, and fine Bendore 4½d lb. Singapore, August, to Havre, sold, 29s 3d; September, sellers, 29s; Penang seed, August-September, 24s 6d. Sago flour flat. June-August, sellers, 1s 3d; August-September, 1s; September-November, 14s 10½d. Desiccated coconut, fine cut, spot, 40s 6d; medium, 40s; halves, September-October, 40s 6d; October-November, 40s 9d cwt.

JUTE. continues rather unsettled, and prices lower on increased selling pressure, closing dearer. Firsts, August, Continent, sold, £31 to £32 5s; August-September, £30 10s to £30 7s 6d and £31 15s; September-October, £30 to £31 5s; November-December, £29 15s to £32 per ton. Hessians firm. 10-oz, spot, also afloat, sold, 38s 3d per 100 yards. Twills firm at recent rates.

HEMP.—Market for Manila very firm on paucity of selling orders, but demand was decidedly quieter after recent marked activity. J grade, August-October, £43 5s; K, £42; L, £41 10s; M, £39 per ton. Mexican and African sisal unaltered.

SHELLAC steady. T.N., spot, 280s; October, 270s per cwt. **GAMBIER** strong, and block August, sold, 63s per cwt, c.f. & i., U.K. **COPRA.**—More reservedly offered and market firmer. F.M.S., Straits, June-August to Rotterdam, sold £30 7s 6d; July-September

£30 2s 6d; August-October, £29 18s 9d to £30; September-November, £29 13s 9d to £29 15s. Dutch E.I., June-August, quoted £30 5s; August-October, £29 17s 6d. Ceylon, afloat, £31 10s. South Sea Islands F.M.S., afloat, £29 5s. Cebu, August-September, £29 12s 6d; F.M. Straits, August-September, Marseilles, £29 2s 6d; kiln-dried South Sea ditto, £28 17s 6d. Palm kernels steadier, June-August and August-October, Liverpool, sold £20 17s 6d ton.

RUBBER.—Again received rather scanty support, and prices further eased on sellers being more in evidence. Standard Plantation crepe and sheet, spot, also August, sold 1s 2d to 1s 4d and 1s 1d; September, 1s 1½d to 1s 1d; October-December, 1s 1½d to 1s 1½d and 1s 1½d; January-March, 1s 1½d. To New York, standard European estate sheet, September-October, sold 1s 1½d per lb c.f. and i. terms. Wild sorts dull.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Sellers adhere to steady, asking prices, but apart from some inquiry for hen albumen, the market otherwise is very quiet.

FRUIT (Dried).—There was no new feature to note in this market, business being confined to very moderate limits, at prices showing little or no alteration. Stocks of Smyrna sultanas are very small, and consist of the lower grades, fine fruit being unobtainable from first hands. Of currants: Pyrgos, ½ bags, quoted 41s; Patras, 46s to 50s; Gulph, 52s; Panarit, 56s; Vostizza, 60s to 65s; Australian, new, ½ cases, fair, 43s to 45s; good, 55s. Raisins: Cape, new, 44s; ditto fine, 50s. Sultanas: Greek, ½ cases, 48s; Smyrna, boxes, 50s to

(Continued on page 296.)

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed : : : Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up : : : Y52,500,000
Reserve : : : Y13,380,000

Head Office - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office 25 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2

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

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER.		PROVISIONS.		SPICES—Pepper, lb.	
COCOA—Duty, British grown	9 4d foreign 14cwt. s d	Alum, fine E.L. p. cwt 108	8 12s 8	Para, fine hard spot 1 12	8 0	Butter—per cwt.	nom	Muntok, fair White	8 84 0
Trinidad, per cwt.	48 0 62 8	Cape, good to fine.	40 8 42 6	Plantation crepe	1 1 0 0	Irish creamery	nom	Black Singapore	8 84 0
Grenada	38 0 56 8	Balsam Peru . per lb	6 6 6 9			Do factory	nom	White Blam	8 84 0
Ceylon, plantation	75 0 100 0	Sapindi	1 4 1 6			Dutch	nom	Cinnamon—1st sort	1 1 0 0
Guaymas	65 8 85 0	Japan, refined	2 11 3 0			Australian	280 0 284 0	Do 2nd	1 04 0 0
Bahia, finest	45 8 45 8	Oardamona, Ceylon	4 8 8 8			Argentine	180 0 218 0	Do 3rd	0 114 0 0
COFFEE—British grown		Canthrid, China per	8 8 8 8			Dutch	276 0 288 0	Ossia, 1st sort	0 114 0 0
Do good to fine	180 0 185 8	Canthrid, China per	8 8 8 8			New Zealand	282 0 288 0	Do 2nd	0 114 0 0
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	9 0 120 0	Gunbam, Sum. wt 6/0 19/8	6 0 10 8			Danish	216 0 228 0	Gloves—Zanzibar	5 2 1 14
Good to fine	133 0 150 8	Olibanum, drops	8 0 10 8			Bacon, wngd.—Irish	112 0 116 0	Madagascar	1 3 1 8
ord. to mid	90 0 112 8	fair to good	8 0 10 8			Canadian	100 0 108 0	Ginger—per cwt.	4 8 0 0
Mid to fine	115 0 123 8	Ipecacuanha	8 0 0 0			American	100 0 104 0	Cochin, small rough	8 0 0 0
Columbian, ordinary	85 0 90 8	Jalap.	8 0 0 0			Hams—Irish	nom	Do wormy	0 0 0 0
Do ord. to low and 85	115 0 116 8	Musk pod, China	90 0 95 8			American	82 0 112 0	Japan	0 0 0 0
Do mid to fine	117 0 146 8	Oil, Camia	7 0 7 2			Lard—Irish bladders	78 0 85 0	Jamaica, ord. to good	0 120 0
CHEMICALS.		Antised	2 4 0 0			American boxes, 50lb	78 0 85 0	Mace	2 6 0 0
Acid, citric	per lb 1 42 1 54	Peppermint, Wey	1 4 0 0			Perk—per lb	4 7 0 0	Nutmegs, 65's	2 6 0 0
Sulphur	8 24 8 64	Rubbr, China, fr to tn	3 3 3 6			N.Z., high point, fair	37 0	110's and 60's	2 8 2 4
Oranla, nes	8 6 8 64					Aug-Oct.		Oilseed—per cwt.	46 0 80 0
Tartaric, English	1 1 1 1					Native first marks	31/15/3 0/00	TALLOW—per cwt.	46 0 0 0
Foreign	1 04 1 13					Aug-Sept	31/15/3 0/00	Good mutton	46 0 0 0
Alum lump, per bond 11/10	12/10 12/10					Eng, Cheddars	86 0 104 8	Beef	46 0 0 0
Ammonia, carb. ton 37	14/0 14/0					Oshshire	81 0 106 8	E.I. Flake, fair, spot	9 38 4 8
Muriate, White, ton 25	15 15					Canadian	82 0 140 0	Medium Pearl	40 0 43 8
Sulphate	41s 16 8					Irish	16 0 17 0	Seed	34 0 40 8
Arsenic, lump, per ton 80	85 8					FLLOUR—280 lb		TEA—duty 1/3-1/4 British.	
Powder	8 8 8					Eng strains ex mill 45 6 0 0		Foreign 1st per lb	
Ames, pot., per cwt 78	87 8					Rangoon No. 2	16 6 0 0	ROBE—per cwt. a.l.f.	
Pearl do	nom					Broken 1st	13 6 0 0	Bangkok No. 2	16 6 0 0
Bleaching pwr. p. ton 9/0 9/10						Do 2nd	13 6 0 0	MOBIN—per ton	
Borax, gran.	25 0 25 0					Do 3rd	13 6 0 0	American	13/12 6 12/10 8
Do powder	25 0 25 0					Do 4th	13 6 0 0	French	15/0 17/0 8
75% powder	83 8 84 0					Do 5th	13 6 0 0	SAGO—Pearl, per cwt 26 6 92 0	
Oilseed	per lb 4 2 4 0					Do 6th	13 6 0 0	SHELLAC—per cwt	
India, dry	per cwt 1 8 1 1					Do 7th	13 6 0 0	Orange, first marks 219 4 418 8	
Muriate of Soda, p. ton 12/12 15 14/8						Do 8th	13 6 0 0	Second, fair to fine 250 8 255 8	
French						Do 9th	13 6 0 0	TN Orange	275 6 288 0
Chlorate, nes	1 0 1 1					Do 10th	13 6 0 0	Garnet, Lac. AO	260 0 265 8
Do Foreign	1 0 1 1					Do 11th	13 6 0 0	Butter—Pure	336 8 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 12th	13 6 0 0	Blocky (TN)	27 8 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 13th	13 6 0 0	SILK—per lb	
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 14th	13 6 0 0	China—Blue Elephant 23 0 8 8	
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 15th	13 6 0 0	Do	35 8 28 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 16th	13 6 0 0	Do	12 8 12 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 17th	13 6 0 0	Do	27 6 39 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 18th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 19th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 20th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 21st	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 22nd	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 23rd	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 24th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 25th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 26th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 27th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 28th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 29th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 30th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 31st	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 32nd	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 33rd	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 34th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 35th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 36th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 37th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 38th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 39th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 40th	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 41st	13 6 0 0	Do	29 0 30 0 8
Sulphate	per ton 15 17 6					Do 42nd	13 6 0 0	Do	29

(Continued from page 295.)

3s. fine, 60s to 62s; Australian, 4 cases, 50s to 54s. Figs: Genuine natural in bags, 36s; fine, 38s. Dates quietly steady. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots, 72s to 76s; choice, 85s; extra ditto, 90s. Peaches, choice, 45s; extra ditto, 50s; new crop, fancy, 65s. Plums, Bosnian, 4 cases, 72/77, quoted 33s; Oregon, 30/40, 65s; 35/45, 50s; 40/50, 46s per cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—Sardines steady, while in moderate support. Portuguese 1/2 flat, quoted 3s 3d to 3s 6d; clubs, 3s 6d to 4s; 12 oz. 5s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 9s 6d to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Lobster largely nominal in absence of supplies. Crayfish quoted 72s. Salmon remains firm, and supplies on a limited scale. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, quoted 53s; ditto, tall, 46s to 46s 6d; 1 lb tall pink, 26s to 26s 6d; cases of 96 1/2 lbs, 27s to 29s per case. Canned fruits very firm, excepting pines, which show a slightly easier tendency. Singapore pines, 48 1/2 s, best quality, 5s 9d to 6s; cubes, 24 2 1/2 s, 10s 9d to 11s 6d; slices, 48 1 1/2 s, 5s 6d to 5s 9d. Californian apricots, 2 1/2 s, 8s 3d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1 1/2 s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2 1/2 s, 14s to 16s. Peaches, 2 1/2 s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; 1 1/2 s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad, 2 1/2 s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1 1/2 s, 10s 3d per dozen tins. Canned meats are in fair request at full rates.

OILS.—Linseed irregular, but steady on balance, with a fair demand. Spot, net, naked, 41s 6d; August, 40s 4 1/2 d; September-December, 40s 4 1/2 d; January-April, 39s 1 1/2 d. Rape steady. Crude, spot, 47s 6d; refined, 50s 6d. Castor-oil steady. First pressure, spot, quoted 71s; second pressure, 69s; and pharmaceutical, 76s per cwt. Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton firm. Crude Egyptian, spot, 44s; Bombay, 41s 6d; common edible, 49s; deodorised, 51s. Chinawood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 76s; October-November, 72s 6d. Coconut firm. Ceylon, spot, 51s; August-September, 47s 3d; Cochon, ditto, nominally 58s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 44s; bulk, 39s 9d. Cod quiet. English, spot, 33s 6d to 34s 6d. Groundnuts firm. English, crushed, naked, spot, 48s; deodorised, barrels, 56s. Turpentine irregular, and demand quiet. American, spot, 68s; July-

December, 69s 6d; January-April, 71s 6d. Rosin steady for pale grades, but common and medium quiet. American, grade B, 13s 7 1/2 d; G, 14s 3d; WG, 17s; WW, 21s 6d per cwt. French WW, 17s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market quiet, and prices barely steady. Calcutta, afloat, £22 5s; July-August, £22 5s; August-September, £22 2s 6d. Plate, afloat, sold, £20 5s; July-August, £20 5s; August-September, £20 5s; and January-February, £18 15s. Rape seed easier. Toria, July-August, £21 5s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £21. Cottonseed dull and easier. Egyptian, new, October, £12 12s 6d; November-January, £12 12s 6d. Sakellaridis, October, at £11 17s 6d. Bombay, August-September, £10 12s 6d. Gingly seed quieter. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £26 10s. Groundnuts dull and easier. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £25 17s 6d; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., ditto, £25 2s 6d; East African, August-September, £25 15s. Soya beans quiet. Manchurian, afloat, £13 2s 6d; October-November, £12 12s 6d. Castor seed easier. Bombay, August-September, £29 7s 6d; Cawnpore, ditto, £29 5s per ton.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—Aug. 14.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.			
	s	d	q
Beasts—Herefords	7	0	8
Shorthorns	7	4	7
Devons	nominal		
Norfolks	nominal		
Scottish	7	0	7
Irish	7	0	7
Fat Cows	..	..	..
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	..	..	..
Canadian	nominal		
Sheep—Downs (clipped)	10	8	10
Wools	nominal		
Ewes	nominal		
Crossbred	..	..	..
Scottish	..	..	..
Lamb—Downs	13	0	15

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—Aug. 14.

Per Cwt.			
	s	d	q
English—Epicures	4	6	0
Sharps Express	5	6	0
Belipse	5	6	0
Majestic	6	0	0

BASS, RATCLIFF & GRETTON, LIMITED**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS**

PRESENTED TO THE ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS

at the **THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,**

HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE COMPANY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

On Monday, the 11th August, 1924, at 12.30 o'clock.

DIRECTORS.

COL. JOHN GRETTON, M.P., *Chairman.*
 COL. ROBERT F. RATCLIFF.
 MAJOR H. F. GRETTON.
 P. W. RATCLIFF.
 GERARD A. CLAY.
 JOHN LAMBRICK.
 CLAUDE N. BURT.
 MAJOR THE HON. EVAN BAILLIE.

The Directors submit to the Shareholders the Balance Sheet of the 30th June, 1924, and Profit and Loss Account for the year ending on that date showing a Profit, before charging Interest on Debenture Stock of £543,857 18s 11d, which, with £63,570 19s 1d, brought forward from the previous year, makes a total of £607,428 18s 0d. Of this amount £210,000 has been appropriated to the payment of Interest on Debenture Stock, Dividends on Preference Stock and an Interim Dividend of 3 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares, leaving a balance of £397,428 18s 0d. Out of this it is proposed to declare on the Ordinary Shares a further Dividend of 8 per cent. making 11 per cent. for the year and a Bonus Dividend of 2 per cent. (together £204,000) both free of Income Tax, payable on the 25th August, 1924, to place £100,000 to the Reserve Fund (which will then amount to £950,000), and to carry forward to the next account the balance of £93,428 18s 0d.

The Directors consider that they have made sufficient provision for contingencies which may be reasonably foreseen.

The retiring Directors are Col. ROBERT F. RATCLIFF, Major H. F. GRETTON, and Major The Hon. EVAN BAILLIE, who offer themselves for re-election.

The retiring Auditors, Messrs. COOPER BROTHERS & Co., are eligible and offer themselves for re-appointment. BURTON-ON-TRENT, 30th July, 1924.

By order of the Board,
 D. BURRELL, Secretary.

Third impression with additional Chapter and Statistics

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PRICES

with special reference to the History of the Nineteenth Century.

By WALTER T. LAYTON, M.A. 7/6 net.

The Economic Review—"His excellent and clear little book ought to be in the hands of every student of social conditions."

The Practical Engineer—"This book should be valuable to the student of monetary values and prices, especially of the nineteenth century."

MACMILLAN & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.2.

If the bonuses just declared continue uninterruptedly an assurance for £1,000 payable at the end of 25 years (or at death), which costs about £40 a year, will produce £1,500 at the end of the term.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

19, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

NO SHAREHOLDERS. NO COMMISSION

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1924.

No. 4,226.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	297	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		Economics—National and	
The Results of the Conference	299	International	319
The Nation's Health.....	300	Soviet Economics	319
The Direction of Overseas Trade.....	301	Pioneers of Steam at Sea ..	319
The Trend of Wages in Great Britain	302	Cost Accounting Literature ..	320
The Canadian Crops	304	Books Received	320
German Views on the London Settlement	305	Stock Exchange News—	
A Summary of the London Agreement	305	The Stock Markets.....	320
Notes of the Week—		New Issues	321
The Course of the Strikes..	306	Active Securities.....	321
The Finance Accounts	307	Government Returns—	
A Bounty for British Sugar ..	307	Public Income and Expenditure	321
Cost of Living.....	308	National Debt.....	322
Employment in July.....	308	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	322
The Inland Revenue Report ..	308	Currency Notes Account ..	322
The Stock Exchange and the London Pact	308	Bankers' Gazette—	
Acres and Crop Conditions in England and Wales ..	309	Bank of England	322
Canadian Production	309	Clearing Returns	322
The Turkish Petroleum Co. ..	309	Overseas Bank Returns ..	323
Austro-Hungarian Pre-War Debts.....	310	Loan and Discount Rates ..	324
L.M.S. Conversion Scheme ..	310	Overseas Bank Rates.....	324
An American Railway Merger ..	311	Rates of Exchange.....	324
U.S. Iron & Steel Statistics ..	311	Imports & Exports of Gold ..	325
Recovery in Silver	311	Gold and Silver Prices	325
Overseas Correspondence—		Company News—	
United States	312	Dividend Announcements ..	326
France	313	Weekly Traffic Returns ..	326
Germany	314	Monthly Traffic Returns ..	327
Argentina	315	Mining Outputs	327
Denmark	316	Oil Outputs	327
Jugoslavia	317	Reports and Notices	327
New Zealand	318	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	328
Letters to the Editor—		Commercial Reports—	
The Vindication of Free Trade.....	318	Corn Trade	328
		Iron and Coal Trade	329
		Metals	329
		Wool Trade	329
		Cotton Trade	330
		Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds ..	330
		Hides and Leather Trades ..	331
		Overseas Produce Markets ..	331
		Price Current	332

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Calignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

LOMBARD STREET has experienced slightly more comfortable conditions this week, but there has been a fairly steady demand for short loans, the general rate being from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 per cent. There were some heavy cash displacements on Wednesday, when about £6 millions was paid in the form of railway dividends, but in spite of substantial transfers of tax revenue to the Exchequer on Thursday, conditions were easier towards the end of the day, and the market repaid its debt to the Bank, supplies of credits

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

UNDER ITS
DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM
 OF MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

ISSUES
THE BEST POLICY
 FOR A
BUSINESS MAN
 FUNDS : : : £17,500,000

HEAD OFFICE : : : EDINBURGH.
 LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

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



Reserve Funds:
 Esc. 24,000,000

Branches as Under.

34 Offices in Portugal.
 24 " " East and West Africa.
 6 " " Brazil.
 5 " " India and China.
 Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
 New York—Trust Company of North America—33, Liberty Street.
 Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
 London Office—9 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised Lire 400,000,000
 Capital, Paid Up " 348,788,000
 Reserve " 200,000,000
 Deposits " 5,848,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY
 Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:

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

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

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

being increased by the return of over £4 millions of currency notes from circulation. The discount market has been inclined to be a trifle easier, and the quotation for three months' bills has been little better than 3½ per cent.

	Aug. 22, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

Thursday's Bank return showed a decline of £916,000 in the active note circulation, and the Reserve was increased by that amount, the proportion rising to 18.2 per cent. Government securities declined by £389,000, but Other securities were nearly £3 millions higher. Public deposits rose by 2½ millions, and Other deposits by just over a million. The circulation of currency notes declined by £4,216,000 to £29,362,100, which includes £1,376,500 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is now £240,535,600, or £7,655,300 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS

The stock markets are better, as a whole, as a result of the London Agreement. Bank rate possibilities are in the background at the moment, and the gilt-edged markets are good throughout. French bonds have relapsed after an early burst of strength, and Germans have fallen sharply on profit-taking sales. Home rails have improved, and there is some public investment going on. Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures further improved, and Argentine rails have shown some strength. The oil market has been very dull on talk of accumulation of heavy stocks in America, and rubber shares are inactive. Insurance shares have fluctuated, but breweries have gone ahead, and there has been a firmer tone in the motor group. Mining shares have mostly been quiet.

THE COMMODITY MARKET.

In the majority of the commodity markets there has been a very much better tone this week, which is presumably to be traced to the brighter political outlook. Our Manchester correspondent reports that demand for cotton goods has been very extensive, and that encouraging sales for India have taken place. With small stocks of wool and tops the wool market has been firm, in spite of the holiday season. The hide and leather markets are steady, and vegetable oils have experienced a fair demand. Sugar and tea have been good markets. The wheat market has been steady, but the price of flour has been changed three times, and is 6d higher on balance. The non-ferrous metals have moved irregularly, and iron, steel, and coal markets are an exception to the general improvement. Sheffield trade is dislocated by a local strike, but there are signs of a slight revival in certain sections. The Cardiff coal market is quiet, and there is little doing at Middlesbrough.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the week has provided an interesting example of the reaction which almost invariably follows the discounting of an important political event, in this instance the signing of the London Agreement. It is true that the attitude of France with regard to the Ruhr evacuation has created much disappointment, but it was hardly to this cause that the movement in rates could be assigned. As usual, the bulls had gone too far, and the moment the London Agreement was a settled fact other and more immediate considerations came into play. The dollar, which closed on the 15th at \$4.54½, and rose at one time on Saturday to as high as \$4.55½, began already on Monday to fall away, by Tuesday closed at \$4.49½, and on Wednesday dipped to \$4.47½, but closed at \$4.49. On Thursday there was some recovery at the close to \$4.51½, but yesterday morning the rate was rather weaker again at \$4.50½. On the American side there is

a feeling that the reaction has spent its force, and that a recovery in sterling will follow. It is, however, still doubtful whether the autumn movement has yet been met, and it would be rash to anticipate any decided improvement. Forward rates at ½ to 1 cent. per month below spot are much the same as a week ago. The Paris rate has moved much the same as sterling, from 80.15 on the 15th and 79 on Saturday up to as high as 83.75 at one time on Tuesday and 83.80 at one time on Wednesday. On Thursday there was a recovery to a closing price of 82.75, but yesterday morning the rate was up again to 83.15. In the same period the Belgian franc has moved from 87½ to 90½, after being as high as 90½. Forward rates in Paris have widened again to 7-9 centimes per month above spot, after being 4-6 centimes a week ago, and Brussels has narrowed from 1-3 centimes above to par to 2 centimes above. Italy has also shown marked weakness, the lira having moved from 100.80 to 101.75, after being as high on Thursday as 102½. Berlin has remained fairly steady, with the mark at 18½. Amsterdam has moved against us from 11.62 to 11.59½, Switzerland from 24.06½ to 24.02½, after being considerably lower. The peseta, on the other hand, shows little sign of improvement, and in spite of the fall in the value of sterling stands at 33.65½, as compared with 33.62 a week ago. In the North, Stockholm, as was to be expected, has moved down from 17.09 to 16.92½, while Christiania has actually improved from 27.92½ to 27.73½, and Christiania has moved only from 32.45 to 32.45½. Riga and Warsaw have followed their gold parity, while Esthonia is again higher at 1,930. Helsingfors, at 180, compares with 180½ a week ago. In Central Europe, Vienna has followed the dollar to 320,500, while Budapest has maintained its parity with sterling at 350,000. Prague has improved in value from 152½ to 150½, and Bucharest is also slightly better at 990. In the East, the rupee has moved up from 15 5/16 to 15 9/32, and a rise of 1 per cent. is announced to-day in the Indian bank rate. The yen, at 15 9/16, is only slightly better than the 15 9/16 quoted a week ago. The silver market has been influenced by the sharp movements in the American exchange, and by renewed activity in China. On the whole conditions would seem to favour considerable firmness. Hong Kong stands at 2s 4½d, the same as a week ago, after some fluctuations, and Shanghai is also the same at 3s 3d. In South America Rio has improved somewhat from 5 7/32 to 5 1/8, while Buenos Aires has moved up from 40 21/32 to 41 5/32, and Monte Video from 41½ to 42½. Valparaiso, however, has depreciated from 43.90 to 44.20 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 16th:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
	£		£
Supply Services	5,500	From Revenue	12,416
Interest, &c., on Debt	493	Decrease in Exchequer Balances	8
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	1,087		
Decrease in National Debt	4,844		
	12,424		12,424

Revenue for the week ending August 16, 1924, only brought in £12,416,000, against £18,019,000 for the corresponding week last year. Customs were slightly down at £1,190,000, against £1,580,000, and Excise yielded much less at £2,215,000, against £8,010,000. Post Office receipts were maintained at £1,250,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £268,000, against £147,000, but Special receipts were £618,000 lower on the week at £500. Property and Income-tax was higher at £4,871,000, against £3,800,000, and Super-tax at £580,000 was £110,000 higher. The week's operations decreased the National Debt by £4,844,000, and caused the following changes:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
	£		£
Unemployment Insurance	670	Treasury Bills	2,011
		Public Dept. Advances	2,550
		W.I. Islands (Telegraph)	50
		National Savings Certificates	100
		Telegraph Act	780
		Anglo-Persian Oil	23
	670		5,814

The floating debt was decreased by £4,605,000 to £778,038,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to August 16).

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	288,282,358	Raised by Revenue ..	269,947,006
		Decrease in Balances ..	2,837,077
		Amount borrowed ..	15,498,276
Total	288,282,358	Total	288,282,358
ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE.

THE London Conference is over, and in all interested countries stock is being taken of the new situation which it has created. We speak of a new situation, for though its results may have fallen short, and in some respects seriously short, of those we had hoped to see emerge from the new attitude towards international affairs represented by a radical Government in France and a Labour Government in England, the protocol of last Saturday clearly starts a new phase in the German problem on the basis prepared by the Dawes Committee. A study of the chief provisions of the agreement, which we give in another column, will show that, compared with the deadlock of 1923, the advances that have been made are immense. In the first place, the Allies have condescended to negotiate with Germany. It is true that the continued occupation of the Ruhr strongly suggests an iron hand in the velvet glove. But the fact of the matter is that the Ruhr policy having proved bankrupt, real negotiation began with the visit of the Dawes Committee to Berlin—or rather it would be more correct to say that the Allies took the trouble to find out, after consulting German opinion, what could and what could not be done. The natural accompaniment of negotiation instead of dictation is provision for arbitration which comes in at many points of the new agreement. This principle, though it has not in the last resort superseded the appeal to force, has been provided for in such clear detail that in effect it puts a whole series of barriers between a complaint that Germany has not fulfilled her obligation and the resort to action such as that taken by France in January, 1923. Again, the elaborate provisions of the Dawes Report, which the interested parties are pledged to put into effect, does something to bind up the running sore of Europe. For the first time we shall have a rest—which, with reasonable good fortune, will be a long one—from the periodical crises which have arisen over the Reparation question, and finally, if things go according to plan, Europe may at last hope that the finances of the chief Powers will be placed on a firm foundation, and the crazy and bewildering disturbances in the value of money rapidly become a matter of history.

Against these gains has to be set the fact that German territory still remains in French military possession. We need not repeat the views we expressed on this subject last week, for they have been endorsed by more powerful voices than our own. Mr. Snowden, for example, has declared to an interviewer in the *Manchester Guardian* that he is "profoundly dissatisfied with the determination of the French and Belgians to continue the occupation of the Ruhr.....All justification for remaining there for a moment after the Dawes plan comes into operation disappears.....The occupation of the Ruhr is the sign and symbol of the old and vicious policy." Moreover, the Prime Minister, in a letter to M. Herriot, bearing the same date as the London Agreement, repeats that in the British view the occupation is illegal, and that

its continuation is contrary to the spirit of the Dawes Report, and may "prejudice the working of the Dawes plan and jeopardise the arrangements agreed to at the London Conference." This is simple common sense, but it should have been the prologue, not the epilogue, to the conference. But it is not given to politicians to retrace their steps, any more than it is to other mortals. In the circumstances Mr MacDonal has done well to make his position clear. His letter is intended, not, as a section of the Paris Press appears to think, for home consumption, but is addressed to France. We hope that it will be accepted across the Channel as expressing the well-nigh universal regret felt in this country that the French nation could not have seen its way at this turning-point in European history to have taken a step which would have had an immense effect throughout Europe. The immediate evacuation of the Ruhr would have been a symbol of her faith in those moral forces which saved her from destruction in the agony of the Great War, and would at one step have enabled her to take her rightful place at the head of those forces which will ultimately establish international relationships in Europe on the basis of mutual respect for national liberty and national rights.

But the continued occupation, as the Prime Minister points out, has an immediate practical importance. Mr Snowden comes down to hard facts when he discusses what effect it will have on the prospects of the German loan. He thinks the Agreement, though far from perfect, will be sufficient security; but the final answer will, we think, be largely dependent on events yet to come. The Agreement has to be ratified in both France and Germany, and the international outlook will largely depend on the tone of these discussions. The tone of M. Herriot's speech in the French Chamber is encouraging. He regards the London Agreement as the beginning, but only the beginning of a real peace. He had to choose between isolation or collective action. He has chosen the latter. He had to choose between arbitration and war. He chose arbitration. The scheme removes the Reparation question from the political to the economic sphere, and substitutes for penalties a practical method of obtaining payments from Germany. If this temper finally asserts itself in France, the hope of final peace will indeed be bright. Much will also depend on the forthcoming discussions at Geneva on the problem of security and the proposal for a treaty of mutual guarantee which M. Herriot will shortly bring before the League; and also on discussion of the Inter-Allied debts, on which subject our debtors have an unanswerable case for at least as favourable treatment as has been accorded to Germany in applying the doctrine of "ability to pay."

Meanwhile, the Conference has been succeeded by a domestic storm. Mr Snowden's interview with the *Manchester Guardian* showed publicly what was indeed common knowledge already, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not at all happy about some of the features of the German settlement, and the turmoil has been increased by the assertion that he shared the views expressed in these columns about the Russian treaty. This is hardly the occasion to discuss this Cabinet breeze. We are on firmer ground in considering the warnings which he expressed as to the economic effects of the agreement. Mr Snowden's comments in this respect are not seriously open to question; but too much has been read into his words by our pessimists who are in full cry on the old theme that Britain's prosperity is in danger from the renewal of German competition as a result of the Dawes report and the prospect of a Franco-German industrial combination strong enough to crush our great exporting industries. In this connection it is important to distinguish sharply between two quite different questions. One is the results to this country of the recovery of Germany, and the other the possibility of France using political or military pressure to force commercial concessions from Germany. On both points much of the comment in the Press has in our view been hasty.

On the general question of German competition, and the extent to which it will be intensified by the settlement and the economic recovery of Germany, it is extremely difficult to gauge the ultimate distribution of world trade under the conditions left by the war. These conditions include

depressed standard of living in Germany, reflected in low-wage rates. But low wages do not always mean low costs, and another consequence is a low standard of work. All observers were struck by the general deterioration in German morale last year—a change which cannot be undone in a day. We do not know whether these conditions are likely to last long when Germany has passed through the period of convalescence following the collapse of her monetary system, and gets once more into her stride. All experience would lead one to doubt whether there can be a permanent change in the relative wage standards as between Germany and other countries, and we are inclined to the view that the old equilibrium is more likely to be restored by a rise in Germany than by a fall elsewhere. But this is looking far ahead. For the moment Germany is starved for capital, and according to all accounts has still to go through a period of acute industrial difficulty before she begins to rebuild her economic prosperity. Undoubtedly the economic recovery of Germany means that while British industry will benefit from the revival of a great European market, it will also have to keep a sharp eye on its own efficiency. But the business world is not likely to become unduly alarmed just yet. The fear of a flood of German exports has been raised at regular intervals since the armistice. It has not yet materialised. Moreover, the payments under the Dawes scheme do not begin at once. On the contrary, Germany is to obtain a loan to enable her for the moment to go on buying abroad without supplying goods in exchange. And finally this operation is designed to enable the German exchange to be stabilised. In fact, if the programme works according to plan, British industry is immediately to be relieved from the nightmare of violent exchange fluctuations—the influence which by general consent has been by far the most potent in upsetting price levels, and disturbing markets in the last few years. The removal of this handicap will be of very great assistance in restoring confidence, and will far outweigh the vague fear of acute competition in some unknown future.

On the second question—viz, that of military and political pressure, there is much more reason for an active interest on the part of the Government, and in the forthcoming discussion on other issues with France it is of first importance that it should see to it that commercial agreements are framed in the interests of trade generally, and that unreasonable privileges are not extorted at the bayonet's point. But even here let us keep a sense of proportion. France aims at securing for a further period the free entry of goods from Alsace and Lorraine into Germany. This is only an extension of the situation that obtains to-day, and, let us add, that obtained before the war when these provinces were part of Germany. It is not some new encroachment on British trade prospects that is proposed. Nor is the economic collaboration of Westphalia and Lorraine a new idea. It is the restoration of pre-war conditions. These commercial arrangements greatly interest Great Britain, but our interest is to see that they are reasonable and economic ones—not to block them.

THE NATION'S HEALTH.

HEALTH, according to the old proverb, is greater than wealth. Of all the raw materials concerned in the production of happiness and well-being, whether in the individual or the nation, it is the first and foremost. Most individuals take either too much or too little interest in their own personal health; but to the vast majority the corporate health of the nation is a dull subject, ignored or neglected, except at such times when a national emergency produces short-lived jeremiads about a C3 population. We fear, therefore, that the number of people who will purchase and study so important a document as Sir George Newman's report* on the public health in 1923 will be far smaller than it should be. Yet everyone who is interested in the economic future of Great Britain should know the facts which it presents. Those who deign to

* "On the State of the Public Health." Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for 1923. (H.M. Stationery Office.) Price 3s net.

give this report their attention will derive encouragement both from the statistics presented and from the conclusions drawn from them. The rapid decline in the birth rate we are all aware of as an important factor in the national outlook. But Sir George Newman calls attention to some compensating features in the shape of a decline in the death rate, a big reduction in infant mortality, an increase in longevity, and the success attending public efforts to fight certain diseases.

The fall in the birth rate is apparently slackening, the number of births in 1922 declining by only 22,000, as compared with a drop of 70,000 in the previous year. But the extent of the fall in recent decades is perhaps more startling than is generally recognised by the public. The annual birth rate per 1,000 of population has actually fallen from 35.4 in 1871-1880 and 27.2 in the first decade of the present century to 19.7 in 1923. Such a fall, if unaccompanied by a great improvement in infant mortality, would surely leave school buildings empty and teachers to walk the streets. But the death rate has also fallen remarkably, to 11.6 per thousand last year from 15.4 in the first decade of this century and 21.4 in the period 1871-1880. The 1923 death rate of 11.6 per thousand is the lowest ever recorded, and our satisfaction with it is not destroyed by the remembrance that 1923 was a lucky year as regards the comparative absence of serious epidemics. More striking still is the reduction in infant mortality—that is, in the deaths of infants under the age of one year. This figure ranged up to 149 per thousand births in 1871-1880, and was still as high as 10 per cent. in 1911-20, but in 1923 had been reduced to 69 per thousand. This Sir George describes justifiably as "perhaps the greatest recent triumph of preventive medicine." He warns us, however, that it is fallacious to measure the public health conditions of a country wholly by changes in the general death rate, and recalls that the low mortality of 1923 is in part an expression of the present phase of distribution of our population in regard to age, and in part due to meteorological conditions propitious for the good health of infants and old people, and to the absence of serious epidemics.

Of particular interest is a table analysing the disorders from which the population dies:—

ENGLAND AND WALES: DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL CAUSES, 1923.

Disease.	Number of Deaths.	Proportion per Thousand Deaths from All Causes.
1. Measles	5,316	12
2. Whooping cough	4,162	9
3. Diphtheria	2,722	6
4. Influenza	8,461	19
5. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	32,097	72
6. Other forms of tuberculosis	8,691	20
7. Cancer—malignant disease	48,667	109
8. Diseases of nervous system and sense organs	47,694	107
9. Diseases of the heart	56,886	128
10. Other diseases of circulatory system	17,120	38
11. Bronchitis	32,707	74
12. Pneumonia (all forms)	33,413	75
13. Other diseases of respiratory system	5,591	13
14. Diarrhoea and enteritis	8,382	19
15. Other diseases of digestive system	18,429	41
16. Diseases of genito-urinary system	18,292	41
17. Premature death and diseases of early infancy	20,986	47
18. Old age	25,344	57
19. Violence (all forms)	17,107	38
20. Other causes	32,719	75

The report gives a substantial quantity of data for assessing the progress of medicine in the fight against the principal enemies of life. With the sole exception of cancer the record of achievement is decidedly encouraging. There seems at last to be definite evidence that tuberculosis is declining. In 1914 deaths from this cause exceeded 50,000, and in the war years the figures rose further. Last year the figure was below 41,000, and showed a drop of over 2,000 from the preceding year. Evidence is also afforded that the public campaign against venereal disease has resulted in a decline in the number of newly infected cases. The diphtheria death figures are the lowest since 1911, while in the case of typhoid we have the remarkable fact that the 1923 rate is only one-tenth of that recorded in 1900. But when we come to cancer, there is a different

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

story to tell. Deaths per million from cancer, which in the middle of last century were only 274, reached in 1923 a record figure of 1,267, having shown a 50 per cent. increase even since the first decade of the present century. Here, surely, is the great target for medical effort, and one can only hope that the anti-cancer campaign recently inaugurated will produce concrete results.

Sir George Newman estimates that loss of time from sickness, most of which is preventable, "costs the country not less than ten times more than that which it loses owing to strikes and labour disputes"—an estimate which gives some idea of the potential contribution of medical science towards increased national output. But the performance of this service rests not alone with the medical profession, but with those who apply, direct, and use medical services. At the present moment, in Sir George's opinion, public expenditure on health is yielding a very high rate of interest in life and well-being. But much remains to be done, and the following passage is worth attention:—"The progress of the science and art of medicine in the last quarter of a century has, it is true, outstripped the organisation of our sanitary, poor law, and education authorities. The new wine is being poured into old wine skins. But what is much more pertinent to our labours, we fail in hundreds of sanitary districts to use the facilities provided. On the whole existing facilities are reasonably well furnished; but all too often people fail to use them, and the authorities fail to co-ordinate them." Thus, while there is reason for satisfaction in the progress that is being made, there is still need for the country to take its health a little more seriously, and this it may surely do without falling into a morbid valetudinarianism.

THE DIRECTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE figures showing the geographical distribution of our overseas trade for the first half of the past three years are given in the August trade returns, but the comparative value of the 1923 figures is upset by the separation of the Irish Free State figures from April 1, 1923, onwards. Our imports from the new Dominion in the first half of the current year are shown as £22,831,000, and as £11,635,000 for the June quarter. In the second quarter of 1923 imports were £10,141,000. Exports to the Irish Free State were £21,050,000 for the half-year and £10,248,000 for the second quarter, the latter comparing with £6,883,000 a year ago. Re-exports to the same country were £5,724,000 in the past half-year, £2,517,000 in the second quarter of this year, and £1,863,000 in the second quarter of 1923. The excess of exports for the half-year was thus £3,943,000.

In the tables which follow we show separately the figures for Europe, other foreign countries, and the Dominions. The first table compares imports from and

exports to the principal European countries for the first half of the past three years and of 1914:—

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
France	23,929	25,625	30,034	35,419	14,364	28,406	30,975	24,372
Netherlands	11,493	19,539	21,378	25,348	8,127	22,512	30,329	17,643
Denmark	12,064	18,015	21,675	21,906	2,956	5,560	6,511	6,832
Spain	6,873	12,458	13,013	12,199	3,686	7,797	7,103	6,341
Germany	39,531	12,015	16,930	14,406	18,290	14,231	20,797	22,907
Switzerland	5,775	11,168	10,024	8,889	2,084	4,675	3,467	5,921
Belgium	11,468	10,937	13,255	18,018	6,507	13,030	13,195	11,898
Sweden	5,909	6,513	8,686	9,015	3,757	5,176	6,467	6,868
Norway	3,575	5,647	6,088	4,346	3,543	6,281	4,624	4,164
Italy	4,527	5,379	7,030	8,043	7,437	10,794	10,909	8,671
Portugal	1,490	2,950	2,640	3,004	1,600	3,625	4,561	4,546
Finland	..	2,758	3,496	3,667	..	1,240	1,816	2,124
Czechoslovakia	..	2,537	4,245	7,227	..	413	426	687
Greece	676	1,523	2,017	1,007	1,851	2,178	1,873	2,660
Russia	15,282	1,246	1,952	4,591	8,505	1,764	1,293	664
Latvia	..	1,077	2,458	2,660	..	491	501	779
Estonia	..	985	2,628	3,858	..	910	1,351	1,560
Austria	3,803	745	977	1,137	2,188	585	485	1,220
Hungary	..	173	454	165	..	102	79	168
Roumania	1,770	662	839	1,196	1,573	1,034	1,379	1,794
Turkey in Europe	652	616	696	557	1,833	2,017	1,692	1,694
Ethiopia	..	531	530	1,180	..	640	443	291
Total	146,808	143,097	171,445	187,838	88,940	133,461	140,261	133,669

During the war period our trade with these countries showed a very pronounced excess of exports, but the surplus of imports has been steadily growing in recent years, a further increase in the past half-year being partly due to the drop in our exports to the Continent. Even now, however, the position is more favourable to this country than it was in 1914. The decline in exports this year is entirely accounted for by the reduction in our exports to France and Holland, the total going to the former being the smallest for several years. Imports from these two countries have expanded, but imports from Germany have dropped by £2½ millions, while exports to Germany are over £2 millions higher. Imports from Belgium have increased by nearly £5 millions, but our exports thither are over a million lower.

In the next table we show our trade with other foreign countries:—

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
United States	70,447	112,451	104,175	113,664	17,769	25,120	31,699	26,291
Argentina	18,004	30,418	35,013	37,303	9,046	10,933	14,554	13,222
Chile	2,724	7,359	6,858	7,776	890	2,666	1,398	1,506
Brazil	5,183	4,776	3,686	3,502	4,034	4,636	5,692	6,156
Mexico	985	4,524	2,946	2,666	389	956	1,271	1,067
Japan	2,047	4,173	3,723	3,574	5,146	13,745	12,472	14,343
Peru	..	4,149	3,255	3,919	..	682	833	815
China	1,976	3,867	6,055	5,507	8,445	12,886	8,197	10,822
Panama	1,180	2,692	2,632	3,374	706	728	1,333	1,299
Colombia	2,996	2,399	3,238	3,360	2,859	2,217	3,474	2,477
Uruguay	1,564	2,296	3,060	3,522	1,127	1,353	1,626	1,573
Venezuela	..	1,210	650	833	..	1,013	1,553	1,111
Turkey in Asia	1,848	149	499	526	2,877	104	772	454
Egypt	11,858	16,948	18,680	18,680	4,936	7,722	7,722	7,298
Other Foreign Countries	11,835	4,866	7,807	10,028	13,744	6,031	5,047	6,390
Total	132,447	185,489	200,718	222,064	72,277	81,150	97,477	94,823

Imports from the United States have increased by £9½ millions, while our exports have declined by £5½ millions.

From a later table it will be seen that re-exports to the United States have also declined by nearly £6 millions. Our adverse trade balance to the United States for the half-year has thus increased from £54.7 millions to £75.6 millions. Our exports to most of the countries in the list show a decline in comparison with the first half of 1923, but Japan and China are exceptions, with increases of over £2 millions each. These two countries, on the other hand, have sent us less than they did a year ago. Imports from South America have been on a substantially higher scale, but our exports have been lower, except in the case of Brazil.

Our trade with the Dominions is shown in the next table:—

JANUARY TO JUNE.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Australia.....	21,431	36,815	34,234	30,882	17,711	27,569	29,112	28,495
New Zealand.....	16,068	27,443	29,172	31,802	4,689	7,148	9,850	9,060
India & Ceylon.....	22,615	22,625	36,830	40,548	36,676	46,291	47,131	47,144
Canada.....	9,899	18,997	21,240	23,617	9,580	11,619	13,586	13,321
Egypt.....	15,872	10,068	7,732	9,446	10,830	12,664	13,573	15,436
South Africa.....	7,179	5,685	6,494	6,647	3,931	5,799	6,021	4,571
West Africa.....	3,394	5,685	6,494	6,647	3,931	5,799	6,021	4,571
Straits Settlements.....	7,134	3,637	4,426	5,330	2,612	3,620	3,862	4,177
West Indies.....	1,373	3,007	3,341	2,907	1,233	1,539	1,699	1,724
Irish Free State.....	10,141	10,141	22,831	22,831	6,883	21,050	21,050	21,050
Other Possessions.....	5,536	14,588	13,005	14,552	6,979	13,196	13,204	14,795
	94,629	158,737	166,615	188,532	94,241	137,151	144,921	159,773

The totals for the last two half-years are affected by the Irish Free State figures, those for 1923, as already mentioned, being only for the second quarter of the year. If these figures be excluded, imports show an increase of £9.2 millions, while exports are about half a million higher. The most notable changes in the table are the increases in the imports from New Zealand, India, Canada, and South Africa. Both imports from and exports to Australia have dwindled, but India and Ceylon have as much from us as at this time last year.

The final table gives re-exports to the principal countries:—

JANUARY TO JUNE.

Re-exports to	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
United States.....	18,210,000	10,813,000	10,376,000	17,576,000	11,792,000
Germany.....	11,396,000	10,374,000	10,226,000	10,389,000	17,972,000
France.....	6,205,000	4,710,000	10,224,000	10,494,000	9,707,000
Belgium.....	4,140,000	3,828,000	5,973,000	4,983,000	5,688,000
Netherlands.....	2,615,000	3,942,000	3,512,000	2,631,000	4,065,000
Australia.....	1,281,000	2,695,000	2,004,000	2,715,000	2,715,000
Canada.....	890,000	1,599,000	1,453,000	1,237,000	1,406,000
Italy.....	507,000	703,000	863,000	1,095,000	1,406,000
Sweden.....	452,000	871,000	825,000	934,000	985,000
India and Ceylon.....	1,456,000	757,000	757,000	568,000	467,000
South Africa.....	602,000	605,000	668,000	727,000	727,000
Denmark.....	261,000	649,000	556,000	895,000	902,000
Norway.....	212,000	334,000	377,000	432,000	280,000
Japan.....	108,000	427,000	189,000	153,000	143,000
Russia.....	4,556,000	98,000	186,000	612,000	2,768,000
China.....	103,000	103,000	103,000	82,000	103,000
Irish Free State.....	10,554,000	8,605,000	6,679,000	7,033,000	7,825,000
Other Countries.....	59,276,000	49,686,000	55,672,000	63,864,000	74,128,000

The principal features here are the substantial increase in our re-exports to Germany and the decline in those to America, to which reference has already been made. Re-exports to Russia also show a substantial growth.

THE TREND OF WAGES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE most significant feature of recent wage movements in this country is the tendency of rates to fall into two main groups, according as the recipients are employed in what are now familiarly known as "sheltered" or "unsheltered" trades. While real wages in industry as a whole are probably not much different from what they were in 1914 (the average money rates being something like 175 per cent. and the cost of living 170 per cent. of the pre-war level), the fact that one large body of workers is at present enjoying a definitely higher, and another a definitely lower standard of living, as compared with 1914, gives rise to much discontent, with which

one can readily sympathise. As the authors of "Is Unemployment Inevitable?"* succinctly state:

In building, in transport, and in the whole mass of labour engaged in employments which constitute what may be called our national overhead charges, there has been a tendency to maintain a higher standard of life than in other industries less fortunately placed.....[Industries depending on export] must in the end.....sell their products at the world price. The other great group, immune from foreign competition, starts the calculation at the other end. It first calculates what it considers a fair rate for labour.....and to this figure are added the cost of raw materials, administrative charges, and profits. The natural result is an obviously undesirable difference in the standard of life between workmen performing operations of precisely the same type in the two great groups.

Accurate data regarding wage rates is, as a rule, extremely difficult, and, in some industries, well-nigh impossible, to obtain. From a very convenient summary of the most recent information, collected by the American Trade Commissioner in London, and published by the United States Department of Commerce†, it is possible, however, to compile various instructive tables showing the position, broadly, at the beginning of 1924, and suggesting an approximate answer to the questions: (1) How wide is the gap between "unsheltered" and "sheltered" trades? and (2) Is this gap tending to contract or to expand?

To take first the most extreme example of an "unsheltered" industry, the following table shows how engineering and shipbuilding earnings compared, as at March and September, 1923, with the earnings of August, 1914:—

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING—RECOGNISED WEEKLY FULL-TIME EARNINGS.

Classes of Labour.	Aug. 4, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1923.	% of 1914.	Sept. 30, 1923.	% of 1914.
Fitters and turners.....	38 11	56 6	145	56 5	145
Patternmakers.....	42 1	60 9	145	60 10	145
Iron moulders.....	41 8	59 2	142	59 1	142
Shipwrights.....	41 4	48 11	118	48 7	117
Ship joiners.....	40 0	50 9	127	50 5	126
Platers.....	40 4	47 10	118	47 7	118
Labourers—Engineering.....	22 10	40 3	176	40 3	176
Labourers—Shipbuilding.....	22 10	38 6	169	38 6	169

From the above table it may be seen that skilled workers have suffered much more than unskilled, and that there are degrees of difference even among "unsheltered" trades, engineering labour being in a relatively better position than shipbuilding, in spite of the close trade-union bonds between the two. Full-time earnings only 18 per cent. above pre-war, in an industry so chronically under-employed as shipbuilding, are eloquent of the privation which necessarily exists among workers whose standard of individual skill is decidedly high.

In the next table are shown average earnings in another industry which has been called on to make heavy sacrifices in putting its house in order:—

COAL MINERS—AVERAGE EARNINGS per SHIFT in VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

Districts.	June, 1914.	Oct. Dec., 1922.	% of 1914.	July-Sept., 1923.	% of 1914.
Northumberland.....	6 2 2	8 10 8	145	10 7 1	171
Durham.....	6 2 2	8 10 8	145	10 6	169
Cumberland.....	6 2 2	8 10 8	145	10 6	169
Lancashire, North Staffs, Cheshire.....	6 0 8	8 8 8	145	9 3 4	150
Yorks, Derby, Notts, Leicester, Warwick.....	6 7 8	10 1	157	11 2 1	169
Forest of Dean.....	4 10	7 9	169	7 8	159
South Wales and Monmouth.....	5 4	7 9 3	145	8 3 5	155
Scotland.....	6 9 2	9 5	140	11 10 4	176
Great Britain.....	6 5 1	9 5 1	145	10 7 1	171

* "Is Unemployment Inevitable?"—A Continuation of the Investigations of a Committee of Business Men and Economists embodied in "The Third Winter of Unemployment." (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited. 8s 6d.)
† "Changes in Representative Wages in British Industry." United States Department of Commerce, Trade Information Bulletin No. 247.

The coal mining industry remunerates its workers in accordance with the proceeds of its operations, a minimum rate being fixed below which wage rates cannot fall in any case. The effect is to throw into strong relief variations in earning power between the different districts. At the end of 1922 the real wages of all workers were below the 1914 standard, but nine months later the position had definitely improved in most areas, and the more fortunately placed workers had regained the pre-war standard. The new agreement arrived at in the spring of 1924 would normally have tended to raise the level of remuneration of the worst-paid miners, but the subsequent occurrence of a partial "slump" in the coal trade has necessitated a certain amount of short-working, and the full effects of the amended arrangements have yet to be experienced by the workers concerned.

Similar particulars in the case of the iron and steel trades are not readily obtainable. Wage rates in this group fluctuate according to the selling prices of specified "key" products. According to the *Labour Gazette* of October, 1923, increases over pre-war rates vary widely, certain blast furnace labourers, for instance, receiving wages equivalent to more than 200 per cent. of the pre-war remuneration, while at the other extreme South Wales iron and steel workers' earnings reach only about 123 per cent. of the pre-war figure. The average weekly earnings of the similar workers throughout the country, according to the compilations of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, work out roughly as follows:—During 1913, £1 16s 8d; in January, 1922, £2 19s 4d; January, 1923, £2 18s 2d; January, 1924, £3 1s. The last-mentioned figure is 165 per cent. of that of 1913.

Approximate weekly full-time earnings of workers in the cotton textile industry are given in our next table.

COTTON—APPROXIMATE WEEKLY FULL-TIME EARNINGS.

Classes of Labour.	1914.	Jan., 1922.	% of 1914.	Jan.-Sept., 1923.	% of 1914.
PIECE RATES.					
Spinners, counts below 80's.....	40 6	54 4	134	55 2	137
Drawers-in "above".....	30 11	74 3	246	85 10	282
Twisters-in.....	25 7	59 10	233	57 6	226
Weavers, 4 looms.....	24 11	58 2	238	46 4	188
TIME RATES.					
Grinders.....	29 3	68 2	233	53 5	183
Big piecers.....	17 9	41 5	233	33 0	188
Cloth lockers.....	25 9	60 0	233	47 9	188
General warehousemen and others.....	23 2	54 1	233	43 1	188

The above rates apply to the more skilled and highly-paid operatives. Owing to dull trade, short-time working has been the rule in many sections for some time past, so that actual earnings are appreciably below the levels shown above.

The succeeding table throws some light on the vexed question of agricultural wages. In certain cases, it may be noted, allowances are made to workers which would tend to raise the weekly total:—

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR: APPROXIMATE WEEKLY RATES for ADULT MALES in ENGLAND and WALES.

Classes of Labour.	End of 1914.	Beginning of			
		1923.	% of 1914.	1924.	% of 1914.
Ordinary male workers—					
Highest county rate.....	23 4	40 0	171	35 0	150
Lowest county rate.....	13 4	25 0	187	20 0	150
Especially skilled workers—					
Highest county rate.....	..	40 0	..	35 0	..
Lowest county rate.....	..	30 0	..	25 0	..

NOTE.—1914 rates include cash allowances. Post-war rates for ordinary labour are exclusive of the value of allowances for board, lodging, cottage, milk, and potatoes, where provided by the employer.

Although the unknown factor of "allowances" renders exact comparison impossible, one can safely say that, while the earnings of the best-paid agricultural labourers will bear comparison with, say, those of engineering labourers, the standard of the worse paid is extremely low, while in agriculture as a whole the trend of wages over 1923 was downward.

LEGAL & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE EXCEPT MARINE

Head Office
10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1836

General Manager W. A. HOREMAN, F.I.A.

A couple of examples of wage rates in "sheltered" trades may now be set out:—

BUILDING TRADES.
Recognised Average Weekly Full-Time Earnings.

Classes of Labour.	1914.	Sept., 1922.	% of 1914.	Feb., 1924.†	% of 1914.
Bricklayers.....	s d 40 7	s d 71 4	175	s d 74 0	182
Masons.....	39 8	71 8	180	74 6	188
Carpenters and joiners.....	39 11	71 4	179	74 0	185
Slaters.....	39 11	71 4	179	74 0	185
Plumbers.....	39 9	73 6	185	77 0	193
Plasterers.....	40 2	71 11	179	74 0	184
Painters.....	36 3	71 4	196	73 0	201
Labourers.....	26 11	53 6	198	55 0	204

† Approximate.

The increased earnings of 1924 were to follow, largely, on the working of an extra 2½ hours per week, the non-observance of this provision in certain cases being one of the causes of friction leading up to the present dispute in the building industry. The conclusions to be drawn from the above table seem to be that for most classes of labour the standard of living is appreciably, but not considerably, above the pre-war level; that it shows no tendency to decline; that, as in the engineering trades, unskilled labour has secured a bigger advance than skilled; and that painting and plumbing, among skilled trades, have gained ground most rapidly.

Conditions in the railway world form the subject of the next table:—

RAILWAY WORKERS: COMPARATIVE MINIMUM WEEKLY WAGES.

Classes of labour.	1914.	January, 1923.	April, 1924.	January, 1924.	April, 1924.
Porters.....	15 0 to 20 0	51 0 to 57 6	300	46 0 to 57 0	290
Guards.....	25 0 to 40 0	58 0 to 68 6	195	50 0 to 65 0	175
Shunters.....	22 0 to 27 0	55 0 to 68 6	230	50 0 to 75 0	220
Signalmen.....	23 0 to 40 0	53 0 to 81 6	215	49 0 to 76 0	200
Ticket collectors.....	21 0 to 30 0	56 0 to 64 0	265	54 0 to 60 0	255
Checkers.....	21 0 to 31 0	57 6 to 64 6	235	50 0 to 60 0	210
Permanent way men, &c.....	19 0 to 36 0	53 0 to 71 6	225	48 0 to 65 0	205
Drivers & motormen.....	33 0 to 48 0	72 0 to 90 0	200	72 0 to 90 0	200
Firemen.....	21 0 to 30 0	57 0 to 72 0	220	57 0 to 72 0	220

These rates affect some 500,000 workers. They show in each case the minimum earnings, governing by a sliding scale based on the official cost-of-living index, with a provision, however, that earnings cannot fall below a certain rate, which itself ensures a higher standard of living than was the case in 1914. By January, 1924, the wages of guards, ticket collectors, drivers and firemen had reached this "basic" level. Certain additions for overtime, Sunday or night-work, for mileage exceeding a fixed daily figure, &c., bring actual earnings above the minima in many cases.

The discrepancy between "sheltered" and "unsheltered" wages is clearly too serious to permit of its eradication in a comparatively short period. Over the year 1923 it appears to have been reduced to some extent, coal-miners and iron and steel workers benefiting from increased wage rates, while such "sheltered" trades as transport and public utility services registered a decline. During the present year the movement has continued so far as coal, iron and steel are concerned, but conditions in these industries are not at the moment favourable. Certain of the "sheltered" groups have effectively resisted all attempts to bring about lower wage-levels, and earnings have, in fact, risen appreciably since January.

building, transport, and public utility services. On the whole, wages have fluctuated very slightly in the last eight months, and, pending a general revival in the world's trade, which would rehabilitate the fortunes of our great export industries, no marked change in the situation can be looked for.

THE CANADIAN CROPS.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

It would be idle to deny that the condition of the Western wheat crop, on whose fate the economic prosperity of Canada in a large measure hinges, has been a subject of great anxiety since the beginning of the month. This year the usual crop reports compiled by the Government bureaux, banks, railways, and newspapers have been supplemented by the researches of a tribe of special investigators, and the result has been an abundant literature of estimates and speculations, which has been greedily devoured by the business community. Upon one point there is common agreement: that, given even the most favourable conditions for the rest of the growing period, the crop will fall far short of the 473 million bushels secured in 1923, and may not even reach an average yield. It is abnormally late, and wheat harvesting will not seriously begin before August 24th, which is a full fortnight later than the average; as a result there is much greater possibility of damage from rust and early frosts, and the next two weeks will be a very anxious time. In the end of June crop conditions in the West were reckoned moderately favourable, but in the first half of July there developed a combination of very adverse conditions, a complete lack of moisture and hot, dry winds, in a wide area of territory, and coming as they did at a very critical time, irreparable damage was done.

By the middle of July the wheat crop in many districts had come into a very perilous condition, the young plants being badly burnt up, and just at that time there descended upon the prairies a group of American experts, chiefly emanating from Chicago, who published a series of highly pessimistic reports to the effect that the Canadian crop was almost ruined, and would not reach half the volume of 1923. One result was a rapid rise in grain prices in Chicago and elsewhere; indeed, during July there was an unparalleled rise of almost 50 cents per bushel in wheat prices. The Canadian authorities would not admit the accuracy of these American reports, and the suspicion has prevailed that their pessimistic tone was deliberately enhanced for political purposes not unconnected with the Presidential election. The Republicans cannot elect President Coolidge unless they carry Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and other grain-growing States, where agrarian discontent is rife, and Senator La Follette, the Independent candidate, threatens to make serious inroads upon the normal Republican vote. In these States the harvest begins in July, and their grain is ready for marketing by the end of that month, or early in August. Obviously if a strong bull movement in grain could give satisfactory prices to the American wheat growers, it might induce them to take a more favourable view of President Coolidge and his administration than they would otherwise do. This theory of a political background for the sensational rise in grain prices may or may not be correct, but it is freely held in Canada, where there is now clear evidence that the extravagant pessimism of the American reports was not justified.

The latter laid great emphasis on the prevalence of rust, especially in Manitoba, where the prospects were better than in the other provinces. Rust wrought great damage there in 1923, but the agricultural editor of the Manitoba Free Press reports on August 1st, after a careful inspection of a large part of the province, that while there are frequent traces of rust blisters on the leaves, and also on the straw near the root, they are no more numerous than might have been found in other years when the plague did no serious damage. This report refers to the deadly black rust, and admits that a spell of hot muggy weather might develop these traces into a fatal epidemic, but luckily so far the weather in Manitoba has remained cool and dry. There is visible a good deal

of red rust in many districts, but it is not nearly so deleterious in its effects. Since the drought was broken about July 18th, most districts in the West have been favoured with abundant rains at periodic intervals, and only in a few areas is there any serious lack of moisture. As the result of these rains, there has been a marked improvement in the general crop conditions, but unfortunately the restoration of the crops in Central and Northern Saskatchewan and Eastern Alberta has not been as great as was hoped for, and the yield in these areas will not be large. However, Manitoba seems likely to reap an average crop of all grains, the districts of Saskatchewan south of the C.P.R. main line will also give fair returns, and Alberta authorities claim that the late rains have virtually doubled the yield; in that province it will still be less than half last year's crop of 160 million bushels, but a fortnight ago less than 40 million bushels was predicted. Estimates of the total volume of the crop show a considerable spread; the report of the Canadian Bank of Commerce still predicts 325 million bushels, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics hazards about 300 million. But the figure of 275 million bushels is suggested by three such important authorities as Sir Henry Thornton, the president of the Canadian National Railways, Mr Grant Hall, a vice-president of the C.P.R., and Mr T. A. Crerar, the late Minister of Agriculture, and it will probably be found not far from the mark. During the present week prices have shown a tendency to sag, and talk about \$2 wheat has subsided. If a crop of 275 million bushels can be secured and prices for No. 1 Northern range between \$1.40 and \$1.50, then the gross monetary returns for the wheat crop of the West will not be substantially less than last year, and the profits may be greater, for labour is much cheaper and the shortness of the straw will cut the cost of harvesting and threshing. But, unfortunately, the gains will be unequally distributed; farmers who have a decent crop will fare very well, but the less fortunate ones will be in sore straits. Towards the end of the drought period there was great anxiety about the feed situation for animals, for the pastures had been burnt up and the hay crop was poor, while the coarse grains were also suffering. The rains have wrought an improvement, but more is needed before cutting begins. Oats are still well below the average as a crop, and both flax and barley are very late; rye, however, is very satisfactory. One fortunate circumstance for the West is that the rise in grain prices has reflected itself in the livestock markets, and the *Financial Post*, of Toronto, calculates that the total revenue from stock finished this year will experience a welcome increment of 25 per cent. over the 1923 figures.

But there is one very serious by-product of the shortness of the Western crop. After domestic requirements have been provided for, Canada will not have available for export half as much wheat as last year, and a curtailment by anything between 150 and 200 million bushels of the grain freight available means a serious impairment of the railway revenues. In any case, the traffic returns of the railways have been showing an ominous decline, and in anticipation of smaller revenues the C.P.R. have ordered a discontinuance of most of their improvement work for the time being. Hopes of a further decrease in the annual deficit of the State lines are also receding, and the Government will be confronted with the difficult problem of a further drain upon the public treasury at a time when revenues have been falling at a rate far above the calculations of the Finance Department. Another adverse consequence will be less employment in the distributing end of the grain trade and at the ports. However, it is satisfactory to report that most sections of the Eastern provinces have enjoyed very good growing weather for the past five weeks, and good average yields are expected. The cutting of winter wheat is now in full swing, and both the yields and samples are excellent. The hay crop has been good, and pastures are in first-rate condition. In Ontario and Quebec the crop of small fruits has been satisfactory, and a large yield of the hard fruits is certain. The fruit crop in Nova Scotia and British Columbia is less promising, the prospective yield of apples in the famous Annapolis Valley being only 75 per cent. of last year's return. As there has been a general betterment of agricultural prices, the purchasing power of the rural community in Eastern Canada ought to be somewhat larger than in 1923.

GERMAN VIEWS ON THE LONDON SETTLEMENT.

(BY OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE internal situation created by the London settlement is not yet cleared up; but it is likely that the two-thirds majority for the Dawes Bills will be attained. At yesterday's negotiations with the Cabinet, the German-Nationals, whose assent is necessary unless, what is almost impossible, the 62 Communist members should support the Government, reserved their decision; and the Bavarian People's Party and Wirtschaftspartei, who together command 31 votes, also withheld their declaration. The German-Nationals are afraid of wrecking the Bills, but they are hampered by past declarations and by the attitude of their newspapers. The General Election which is promised if the Bills are not passed would probably result in a loss of National seats; and even if the contrary was the case, a Cabinet on an anti-settlement basis could not be formed. The Cabinet has, however, issued a warning that the London decisions fall to the ground if the present Reichstag rejects the Bills.

By the public the London settlement proper, being overshadowed by the enforced surrender in regard to military evacuation, is not taken too well. The prevailing sentiment hardly gives colour to the satisfaction in their own work expressed by Ally statesmen in London; and it is easy to remember that the same satisfaction was expressed in May, 1921. Nor are the utterances of German Ministers in London after the settlement regarded as seriously meant. The public does not believe that complete military evacuation is intended, does not consider German territory to be safe from further raids; and cannot understand British policy in this matter, or really, in spite of the text, credit the report that after the developments in the last week of the Conference a written reminder as to the badness of her occupation policy was sent to France. The public also knows that the question whether Reparations will, or can, or in anyone's real interest ought, to be paid, has not been answered by the Dawes Report or the London proceedings; and at home it finds confusion and lack of plans as to this vital issue. It sees, however, that the inevitable inconveniences of the best conceivable Reparations policy have been aggravated. Years ago, after the first failures, it remembers, there was loose talk of the Allies "taking over" Germany in the interest of Reparations—reforming her currency, guiding her financial and commercial policy, and dictating her legislation; and at the time of the London Ultimatum many Germans declared that to the Allies might be transferred the whole responsibility of governing the Republic on Colonial lines; the Allies, it was commented maliciously, would soon find out things. Today these Germans see the Allies—and even see officials chosen by the Allies who will not even be controlled, except indirectly, by Ally legislatures—invested with much of this power but without any of the responsibility. Germany's sovereignty in currency, transport, and commercial matters has largely disappeared; and if the Ally regulators blunder, as they certainly will, the result may be "sanctions" for failures for which Germany, having her hands tied, will probably not be responsible. The elaboration and complexity of the settlement awakens distrust. In their home policy since the autumn of 1923 Germans have got rid of a great deal of the bureaucratic strait-waistcoat economic policy which resulted from developing war-control measures too far; and the Dawes scheme, elaborated by the London agreements, seems to promise much the same evil. If the electorate, as is likely, is ready to support the Cabinet's acceptance of the scheme should appeal be made, that would probably be because the immediate relief promised will be to Germany, not to the Allies. As to the incidence of the ultimate burden, the way in which it is to be borne, and the responsibility which it theoretically puts upon individual citizens, there is no notion at all in the public mind.

Very little is being written as to the practicability of the Dawes scheme, and what is written usually revolves around the trade balance question, which, the basis being past and present figures, of course makes the payments look

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
EASTERN PLANTATION FINANCE UNDERTAKEN.
NEW ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.
SECURITIES PURCHASED.
ADVANCES UPON APPROVED SECURITIES.

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

impossible. It is probably, however, right to assume that if German production in the coming years materially exceeds the necessary consumption, the trade balance question would gradually settle itself, that if the surplus production and the pressure to transfer it abroad exist, no international trade conditions or restrictions would ultimately prevent an export surplus being created by taxation, as taxation here being counted the payments out of railway profit and from industrial bonds. The former Minister of Industry, Professor Julius Wirth, publishes on this question of production and consumption relatively optimistic data. He denies what has been asserted by Germans and foreigners that the whole national economy is passive in the sense that the nation cannot support itself. He declares that between the conclusion of peace and the Ruhr invasion production certainly grew more rapidly than consumption, this being only in part due to the keeping down of consumption. The first post-war years were years of undoubted recovery. The loss due to reduced working hours and other unfavourable factors was much more than compensated for by the great increase in the number of producers. Before the war while German production increased, the proportion of producers, as in other rich countries, was tending to fall. Between 1882 and 1907 the percentage of unoccupied persons increased from 5 to 8.4. The official memorandum prepared for the Dawes Committee refers to the growth in number of occupied persons, which is now about 33 millions against 27,274,000 in the same area in 1907. The causes, apart from the reduction of the fighting forces from 800,000 to 100,000, are the increased employment of female labour, and the diversion of former idlers, ruined by loss of investments, into productive work. The new age conditions are less favourable, and personal efficiency is lower, but to this the persons liberated from military service are an exception. Dr Hirsch gives data to show that during the inflation years industry, agriculture, and transport made great progress.

A SUMMARY OF THE LONDON AGREEMENT.

In a previous article we have discussed the London Agreement from a critical standpoint. It is worth while, perhaps, to append a brief summary of the text of the Agreement for purposes of record and reference. The Protocol, initiated by the representatives of the conferring Governments and of the Reparation Commission on August 16th, is due to be formally signed on August 30th. Its purport is as follows:—The Governments concerned and the Reparation Commission have confirmed their acceptance of the Dawes Plan, and have agreed to its being brought into operation. Certain agreements necessary for that purpose have been drawn up. It is understood that these agreements, which have now been signed or initialed *ne varietur* (except as regards certain dates mentioned in Annex III.), are mutually interdependent. The Protocol is followed by four Annexes, the gist of which is given below:—

Annex I. sets out the terms of agreement between the Reparation Commission and the German Government:—(1) The German Government undertakes to take all appropriate measures for carrying the Dawes Plan into effect, especially as regards the promulgation of laws and regulations, notably those concerning the banks, the railways, and the industrial debentures in the form approved by the Reparation Commission. It will also apply the necessary provisions as to the control of the revenues assigned as security for the annuities under the Dawes Plan. (2) The Reparation Commission undertakes on its side to take all appropriate measures for carrying the Plan into force, and in particular to facilitate the issue of the German Loan, and for making necessary financial and accounting adjustments. (3) The Reparation Commission and the German Government agree in their respective spheres to carry into effect such additional arrangements as may be agreed as necessary to the application of the Plan—these to be signed later on, and to form a schedule to the London Pact. Further, any dispute that may arise as regards the agreements or the German legislation to put them into effect shall be referred to arbitration.

Annex II. contains the terms of the Agreement between the Allied Governments and the German Government concerning the Agreement set out in Annex I. (Clause 1): Subject to the powers of arbitration given to the Reparation Commission by the Treaty

of Versailles and to provisions as to arbitration contained in the Dawes Plan or elsewhere, any dispute between the Commission and Germany shall be referred to three arbitrators appointed for five years, one by the Commission, one by Germany, and one by agreement between the two parties, or, failing such agreement, by the Permanent Court of International Justice. *Clause 2* is a very long and detailed agreement, mainly concerning the work of the Transfer Committee. Germany recognises the right of this Committee to pursue ordinary commercial methods in employing funds at its disposal, and that delivery programmes shall not be subject to limitations prescribed by the Treaty of Versailles, and undertakes to facilitate these programmes. The most important point in this clause is the stipulation that in default of agreement between Germany and the Reparation Commission as to delivery programmes, these programmes for certain periods shall be laid down by an Arbitral Commission, of which the chairman shall be a citizen of the United States—the members to be appointed in the same manner as the Arbitrators referred to in *Annex I*, *Clause 1*. The Arbitral Commission, whose decision is to be final, is to take into account all the pertinent factors in Germany's financial and economic position. Allied Governments, if dissatisfied, may submit reasoned claims to this Commission. (*Clause 3*) Germany agrees to the appointment of a Special Committee not exceeding six members (the Allies and Germany to be equally represented), with the power to co-opt a neutral member, to determine procedure with regard to deliveries in kind, and to examine the best means of ensuring the fulfilment of German undertakings. The decisions of this Committee will be subject to the approval of the Reparation Commission, and, where applicable, the Transfer Committee. *Clauses 4 and 5* provide for arbitration in the case of certain possible differences between the Transfer Committee and the German Government, or, in the case of divided opinion on the Transfer Committee in certain matters. *Clause 6* prescribes the procedure for an appeal to arbitration where any Allied Government considers that there is a defect in the Plan as regards collection of deliveries, which can be remedied without affecting the vital principles of the Plan.

Annex III contains the terms of the main agreement between the Allies and Germany as regards the institution of the Dawes Plan. Article 1. is of primary importance, and is reproduced below in full:—(A.) The Experts' Plan of April 9, 1924, will be considered as having been put into execution, except as regards measures to be taken by the Allied Governments, when the Reparation Commission has declared that the measures prescribed by it in its decision No. 2877 (4) of July 15, 1924, have been taken, that is to say:—

- (1) That Germany has taken the following measures:—
 - (a) The voting by the Reichstag in the form approved by the Reparation Commission of the laws necessary to the working of the Plan, and their promulgation.
 - (b) The installation with a view to their normal working of all the executive and controlling bodies provided for in the Plan.
 - (c) The definitive constitution, in conformity with the provisions of the respective laws, of the Bank and the German Railway Company.
 - (d) The deposit with the trustees of certificates representing the railway bonds and such similar certificates for the industrial debentures as may result from the report of the Organisation Committee.
- (2) That contracts have been concluded assuring the subscription of the loan of 800 million gold marks as soon as the Plan has been brought into operation and all the conditions contained in the Experts' Report have been fulfilled.

(B.) The fiscal and economic unity of Germany will be considered to have been restored in accordance with the Experts' Plan when the Allied Governments have taken the following measures:—

- (1) The removal and cessation of all vetoes imposed since January 11, 1923, on German fiscal and economic legislation; the re-establishment of the German authorities with the full powers which they exercised in the occupied territories before January 11, 1923, as regards the administration of Customs and taxes, foreign commerce, woods and forests, railways (under the conditions specified in Article 5), and, in general, all other branches of economic and fiscal administration; the remaining administrations not mentioned above will operate in every respect in conformity with the Rhineland Agreement; the formalities regarding the admission or readmission of German officials will be applied in such a manner that the re-establishment of the German authorities, in particular the Customs administration, may take place with the least possible delay; all this without other restrictions than those stipulated in the Treaty of Versailles, the Rhineland Agreement, and the Experts' Plan.
- (2) The restoration to their owners of all mines, cokeries, and other industrial, agricultural, forest, and shipping undertakings exploited under Allied management or provisionally leased by the occupying authorities since January 11, 1923.
- (3) The withdrawal of the special organisations established to exploit the pledges and the release of requisitions made for the working of those organisations.
- (4) The removal, subject to the provisions of the Rhineland Agreement, of restrictions on the movement of persons, goods, and vehicles.
- (5) In general, the Allied Governments, in order to ensure in the Occupied Territories the fiscal and economic unity of Germany, will cause the Inter-Allied Rhineland High Commission to proceed, subject to the provisions of the Rhineland Agreement, to an adjustment of the Ordinances passed by the said Commission since January 11, 1923.

Articles 3, 4, and 5 of Annex III. are mainly concerned with dates on which various stages towards the application of the measures necessary for the institution of the Dawes Plan should be completed. October 5th is the date on which the whole plan should be brought into full operation; September 20th, the date for the transfer of the railway system of the Reich to the new company. Owing to delay in the signing of the London Pact, the time-table will presumably be proportionately delayed. Article 7 provides for amnesty in respect of offences in occupied territory since January, 1923, and other conciliatory measures.

Annex IV gives the terms of agreement between the Allied Governments, and has three main features. First and by far the most important is the provision that in all deliberations affecting the Dawes Plan a seat on the Reparation Commission shall be occupied by a representative of the United States, to be appointed by unanimous vote of the Commission, or failing that, by the President of the Permanent Court of International Justice. The person so appointed is to hold office for five years. The second point is the following:—"In order to secure the service of the loan of 800 million gold marks contemplated by the Experts' Plan, and in order to facilitate the issue of that loan to the public, the signatory Governments hereby declare that in case sanctions have to be imposed in consequence of a default by Germany they will safeguard any specific securities which may be pledged to the service of the loan. The signatory Governments further declare that they consider the service of the loan as entitled to absolute priority as regards any resources of Germany so far as such resources may have been subjected to a general charge in favour of the said loan, and also as regards any resources that may arise as a result of the imposition of sanctions." The third point is that unless otherwise stipulated in the London Agreement, the signatory Governments reserve all their rights under the Versailles Treaty.

Together with the text of the London Agreement were published the letters exchanged between the Belgian and French delegates and the German Chancellor on the subject of a Ruhr settlement. The first Franco-Belgian letter restates the well-known defence of the legality of the Ruhr occupation, but promises evacuation within the maximum period of a year, provided the London agreements for the putting into force of the Experts' Plan "are carried out in the spirit of good faith and pacification which has inspired the deliberations of the Conference." Dr Marx, in reply, repeats the German view of the illegality of the Ruhr occupation, and urges the desirability of "hastening as much as possible military evacuation so as to terminate it before the date fixed by you." By way of answer Messrs Herriot and Theunis promise immediate "military evacuation of the zone between Dortmund and Hùde, and of the territories outside the Ruhr occupied since January 11, 1923." Finally, Dr Marx writes "rejoicing at this decision." The evacuation of these territories was duly carried out on the day after the signature of the London Pact.

Notes of the Week.

The Course of the Strikes.—Londoners are apt to take more interest in London disputes than in any others, and although the Covent Garden trouble is really less serious in extent either than the protracted muddle in the building industry, or than the threat to all industry involved in the danger, now happily averted for the time being, of a national strike of electricians, it has bulked and still bulks larger in the Press. The conditions of employment and organisation generally in London's great fruit and vegetable market are notoriously bad. They have been condemned again and again, most recently in the Linlithgow Report. So far as can be understood, the men have definitely before them the idea of regularisation. Many of the porters who ask now for a guaranteed minimum of £4 5s all the year round may earn as much as £8 per week in the summer rush; against that has to be set the short-time and irregularity of the rest of the year—all the familiar evils partly met at the docks. The point on which discussions between the employers (organised in four main groups) and the porters broke down on August 14th was the insistence of the employers on taking on non-union and casual workers at their own discretion. In the same spirit, the employers refused to meet the Minister of Labour, or to take advantage of his good offices in negotiation. They appear, on their own showing, to have adopted the "take it or leave it" attitude. Against this the men and Mr Bevin for the Transport Union have expressed readiness to negotiate. On this point, then, whatever the merits of the wages issue, the honours are with the men. Good sense and fairness have also been shown by the electricians, who have agreed that their demands shall go to a Tribunal representative of both parties, with a Ministry of Labour chairman, the said Tribunal to report to the Industrial Council. So long ago as February, the Electrical Unions demanded a 10s per week increase for all grades. After long discussions, the municipal authorities and private

companies replied that, while not admitting the claim, they were prepared to submit it to arbitration. The Unions took a ballot of their members (some 30,000). Less than half voted; of those who did, two areas only, London and South Wales, showed clear majorities against arbitration and for a strike, the total votes being 7,630 against, 5,112 for arbitration. A strike would have paralysed industry; three days before the notices were due to take effect the unions agreed to reference to a tribunal. The building dispute has been far more protracted, and is, in its origin and course, extremely complicated. The court of inquiry, presided over by Lord Buckmaster, issued a report on July 9th, which, making painfully clear the misunderstandings out of which the trouble had, in essence, arisen, unfortunately brought understanding no nearer. The trouble dates back to the award of 1923. A certain number of employers outside the federation have since then been paying the rates the men demanded but did not get. In Liverpool, in April, the local branch of the Operatives' Union was struck off the union because its members refused to be bound by the terms of the agreement arrived at nationally between the union and the federated employers. When on June 16th last this new national agreement was signed for both sides, it was an implied condition that the operatives should endeavour to deal with the Liverpool men; the employers, however, read this as a definite pledge that the Liverpool men would go back on the national terms. This misunderstanding is the root of the distrust and suspicion which has caused the present trouble to drag on in varying forms ever since that time. Towards the end of June the employers declared a national lock-out; they suspended notices on the intervention of the Ministry of Labour, and for the holding of the court of inquiry; meantime, however, the men had declared a strike. In London, at any rate, this strike-lock-out (for both have been nominally in force since the first week of July) has mainly meant that men have transferred themselves from works belonging to federation employers to works belonging to employers outside, or, at any rate, willing to pay the terms for which the operatives now stand—i.e., an additional penny per hour in London and halfpenny in the provinces. Any national settlement has, despite continuous efforts by the Labour Ministry, been held up on the Liverpool snag. At last, on Thursday the Liverpool men came to terms.

The Finance Accounts.—There are always many points in the National Accounts which are not made clear to the outsider until the "Finance Accounts" are published. Those for 1923-24 have appeared this week (No. 103, 2s net), and are full of useful information for those who are interested in the details of the public finances. They will find, for instance, all the items of Customs and Excise receipts, under which it is shown that £52 millions was received on imported tobacco and £1,400 on home-grown tobacco, £344 millions on imported sugar, £103 millions on tea, and £31 millions on foreign wine. The motor duties produced £1,436,100, "key industry goods," £382,900, and "depreciated currency goods," £248,100. Under the head of Customs there was a debit item of £4,890,000 for an adjustment of revenue with the Irish Free State for the year 1922-23. Excess profits duty receipts, at £231 millions, exceeded repayments and allowances by £381,800, repayments of Munitions Levy exceeded receipts by £1,867,500, and no payments under these two heads were made into the Exchequer. Over £9½ millions was received in interest on War Loans, of which £7 millions was from the Dominions and £2½ millions from Allied Powers, Australia paying £4½ millions, New Zealand £1½ millions, and France £1,853,700. Of the £16 millions shown under the head of ordinary miscellaneous receipts, £6,440,000 was from the currency notes investment reserve account on account of excess of reserve beyond the prescribed 5 per cent. of the securities held; £1,339,100 was from the Post Office Savings Bank, being a moiety of surplus of interest from securities beyond interest paid to depositors; and £2,013,400 was the saving on supply grants. "Conscience money" brought in £3,700. Under special receipts of £36½ millions, £22½ millions was from the Disposals and Liquidation Commission, £4½

millions from the Shipping Commission (of which £2½ millions was for earnings of ex-enemy vessels), £1½ millions for repayment of grants and sale of equipment by the Food Department of the Board of Trade, and £2 millions for the proceeds of salvaged gold from the s.s. *Laurentic*. On the expenditure side we find details of the application of the new sinking fund (1923) which are as follows:—

Principal of Terminable Annuities	£ 1,794,900
Sinking Fund—	
3½% Conversion Loan	13,585,700
4% Funding Loan	2,416,400
4% Victory Bonds	2,062,500
U.S. Government Loan—	
Installment due December, 1923	4,894,100
Pittman Silver Advances repaid	6,565,400
Issue to meet deficiency on Funding Loan and Victory Bonds surrendered for Death Duties	7,275,000
Ditto in respect of other securities	21,200
Balance issued to National Debt Commissioners	1,383,800
	40,000,000

Details of the National Debt as at March 31, 1924, enable us to correct the total in our weekly table, the figure being £7,707½ millions, as against £7,812½ millions at March 31, 1923, a reduction of £105 millions. Estimated assets are given as £111½ millions, or £2½ millions less than at the end of the previous financial year. A full statement is also given of loans guaranteed by the British Government outstanding on March 31st last, which, correctly speaking, should be added to the National Debt. The nominal net liability is shown as £402 millions, the loans guaranteed including local loans, Irish land stocks, and several small colonial and foreign loans. To this figure should be added the liability on the Austrian loan, which is 24½ per cent. of principal and interest. For the purposes of this guarantee, bonds for the amounts guaranteed have been deposited with the National Bank of Switzerland to become effective in case of default. There is, of course, a further contingent liability for guarantees under the Trade Facilities Act, which at the date of the latest return (to June 30, 1924) amounted to £47½ millions. Loans to Allies and Dominions remaining unpaid on March 31st last are given as £2,163 millions.

A Bounty for British Sugar.—The Minister of Agriculture announced this week that he proposes to offer a bounty to the beet sugar industry of this country. The Government proposal is to offer 19s 6d per cwt to the manufacturer for the first four years, 13s for the next three years, and 6s 6d for a further three years on condition that the manufacturer pays the farmer not less than 44s per ton. This last clause is an essential part of the scheme, for beet sugar production cannot develop unless the farmer has some inducement to take up what is for most British agriculturalists a new form of production. In general, subsidies to particular industries at the expense of the taxpayer are economically objectionable, because they encourage producers to look to the Government to help them out of their troubles instead of relying on their own enterprise and efficiency. Like protection, they are a means of keeping out the invigorating breezes of competition. But if any industries are to be subsidised, the beet sugar industry is one of the very few that can make out a case for this sort of assistance. Practically ever since commercial methods of producing sugar from sugar beet were discovered, the industry in European countries has been given various forms of Government assistance, directly or indirectly, and the exports from each country were carried on under highly artificial conditions in which the various Governments competed with one another in offering export bounties. Under these conditions for many decades sugar consumers in Great Britain and a large group of sugar-using industries greatly benefited from very cheap sugar; but it was impossible for the manufacturer of beet sugar to start in this country in competition with the fully-equipped industries of the Continent. These conditions afford an argument for giving in this country some help during the period of infancy to an industry whose birth has been so long delayed. In the circumstances the method of a subsidy is far preferable to that of using the tariff as a means of protection. The nation

sees exactly what sacrifices are to be made; the fact that the subsidy appears as a charge on the Budget means that the period of these payments is not likely to be unduly prolonged, and the likelihood of the principle being extended to other trades is small if every industry which seeks for a subsidy has to make out a special case for dipping its hands into the taxpayer's pocket. Even the present proposal will be examined with a very critical eye. It can only be justified if the Minister can give convincing reasons for thinking that in a few years the industry will be able to stand alone. In these days of straightened finances we cannot afford the luxury of trying experiments.

Cost of Living.—July saw a continuance of the June rise in the cost of living of an average working-class family, as calculated by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. The increase over the pre-war level is now 71 per cent., as compared with 70 per cent. at the end of June, and is exactly the same as a year ago. How this figure has moved, month by month, since the beginning of 1918 is shown below:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.—All items.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	85.90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February ..	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March ..	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April ..	90.95	110	132	133	82	74	73
May ..	95.100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June ..	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July ..	100.105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70
August ..	110	115	155	122	81	71	71
September ..	110	115	161	120	79	73	..
October ..	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	..
November ..	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	..
December ..	120	125	169	99	80	77	..

For food alone the corresponding percentage at August 1st was 64, which compares with 62 at July 1st and 65 a year ago. The rise in July was mainly due to increases in the prices of flour, bread, butter, and eggs, which were, however, partly counterbalanced by a heavy drop in the price of potatoes.

Employment in July.—Unemployment increased in July, the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* showing that of the 11½ million workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 9.9 per cent. were unemployed at July 28th, as compared with 9.4 per cent. at June 23rd. Similarly the trade union percentage of unemployment rose between the end of June and the end of July from 7.2 to 7.4. This follows a rise in June, as will be seen from the following table, which shows monthly movements of the trade union percentage over a number of years:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March ..	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April ..	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May ..	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June ..	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July ..	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	7.4
August ..	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	..
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	..
October ..	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	..
November ..	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..
December ..	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

The total of registered unemployed rose from 1,015,000 at June 30th to 1,052,000 at July 28th, an increase of 37,000. The demand for labour in the shipbuilding industry showed some improvement in July, but this was more than counterbalanced by reverse movements in other industries, among which pig-iron manufacture, and the woollen and worsted, hosiery and lace trades afforded the chief examples.

The Inland Revenue Report.—The sixty-sixth report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Inland Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1923 (Cmd. 1934, 3s net), is packed full with interesting information and valuable statistical data, from which we extract a few examples. A classification of all property paying estate duties in 1922-23 shows that 13.73 per cent. was in the form of British Government securities issued since 1914, 7.11 per cent. in other Government and municipal securities, 28.28 per cent. in stocks and shares, 7.06 per cent. in cash, 6.15 per cent. in land, and 14.48 per cent. in house property and business premises. The total gross capital values on which duty was paid were £472½ millions. Stamp duties, at £21,851,300, increased by nearly £3 millions as compared with 1921-22, of which transfers of stocks and shares accounted for over £2 millions, receipts from this source rising from £2,908,700 to £5,063,000. Total receipts from stamps in connection with stocks and shares increased from £4,525,000 to £7,174,500. Dwindling activity in new issues is reflected in the figures for companies' share capital duty, which at £1,855,500 compares with £2,141,500 for 1921-22 and £5,853,100 for 1920-21. Stamps on cheques and bills of exchange brought in £4,472,100, against £4,286,400. Inhabited House Duty, which has now been abolished, brought in £1,989,500, of which £1,563,600 was from private dwelling houses. The gross income assessed for income-tax was £3,214.8 millions, and the taxable income, £1,308.3 millions, the net produce of the tax being £346 millions. Super-tax brought in £64 millions, the numbers liable being 85,000 and the total income £495 millions. The effective rate of tax—income-tax and super-tax combined—on incomes of £150,000 is shown to be 10s 8d in the £. Corporation profits tax was levied on 34,745 companies, with taxable profits of £458.7 millions, and produced £22,581,800. The comparable figures in 1921-22 were 39,395, £512.2 millions and £25,352,300.

The Stock Exchange and the London Pact.—The general tendency of the Stock Exchange markets since the announcement of the signature of the London Conference Pact has been, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, what members call steady to good. Only in the foreign market did any semblance of excitement arise in connection with the event. In that department, French bonds enjoyed a very brief spurt, but, so far as Germans were concerned, the anticipations of the bulls were realised, and stock was accordingly turned out in liberal quantities by speculative purchasers. Talk, in advance, reported the purchases of German bonds as being on behalf of German interests, via Holland and Belgium. The sequel to the Pact signature, however, seems a curious commentary on the strength of the purchasers, who, had they been the German Government, as suggested, would hardly have turned sellers in what was obviously an attempt to secure profits. The rapid reaction in the prices of German bonds suggests, indeed, that the purchasers were of a more transitory order. British Government stocks improved by reason of the hope that, with peace assured, the New York exchange might be expected to continue its movement in favour of London, and thus to remove into the background those fears of an August rise in the Bank rate which had been worrying the markets for the past few weeks. Consequently, the War Loan, War 3½ per Cents., Funding, Victory, and Conversions all went better, and the firm front displayed by the Consol market served to buttress not only gilt-edged stocks, but investment securities of all kinds. Not a few of the recently issued stocks display a better tendency. Harland and Wolff preference, to take a representative example, moved up from 2s 9d discount to 1s 9d discount; New South Wales 5 per cent. scrip, another newcomer, strengthened from 1½ discount to ¾ discount. Stock Exchange securities are re-attracting money which lay dormant, though expectant, during the period of mild crisis which prevailed at the time when the issue of the London Conference hung in the balance. Stock Exchange men cannot be said to welcome with any enthusiasm the latest peace developments. Brokers and jobbers thankfully recognise that there is at length a hope of some sort of settlement being achieved on the Continent, with a concomitant prospect of trade improve-

ment and a stabilisation of exchanges. Whether the Pact will succeed in restoring international confidence and good faith remains to be seen. The doubt which exists on this point is the reason why there is but little heard on the subject in the Stock Exchange markets. Feeling runs high in some quarters that the Germans are capable of supplying, out of their own resources in America, in this country and elsewhere, the forty million pounds sterling which is to be raised by way of loan. It is safe to assert that rarely has there been any financial operation of recent years which has aroused more sentimental feeling than this loan is already doing. The fact of markets being better, however, and of the strength permeating so many sections of industrial shares at a season of the year when holidays are at their height, is practical evidence that the House looks forward with expectancy rather than optimism to the ultimate outcome of the negotiations which have ended in the signature of this agreement.

Acreage and Crop Conditions in England and Wales.—The Ministry of Agriculture has published a preliminary tabulation of the agricultural returns collected on June 4th last in respect of agricultural holdings above one acre in England and Wales. The following table compares the results in respect of the present year with those of 1923:—

	1923. Acres.	1924. Acres.
Total acreage under crops and grass	25,943,000	25,873,000
Arable land	11,181,000	10,928,000
Permanent grass { For hay	4,357,000	4,502,000
{ Not for hay	10,405,000	10,443,000
{ Total	14,762,000	14,945,000
Wheat	1,740,000	1,546,000
Barley	1,327,000	1,316,000
Oats	1,978,000	2,035,000
Mixed corn	116,800	135,100
Rye	73,200	59,100
Beans	(a) 235,000	241,300
Peas	(a) 141,400	171,500
Potatoes	466,700	451,800
Turnips and swedes	862,000	831,800
Mangold	402,900	389,600
Cabbage, savoy and kale	72,200	80,100
Kohl-rabi	12,600	14,700
Rape	78,000	68,100
Vetches or tares	86,900	112,200
Lucerne	57,900	64,400
Mustard for seed	31,200	35,900
Brussels sprouts	16,900	20,700
Cauliflower or broccoli	11,100	12,400
Carrots	10,100	10,700
Onions	2,400	2,900
Sugar beet	16,900	22,800
Linseed	8,800	5,200
Hops	24,900	26,000
Small fruit	63,700	73,500
Orchards	232,100	239,200
Clover and rotation grasses { For hay	1,815,000	1,751,000
{ Not for hay	785,000	797,000
{ Total	2,600,000	2,548,000
Bare fallow	435,600	355,600

(a) Excluding 4,900 acres of beans and peas grown for fodder.

The arable area of the country shows a further reduction, and that of permanent grass an increase, the area of arable land being now practically the same as in 1914. The acreage of wheat is again substantially lower, and is smaller than it has been since 1904. Barley is also slightly smaller, but oats and mixed corn show a somewhat larger acreage than a year ago. Beans and peas have recovered to some extent the substantial decline recorded last year, but the acreage of turnips and swedes is the smallest on record, except for 1922, and mangolds also show a reduction. Potatoes, which fell heavily last year, show a further decline, fairly evenly spread throughout the country. The Ministry reports that many of the heavier crops were beaten down by storms in the latter part of July, and tended to ripen slowly owing to lack of sunshine. Wheat on the whole is healthy and vigorous, and has headed well. On some lands, however, it is frequently thin, and prospects are less satisfactory. For the

whole country the yield was estimated on August 1st at 17.5 cwts per acre, or rather less than ½ cwt over the average. On the basis of the acreage figures given above, the total yield of wheat, barley, and oats this year is forecast as follows:—

	Production, 1923. Cwts.	Forecast, 1924. Cwts.
Wheat	30,431,000	27,055,000
Barley	19,301,000	19,872,000
Oats	27,059,000	28,083,000

As these figures are based on estimates made at the beginning of the present month, they may require modification in the light of the experience during August and September.

Canadian Production.—According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canadian workers engaged in various branches of "productive" activity—agriculture, forestry, fisheries, trapping, mining, manufacturing, &c.—produced in 1922 goods having a net value of \$2,951 millions, against \$2,814 millions in 1921 and \$3,745 millions in 1920. By "net production" is understood the value remaining in the producers' hands after eliminating the value of materials consumed in the productive process. These figures include the output of about two-thirds of the total workers of the country, and as the remainder are mainly employed in auxiliary services, such as transport, commerce, the liberal professions, local and central government, &c., about 50 per cent. may be added to the above figures to obtain a very rough estimate of Canada's national income during the years in question. The following table shows the value of the net production of the main branches of industry in 1921 and 1922:—

Division of Industry.	1921. Value. Million \$.	1922. Value. Million \$.
Agriculture	1,092	1,149
Forestry	263	266
Fisheries	35	42
Trapping	10	17
Mining	163	177
Electric power	73	82
Construction	169	220
Repair work	58	58
Manufactures	1,150	1,131
Grand total	2,815	2,951

The item "manufactures" includes dairy factories, saw-mills, pulp mills, fish canning and curing, shipbuilding, and a number of other industries which had already been included under earlier headings. This duplication, involving \$198 millions in 1921, and \$192 millions in 1922, has been eliminated from the grand total. Agriculture in 1922 regained the premier position it occupied up to 1920, though manufacturing activities come a very good second. As regards the shares of the respective Provinces, the pre-eminence of Ontario in production, as in population, is distinctly marked. The statistics show that Ontario contributed about 39.3 per cent. of the net value of Canadian production. Quebec held second place with 24.7 per cent., and the three Western Provinces of Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Alberta followed with percentages of 10.6, 7, and 5.5 respectively. The agricultural resources of Manitoba enabled the Province to contribute 5.4 per cent. of the net output for 1922.

The Turkish Petroleum Company.—The Compagnie Française des Pétroles, formed under the auspices of the French Government, has, writes a correspondent, formally exercised its option on 40,000 shares in the Turkish Petroleum Company. This block of shares represents the 25 per cent. interest formerly held by the Deutsche Bank, which was assigned to the French Government under the terms of the San Remo Agreement. The various interests in the company appear to be in a state of flux. The pre-war division was plainly laid down in a Foreign Office document, signed on March 19, 1914, which has recently been unearthed and published in America—how and under whose authority we do not know. It bears the signatures of representatives of the German and British Governments, of the National Bank of Turkey, of the Deutsche Bank, and of the two

oil groups interested. The division of interests is given as 50 per cent. to the D'Arcy group (Anglo-Persian), 25 per cent. to the Deutsche Bank, and 25 per cent. to the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company (Royal Dutch Shell group). Further, it contains the interesting clause that "Mr C. S. Gulbenkian shall be entitled to a beneficiary 5 per cent. interest without voting rights, this 5 per cent. being contributed equally by the D'Arcy group and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company out of their respective holdings.....If Mr Gulbenkian shall desire to dispose of this interest and also in the event of his death, the D'Arcy group and the Anglo-Saxon Company shall have the option of purchasing the interests standing in their names (as nominees of Mr Gulbenkian)." Now it is well known that negotiations have taken place between the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey regarding American participation in the Turkish Petroleum Company. It has been stated unofficially that half the original interest of the D'Arcy group has been assigned to Standard Oil and five or six other American companies, so that the company has become, as it were, an official partnership between Great Britain, the United States, France and Holland. But nothing, up to this date, had been publicly known of the 5 per cent. interest of Mr Gulbenkian. It is a fact that he was, in pre-war days, an Ottoman subject, and was helpful in securing consideration for the Royal Dutch Shell group in the disposal of these Turkish oil concessions. He was also, no doubt, helpful as an intermediary in the negotiations between the Royal Dutch Shell group and Lord Cowdray's Mexican Eagle Oil Company, and at a later stage between that group and the Venezuelan Oil Concessions. It is to be hoped, for the sake of the other shareholders, that the price of his mediation is not always a shilling in the pound sterling. But it would be strange if his 5 per cent. interest is allowed to remain in the Turkish Petroleum Company when competition for participation is so severe. And if the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is to assign, on diplomatic grounds, a half of its 50 per cent. interest to American companies, it has yet to be explained to the satisfaction of its shareholders what compensation it is to receive. The uncertainty of the company's internal position would appear to be reflected in that of its external position, or *vice versa*. The negotiations between the London and Angora Governments for the friendly determination of the frontiers between Turkey and Irak have broken down, and under the provisions of the Lausanne Treaty the dispute is to be settled by the Council of the League of Nations. The British case has already been presented, but the Turks, having refused to present a joint case, have apparently done nothing further. There the matter remains, and the validity of the Turkish Petroleum Company's concession is seemingly left dependent on the ultimate disposition of Mosul. But why should it be? As a matter of common-sense, it seems strange that the two Governments cannot come to terms about this oil concession irrespective of the Irak boundaries. We have a strong suspicion that the first would determine the second, but the diplomatists are unfortunately proceeding the other way about.

Austro-Hungarian Pre-War Debts.—An important communication addressed by the Council of Foreign Bondholders to the holders of certain Austrian and Hungarian pre-war bonds states that at the instance of the Sub-Committee of Repartition of the Austro-Hungarian Debt, duly authorised by the Reparation Commission, a conference was held at Innsbruck in June, 1923, between representatives of the Continental holders of bonds of the pre-war External Debt of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and delegates of various Successor and Cessionary States established by the Peace Treaties. The Sub-Committee of Repartition proposed for acceptance a *ne varietur* arrangement, and a protocol embodying the terms proposed was signed by the representatives and delegates present (with the exception of the delegate of Roumania), liberty as regards ratification or non-ratification by their respective Governments and principals being reserved. A copy of this Protocol was sent to the Council of Foreign Bondholders, who thereupon called a meeting of bondholders in London, and a committee was appointed to look after the interests of the British holders. The prin-

cipal provisions of the Innsbruck Protocol are as follows:

1. The service of the debt to be recommenced on April 1, 1925, on the following bases:—
 - (a) Gold loans, viz., Austrian 32 per cent. of the full interest to be paid in gold.
 - 4 per cent. gold rentes and Hungarian 4 per cent. gold rentes.
 - (b) Foreign currency loans, viz., Austrian 4½ per cent. interest to be paid in the currency of issue. In the case of the redeemable currency loans (viz., the Austrian 4½ per cent. Treasury notes 1914, Hungarian 4½ per cent. rentes 1913, and Hungarian 4½ per cent. loan 1914) the same percentage is to apply to the capital amounts repayable.

[Note.—No internal currency loans are dealt with under the scheme.]
All payments are subject to a deduction to cover the expenses of the debt service.

2. The arrears of interest and drawn bonds, from 1920 in the case of Austria, and from 1921 in that of Hungary, to be paid on the same bases, such payment being spread over twelve years from 1926 to 1937, i.e., one 48th part would be payable each quarter during the said period.
3. The foregoing terms to be subject to revision before 1931 if the financial condition of the States concerned improves.
4. In case of default on the part of any of the contributive States, the bondholders to revert to their full rights against such defaulting State or States.
5. A Caisse de la Dette to be established in Paris, the members of which are to be appointed by the associations representing the bondholders. The Caisse to be charged with the collection and distribution of the revenues contributed by the various States who still remain responsible for their share of the old debt.

(The foregoing arrangement and the establishment and constitution of the Caisse are subject to the approval of the Reparation Commission.)
The Peace Treaties provide that the percentages of the old Austro-Hungarian debts to be assumed by the new States should be fixed by the Reparation Commission. The Commission has fixed these percentages as follows:

	In the Case of the Austrian Debt.	In the Case of the Hungarian Debt.
Austria	36.827	1.581
Czecho-Slovakia	41.700	15.945
Flume	..	0.748
Hungary	..	45.733
Italy	4.087	..
Jugo-Slavia	2.043	14.116
Poland	13.733	0.075
Roumania	1.610	21.802

Each of the above States is under the obligation (a) to deliver to the Reparation Commission its own new bonds equal in amount to the difference between the share of the old debt for which it is responsible, and the amount thereof held within its own territory, and (b) to present bonds so held for stamping within three months. Owing to the large number of bonds comprised in the old debt the period allowed for stamping has been extended, and it will probably be a considerable time before the exact amounts held within the territories of the various States can be ascertained. It is also understood that the more substantial States, such as Austria, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia and Italy, have meanwhile increased their holdings, and will thus be in a position to prove to the Reparation Commission that they hold sufficient old bonds to satisfy the whole or the major portion of their obligations under the Treaties. In that event the bondholders will ultimately have only Jugo-Slavia, Roumania and Poland to look to for any payments on account of the old Austro-Hungarian debt in accordance with the Peace Treaties.

L.M.S. Conversion Scheme.—The Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, Limited, which holds about £2 millions of London, Midland, and Scottish Railway ordinary stock, announces the formation of the London, Midland and Scottish Stock Conversion Trust, which is offering conversion facilities to holders of the remaining £93 millions up to 5 per cent. of their present holdings. The basis of conversion is an offer for each £100 of L.M.S. ordinary stock £100 4 per cent. preference stock of the Trust, £50 5 per cent. preferred stock of the Trust, and £100 deferred stock of the Trust. There is to be a deduction of £2 10s from the preference stock, and a charge for management of ½ per cent. on the stock converted. It is contended that by means of the proposed conversion the

dividend which should be forthcoming out of the standard revenue of the L.M.S. Railway Company should soon command for the capital which it represents a value of £125-£135 per £100 in place of its present depreciated value of about £97. We are inclined to think that this estimate errs on the optimistic side, and the scheme seems rather cumbersome in proportion to the advantages it will bring. Among the disadvantages are a slight loss of income and less marketability. Holders of L.M.S. ordinary stock to whom the offer appeals must come into the scheme before September 22nd.

An American Railway Merger.—Our New York correspondent writes:—One of the largest railroad consolidations ever effected in this country will probably be consummated within the next few weeks. Five of the leading railroads, with an aggregate capital of \$1,500,000,000 approximately, and more than 10,000 miles of track, will be included in the merger, plans for which have been announced, and will be submitted shortly to stockholders of the lines concerned for their approval. Under the proposal as it now stands the present Nickel Plate will control through an exchange of stock and by lease the Père Marquette, the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Erie and the Hocking Valley; eventually the Pittsburgh and West Virginia and the Wheeling and Lake Erie may be added to the new system. While all details have not yet been worked out, the terms outlined this week for the exchange of stock of the different roads are as follows:—Holders of Erie first and second preferred shares are to receive 50 per cent. of their holdings in preferred stock of the new Nickel Plate holding company which is to be formed, and Erie common stockholders will receive 40 per cent. in new common stock. Holders of Père Marquette prior preference shares will receive 100 per cent. of new preferred stock bearing a dividend rate of 6 per cent., as compared with the present annual rate of 5 per cent., while Père Marquette common shareholders will get 85 per cent. in new common. For the Chesapeake and Ohio 6½ per cent. preferred stock it is planned to give 115 per cent. in new 6 per cent. preferred, yielding a return of 6.90 per cent., as against the present 6.50 per cent.; the Chesapeake and Ohio common stock will be exchanged for 55 per cent. in new 6 per cent. preferred and 55 per cent. in new common, yielding, on a basis of 6 per cent. dividends on the new common, a return at the rate of 6.60 per cent., as compared with the present 4 per cent. dividend. Hocking Valley common stockholders will be offered 50 per cent. in new 6 per cent. preferred and 50 per cent. in new common, to yield 6 per cent. instead of 4 per cent. as at present. The new holding company is to have only two classes of stock, namely, 6 per cent. preferred and common stock which it is proposed to place on a \$6 dividend basis as soon as issued. This is considered possible, since the 1923 consolidated earnings of the railroads entering the combine show an amount equivalent to about \$14 a share was available for the common stock of the new holding company for that year. The existing Nickel Plate company owns more than 150,000 shares of Chesapeake and Ohio, which, in turn, owns approximately 90 per cent. of the stock of the Hocking Valley. The Nickel Plate also owns, it is understood, upwards of 100,000 shares of the Père Marquette. All of the foregoing controlled stocks will be exchanged in accordance with the plan indicated, and will remain as assets of the present Nickel Plate company. The stock which will be given to the latter in exchange for its physical properties will be in addition to that which it will receive for its stock holdings in the other properties mentioned. The old Nickel Plate, now known as the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis, will continue as a holding company after disposing of its assets to the new corporation. The consolidated system will be under the control and direction of the Van Sweringen interests of Cleveland, who are the prime movers in this undertaking, and who already control the New York, Chicago and St. Louis, the Chesapeake and Ohio and other railroads, and are said to have acquired recently practically a working control of the Erie. Many of the largest stockholders in the various railroads to be merged have already approved of the project, including the First National Bank interests, who

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
EASTERN MERCHANTS, SHIPPING & INSURANCE AGENTS
WITH BRANCHES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES
THROUGHOUT THE FAR EAST, AND IN NORTH
AMERICA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

have taken a prominent part in bringing about the pending consolidation. The Inter-State Commerce Commission is expected to sanction the merger in due course, since it is in line with that body's plans for the consolidation of railroads of the United States into several big systems.

U.S. Iron and Steel Statistics.—The annual statistical report of the American Iron and Steel Institute for 1923 gives in more detail the production figures for 1923, which have already appeared in the aggregate, but possibly the most interesting tables from a British point of view are those relating to the capacity of blast furnaces and steel works. The number of blast furnaces completed or building at December 31st last was 438 (of which 26 were charcoal furnaces), and their annual capacity 53,292,080 tons. The average annual capacity of blast furnaces using coke was 52,709,680 tons, and of charcoal furnaces 582,400 tons. Eighteen stacks of an aggregate annual capacity of 780,000 tons were abandoned or dismantled during the year. Of these the oldest was built in 1847, and the most recent in 1910. Six stacks were building at December 31st, four of which, with an aggregate capacity of 563,250 tons per annum, were coke, and two of 45,000 tons capacity charcoal. There were 461 completed steel plants at December 31st, of which 222 were equipped to make open-hearth steel, 105 to make bessemer, and 245 to make crucible, electric, and miscellaneous steel. The annual capacity of steel ingots and castings was 59,431,710 tons, compared with 39,689,265 tons in 1913. The total capacity includes 43,460,825 tons of open hearth basic, 2,437,365 tons of open hearth acid, 12,007,685 tons of bessemer, 182,545 tons of crucible, and 1,340,890 tons of electric steel. During the year 23 plants, with an approximate annual capacity of 421,870 tons, were abandoned or dismantled. The report also gives tables showing the rolling mills active and idle during 1923, production of pig-iron, steel ingots, and castings, and finished steel products over a series of years, consumption of raw materials in the production of pig-iron and crude steel, the imports and exports of iron and steel, and the prices of certain typical products. No information is given, however, with regard to labour or wages.

Recovery in Silver.—Silver this week has benefited by the fall in the sterling rate. American sellers have been offering nothing and at times were buying; but apart from this there are now factors at work that will influence the market favourably for some time to come. Last week the price fell to 33½d, but this week the tendency has been strongly upwards, sentiment generally being better, and it is quite likely that there will be a recovery to the best of the year. The reports of large silver purchases for Germany may be disregarded. Large quantities of silver coins were melted down, and the bars derived therefrom were deposited against advances, but the bulk of this silver is being reshipped to Germany and will be used for coinage purposes. There is at present enough for this year, but, of course, if Germany increased its silver issue to the maximum allowed under the Dawes scheme, which would mean 20 marks per capita, large purchases of new silver would be necessary. The minting capacity of Germany is very limited, however, but the business might be partly placed in the States. Poland is coining 48 million zloty, and has purchased 6,000,000 ounces of silver from the American producers. This is double the original contract, and busy times are foreshadowed at the Philadelphia mint. It is hoped that the Polish Government will take altogether something like 25,000,000 dollars' worth of silver from the States, and this has given rise to reports of active buying for European account. On this side everything points to better markets. There are very important commitments for Continental account, which will

have to be reckoned with over the next few weeks. A large quantity of silver will probably be taken off the market, and this means that the short interest will have to look out. China has turned from a seller to a buyer, and the Indian Bazaars are rather eager to cover. With Russia and Poland committed to a big coining programme which will call for a lot of silver, and Germany in favour of a policy that will absorb the whole of the 25,000,000 ounces collected by the Reichsbank at the very least the outlook for the commodity is certainly better, and well-informed bullionist opinion favours the view that higher prices will be witnessed later on. There is a fairly big bear account to be covered in, and the set-back in sterling will keep American offers back.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BIG RAILROAD CONSOLIDATION —COMMODITY PRICES ADVANCE SHARPLY— HIGH BUILDING COSTS—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 12.

DURING July, prices of staple commodities showed a marked upward turn. Bradstreet's index number at August 1st was \$12.6231, and recorded the first gain since that of December 1, 1923. The increase amounted to 3.2 per cent. over July 1st, and brought the average level of commodity prices about up to that prevailing on April 1st last, thus wiping out the declines in April, May, and June. The August 1st index number, however, is still 1.5 below that of August 1st a year ago, but 4.5 per cent. above August 1, 1922, and 18.8 per cent. higher than that of June 1, 1921. As compared with February 1, 1920, the peak point of the after-war boom in prices, the latest index number is 39 per cent. lower, but 45 per cent. above that of August 1, 1914. No less than ten different groups of commodities shared in last month's advance; they included breadstuffs, livestock, provisions, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, and miscellaneous products. Three groups showed slight declines, namely, building materials, drugs and chemicals, and fruits. Of the 106 commodities used in the compilation, 41 advanced, 20 declined, and 45 remained unchanged.

Despite the tremendous building activity which has been under way in this country for the past four or five years, and the great increase in the number of houses and apartment dwellings, the average wage-earner is still forced to pay for rent a much larger portion of his income than he is justified in doing, or else occupy quarters beneath his status. A decade or so ago the average person expected to pay not more than one-fourth of his income for rent. To-day, he is indeed fortunate who can keep the rent item in his family budget down to that percentage. The majority are compelled to pay nearer one-half of their earnings for rent, whether for a detached house, a two-family house, or an apartment. The reason homes cost so much, either to rent or purchase, is that building costs have at least doubled in the past ten years. There is also a great deal of speculative building, buying and selling, each turnover yielding someone a substantial profit before the real home-seeker acquires the property. A survey recently completed by the National Industrial Conference Board shows how the building boom which started in 1919 forced up the prices of building labour and materials. The report states that the shortage of building labour is the outstanding factor of the high cost of building, and was the chief cause in limiting construction work immediately following the war, when building labour was forced to seek other work, and when apprentices were discouraged from entering the building trade. The failure of the supply of skilled labour to keep pace with

the demand can be traced to the immigration restrictions, and to the fact that employers in the past did not encourage apprenticeship. The result is hourly wages in 17 building crafts are now 100 per cent. higher than in 1914, and by far the highest of any industry in the United States, irrespective of considerable bonus additions. The survey referred to points out that at the last census 86 per cent. of persons employed in the whole country received incomes of \$2,000 or less a year, and that rents for low and moderate-priced accommodations suited to the average wage-earner are 85 per cent. higher than they were in 1914. "The prospective home-seeker," it adds, "is not in a position to bargain with the landlord, and it is a question of exactly how much surplus needs to be established to give the home-seeker better opportunity and freedom of choice."

Although trade and industry still show some irregularity, there is abundant evidence that the business tide generally has turned, and is rising, and there is good reason to expect that the volume of business will continue to increase from now on. Should this prove to be the case, it will undoubtedly have an important bearing upon the political situation and the outcome of the Presidential election in November. In many quarters it is felt that favourable trade, industrial and financial conditions during the next two or three months will materially strengthen the prospects of President Coolidge's re-election. It is quite natural, therefore, that developments in the domestic, industrial, agricultural and financial situation, as well as economic developments in Europe, especially with respect to the solving of the reparations problem and the putting into practical operation of the Dawes plan, are being followed here with the keenest interest. Some basic industries still lag behind distributive trade, which in the past few weeks has shown considerable expansion. Pig-iron production in July, for instance, fell 15 per cent. from June, and more than 50 per cent. from July a year ago. Shoe manufacturing and wholesale branches of that industry, on the other hand, gained materially, while cotton goods and silk fabrics moved in much larger volume. The lumber trade in the South and on the Pacific Coast was more active. Structural steel and supplies for implement manufacturers are now much more active than they were a month ago, but reports from automobile centres display irregular conditions so far as manufacturing activity is concerned. In its review of basic and industrial movements last month, the Department of Commerce says that pig-iron output in July amounted to 1,784,899 tons, as against 2,026,221 tons in June and 3,678,334 tons in July, 1923. Furnaces in blast on August 1st numbered 144, with an average daily capacity of 55,350 tons, compared with 161 in blast on July 1st, having a capacity of 62,200 tons, and 298 a year ago, with a capacity of 114,200. Leading manufacturers of locomotives shipped 140 locomotives in July, as against 145 in June and 239 in July of last year; orders on hand at July 31st totalled 483 locomotives, compared with 531 at the end of June and 1,738 on July 31, 1923. July car-loadings aggregated 3,526,500, as against 3,944,386 a year ago; total loadings for the first seven months ended July 31st were 26,713,207 cars, contrasting with 27,946,653 for the corresponding period of last year, and loadings of grain products increased over a year ago, both for July and the seven months. Sales of two leading mail-order houses in July totalled \$22,069,000, as against \$22,453,000 in the same month of 1923. Commercial firms failing in July numbered 1,615, against 1,607 in June and 1,231 in July of last year, the liabilities exceeding those of June and a year ago. July transactions on the New York Stock Exchange aggregated 24,000,000 shares approximately, as compared with 17,000,000 in the preceding month and only 13,000,000 in July, 1923. Price increases accompanying the greater activity raised the average for 25 industrial stocks to \$113.53, as against \$108.93 in June and \$102.52 a year ago, while the average for 25 railroad shares advanced to \$68.39 in July from \$65.07 in June and \$58.07 a year ago. Thus far in August further sharp gains have been recorded, carrying the average prices of both industrial and railroad stocks to new high levels for this year. Bonds also have been very active, with many issues, including Liberty Loan bonds, reaching new high ground since the first of the

FRANCE.—THE LONDON AGREEMENT—INTER-ALLIED DEBTS—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 20.

M. HERRIOT is to report the results of his efforts in London to the Chambers to-morrow only, therefore it is at present impossible to know whether the decisions come to by the Inter-Allied Conference will be ratified by the French Parliament. The debate in the Chamber, it is expected, will last until at least Saturday evening, in view of the large number of deputies who have given notice of their desire to take part in it, but so far as can be observed at present there is no serious intention to repudiate the London decisions, although many of the details of the agreement arrived at will undoubtedly be the subject of sharp criticism.

It cannot be said that Frenchmen are satisfied with the results achieved. French critics of the London agreement insist that its results are all for the benefit of Germany and to the prejudice of this country. Germany, it is asserted, secures not only a loan of 800 million gold marks, but also the restoration of the Ruhr and the Rhineland railways, the reconstitution of her economic unity, the suppression of Customs barriers, the reinstallation of her own administration on the left bank of the Rhine, and protection virtually against any sanctions in the future; while, at the same time, she loses nothing and is given strong ground for hoping to enter the League of Nations on a footing of equality, to have her finances restored, and to be given facilities for her industry to reconquer the world, while she is also given the possibility of preparing another war of aggression. France, on the other hand, it is insisted, gains absolutely nothing by the agreement, while she loses more than half of the reparations which it was agreed should come to her, even under the London agreement of 1921 (which in itself cut down her original rights enormously); she has also lost her majority on the Reparations Commission, and the economic and political pledges which she held in the Ruhr and the Rhineland, including the administrative control of the left bank of the Rhine; while she is now rendered helpless to act on her own initiative in the event of Germany again making default. She has now to be content, according to the nationalist view of the situation, with promises of a Franco-German treaty of commerce (which in any case will be as favourable to Germany as to herself); of a conference on inter-Allied debts, of which the basis is still unknown; of the payment, if Germany keeps her engagements, of 45 per cent. of the reparations which were admitted to be due to her by the London agreement of 1921, the whole of which may be absorbed by her debts to England and America; and of consideration being given to the question of her security under the form of general disarmament, coupled with reciprocal treaties of guarantee under the aegis of the League of Nations. In spite of this state of mind on the part of the majority of those who form the French commercial, industrial, and professional classes, there is, as I have indicated already, a fairly general opinion that in the end M. Herriot will secure approval by both Chambers of the agreement he has helped to negotiate in London.

In banking circles here it is estimated that the total payments that will be made by Germany under the Dawes plan, if it is honestly carried out, will not amount to more than between 41,500,000,000 and 46,500,000,000 gold marks. The French share of 52 per cent. of this will not be equivalent to more than about one-half of the 100,000,000,000 of which she has already expended on the restoration of the devastated area, plus the 20,000 to 30,000 million francs that has yet to be found for the same purpose. Against this, France is faced with debts owing to her allies, which may be set forth thus:—

Bonds handed to the British Treasury, including interest (capitalised)	15,275,285,000
Advances made by the United States Treasury	15,194,314,000
Interest on latter	3,070,000,000
Total in gold francs	33,539,599,000

Transformed into paper francs, this represents a grand total of about 117,000,000,000. It is frankly questioned

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits	\$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



here whether there will be the slightest utility in convoking the proposed international conference on inter-Allied debts, which it is suggested shall be held in November next, when it is obviously impossible for this country to liquidate even a substantial proportion of this colossal sum, except by surrendering the German "C" bonds. If there is any question of payment in cash, it is argued, France's creditors will be faced with the same transfer difficulties as those which are involved in the latest settlement with Germany.

In a remarkable study which he has just published, M. Jules Décamps, the able "director of economic studies" at the Bank of France, argues that the only practicable means for France to receive payment from Germany would be in the form of merchandise and labour to an amount equal to the debt owing. M. Le Trocquer, former Minister for Public Works, set forth a day or two ago a detailed programme of public works, in the way of improvements and developments of the French railways, ports and waterways, at a cost of about 18½ milliards of francs, which he urges should be carried out by German labour and materials, the financing of the plan being so arranged that Germany might contribute as to two-thirds of the cost in reduction of her reparation debt to this country. Critics of both M. Décamps and M. Le Trocquer's arguments point out, however, that the effect of the application of their ideas would be seriously prejudicial to French trade and industry, and that any revenue received therefrom, in the way of reparation payments, would be more than counterbalanced by the loss in wages, profits and revenue from taxation that would inevitably result.

The French foreign trade returns for July show that during the past month the total imports were of a value of 3,099,976,000f, against exports valued at 3,013,713,000f. The adverse balance was, therefore, only 86,263,000f last month, as against a much more serious deficit of 256,563,000f in June. In February, March, April and May, it will be recalled, there was a substantial favourable balance each month. The total figures

for the first seven months of 1924, however, still show an excess of exports to a value of 1,323,381,000f, as compared with a deficit of about 730½ millions in 1923. The detailed totals for the seven months, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, are as follows:—

	First Seven Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
Imports—			
Foodstuffs	3,973,289,000	4,976,613,000	+1,003,324,000
Raw materials	10,874,235,000	15,065,526,000	+4,191,291,000
Manufactured goods	2,444,168,000	2,930,493,000	+486,325,000
Total.....	17,291,692,000	22,972,632,000	+5,680,940,000
Exports—			
Foodstuffs	1,761,722,000	2,269,399,000	+507,677,000
Raw materials	5,166,809,000	6,364,234,000	+1,197,425,000
Manufactured goods	8,729,448,000	14,573,602,000	+5,844,154,000
Postal parcels.....	903,245,000	1,088,778,000	+185,533,000
Total.....	16,561,224,000	24,296,013,000	+7,734,789,000

The increase in exports, as shown by the above figures, is equivalent to 46½ per cent., and in imports to nearly 33 per cent. The most notable increase during the seven months has been in the exports of manufactured goods, which have had a value of no less than 67 per cent. more than those of the corresponding period of 1923. The increase in exports during July was almost entirely in manufactured goods, which had a value of 90 million francs more than in June, and in postal parcels, which increased by 17 millions. Imports of manufactured goods and foodstuffs increased by nine millions and 57 millions respectively. In tonnage, both imports and exports showed an increase during the seven months of about three million tons. Of the 33,551,406 tons of imports, 29,399,041 tons were raw materials (of which 19,211,880 tons consisted of coal, coke, &c., and 851,791 tons of manufactured goods). Of the total exports of 16,034,628 tons, 13,209,963 tons were raw materials, with a value of 6,364,234,000f, and 1,945,371 tons manufactured goods (with a value of 14,573,602,000f). Imported food stuffs since 1924 began

weighed 3,300,574 tons, valued at 4,976,613,000f, while exported foodstuffs had a tonnage of 859,489 tons, but a value of 2,269,399,000f. The growth of French foreign trade since 1913 may be gauged by the following figures:—

	Imports.		Tonnage.
	Value in Frs.		
First seven months of 1924.....	22,972,632,000	..	33,551,406
" " 1913.....	4,910,580,000	..	25,653,799
Increase since 1913	18,062,052,000	..	7,897,607
	Exports.		Tonnage.
	Value in Frs.		
First seven months of 1924.....	24,296,013,000	..	16,034,628
" " 1913.....	3,910,883,000	..	11,552,846
Increase since 1913	20,385,130,000	..	4,481,782

Curiously enough, although the value of the manufactured goods imported has increased by well over 200 per cent. in the 11 years, the tonnage of this category of imports has actually decreased by 66,750 tons, or about 7 per cent. Goods exported by post, the value of which has also increased by over 200 per cent., show a fractional decrease of 472 tons this year as compared with the corresponding period of 1913. The detailed figures as to coal and coke exports show that while during the first seven months of 1913 France imported 13,322,100 tons of combustibles (mostly, of course, from Great Britain), with a total value of 341,032,000f, the total imported this year down to the end of July was 19,211,880 tons, with a value of 2,310,197,000f.

GERMANY.—FINANCES—OUTSTANDING LOANS—COMMODITY PRICES—FOREIGN TRADE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 19.

The Finance Ministry's report for the first August ten-day term shows a surplus of 383,500 gold marks, after 270,400 gold marks was spent on redemption of Gold Loan. The Government has declared to the Reichstag Committee against further restoration of private debts, and against abolishing the rents tax in order to make it possible to

restore mortgages on town houses beyond the already conceded 15 per cent. The Food Ministry says that land-owners could not stand a further increase of their mortgages. The Committee itself now seems to be inclined only for "individual restoration," i.e., special treatment of special cases of hardship; but the Government is against even this. It proclaims for handling the question merely as a social problem, i.e., out of taxation or by other means relieving the victim creditor classes. It is not likely that much will be done. Regarding public debts, it may be repeated that home and domestic speculation, based on the smallest measure of "Aufwertung," is not justified. The following summary of federal debts is published, there being included State debts taken over from the former railway-owning States, but not 3 milliards nominal of debts of States which did not own railways. These debts remain liabilities of the States:—

Pre-War Issues.	Outstanding in Millions of M.
4 % Federal	1,150
3½ % "	1,970
3 % "	1,670
4 % Colonial	250
Total direct loans to Republic	5,040
4 % Prussian Cons.	9,640
3½ % "	2,390
3 % "	2,230
4 and 3½ % Bavarian	19,300
Saxony, Baden, Hess., Mecklenburg.....	44,780
Total pre-war loans	6,160
War Issues.	
5 % War Loan	50,940
4½ % Federal Treasury bills	3,840
War Loans total	282,020
Post-War Issues.	
Savings and premium, 1919	822,141,490
Forced loan, 1923	
8-15 % K. Treasury bills.....	

The vast disparity between the nominal totals of the post-war loans has, of course, only an inflationist meaning. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* states that the last-listed loan yielded only 50 million gold marks, the Forced Loan (paper mark) only 10-15 million gold marks, and Savings and Premium Loan (also paper marks) 500 million gold marks. It is hardly credible that even if Reparations were first "fully paid," as is required, any satisfactory scheme could be devised for partial restoration of these loans, which, except the pre-war, brought to the borrowing States all imaginable proportions of gold, and have since passed through innumerable private hands. The result of "Aufwertung" would probably be to aggravate the expropriation by imposing taxes on the ruined former bondholders in order to enrich speculators who bought bonds for almost nothing.

Prices of most commodities now change little. The cost-of-living index number on August 3rd was unchanged at 114. Grain prices, however, move upward. Between July 1st and August 18th native-grown wheat in Berlin has risen from 139-144 gold marks to 204-210 gold marks per ton, rye from 127-134 to 148-157 gold marks, oats 124-134 to 161-171 gold marks, barley 138-147 to 205-216 gold marks. Wheat and oats have passed pre-war prices. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* wholesale index for August 14th was 131.09, against 130.83 on July 31st. In this index manufactured goods are put at 136.62. Industrial prices have all of late considerably fallen. The July official index (100 in 1914) shows for furniture 157, clothing 140, machines, according to kind, 137 to 164; passenger motor-cars 165, commercial cars 104, bicycles 111, typewriters 100, carpets, curtains, &c., 222. The number of bankruptcies in July was 1,125, against 586 in June, and a monthly average of 815 in 1913. Between July 15th and August 1st the number of publicly supported unemployed in unoccupied territory increased from 277,000 to 328,000. The German and French potash concerns have come to an agreement for a common selling and advertising policy in the United States. Competition is excluded. Between 1919 and 1923 the Alsatian producers increased their sales in America from 5,450 metric tons of pure potash to 50,580 tons, while Germany's sales increased only from 70,128 tons to 112,678 tons. The Reichswirtschaftsrat's inquiry into textiles has yielded the fact that undue profits are not a cause of the high prices

prevailing. The proportion of cost of raw materials in the price of finished and semi-finished textiles is found to be higher than before the war. High interest rates on capital have materially increased textile prices.

The bourse last week was entirely under the influence of the Conference, and the only sharp reaction took place on the day after the evacuation question first looked critical. On the whole week stock averages moved upward a little, while home loans receded, Prussian Consols being the chief sufferers. This week, it was predicted, would begin with a "Settlement Boom," but though stocks were fairly firm yesterday and rose considerably to-day, no violent bull movement has so far developed. It should be remembered that the settlement was discounted, that quotations have now been moving upward for more than a month, and that some industrials are at double their lowest quotations of the year, though well below their highest points. Loans to-day had a setback. There is a good deal of foreign buying of industrials, and on this ground a further moderate rise is predicted, but foreign investors should remember that there is at present practically no material for objectively determining the value of a German stock, and will not be until the gold balance-sheets are out. Stocks are judged "cheap" or "dear" by comparison with their quotations since the currency stabilisation. However, in the year preceding the stabilisation they rose enormously in gold quotations. Loans to-day (in milliards of paper marks per 100 marks nominal) were:—War Loan, 650; Federal Fours, 1,100; 3½ per Cents., 1,050; Threes, 1,575; Colonial Fours, 3,500; Forced Loan, 17.75; Prussian Threes, 1,260.

ARGENTINA.—NEW CURRENCY MEASURES—INCOME TAX—PUBLIC FINANCE—TRADE BALANCE—BANKING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, July 23.

SINCE last writing the various Government proposals affecting a radical reform in the banking, monetary, and fiscal systems of the Republic have been formally laid before Congress. Commercial opinion takes little interest in the suggested banking legislation, and as regards the monetary reform, which on the surface does not appear to disturb existing conditions while abolishing the distinction between gold and paper currency, the general public are best described as favourably indifferent. If the measure becomes law, Argentina will have at the outset a circulating medium of 2,243,713,000 units, to be known as "nacionales," as against the existing \$1,353,259,939 paper. The "nacional" would be basically 0.32258 grammes gold, 9-10ths fine, but though some gold coins of 20, 10, and 5 nacionales would be struck, the bulk of the circulating medium would remain paper, being guaranteed as follows:—50 per cent. in minted gold, 15 per cent. in public funds, 15 per cent. in easily realisable commercial paper rediscounted by the Banco de la Nacion on behalf of other banks. Some uneasiness is felt at the clause which would authorise the Government to make use of the surplus gold which the above redistribution would release from the stock actually in the Conversion Office against the deposit of a bond for the equivalent, carrying interest at the current rate, but not more than 6 per cent. per annum. This is, however, the logical issue of the proposal, which is obviously drawn to that end. About \$220,000,000 gold would thus be freed for the purpose of "paying services of the public debt or effecting such public credit operations as the Executive Power considers it desirable to effect, always provided that such operations result in a strengthening of the guarantee fixed for the notes in circulation." Theoretically, and always provided that the question is studied under present-day conditions, the reasoning holds true. What is overlooked is the fact that by law every possessor of a paper dollar has the legal right to claim 44 cents gold for it at the Conversion Office. That right is in no way affected by the emergency legislation which closed the Office, and this point has been pressed in a lengthy interpellation of the Minister of Finance by the Socialist party, who denounce the new proposal as being tantamount to a forced contribution. The similarity with the reasoning of Professor Keynes' comments on the

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000 Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000 Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

Northern District Office - 69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch - 19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

depreciated currencies of Europe and their indirect taxative effect is striking. That the measure, if made law, will at once place the Government in funds to the extent of some \$500,000,000 paper is clear; and as this is about the amount required to settle their most urgent debts, and popular opinion is hardly alive to the legal point mentioned above, it is reasonable to expect that the utmost endeavours will be used to effect the change. All hangs, however, on the possession of a workable parliamentary majority, and for the present discussion is shelved while the official party prepares the Chambers to that end; with reasonable prospects of success, seeing that the supporters of President Alvear are manifestly growing in numbers and political importance.

It is therefore to be feared that both this and the other measures pending will be but little ventilated in Congress, their chance of acceptance or rejection turning solely on the success of the complicated political manoeuvring that occupies so much parliamentary time to the exclusion of practical consideration of matters of detail and fact. These comments also cover the position of the proposed Income Tax, a most complicated measure embracing virtually all income whencesoever derived. Even a summary is not possible here, but one may quote Art. 5, Section 1, which reads thus:—"Income-tax may be exacted from all Argentines, whether resident in the country or not, and from resident foreigners. Foreigners who without being residents receive income derived from property or from civil or commercial activities or from any other source within the Republic shall likewise be subject to the tax in respect to the income obtained from those sources."

Incomes taxable according to categories are thus classified:—(a) Income from real estate; (b) income from movable capital—securities, shares, bonds, &c.; (c) income from commerce and industry; (d) income from agricultural and pastoral pursuits; (e) income from individual activities—wages, salaries, fees, &c. Apart from the high initial charges which the impost in its various categories would imply, the chief and most serious objection lies in the absence of any really reliable base of collection, except in connection with commerce and industry. There is no machinery available, and no census returns subsequent to those of 1914, while even if it be admitted that the first lack will be readily filled—on paper, at any rate—by the speedy addition to the all too numerous bureaucratic posts of a political complexion, which are admittedly one of the worst handicaps to real progress that Argentina suffers, to compile returns sufficiently exact to be generally accepted by the taxpayers without demur, will call for both time and careful study.

The condition of the official finances has suffered little or no change during the past month. About \$122,000,000 paper of the six months' Treasury bills fell due, and of this sum \$113,000,000 was renewed, the major portion at 4½ per cent. per annum, while the balance was paid off. This rate is ½ per cent. higher than previous renewals. It may not be out of place to mention that this business has no connection with the debts of the State Railways, which have also been much to the fore during the month owing to the fact that something like a miniature crisis among contracting and engineering firms was occasioned by the delay shown in meeting due and overdue documents. The Minister of Public Works resigned, but after a couple of days' suspense his resignation was withdrawn, and the Minister of Finance issued a presidentially-signed decree authorising the State Railways to borrow \$10,000,000 paper to meet urgent needs. Half this amount was at once forthcoming at 5½ per cent. per annum from an American financial institution, but the remainder has yet to be found, while the projected consolidation of the total floating debt of the department, now put at \$125,000,000 paper as a minimum, seems as far off as ever. It should not be necessary to emphasise the increasing seriousness of this policy of drift, especially when it is remembered that the productive forces of the country are unusually flourishing. The past month has witnessed a rise as welcome as it was unexpected in the prices for wheat, linseed, and maize, the quotations showing increases of 15 to 21 per cent., with exportable surpluses of 1,250,000 tons, 400,000 tons, 2,700,000 tons respectively, still in hand for shipment. There is indeed good reason to hope that the unfavourable trade balance of 1923 will this year be re-

versed, always provided that the disastrously heavy drain of the national obligations can be conveniently diverted. From the summarised statistics which have just been laid before the Ministry of Finance it is shown that as compared with the 1922 total, the trade of the Republic has amounted to \$1,639,791,000 gold, an increase of 20 per cent. The figures are based on estimated real values for both imports and exports. In the following table will be found the respective totals:—

IMPORTS.		1922.		1923.
		\$		\$
Dutiable	506,200,000	....	675,968,000	
Free of duty	183,446,000	....	192,461,000	
Metallic	16,000	....	6,000	
		689,662,000	....	868,435,000
EXPORTS.		1922.		1923.
		\$		\$
Dutiable	465,674,000	....	538,064,000	
Free of duty	210,334,000	....	233,297,000	
Metallic	6,000	....	5,596,000	
		676,014,000	....	776,957,000

On these figures, which are compiled by the National Statistical Department, it will be seen that the unfavourable trade balance, which was but thirteen million gold in 1922, rose to 97 million for 1923, if the bullion figures be excluded, as they should be, from the calculation; a sufficient explanation of the steadily depreciating quotation for Argentine currency during the past six months, and one that may very well warrant the fear that no real recovery is to be looked for until November or December of this current year. Commercial failures, too, continue high, and undoubtedly constitute an unreasonable charge upon business. For the first six months of 1922-24 they were—liabilities only—as follows:—

Jan.-June, 1922.	Jan.-June, 1923.	Jan.-June, 1924.
\$ Paper.	\$ Paper.	\$ Paper.
70,616,000	48,368,000	52,440,000

It is not expected that the July totals will show any marked improvement on this average of eight and a quarter million dollars paper monthly.

Money grows dearer, and trade discount ranges from 6 to 7 per cent., with 7 to 8 per cent. charged for credits on current account. Banking deposits have also shown marked modifications, as will be gathered from the following table:—

In 1,000's \$ Paper.			
Date.	Discounts and Advances.	Deposits.	Cash Holdings in the Country.
December 31, 1922	2,677,800	3,478,400	1,103,400
June 30, 1923	2,656,200	3,513,000	1,082,900
February 29, 1924	2,942,400	3,440,500	818,000
May 31, 1924	2,814,400	3,368,800	850,900

Thus while the high prices for produce are unquestionably cheering it will be realised that there is an unsatisfactory undercurrent in Argentine affairs at the present time, which might, given unforeseen difficulties, be detrimental to commercial tranquillity, and which most certainly warrants a continuance of cautious views both in trading and financial circles until a clearer horizon can be relied upon, a contingency which it does not seem reasonable to expect for at least another three months.

DENMARK.—BANK TROUBLES—CROP PROSPECTS—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, August 15.

ABOUT the middle of July a regrettable event took place in the Danish banking world, the "Kjøbenhavns Diskontobank and Revisionsbank"—the smallest of the leading banks—being obliged to stop payments. The bank had been reconstructed early in 1922, but the subsequent difficult economic conditions have prevented a recovery. The semi-annual balancing of the books proved that the profits of the bank had been less than anticipated—partly through a loss on bonds, owing to the decline of the prices—and as, at the same time, an increasing unrest about the bank arose, resulting in the

withdrawal of considerable deposits, it was necessary to commence negotiations with the other leading banks for the purpose of obtaining their support. However, the negotiations proved abortive, and the bank did not succeed in obtaining new capital or a guarantee for its creditors. Consequently, the Diskontobank stopped payments on July 18th, and the management immediately took steps to commence a liquidation. By a provisional Government Act, to be confirmed when the "Rigsdag" again meets, the liquidation has been specially arranged in such a manner that the bank cannot be made bankrupt. The administration of the liquidation has been taken over by a board appointed by the Minister of Trade, Mr Green, the manager of the Nationalbank, being the chairman. Loans are granted by the other banks against collateral in pass-books and deposit certificates in the Diskontobank, carrying interest at a rate corresponding to the official discount, while amounts not exceeding Kr.200 are paid to the depositors by the Nationalbank. The balance-sheet of the Diskontobank at the end of June showed a total of Kr.261,000,000, while the deposits, apart from the item "banks and savings banks," amounted to about Kr.140,000,000. A statement compiled before payments were stopped showed that a small part of the share capital—which amounted to Kr.36,000,000—was presumably intact, provided the bank continued working, and it is not yet considered absolutely certain that the creditors will suffer any loss. In the interest of the foreign creditors of the Diskontobank, special arrangements will be made. The agreements at present made are to the effect that the claims of foreign banks in foreign currency will be covered by the Nationalbank and the other leading banks, who will then file their claim on the estate as ordinary creditors.

As was to be expected, this serious breakdown caused some unrest in other directions. As far as the other banks are concerned, the prices of their shares declined, and part of the deposits were withdrawn, partly to be deposited in the savings banks, and partly to be invested in bonds, while the Landmandsbank, which is fully guaranteed by the State, had its deposits increased. The bank balance-sheets published at the end of the month, however, show that the banks were comparatively slightly affected, and that they had maintained a sufficiently liquid position. This immediately impressed the Stock Exchange, causing a strong recovery of the shares.

On August 1st the Nationalbank published a provisional report on the financial year ended July 30th. From this it appeared that the profits of the bank had been Kr.13,500,000, but that Kr.11,500,000 of this amount were absorbed by writings off, about Kr.10,500,000 representing the shares in the Diskontobank, which the Nationalbank had subscribed for in 1922. The remaining Kr.2,000,000 of the surplus were reserved for engagements which the bank had entered upon in order to support the krone rate. In spite of this, the shareholders will receive a dividend of 8 per cent., as against 10 per cent. last year, the amount required for this purpose being taken from the dividend equalising fund, which amounts to about Kr.28,000,000. From the annual report of the Nationalbank, it appears that the bank has considerable reserves in its holdings of foreign exchange, as these have been booked at par in cases where the current rate exceeds the parity with the Danish krone.

In the general economic situation there is no great change. The number of unemployed on August 8th was 14,853 only, as against 20,300 a year ago. In July prices have had a rising tendency, and in the course of the month the wholesale price index of the *Finanstidende* showed a rise from 220 to 233. The "cost of living index" computed by the statistical department, which in January was 209, has during the past half-year risen to 214.

Crop prospects improved somewhat in the course of the last month, owing to warm weather and rain. It is expected that the spring-sown crops will show an average yield, while autumn-sown crops will be somewhat below average owing to the very cold winter. Otherwise agriculture still benefits by the relatively high prices of export produce. On August 7th the butter quotation was nearly 40 per cent. higher than on August 9th last year, which, of course, is partly due to the high sterling rate. But the market in England has been firm for some time,

and this coincides with increased demands from Germany, which has attained a better purchasing power owing to the more settled economic conditions. In the course of the first half of 1924, Denmark has exported about 62,000,000 kilos of Danish butter. Of this about 44,000,000 kilos were shipped to England. For the same period, the exports of bacon amounted to nearly 99,000,000 kilos, more than 97,000,000 kilos being sold to England, and finally just over 18,000,000 scores of eggs were exported, 14,000,000 scores to England. The total value of the exports of living cattle, bacon, meat, &c., butter, cream, milk, cheese and eggs during the first six months of the year was about Kr.709,000,000, or Kr.143,000,000 more than during the corresponding period of last year. In the half-year January-June the balance of trade of Denmark has shown a deficit of Kr.149,000,000, the imports amounting to Kr.1,149,000,000 and the exports of Danish and foreign goods to about Kr.1,000,000,000, of which the re-exports amounted to Kr.85,000,000. In January-June, 1923, the excess of imports was thus Kr.184,000,000, or Kr.35,000,000 more than this year. It is fairly generally believed that the credit restriction policy adopted by the Nationalbank and the other banks will gradually check imports, and thereby improve the balance of trade, provided exports continue to be good.

JUGOSLAVIA.—EXCHANGE MOVEMENTS—NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME—HARVEST PROSPECTS—FOREIGN TRADE—COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH ITALY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, August 11.

AFTER fifteen months of steady improvement, the dinar weakened in June and July by about 20 points, and fell to 370 to the £. The reasons were chiefly political, due to the prolonged parliamentary crisis, though they were somewhat aggravated by large withdrawals by Viennese banks as a result of their losses on speculation in francs. There were no internal economic reasons to cause such a weakening. The note circulation is being continually decreased, and amounts (July 31st) to 5,568 million dinars, as compared with 5,790 at the beginning of the year. Similarly, State Exchequer receipts are in excess of the sum estimated in the Budget, and totalled 6,689 million dinars for the eight months July 1, 1923, to February 29, 1924, as compared with the Budget estimate of 5,201 million for nine months. Except for a sum of 180 million dinars, the surplus has been used for special investments and extraordinary credits.

Immediately after the formation of the new Government, which represents all parts of the country, in contrast to the former purely Serbian Cabinet of M. Pashitch, an improvement took place in the exchange, and the dinar recovered practically all its lost ground. The new Government has made no detailed declaration on financial matters, except that the previous policy of relative stabilisation of currency will be maintained, and that a new law to equalise taxation throughout the country will soon be put before Parliament. The declaration that the long-needed radical reform of the civil administration will soon take place, and that laws will be passed dealing with agrarian credits, indemnification for damage by floods, and the disabled, has been favourably received.

Prolonged rains have seriously damaged the quality of this year's wheat harvest, which promised excellent results. The average quantity of wheat is eight metric cwts per hectare, and the quality 75-76 kgs per hectolitre. None the less, export prospects are very good, since a large proportion of the demand for Roumanian and Bulgarian wheat has been deflected to the Yugoslav market, owing to the bad harvests in those countries. Partly owing to the increased demand, and partly to the weakened currency, wheat prices increased at one time from 300-400 dinars, only to fall again last week to 370 dinars, as a result of the improvement of the dinar. The prune harvest is also likely to be poorer than last year, but reports of other fruit and of maize have hitherto been very favourable. No fall has taken place in the cost of living, because the rise of wheat has counteracted the fall in other commodities. The total index for whole-

sale prices in July was 1995, as compared with 2038 in January.

Trade is fairly normal, and does not appear to have suffered materially during the political crisis. Exports continue to increase, figures for May and June being respectively :—

	1923		1924	
	Tons.	Dinars (in Millions).	Tons.	Dinars (in Millions).
May.....	260,259	689.3	318,900	738.6
June	262,514	642.8	289,782	650.6

This makes up a total for the first six months of 1924 of 1,584,939 tons, worth 4,175 million dinars, as compared with 1,274,319 tons, worth 3,333 million dinars, in 1923. The import figures for 1923 have at last been published, and give a total of 8,309 million dinars, as compared with an export total of 8,048 millions, showing a small import excess of 261 millions.

After long negotiations, the commercial treaty with Italy was signed on July 14th. The main principle is that the most favoured nation, with an allowance for the protection of certain national industries. Thus privileges are given to the Yugoslav sardine, macaroni, and wine industries, and to the Italian products of rice Mediterranean fruits, textiles, hats, and metal goods. The treaty includes veterinary, frontier, trade, and shipping agreements, and special clauses for favoured treatment in matters of law and transport.

NEW ZEALAND.—PUBLIC FINANCE—TRADE CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AUCKLAND, N.Z., July 7.

THE accounts of the Consolidated Fund for the last quarter of the financial year were only gazetted about the middle of May. The chief features of the national accounts for 1923-1924 are that, as a result of the increase in revenue and the reduction in expenditure, the surplus is now definitely given as £1,812,366, of which £1,000,000 has been transferred to the Public Works Fund, while the balance and portions of previous surpluses, to the amount of nearly £1,500,000, have been used for the redemption of the debt or transferred to such other capital accounts as education buildings. Mr Massey has been repeatedly urged to take the bold course of risking a deficit so that he might give substantial relief from the burden of taxation, but, on the slenderest excuse for hesitation, he budgeted last year for a surplus of £485,000, and has now obtained one of nearly fourfold that sum.

One result of the satisfactory state of the finances is a promised reduction of taxation to the extent of about £1,500,000. The concessions promised by Mr Massey will take the form of a decrease in the duties on tobacco and in railway freights and fares. A reduction of company taxation is also indicated, but no exact figures can be given, as the matter has not yet been definitely decided by Parliament. It may be taken for granted, however, that the main concessions will be along these lines. On the whole the large companies have survived the heavy taxation better than was anticipated, as is shown by the general dividend returns quoted on the stock exchange; it is certain, however, that one or two companies, which were unable to pass the increased charges on to the public, have been heavily hit. In spite of the heavy taxation on companies as separate entities, it is still the general custom in New Zealand when an individual business develops, to form it into a company. The proposed decrease of company taxation has been largely opposed by the Labour party, in the mistaken belief that this meant relief only to the rich. The increase in the customs revenue is very gratifying, and it is noteworthy that it is chiefly luxuries that have caused it to swell to such dimensions. Articles that have helped to increase the revenue are motor vehicles, spirits, silks, and expensive articles of clothing.

The moratorium (Mortgages Extension Act) expires at the end of this year. Adopted originally as a temporary measure, it has been repeatedly extended. Mr Massey (who, in addition to being Prime Minister also holds the portfolio of Finance) now announces that the moratorium will not be further extended when it expires. But he adds

that special cases of hardship will be considered, and allowances or extensions of credit granted to those mortgagors who suffer unduly through the lifting of the moratorium. This is an unsatisfactory settlement, which aims at pleasing both parties—those who favour the extension and those (a numerous class) who oppose it.

Commercial and industrial conditions during the present year have been good and continue to improve. Although one hears many complaints from the farming industry, this is not owing to unfavourable seasons (on the contrary the seasons have been ideal), but owing to the fact that many farmers bought their land during the period of inflation which prevailed a few years ago, and are now suffering from the fall in land values; in many cases having heavy mortgages to meet. There has been little industrial trouble, and the labour agitation which was so prominent a few years ago is now scarcely noticeable. On the whole, the outlook for the future is promising.

Letters to the Editor.

"THE VINDICATION OF FREE TRADE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—With reference to your leading article, "The Vindication of Free Trade," in the *Economist* of the 9th inst., would you kindly explain for the information of your readers what is to happen to Free Trade Britain if other nations can produce and sell in our overseas markets, say, coal, iron, and cotton goods *more cheaply than we*? Are we to abandon our leading industries and transfer our capital abroad? And if so, what is to become of our population that will be displaced?

Does not our unqualified, one-sided free trade system mean that, other things being equal, British manual labour cannot expect to rise above the standards of living which satisfy manual labour in competing countries, including India?

But other things are *not* equal. The United Kingdom is handicapped by a National Debt, which is involving a weight of taxation far heavier than anything which our competitors are called upon to bear. How can our Free Trade vindicate itself in such circumstances?

Yours faithfully,

M. DE P. WEBB.

Sandgate, Kent, August 18, 1924.

[Sir Montagu Webb appears to labour under the delusion that a country with a low standard of living must undersell a country with higher standards. How then does Mr Ford succeed in selling cars to the Chinese? Nor does Sir Montagu explain how, in the circumstances which he presupposes, a tariff will help us. We cannot live by taking in our own washing.—Ed., *Economist*.]

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1899.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,800,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

Books and Publications.

ECONOMICS—NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL.

BOTH these books deal with the historical side of economics, for which German research has done so much; but the history is chiefly recent or contemporary, and the authors' real concern is with the problems of post-war reconstruction. The first, by a Professor at the Technical High School at Berlin, treats of modern international trade as affected by the development of cheap and rapid land and sea transport, and by immigration; with the "international division of labour," now carried far beyond the crude antithesis of "manufacturing" and "raw material" countries, mainly by the immense increase in the export of American machinery and by its standardisation; with the Nationalist and Imperialist reaction of the pre-war period, now revived and intensified by after-war conditions: with the dangers to Europe, and also to Great Britain, of Imperial Preference, and with the immediate future of international commerce. Much of the matter is already familiar, but it is well to have it systematically set forth. More might have been said about the varied character of present-day overseas emigration and its reactions on the countries of origin; the examples of eminent emigrants are oddly chosen, and the founder of the Vanderbilt fortunes should not have been counted among them. And, as in most German works on economics, there is no description of the methods of international payment. But the book should be useful to students, and its Free Trade tendencies are refreshing in a German work on economic history.

The other book is based on lectures delivered at Hamburg to advanced and elementary students, as well as to practical men of business and trade-union secretaries—a fairly wide and diversified audience. After dealing with the apparent triumph, some sixty years ago, of Free Trade in Europe, the author gives clear and valuable sketches of the history of the tariff policy of the German Empire from 1871 to 1914: of the developments during the war and subsequently, and of the effects of the Versailles Treaty, and examines the outlook for Germany and Europe. The future tariff policy of Germany cannot, in Dr Plaut's opinion, be definitely predicted. Agriculture is no longer protected, so that industry has lost one ground for claiming protection. German tariffs must in future be designed to produce revenue; and it is not clear what industries will prove to be worth protecting. The new States generally and France are ultra-Protectionist, and "mercantilism can be met only by mercantilism." (We in England have heard of other weapons.) But high protection may be modified by commercial treaties: in any case, the maintenance of a stable currency is Germany's chief need. And Europe is essentially an interdependent economic whole. Maltreatment of its weaker members, and of the minorities in them by the majorities, national self-sufficiency, and the new mercantilism must open the way to a new catastrophe.

"Die Grundlagen der Weltwirtschaft." Von Herrmann Levy. Leipzig and Berlin: B. G. Trubner. 1924.
"Deutsche Handelspolitik. Ihre Geschichte, Ziele und Mittel." Von Prof. Dr Th. Plaut. (Same publisher.)

SOVIET ECONOMICS.*

THESE pamphlets will be useful to assailants of the Anglo-Russian Treaty, whether on its juristic or its economic side. The first, mostly written by Russian exiles, denounces the Soviet Government as a parasite, supported out of the surplus product of the private enterprise in agriculture and small scale industry restored by the "new economic policy." This class of industry, though hampered at all points by its dependence on State regulation

* "Soviet Russia." (Essays by Several Writers.) (Paris) J. Povolovsky and Co. (London) P. S. King and Son.
"La Réforme Monétaire dans la Russie des Soviets." Par Ezekiel Gordon. Préface de Charles Gide. (Paris) J. Povolovsky and Co.

and State transport, nevertheless competes so successfully with the State-regulated factories that the Communist party demand restraints on its competition. These factories produce at a loss, and offer their products at higher prices than the public can pay. Their increasing output is not a sign of increasing welfare, for they are kept going by subsidies and by incessant borrowing from State credit institutions. The foreign companies which have obtained concessions have generally found them unworkable. Foreign trade means that goods can be imported, but their sale is dependent on a Government licence, determined by the quota allowed to be sold; and that goods for export may be freely purchased by foreigners, but that a licence to export them may be withheld. The currency reform, though sound in principle, cannot work under the existing conditions. All personal rights are explicitly made by the constitution dependent on State authority. The courts are so constructed as always to favour the proletariat, and civil disputes are, therefore, rarely submitted to them. Finally, Soviet Russia is not a Federation, because all the rights of the component States may be interfered with by the central authority; and, having no territorial limits and being potentially international, it cannot be regarded as a member of the family of nations or as subject to international law.

These are some of the points made in the essays; they call for a reply. Meanwhile, students of Russia and of currency problems may thank M. Gordon for his elaborate but concise study of the Russian monetary reform, including the fresh stage achieved last March, and then described in our columns. We have no space to summarise it; the conclusions are given in M. Gide's preface. The tcheronetz, M. Gordon holds, is really only uncovered "paper money," and its par value is an illusion. Its "cover" is partly gold, into which it is not convertible, partly bills drawn by the factories on the State banks and never likely to be met. Within Russia its value is falling, and it will follow the paper rouble down a different road. The value of the same conclusion by a different road. The value of money, he holds, depends on supply and demand. Unless the revenue of the Soviet Government increases—which is highly improbable in view of the low productivity of the State factories and the scanty sources of tax revenue—it will have to break its promise and increase the issue of tcheronetz notes. And then their downward course will begin.

PIONEERS OF STEAM AT SEA.*

MANY books have dealt with the victory of steam over sails in oceanic navigation, but little has been written about the early days of British coastal and Anglo-Continental steam traffic. All these subjects are dealt with in this handsome centenary volume, but the last-named form its chief theme. Formed in 1824 by the combination of a number of London owners of small steam vessels, the General Steam Navigation Company established itself, in spite of much opposition from vested interests, and for many years provided the chief passenger services from London and the South-Eastern seaports to the Continent, sharing also in the traffic between London and Edinburgh, and the carrying of excursionists to Margate and Ramsgate—a branch of its business from which it has never quite retired, though other enterprises have led in the recent revival. Fifty or sixty years later, when quicker routes to the Continent were provided by the railways and their steamers, the company was a pioneer in starting these regular freight lines which have now ousted tramp steamers from Anglo-Continental traffic. Its services have extended from the Baltic to the Mediterranean and the Euxine; and, after many vicissitudes, due to no fault of its own, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, it made a fresh start early in the twentieth, carried on new passenger lines, and finally capped its record of war services to the British Government by the brilliant achievements of its ships and their crews in the world war. Since the Armistice it has entered on a fresh period of vigorous life. All this has been graphically set forth by Mr Corn-

* "A Century of Sea Trading, 1824-1924." The General Steam Navigation Company, Limited. By L. Cope Cornford. London) A. and C. Black. 1924.

ford, who also tells incidentally of the company's services to ships in distress and to the victims of the Messina earthquake, and deals with its multifarious cargoes, its organisation and its personnel. He is sometimes inaccurate: limited liability, the parcel post, and the through line of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company from Liverpool to Peru and Chile are all (by implication) antedated: but the story is well told, and, as Lord Inchcape says in his preface, it should impress the British public with their dependence on the mercantile marine and foreign trade. Some of the illustrations are contributed by Mr Spurling and Mr W. S. Wyllie, R.A., the latter adding amusing personal reminiscences of travel by the company's steamers. Others are reproductions of old profiles of directors and of coloured prints. The latter, with Mr Spurling's admirable painting of the *Halcyon*, enable us to realise the great progress made, not only in comfort and efficiency, but in beauty of design.

COST ACCOUNTING LITERATURE.

AMONG recent books on factory cost accounting may be mentioned "Factory Costing," by H. H. Emsley, B.Sc. (London, Constable and Co., Limited, 7s net). This book is of particular interest to all concerned with light engineering and instrument work. It has been written for individuals who are, or intend to be, engaged in workshop production of this kind, whether as workmen, executives, or employers. The needs of the small manufacturer have not been overlooked, and Chapter XIII. deals especially with methods suitable for one-man and small establishments. Another useful book is "Technical Costs and Estimates," by Andrew Miller (London, Gee and Co. (Publishers), Limited, 10s 6d net). In this book the duties and responsibilities of the cost accountant and the essential arrangements for technical costs are clearly outlined for establishments of average size, viz., employing from 1,000 to 2,000 workers. The arrangements set out may also be equally well applied to larger works. There is an appendix containing a number of good forms, charts, and graphs. It is to be regretted that in neither of these two works is the subject of the measurement of annual depreciation of plant (expired capital outlay)—an important factor of cost of production—adequately treated, but this omission is, unfortunately, still common to most accounting literature.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Elements of Land Economics.* Edited by Richard T. Ely, LL.D., and E. W. Morehouse, M.A. (London) Macmillan and Co. 17s net.
- Introduction to Agricultural Economics.* By L. C. Gray, Ph. D. (London) Macmillan and Co. 12s net.
- Democracy and Leadership.* By Irving Babbitt. (London) Constable and Co. 15s net.
- Central Association of Accountants, Limited.* List of members, &c. Revised to June 17, 1924. (London) 5 Salters' Hall court, Cannon street, E.C. 4. 7s 6d.
- The 100 Best Investments.* August (London) British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, B.F.C. House, Gresham street, E.C. 1s net.
- The Contents and Consequences of the Report of the Experts to the Reparations Commission.* By Dr Georg Solmsen. (Berlin) Walter de Gruyter and Co.
- Income-Tax Tables.* Compiled by Chas. H. Tolley, A.C.I.S. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Limited. 1s 6d net.
- Income-Tax, Super Tax, Corporation Profits Tax, Excess Profits Duty, &c.* Compiled by Chas. H. Tolley, A.C.I.S. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Limited. 3s net.
- Income-Tax and Super Tax in the Irish Free State.* Compiled by Chas. H. Tolley, A.C.I.S. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Limited. 8d net.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1924) £295,698,105

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:
168 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

TICKET, August 27. ACCOUNT, August 28.

The broad financial effect of the signature of the London Conference Pact has been to make Stock Exchange markets better as a whole. The Pact itself is mentioned but little, neither criticism nor commendation being particularly vocal. Thanks to the expectation that the New York exchange will continue to move in favour of this country, the idea of a rise in the Bank rate has retreated into the background. Its place is taken by pronounced strength in Funding Stock, Victory Bonds, and various other British Government issues. The gilt-edged markets are good throughout; various Colonials have hardened, and jobbers in the Home Railway prior-charge market report that they are steadily selling moderate lines of stock. Money is thought likely to remain cheap for several weeks to come.

After a burst of strength in French Government bonds, prices relapsed, there being little public backing for the earlier movement. Germans gave way sharply upon pressure to take profits. There has been a lot of public gambling in the bonds, and some of the buyers are not the people who are likely to want to keep the scrip indefinitely. Prices are fluctuating with vivid freedom. Brazilians are moving on quiet lines, so are other South Americans. Austrian and Hungarian descriptions were put up on the impression that, if there is to be a new German loan, its terms will probably throw into relief the attractions of the two just mentioned. Turkish bonds rallied as a result of better news from Egypt.

London, Midland and Scottish stock rose two points, on the proposal to proprietors that they should assent to a scheme for division of their present security. This, combined with improved traffics, had a favourable effect upon prices of most Home Rails. The market has shown a better front than of late, and there is a little public investment going on, stimulus being derived from the strength of British Government stocks. The Undergrounds are quiet.

Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures further improved, thanks to the expectation that the interest payments can be continued regularly. Argentine Railway stocks enjoyed a mild bout of strength, and other foreign rails keep very steady. Nitrate rails are a little better. Nitrate-producing shares, where they have moved at all, mostly exhibit improvement.

Rubber shares are inactive, while the tea market is better. The oil market developed a dull tone, consequent upon the statement that stocks of oil are being piled up in America at a rate which may lead to a cut in the price of crude. British Controlled shares managed to free themselves from the lassitude displayed by the list as a whole. Calico Printers gave way abruptly upon the contraction of profits shown in the report just out. Other textiles, however, are not particularly affected, and Bradford Dyers stand out as a strong spot. In Courtaulds, speculation has fallen away to a minimum, nor in tobacco shares is there anything of interest taking place. A feature is provided by the fluctuations amongst insurance shares, prices having been exceedingly strong at the beginning of the week, and rising to levels at which they attracted sellers, who consider that the shares are now high enough, having regard to the terms offered by the principal shares on the basis of the last dividends. The banking market is languid.

Brewery stocks went ahead, under the leadership of Guinness and Allsopp preference, both of which scored substantial rises. The iron and steel market became disturbed by the passing of the preference dividend by Bolckow Vaughan, though this was not entirely unexpected in London. The fall in profits recorded by Walter Scott and Co. is another factor making for caution in this branch of indus-

trial shares. The cable manufacturing group spurred because of the impression that Henleys, Callenders, and British Insulated will increase their dividends this year, but here again the rises brought in shares from holders who were able to realise big profits. The Egyptian news caused slight heaviness amongst Sudan Plantations and other Egyptian shares. Firmness in motor shares as a whole caused attention to be paid to Dunlops, and the hotels-stores group holds its ground with scarcely a change worth noticing. Gas stocks and electric lighting shares have hardly moved. There is a little better tone amongst shipping issues.

Kaffirs are in the doldrums. Diamonds improved, and, amongst Rhodesians, Chartered put on a few pence. The South African markets are so little affected by the public at present that it takes but little professional dealing to move prices in either direction. Tanganyikas are better, together with other copper shares. The price of tin continues high enough to encourage bullishness in regard to the shares of the Malayan and West African companies, though the Cornish group is somewhat neglected. The flatness of Esperanzas has been further emphasised. Canadian Mining shares are steady, but in these, together with Indian and Mexican mining issues, there is so little trade doing that the markets can only be described as dormant.

Dealings started this week in Enfield Cables ordinary shares, which are 2½, and in the new County of London Electric ½ per cent. notes, which stand at ½ premium over the issue price of 99½.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 127,777,151	..	..	..
4% Treasury Bonds by public tender, August 15, 1924	..	nil	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED AUGUST 16, 1924.

	£	£	£
April 1, 1924, to Aug. 16, 1924, Dr £1,750,000 ..	Dr £100,000	..	Dr £100,000

To Shareholders only—

Bolsover Colliery, 242,000 Ord. Shares, £1 at 25s	242,000	..	302,500	..	24,200	..	278,300
Brewery & Commercial Investment Trust, 14,150 Shares, £2 at par	99,050	..	99,050	..	14,150	..	84,900
County of London Electric Supply, £1,500,000 5½% 1-year Notes (rep. at par Sept. 30, 1925), issued at 99½ ..	1,500,000	..	1,496,250	..	150,000	..	1,346,250
V. O. C. Holding, 600,000 Ord. Shares, £1 at 25s	600,000	..	1,350,000	..	300,000	..	1,050,000
	3,247,800	..	488,350	..	2,759,450	..	

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1924..... 130,924,951	1923..... 271,393,173
1923..... 202,065,317	1922..... 573,675,650
1922..... 505,732,637	1921..... 388,978,203
1921..... 152,658,080	1920..... 367,549,656
1920..... 274,718,416	1919..... 1,036,069,951
1919..... 892,917,730	1918..... 1,393,361,441

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 5½% 1925-28	95½	96	+	Aust. 6% 1931-41	104	104	..
Loans 4½% 1925-45	97½	97½	..	Canada 4½% 1920-25	100½	100½	..
4½% 1925-47	101½	101½	..	India 3½% Stock	66½	66½	..
4½% 1925-49	102½	102½	..	Do 7½% 1926-31	112½	112½	..
Funding Loan 4½%	93½	93½	..	Do 5½% 1933	101	101	..
Victory Bonds 4½%	92½	92½	..	Do 4½%	86½	86½	..
Conversion Loan 3½%	78½	78½	..	N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32	101	102	+
Consols 2½%	57½	57½	..	Nigeria 6½% 1949-79	114	115	+
Irish Land Stock 2½%	59½	59½	..	U. of S.A. 6½% 1930-40	105	106	+
Local Loans 3%	66½	66½	..	Victoria 5½% 1924-34	102	102	..
				W. Aust. 6½% 1930-40	104	104	..

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord.	106½	107½	+	Southern, Ord. "A" ..	39	39½	+
London & North-Eastern ..	80½	81½	+	Do Ord. "B"	10½	9½	-
5% Pref. Ord.	80½	81½	+	Do Pref. Ord.	84½	84½	..
Do Def. Ord.	29	29½	+	Do Def. Ord.	42	42½	+
London, Midland, and ..	96½	96½	..	Underground Electric ..	22½	22½	..
Metropolitan	80½	79½	-	Do "A" (1)	22½	22½	..
Metropolitan District	50½	51½	+	Do "B" (1)	88½	99	+

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio	96	95	-	Southern	71	76	+
Erie	33½	33	-	Do Non-cum Pref. 83 ..	83	83	..
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	45	44	-				

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.)	239	239	..	Nat. Bank of S. Africa 6½ ..	6½	6½	..
Chartered Bk of India 20½ ..	20½	20½	..	National Provincial, ..	10½	10½	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1	218	218	..	Standard of S. Africa ..	102	102	..
Midland (£12, with	88	87½	-	Westminster Bank ..	17½	17½	..
Nat. Bank of Egypt	25½	25½	..				

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons	86	86½	+	Leopoldina	24	23½	-
B.A. and Pacific	82	83½	+	Mexican Railway	68	67	-
B.A. Gt. Southern	86½	87½	+	Do 1st Pref.	23	25	..
Buenos Ayres West	73½	75½	+	Do 2nd Pref.	10	10	..
Canadian Pacific	167	168	+	San Paulo	150	150	..
Central Argentine	72	72½	+	United Havana	86½	86½	..

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7	99	100	+	Japanese 4%, 1910	63	63	..
Austrian 6% Guar. 91	91	91	..	Do 6% 1924	90½	90½	..
Belgian 3%	70	71	+	Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	37	36	-
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914	71	71	..	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	30	31	+
Chilian 4½% 1895	88	88	..	P.L.M. 6%	91½	92	+
Do 7½%	104½	104½	..	Portuguese (New)	24½	25	+
Chinese 5%, 1912	69	69	..	Russian 4%, 1906	8	8	..
Egyptian 4%	75	75	..	Spanish 4%	65	65	..
French 5%	253	253	..	Seine (Dept.) 7%	102½	102½	..
Do 4%	20	20½	+	Siam 7%	107	107	..
Greek 5%, 1884	53½	53½	..				

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A"	23½	23½	..	Marconi Canada	1½	1½	..
Marconi Wireless	1½	1½	..	Marconi Marine	1½	1½	..

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1)	1½	1½	..	Hudson's Bay (£1)	5½	5½	..
Amal. Cottons (£1)	1½	1½	..	Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	3½	3½	..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1)	2½	2½	..	Linggi Plantains (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	1½	1½	..	Lipton (£1)	1½	1½	..
Do Co. (£1)	1½	1½	..	Liver Bros 7% Cmp (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Ass. Ptd. Cement (£1)	1½	1½	..	Do 8% Cmp A Ptd (£1) ..	1	1	..
Barker, John (£1)	1½	1½	..	Do 8% Cmp Ptd (£1) ..	1	1	..
B'ham Small Arms (£1)	1½	1½	..	Lister (£1)	1½	1½	..
Brazil Traction (£100)	51½	52½	+	Lobitos Oilfields (£1) ..	10½	10½	..
British-American	1½	1½	..	Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) ..	4½	4½	..
Tobacco (£1)	5½	5½	..	Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	4	4	..
Burmah Oil (£1)	5½	5½	..	Pekin (2)	1½	1½	..
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	3½	3½	..	Rubber Plantations ..	1½	1½	..
Courtaulds (£1)	2½	2½	..	Investment (£1)	1½	1½	..
Cumard (£1)	1½	1½	..	Shell Transport (£1) ..	4	4	..
Dorman, Long (£1)	1½	1½	..	Smithfield Argentine ..	1½	1½	..
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	1½	1½	..	Meat (£1)	1½	1½	..
Fine Cotton Spinners	1½	1½	..	United Dairies (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
(£1)	1½	1½	..	United Serdang (2) ..	1½	1½	..
Forestral Land (£1)	1½	1½	..	United Tobacco (£1) ..	1½	1½	..
Furness, Withy (£1)	1½	1½	..	Vallambrosa (£1)	1½	1½	..
Highlands and Low	1½	1½	..	Vickers (£1)	1½	1½	..
lands Rubber (£1)	1½	1½	..	Wesley Def. Stk.	23½	24½	+

Mines.

Bratpan (£1)	3½	3½	..	Knights	8½	8½	..
Broken Hill Prop. (£1)	1½	1½	..	Modderfontein (10) ..	3½	3½	..
Chartereds (£1)	1½	1½	..	Modderfont. "B" (5) ..	1½	1½	..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	1½	1½	..	Modderfont. Deep (5) ..	2½	2½	..
Crown Mines (10)	2½	2½	..	Premier Def. (2/6)	5	5	..
De Beers Def. (£2½)	11½	11½	..	Rand Mines (5)	3½	3½	..
East Rand Prop. (£1)	1½	1½	..	Selukwe	1½	1½	..
Geduld (£1)	3½	3½	..	Rio Tinto (£5)	34½	34½	..
Gov. Gold Areas (£1)	6½	6½	..	Spring Mines (£1)	2½	2½	..

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		RECEIPTS.	
		Apl. 1, 1924, to Aug. 16, 1924.	Apl. 1, 1923, to Aug. 18, 1923.	Week Ended Aug. 16, 1924.	Week Ended Aug. 18, 1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
	..	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs	101,800,000	36,951,000	47,537,000	1,190,000	1,580,000
Excise	135,900,000	44,725,000	55,971,000	2,215,000	8,010,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	15,600,000	3,380,000	4,891,000	132,000	..
Stamps, &c., Duties	56,000,000	24,410,000	21,340,000	900,000	960,000
Stamps	21,000,000	5,860,000	7,240,000	190,000	230,000
Land Tax, House Duty ..	1,250,000	600,000	460,000	10,000	..
& Mineral Rights Duty ..	265,000,000	81,179,000	81,084,000	4,871,000	3,800,000
Property & Income Tax ..	61,000,000	22,250,000	18,220,000	580,000	470,000
Super-Tax	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c. ..	20,000,000	6,590,000	7,690,000	310,000	360,000
Corporation Profits Tax ..	53,500,000	20,590,000	19,350,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Post Office	900,000	380,000	320,000	..	..
Crown Lands	12,250,000	5,704,247	5,930,221	..	93,614
Interest on Sundry Loans	11,850,000	4,714,627	5,697,731	267,807	146,261
Miscellaneous—	30,000,000	12,053,131	18,848,779	499,999	1,112,207
Ordinary Receipts...	794,050,000	269,947,005	293,179,331	12,415,806	18,018,703
Special Receipts...	..	276,578,619	299,997,498	..	..
Revenue	..	..	..	..	..
Total, inc. Balance ..	..	..	..	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	5,680,000	..	3,330,000	670,000	180,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922	..	2,200,000	1,750,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	1,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	..	..	270,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bills	898,687,000	930,969,000	44,679,000	44,344,000	..
By National Savings Certificates ..	10,650,000	17,860,000	500,000	700,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33 ..	13,521,620	39,208,627	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	291,841,500	305,553,500	1,250,000	1,850,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments—	..	..	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	522,224	161,028	..	..	..
Total	1,499,605,072	1,589,204,734	59,514,806	65,072,702	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Aug. 16, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Aug. 18, 1923.	Week Ended Aug. 16, 1924.	Week Ended Aug. 18, 1923.
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	136,063,896	132,511,639	493,153	409,105
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	10,175,865	16,563,547	530,000	750,000
Road Fund	15,000,000	3,247,044	2,890,044	857,000	779,000
Payments to Local Taxation Authorities, &c.	13,150,000	2,126,891	861,316	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	1,376,580	1,253,042	..	..
Land Settlement	750,000	279,205	189,472	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	967,812	1,126,594	5,587	5,387
Supply Services	408,919,000	134,045,085	139,294,979	5,500,000	9,450,000
Expenditure	793,759,000	288,282,358	294,690,733	7,580,153	11,393,492
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds Under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924	..	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1924 and 1924	..	3,100,000	2,550,000	780,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	4,000	12,000	..	12,000
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	..	230,627	..	49,990	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	..	4,790,000	3,027,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills	..	890,920,000	948,255,000	46,690,000	41,575,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	..	12,300,000	14,000,000	600,000	750,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	..	17,005,096	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	..	50	269,036	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	..	296,123,500	305,399,500	3,800,000	11,800,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	..	23,109	50,081	23,109	50,081
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	..	1,495,810,535	1,585,625,551	59,523,152	65,580,573
Bank of Ireland	..	2,021,294	1,569,911	112,247	63,871
Total	..	1,497,831,829	1,587,195,462	59,635,399	65,644,444

Note.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 60 of 1924.
Treasury, August 18, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
5% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	286	684	683	666	666
3% War Stock	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% and 5% War Stock	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	820	820
4% Funding Loan	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
4% Victory Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	324	314	314
Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	457	470
Exchequer Bonds	..	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150
National Savings Certificates	..	287	274	285	342	354	367	366	364
Other Debt*	..	1,306	1,161	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	..	..	616	652	588	597
Treasury Bills	..	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	701	761	765
Temporary Advances	..	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	181
Other Capital Liabilities	..	654	833	782	479	655	742	780	765
Total Liabilities	..	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707

* Includes debt to American Government.

† Corrected figures from Finance Accounts, 1923-24.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Aug. 1, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Aug. 16, '24.	Aug. 16, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	186,155,500	181,873,500	2,550,000	2,550,000
Outstanding—	..	..	..	..
Advances by Bank of England	..	..	..	..
Advances by Public Deposits	194,051,500	186,155,500	181,873,500	2,550,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	598,740,000	588,390,000	596,165,000	2,550,000

Total Floating Debt .. 792,791,500 .. 774,475,500 .. 778,038,500 .. 4,635,000

* Includes £78,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Aug. 25-Aug. 30 were opened on Aug. 22, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £37,225,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at 99 is 3d, about 53 per cent., and above in full. Saturday at 99 is 6d, and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £30,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months, Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds, Average Price.
July 18, 1924.	£ 35,000,000	£ 56,300,000	3 10 9-29	94 13 0
July 25, 1924.	35,000,000	50,035,000	3 12 9-94	..
Aug. 1, 1924.	35,000,000	44,460,000	3 13 5-41	..
Aug. 8, 1924.	35,000,000	46,625,000	3 15 4-32	..
Aug. 15, 1924.	30,000,000	41,390,000	3 15 3-24	..
Aug. 22, 1924.	30,000,000	37,225,000	3 13 9-16	..

Tenders will be received on Aug. 29, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.					
			Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Gold and Silver Coins.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.								
Mar. 29.	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15-9	261,478	177
June 28.	295,374	13,338	8,000	28,500	19,450	16-3	254,312	850
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16-6	246,456	169
Dec. 27.	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15-9	258,322	137
1923.								
Mar. 28.	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3	241,294	190
June 27.	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3	242,446	183
Sept. 27.	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-7	235,596	140
Dec. 26.	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-5	255,032	159
1924.								
Mar. 26.	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-6	236,867	130
June 25.	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-0	246,198	140
July 30.	295,666	12,478	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-7	251,477	117
Aug. 6.	298,625	12,991	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-6	255,244	122
Aug. 13.	295,578	12,814	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-7	251,841	121
Aug. 20.	291,362	12,656	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-0	247,456	112

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum statutory issue for 1920 fixed at £380,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £328,968,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, August 20, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government debt	£
Notes issued	146,244,310	11,015,100	
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion	126,494,310
	146,244,310		146,244,310

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government securities	£
Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	42,468,443	
Rest	3,555,382	Other securities	78,316,654
Public deposits	15,635,288	Notes	21,125,605
Other deposits	109,974,439	Gold and silver coin ..	1,821,438
Seven-day & other bills	14,031		
	143,732,140		143,732,140

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Aug. 20, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest ..	3,555,382	+	2,748,2
Public deposits ..	15,635,288	+	13,110
Other deposits ..	109,974,439	+	310,030
Government securities ..	42,468,443	+	3,777,182
Other securities ..	78,316,654	+	3,987,158
Notes ..	21,125,605	+	8,263,987
Gold and silver coin ..	1,821,438	+	169,413
Notes in circulation ..	125,118,705	+	81,515
Gold and bullion ..	128,315,748	+	841,885
% of reserve to liabilities ..	182%	+	674,272

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted.)

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to August 6	21,238,501	968,116	1,738,297	23,944,914
Aug. 20	601,554	28,230	55,002	684,786
	624,740	28,277	55,126	710,343
Total to date 1924	22,464,795	1,094,413	1,849,425	25,408,633
Do 1923	20,980,714	1,015,572	1,835,414	23,831,700
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,484,081	+ 8,841	+ 14,011	+ 1,506,933
% ..	+ 7-0	+ 0-8	+ 0-7	+ 6-3
Total for year 1923	23,270,373	1,546,665	2,810,294	27,627,332
Total for year 1924	23,780,635	1,574,681	2,808,165	28,163,481
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 510,262	+ 28,016	+ 4,869	+ 543,147
% ..	+ 2-2	+ 1-8	+ 0-2	+ 2-0

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Number of Working Days	Month of July.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to August 16.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
BIRMINGHAM	24	26	£ 76,401,800	£ 76,766,100
BRISTOL	10,416,000	5,671,000	38,680,000	37,650,000
DUBLIN	5,660,000	5,671,000	201,635,000	180,041,800
LIVERPOOL	3,787,000	4,732,000	35,459,100	34,602,100
LEEDS	4,618,000	4,660,000	34,361,900	34,100,000
MANCHESTER	3,401,000	3,846,000	24,268,100	25,532,100
NEWCASTLE	35,098,000	41,199,000	286,101,600	299,609,400
NOTTINGHAM	63,836,000	67,703,000	486,164,300	498,137,600
Sheffield	8,518,000	7,889,000	67,430,400	66,208,800
Total	142,658,000	155,241,000	..	..

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Gold Discount Bank appeared in the Economist of June 21; Japan in August 2; Denmark in August 9; Rentenbank, Finland, Lithuania, Austria, Roumania, and Greece in August 10.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted.)

	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	Aug. 17, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,144,430	3,125,740	3,154,910	3,120,680
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	89,010	103,310	105,090	74,190
Bills discounted for member banks	266,200	273,640	293,900	801,440
Bills bought in open market	18,030	22,100	24,440	173,190
Government obligations owned	540,330	535,520	505,280	89,840
All other resources	90,080	88,740	87,350	66,930
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	25,000	35,080	45,390	30,040
Other deposits	2,140,510	2,124,580	2,119,410	1,872,390
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,752,030	1,756,010	1,761,570	2,231,820
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation			nil	1,650
All other liabilities	12,000	12,010	14,130	18,660
Capital and surplus	339,780	392,410	332,400	328,290
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.	82.5%	82.5%	83%	77.3%

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 15, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 15, 1924.	May 31, 1924.
Gold and bullion	3,118	2,902	2,858	2,607	1,936	1,458
Of which gold coin	14	14	14	17	18	18
Danzig subsidiary coin	3,104	2,887	2,844	2,590	1,919	1,458
Balances, Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	16,651	15,297	14,976	15,928	12,895	14,680
Bills of exchange	13,924	14,826	13,409	13,653	13,918	13,270
Loans	1,475	1,006	1,885	1,957	2,652	2,792
Foreign exchange	4,223	7,916	10,256	8,337	9,799	9,265
Other balances on demand	1,005	880	1,077	1,715	1,139	1,296
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	22,573	22,977	20,450	21,007	16,600	18,414
Deposits on demand	10,179	12,269	16,442	15,816	18,701	17,300
Deposits at notice	264	80	207			

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 10, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	June 30, 1924.
Gold	95,930	93,683	92,789	83,760
Foreign coin and balance	280,515	272,138	250,641	256,977
with foreign banks	183,748	174,950	163,295	154,494
Private loans & discounts				144,689
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	390,339	394,263	344,549	351,876
Deposits	147,074	112,306	127,687	117,996

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 7, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1923.
*Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of Austria	10,096,985	10,096,984	10,096,983	11,096,974	10,096,974	10,096,913
Discounts & advances	1,917,228	1,921,712	2,038,332	2,084,270	2,133,740	1,587,122
Gold & silver holdings	1,050,554	1,050,208	1,050,689	1,049,344	1,048,721	1,055,288
Foreign bills and balances abroad	62,524	619,637	625,281	645,148	681,577	2,577,326
Other assets	215,505	216,527	215,078	220,642	248,576	713,567
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circ'n	7,862,336	8,090,034	7,562,740	7,728,714	7,984,672	9,143,916
Deposits	4,607,091	4,415,703	4,976,023	4,878,220	4,828,777	5,985,771
Other liabilities	1,434,079	1,430,331	1,487,603	1,489,344	1,456,139	880,489

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

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 7, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	July 7, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1923.
Metal reserve						
Gold coin and bullion	448,301,955	441,831,780	441,831,780	441,831,780	441,831,780	249,727,908
Foreign coin and bullion	1,293,658,534	1,110,925,593	1,110,925,593	1,110,925,593	1,110,925,593	1,009,834,696
Silver coin and bullion	15,597,842	13,545,180	13,545,180	13,545,180	13,545,180	12,470,150
Share capital not yet paid up	15,957,462	34,118,547	34,118,547	34,118,547	34,118,547	198,254,412
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,286,495,504	1,257,596,672	1,257,596,672	1,257,596,672	1,257,596,672	1,154,894,901
Advances to the Treasury	1,980,300,000	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000	1,980,000,000
LIABILITIES.						
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986
Notes in circulation	3,456,017,698	3,277,943,007	3,277,943,007	3,277,943,007	3,277,943,007	2,872,195,934
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	1,475,094,912	1,424,577,881	1,424,577,881	1,424,577,881	1,424,577,881	1,439,512,539

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 8, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1923.
Gold	72,339	72,335	72,331	73,325	63,059
Other coin and notes	21,265	20,087	19,186	19,367	19,171
Foreign credits	356,784	344,366	341,442	335,715	349,336
Bills	1,212,551	1,177,397	1,146,059	1,154,591	1,218,630
Govt. advances	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,564,516	4,564,516	4,568,608
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,628,242	5,567,577	5,433,938	5,482,303	5,694,683
State credits	389,951	389,951	389,945	389,945	373,107
Deposits	415,973	359,286	443,783	384,208	531,481

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In leva (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 22, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	May 7, 1924.	April 7, 1924.	Dec. 30, 1923.
Monetary reserves	93,903	91,232	94,924	97,232	70,992
Notes of foreign banks	990	942	658	785	1,254
Foreign bills	127,434	97,942	140,423	79,711	70,776
Credits with foreign correspondents	465,584	498,179	470,515	611,142	852,652
Note circulation	4,843,907	5,054,661	5,104,235	4,917,071	4,138,984
Loans to the State	3,592,397	3,051,591	3,825,386	3,609,051	3,846,716

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

Assets.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	July 1, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	12,479	11,429	10,314	9,269	6,982
Silver in bullion			110	111	73
Platinum	743	743	743	743	
Foreign bank notes	9,954	10,003	9,962	10,007	896
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	343	343	343	343	401
Bills (less 10% discount)	16,691	15,891	14,546	13,783	4,995
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	5,891	5,891	5,933	5,995	3,580
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	41,950	41,750	40,650	38,750	15,900
Balance to which notes may still be issued	2,150	2,550	1,300	1,500	1,027

(Note: 1 Tchernovetz = 10 gold roubles.)

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	July 1, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	2,534,613	2,534,603	2,534,613	2,534,525	2,525,789
Silver	655,602	655,183	660,877	660,877	661,160
Loans & discounts	2,172,893	2,195,065	2,172,712	2,163,907	2,089,993
Spanish 4% stock	185,690	192,876	192,876	184,871	205,459
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	4,422,380	4,430,211	4,396,334	4,364,047	4,170,643
Deposits	898,455	901,257	904,988	924,811	1,054,980

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 9, 1924.	July 2, 1924.	June 25, 1924.	June 4, 1924.	July 11, 1923.
Coin and bullion	4,991	9,491	9,486	9,435	27,099
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	150,378	146,823	101,406	94,964	58,104
Discounts	185,690	192,876	192,876	184,871	205,459
Government loans	1,448,591	1,445,560	1,401,096	1,408,237	1,040,354
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,623,597	1,614,778	1,580,680	1,583,117	1,231,082
Deposits	34,487	41,762	34,991	43,186	55,282

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 20, 1924.	July 10, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 20, 1924.	July 20, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Total cash	1,604,681	1,572,404	1,613,459	1,567,431	1,456,078	1,221,875
Inland bills	3,301,491	3,319,434	3,386,031	3,120,342	5,233,116	418,400
Foreign bills	15,635	15,623	15,643	15,801	13,446	81,500
Advances to the Treasury	5,652,841	5,652,918	5,651,905	5,637,591	5,833,911	nil
Other advances	1,624,076	1,720,593	2,118,781	1,744,401	1,863,865	79,175
Securities	411,910	420,508	416,420	374,605	376,347	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,114,330	13,268,029	13,355,386	12,698,961	12,970,694	1,556,925
Deposit & drafts	1,821,590	1,806,359	2,004,195	2,079,844	1,465,647	193,975

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £s (000's omitted).

Assets.	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	Apr. 30, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	3,862	3,366	3,362	3,364	3,364	1,571
Govt. securities	47,901	48,973	50,852	51,196	39,474	2,084
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circ'n	28,055	29,921	31,624	31,847	27,781	2,400
Govt. deposits	14,966	14,263	13,783	14,639	9,230	2,315
Other deposits	14,133	14,134	14,579	14,389	11,899	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

LONDON RATES.

	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 17, 1924.	Aug. 18, 1924.	Aug. 19, 1924.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 21, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 months' do	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 months' do	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months'	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Loans—Day to day	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Short	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposit allowances: Banks	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Discount houses at call	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
			3 Months.	4 Months.	5 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	5 Months.
1924.	%		%	%	%	%	%	%
July 31.....	23 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4	4 1/2	5 1/2
Aug. 1.....	23 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2
15.....	23 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2
22.....	23 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924 ..	5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923 ..	%
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923 ..	7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924 ..	6
Belgrade	Sept. 15, 1923 ..	9	Prague	May 27, 1924 ..	6
Berlin	Jan. 22, 1923 ..	5 1/2	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924 ..	8
Brussels	Sept. 4, 1920 ..	6	Rome	July 11, 1922 ..	5 1/2
Bucharest	Aug. 21, 1924 ..	10	Sofia	Nov. 9, 1923 ..	5 1/2
Budapest	Nov. 10, 1923 ..	7	Stockholm	places	
Calcutta	Jan. 17, 1924 ..	7	Swiss Bank	July 14, 1924 ..	4
Copenhagen	Mar. 17, 1924 ..	12	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919 ..	8
Danzig	Mar. 8, 1924 ..	9	Vienna	Aug. 12, 1924 ..	15
Helsingfors	Sept. 12, 1923 ..	9	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Lisbon					
New York Fed- eral Reserve					

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that Mr R. C. Chapple Gill has been elected to a seat on the board. Mr Gill is one of the partners of Messrs R. and C. Gill, of Old Hall street, Liverpool.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Scrip bonus. (b) 10 months.

BOLGER, VAUGHAN, AND Co.—The half-yearly dividend to June 30th on the preference shares of the company will not be paid.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Aug. 15, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Aug. 17, 1924.			Aggregate 33 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passengers, &c.		Total Work.	Passengers, &c.		Total Receipts.
		£	£		£	£	
Great Western.....	3,754	406,000	326,000	732,000	8,647,000	109,940	19,641,000
Do for 1923	3,747	377,000	316,000	693,000	8,736,000	116,460	20,382,000
London & North-Eastern	6,722	628,000	663,000	1,291,000	14,612,000	226,100	36,875,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	603,000	641,000	1,244,000	14,683,000	241,620	38,945,000
London, Mid. & Scottish	5,923	855,000	848,000	1,703,000	12,052,000	382,460	28,460,000
Do for 1923	6,941	839,000	788,000	1,627,000	12,050,000	388,000	30,681,000
Southern	2,146	472,500	117,100	589,600	10,920,000	73,500	14,607,500
Do for 1923	2,146	470,800	110,300	581,100	11,063,400	5,891,600	14,955,000
Metropolitan (c)	794	422,100	4,285	46,402	1,252,256	127,073	1,379,339
Do for 1923	..	301,558	3,682	35,840	1,050,649	123,740	1,174,895
Underground (c)	..	..	..	225,249	..	..	7,761,000
Do for 1923	..	..	..	224,645	..	..	7,445,893
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	44,189	..	..	1,266,751
Do for 1923	..	..	..	41,243	..	..	1,333,181
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	5,842	1,172	7,014	156,146	40,954	197,100
Do Dublin & S. East (b) ..	160	8,846	2,640	11,486	203,207	115,819	319,026
Do Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	24,850	18,700	43,550	627,350	663,800	1,291,150
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	33,044	29,747	62,791	772,532	1,017,242	1,783,774
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	11,679	11,619	23,298	302,140	641,251	766,291

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -

INDIAN.							
				Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
Assam Bengal	16weeks	July 19	1,072	2,61,000	+ 17,771	40,59,871	+ 597,06,380
Barat L. Ry.....	17weeks	26	118	32,300	- 118,700	7,28,100	+ 65,500
Bengal & N. Western	17weeks	26	2,062	5,58,830	+ 11,347	1,43,300	+ 3,500
Bengal Nagpur	17weeks	26	2,600	14,76,000	+ 66,000	2,66,94,680	+ 21,54,731
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	17weeks	Aug.		19,22,000	+ 5,608	43,99,000	+ 32,80,000
Burma	16weeks	July 19	1,342	5,41,219	51,379	1,12,65,211	+ 2,94,000
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	20weeks	Aug. 9	239	96,000	+ 13,403	1,29,97,974	- 1,765
East Indian	19weeks	9	2,873	3,041,000	+ 56,800	6,41,09,000	+ 35,37,000
G. Indian Peninsula	18weeks	9	3,175 ^a	21,51,900	+ 1,99,400	5,45,00,000	+ 64,71,310
G. India & S. Mahr ..	18weeks	July 26	3,029	14,00,000	+ 72,162	2,73,58,564	+ 80,49,118
Goa & Rohilk	19	255		55,556	+ 9,601	1,00,00,000	+ 11,119
Do Lucknow-Breilly	16weeks	9	314	55,520	+ 1,583	1,79,08,000	+ 2,84,000
South Indian	15weeks	12	1,877	10,54,143	+ 55,629	1,55,50,561	+ 3,24,300

			£	\$	£	\$
Argentina N.E.	7weeks	Aug. 16	1,584	10,900 —	500	85,400 +
Argentina Trans.	6weeks	9	2,463 —	661	14,051 —	5,410
B. A. and Pacific	7weeks	16	3,362	160,000 +	30,000	1,122,000 +
B. A. Gt. Southern	7weeks	16	3,948	194,000 +	39,000	1,330,000 +
			Net	69,000 +	23,000	466,000 +
B. A. Western	7weeks	16	1,822	28,000	26,000	153,000
			Net	34,000 +	18,000	244,000 +
Central Argentina	7weeks	16	3,305	219,000 +	17,000	1,544,000 +
Cordoba Central	7weeks	16	1,205	75,000 +	9,000	512,100 +
Entre Rios	7weeks	16	729	19,500 +	4,700	139,800 +

Canadian National...	32 weeks	Aug. 14	22,680	4,069,974	- 858,516	142,927,703	- 3,463,260
Canadian Pacific....	32 weeks	14	13,814	2,988,000	- 577,000	105,002,000	+ 1,416,000

Gt. West. of Brazil..	33weeks	Aug. 16	1,011	6,500	-	800	289,500	-	22,1
Leopoldina	33weeks	16	1,831	35,010	+	3,554	944,379	+	132,5
San Paulo	33weeks	17	153	31,973	-	1,230	1,184,856	+	263,2

Antofagasta	33 weeks	Aug. 17	838	36,630	- 1,660	1,229,500	+	54,4
Nitrate (3-monthly)	32 weeks	15	366	40,020	+ 5,981	604,034	+	96,2

Havana Central	6 weeks	Aug. 9	..	11,807	+	536	67,974	-	2
United of Havana ..	7 weeks	16	1,249	68,057	+	8,393	468,253	+	54,7

Central Uruguay ..	7 weeks	Aug. 16	273	18,629	+	863	149,782	+	10.3
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	7 weeks	16	311	3,435	-	139	27,356	-	1.8
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	7 weeks	16	185	1,762	-	168	14,897	-	8
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	7 weeks	16	211	2,150	-	528	14,897	-	8

		CUMULATIVE		OTHER YEARS.		TOTAL.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	33 weeks	Aug. 15	33	15,000		789,000+	802,000+
Egyptian Delta ..	16 weeks	July 31	575	9,170 +	1,830	87,948	7,948
G. Southn. of Spain	32 weeks	Aug. 9	104	Pa117,110 +	76,995	3,270,706	3,281,511
Mexican Railway ..	6 weeks	14	432	\$237,200 -	34,700	1,612,500	24,600
New Cape Central ..	50 weeks	July 26	205	2,326 +	8	82,371	9
Paraguay Central ..	7 weeks	Aug. 16	274	4,310 +	30	30,790	8,500
Salvador	7 weeks	16	100	2,155	261	18,072	1,717

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.		
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or	
Anglo-Argentine....	33 weeks	Aug. 19	329	£85,897	+	5,876	2,869,384	+ 98.
Burnley Corporation	1 week	July 28	12	£3,135	+	111	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	23 weeks	Aug. 16	354	Rs12,739	+	2,294	..	+ 6.51.
Chatham & District	28 weeks	10	15	£1,846	+	208	37,502	- 4.
Egyptian Markets ..	33 weeks	Aug. 14	105	£1,380	-	53	87,363	+ 5.
Glasgow Corporation	11 weeks	16	106	£42,575	-	1,430	476,035	+ 17.
Isle of Thanet Trm.	43 weeks	July 23	..	£5,405	-	44	94,269	+ 5.
Landarkshire Trams	33 weeks	Aug. 14	288	£7,408	-	87	46,896	- 1.
Liverpool Corporation	20 weeks	16	124	£25,591	-	2,340	497,433	- 53.
L.C.C. Tramways ..	20 weeks	20	163	70,718	-	3,920	1,624,529	- 148.
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	33 weeks	15	..	Rs 49,516	-	1,820	7,87,000	- 18.
Pernambuco Trams ..	17 weeks	17	..	£3,782	+	364	144,633	+ 23.
Singapore Trams ..	23 weeks	16	..	£15,100	+	2,246	402,062	+ 107.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1922.	1923.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.
			\$	\$	\$	\$
May	235,472	235,186	545,503,898	+ 97,510,054	126,173,540	+ 32,573,715
June	235,683	236,739	540,054,168	+ 66,303,501	124,046,578	+ 14,427,896
July	235,813	235,477	534,634,552	+ 53,634,552	122,044,775	+ 13,282,282
Aug.	235,696	235,357	563,292,105	+ 90,181,967	136,519,555	+ 49,871,384
Sept.	235,525	235,611	541,770,233	+ 44,549,568	129,300,309	+ 37,441,385
Oct.	236,015	235,608	586,328,886	+ 37,248,224	141,922,971	+ 20,895,758
Nov.	235,748	235,589	530,106,708	+ 7,648,500	124,931,318	+ 7,501,781
Dec.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550	+ 19,212,804	106,261,158	+ 2,439,152
	1923.	1924.	1924	1894.		
Jan.	235,886	236,698	667,687,013	+ 33,130,824	83,953,867	+ 33,387,307
Feb.	235,676	235,536	477,809,944	+ 31,399,712	104,117,278	+ 2,914,076
Mar.	235,920	235,715	504,016,114	+ 30,628,340	114,754,514	+ 21,974,078
Apr.	234,970	235,933	474,094,758	+ 48,242,116	101,680,719	+ 21,294,824
May	234,452	235,894	476,458,749	+ 70,476,133	96,048,087	+ 30,448,063

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.		Total Receipts.	
				1923-24.	+ or -	1923-24.	+ or -

INDIAN.					
				Rs	Rs
				934,025	1,34,574
				934,025	1,34,574

Canadian National	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$196,780.67	- 638,847	114,862.558	- 1,061.99
			Net D	\$926,382	- 205,855.2	2,629,429	+ 1,038.07
Canadian Pacific	6 mths	30	Gross	\$151,350.00	+ 192,000	84,657,000	+ 3,812.000
			Net	\$2,460,000	+ 38,000	10,350,000	+ 824.000
Manitowabe	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$77,821	..	..	..

BRAZILIAN.						
Brazil Gt. Sothrn.	6 mths	June 30	..	Ms. 81,000 +	13,500	426,500 +
State of Bahia	2 mths	30	52	£3,000 +	54	5,424 +
						50

Peruvian Corp...	1	mth	July 31	1,066	81,374,400	+ 113,500	1,374,400	+ 113,600
Total	1	mth	31	172	£26,880	+ 5,460	26,880	+ 5,460

URUGUAYAN.										
					£	—	£	£	—	£
Midland Uruguay	1 mth	July 31	319		13,830	—	1	13,830	—	
			317		4,468	—	376	4,468	—	37

OTHER OVERSEAS.					
Algebra Cent. &					

				Gross					
Hudson Bay (A)	12 mths	June 30		\$178,321	+	13,763	197,084	+	22,751
Beira and Mashonaland	1 mth	30	810	121,197	+	4,550	..	..	..
Bilbao	7 mths	July 31	15	2,252	+	2,128	21,306	+	3,658
				10,000	-	635	92,958	-	15,655

Dorado Extension	7	mths	July	31	45	26,500	+ 8,900	135,800	+ 10,400
Dorado Rope. Ex.						27,750			75
Dorado Rope. Ex.						70			15
International of						16,500	+ 16,500	626,526	+ 70,436
International of	7	mths	July	31	N/A	31,495	+ 10,880	294,810	+ 40,175
La Guaira & Car.	7	mths	July	31	222	11,080	- 1,950	89,470	+ 6,710
Mexican Railway	4	mths	Nov.	30	(Gr	\$864,700	-199,100	4,082,200	-456,500
					[Net	1,300	-253,300	435,500	-435,300
Mid. of W. Aust.	12	mths	June	30	277	10,416	+ 839	157,070	+ 5,000
Nasajo Osearsh.	5	mths	May	31		11,269	- 685	56,691	+ 5,000
PuertoCabello&C.	7	mths	July	31	35	11,269	+ 840	39,250	+ 5,000
Florida & Santa	7	mths	July	31	1,397	149,733	+ 5,746		
Ramirez & San'to	7	mths	June	30		8,280	- 129	49,480	- 3,000
Santa Fe Prov.	1	mth	June	30	1	143,611	+ 9,987		
Zafra and Huelva	6	mths	June	30	112	11,531	+ 2,028	67,573	+ 3,900

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY & OTHER RECEIPTS.									
Argentine Lights and Power (a) ..	3 mths	June 30	..	44,382 +	5,837	134,477	+ 17,381		
Batcelona Traction ..	6 mths	30	Gross	4,558,250 +	740,784	28,357 +	2,608,116		
Brazilian Tram receipts in \$..	6 mths	30	Net	2,759,905 +	178,246	17,965,367 +	2,592,433		
Brit. Columbia Electric, &c. ..	6 mths	30	Gross	\$2,329,906 +	233,629	13,465,907 +	1,241,413		
Burmah Electric	11 mths	May 31	Gross	\$1,495,263 +	140,391	8,454,318 +	683,336		
Trwys, & Lights	12 mths	July 31	Gross	\$890,952 +	31,987	9,985,802 +	35,133		
Cable Elec. Trams and Carriages ..	1 mth	June 30	Net	\$226,313 +	5,212	2,938,400 +	75,504		
Horries and Trams	1 mth	June 30	Gross	R77,336 +	6,872	..	+ 109,000		
Cities Service Co. Elec. Sup. of Victoria ..	7 mths	July 31	1	P 1,657 +	250	13,147 +	2,828		
Havana Electric Light & Power ..	Year	July 31	Gross	\$1,649,962 +	139,589	17,110,489 +	928,635		
Inter national Light & Power ..	12 mths	June 30	Gross	\$3,616 +	244	13,304 +	12,212		
Kalgoorlie Electric Tramways ..	6 mths	30	Net	\$1,158,386 +	54,636	7,008,191 +	389,119		
Keystone Tele. ..	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$571,778 +	5,310	5,442,241 +	20,212		
La Guadalupe Harb. La Plata Electric	1 mth	July 31	Net	\$22,760 +	1,500	266,798 +	13,211		
Lima Light, Pwr and Tramways ..	4 mths	Apr. 30	Gross	\$657,717 +	1,666	76,198 +	5,907		
Manila Electric &c.	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$3,158 +	..	..	..		
Para Electric	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$635 +	..	..	..		
Puebla Tram, &c. ..	1 mth	July 31	Net	..	..	938,189 +	59,131		
Rangoon Electric ..	1 mth	July 31	Gross	..	..	430,874 +	45,915		
Shanghai Electric Light & Electric Co. ..	4 mths	Apr. 30	Net	\$2,318 +	1,196	..	..		
Transvaal Pwr and Tramways ..	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$7,136 +	451	63,152 +	3,600		
Manila Electric &c.	12 mths	July 31	Gross	\$85,136 +	13,916	342,241 +	65,656		
Para Electric	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$303,994 +	5,726	2,672,883 +	94,656		
Puebla Tram, &c. ..	1 mth	July 31	Net	\$146,139 +	3,672	1,861,282 +	168,414		
Rangoon Electric ..	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$28,181 +	2,739	219,996 +	25,436		
Shanghai Electric Light & Electric Co. ..	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$20,630 +	879	86,961 +	5,914		
Transvaal Pwr and Tramways ..	1 mth	June 30	Net	\$36,650 +	7,325	2,110,335 +	92,707		
Manila Electric &c.	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$1,567,076 +	19,520	11,81,470 +	73,700		
Para Electric	7 mths	July 31	Net	\$207,344 +	18,344	1,358,660 +	90,606		
Puebla Tram, &c. ..	9 mths	July 31	Gross	\$51,004 +	4,809	504,885 +	24,101		
Rangoon Electric ..	6 mths	June 30	Net	\$119,800 +	16,600	34,500 +	16,100		
Shanghai Electric Light & Electric Co. ..	Quarter	Dec. 31	Net	\$238,511 +	..	..	..		
Transvaal Pwr and Tramways ..	6 mths	May 31	Gross	\$493,376 +	8,642	3,335,690 +	174,000		
Manila Electric &c.	6 mths	May 31	Net	\$106,364 +	28,076	2,000,152 +	46,300		

(a) Water only Gasoline Light Power and Traction

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Proft.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	\$	\$
Mexican Corp.	114,845	..	..	..	..	..	\$86,510

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.	Tons.	
Boro	54	..
Brisels	25	Black tin. ..
Gurum River	9	..
Copper.		
Poderosa	300	Metric tons, assaying 28 % copper.
East Kent	4,349	Week ended August 16th.
Witbank	70,632	..

FALCON.—July:—"Crushed 17,296 tons of ore, producing 233,285 short tons (2,000 lbs) of blister copper, containing 2,259 ozs of gold and 4,658 ozs of silver. Estimated value £24,504 (taking copper at \$50 per short ton, gold at 90s per oz, and silver at 2s 6d per oz)."

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO.—Cable for July (official correction):—"Estimated net smelter return on zinc should read \$61,958 instead of \$45,918, and estimated operating profit \$115,725 instead of \$99,715."

OIL OUTPUTS.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending August 13th amounted to 892 tons.

Reports and Notices.

Booth's Distillery, Limited, announce that the name of the company has been altered to Booth's Distilleries, Limited. Owing to the recent renaming of the thoroughfare, the company's address is now 83-85 Turnmill street, E.C. 1, and not 55 Cowcross street, E.C. 1, as formerly.

The County of London Electric Supply Co.'s issue of £1,500,000 5½ per cent. one-year notes to bearer has been over-subscribed by the existing stock and shareholders. We understand that letters of allotment have been posted.

The Midland Rubber Goods Manufacturing Co., Limited, has changed its name to that of the Midland Rubber Co. (1923), Limited, and from August 14th all business will be carried on in the new name. Mr Robert Young, late of the Dunlop Rubber Co. Limited, has been appointed general manager. Mr Young's technical experience after a service of many years with the Dunlop Rubber Co. should prove a valuable asset.

Mr. Albert Thomas Shead has been elected to a seat on the board of Champion and Slee, Limited.

Mr Cecil Mallet, of 721 Salisbury House, E.C., and Bathurst Lodge, Hayling Island, has been elected a director of the British North Borneo (Chartered) Company.

Mr Andrew Paton Holt, of Andrew, Holt, and Co., London and Montreal, has joined the board of the Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company, Limited.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

CHINESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN
of 1896 for £16,000,000.—Royal Siamese Government 4½ per cent.
gold loan of 1905 for £1,000,000.—Royal Siamese Government 4½
per cent. gold loan of 1907 for £3,000,000.—Royal Siamese Govern-
ment 7 per cent. gold loan of 1922 for £2,000,000.—The coupons
of these loans, due September 1st next, will be paid on and after
that date at the offices of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking
Corporation, c. Gracechurch-street, E.C.

STATE OF BAHIA.—Under the scheme arranged with the State of Bahia further funds have been received by the Ethelburga Syndicate, Limited, sufficient to pay the coupon dated December 1, 1922 on the bonds of the 1888 loan and the coupon dated July 1, 1922 on the bonds of the 1910 loan.

URUGUAY 3½ PER CENT. DEBT.—A telegram from the Bank of London and South America, Limited, Montevideo, dated 10th instant, advises that they have received \$23,260 gold, purporting to be 45 per cent. of Customs duties in respect of the first fortnight in August, and that they are remitting to Glyn, Mills, and Co. the sum of £40,281 for service of the above loan.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distri- bution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
						Amount.	Amount.					Rate.
			£	£	£	%	%	£	£	£	%
Banks.					..						
Queensland National	June 30	18,177	176,388	194,566	..	137,880	12½	40,000	16,686	149,350	12½
Breweries.											
Kay's Atlas	June 30	27,716	17,563	45,279	3,069	12,109	12½	2,000	28,101	15,579	12½
Gas.											
Barnet District Gas and Water..	June 30*	25,190	20,998	46,188	..	16,550	..	5,000	24,638	23,403	..
Coatbridge	June 30*	6,000	9,618	15,618	..	11,008	14½ 9½	..	4,610	13,584	14½
Gloucester Gas Light.....	June 30*	19,825	6,649	26,474	..	4,731	5	..	21,743	6,244	5
Rosendale Union	June 30*	549	5,245	5,794	..	4,450	..	621	723	4,742	..
Rubber, &c.											
Tenasserim, Hevea	May 31	4,583	6,423	11,006	..	..	..	(b) 6,417	4,589	10,663	5
Textiles.											
Tootal Broadhurst Lee	June 30	53,424	130,724	184,148	15,500	64,196	10	50,000	54,452	145,924	10
British Thread Mills	Feb. 14	..	10,059	10,059	..	..	..	..	10,059	10,581	..
Trust.											
Status Investment.....	June 30	6,991	3,515	10,506	..	..	..	5,000	5,506	17,132	7½
Waterworks.											
Luton	June 30*	10,103	3,210	13,313	..	3,474	4	..	9,839	3,962	4
Other Companies.											
Amalgamated Press	June 30	341,319	505,404	846,723	38,780	407,658	15	..	400,285	531,595	15
Owen and Robinson	May 31	5,218	5,380	10,598	2,100	2,100	6†	700	5,698	4,666	6†
Wilson Bros. Bobbin Co.	July 15	5,226	15,599	20,825	..	17,100	6	..	3,725	24,608	8
Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine	Dec. 31	9,407	1,005	10,412	..	..	..	..	10,412	Dr 2,790	..
		* Half-year.	† Free of tax.	(b) Capital expenditure charged to profit and loss.							

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

(b) Capital expenditure charged to profit and loss.

RAILWAYS.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The London office of the National City Co. has received cable advice that a group of New York financial houses, including the National City Co. of New York, issued on August 13th \$75,000,000 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds at the price of 98½ and interest, New York terms, dated July 1, 1928, redeemable July 1, 1948. The bonds are not redeemable by the company prior to April 1, 1945, and are secured by a first mortgage on approximately 1,650 miles of the company's railroad and a first lien on various of the company's subsidiary lines. The purpose of this issue is to retire a like amount of the Baltimore and Ohio prior lien 3½ per cent. bonds, redeemable July 1, 1925.

CHICAGO ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD.—We are informed that Messrs Speyer and Co. and Dillon, Read and Co. have purchased from the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway Co. \$5,000,000 of the company's five-year 5 per cent. secured gold notes due September 1, 1929, to be secured by pledge of \$7,500,000 of the company's first and refunding mortgage 4 per cent. gold bonds with 20 per cent. margin to be maintained. The proceeds of the notes are to be used for additions and betterments and other corporate purposes.

BANKS.

INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, LIMITED.—The London office of the National City Co. has received cable advice that its head office offered for subscription in New York on August 12th \$22,000,000 Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited, 6 per cent. three-year gold notes, dated August 15, 1924, redeemable August 15, 1927, at the price of 99½ and interest, New York terms, to yield 6.25 per cent. to redemption. The notes are unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Imperial Government of Japan. Dividend on the share capital of the bank has been paid every year since its establishment in 1902. According to the latest annual report published on August 6, 1924, the bank's dividend was 10 per cent. for the year ending December 31, 1923.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CALICO PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED. announce (subject to audit) that, after providing for corporation profits tax, £522,738 for maintenance, depreciation, repairs, renewals, and upkeep, and £128,000 for debenture interest, the accounts for the year ended June 30, 1924, show a net profit of £540,786, which with £235,432 brought forward from last year makes the total to the credit of the profit and loss account, £776,218. Out of this sum an interim dividend for the half-year ended December 31, 1923, amounting to £75,402, has already been paid on the preference shares, leaving £700,816, and the directors resolved to recommend to the shareholders that £155,725 be placed to the credit of the reserve account and £50,000 to the credit of the employees' benefit fund, and that a dividend be declared on the preference shares for the half-year ended June 30th last at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (less income-tax) and on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30 last a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (less income-tax), leaving the sum of £218,614 to be carried forward.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Climatic conditions proved somewhat unsettled, though mainly fine, with strong drying winds, so that good progress has been made with harvest operations during the week. Only a few samples of new wheat were on offer, indicated values being 12s 3d to 12s 6d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions ruled dull, and rates moved in buyers' favour owing to the decline in c.i.f. offers, and pressure to sell American descriptions. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 61s, No. 3 ditto 59s, Barusso 6½ lbs 57s, Australian 57s 6d, choice white Karachi 56s 6d, red ditto 55s 6d per 496 lbs ex ship. The floating and forward cargo section remained dull, buyers holding off owing to declining prices in the United States, consequently affairs were more or less nominal. A feature, however, was the strong demand for maize, both on Continental and American account, and a large business transpired at advancing prices. Steamers of La Plata, August shipment, sold 38s 3d to 39s 6d, September 40s 1½d, October-November 40s 3d, and November-December 41s 3d per 480 lbs. Cargoes of Morocco barley, August-September, changed hands at 37s 6d per 400 lbs. Flour irregular, but tendency easier in sympathy with the wheat position. London standard straight run quoted 46s, patents 48s to 49s, town whites 46s per sack delivered in Metropolitan area. Of imported, Manitoba patents range from 46s to 49s and Australian 43s to 44s per 280 lbs ex store. Barley firmer. Californian 59s-62s, Chilean brewing 58s-60s per 448 lbs ex ship. No. 3 Canadian Western landed 42s, Karachi ex ship 40s 6d, ditto landed 41s 6d, Russian landed 41s 6d per 400 lbs. English new quoted at 13s 9d to 15s per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize dearer. Plate ex ship 39s 3d, landed 40s 9d, Bessarabian ex ship 39s 6d, ditto landed 41s 3d per 480 lbs. Oats display a hardening tendency. Plate f.a.q. ex ship 25s, landed 26s 9d, No. 2 Canadian Western landed 31s, No. 3 ditto 30s, mixed Canadian feed landed 24s 3d per 320 lbs. English new quoted at 9s 2d-10s per 112 lbs free on rail. Millers' offers maintained. Broad bran quoted 8s 9d, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 11s 3d, bags included, ex mill, light oats 6s 9d, powdered oat husks 8s 3d, feed oatmeal 10s 9d, ground oats 13s 9d per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal firm. London-made flaked 18s 6d, rolled oats 18s, medium and fine cut 18s, coarse and medium pinhead 18s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal, 19s-19s 6d per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.	1920-1921.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Aug. 16	Cwts. 25,245	Cwts. 67,932	Cwts. 63,291	Cwts. 368,335
50 weeks to Aug. 16	12,744,020	16,988,864	16,139,396	12,877,021
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 12 11	s d 9 9	s d 12 3	s d 15 7

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.	Cwts. 25,652	Cwts. 1,524	Cwts. 5,553	s d 15 1	s d 12 5	s d 10 3
Aug. 9	25,245	3,222	12,556	12 11	13 2	9 7
Aug. 16						
1920	17,949	8,486	28,439	21 1	21 9	20 9
1921	368,336	40,146	60,366	15 7	15 9	11 6
1922	63,291	7,368	15,798	12 3	12 10	11 6
1923	67,932	9,521	43,629	9 8	8 3	8 7

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbro' correspondent's report, dated August 21, is as follows:—Pig-iron: This being holiday week in this district very little is doing, but there is rather a hopeful feeling, and after the holidays business might show some improvement. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. has been sold at 8s, but makers are trying to increase this price. The price of mixed numbers East Coast hematite is rather weak at 9s 6d to 9s 3s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: All the local works are idle, and therefore, there is nothing doing in the way of new business. Prices remain unchanged: steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Owing to the reduced price of hematite pig-iron, consumers of iron ore are looking for still lower prices. But sellers are maintaining quotations on the basis of 22s 6d per ton, c.i.f. Tees, for best Bilbao Rubio ore.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in crude iron and steel has dropped almost to zero this week, having been limited to hand-to-mouth lots, and the strike, which has caused the complete closing down of the three largest steel works in the district, is making the situation much worse. While members of the trade have not lost confidence in its ultimate recovery, they do not anticipate much change for the better this year. The production of pig-iron in June and July was the lowest during the present year, and fell short of the average monthly production of 1913 by 240,000 tons. There was a loss last month of 11 in the number of furnaces in blast. Steel production was also the lowest of the year in the last two months, but it exceeded the average of 1913, since when capacity has been increased by fully 50 per cent. Evidences of revival in some classes of engineering, fine steels, tools, and motor construction multiply. The gain so far is not considerable, but the upward trend has been in operation for a long time. The demand for small tools and files is well maintained, and makers of farm and garden tools have had a successful season. Conditions in the coal market are believed to be slightly better. There is an improved demand for steam coal, both in the home market and for export. The public are buying house coal in readiness for the winter. Furnace and foundry coke are less depressed than they have been. Quotations per ton at pits are:—Best hand-picked branch, 32s to 34s; Barnsley best Silkestone, 26s; Yorkshire hards, 21s 6d to 22s; Blyth ditto, 21s 6d to 22s; Tyne ditto, 24s; Derbyshire ditto, 21s; rough slacks, 12s to 14s 6d; smalls, 7s to 8s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Quiet conditions prevail in the pig-iron market, with prices rather firmer. The total shipments from Glasgow Harbour for the week ending August 16th were 525 tons. Iron and steel manufacturers are far from busy, and orders are not coming in in sufficient quantity to keep mills fully engaged. Better all-round conditions are anticipated, however, from the confidence in the future engendered by the European settlement in London this week, and, provided the arrangement come to is ratified by the respective Parliaments, it is certain that nothing but ultimate good to trade in general will be the outcome. German competition on a more extensive scale is thought to be a danger to the iron and steel industry, but this is not likely to be felt for some time, and meantime traders here will be more likely to feel the benefit arising from more stable conditions abroad. A large bridge-building contract has been secured by Sir William Arrol and Co., Limited, of Glasgow, for the new ferry road bridge at Tilbury, and it is estimated that the steelwork involved amounts to 1,280 tons. It is also reported that Messrs William Simons and Co., Limited, of Renfrew, are to build a new sludge steamer to the order of the Corporation of Glasgow at a cost of fully £48,000. The sheet trade is steadily busy, with a fair home demand, and overseas buyers taking more interest, especially as regards thin gauges for Japan. A considerable tonnage has already been booked this month, some of it speculative, but the larger buyers are on the market with heavy tonnages to place. Galvanised sheets are in steady request, but India seems to be holding off meantime till makers are in a less independent position as regards work in hand. The price is being kept firm at £18 5s minimum, and 5s more has been paid for October shipment.

The decision made on Tuesday to raise the minimum selling price of tinplates to 23s has come as a surprise to the trade, and merchants are somewhat alarmed at the way things have turned. It was confidently expected in some quarters that tin would fall

to below £200. Instead of this, the market has been very strong again this week, with standard round about £260. There does not seem to be much hope of any material setback in tin this autumn. On the contrary, the price may easily go to £275 again; thus the lifting of the minimum rate to 23s should help to pave the way for the autumn business. Makers ask 23s 3d for forward contracts, and there is more Continental business about.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The only feature of the South Wales coal market this week has been the steadiness of the best Admiralty large coal descriptions. The collieries are well stemmed, and prices in one or two cases have improved to the extent of about 6d per ton. On the market itself there has been very little activity even in these coals, and it is presumed that the strength of the colliery position is due to direct private dealings between collieries and foreign consumers. The other coals have lacked support, but their quotations are unaltered.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s 6d to 29s; second Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s; best dries, 26s to 27s; Western Valleys, 25s 6d to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s 6d to 15s 6d; coking smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; Big Vein, large, 52s to 53s; machine-made cobbles, 57s 6d to 60s; French nuts, 52s 6d to 57s 6d; stove nuts, 50s to 57s 6d; rubbly culm, 12s 6d to 13s; coke for export, 52s 6d to 55s; inland blastfurnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s; pitwood, ex ship, 30s 6d to 31s.

In the tinplate trade business is quieter. The prices have been maintained chiefly owing to the high cost of tin, but while factories are fully booked up for the next few months, orders for future delivery are falling off.

METALS.

Tin irregular and easier during the early part of the week, but later on, sellers becoming more reserved in their offers, prices marked an upward tendency, with business on a fairly liberal scale. Standard cash sold at £256 to £257 15s, and three months £256 10s to £256 to £259 5s to £259. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £259 15s, c.i.f. At Thursday's market values ruled firmer, though top points were not maintained. Standard cash quoted at £259 15s to £260, August sold at £260 15s to £261, and three months £261 to £261 15s to £260 15s. The tone at the close proved quiet, with rates moving in buyers' favour. Standard cash quoted at £257 10s to £257 15s, with sales in three months at £260 to £258 10s to £258 15s. English ingots quoted at £259 to £259 10s. Copper, after opening firmer, subsequently eased on sellers becoming more prominent and a falling off in consumption requirements. Standard cash sold at £63 17s 6d to £63 12s 6d to £63 13s 9d to £63 10s, and three months £65 to £63 17s 6d to £64. On Thursday active trading ensued, and prices moved in an upward direction. Standard cash sold at £63, and three months at £63 15s to £64 7s 6d. Copper closed again rather firmer, but business on a smaller scale. Standard cash quoted at £63 10s to £63 12s 6d, and three months sold at £64 7s 6d to £64 12s 6d to £64 11s 3d. Electrodes quoted at £68 to £68 10s, best selected £67 to £68 5s, strong sheets £94, wire bars £68 10s per ton. Lead irregular and easier at £32 16s 3d to £32 2s 6d as to position. Spelter firmer at £32 18s 9d to £32 12s 6d, according to position. Aluminium—Home quoted at £125, export £130. Antimony—English Regulus £44 10s to £50.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Notwithstanding the break caused locally by the annual holidays, the market to-day is very strong, and interest is being displayed in practically all classes of wool and tops. Stocks of merino wool and tops have got into a very small compass, and although conditions in the yarn and piece-goods section still leave much to be desired, there is a growing impression that wool will dominate the position, and that prices will advance at the colonial wool sales in London next month. In recent weeks there has been a steady upward movement in quotations for tops, and to-day practically all qualities are again dearer. A general market quotation for warp 64's tops is 75d, super 60's are quoted at 67½d, 56's average at 47½d, 46's carded at 28d, and 40's prepared at 26½d. A fair amount of business is being done, but most of the large topmakers are not pressing matters, as they feel convinced that values will go still higher. Reports from spinners show that a slight improvement has taken place in the yarn section, but conditions are still very trying, especially as regards prices. Most requirements and counts are still being sold at pence per lb below replacement costs, and this is difficult to obviate, as users are experiencing the same trouble in the sale of piece-goods. Hopes are entertained of a considerable expansion in demand if conditions in Germany become more settled, and this would give the piece-goods trade. Demand still favours the cheaper woollens, and it is significant that exports of woollens last month showed an increase of over 6,000,000 square yards on the June total.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The question naturally asked is, What effect will the London Agreement have upon the Colonial wool trade? Germany has

always been a big buyer of Colonial wools, as well as raw material grown in this country, and the projected loss is bound to be beneficial to the Continental textile industry. It is difficult to say what were the exact quantities of raw Colonial wool that Germany purchased in pre-war times, because Messrs Dalgety bracketed together in the distribution of Australian and New Zealand wools several Continental countries. For instance, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Norway, and Sweden were credited with purchasing 1,283,155 bales, 65 per cent. of the total. From another source we learn that out of the above quantity Germany took 600,000 bales, a by no means insignificant quantity. Since the Armistice Messrs Dalgety have gone more into detail, and according to the record of the distribution of wool sold from Australia, Germany took during the year 1922-23 168,171 bales. The figures for the year which finished last June 30th are not yet to hand, but they are bound to be larger than the year previous. Perhaps of still more importance is the quantity of Colonial and foreign wool re-exported to Germany from the United Kingdom. In 1913 we sent to Germany 93,197,000 lbs. Last year we exported of foreign and colonial wool 101,562,700 lbs, and during the first seven months of this year 91,781,800 lbs, in addition to big exports of such useful products as tops, noils, and wastes of all kinds. Already there are those in the West Riding who see in this Agreement increased competition between British and German manufacturers, it being expected that if bankrupt Germany can purchase such a big weight of wool as has been the case during the past two years, a loan of £40,000,000 will be followed by still larger purchases. Among export houses in Bradford a different note is sounded. Many anticipate that when financial conditions in Germany become easier a bigger export trade in raw and partly manufactured materials will be done, and this, after all, will only be going back to pre-war conditions. The point that many firms are stressing is that, with cheaper labour and a depressed currency, German manufacturers will be able to undersell West Riding products in markets in which hitherto British goods have enjoyed a monopoly. In other words, France and Germany are expected to be put in such a position as will enable them to capture the piece trade in all the countries of the world. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. In pre-war times, when the Continental textile industry has been busy, the West Riding industry has always enjoyed the same measure of prosperity, and we expect this to happen again.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 15, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.		Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
			Ord.	Mid.			Good Ord.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Good Ord.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.
American	d	1439	1564	1694	1864	1964	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Brazilian	Mid	1564	1714	1814	1914	2014	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Peru, Macao, &c.	...	1564	1714	1814	1914	2014	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Paraguay, Rio Grande, &c.	...	1564	1714	1814	1914	2014	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Oceania, &c.	...	1564	1714	1814	1914	2014	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Sea Island	...	1564	1714	1814	1914	2014	1486	1536	1596	1196	1280	1250
Upper	...	2075	2250	2415	2580	2745	1570	1630	1695	1375	1500	1700
Sakellaridis	...	2075	2250	2415	2580	2745	1570	1630	1695	1375	1500	1700
Brown	...	2075	2250	2415	2580	2745	1570	1630	1695	1375	1500	1700
Peruvian	...	2075	2250	2415	2580	2745	1570	1630	1695	1375	1500	1700
Rough	...	1850	1950	2050	2150	2250	1425	1475	1525	1250	1375	1500
Moderately Rough	...	1739	1814	1914	1939	1964	1511	1586	1686	1245	1420	1570
Smooth	...	1739	1814	1914	1939	1964	1511	1586	1686	1245	1420	1570
Tangula	...	2050	2200	2300	2400	2500	1525	1625	1725	1150	1450	1500
Mid	...	1775	1825	1875	1925	1975	1575	1625	1675	1300	1400	1500
West Indian, &c.	...	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200	1150	1300	1500	1100	1275	1475
Do Sea Island	...	1420	1520	1620	1720	1820	1486	1536	1586	1196	1280	1250
African, East, &c.	...	1664	1674	1684	1694	1704	1486	1536	1586	1196	1280	1250
Do West	...	1664	1674	1684	1694	1704	1486	1536	1586	1196	1280	1250
East Indian	...	1250	1290	1330	1370	1410	1120	1160	1200	1065	1105	1185
Machine Ginned Surtee	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Broach	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Bhownagur	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Omra, No. 1	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Omra, No. 2	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Khandesh	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Comptah	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Bengali	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Machine Ginned Solnde	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Thamilly	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
American-Scinde/Punjab	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
M. G. Western	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Western	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
M. G. Northern	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
Northern	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
M. G. Oceania, Red	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085
China, Smyrna, &c.	...	1115	1165	1215	1265	1315	940	990	1040	955	1005	1085

MANCHESTER, August 21.

The outlook with regard to future trade in Lancashire is brighter than for some time back, and spinners, manufacturers, and merchants are looking forward to better industrial conditions in Lancashire this autumn. The drop in raw cotton prices has been a step in the right direction, but stability is wanted before business can be done on a much freer scale. A more hopeful feeling prevails among manufacturers of piece-goods. Compared with a week ago, the demand has been very extensive, and a feature of interest has been the revival of interest taken in staple cloths for India, and some very encouraging sales have taken place. There have also been some heavy bookings in light cloths for the Dependency. Light goods and fancies have moved off in steady lines for China. Advances from Egypt have been better, and more business has been done for the Continent and the United States. Spinners of American yarns have attempted to improve their margin, and have

met with a certain amount of success. There has been more business done for home use. Egyptian descriptions have been fairly firm in price, but quotations in the lower numbers have favoured buyers. More interest has been taken in shipping numbers for India, the Near East, and Holland.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Aug. 21, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Aug. 14,	Price, Aug. 7,	Price, July 30,	Price, July 24,	Price, July 17,
		d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	per lb	16-33	17-08	17-27	17-17	18-60
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	per lb	25-85	26-15	25-45	26-15	25-15
— Egyptian	per lb	25-25	25-25	25-25	26-25	25-25
Yarns—32's twist	per lb	25-25	25-25	26-27	26-28	26-28
— 40's twist	per lb	36-36	36-36	37-37	36-36	36-36
— 50's twist (Egyptian)	per lb	36-36	36-36	36-36	36-36	36-36
		d	d	d	d	d
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's		35	36	36	37	39
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's		39	40	40	42	41
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs		20	21	21	21	20
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs		19	19	19	20	18

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Aug. 21, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	16-33	15-38	15-88	15-88	23-22	19-74
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	25-85	16-35	18-00	16-00	66-00	30-00
Yarns—32's twist	25	21	20	17	51	41
— 40's twist	25	21	19	16	47	40
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	36	29	28	29	90	61
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	35	30	32	30	80	60
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	39	34	32	29	67	58
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	20	18	13	17	3	35
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs	19	16	17	16	3	30

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

(BY OUR HULL CORRESPONDENT.)

Raw linseed oil helped by dear seed and a fair demand maintained its level of value, and has fluctuated slightly around £4 10s spot, with a small discount for August delivery. Trade requirements, however, have fallen off, and the export trade is only moderate. Cotton oils, after a period of dullness and depression, are rather steadier, and crude Egyptian firmer at £4 2s per

ton naked ex Hull mill, but business generally is within narrow compass, as is also the case with other vegetable oils.

In the oilseed section interest centres largely in linseed. A few transactions in Plate on passage to the United Kingdom or for early shipment have been done at £20 7s 6d, but trade in old crop is mainly on Continental account. A good speculative business has been done in new crop, up to £19 having been paid for January-February loading, since when there has been some reaction. Only a small trade has been done in Egyptian cottonseed, owing to the high prices asked, but buyers of black have recently come in at £12 15s for October and November-January loading. Crushers, however, are fairly well supplied, and large shipments of new crop may be expected next month.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market continues very firm, and slight advances were again recorded at Thursday's auctions in Bermondsey. Best ox sold from 7d to 9d, two classes showing an advance of ½d on last prices. Seconds sold from 6½d to 8½d, advances of ½d to ¾d being made on most classes. Best cows were unsold, seconds making 5½d to 6½d. Best calf are very firm, and made at the auctions from 7½d to 15½d, seconds from 6½d to 13½d. Lambs sold from 3s 10d to 12s 8d, and pelts from 5s 7d to 9s 6d each. The advance in frigorific hides is maintained, recent sales having been on a basis of 8½d for Argentines to the United States. Killings have been reduced of late, being cabled at 365,000 for July, as against 441,000 for the previous month. In all other sorts of wet salted and dry hides prices are advancing, and tanners now seem eager to obtain supplies. The American position is cabled as firm, with West heavy Chicago packers selling at 16 cents with a good demand.

Business in sole leather here in Bermondsey seems undecided. Buyers want bonds and butts, but cannot make up their minds to pay tanners' asking prices, which in view of the rising hide market are very firm. Here and there one hears of sales at reduced prices, but on investigation these turn out to be clearances of weights which are not much wanted. A feature of the week's business has been the demand from repairers, who have taken very fair quantities of medium weight bonds. German competition seems to be heard of now in cheap sole leather, but so far only in odd lines of offal.

The demand for upper leather is better; sellers have shifted parcels of box and willow calf, users being rather more anxious to fill requirements for autumn and winter boots. Glacé kid in black is also more popular, but suede seems a dead letter. Patent is wanted, and prices of imported stock very firm with supplies limited.

The boot trade seems improving, and factories in the Midlands have settled down to work after the holidays. Exports of British-made leather footwear for the first seven months of 1923-24 were valued at £2,006,140 and £2,789,455 respectively, the Irish Free State taking boots and shoes up to the end of July valued at £1,249,056.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 22.

SUGAR.—The undertone of the market shows general stability, a supporting factor being found in paucity of offers from all producing countries. Despite glowing accounts of the development of growing beet crops in Europe, also the promise of a large Cuban yield next campaign, certain stringency in supplies has to be faced at the moment due partly to strength of export demand over a prolonged period. Such inquiries continue so that overseas goods are in request on arriving steamers from Java, and this culminates in available stocks getting into narrow compass. Of British refined, Messrs Tate and Lyle's goods were advanced 6d per cwt all round, making cubes 4½d to 4½d 3d as to quality; crushed, 4½d 3d; nibs, 4½d 3d; granulated, stoved, 4½d 3d; fine and coarse grain, 3½d 10d; No. 1, 3½d 7½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 3½d 4½d; ditto, forward to September, 3½d 3d; yellow crystals, spot, 3½d 10d; pulverised, 4½d 3d; mineral-water, 3½d 9d; caster, finest, 4½d 7½d; A, 4½d 1½d; B, 4½d 6d. Glebe K, granulated, 3½d 6d; Greenock, 3½d 3d. White Java, spot, sold, 3½d 6d to 3½d 9d; due steamer, 2½d 3d to 2½d 4½d; June-July, 2½d 6d; July-August, 2½d 6d, c.f. and i., London. Czech granulated, spot, sold, 3½d 9d to 3½d; November-December, quoted 2½d 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Polish crystals, spot, changed hands 3½d 6d; white Mauritius, quoted 3½d 9d; white Trinidad, 3½d 9d; crystallised West India rather quiet at 3½d to 3½d, as to sample. Dutch granulated, spot, sold, 3½d 9d; J November-December, 2½d 9d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. American granulated, spot, 3½d; August steamer, London, sold, 2½d to 2½d 6d; outports, 2½d 9d, c.f. and i. terms. Cuban basis 96 per cent., August quoted, 1½d 3d; Brazilian basis 80 per cent., October-November, 1½d 6d, both c.f. and i., U.K. To India, white Java, October-December, quoted 2½d 9d; January-March, 2½d 1½d. Hungarian crystals, November-December, 2½d 3d, and Mauritius crystals, October-November, 2½d, all c. and f. terms. White terminal firmer, with good support accorded. August, sold, 2½d 9d to 2½d; December, 2½d 4½d to 2½d 6d; November-December, 2½d 6d; March, 2½d 6d cwt.

COFFEE.—There is a good demand for all the finer mild liquoring parcels, and, with only small quantities available, prices remain firm. Common kinds sell quietly. Good bold Costa Rica sold, 150s. 200 bags Cazenga sold, 88s.

COCOA.—Spot market steady, and there is a fair inquiry. Fine Grenada sold, 47s; Accra, F/F grade, August-October, 30s 6d; October-December, 34s 6d paid, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions totalled 23,800 packages, which sold readily to a brisk demand at dearer rates. Pekoe sold, 1s 5½d to 1s 11d; broken orange, 1s 6d to 2s 4½d; choice, 3s 8½d. Ceylon auctions of 26,000 packages engaged active support, at 4d to 1½d per lb advance. finer qualities marking the greater appreciation. Pekoe sold, 1s 5½d to 1s 11d; broken orange, 1s 7½d to 2s 3d per lb, in bond. 8,000 packages Java and Sumatra were auctioned, and with active and well-distributed competition, prices ruled dearer. Common and low medium kinds advanced ½d to ¾d, with finer ¾d to 1d per lb. Pekoe sold, 1s 3½d, 1s 5½d; broken ditto, 1s 0½d, 1s 8d; pekoe souchong, 1s 3½d, 1s 4½d; orange pekoe, 1s 5d, 1s 7d; broken orange, 1s 3½d to 1s 10½d per lb, in bond. Market very firm for new season's China and a few fine lapsang souchongs just arrived, possessing a real "tar" flavour, pass readily consumption round about 3s. There is a brisk inquiry for all common Monings, with a large trade effected at 7d to 11d, also extensive sales in siftings from 6d to 7d lb, in bond.

RICE.—There is only a quiet trade doing, but shippers do not press, and market remains steady. Two stars, spot, 17s; September-October, 16s 6d, to London. No. 3, cleaned, to Levant, 16s 7½d. S.Q., for shipment, quoted 14s 9d, f.o.b. terms, and ditto, double bags, to Cuba, 16s 9d. Saigon, quoted 16s 4½d. No. 1, garden Siam, 19s 9d. Italian steady, with sales from second-hands, October-November, at 21s 4½d, and No. 3, Spanish belloch, October-November, 22s 3d, c.f. and i. terms, London. Rangoon bran easier, and 1,500 tons, October-December, sold, £7 7s 6d per ton, ex-ship, Hull. Peas steady. Japanese, spot, 20s; September-October, 20s. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 34s 6d per cwt. Rangoon haricots quite unaltered.

SPICE.—Pepper continued quiet, both spot and forward. Black Singapore, L.S., August-October, sellers, 4½d; Lampong, ditto, August-October, sold, 4½d to 4½d; October-December, buyers, 4½d; Muntok, October-December, sellers, 8½d. Zanzibar cloves, October-December, done, and buyers, 9½d per lb. Tapioca steady, quiet. Sago flour, June-August, sellers, 15s 9d; August-September, 15s 6d; September-November, 15s 3d. Desiccated coconut, spot, fine cut, 40s 6d; medium, 40s; halves, August-September, 39s 9d; September-October, 40s 6d per cwt.

DATES.—Business has commenced in new crop, and Hallowee, first tide, sold, 24s, with Sial 16s cwt, landed terms, London.

JUTE in moderate request, but market rather unsettled after being active and dearer. Firsts, August, Continent, sold, £34 10s to £34; August-September, £34 5s to £33; September-October, £33 17s 6d to £32 15s od per ton. Hessians firm, quiet. 10 oz, spot, 39s; September, 38s 9d; October-December, 35s 3d; 8 oz, spot, 28s; September, 28s; October-December, 27s 9d 100 yards. A twills, spot, nominally 115s; October-December, 105s 6d; B, spot, 89s; October-December, 86s 6d; sugar, spot, 100s; September, 104s; flour, September, 114s; bran, bags, 56 by 28, September, 62s 6d per 100 bags.

HEMP.—With sustained inquiries and reserve still marked on the part of sellers, the market shows general stability. Of Manila, F

Trade with Mexico

MEXICO is potentially one of the richest countries in the world. In development of its trade lies your opportunity.

The National Railways of Mexico are the prime movers—in both senses of the word—in the re-opening of European Trade with Mexico.

Their system spreads a vast network of trade arteries from the Gulf of Mexico clear across to the Pacific, and from the United States border takes a southward sweep, feeding the Capital and all the interior.

Mexico can absorb supplies and pay for them.

The time is ripe for enquiry. You will receive reliable, well-informed guidance upon request.

Dictate a line to

E. J. BRAY,
General European Agent,

NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF MEXICO
(Government Administration).

Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH DIRECT TO NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 30 - - ss. "PARIS."
September 6 - - ss. "FRANCE."
September 13 - - ss. "LAFAYETTE."
September 20 - - ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUIS

grade, August-October, sold, £63; G, ditto, £49; H, £43 15s; J, £44 5s; K, £43 10s; L, £43; M, £41 10s; streaky threes, £50 10s; ditto ones, £58. Cebu No. 2, £34 5s; ditto No. 3, £30 5s to £30 10s. Manila No. 3, £29 10s. African sisal, No. 1 Tanganyika, August-October, quoted £46; Kenya, £45. Mexican sisal in demand, and G.W., August-September, sells at £40 per ton, c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Market firm. T.N., spot, 280s to 285s; October quoted 287s 6d; December, sold, 272s 6d to 280s. cwt.

COPRA.—Market steady. Chief crushers continue to show a good deal of interest in the article, and liberal absorption on their part lends latent strength to the market, though the surface appearance is quiet. F.M.S. Straits, May-July, Rotterdam, quoted £31 2s 6d; June-August, £31; July-September, sold, £30 13s 9d; August-October, £30 10s; September-November, £30 7s 6d; Dutch East Indies, June-August, £30 18s 9d; August-October, £30 7s 6d. Other descriptions steady at late rates. Palm kernels, July-September, Liverpool, sold, £20 18s 9d; August-October, £21 per ton.

RUBBER. steady, with fair inquiries. Standard plantation, crepe and sheet, spot to September, sold, 1s 13d to 1s 14d; October-December, 1s 2d to 1s 23d; January-March, 1s 23d to 1s 23d. To New York, standard European estate, August-September, also September-October, sold, 1s 2d per lb, c.f. and i. terms. Wild quietly steady on spot.

FRUIT (Dried).—Market generally steady, but quiet. Currants: Pyrgos, 4 bags, quoted 42s; Patras, 4s to 5s; Gulph, 52s; Panariti, 56s; Vostizza, 60s to 65s; Australian, new, 3 cases, fair, 50s to 60s. Raisins: Cape, new, 44s; ditto fine, 50s. Sultanias: Greek, 3 cases, 48s; Smyrna, boxes, 50s to 54s; fine, 60s to 66s; Australian, 4 cases, 50s to 54s. Figs: Genuine naturals in bags, 36s; fine, 38s. Dates quietly steady. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots, 72s to 76s; choice, 85s; extra ditto, 96s. Peaches, choice, 45s; extra ditto, 50s; new crop, fancy, 65s. Plums, Bosnian, 3 cases, 72/77, quoted 33s; Oregon, 30/40, 65s; 35/45, 50s; 40/50, 46s per cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—Sardines steady. Portuguese 1/2-flats quoted 3s 3d to 3s 6d; clubs, 3s 6d to 4s; 12 oz, 5s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 9s 6d to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Lobster largely nominal, in absence of supplies. Crayfish quoted 72s. Salmon remains firm, and supplies on a limited scale. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, quoted 53s; ditto, tall, 46s to 46s 6d; 1 lb tall pink, 26s to 26s 6d; cases of 96 1/2 lbs, 27s to 29s case.

CANNED FRUITS very firm, excepting pines, which show a slightly easier tendency. Singapore pines, 48 1/2s, best quality, 5s 9d to 6s; cubes, 2 1/2s, 10s 9d to 11s 6d; slices, 48 1/2s, 5s 6d to 5s 9d. Californian apricots, 2 1/2s, 8s 3d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1 1/2s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2 1/2s, 14s to 16s. Peaches, 2 1/2s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; 1 1/2s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad, 2 1/2s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1 1/2s, 10s 3d per dozen tins. Canned meats are in fair request, at full rates.

OILS.—Linseed firm with a fair demand. Spot, net, naked, 42s 6d; August, 41s 6d; September-December, 41s; January-April, 40s. Rape steady. Crude, spot, 47s 6d; refined, 50s 6d. Castor-oil steady. First pressure, spot, quoted 71s; second pressure, 69s; and pharmaceutical, 76s per cwt, Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton steady. Crude Egyptian, spot, 44s; Bombay, 41s 6d; common edible, 49s; deodorised, 51s. Chinawood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 76s; October-November, 72s 6d. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 51s; August-September, 46s 6d; Cochin, ditto, nominally 58s. Soya firm. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 44s 6d; bulk, 40s. Cod quiet. English, spot, 33s 6d to 34s 6d. Groundnuts dearer. English, crushed, naked, spot, 50s; deodorised, barrels, 60s. Turpentine dull. American, spot, 67s 6d; September-December, 68s 9d; January-April, 70s 9d. Rosin barely steady for common grades, but pale firm. American, grade B, 13s 4 1/2d; G, 13s 10 1/2d; WG, 17s 6d; WW, 21s 7 1/2d per cwt. French WW, 17s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed market generally firm. Calcutta, afloat, £22 10s; July-August, £22 10s; August-September, £22 7s 6d. Plate, afloat, sold, £20 7s 6d; July-August, £20 10s; August-September, £20 8s 9d; and January-February, £18 17s 6d to £19. Rapeseed firm. Toria, August-September, £21 15s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £21 7s 6d. Cottonseed firm. Egyptian, new, October, £12 15s; November-January, £12 15s. Sakellariadis, October, at £12 2s 6d. Bombay, August-September, sold, £10 17s 6d. Gingly seed quiet. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £26 7s 6d. Ground-nuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, August-September, £25 17s 6d; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., ditto, £25 2s 6d; East African, August-September, £25 15s. Soya beans steady. Manchurian, afloat, £13 5s; October-November, £12 12s 6d. Castor seed steady. Bombay, August-September, £29 15s; Cawnpore, ditto, £29 5s per ton.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—Aug. 21.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.			
	s	d	q
Beasts—Herefords	7	8	0
Shortorns	7	2	7
Devons	7	8	0
Norfolks	..	..	..
Scottish	..	..	..
Irish	6	8	7
Fat Cows	..	..	..

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—Aug. 21.

Per Cwt.			
	s	d	q
English—Epioures	5	6	0
Sharps Express	7	0	0
Eclipse	7	0	0
Majestic	7	0	0

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1924.

No. 4,227.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	333	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets	352
The Settlement and Its		New Issues	353
Effects	335	Active Securities	353
Responsibility for the War		Company Meetings	354
Population and the Labour		Government Returns—	
Supply	337	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
The Potter & His Competitors		by Public Tender	358
South Africa as an Ex-		National Debt	358
panding Market	339	Public Income and Expen-	
The Situation in Venezuela		diture	359
339		Currency Notes Account ..	359
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
The League Assembly	340	Bank of England	359
Settlement of the Building		Clearing Returns	359
Dispute	340	Overseas Bank Returns ..	360
Stabilisation of Wages	341	Loan and Discount Rates ..	361
The Wheat Situation	341	Rates of Exchange	361
American Cotton Crop	342	Overseas Bank Rates	361
Demand for Homeward		Imports and Exports of	
Freights	342	Gold	362
Stock Exchange Markets		Gold and Silver Prices	362
During August	342	Company News—	
Collecting Austrian Debts		Dividend Announcements ..	363
The Greek Budget	343	Rhodesian Gold Output ..	362
Australasian Exchange and		Weekly Traffic Returns ..	362
Currency Problems	343	Reports and Notices	363
Scottish Co-operative Trade		Mining Outputs	363
Petrol Production & Prices		Profit and Loss Accounts ..	364
Canadian Railway Position		344	
Overseas Correspondence—		Commercial Reports—	
League of Nations	345	Corn Trade	363
United States	346	Iron and Coal Trade	364
France	347	Metals	365
Germany	348	Cotton Trade	365
Canada	349	Wool Trade	366
Holland	350	Timber Trade	366
Norway	351	Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds ..	367
Books and Publications—		Hide and Leather Trades ..	367
A Commentary on the		Overseas Produce Markets ..	367
Dawes Report	351	Price Current	368
Value	351		
Economic Confusion	351		
Taxation of Land Values ..	352		
Books Received	352		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C.2. Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap. Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street. P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside. Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate. Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street. Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street. Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate. Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brantano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

The slight easing of the short loan market last week gave way to a return of comparative stringency as the end of the month approached, and the market was in the Bank for small amounts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Daily loans have commanded up to 4 per cent., and on Thursday 3 1/2 per cent. was paid for loans until next Tuesday. Supplies of credit have evidently been reduced by the inflow of money to the Exchequer, and though the Bank return showed private deposits of 105 millions, there

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

issued by the Company may be
obtained on application from the
Head Office or any of the Offices
or Agencies of the Company.
O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF
BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 310,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London." Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
COCOA —Duty, British grown			
90/44 foreign 14cwt.	8	62	6
Trinidad, per cwt.	48	0	62
Guaymas, per cwt.	45	0	62
Orion, plantation	75	0	100
Guaymas, per cwt.	65	0	85
Bahia, finest	45	0	85
COFFEES —British grown			
50/44 foreign 14cwt.	8	120	8
India 50/44 foreign 14cwt.	8	120	8
Do good to fine	120	0	155
Oosta Rica, ord. to mid	98	0	120
Good to fine	135	0	160
Central American, 60	112	0	120
ord. to mid	90	0	112
Mid. to fine	115	0	135
Colombian, ordinary	85	0	90
Do ord. to low mid	82	0	115
Do mid. to fine	117	0	145
CHEMICALS			
Acid, citric	per lb	1	42 1/2
Nitric	per lb	1	24 1/2
Oxalic, net	per lb	1	6 1/2
Tartaric, English	per lb	1	1 1/2
Foreign	per lb	1	1 1/2
Alum lump per ton	11/18	12/18	14/18
Do ground	11/18	12/18	14/18
Ammonia, carb., ton	27	0	28
Muriate, White, ton	25	15	31
Sulphate, carb., ton	25	15	31
Ammonia, lump, per ton	80	0	85
Powder, per cwt.	45	0	47
Alum, per cwt.	70	0	80
Pearl do	..	..	..
Bleaching pwr., p.tn	90/0	91/0	92/0
Borax, gran.	per cwt.	24	10
Do crystals	25	0	8
Do powder	25	0	8
Orcam Tartar	..	..	..
60% powder	per lb	4	3
Calomel	per lb	4	3
Iodine, dry	per oz	1	1
Nitrate of Soda, p.tn	12/12	14/12	16/12
Potash	..	..	..
Chlorate, net	per lb	9	34
Do Foreign	per lb	9	10
Sulphate	per ton	15	12
Sal-Acetic	per lb	1	1
Sal-Ammoniac, per cwt.	57	0	60
Soda-Bicarb., per ton	29/0	30/0	31/0
Crystals, per ton	50/0	55/0	60/0
Alkali	..	..	..
Caustic	..	..	..
Sugar of lead white, ton	50/0	50/0	50/0
Foreign white	..	..	..
Sulphate Quinine	..	..	..
English Brands	..	..	..
Foreign do	..	..	..
Sulphate-Copper, p.tn	25/0	25/0	25/0
Sulphate-Singapore	..	..	..
Zinc, out	..	..	..
Sulphur Flour	..	..	..
Do Roll	..	..	..
Vermillion, Chinese, p.tn	13	0	4
English	..	..	..
Oil Pepper, H.G.H. 27	0	27	0
COPRA —per ton, c.f. & i.			
Malabar, July-Sep.	..	..	..
Ceylon	..	..	..
F.M.S. Straits	..	..	..
COCHINEAL	per lb	2/6	2/6

is no doubt that the joint-stock banks have reduced the proportion of their balances which they lend out in the market. Discount rates have remained steady at fully 3½ per cent. for fine three months' bills, as, although the September 1st dividends will represent a fairly large sum, previous experience suggests that the effect of their disbursement will soon disappear, and the market is admittedly very short of early September Treasury bills, so that payment for new bills will soon return the dividend money to the Bank.

	Aug. 29, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills) ..	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

Thursday's Bank return showed an expansion of £253,000 in the note circulation, notwithstanding the decline in currency notes outstanding, and the Reserve was lower by the above figure. On the other hand, the liabilities were lower, Private deposits showing a decline of £4,582,000, as the result of repayments by the market to the extent of £1,412,800, and by the Government of £1,470,000, while £1,406,500 was added to Government deposits. Hence the proportion was 0.3 better at 18.5 per cent. There was a further reduction of £2,643,100 in currency notes this week, bringing the amount outstanding down to £288,719,000, which includes £1,375,100 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,893,800, or £10,297,100 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Thursday's settlement revealed the fact that the recent volume of transactions has been greater than is usual at this time of year. In spite of uncertainties regarding the final outcome of the London Agreement and the renewal of talk about a General Election this winter, prices in most departments have remained firm. Fairly large lines of War Loan came on the market and were easily absorbed. French bonds have been the object of speculation, and German bonds have improved. Chinese bonds have fallen on fears of war. Home Railway stocks have improved a little. Public interest in the Oil market remains faint, and Rubber shares are as quiet as ever. But Tea shares continue to advance day by day. The markets for British Industrial shares hold their ground as a whole, without very conspicuous features. The Kaffir market remains out of favour.

THE COMMODITY MARKET.

Wheat has fallen probably on account of the previous upward movement being carried too far. Coal quotations are firm at Cardiff, but business is quiet. The anticipated improvement in the iron and steel industry has not matured, but in some quarters a better demand for pig-iron is reported. Our Sheffield correspondent reports that buying of pig-iron is at a standstill, but mentions that the demand for motor and railway steel "continues fairly large and steady." Tin improved a little, but copper was easier. The tendency of raw cotton prices has been easier, but the outlook is not without bright spots. Our Bradford correspondent reports that there is more activity noticeable in the last few days in the wool trade, stating that "in sympathy with the improved demand, prices of practically all qualities have moved to a higher level." The demand for tea is as brisk as ever, but rubber was quiet. Linseed oil is lower. The hide market remains firm and steady. Further information concerning the commodity markets will be found on later pages, together with market prices from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market has, on the whole, been less active during the week, there being little business going through on the Continent, and commercial demands for most currencies having been small. Sterling and dollars have been those principally in request, and these from financial sources chiefly. The franc, which opened at 83.25 on the 22nd, fell sharply to 84.15 on the 23rd on rumours of the possible dissolution of the Reichstag, and non-acceptance of the results of the London Conference, but it recovered again on Monday to 83.05 on these rumours proving false, improved on Tuesday to 82.90, and to 82.75 on Wednesday, as the prospects of acceptance became brighter. At the moment of writing it remains fairly steady at about 82.75-83. The dollar continues to improve steadily against sterling, in continuation, probably, of the natural reaction against the maximum level of 4.57 reached on the 11th. Since then sterling has steadily declined to its present figure of 4.48½, after recovery from a somewhat sharp fall to 4.51 at the end of last week. No doubt the seasonal ebb of the tide of tourist traffic, and a consequent smaller demand for sterling from this source has contributed to the tendency we have outlined. At the same time the demand for forward dollars is fairly well maintained, chiefly on account of autumn covering by merchants, who now appear to be beginning to realise the favourable opportunity afforded by present levels to meet their requirements. Forward rates remain steady at ½ to ¾ below spot for one month. It is worthy of note that the Montreal cable rate is, contrary to usual conditions, at a premium of about ½ cent against New York. Stockholm, Helsingfors and Buenos Ayres all moved, as might have been anticipated, with the dollar in varying degrees, Helsingfors appreciating steadily from 179 to 178½, Stockholm from 16.94 to 16.86, and Buenos Ayres from 41½ (pence to the peso) to 41½. Berlin remained steady at 18½-19 throughout the week, unaffected apparently by rumours and uncertainties with regard to the European settlement. The Italian market remained flat with the lira at 101½-101½; there was, however, fair business in forward lire, which are still at a premium. Christiania showed no appreciable change; Warsaw and Riga remain steady at 23.30 and 23.20 respectively, and Esthonia is again higher at 2,000 (sellors). The lei showed steady improvement from 980 to 890, chiefly, it is to be assumed, owing to the favourable Budget figures of M. Vintila Bratiano, the Minister of Finance. Of the Eastern exchanges, Bombay maintained its previous rise, and keeps steady at 15 5/8 d, for which the recent reports of a good monsoon will no doubt be largely responsible. Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore did not move appreciably from their last week's levels of 2.4½, 3.3½, and 2.4, nor was there any movement worth recording in Mexico or the South American exchanges other than Buenos Ayres, which we have mentioned above. The silver market retains its steady tone; and, with America figuring more as a buyer throughout the week, on the improvement of the dollar, than as a seller, this steadiness seems likely to be maintained.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 23rd:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
	£		£
Supply Services	7,750	From Revenue	18,437
Interest, &c., on Debt	355	Decrease in Exchequer Balances	872
Sinking Fund	1,263		
Sundries	628		
Decrease in National Debt	9,313		
	19,309		19,309

Revenue for the week ending August 23, 1924, was higher at £18,437,000, against £13,011,000 for the corresponding period last year. Customs were lower on the week at £2,809,000, against £3,100,000, but Excise yielded £6,668,000 against £1,532,000. Estate duties brought in £2,030,000, against £1,160,000, and Post Office receipts were the same at £1,250,000. Special receipts amounted to £521,400, against nil. Income-tax yielded £3,569,000, against £4,225,000, and Super-tax was £30,000 lower at £460,000. The week's operations

reduced the National Debt by £9,313,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	£ 9,063
Public Department Advances	5,100
National Savings Certificates	150
	9,313

The floating debt was reduced by £9,185,000 to £768,853,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to August 23).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	298,277,995	Raised by Revenue ..	288,384,278
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,708,441
		Amount borrowed ..	6,185,276
Total	298,277,995	Total	298,277,995

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Bank of New Zealand, Anglo-Austrian Bank, Amalgamated Press, and W. H. Chaplin. Mr William Watson's remarks on Australasian currency problems, at the Bank of New Zealand meeting, are referred to in a Note of the Week.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE SETTLEMENT AND ITS EFFECTS.

DURING the week the results of the London Conference have been before the Parliaments of France and Germany. In the French Chamber M. Herriot's policy was approved by 336 votes to 204 votes, while in the Senate it received the surprisingly large vote of 200 to 40, in spite of a five hours' oration by M. Poincaré, in the course of which the sitting had to be suspended on account of disorder. The only important new point that emerged during the discussion was M. Herriot's statement that he had agreed to the evacuation of the Ruhr after consultation with Marshal Foch, who did not regard the occupation as necessary to French security. In the German Parliament the agreement has had a rougher passage owing to the decision of the Nationalists to reject the agreement. The Government's reply to this decision was to secure the promise of the President to dissolve the Reichstag if the necessary two-thirds majority is not forthcoming. An election is likely to reduce substantially the Nationalists' representation, and the threat is likely to have the effect of securing the passage of the Bill by the necessary majority. At the time of writing the result of the decision is not known. But there are many supporters of the settlement in Germany who would not be sorry if the crisis were to result in a new election; for though it would mean at least a month's delay in putting into effect the Dawes scheme, it would certainly strengthen the hands of the Government, and would mean that for the next two or three years there would be greater certainty that in Germany there would be a Government in office which could work harmoniously with the new Radical Government in France. But whichever way this matter is decided, recent events have confirmed the view expressed at the time of the Conference that in each of the countries mainly concerned the influences in favour of an agreement would prove

almost irresistible. In the last few weeks we have not hesitated to call attention to what we consider as flaws in the London agreement; but at this stage these cannot be remedied, and the clear duty of all directly or indirectly concerned is now quite evidently to leave no stone unturned to make the agreement function according to the desires of its framers and thus make possible the early restoration of normal economic conditions in Europe.

In this country the agreement happens to coincide with a seasonal set-back in trade, marked by a substantial increase in the numbers of unemployed persons on the Labour Exchange registers; and this fact has helped to create the gloomiest foreboding as to the future of British industry as a result of the attempt to restore normal conditions on the Continent. In particular, the coal trade is up in arms, and has angrily demanded an interview with the Prime Minister to protest against the continued delivery of Reparation coal by Germany to France. But it is a little late in the day for the coal or any other industry to make its protest—couched almost in the form of an ultimatum—against the whole conception of Reparation payments. The French occupation of the Ruhr for a while reduced the output of one of the most important producing areas of Europe, and the coal trade undoubtedly benefited in the shape of an exceptional demand for export coal, which in 1923 actually exceeded the figures for 1913. But even from a narrow, selfish point of view this country cannot order its policy to suit the convenience of a section of a single trade. The idea that finds expression in a certain section of the Press, that this country as a whole will be better off if German production is restricted, by force or otherwise, would be more convincing if our industrial activity last year had recovered to a satisfactory level. But the fact is that our national production is still sub-normal, the highest figures suggested in this connection being our own estimate of 95 per cent. of the output of this country in 1913—a sufficiently low figure when it is remembered that the population has risen 6 per cent. This is the best we can do after several years, during which we have had the chance to profit from the embarrasments of our neighbours—who are at once our competitors and our customers. We are about to see whether we shall not make better progress with a Europe restored, both buyer and seller, more nearly to the normal. The directions in which this restoration should help to increase the volume of world trade hardly need repetition. In the first place, we shall be freed from the nightmare of widely fluctuating exchanges. The public memory is short, but the business world can hardly forget that in 1923 the fantastic dance of the exchanges surpassed all previous experience. In his annual review of prices in the *Statistical Journal*, the editor of the *Statist* reminds us "that, besides the German mark and the Soviet paper rouble, new low record values in terms of sterling were established by the currencies of Poland, France, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Hungary, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, Bulgaria, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. In a few important cases—notably France and Belgium—the 'records' have been further surpassed in the current year." Great efforts at stabilisation have been made during the present year, but there can be no reasonable doubt that if the method of semi-war, by which France was trying to extract by force Reparations out of Germany, had continued, both German and French currencies must have suffered a renewed collapse. Again, European purchases from the food and raw material countries of the world have up to the present continued to be sub-normal. Thus, Professor Bonn (in *Is Unemployment Inevitable?* page 153) writes of Germany that "the imports of all sorts of foodstuffs have fallen from 11.7 million tons in the last pre-war year to 5.17 million tons. Raw materials have fallen from 60 million tons to 38.9 million tons." It can hardly be necessary to develop this line of argument any further, for it is universally recognised that the reduced buying power of Europe has been the chief cause of the widespread world depression of trade. If large quantities of Reparation coal are delivered to France, it is perfectly true that Great Britain will sell her less than before the war; but against this Germany has always been a British market, and it is probable that we shall increase our sales to that country. If the total world demand for coal recovers, and continues to increase as it did before

the war, the Reparation settlement will not prevent Great Britain getting its share of the increase. It may, indeed, be affected by alternative means of power, including oil, water-power, and the generation of electricity from lignite—but that is another story.

There is, however, room for differing views as to what the immediate effect of the settlement upon British trade will be. We pointed out last week that if the Lorraine iron industry by an agreement with Westphalia succeeds in getting an ample supply of coke at low prices, this will in effect restore the conditions which obtained before the war. At present wage costs, both in Germany and in Lorraine, are low compared with this country, and in that respect the iron and steel industry may have to face a period of acute price competition. But this price-cutting is more likely to come from Lorraine than from Germany. In neither country, however, are the industrial leaders spoiling for a fight. For two or three years past the iron and steel industries of England, France, and Germany have been within easy reach of an international understanding. But hitherto politics have been the chief barrier; the time is ripe for endeavouring to revive the pre-war understanding between these industries.

But differences in wages alone are not the only factors in the situation. In the case of German producers they are handicapped by the exceedingly high rates that they have to pay for necessary floating capital. Some of the reasons for this are set out by Professor Bonn in the article referred to above. He points out that inflation has destroyed the property of the *rentier* classes and of house owners, and by reducing the internal purchasing power of these classes and of the manual classes, who during the period of inflation never managed to raise their wages as fast as prices, has reduced the home market. We do not think any accurate estimate of German production exists, but it is universally agreed that it is enormously reduced below the pre-war level. Plant, it is true, has in many cases been increased, but it is uneconomical to work large plant at reduced capacity. With high charges for interest these conditions of reduced output have prevented a drastic fall of German export prices and prevented the recovery of German exports to anything like a normal level. Professor Bonn sums the subject up thus:—"When things were settling down after stabilisation was under way there was a huge demand for credits, and the rates of interest are extremely high. Twenty-four per cent. per annum is quite a reasonable rate. The fixed capital of industry and agriculture, which is at present pretty free from debt, may be used as security. The value of that fixed capital will, however, depend entirely on the earning capacity of the plant. That earning capacity will be decided by the scope of sales abroad. These sales abroad will be affected by the cost of production. This cost of production will be favourably affected by the wiping out of old debts; it will be adversely affected (a) by the limited scope of sales at home; (b) by the high rate of interest; (c) by taxation falling entirely on 'production.'" These conditions are likely to continue. Germany's need of capital cannot immediately be supplied from abroad, and the conditions which Professor Bonn describes mean that the margin available for saving from internal production is for some time likely to remain small. Indeed, we see little likelihood of a reduction in German costs, for wages are much more likely to move up than down. To our pessimists these considerations may seem consoling, to us they have a different significance, for they suggest the reflection that the damage done to the mechanism of the world international trade by the disturbance of the last decade will not be remedied in a day. The signing of the London Agreement, and the putting into effect of the Dawes report, will certainly not release a sinister flood of German production; nor will it suddenly create purchasing power on the part of Germany. Our view, however, is that the immediate effect will be more good than bad, because it will improve German credit and enable her to secure the means of making purchases abroad on a larger scale than has been possible recently. The loan to Germany is the most important means by which this increased purchasing power will be secured, but our expectation is that this will be supplemented by private credits which should now be advanced more freely.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR.

WHILE British, French, Belgian, and American statesman and financiers have been discussing in London the technical problems connected with the application of the Dawes Report, the more fundamental question of original responsibility for the War and its consequences has been raised in Germany. In the first article of the Reparation Chapter of the Versailles Treaty, the proposition that the War was "imposed" upon the Allied and Associated Governments "by the aggression of Germany and her allies" is made the ground for the affirmation and acceptance of Germany's responsibility for all the consequent loss and damage, and this responsibility involves, in its turn, the obligation to make Reparation. Thus responsibility and Reparation are intimately related to one another. Yet Germany's revolt against the imputation of sole responsibility is not, we are convinced, a movement to avoid, by a new road, the payment of even partial Reparation. "The vast majority of the German people," we read in a German memorandum which has just been forwarded to us above the signatures of 120 distinguished German citizens of all parties and professions, "are ready to accept the consequences of the lost War, and to assume burdens which present-day Germany is able to fulfil according to the judgment of international experts." The burden which the Germans are most concerned to throw off is not material, but moral. "Germany has been made to feel that, owing to the charge of sole culpability for the War, she is placed on a different footing to all the other States." The German case, as presented in this "Appeal to British Fair Play," is sufficiently interesting to deserve quotation:—

Germany's alleged sole responsibility for the world war is the explicit basis of the Treaty of Versailles.

Every sensible German admits that his former Government, upon different occasions, by grave mistakes, by provocation, by bluff, through lack of psychological understanding, by blustering demeanour, and so forth, contributed to a considerable extent in producing the conditions from which the catastrophe of 1914 arose. No European Government can declare itself innocent in this respect.

But the charge made by the Allies in the Ultimatum of June 16, 1919, in the accompanying note of M. Clemenceau, the President of the Peace Conference, and in Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles is:

That Germany alone among the nations was prepared for a great war;

That Germany, the only disturber of peace for decades, had prepared a war of aggression and conquest;

That Germany had deliberately unleashed this war in 1914 in order to obtain "predominance in Europe," and to carry out her "plans for universal domination";

Whereas the Allies only desired "to preserve their liberty." We firmly contend that this verdict is, in its gross partiality, untrue. Yet the Treaty of Versailles, a punitive peace almost unparalleled in history, which continuously poisons the life of the European peoples and contains numerous germs of new wars, is admittedly based upon it.

The German people unanimously repudiate the moral stigma of a criminal nation which in 1919 they were forced under duress to admit, and the German people will not rest until this moral stigma which made the German nation a pariah has been removed by a just and impartial verdict as the result of an investigation by impartial judges. For no nation can rest indifferent to an unjust imputation upon its honour.

Below the document from which the above passages are taken we find such weighty and representative signatures as those of Count Bernsdorff (Ambassador at Washington 1908-1917), Professor M. J. Bonn, Dr von Gwinner (of the Anatolian Railway), Professor Ernst Jäckh, Dr A. Mendelssohn Bartholdy (of the German Institute of International Affairs), Professor Oucken, Count von Pourtalès (Ambassador at St Petersburg 1907-1914), Professor Quidde (the Pacifist), Baron von Schoen (Ambassador at Paris 1910-14), Professor Schücking, Professor von Schulze-Gävernitz, Dr Carl von Siemens (the Industrialist), Dr W. Simons (President of the Supreme Court at Leipzig and Foreign Minister at the time of the Spa Conference in July, 1920), and Herr Wolff (Editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt*). The signatures are followed by a review of "European policy from 1870 to 1914" from the hand of one of the signatories, Dr Hermann Lutz (expert of the Parliamentary Investigating Committee of the Reichstag regarding the War).

Before considering Dr Lutz's necessarily summary review of these 44 years of diplomatic history, it may be useful to recall the points upon which the conviction of Germany's guilt, which is undoubtedly widespread outside Germany, is based, and then to consider whether we are warranted in concluding that this guilt was exclusive or even disproportionate to that of other nations. The general feeling about Germany, we believe, is a composite result of impressions produced by the following facts:—(i.) From Bismarck's retirement in 1890 onwards Germany was constantly "rattling her sabre" in peace time—there was the Krüger telegram, the "shining armour" incident of 1908, the Agadir incident of 1911, the perpetual bluster of the Kaiser, and the assiduous expansion of the German Navy to make this bluster appear of grave import; (ii.) during the "Thirteen Days" before the catastrophe, Austria-Hungary behaved indefensibly, and Germany was believed at the time to be "backing" her ally; (iii.) Germany had ready a grandiose plan for offensive military operations which she immediately put into execution; (iv.) this plan involved the violation of Belgian neutrality, which Germany was pledged to uphold; (v.) the violation was committed, and was accompanied by atrocities against the civilian population; (vi.) Germany only just failed to gain a military victory; and (vii.) this victory would have won her the political hegemony over Continental Europe, Russia, and the Near and Middle East.

The first reflection that occurs to us is that while these considerations fully account for the almost world-wide antagonism to Germany, many of them are irrelevant to the question of whether she was guilty of the *specific crime of deliberately causing the war*. The fact that victory would have left her dominant does not, of course, prove that she planned the war with this end in view, though it naturally lends colour to the suspicion. In a court of law it would be taken into account as affording a motive. But a motive is not proof of guilt. Nor is Germany condemned by the fact that she had a military plan in readiness which she almost succeeded in carrying out to a victorious issue. All the other Powers, including ourselves, had military plans in readiness for the eventuality of war, and this general fact cannot be used as evidence that any one Power deliberately turned that eventuality into fact. The special criminality of the German military plan was that it involved a peculiarly gross breach of treaty, coldly contemplated in advance. But although this was an international crime of the first magnitude, which attaches to Germany alone, it also affords no proof of her sole responsibility for the war. Preparations for war cannot be interpreted as proving a deliberate intention to bring about war. On the other hand, there will probably never be evidence that would produce a unanimous verdict on a question of this kind. Even if it could ever be shown that a group of men in Germany had quietly planned for years to manoeuvre the diplomatic situation, to create a situation in which the doubts of the Kaiser would have been overcome, and to work upon public opinion so that war could be precipitated in August, 1914, would that prove the German nation responsible for causing the war? It is a difficult question to answer. But the problem will, we think, not be dealt with by future generations in that way. The verdict of history will be given, not on the last stages alone, but on the events of the decades preceding the war, and it will undoubtedly take the form of apportioning responsibility. Europe went to war because the forces making for peace were too weak and too unorganised to resist those on the other side; the German nation will be apportioned the chief blame, for there is little doubt that the balance against peace was very much greater in Germany than anywhere else.

The verdict in the Treaty of Versailles was given on circumstantial evidence and by the prosecutors, and none of the Allies can imagine it is the last word on the subject. Clearly all the evidence that has been forthcoming in the last few years must be taken into consideration.

Dr Lutz does not deal with the "Thirteen Days," but concentrates upon the previous twenty-five years. As regards the "Thirteen Days," the fresh evidence that has gradually been coming to light indicates that the active criminals were Austria-Hungary and Russia, and that, so far from using Austria-Hungary as a cat's-paw, Germany

sinned in not exercising sufficient influence over her to restrain her from her disastrous course. In fact, Germany's sin in this crisis was rather one of omission than of commission. As regards the preceding 25 years, Dr Lutz frankly admits that German diplomacy was often clumsy and provocative. But he denies that these gestures reflected an intention to bring on a war, any more than the more discreet and decorous gestures of the Entente Powers. The statement of Dr Lutz is one that should be pondered over in England, France and elsewhere. But we cannot conceive that a formal reconsideration of war guilt is practicable or that if it were undertaken it would shift much of the responsibility. The debit balance is a heavy one against Germany, and in paying Reparations she is being asked to discharge some of her debt to civilisation.

POPULATION AND THE LABOUR SUPPLY.

AMONG the many economic questions dealt with in a book just published by a committee of business men and economists, entitled "Is Unemployment Inevitable?" one of the most important is an estimate of the future population by Professor Bowley. So much has been made of the difficulty of finding work for a growing industrial force that it is worth while to set out these results, which indicate the need for modifying many prevailing opinions as to Britain's future economic situation. Two methods of estimation have been worked out, but the one to which Dr Bowley attaches importance is a study of the history of age groups for the period 1901-11. In 1901 the number of males aged 20 to 25 years was 1,725,000, but by 1911 this was reduced by death and emigration to 1,546,000, who were recorded as being between the ages of 30 and 35 in 1911. If the death and emigration rates during the second decade of the century had remained unchanged, one could calculate from the numbers aged 20 to 25 in 1911 the number of males aged 30 to 35 in 1921. Similar calculations for other wage groups would give an estimate of the whole adult population. In actual fact, between 1911 and 1921, emigration was checked, but the difference was more than out-balanced by war losses, and Dr Bowley's method of estimate gives 350,000 more males than were actually recorded in the census of 1921. It, however, gives a very close estimate of the number of females actually recorded. Professor Bowley has, therefore, carried the calculation forward from the 1921 census figures for a period of 20 years. The result (which assumes that emigration continues as in the decade preceding 1911) is shown in the following table:—

	POPULATION BETWEEN 15 and 65 in GREAT BRITAIN.		Females in or Seeking Employment.
	Males.	Females.	
1921.....	13,307,000	14,936,000	5,690,000
1931.....	13,960,000	15,821,000	5,870,000
1941.....	13,898,000	15,701,000	5,800,000

ANNUAL INCREASE OR DECREASE.			
Between 1921 and 1931..	+ 65,000	..	+ 88,000
Between 1931 and 1941..	6,000	..	- 12,000
			+ 18,000
			- 7,000

But as it is possible that emigration may not revive to the level reached in the first decade of the century, Dr Bowley has made an adjustment on the assumption that emigration remains as in the two years July, 1921, to June, 1923. On this assumption the annual increase of the numbers to be employed in the present decade would be about 90,000 males and 30,000 females. In the succeeding decade, even if emigration remains low, the annual increase will be very small indeed. This, of course, is due to the fact that in the 'thirties the number of young people coming on into the employment will be modified both by the fact that the birth rate was dropping before the war and that it was extremely low during and immediately after the war. If normal emigration is resumed, we may actually experience between now and 1941 a shrinkage of the number of persons seeking employment, though, of course, the improve-

ment in public health means that the number of old persons above working age is now, and is likely to be for some time, on the increase.

The contrast between these results and the situation in the United States is significant. According to a statement recently issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research, the population of the United States for each half year since January 1, 1921, has been approximately as follows:—

January 1, 1920 ..	105,711,000	July 1, 1922	109,898,000
July 1, 1920	106,422,000	January 1, 1923 ..	110,883,000
January 1, 1921 ..	107,575,000	July 1, 1923	111,664,000
July 1, 1921	108,533,000	January 1, 1924 ..	112,826,000
January 1, 1922 ..	109,298,000		

This table shows a colossal increase of more than seven millions in four years, of which approximately 1½ millions was due to net alien immigration, and the balance of 5½ millions was the natural increase of the excess of births over deaths. These figures are possibly subject to correction in detail, when they can be checked by the results of the next census. But any subsequent emendation will not substantially alter the fact that the United States has added to its population at the rate of seven millions in four years, or not far short of 2 per cent. per annum. Seven millions is the population of Greater London. It is larger than the total population of Australia, and is nearly equal to that of the whole of Canada. It can well be imagined that to make provision for such an enormous increase in a very short period involves an enormous increase in capital investment in houses, roads, railways, and industrial plant to provide employment for them. It certainly explains the phenomenal growth in recent years of America's internal market, and forcibly suggests that, except for occasional lapses, if it continues capital is likely to be dear in the United States for many years to come, unless saving also goes on at a phenomenal rate. This means also that the United States is not likely to have a large surplus of capital to invest abroad in the development of new or backward countries, and that this process is more likely to be continued out of the savings of the more slowly growing nations of the Old World.

THE POTTER AND HIS COMPETITORS.

THE trade of the potter dates back to prehistoric times in all parts of the world, and even in our own country the records of history contain no definite indication as to when the industry was established in Staffordshire. That it has been carried on there for several hundreds of years is proved by the references of Dr. Plot, a historian of the county, who wrote in 1686. Indeed, some writers have professed to find evidence of its existence there in Saxon times. Reasoning upon etymological grounds, they derive the name of Burslem from Bwlwardeslœm, signifying the place whence clay for pottery is obtained. However this may be, the abundance of clay and coal in the neighbourhood must have led to a very early establishment of the pottery trade there. And it has flourished exceedingly, more particularly within the last 70 years or so.

This progress was greatly helped by the application of scientific principles in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Until then the industry's methods were almost wholly empirical. But the scientific study of materials—clays, enamels, and glazes—and of methods was fruitful of vast improvements all over the world, and not least in Staffordshire and other parts of England.

In attempting to measure the progress of the industry for the past 70 years we shall be limited to the foreign trade records, which fortunately enable us to cover the whole of this period. In the year 1846 exports of these goods were worth £793,000—a relatively high figure for those days, when the total exports of British goods of all kinds were under 58 millions, as contrasted with 767 millions now. It is highly probable that imports, too, were at that time very considerable, for the art and trade of the potter was well understood abroad. Import records, however, are not easily available, and we shall have to content ourselves with those beginning in the 'seventies. With these data, a bird's-eye view of the trade's achieve-

ments in its competition with foreign producers during the seventy years can be gained thus:—

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN TRADE IN POTTERY, EARTHENWARE, CHINA, STONEWARE, &c. (not including Bricks) (in Thousand £).

Five-Year Averages.	Exports.	Gross Imports.	Excess of Exports.
1849-53	1,083	.....	.....
1854-58	1,257	.....	.....
1859-63	1,279	.....	.....
1864-68	1,589	.....	.....
1869-73	1,957	.....	.....
1874-78	1,828	391	1,437
1879-83	2,142	531	1,611
1884-88	1,955	546	1,409
1889-93	2,135	648	1,487
1894-98	1,888	783	1,105
1899-03	2,010	977	1,033
1904-08	2,316	949	1,367
1909-13	2,935	993	1,942
1914-18	2,579	234	2,345
1919-23*	6,047	834	5,213

* Tiles for roofing and street paving have been inextricably mixed with the records in 1920 and since. For five years before the war they figured for £25,000 to £30,000 among exports and much less among imports. Their unavoidable inclusion since 1920 is therefore probably of little consequence.

Down to the opening of the twentieth century, it will be observed, progress was but moderate, though allowance has to be made for the steady fall in prices which went on for so many years until 1895. But this fall also affected foreign goods, which persistently poured into the country in ever-increasing value until the end of the nineteenth century. A halt seems then to have been called. For ten years before the outbreak of the world-war shipments of British goods grew by £925,000, while landings of foreign goods here were only increased by £16,000. The result was to establish at the end of that period a more favourable proportion between exports and imports than had ever existed before.

During the seventy years population at home had grown very largely, and the power of the masses to purchase all forms of pottery had increased enormously. All this increased demand was met by our own manufacturers—for, as shown above, the growth of imports was outweighed by an even greater growth of exports, and there was thus a favourable balance on the foreign trade.

The great war, of course, disorganised the trade, and the full results of the revival of foreign competition since the struggle have yet to be experienced. Just before the war three-fourths of the foreign goods landed here came from Germany, the remaining fourth coming (in order of importance) from France, Japan, Austria-Hungary, Holland, Belgium, and China. It seems certain that when Germany's industrial system is placed on a stable basis she will again become the chief competitor. Only then will the post-war competitive strength of our own manufacturers be put to the full test. That our producers will meet the trial successfully, however, seems likely when we remember their achievements during the 10 years immediately preceding the war.

Unfortunately, changes of classification somewhat hamper a comparison of pre-war and post-war values per cwt. By excluding all tiles, however, it is possible to give the following statement:—

VALUES IN 1913 AND 1923.

	Exports.			Imports.		
	Cwts.	£	Per Cwt.	Cwts.	£	Per Cwt.
1913.....	3,793,134	3,145,323	16/7	793,319	1,068,502	26/11
1923.....	4,024,342	5,833,146	29/0	465,767	904,648	38/10

From this it looks as though the rise in prices has been much more severe in exports than in imports—about 75 per cent. in the one case and 45 per cent. in the other. In this connection, however, it is necessary to bear in mind the vast variety of goods of articles, such as stoneware pipes, now valued at little over 10s per cwt, and lines of chinaware worth considerably more than £20 per cwt. It seems probable that the heavy increase in average value of exports may be as compared with 1913. Too much stress, therefore, should not be laid on this point, though there are some other indications which seem to show that our reductions of prices since the boom values of 1920 have been

considerably less than those of foreign producers. These are to be found in a line of goods which it is interesting to examine on other grounds as well. Before the war the goods entered under the heading of "Porcelain, Chinaware, and Parian" were the only ones in the list showing an actual excess of imports over exports. The quantity imported was double that exported, and though the imports were of distinctly lower grade, the value of them was higher than that of the exports. Let us see how this particular branch of the trade has fared in recent years:—

PORCELAIN, CHINAWARE, and PARIAN.

	Exports.			Imports.		
	Cwts.	£	£ per cwt	Cwts.	£	£ per cwt
1913	20,664	213,081	10.3	42,765	218,574	5.1
1919	14,300	260,891	14.5	5,705	60,253	10.5
1920	15,814	346,235	21.9	23,820	304,861	12.8
1921	13,594	371,375	27.3	11,986	118,369	9.8
1922	16,807	319,518	19.0	12,497	90,948	7.3
1923	18,127	344,193	19.0	13,326	102,653	7.7

Since the war there have been some significant movements in this section. Out of the 42,765 cwts landed here in 1913, 16,000 came from France, over 11,000 from Germany, and over 10,000 from Japan and Hong Kong. Note, now, the enormous jump in the imports during the second year after the war (1920). At 23,820 cwts they largely exceeded exports at 15,814 cwts. This time, however, Japan headed the list with nearly 13,000 cwts, Germany coming next with nearly 5,000 cwts, and France third with over 4,000 cwts. In 1921 the tremendous slump in general trade cut imports down by half, while it affected exports but little. Since then both sides of the account have made reasonable growth, and the position last year was not unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the British manufacturer. The remarkable difference of value between the British and foreign goods shows that our own producers largely specialise on the higher-grade articles. Exports are, at £19 per cwt, still nearly double the pre-war price. On the other hand, the imported articles, at £7 14s per cwt, are only 50 per cent. above the 1913 level. There is ground for thought here, and it looks as if our manufacturers will probably have a severe struggle when Germany again gets on her feet.

SOUTH AFRICA AS AN EXPANDING MARKET.

(BY A CAPE TOWN CORRESPONDENT.)

IT is doubtful if British merchants, as a body, realise the rapidly increasing importance of the Union of South Africa as a market for their products and manufactures, and as a supplier of their requirements in raw material. Certainly they are not so fully alive to its possibilities as are German and other continental firms, and also the U.S.A., all of which have not only their salesmen travelling the country in larger numbers than ever before, but have also sent out expert engineers, chemists, and geologists to inspect and report upon the oil shale and mineral areas of the various provinces.

At the present the British Empire possesses over 60 per cent. of the import trade of this country, and about 80 per cent. of the export trade, and the following figures will show what it means at the present time, and the rate at which both the import and export trade is growing.

In 1922 the Union import trade with the British Empire amounted to £31,230,721, and rose in 1923 to £36,346,263; the Union import trade with foreign countries rose from £15,097,164 in 1922 to £18,189,127 in 1923. The Union exports in 1923 also show an increase over 1922. In 1922 the exports to the British Empire amounted to £51,823,688, and in 1923 increased to £66,466,114. The exports to foreign countries for 1922 were valued at £10,588,913, and in 1923 at £12,091,751.

That the increase in trade is continuing is proved by the fact that the total trade of the Union (export and import) for the first three months of this year was £34,500,000, an increase over the same quarter of 1923 of £4,000,000.

The railway working statistics for the financial years ending March 31, 1924, and 1923, and the calendar year

1914, will give a good idea as to the increased activities of the Union since the Great War.

The railway earnings were as follows:—

1914.	1923.	1924.
£	£	£
11,573,204	20,146,797	21,594,644

Goods traffic (other than coal):—

Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
5,392,009	7,690,140	9,404,954

Coal traffic:—

Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
6,631,952	8,028,754	9,433,619

The total value of the mineral output of the Union for 1923 was £50,606,000, whereas the total for the first half of 1924 is £28,900,000. For the second half of this year, with two new gold mines, the West Springs and Central West, producing, and several other mines obtaining bigger outputs as the result of extensions to their plants, together with a material increase in the outputs of coal and base metals, also the prospect of the newly discovered platinum mines beginning to operate, the chances are that the output will be so increased as to make the total for the year close to £60,000,000, of which gold will probably account for close upon £45,000,000, an amount which will exceed that of 1920, when with a premium on gold of at least double what it is to-day, the total value of the gold recovered was £44,407,544.

The following figures, giving the values of a number of the principal products and manufactures imported into South Africa during the month of March, fairly represent the progress of the import trade at the present time, as compared with the same month of last year, and also represent pretty accurately the rate at which it is moving ahead, for the figures for the previous months show the same ratio:—

	1923.	1924.
	£	£
Cotton goods	466,837	584,082
Haberdashery	133,603	191,423
Woolen manufactures	142,332	175,365
Metal (including cast and wrought pipes, plates, sheets—plain, galvanised, and corrugated—fencing material, nails, bolts, bars, stoves, hollow-ware	391,000	413,000
Machinery and machines (except locos)	205,470	297,546
Electrical material, &c.	128,000	101,000
Paper	74,000	62,000
Sodium compounds	21,119	63,324
Preserved and canned fish	26,962	30,133
Condensed milk	19,700	26,500
Whiskey	29,108	31,418
Motor cars	109,636	325,923
Motor cycles	18,578	38,144
" parts and chassis	9,300	12,152
Motor cycles	2,375	3,768
Side cars	7,244	34,665
Power lorries and steam wagons	5,399	10,901
Power lorry parts and chassis	49,000	53,000
Furniture	24,000	27,000
Glass bottles, jars, &c.		

The all round increase shown by these figures is striking.

THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHILE general improvement in political and economic conditions—necessarily interdependent—of the South American Republics has, as a whole, to be noted within recent years, the progressive tendency of Venezuela, at once one of the more wealthy but less developed of the States, challenges attention. During the prolonged period of internal political strife, more especially under the Governments of Guzmán Blanco (1870) and Cipriano Castro (1900), commerce suffered severely, while the value of foreign investments shrank to an alarming extent. During the past ten years, however, a reign of economic peace and security has been experienced. This may be fairly attributed, in a great measure, to the wise, if strict Government of President Juan Vicente Gómez, whose advent to office in 1908, as a temporary but welcome substitute for General Castro and his horde of cormorants, has been maintained, with but little interruption, from then until now. Except among the "outs," forming but an inconsiderable if noisy body of politicians, few Venezuelans are desirous of witnessing any change in the Executive.

British interests are satisfied with the manner in which commercial affairs of the country are generally controlled, while little complaint is to be heard from other members of the foreign colony, which includes Germans (largely, as always, in the ascendant), Americans, Italians, French, Spaniards, Puerto Ricans, Syrians, Moroccans, and Sicilians.

British economic associations with Venezuela date considerably later than German. Originally engaged in the shipping trade and banking, and becoming gradually united with Venezuelan families by intermarriage, the Teutons firmly established their hold upon the commerce and industries of the country. On the other hand, British capital is more largely represented than that of any other country; it is to be found associated with the majority of the railways and harbours, telephone and electric enterprises, and, more particularly of late years, with oil concessions. While, it is true, such investments have hitherto produced an average yield of little more than 2 per cent., the fact may be attributed to the almost continuously unsettled political conditions already referred to. At the end of 1923 the amount of British capital invested in Venezuela, and quoted on the London Stock Exchange, was £9,839,972, and this may be compared with £7,649,405 in 1920. At the earlier period, however, the interest earned was 2.9 per cent., whereas at the end of last year the yield was only 2 per cent. On the other hand, Government 3 per Cent. Diplomatic Debt Bonds, issued in 1905, have continued to be paid with commendable regularity, and redeemed with no less punctuality. The original debt, amounting to £5,229,700, has now been reduced to £2,233,680. The average price of such redemption for each half-year from June, 1905, to December, 1923, has ranged between 50.551 and 68.959 per cent. During the past year exchange ranged between 24.95 and 23 bolívares to the £ sterling, as compared with a nominal rate of 25.25, giving an average for the twelve months of 24.20. Thus the exchange value of the bolívar is at a premium as compared with sterling, and the fluctuation in the rate of exchange averages to-day little more than one-half of one centavo per month.

Very slightly affected by the European War, Venezuela, unlike many of the sister Republics, has been free to pursue the peaceful path of economic progress uninterrupted by either external or internal disturbances. On the other hand, economic advancement has not been without periodical setbacks, manifested in seasons of stagnation, largely affected by the types of climate experienced and prices of the country's chief agricultural products—coffee and cacao. Venezuela now ranks third among the coffee-producing countries, Colombia being second and Brazil first. The reported partial failure of that country's current crop gave to Venezuela the great opportunity so long sought in the coffee markets of the world; almost the whole of this season's crop has been exported, and little, if any, remains in store. The importance of the staple commodity cannot be overestimated, providing, with cacao, nearly three-fourths of the country's entire exports. Upon the successful marketing of these two crops the prosperity of the people depends. Unfortunately, few of the planters are possessed of sufficient capital to finance their products in storage; the assistance of the local banks has, therefore, to be sought each season, and their charges constitute a somewhat heavy load upon the plantation owners. Of these, there are said to be more than 25,000 in the Republic. Whereas the banks, as a rule, pay no interest on deposits on current account, their lending rates range between 8 per cent. and 10 per cent. per annum on short-term commercial paper. It has been, however, the practice of the National City Bank of New York, which established its first branch in 1917, to allow six months' credit to merchants, with privilege of extension—leaving them to finance the coffee and cacao growers instead of advancing funds directly to the planters, as was for long the practice of the Teutonic commercial houses handling exports as well as imports, and carrying on simultaneously a private banking business. It is not difficult, therefore, to understand why upon occasions collections are found difficult. At the commencement of the present year the foreign position was found exceptionally embarrassing, compelling a number of American exporters to apply to their Consuls

in Venezuela for assistance in collecting and adjusting their accounts due from minor firms.

Similar conditions do not, however, appear to have affected British interests to the same extent, for both at the period mentioned and to-day, little difficulty has been experienced in financing current enterprises, whether in the form of exports or imports. In regard to established enterprises, the Venezuelan Telephone and Electric Appliances Company, Limited, was enabled last year to resume the payment of dividends after a considerable blank period. La Guaira Harbour Corporation also enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity, doubtless the outcome of the new arrangement with the La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company, working satisfactorily since October last. An improved position is likewise recorded by the South American Copper Syndicate, which, in common with other mining enterprises, finds Venezuela a favourable country in which to carry on its operations. With a view to encouraging development in mineral deposits, the Government offer exceptional facilities, both in the way of easy taxation and free imports of mining machinery. This is found particularly favourable in connection with the extensive work being carried on, largely under British auspices, upon the oilfields, the production of which, although still comparatively small, promises ample expansion in the near future.

Notes of the Week.

The League Assembly.—Circumstances have happily conspired to make the Assembly of the League of Nations, which opens at Geneva on Monday, the most important meeting in the history of the League. The decision of Mr MacDonald and M. Herriot to attend in person is in itself a large contribution to this end, and their attendance has caused other nations to send distinguished and representative delegates. Geneva will, in fact, see the most representative gathering of statesmen that has assembled since the Genoa Conference. In atmosphere, subject matter, and general opportunity, the gathering is equally important. The programme which the League Council is now finally preparing for the Assembly is described on a later page of this issue by a Geneva correspondent. On paper the two leading items in the agenda are the questions of the boundary between Turkey and Iraq (referred to the League by the British Government), and of the future control of Austrian finances. But important though these questions are, the main interest in the League meeting turns not upon them, but upon the discussions which will probably occupy a lion's share of its time, on the broad problems of disarmament and international arbitration. There are abundant signs that in many countries these vital questions are attracting at last a new and growing attention both from statesmen and from public opinion. Moreover, the fact that the principle of arbitration is so prominent in the London Agreement is a happy augury for the Conference discussions. Committees appointed by the League have reported to the Council on the control of armaments in countries defeated in the war, and also on the possibilities of controlling internationally the manufacture and sale of the materials of warfare. These two reports, together with a draft convention for international arbitration, emanating from American sources (the text of which was given in yesterday's *Times*), are the principal pegs upon which the discussions will hang. If we must not expect any dramatic results from the Assembly, we may at least predict two things. First, that the discussions will provide evidence of a turn in the tide of international thought in favour of measures for safeguarding the world's peace. Secondly, that the distinguished delegates will emerge from it with a clearer idea of the trend of world-opinion, and a broader view of the League's position and possibilities.

Settlement of the Building Dispute.—After a stoppage lasting seven weeks, the executives of the 14 unions affiliated to the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives decided at the end of last week to endorse the settlement terms negotiated by a joint committee representing masters and men, and work was resumed at most

centres on Monday last. In some cases the men delayed for a day or so compliance with the Unions' instructions, and at a few centres the situation is still obscure. On the whole, however, resumption has been as general as the stoppage which preceded it. The terms of agreement bear out the finding of the Court of Inquiry held in July, to the effect that the unwillingness of the Liverpool operatives to accept "national" status was the chief source of contention. In the result, the Liverpool men obtain a noteworthy concession. While the wages of all craftsmen and labourers are to be advanced by one half-penny per hour, and stabilised at this higher level until February 1, 1926, Liverpool men are to retain their privileged position as regards wages and tool money until the same date. Applications for re-grading due for October, 1924, are to be suspended for twelve months. Working hours are to be 46½ per week during the summer, except in localities where these terms are varied by mutual agreement, and outstanding local differences on the question of hours are to be settled forthwith. A joint committee representing employers and employed is to inquire into the incidence of time lost through inclement weather, and to report within six months. The position of the London operatives is to be made the subject of local *ad hoc* inquiry. The Liverpool operatives agree, on certain conditions, to accept "national machinery for fixing wages and conditions" as from December 1, 1925, except as regards wages, which are to be maintained as already stated. Consequential alterations to the machinery for fixing national wages and conditions are to aim at giving greater power to joint regional committees to settle such matters as are capable of regional settlement. The settlement, in short, differs very little from the terms provisionally agreed upon before the strike and subsequent lock-out, except that the position of the Liverpool men has been more or less regularised. While the wages question has been disposed of, such highly contentious matters as the length of the working week and payment for lost time are left for subsequent discussion. The average observer will question whether all these terms could not have been successfully negotiated two months ago by the exercise of a little more patience on either side, without the waste and loss of a national stoppage.

Stabilisation of Wages.—A significant feature of the settlement of the dispute in the building industry, the details of which are given in the last paragraph, is the stabilisation of wages for a period of seventeen months, till February 1st, 1926. The operation of the cost-of-living sliding scale, which, according to Sir Hugh Fraser's award of May, 1923, was to be strictly adhered to for the future, is thus suspended, and both parties have agreed to take a risk, the operatives gaining by the arrangement if the cost-of-living falls and the employers gaining if it rises. The desire of the engineering employers to obtain an agreement on the question of stabilisation of wages has recently been strongly emphasised in their discussions with the unions, but so far their efforts have not been successful. The woollen employers, on the other hand, have been able to obtain agreement to the payment of wages for the next 12 months at the same rate as those paid during the last year. Other trades in which existing wages have been stabilised until various dates in 1925 include the cotton industry, vehicle building, and brewing in a number of districts. In other important industries, including printing, electrical contracting, and domestic engineering, the period of stabilisation expires at the end of the current year. In several of these cases the agreements have involved the suspension of cost-of-living sliding scales. It seems highly probable that, in the absence of any marked change in the state of employment, or in the cost of living, the stabilisation agreements which are due to expire within the next few months may be continued for further periods, and that employers may succeed in making similar arrangements in other important industries. This tendency to stabilise is a sign of confidence in the price level, but in some respects it may perhaps be regarded as premature, firstly, because the adjustment between wages in sheltered and unsheltered industries cannot be regarded as complete; and, secondly, because the level may be affected by currency policy, the lines of which have not yet been clearly laid down.

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1884.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."
THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING
BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

The Wheat Situation.—The August *Bull tin* of the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, summarising reports from countries responsible last year for four-fifths of the total wheat production north of the Equator (exclusive of Russia and China), estimates the yield for the present year at about 87 per cent. of the 1923 total, and slightly less than 99 per cent. of the average for the five years 1918 to 1922. The detailed statistics are shown below:—

WHEAT.—ESTIMATED YIELD IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.
(1 Cental = 100 Lbs.)

Countries.	Estimated Yield, in Million Centals.			1924 as % of	
	Average 1918-1922.	1923.	1924.	Average 1918-1922.	1923.
Europe—				%	%
Belgium	6.9*	8.0	7.6	109.8	94.3
Bulgaria	17.6	21.7	22.8	129.8	104.8
Spain	80.9	94.3	81.8	101.1	86.8
Finland	0.3	0.3	0.4	155.8	142.4
England and Wales..	40.0	34.1	30.3	75.7	88.9
Hungary	29.1†	40.6	30.3	104.1	74.5
Italy	102.3	134.9	105.8	103.4	78.4
Luxembourg	0.3	0.3	0.2	71.3	58.6
Lithuania	1.6*	1.8	2.0	114.4	100.0
Norway	0.6	0.4	0.4	61.5	73.0
Holland	3.7	3.7	2.7	71.5	86.1
Poland	25.4‡	29.8	25.7	78.6	71.5
Sweden	6.0	6.6	4.8	100.0	86.6
Switzerland	3.3	3.3	2.8	100.0	86.6
North America—					
Canada	161.5	284.5	169.2	104.8	59.5
United States—					
Winter	374.8	343.4	353.6	94.3	103.0
Spring	153.8	128.0	134.9	87.7	105.3
Asia—					
Gr. Lebanon	0.5§	0.8	0.4	75.2	42.1
India	193.8	223.6	218.5	109.9	97.7
Africa—					
Algeria	14.9	21.8	10.4	70.1	47.7
French Morocco ...	11.2	12.0	15.1	135.1	125.5
Tunis	4.4	6.0	2.6	59.9	44.4
Total, 21 countries...	1,237.8	1,400.0	1,222.2	98.7	87.8

* 1919-22. † 1920-22. ‡ 1922 only; excluding Upper Silesia.
§ 1922 only

The yields of several important European countries are not yet ascertained, including those of France, Jugo-Slavia, Germany, Russia, and Czecho-Slovakia. In this connection it may be noted that early August reports from Germany described crop conditions as "nearly average," and from Czecho-Slovakia as "fairly good." For the countries shown in the above table, the aggregate yield for 1924 shows a decline of about 16 per cent., as compared with last year, but is practically equal to the 1918-22 average. In America the August estimates are better than was at one time expected, but the Canadian crop is much below the exceptionally high figure of last year, though above the five years' average. These comparisons are based on the first official crop estimate, and subsequent conditions have proved to some extent unfavourable, as will be observed from a letter from our Canadian correspondent, printed elsewhere. The earlier figures pointed to a decline in the total North American yield of 13 per cent., as compared with 1923, and 5 per cent., as compared with 1918-22. The latest returns from India show a small decline from last year's figure, but a 10 per cent. rise above the average. The Algerian crop has been handicapped by drought conditions, but that of Morocco is relatively good.

and the North African yield is expected to be little, if anything, below average, though over 20 per cent. below last season's unusually heavy total. As a whole, the world's wheat prospects, while not nearly so good as at this time last year, do not seem to call for undue anxiety. An "average" yield would infer a higher level of prices than in 1923, but fairly satisfactory supplies should be obtainable by the chief wheat-importing countries.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—To the greatest satisfaction of world spinners the United States Department of Agriculture issued last week-end a Bureau report on the American cotton crop, which indicated a growth of 12,956,000 bales. When the report was published prices broke sharply on the Liverpool Exchange. The indicated yield of the Bureau shows an increase of over 600,000 bales in a fortnight, which is considered a wonderful improvement. Now that we are promised a crop of 13,000,000 bales, exclusive of linters, it would appear that there will be adequate supplies of the raw material this season. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that there are still two or three weeks of critical weather before us, and there will no doubt be many scares created by reports of boll-weevil damage, and that later on the date of killing frosts may have a good deal to say in the matter of the final yield. Raw cotton prices are now getting on to a very attractive level, and the lower range of values has induced buyers of cloth to place larger orders. The whole outlook with regard to the future supplies has completely changed since a month ago, and if the estimate of 13,000,000 bales is not reduced by subsequent unfavourable weather developments, the cotton trade is to be congratulated on the prospects of adequate supplies and reasonable prices. Although we are promised a big supply of raw cotton, the Short-time Organisation Committee of the Master Spinners' Federation have this week strongly recommended spinners to continue the present curtailment of production during September. The Committee is to meet from week to week, and if the state of trade so warrants, the number of working hours can be increased. The American spinning mills at present are running 26½ hours per week instead of the usual 48.

Demand for Homeward Freights.—The long period of stagnation in the homeward freight markets has been terminated, and during the past week or so there has been a very persistent inquiry for steamers to load during September and October. The River Plate has been absorbing steamer space at the rate of 150,000 tons per week, and this may continue for some time, there being large quantities of maize, &c., to be shipped from the Argentine ports. The market has been disturbed a little this week by reports of labour troubles at the ports, but steamers have been taken at 22s 6d for September and 24s for October from the up-river ports. Nitrates are steady, with a fair demand for October-November loading. The chief movement during the last few days has been from the Canadian ports and also the Gulf. A large number of steamers have been fixed for heavy grain from Montreal at 14 to 15 cents per 100 lbs. basis for discharge at Antwerp, Amsterdam, or Rotterdam, and 18½ cents was paid to West Italy, with 19½ cents Sweden. The tendency of the market is strongly upward, and with tonnage on the light side, rates should rise further. From the Gulf steamers have been booked up at 15½ cents per 100 lbs to the Continent, and 3s 10½d per qr. U.K. Wood from the Gulf has been done for Buenos Ayres at 14.25 dols., and the North Pacific paid 30s 6d to the U.K.-Continent for October-November loading. Coal from the Northern States has fixed up steam tonnage for Three Rivers at 1.15 dols., and 3.25 dols. per ton has been paid on the same commodity for Rio de Janeiro. On time charter basis a steamer was fixed at 1.30 dols. for the States/West Indies trade, and for a vessel of about 3,200 tons 2.10 dols. was given for the trip across with delivery Savannah. The Eastern markets have been much more active, Bombay has risen sharply with business done at 24s on the dead-weight basis, and rice from Burmah paid 32s 6d to four or five ports Cuba. From Mauritius 25s was fixed for sugar

to the United Kingdom with the option of New York at 30s. In the ore markets Almeria Pier to Barrow made 6s 3d, and Hornillo to Newport 6s. The outward coal market from the Continent has become much firmer with a good inquiry. Antwerp to West Italy quotes 8s 6d to 8s 9d per ton, and 9s is offering from Rotterdam to the Mediterranean. Chartering for coal from this country is quiet.

Stock Exchange Markets During August.—For markets to develop any kind of activity and strength during the holiday month, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, is so unusual as to invite examination into its cause, with a view to seeing in what manner the movement is likely to proceed during the autumn. The Stock Exchange calculates upon making its main income during the weeks that lie between the middle of September and the following end of April. The summer months of the year are usually written off, as providing no more than bread-and-butter business of a kind which serves the purpose of keeping office-wheels running, but which is not expected to yield anything like a reasonable profit. As it happens, the month which finishes to-day has been a good one for many of the Stock Exchange markets, and the fact of the weather having been so bad, thereby checking holiday plans, cannot be regarded as alone responsible for the unusual phenomenon. Nor can it be said that the gilt-edged market deserves any particular congratulation upon the amount of trade which it has attracted during the period. No more than a retail amount of investment and realisation has been going on in that department. The turning-off of the stream of new issues has been counteracted by the fact that underwriters are still left with a fair amount of stock. Bank rate fears proved more potent in July than was the case in August, and the removal into the background of the prospect of a 5 per cent. minimum has helped investment markets all round the Stock Exchange. The London Agreement provided a welcome lever with which to raise public confidence in Stock Exchange securities, and, although there is already a good deal of bitter feeling in connection with the proposed German loan, the hub of the Dawes plan, the signature of the Pact is undoubtedly exercising a favourable influence in the way of restoring courage to the monied public. Speculation has occupied itself a good deal with gambling in German and Prussian bonds. It has taken a mild hand in the oil market, though not to any marked extent. It is certainly playing an active part in the rises which occur almost every day amongst tea shares, and it gives an occasional touch of buoyancy to shares in the mining markets connected with tin. A little investment in Home Railway stocks has had a disproportionate effect upon prices, and remarkable rises in brewery stocks and shares can be traced to people who know, as a rule, what they are doing, and who pay for stock which they buy. Some of the general business has emanated from the Continent, and there was, besides, a good deal of interest taken by the provinces in London stocks and shares. Official and other optimisms in regard to a trade revival are regarded in the Stock Exchange as being polite hostages given to the future. In spite of published figures, the Londoner admits scepticism of any probable increase, on a large scale, of trade in the ordinary industrial circles. This has its direct effect upon prices of investment securities, and although the War Loan, with its satellites, is inclined to be dull in consequence of the possibility of a General Election next winter, the markets for good industrial and sound foreign stocks are finding that the public want their wares, and are prepared to pay for them at rising prices. If the fear of an early General Election becomes widely spread, the effect will be to lay a check upon the strength of the general markets round the House, because the first thing which will leap to the mind of the speculator is the possibility of the Labour party being returned to power with a real working majority as against the present narrow margin of safety. The Stock Exchange enters hopefully, however, upon September, and the autumn bristles with points of interest. The fact of August having produced an unusually large amount of business, to a good many of the markets, is regarded as an augury of increased activity when the holidays are over.

Collecting Austrian Debts.—The Board of Trade announces that the Administrator of Austrian Property has under the powers conferred upon him by Section I. (xiv.) of the Treaty of Peace (Austria) Orders, 1920-1923, and with the approval of the President of the Board of Trade, prescribed September 15, 1924, as the final date by which proofs by British nationals of debts due to them by Austrian nationals, or of pecuniary obligations of the Austrian Government under Article 248 of the Treaty of Saint Germain-en-Laye and other claims by British nationals against the Austrian Government, must be made in order to rank for payment of the fourth dividend to be declared by him. It will be recalled that February 7, 1924, was the final date by which such proofs had to be made in order to rank for payment of the third dividend, but creditors who failed to lodge their proofs of claim with the Administrator by that date will, if they do so by September 15, 1924, be entitled (subject to what is stated below in regard to claims under Article 248 of the Treaty) to rank for payment of the dividends out of assets remaining after payment of the third dividend, before the assets are applied to the payment of the fourth dividend. In accordance with the rule made by the Administrator, on February 5, 1923, claims under Article 248 of the Treaty can only be admitted to rank at all for dividend if the proof was lodged before March 31, 1923, or if the time for lodging the proof is extended by the Administrator, who has power to grant an extension until two months after the claimant became aware of the existence or amount of the claim where the claimant only became aware of its existence or amount at a date subsequent to March 1, 1923. Claims lodged after September 15, 1924, will, if accepted, be permitted to rank only against any surplus of the above-mentioned Austrian assets which may remain over after payment of the said fourth dividend. The prescribed forms of proof of claim may be obtained on application to the Administrator of Austrian Property at Cornwell House, Stamford street, S.E. 1.

The Greek Budget.—Our Athens correspondent writes:—In a statement to the Press the Minister of Finance has dealt at length with the financial situation. He shows that the deficit for 1923-1924, estimated originally at 2,683 millions, and subsequently increased to 3,038 millions in consequence of additional credits, is expected to amount finally to 1,316 millions only, or 1,722 million drachmæ less than the anticipated sum. The reduction is due on the one hand to greater receipts from revenue than the amount budgeted for, and, on the other hand, to economies in expenditure made possible after the signing of the treaty of peace. Ordinary revenue not only covered ordinary expenditure, but to a large extent contributed also to the payment of extraordinary expenditure, to which the final deficit is exclusively due. The extraordinary expenditure necessitated by the state of war since 1920 amounts to no less than 7,732 millions, and is analysed as follows:—

	Millions of Drachmæ
Credits for the War Office.....	5,803
" " Ministry of Marine	956
" " Refugee Relief	479
" " Refugee Settlement	250
" " Soldiers Families' Relief	244
In all	7,732

Part of this amount, or 6,042 million drachmæ, was provided for by loans, and the balance by ordinary revenue. The sums expended on refugee account do not include the amount disbursed by the Refugee settlement Commission out of the advances of £2 millions obtained from the Bank of England and the Greek banks. The Minister further emphasised the fiscal effort made by Greece, which enabled her not only to pay part of the war expenditure from real revenue and to maintain the service of her domestic and foreign debt, but even to increase, during the war period, the interest paid on the latter. As regards the current,

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

year, the original estimates, as subsequently modified, provide for:—

	(In Millions of Drachmæ.)	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (—).
Year 1924-25.				
Ordinary.....	3,458	2,906	.....	+ 552
Extraordinary	500	1,569	.....	— 1,069
Totals	3,958	4,475	.....	— 517

A decrease of 799 millions in the deficit is thus expected. Extraordinary expenditure includes the following items which are considered as quite exceptional:—

	Millions of Drachmæ.
War Office	288
Marine	231
Refugee Relief	221
" Settlement	5
Exchange of populations	16
	761

Recent increases of pay to Army and Navy officers, and promised increases to Civil officials, the Minister expects to meet by a restriction of their number, by amendments in various taxes, and by drastic economies in the administrative departments. As compared with the returns for the past year, estimates for this year show a slight decrease in revenue, due to a decline in revenue from extraordinary sources. However, receipts for the current year are expected, on the basis of the returns for the first four months, to exceed those of last year. Moreover, the surpluses due to the Government by the International Financial Commission for the first half-year of 1924, from the revenues assigned for the service of the loans under its control, amount to 284 million drachmæ and £19,322 as against 29 million drachmæ and £50,146 for the second period of 1923. The Treasury, besides, has a cash balance of 434,500,000 drachmæ, 4,300,000, and £60,600. On the other hand, estimated expenditure for the current year shows a decline of 903 millions, as compared with the actual expenditure for the previous year.

Australasian Exchange and Currency Problems.—At the annual meeting of proprietors of the Bank of New Zealand, held on June 20th last, at Wellington, New Zealand, Mr William Watson, the acting-chairman of directors, made some pertinent observations on exchange and currency matters. Mr Watson, after having reminded us that, "owing to the fact that gold has ceased to function as currency, and to the existing export and import conditions, the difficulties of the exchange position between London and New Zealand, and New Zealand and Australia, have become intensified," proceeded to point out that "the present rate of 2 per cent. for purchasing sight drafts on London is unusually heavy for this Dominion, although light compared with the exchange burden borne by many other countries—the Australian rate, for instance, is 17s 6d per cent. higher," and added that "it is fortunate that the better prices now ruling for most lines of produce much more than counterbalance the adverse exchange." He mentioned that "the transfer of surplus funds from London to Australia, where money is greatly needed to settle the adverse balance of our trade with the Commonwealth, has of late been effected on extremely un-

avourable terms to us, so that the purchase in New Zealand of exchange on London is by no means so profitable as some critics appear to think. The question of exchange is so interwoven with that of currency, and the two are so complicated that those who have lately expressed impracticable views may perhaps be excused" (the italics are ours). Mr Watson proceeded: "The highest authorities have stated that, in England, currencies are necessarily limited, and I have told you in my remarks on note circulation that the currency is here regulated to the necessities of the position, but in such a way as to avoid inflation. Had the suggestion for an Empire currency been adopted it is difficult to see how inflation could be locally controlled; this is but one of the objections to that measure." Emanating, as they do, from an authoritative quarter, we anticipate that these remarks may give rise to considerable discussion. Mr Watson then went on to contrast the exchange and currency problem of New Zealand with that of Australia. He pointed out that, "Whilst in New Zealand the exchange question alone presents difficulty, Australia has for some time past experienced even higher exchange rates than the Dominion, and has also suffered from a shortage of currency. The note issue there is in the hands of the Commonwealth, being conducted by the Note Issue Department of the Commonwealth Bank under a special board of directors. The Note Board has recently decided not to make any further issues of notes even in exchange for an equivalent of sovereigns. It is understood that the reason for this is a belief, or fear, that such an increase in the note issues would lead to inflation. A restriction of production, commerce, and trade is the natural outcome." Raising the question of State versus private control of note issues, this banking authority asked: "Can the same stability, combined with elasticity, be expected from a State note issue controlled by a political party?" and replied to his own question: "Our Australian branches, as well as the other banks and the public there, and to a certain extent here also, have felt the effects of the restrictions of the Commonwealth currency; while, on the other hand, examples are only too common in other countries of changes in Government leading to excessive State note issues with all their concomitant evils." The acting chairman of the Bank of New Zealand concluded: "Banks, more than the public, suffer from an excessive State note issue, for the public retain in their possession only as much cash as is needed for pocket money, the surplus being paid into the banks. Therein lies the danger of such an issue in the British Empire, the only remedy for which would appear to be that, failing repayment in gold by the State, the banks as note holders should have the right to demand British Government securities of an equivalent market value in exchange for surplus notes. It would, of course, be no safeguard against an excessive issue if the State could redeem its notes in exchange for its own bonds."

Scottish Co-operative Trade.—That the trade of co-operative societies is returning, after the great slump of the last two years, is evident from the report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society for the half-year ended June 28th, and from the intention of the directors of the larger Co-operative Wholesale Society in England to pay a dividend of 2d. in the £ on purchases for the half-year just closed—an intention that will be recommended to the delegates at the October meetings. For the first six months of this year the turnover of the Scottish C.W.S. was £8,540,960, of which £7,783,468 was with the 273 retail societies in membership, and £550,709 with 73 other societies, mostly agricultural, that do not hold shares, the remainder being with the English C.W.S. These figures were an increase of £222,249, or 2.7 per cent. From the society's own works the supplies were £2,697,891, an increase of 4.9 per cent. There was an available balance, after paying interest, &c., of £168,323, from which a dividend of 4d is being paid on the purchases of shareholding societies, and of 2d. in the £ on the trade of non-members. In the corresponding six months of 1920 the sales rose to £14,801,915, subsequently steadily descending to £8,318,710 in the first half of last year. In the second six months they increased by 5 per cent., and the present

advance of 2.7 per cent. continues the reviving tendency. The payment of a dividend of 4d brings the amount to the 1920 return, since when it has been 2d and 3d. The distributive expenses of the society for the past half-year were 8 per cent., the figure to which they rose, from 4 or 5 per cent. for 1916-1920, in 1921.

Petrol Production and Prices.—It is said that a fall in the price of petrol in this country is imminent. On February 2nd of this year the price was advanced by 4½d and by 4d respectively to the present levels of 1s 11d per gallon retail and 1s 8d per gallon wholesale for the No. 1 grades. It is not to be imagined that a fall in price to-day is being brought about by the competition of "pirate" companies, seeing that that competition is still only a fraction of the trade of the big distributing companies. It is being brought about by economic considerations of far greater force. The half-yearly figures recently issued by the United States Bureau of Mines clearly bring out the fact of over-supply in the American gasoline (petrol) market. As nearly 80 per cent. of the world's petrol is manufactured in the refineries of the United States, world conditions may be taken as being governed by the American. The figures are as follows:—

U.S. GASOLINE (PETROL) STATISTICS OF U.S. BUREAU OF MINES.
In U.S. Gallons (000's omitted).

1924.	Production.	Imports.	Exports.	Domestic Consumption.	Stocks at End of Month.
January....	695,322	19,309	88,823	498,160	1,202,547
February..	677,740	5,189	103,546	407,709	1,374,221
March.....	743,248	1,044	85,090	462,020	1,571,404
April	754,773	7,627	116,941	762,400	1,607,786
May.....	780,194	14,265	96,879	794,459	1,647,359
June	737,080	13,828	115,330	686,674	1,598,858

It will be found that for the six months the production and imports of gasoline, amounting to 4,461,803,945 gallons, increased by 18 per cent. over those of the corresponding period of 1923, while consumption and exports, amounting to 3,937,845,376 gallons, increased by only 15 per cent. From the end of December, 1923, to the end of June, 1924, a surplus of 523,958,569 gallons was added to the already swollen stocks of American gasoline. Such was the extent of the over-production. Considering the general conditions of trade, it is remarkable enough that consumption and exports of gasoline should have increased by so much as 15 per cent. The fact that stocks of gasoline were actually reduced during June by 51,000,000 gallons is a reassuring sign, especially as consumption in July and August is said to have been well maintained. But there is no indication that the new supply of gasoline is diminishing. The production of crude oil, from which the gasoline is manufactured, is steadily increasing, and is now keeping over the level of 2,000,000 barrels a day. If a large proportion of this huge daily output of 2,000,000 barrels were "flush" production from newly discovered pools, which would be likely to decline, there would be some ground for the belief that the economic position is righting itself, but, unfortunately for the oil industry, the flush production of last year's pools is largely over, and an increasing proportion of the crude oil production has become what is called "settled" production. Export prices of American gasoline have not yet shown a serious decline, but tanker freights have fallen considerably. In February last the voyage charter rate for a "clean" tanker (i.e., a petrol or kerosene tanker) had risen to 52s 6d per ton, but rates have so far fallen that it is now possible to secure "clean" tankers for the voyage from the Atlantic ports of America to this country, and the considerations which may cause the big distributing companies to consider reducing the price of petrol in this country. A reduction in the near future of 3d or 4d a gallon is not unlikely.

The Canadian Railway Position.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—The railway situation is once more a source of embarrassment and anxiety. During the early months of the year the seaward movement of the heavy grain crop of 1923 kept traffic returns very good—indeed, appreciably higher than in the parallel months of 1923,

but about the middle of April there began a sharp downward curve which has not been checked. Since it is practically certain that the exportable surplus of wheat will be at least 150 million bushels less from the 1924 crop, the coming months will further aggravate the decline, and Sir Henry Thornton, the President of the Canadian National Railways, has already prepared the public for a substantial increase in the deficit on the enterprise of which he has charge. Moreover, a grave muddle has developed in connection with what is known as the Crows' Nest Pass agreement. In 1897 the Laurier Government drove a sharp bargain with the Canadian Pacific Railway when the latter was in need of subsidies for the construction of an important branch line in the West. In return for that subsidy the company agreed never to raise above a certain maximum level east-bound rates on grain, west-bound rates on a number of commodities vital to the farming interest. The serious disturbance of economic conditions created by the war forced a temporary suspension of this agreement, as otherwise the railways could not have paid their way. After the war ended there was a partial restoration of the terms of the agreement, but the Progressives kept up a constant pressure for its full revival, and at the end of the last session the King Government yielded to their demands, and by refusing to renew the suspensory legislation, brought back the agreement in full force. The Canadian National system was not included in the bargain, but it is automatically compelled at all points where it competes with the C.P.R. mileage of 1897 to apply Crows' Nest Pass rates. But since 1897 the C.P.R. had added thousands of miles of trackage, and the agreement does not apply to the new mileage. The result is that gross inequalities of rates now prevail on both systems. One shipper, whose loading point is on the C.P.R. mileage of 1897, has a certain rate, while another 20 miles distant must pay a considerably higher scale. This patent discrimination has inevitably generated a great deal of discontent and confusion. The railways contend that the Crows' Nest Pass rates are quite inadequate in view of the existing prices of labour and material, and the Cabinet have fixed a day to hear the arguments of their counsel for a further review of the whole position.

Oversea Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: THE PROGRAMME FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

(FROM OUR GENEVA CORRESPONDENT.)

August 27.

THE League of Nations Assembly opens at Geneva on Monday next, under the temporary presidency of M. Hymans, the Belgian Foreign Minister (as chairman *pro tem.* of the Council), until the Assembly elects its own president. What the meeting will produce this year is on the knees of the gods, but there is no doubt about what its main preoccupations will be. What is in doubt is how far the principal States are ready with definite and precise proposals, which may be finally shaped. This main pre-occupation, of course, concerns security and the reduction of armaments.

As I anticipated in my last letter, the majority of Governments, both inside and outside the League, have for one reason or another declined to accept the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance in its existing form. With the exception of France, which would require changes, the principal Powers in the world, England, America, Russia, Germany, and Japan, have rejected it. It must be assumed that the Draft Treaty is dead. But Mr MacDonald and M. Herriot are coming to Geneva to discuss the whole problem. Nothing precise has yet been made available as to what their intentions are, but it scarcely seems possible that either of them can afford to make an appearance without a prepared contribution to the discussions.

There has been a good deal of gossip, some of it apparently unfounded, but a line of approach attributed to Mr MacDonald seems not without some hope of progress. It seems fairly generally accepted that, in some form or

other, he will advocate a firmer establishment of the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice in international life, and a tightening up of the processes of peaceful settlements in order as far as possible to broaden the basis of peace.

There seems no reason why a step in this direction should not meet with general acceptance with demilitarised zones, and so far as the ultimate provision for failure to observe these peaceful processes is concerned, there is no obvious reason why any special action should be required, always provided that it is made perfectly clear that the British and other Governments, as signatories of the Covenant of the League, regard this Covenant which they have signed as an honourable obligation. This involves the ultimate consideration of the use of at least the economic and financial blockade.

Even if it is not found possible to reach agreement on sanctions, it would be an entirely logical and certainly valuable step to underline and extend in every possible respect the processes of peaceful settlement, for eventual security and reduction of armaments depend fundamentally upon the better organisation of methods of peaceful procedure. The greatest contribution that any State, America included, can make to the problem of the reduction of armaments and security is to lend all possible assistance to the friendly settlement of political differences. There are no short cuts. Other cognate questions of great importance, such as the control of the traffic in arms and of the procedure for the military control of Austria and Hungary (which is quite properly regarded as having in prospect application later on to Germany), are on the agenda.

Agreement has already been reached in one of the League commissions, with the co-operation of the American Minister in Berne, on the control of the traffic in arms. This draft convention, which is to come before the Assembly, is aimed at replacing the St. Germain Convention, to which the Americans raised objections, and they were invited to co-operate in the drawing up of other regulations to take its place. There should, therefore, be no difficulty in coming to some final conclusion on this subject. The armaments control in Hungary and Austria is a more thorny subject, as it will be discussed from the point of view of its relation to control in Germany. The danger to be avoided is that the League should be engineered into a position in which it might be called upon in the exercise of control to discriminate between Germany and the members of the League. This would be serious now, but still more serious when Germany becomes a member, and it is to be hoped that the British Delegation is not unaware of this side of the matter in its quite natural desire that as many questions as possible should be internationalised instead of being left in the hands of a few powerful States. All-round control is the solution. So far as the organisation of the League's obligations are concerned in relation to Austria and Hungary, there is, I understand, a report being presented to the League by its commission of military advisers.

During the Assembly period the League, through its Council, will also have before it the subject of the Mosul frontier between Iraq and Turkey. It is understood that the Turkish Government raises no objection to this question being placed on the Council's agenda, and is prepared to send a delegate to participate in the discussion, provided certain conditions are fulfilled.

There was an expectation that after the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey would apply this year for League membership. The reference of Mosul to the League may possibly make her hesitate to do so this year, and this would be unfortunate. Incidentally, with regard to admissions to membership of the League, there is still a sporting chance of the Argentine Republic definitely resuming its place at this Assembly, and of an application from Ecuador. Whether Egypt will apply is doubtful, and Germany probably has enough on her hands in getting through the Dawes legislation, without complicating the issue by a proposal for application for membership of the League.

The mere presence, however, of the French and English Premiers, of the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Sweden, Holland, and other countries, is giving the character of

the Assembly greater importance than hitherto. It may not produce final results in some of the more serious problems to which reference has been made, but it can hardly fail to trace the lines of progress and study.

Apart from these, there will be a general review of a vast number of activities in many fields of international life; attention will be devoted to the financial reconstruction schemes in Hungary and in Austria, with a number of economic problems, the final touches will be given to the preparations for the two opium conferences to be held in Geneva in November—a subject which is attracting the close co-operation and attention of the United States—and altogether there will be a very full programme of work of interest to a great many strata running across international life—a programme which is only possible in a permanently and regularly organised institution like the League.

The Assembly will also have an opportunity of varying the constitution of the Council in the selection of the six non-permanent members, but it is doubtful whether there will be any radical change.

UNITED STATES.—EFFECT OF DAWES PLAN ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY—MONEY AND BANKING CONDITIONS—HEAVY NEW ISSUES—BUSINESS REVIVING GRADUALLY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 19.

THE Department of Commerce believes that stabilisation of the European economic situation will bring a revival of world trade in which the United States will share to a large extent. This opinion is expressed in a survey, prepared by experts of the Department, of the results that may be expected from the practical operation of the Dawes plan. The conclusions reached in the Report, which covers various branches of trade and industry likely to be affected, are summarised by Alan G. Goldsmith, chief of the European division. While the forecasts generally are optimistic, emphasis is laid upon the fact that it will take time for the situation to readjust itself. The adoption of the Dawes plan, he remarks, is "perhaps the greatest effort since the war to bring about stabilisation in Germany and economic reorganisation in Europe as a whole." One result, he points out, will be increased exports of European goods, which will cause sharper competition in outlying markets; at the same time, however, the consuming public will be increased throughout the world, particularly in European areas which heretofore have been disturbed, and the greater demand for merchandise and commodities will lead to a general rise in the standard of living. According to this survey, "Europe now takes one-half of all American exports, and ships to the United States one-third of all goods imported here for domestic use. Leaving out the broader aspects of the problem, it is only reasonable to believe that we could not help but benefit by an improvement in our best market area, which consumes so great a volume of our goods in proportion to those it ships to us." Commenting on possibilities for trade increases with markets other than European, the Department of Commerce says that "if Brazilian coffee, for instance, can be shipped to Europe in pre-war volume, sales of American automobiles, machinery, and textile products to Brazil should be stimulated. Similarly, if Europe can consume increased quantities of Chilean nitrates, American manufacturers and exporters should get their share of the increased business resulting from the higher purchasing power in Chile." Revival of business in Europe, the survey continues, "will naturally stimulate American exports of cotton, grain, meat products, petroleum, copper, lumber, and many other staple commodities."

The Department experts express the opinion that it does not directly concern the American trader whether or not Germany will be able, through her increasing exports and services, to accumulate foreign credits sufficient to transfer payments to the extent anticipated in the Dawes plan. They believe, however, that stabilisation in Germany will probably mean an increase of Germany's consumption, not only of American goods, but of goods of other nations purchasing American commodities. Ger-

man competition, they declare, will be on a stable financial basis with relation to other countries; industry will be bonded as heavily as in pre-war days, and taxation in Germany will be commensurate with that prevailing in competitive countries. These factors will put trade on an equitable basis, it is contended, and it seems plausible that American exporters will be able to meet foreign competition, particularly German, without fear of artificial advantages granted to their business rivals. As to the iron and steel industry, the Department of Commerce considers the outlook encouraging. Good results may not be visible immediately in the shape of increased world production of iron and steel, but enhanced German and other European purchasing power, it is thought, will unquestionably augment demands for such products.

Investment demand for bonds continues broad and active, reflecting further efforts to find employment for the enormous accumulation of surplus funds. Prices of standard issues generally are holding well at close to the top levels of the year, but speculative bonds have lately declined somewhat under profit taking, while foreign Government obligations, particularly European, seem to have reached their peak a while ago on the present upturn, and in the past few days have receded slightly, owing partly to the reaction in foreign exchanges. Although trading in outstanding bonds is still heavy, interest centres largely in issues of new securities which in most instances find a ready market. In fact, the market's ability to absorb such offerings appears almost unlimited. The recent issue, for instance, of \$75,000,000 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, due July 1, 1948, priced to investors at 98½, and interest to yield more than 5.10 per cent., was entirely taken in advance of the formal public offering, which was made merely as a matter of record. Many other large domestic railroad, industrial and public utility issues, mostly bonds, have been floated readily, and in numerous cases largely subscribed before the formal offering. Foreign Government issues are figuring prominently in the new financing. One of the most successful of these issues was the new Japanese loan recently placed here, consisting of \$22,000,000 external three-year 6 per cent. gold debenture notes of the Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited, unconditionally guaranteed, both as to principal and interest, by the Imperial Japanese Government. An unusual feature of this financing is that under the terms of the loan it is expressly stipulated, in substance, that the notes are payable in time of war or peace, irrespective of the nationality of the holder and without any declaration as to citizenship. This rather unique phraseology is believed in some quarters to have been adopted to allay any apprehension that investors might have had concerning future relations between the United States and Japan because of the Japanese exclusion provision in the new immigration law which became effective July 1st. The notes, which are redeemable beginning August 15, 1926, upon 30 days' notice, were offered for public subscription at 99½ and interest to yield approximately 6.27 per cent.; the subscription books were closed immediately after opening. More than double the amount of the offering could have been sold easily. Another foreign issue which was quickly placed and advertised as a matter of record only was the offering of \$3,065,000 Republic of Bolivia external 25-year secured refunding 8 per cent. sinking fund gold bonds, not callable before May 1, 1937. They were sold to investors at 93, and accrued interest to yield about 8.70 per cent. Some idea of the enormous amount of new financing done in this market recently may be gained from the fact that since June 1st more than \$840,000,000 bonds have been offered to the public, and as indicated there is no slowing up in the output or in the investment demand. While many new issues are being brought out almost daily, the prospective German loan is attracting a great deal of interest. The general view seems to be that the bonds will be 7's or 7½'s, and will be offered at some discount. Should the German loan be floated successfully, it will probably be followed by numerous smaller pieces of foreign financing.

For a long time past every month has witnessed a further influx of gold into this country. During July the amount brought in, namely, \$26,767,662, was the smallest monthly total of the year to date, but it brought

the addition to gold stocks here since January 1st up to \$270,283,040. On August 1st the total amount of the yellow metal held in this country reached \$4,517,483,901. According to the latest compilation of the director of the Mint, the world's stock of monetary gold is placed at \$9,210,007,000. It is apparent, therefore, that the present holdings of the United States constitute approximately 50 per cent. of that total. The further reduction recently in the New York Federal Reserve Bank's rediscount rate to 3 per cent. brings that rate down to the lowest of any central bank in any country. With such an immense stock of gold, abundant credit, a 3 per cent. Reserve Bank rediscount rate, time funds on Stock Exchange collateral readily obtainable at 2 to 3½ per cent. depending upon maturities, and call money in excessive supply at 1½ in the outside market and at 2 per cent. on the Stock Exchange, it is not surprising that other countries are turning more and more to the United States for funds. The extraordinary easiness and abundance of money is really proving quite embarrassing to New York banks, but under present conditions they are powerless to alter the situation, since gold continues to pour in, and trade and industry have not yet recovered sufficiently to affect commercial borrowing to any appreciable extent.

Trade and industry generally show a gradual tendency to revive, but the improvement is more noticeable in sentiment than in actual business expansion. As one authority puts it, "better feeling is more apparent than better buying," except that there has been a steady increase in purchasing for autumn needs in Western and North-Western agricultural sections on account of good yields of, and higher prices for, wheat. Conditions in different trades and industries still display considerable irregularity. Shoe and leather industries in the East are gradually picking up, and the iron and steel trade is somewhat more active. The decrease of only 75,433 tons in the United States Steel Corporation's unfilled orders during July was much less than had been expected generally. Renewed buying of lumber on the Pacific Coast is reported, and building throughout the country continues active; the total expenditure involved in July building permits showed some falling off from June, but a slight gain over July a year ago. A small increase is noted in automobile operations, but buying of textiles, particularly cotton goods, has slackened after the recent spurt.

FRANCE.—VIEWS ON THE LONDON AGREEMENT—COMMERCIAL TREATIES AND BRITISH INDUSTRIES—THE POTASH AGREEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, August 27.

LIKE all compromise settlements, the agreements arrived at by the London Conference have been received here with an entire absence of enthusiasm. At the same time, there is undoubtedly a deep feeling of satisfaction that, poor as the results are generally regarded by French opinion, a settlement has really been come to which contains within it the potentiality of bringing about a better state of relations between France and Germany in the future. On reflection, after the first feelings of irritation at the renewed diminution of the French claims to reparations had subsided, it has been generally recognised that the wisest policy is to accept the terms of the London agreements as the only alternative to a refusal which must inevitably plunge the countries most interested into worse chaos than ever. The long drawn out debates in both Houses of Parliament have really constituted, on the part of the supporters of the previous Poincaré Government, more an attempt to prove that, but for the policy which resulted in the occupation of the Ruhr in January, 1922, Germany would never have been brought to accept the present settlement, than anything in the way of determined opposition to ratification of M. Herriot's work in London. The outstanding thesis of M. Poincaré's own five-hours' speech in the Senate, as a matter of fact, was not that the London agreements are detrimental to French interests, but that the conditions now to be applied are so much more favourable to this country than any previous British proposals that the Poincaré Government has

been justified by the terms now agreed upon in all its previous opposition to suggested settlements.

From the point of view of French economic interests, one of the most satisfactory features of the London settlement is that the problem constituted by the fact that, while France has an abundance of iron ore within her eastern frontier, the coal necessary to its utilisation lies on the other side of the line, has now been solved for many years to come. Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany is under the obligation to furnish France with coal and coke until 1930. By the terms of the London agreements France is assured, in principle (although I believe no tonnage is mentioned in the text), of receiving supplies of fuel from that source for another 35 years. The importance of this fact can scarcely be overrated. The French coal deposits, it is notorious, are inadequate for the country's needs. Germany, before the war, stood next to Great Britain as a source of fuel for French industry. The French metallurgical industry was dependent on German coke for more than half its requirements. The French collieries are now producing, thanks to the output of the Lorraine mines, at the rate of about 44 million tons per annum, or about five million tons more than before the war, which quantity will almost certainly increase in the near future as the mines in the north which were wrecked during the war return progressively to full producing capacity. The 5,000,000 tons furnished by Lorraine, however, is only a paper increase, as the consumption of Alsace and Lorraine alone exceeds that quantity. The real situation during the first half of 1924 may be summed up in the statement that during that period France consumed 50 per cent. more coal than she produced; in other words, her consumption during the present year will amount to around 66 million tons, whereas her own mines will yield only 44 million tons. The situation in regard to metallurgical coke is exactly similar. The difference must be made up either from Germany or Great Britain, or from both. In any case, whatever supplies are procured from Germany in the future can only be prejudicial to the British mining industry. The announcements that the international miners' committee and the executive committee of the British Miners' Federation are protesting against any further payment of reparations in coal are significant.

It is difficult to ascertain, from inquiries in political circles here, how much foundation there is for Mr Snowden's "warning" to British industrial interests to the effect "that the latter would be seriously prejudiced by 'the proposed commercial treaty between France and Germany,' 'the draft' of which, the Chancellor states, 'proposes to compel Germany to admit free of duty goods from Alsace-Lorraine which are in keen competition with British manufactures.'" Mr Snowden is apparently ignorant that, under Article 268 of the Versailles Treaty, Germany agreed to do this very thing for a period of five years, which will expire on January 10th next. The



WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

AFFILIATED ABROAD
Westminster Foreign Bank Limited
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp
Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or Agents
in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United
Kingdom and has Correspondents throughout the World

Head Office
41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

object of this article was, of course, to benefit the industries of Alsace-Lorraine, which before the war were included in the German Zollverein and naturally found their best market within the German frontiers. On the re-incorporation of Alsace-Lorraine in the French State, there was every reason to fear the German market would be entirely lost to it, unless special measures such as those represented by Article 268 were taken. The benefit Alsace-Lorraine has derived from this paragraph in the treaty has been very mediocre. The quantity of any category of merchandise to be admitted to Germany free, it was stipulated in the Treaty, must not in any case exceed the average annual quantity purchased by the rest of Germany from the two provinces before the war. As a matter of fact the quantities of any class of merchandise which have been sold to Germany under the provisions of this article have been almost farcical, in comparison with pre-war absorption of the same goods. During the four years before the war Germany purchased 27,000 tons of woollen yarns from Alsace; during the past four years her purchases have totalled 3,700 tons. Her comparative purchases of other classes of products have been as follows:—

Products.	Totals During Four Year Period.	
	Before the War.	Since the War.
Cotton yarns	65,000	19,000
Building timber	175,000	30,000
Leather belting	35,000	900
Cement	597,000	25,000
Iron and steel	6,000,000	700
Machinery	27,000	2,000
Salt	237,000	1,430

The French proposal is that Germany (in return, naturally, for reciprocal advantages of some kind) shall agree to continue the existing arrangement. It is difficult to see how such an agreement could result in seriously prejudicing British trade.

As to any general commercial agreement between France and Germany, French opinion regards such a treaty as perfectly in the natural order of things. It is taken for granted here that the near future will see the conclusion of a large number of commercial treaties between nation and nation, in every direction, if only for the purpose of replacing formerly existing conventions that were denounced during the war, as a matter of mutual convenience in many cases, in view of the complete change of circumstances produced by the great upheaval. A Franco-German trade agreement will obviously be included among them.

A significant instance of the probable future relations between France and Germany is afforded by the agreement that has just been entered into between the representatives of the potash industry in the two countries. Before the war, it will be recalled, Germany had a practical monopoly of the potash market, as her frontiers included the whole of the European potash deposits. The German monopoly was so clearly defined that on one occasion a few years before the war, the Berlin potash barons suddenly notified their customers in the United States, who were (and still are) absolutely dependent on Europe for this commodity, of a very substantial rise in their selling prices. The American consumers protested vigorously, but in vain. In 1923 European deliveries of potash to the United States totalled 200,000 tons, valued at some \$15,500,000. This handsome revenue was shared last year, however, between the owners of the German beds in Saxony, and other parts of Germany, and the new owners of the deposits in Alsace, in France. In alarm lest their former monopoly might vanish in the future through competition between the two nations who now share the world's potash beds, the German potash interests have just entered into a three years' agreement under which they will share the American market with the owners of the Alsatian deposits. The German companies will meet 62½ per cent. of the American demand, and the Alsatian beds will be drawn upon for the remaining 37½ per cent. The price for the three years has been fixed on the basis of \$27. It is believed here that this satisfactory solution of one of the most delicate problems involved in the question of the future relations between Germany and Alsace-Lorraine will be followed before long by similar ententes between the industrial groups on the two banks of the Rhine, who are interested in the metallurgical, textile, and other industries.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS—FINANCES—BANKING—INDUSTRY AND TRADE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, August 26.

THE Cabinet up to the time of writing has not succeeded in securing the Reichstag's acceptance of the Reparations settlement. From the Communist party apparently only obstruction can be expected, and the German-Nationals have so far said no. Nevertheless, the public and business circles try to believe that the vote will be favourable; and this sentiment is shared on the Bourse. The Bourse is undoubtedly for the time being entirely under the influence of Reparations prospects, yet on the whole quotations have held well since the London settlement was followed by the Berlin uncertainty. All public manifestations are for the Cabinet. The leading industrial and commercial associations have proclaimed for acceptance, though most of them declare that their motive is fear of the result of rejection, and not contentment with the terms. The Cabinet has declared that if necessary the London agreement will be signed on Saturday, and the Reichstag's sanction obtained later. This can be constitutionally done. The ambiguous policy of the German-Nationals indicates that they fully realise how public sentiment lies. Although in two party resolutions and one Reichstag declaration the party has said no, all three pronouncements left loopholes for withdrawal; and the latest hopeful feature is that the leader, after declaring that his party as such would vote against the bills, now declares that no compulsion will be put on individual members. Further, while the party at the last moment is trying to make its acceptance conditional upon the making of alterations in the now settled scheme, it has secretly negotiated with the Volkspartei for its entry into the Cabinet on conditions which do not concern the Reparations scheme at all.

The Reichsbank President has warned the Reichstag Foreign Affairs Committee that severer credit restrictions and an abandonment of the plan to convert the Rentenbank into an agricultural bank, would result from rejection of the Dawes plan, and that there would be no hope of an inflow of foreign capital. In addition to the Industries Charge Bill, creating the industrial bonds, the Cabinet has submitted a Contribution Bill which distributes the burden of payment of interest and amortisation charge upon a broader basis. This is purely a domestic measure. Whereas the bonds fall on industry only, here being included mining, shipping, and private transport, concerns in these classes, with a property tax capital assessment of under 50,000 marks, being free, the Contribution Bill makes trading, banking, insurance, and hotel industry concerns assessed at over 20,000 marks, liable for interest on and amortisation of the bonds; but on these classes of contributors are not imposed any bonds, and they are not obliged to give any other form of security. An official estimate of the condition of the State railways on October 1st next shows debts totalling 150 million marks, of which 83 millions are to the Republic in shape of Rentenmark credits, unpaid taxes, and credits for redemption of railway emergency currency; and assets of 682 millions, of which 500 millions are stores and supplies, 160 millions cash, and 22 millions claims.

The discussion in England concerning impending trade treaties attracts much attention here. Business circles are not inclined to believe in the possibility of any closer association with French industry than would obtain under ordinary commercial treaties, and the recent iron, steel, and machinery figures indicate that Germany, working alone, is not likely, even under the pressure to export supplied by the Reparations scheme, to become a first-class competitor for a long time to come. The heavy metal trade balance is hopelessly passive, and though machinery exports largely exceed imports they have fallen badly since before the war.

The new Franco-German potash agreement has given colour to the stories of approaching general trade collaboration between the two countries. This industry, owing to the practically complete monopoly of the two countries taken together, is, however, in a special position. The agreement, which covers only the United States, and is for a term of three years, was forced on Germany by

the increase in French production and export. Reliable details are not published, but it is stated that France is to have a three-tenths share in sales to the United States; and that the export price is to be \$30 per ton of pure potash, less 10 per cent. discount, c.i.f., an American port. The French have progressed much since the Basel potash conference of 1922, when the Germans negotiated on the basis that the 17 Alsace works had formerly had a share of only 7.5 per mille in the Potash Syndicate, and offered the French double this proportion of the sales to America. French figures for the Société Commerciale des Potasses d'Alsace show production in 1923 of 248,528 metric tons of pure potash (K₂O), as against 148,937 tons in 1921. An enlargement of the new agreement to cover other potash-importing countries is expected. Meantime, the concentration movement in the German industry is continuing.

The Finance Ministry's report for the ten days, August 11th-20th, show receipts 173,717,800 gold marks, and expenditure, including 473,600 gold marks for redemption of gold loan, 165,339,000 gold marks. Revenue in all July was 583,141,258 gold marks, against 472,296,794 gold marks in June. Receipts from Customs are increasing, having been 43,300,000 gold marks in the January-March quarter, 65,300,000 gold marks in the April-June quarter, and 27,200,000 gold marks in July. The 1924-25 Budget estimated Customs receipts at 160,000,000 gold marks, which would be only 53,300,000 gold marks for April-July, while the actual receipts were 92,500,000 gold marks. The cost-of-living index has now been unchanged, at 114, for three weeks. Prices of breadstuffs are still rising.

It is reported that July foreign trade, for the first time this year, shows an active balance. Figures are not yet published. There is a slight but distinct increase of activity in business, in particular in textiles and iron and steel. The prospects of the Leipzig Autumn Fair have improved. The textiles department of the Fair this year takes enormous dimensions. Exhibits from India appear for the first time. Iron and steel prices have risen slightly. There is an increased demand for half-finished material. The scrap-iron market, which is a barometer for conditions in the heavy iron and steel branches, has revived, and prices are rising. Orders for locomotives for Lithuania have been received. A census by the Miners' Union in sixteen coal, lignite, and iron-ore mining districts shows that nearly everywhere 8 to 8½ hours underground and 10 hours on the surface is now the normal working day, instead of the former 7 and 8 hours respectively. The number of miners so working longer hours is 723,800. In the Saar coal industry 7 hours underground and 7½ hours for surface work continues to be the rule.

Foreign trade in the first half of 1924 was (in thousands of gold marks):—

	Imports.	Exports.
Livestock	44,488	2,612
Food and drinks	1,033,705	150,682
Raw materials	2,004,495	170,000
Half-finished materials	440,661	181,155
Finished goods	924,304	2,315,137
Gold and silver	32,987	7,603

Totals..... 4,480,640 .. 2,827,279

The quantity figures are (in double-centners of 1-10th metric tons):—

	Imports.	Exports.
Livestock	518,381	12,743
Food and drinks	26,110,377	6,943,957
Raw materials	122,864,685	16,507,879
Half-finished ditto	16,760,324	12,182,970
Finished goods	7,863,013	18,446,293
Gold and silver	6,038	554

Totals..... 173,922,818 .. 54,094,196

Nearly 1,000,000 double-centners more of manufactured goods were imported than in the corresponding half-year of 1923, while the exports in this class declined by 3,000,000 double-centners. In value the export surplus of finished goods sank from 2,113,300,000 gold marks to 1,390,800,000 gold marks. Exports of chemicals, dyes, and textiles fell. Exports of aniline dyes were only 118,000 double-centners, against 156,000 double-centners in the corresponding half of 1923 (324,000 double-centners in the corresponding half of 1913). Exports of electrical

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEWART, Chief Manager.

articles were larger than before the war; and exports of print paper much larger—1,288,000 double-centners, against 366,000 double-centners in 1913.

The Bourse last week, considering the political situation, held well; yesterday it was firm, but to-day doubtful. The activity in public bonds continued last week; and foreigners bought both these and stocks. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index for the week shows an inconsiderable decline in average quotations of industrials. In a further list of 50 new gold mark balance-sheets, mostly of industrial concerns, the new gold mark capital is in most cases higher than the pre-war, this although the scaling down has, as a rule, been pretty severe. A calculation based on the present gold quotations of the unscaled-down shares, and the ratio of scaling down shows that the new gold mark shares in all but four companies out of fifty start with a Bourse quotation of below par, and in a few cases below 50. Before the war nearly all these shares quoted well above par. Investors therefore apparently do not believe that anything like pre-war dividends will be paid on the newly fixed capitals. Bond prices to-day were (in milliards of paper marks per 100 marks nominal):—War Loan, 849; Fours, 1,190; 3½ per Cent., 1,170; Threes, 1,650; Colonial Fours, 3,625; Prussian Threes, 1,575.

CANADA.—CROP SITUATION IN THE WEST—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—EXCHANGES—INDEX NUMBERS—G.T.P. DEBENTURES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, August 10.

THE crop situation in the West has been a source of great anxiety during the past month, and it will not abate until the crop is safely garnered. Very cool weather which has prevailed on the prairies has checked the spread of rust, but it has also retarded the ripening process, and wheat cutting will not be general till the end of this month, which is three weeks later than last year. This postponement of the harvest makes the risk of damage from early frosts very great, and when temperatures fell at the end of last week the whole community in the West was in a state of deep anxiety. Estimates about the total yield of the Western wheat crop still fluctuate, and the latest emanating from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics puts it at about 259 million bushels, which, if far below the 452 million bushels secured last year, is just about the average for the decade 1914-23, which was 262 million bushels. A spell of favourable weather might bring it close to 300 millions, but a sudden assault of frost might bring it far below this mark. However, the reduced scale of overhead charges, owing to the lower scale of wages, and the shortness of the straw, will make the wheat crop very profitable to such farmers as have escaped the incidence of the different plagues.

There is general satisfaction in Canada at the success of the Inter-Allied Conference, and early benefit is expected to accrue from an improvement in the European market. Midsummer dullness has prevailed both in wholesale and retail business, but merchants now profess a more cheerful sentiment about the future, and look for fairly brisk trade during the autumn. At present retailers in the cities have to force business by special cut-price sales, but the tourist traffic from the United States is more profitable than ever for hotel-keepers and merchants at the numerous holiday resorts throughout Eastern Canada. In the industrial world the implement manufacturers claim some

improvement in the volume of orders, but many other industries are very dull. In all the Eastern cities there is already an ominous volume of unemployment, and the Federal Government has summoned a special conference to discuss plans for coping with what may be a very difficult situation during the coming winter. At the beginning of July the percentage of unemployment among trades unions was 5.8, as compared with 3.4 at the beginning of July, 1923. Social workers report a good many cases of serious hardship and distress among immigrants recently arrived from Britain, and although there has been during the past three months a decline in the immigration figures, immigration of all but a few limited classes into Canada for the balance of the present year should be discouraged. The Labour party in London, Ontario, and other places have been holding meetings and demanding a complete cessation of immigration propaganda by the Federal Government.

The recent rise in sterling and other European exchanges is welcomed by manufacturers, as it will diminish the force of European competition, but general satisfaction is derived from the fact that Canadian dollars recently touched \$99.94 in New York, their highest point since November, 1922. It is predicted that the approaching Federal loan will put Canadian funds at a premium in New York. Mr Robb, who will be back in Ottawa at the end of the present month, secured authority to borrow 350 million dollars, but it is expected that he will only float a loan of 200 millions to redeem the 1919 Victory Loan, which matures in November, and provide for Treasury bills totalling 91 odd million dollars. It is now surmised that the loan will be divided equally between Canadian and New York houses.

The Bank of Commerce index number shows that the index number for exports and imports combined stands in mid-July at 153.57, as against 153.17 for mid-June. But, in spite of the marked rise in wheat prices and smaller rises for prices of livestock, flour, cheese, and silver, off-setting decreases in the prices of bacon, potatoes, forest products, copper, &c., have brought the export index number down from 147.38 to 145.98. The index number for imports has risen from 158.97 to 161.17 owing to increases in the prices of maize, sugar, cotton, rubber, linseed oil, and anthracite coal, which have out-balanced declines in pig-iron and coke prices. The payment of the interest on the Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. perpetual debentures seems to have evoked great surprise in London. The Minister of Railways believed at the time of his statement to the House of Commons that only \$322,000 would be available to pay 1 per cent. on this obligation, but a ruling of the legal branch of the C.N.R., establishing priority for these G.T.P. debenture claims, declared the entire interest charge of \$1,395,000 to be payable, and the additional million odd dollars has to be provided from the C.N.R. Treasury. In view of the fall in traffic receipts, it is uncertain whether the Grand Trunk will continue this year to show earnings enough to reach the mark whereby a surplus for the G.T.P. debentures is available, but the *Toronto Globe* suggests that the debenture holders should drop their claim against the defunct G.T.P., and ask the Canadian Government to make this interest charge a direct liability of the Grand Trunk instead of a contingent liability. Thereby any further controversy would be avoided, and the present necessity for keeping separate books and different audits would be at an end.

HOLLAND.—FOREIGN TRADE—PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.—ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT—NEXT YEAR'S ESTIMATES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, August 20.

THE midsummer weeks are not especially suitable for undertaking large business transactions, or for making important decisions. On the other hand, the prospective conditions of the near future are looked forward to with very great interest, while a glance is also thrown on the times just past. As to this last, the figures of the Dutch foreign trade for the first half of 1924 have given rise to various views. A comparison with the corre-

sponding period of last year gives every reason for this, as the following figures clearly show:—

In Million Guilders.				
First Half-year.	Imports.	Exports.	Import-Surplus.	
1923	990	592	398	
1924	1,147	757	390	

Imports for the first half of 1924, in comparison with last year, have thus increased 15.86 per cent., and exports 27.87 per cent., while the import surplus has decreased about 2 per cent. From a closer investigation as to the countries that have contributed to this foreign trade it appears first of all that Germany has taken first place both as regards imports and exports, which in the corresponding period of 1923 had not been the case. For the six principal countries with which the Netherlands has conducted trade, the figures are as follows:—

Country.	1st Half-Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
		Florins.	Florins.	Florins.
Germany	1923	241,033,757	75,415,478	316,449,235
	1924	275,577,243	233,424,483	509,001,726
Belgium	1923	102,322,327	68,709,440	171,031,767
	1924	126,218,417	64,637,671	190,856,088
Great Britain	1923	154,115,434	155,840,663	309,956,097
	1924	150,277,888	194,133,578	344,411,466
France	1923	33,368,581	64,308,108	97,676,689
	1924	53,759,538	56,624,728	110,384,266
United States	1923	136,578,337	31,428,172	168,006,509
	1924	119,742,120	21,925,817	141,665,937
Netherlands-Indies	1923	52,579,772	52,641,847	105,221,619
	1924	68,818,993	48,598,587	117,417,580

The large increase of Dutch exports to Germany is principally due to the stabilising of the mark. In any case, the value of Germany as hinterland has been sufficiently shown from this; so that it is easily understood that in Holland the results of the successful Conference at London are looked forward to with great interest.

Still, trade with Great Britain is very important as well. Exports to England for the first half-year of 1924 have amounted to more than a quarter (to be exact, 25.63 per cent.) of the total Netherlands exports, so that England must be considered one of the best customers. The increase over 1923 must principally be ascribed to the increased export of sugar (28,989,000 fl in the first half of 1924, as against only 9,385,000 fl in the corresponding period of 1923); margarine, 22,051,000 fl, against 18,795,000 fl; fresh pork, 8,565,000 fl, against 7,246,000 fl; scrap iron and steel, 3,674,000 fl, against 1,152,000 fl; lard, 2,927,000 fl, against 1,018,000 fl; potatoes, 2,552,000 fl, against 80,000 fl; and cocoanut oil, 2,018,000 fl, against 1,794,000 fl.

As to the future, much interest has been taken here in the temporary agreement arrived at between Great Britain and Russia. It is fully realised that this agreement of itself does not as yet mean anything particular, but, on the other hand, it is supposed that it may lead to more important decisions. This may become of importance for the trade between Russia and the Netherlands, the more so as the Soviet Government has also come to an agreement with the German Government with reference to the well-known differences between them. The immediate result of this agreement for our country has been a shrinkage of Russian activities. These, however, have not returned exclusively to Germany. For cotton purchases Bremen has again come under consideration, but for coffee, for which a large amount of business has been done, Havre is said to have been chosen for a part. For cocoa butter alone Russia depends exclusively upon the Netherlands market.

With the approach of the month of September interest is centred in the estimates for the year 1924-1925, which will be submitted shortly after the opening of Parliament on the third Tuesday of September. The estimates of the large cities also attract special attention, because from these it can be seen whether the retrenchment pressure of the Government has penetrated through to the cities. Some

unofficial figures are already known as to the city of Amsterdam. It seems to have been possible to balance the Budget for 1925, without encroaching upon the existing reserves, and without making increased taxes necessary. It will be possible to accomplish this because the year 1923 furnished a credit balance of about 4,000,000 fl; it deserves to be mentioned also that there is under consideration a reduction of the tariffs for the use of gas, electricity, and the telephone, which, in effect, amounts to a reduction of taxes.

NORWAY.—A BALANCED BUDGET—LOAN IN NEW YORK—PRICE MOVEMENTS—BANK INSPECTION—MONEY AND STOCKS—TRADE AND CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, August 14.

It was avowedly the first task of the new Government to tackle the financial question. The Finance Minister at the last meeting of the Storting before its adjournment stated that the Budget would balance with a total of about 530 million kroner. This result was to a great extent obtained by reducing expenses. Some minor taxes have been imposed, e.g., a restaurants tax. For every meal served at a restaurant and costing 3 kroner or more, the keeper of the eating-house must add 10 per cent. for tax to the State. Also, a similar tax is to be paid on all non-alcoholic drinks, while the taxes, or dues, on tobacco in various forms have been augmented. Besides balancing the expenses, the Minister, in the above sum, has included a few millions towards squaring up previous deficits.

The new Government loan raised in New York was very promptly subscribed. It is for 25 million dollars, and the interest 6 per cent. The money obtained is to be used mainly for strengthening the Government reserves.

The cost of living continues to rise. The Statistical Central Bureau has calculated that for the month ended July 15th the rise was 4 points, or from 245 to 249 points. Articles of food, in particular, have risen. The *Farmand* calculates the rise of wholesale prices during July at 11.3 points, or 4 per cent., as compared with June. To some extent it is a recurrent seasonal phenomenon; but there are no doubt also other underlying reasons.

The Storting shortly before being dissolved resolved upon a re-arrangement with regard to bank inspection. Not only the Savings Banks, but also the ordinary banks are to be subjected to inspection, and two inspectors, therefore, are to be appointed. Inspectors' salaries are to be met by levies on the banks, which are also to pay all the other expenses of inspection.

The money market is in a somewhat peculiar situation. The deposits at the Savings Banks, according to the statement of the Statistical Central Bureau, during the month of June continued to fall (the total in June was 2,017 million kroner, as against 2,027 in May and 2,042 in April). The loans had increased a little (by 4 millions since May). This points to the continuation of the present rate of 7 per cent. On the other hand, there is a somewhat stronger tone in the stock market, which suggests expectations of a lower rate of interest. This feeling is strengthened by the recent reduction of the rate of the New York Federal Reserve Bank. So far, the Board of the Bank of Norway have not stirred.

The foreign trade of this country for the first half-year shows rather surprisingly good results, considering the 13 weeks' labour trouble in the wood and allied trades. Total imports are estimated at about 736 million kroner, and total exports at about 432 millions. At present the market for such staple articles of export as timber, woodpulp, and paper is rather weak, but this is seasonal. A spell of beautiful weather enabled the farmers to bring into their barns a vast quantity of hay—one of the greatest harvests for years past. Now rains have set in again, and it is feared that cereals and potatoes will be poor crops.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS CONDUCTED. DEBENTURE TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

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

Books and Publications.

A COMMENTARY ON THE DAWES REPORT.*

MR MOULTON has become an authority on the Reparation question through his important contribution to the literature on the subject contained in his analysis of Germany's capacity to pay, which was published last year. He has recently issued a second volume with a much more limited scope. It preserves in convenient form the full text of the Expert Committee, it summarises these reports and analyses the purpose and effects of the various proposals and contains a chapter dealing with some unsettled problems. But events are moving too fast for studies of permanent value, and this chapter of Mr Moulton's is already out of date through the work of the London Conference. It is true that the problem of fixing the number of annuities ultimately to be paid by Germany and also any final position of the amount which has really been paid up to the present by Germany, remain unsolved, but when he discusses the occupation of the Ruhr, the question of sanctions in case of Germany's default, and the need of applying arbitration to other questions than that of the index number, as unsettled Reparation problems, he is dealing with a phase already past. Within its limited scope many will find Mr Moulton's book convenient for reference.

* "The Reparation Plan." By H. G. Moulton. (New York) McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

"VALUE."

M. THEODOTOU'S treatise on value comprises a critical analysis (and, we venture to suggest, a somewhat superficial one) of various theories of value, beginning with those of the Physiocrats and ending with Jevons' final utility theory. This last he attacks roundly, asserting that "la thèse de l'utilité finale et celle d'une mesure de l'utilité ressortent avec toute la doctrine psychologique, au domaine de la psychologie et ne doivent donc pas intéresser l'économiste." Without doubt the most original section of the book is the last chapter, in which the author summarises his own conception of value. This consists of an elaboration of the statement that the value of persons or things is the relation between the qualities and faults, the merits and demerits, or the advantages and inconveniences of such persons or things. Thus he is led to explain that value must necessarily vary inversely with price, since any diminution in the necessary cost of production must necessarily detract from its disadvantages without affecting its merits. To say that this conception of value is original is not to say that it makes any important contribution to the problem which M. Théodotou seeks to elucidate.

* "De Quelques Théories sur la Valeur en Economie Politique." Par Solon Th. Théodotou. (Paris) Marcel Giard. 137 pages.

ECONOMIC CONFUSION.*

THE author of this book owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Mr J. A. Hobson, the writer of his introduction. Mr Hobson assures us that the book contributes something to his own doctrine of under-consumption, and that it is in itself a work of real distinction and value. Without such an apologia the ordinary reader might find himself intimidated on the very threshold by the obscurity of the author's reasoning and his deplorably loose and inconsistent use of economic terminology. Nor, when the necessary effort of understanding has been made, do the author's conclusions

* "The Unclaimed Wealth," by H. Abbati. George Allen and Unwin, Limited. Price 6s net, pp. 190.

(a) Increased capital.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—INCREASED PROFITS.

EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY PROBLEMS.

DEFLATION OF LAND VALUES.

The ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of New Zealand was held at the head office, on Friday, June 20, 1924. Mr William Watson, acting-chairman of directors, presided, and said: Our capital reserve fund and undivided profits, after dealing with the year's profits as recommended in the directors' report, will stand as follows:—

Preference capital held by the Government of New Zealand	£ 1,500,000
Ordinary share capital	3,000,000
Reserve fund	2,325,000
Undivided profits	506,513
	7,331,513

In addition, there is the 4 per cent. stock guaranteed by the Government of New Zealand, amounting to £529,988, and due in 1934, which ranks for repayment subsequent to the liabilities of the bank to depositors and other creditors. These funds, aggregating £7,861,501, are equal to over 20 per cent. of the bank's liabilities to the public.

But these figures do not alone indicate the full strength of the bank's position, for, like all banking institutions of first-class standing, we have for many years been steadily accumulating internal reserves to provide for the effects of any exceptional setback which might overtake the Dominion. As this country is dependent for its welfare on the conditions of overseas markets—the course of which we are powerless to shape—these large internal reserves against unforeseen contingencies are essential to the maintenance of the credit of the bank and the country.

NOTE CIRCULATION.

During the year the note circulation of our bank has averaged about £3,920,000, the highest figure reached being £4,885,668, and the lowest £3,655,870, whilst our legal right of issue is about £10,500,000. We have, therefore, an ample margin of currency available to meet the ordinary requirements of our customers and to provide a substantial reserve for an emergency.

DEPOSITS.

Our deposits at the balance date amounted to £30,501,719. When compared with the figures of the previous year, these show an increase of £497,793.

The deposits include those which we hold on Government account, in which there are sometimes very large fluctuations, and it happens that the Government balances on March 31, 1924, were nearly £1,800,000 less than on the corresponding date in 1923, so that the deposits which we held on account of our other customers have really increased during the year under review by more than £2,200,000.

BILLS PAYABLE AND OTHER LIABILITIES.

The reduction for the year of £379,388 in this item does not call for special comment.

DIVIDEND.

On the ordinary shares the dividend works out at the rate of 2s 6d per share on the capital as at April 1, 1923, 1s 4d per share on the new capital paid up as at October 1st last; and 2d per share on the 2,205 shares paid up as at March 8th.

CASH, BALANCES AT BANKERS, AND OTHER LIQUID RESOURCES.

Cash, balances at bankers, Government and municipal securities, and other readily realisable assets, apart from ordinary advances to customers, equal rather more than 70 per cent. of our liabilities. This position must be gratifying not only to depositors, but also to our borrowing customers, denoting as it does our ability to withstand any stringent monetary conditions which may arise, without the necessity for calling in advances.

As compared with two years ago, there is an increase of £1,648,000 in our investments in securities of the Commonwealth and of the various States of Australia. The greater portion of the amount is in comparatively short-dated stock falling due at dates to suit our interests.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The ordinary operations of the bank for the year resulted in a profit of £735,831, an increase of £182,194 as compared with the preceding year.

During the year we decided to realise a portion of our holding of British Government securities, and to reinvest the proceeds in other British Government stocks maturing on more suitable dates. The transactions resulted in a surplus of £148,112 over the book values of the stocks sold, and it is proposed to transfer this surplus to the reserve fund.

We have also been able to take into profit the sum of £184,465, which has been allocated from the profits of previous year as provision against possible loss on certain doubtful advances. It is also proposed to transfer this amount to the reserve fund.

ADVANCES.

The advances to our customers amount to £18,787,100—an increase upon the figures of last year of just about £1,000,000.

Ample provision has been made for all bad and doubtful accounts.

LANDED PROPERTY, BANK PREMISES, &c.

This item shows an increase of £44,095, due mainly to the cost of additions to existing buildings and the erection of new premises. With the development of the Dominion and the consequent growth of the bank's operations, expenditure of this nature will be constant, but, as the asset is represented in the balance-sheet at very much less than actual value, we have thought it preferable to add rather more than usual to the reserve fund and to the carry forward, instead of writing down the value of property and premises.

EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

The exchange position between London and New Zealand and New Zealand and Australia, has become intensified. The present rate of 2 per cent. for purchasing sight drafts on London is unusually heavy for this Dominion, although light compared with the exchange burden borne by many other countries—the Australian rate, for instance, is 17s. 6d. per cent. higher. It is fortunate that the better prices now ruling for most lines of produce much more than counter-balance the adverse exchange.

The transfer of surplus funds from London to Australia, where money is greatly needed to settle the adverse balance of our trade with the Commonwealth, has of late been effected on extremely unfavourable terms to us, so that the purchase in New Zealand of exchange on London is by no means so profitable as some critics appear to think.

The question of exchange is so interwoven with that of currency, and the two are so complicated, that those who have lately expressed impracticable views may perhaps be excused.

The highest authorities have stated that, in England, currencies are necessarily limited, and I have told you in my remarks on note circulation that the currency is here regulated to the necessities of the position, but in such a way as to avoid inflation. Had the suggestion for an Empire currency been adopted it is difficult to see how inflation could be locally controlled; this is but one of the objections to that measure.

CURRENCY SHORTAGE IN AUSTRALIA.

Whilst in New Zealand the exchange question alone presents difficulty, Australia has for some time past experienced even higher exchange rates than the Dominion, and has also suffered from a shortage of currency. The note issue there is in the hands of the Commonwealth Bank under a special board of directors. The note board has recently decided not to make any further issues of notes even in exchange for an equivalent of sovereigns. It is understood that the reason for this is a belief, or fear, that such an increase in the note issues would lead to inflation. A restriction of production, commerce, and trade is the natural outcome. That the board has adopted this policy in what it believes to be the best interests of the Commonwealth is not questioned, but the point is this—have the members of the board the information at their command to enable them to determine what amount of currency is required from time to time to satisfy the needs of commerce and production? Surely the joint-stock banks, with their intimate and detailed knowledge of financial conditions, should be the better judges.

Hitherto the control of credit in Australia has been mainly in the hands of the banks, but the measure of control which they exercised has now, through the attitude adopted by the note board, virtually passed to the latter.

THE OUTLOOK.

On the whole, I believe we may regard the immediate outlook with equanimity. Prices for some of our most important products may decline, although during the coming season there should still be a considerable balance of trade in our favour. Many of our producers are carrying on under adverse conditions, but their competitors abroad are having trouble also. It must not be forgotten that the great majority of our settlers are in fair circumstances, and quite able to withstand a fall in value of their assets and reduction in income. Had economy been practised during the years when phenomenal prices were received for our products, there would be less grumbling to-day over the burden of taxation and the difficulty of getting an adequate return on capital.

We must look forward to a gradual deflation of land values as the cure for the worst of the evils from which we are at present suffering. Stabilisation at present values is out of the question.

I now move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and ask Mr Reece to second the motion.

MR WILLIAM REECE'S REMARKS.

Mr William Reece said: I beg to second the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

The Chairman, in his comprehensive and very able speech, has gone so fully into matters of concern to the shareholders, and also of general interest, that little remains to be said.

He has, quite rightly, I think, drawn attention to the fact that the dividend paid is earned not alone by the use of subscribed capital, but also by the large reserve which has been built up, and which, I trust, will be always maintained at a high level, as nothing is so appealing to those in whose eyes it is important a bank should stand high.

There is reference in the speech to land values; it seems to me that these will require adjustment before farmers generally can be really prosperous; surely the true value of land can only be computed by taking what it can earn over a number of years, not only in good times, but in bad.

I wish to congratulate the shareholders on being partners in an institution which passed practically unscathed through the great dangers of the war period and the following commercial crisis. This bank, and, in fact, all the banks operating in New Zealand, deserve the greatest credit for the moral courage and keen sense of public duty exhibited by them under conditions little realised by the public generally.

NEW DIRECTORS.

I wish to join with the chairman in his welcome to the two new directors. Mr Gibbs is a veteran in the bank's service, and Mr Nicholson's large business experience will prove most valuable; they will find that the board meetings are not the bear garden some writers would lead one to suppose, but that in its consideration of banking matters the difference in the mode of appointment makes not the slightest difference. Why should it, when those directors appointed by the Government represent shareholders in the shape of all the people of this Dominion.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF.

I cannot sit down without paying a tribute to the general manager and his staff; in working with them one realises the great strain to which at times they are subject. The general manager himself worships at the shrine of the Bank of New Zealand night and day.

I now second the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted.

MR GIBBS ELECTED AS A DIRECTOR.

Mr Gibbs thanked the shareholders for having placed him in the

proud position of being one of their representatives on the board of directors. While he did not claim super-capacity above his fellows, or any superior business knowledge more than would naturally come in the course of years, still he did claim, after nearly half a century of banking and business, that he did know something about it. In view of his experience, he claimed to have some knowledge of the duties and requirements of a bank director. They had passed through strenuous times, and he hoped that in the future, if any crisis arose, they would be able to meet and deal with it as they had done in the past. With general devotion to business and work, he was sure that the present unsettled condition of the world would in time be righted. Mr Gibbs said, as they all knew, he was only elected for the balance of the term of office of the late Mr Kane, and he would therefore submit himself for election again at the end of the year, when, if required, he trusted he would receive the same emphatic support as was afforded him on this occasion.

DIFFICULTIES SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED.

Mr T. Shailer Weston said that he thought the meeting should not be allowed to disperse without expressing its thanks to the directors, the general manager, and the staff of the bank for the very good balance-sheet. As Messrs Gibbs and Reece had remarked, it was a most satisfactory balance-sheet. It was a matter of sincere satisfaction to realise that the Bank of New Zealand had pulled through during the last five years, while banks in Canada had gone down, and there had been a heavy amount of water shipped by some of the South African institutions. Because the Bank of New Zealand had done well, there might be a disposition to take the view that it was only natural that it should do so; but that was really due to the general manager and his staff.

Mr John Mill (Port Chalmers), in seconding the vote of thanks, remarked that he for one knew that the interests of shareholders were carefully safeguarded by the present board of directors, the general manager, and the staff. The bank had been a great support to many a struggler. It had itself been helped by the Government, but now it was in a thoroughly sound position—a matter for the greatest satisfaction.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

The acting chairman (Mr Watson), in responding, said:—

On behalf of my colleagues and myself I thank you for your gratifying recognition of our services.

It is the fashion nowadays in some quarters to consider banking an easy enterprise, but the majority of you will remember that very different views were generally held at the beginning of the 30 years which it has taken to bring the Bank of New Zealand to its present position. We have not been without our difficulties and anxieties, and it is a pleasure to know that you appreciate our work.

The general manager (Mr H. Buckleton), in responding for himself and staff, endorsed what Mr Watson had said as to banking; it was not easy. There had been an immense volume of work done, and he was pleased to say that it had been well done by the very capable staff of the bank.

Mr George Shirlcliffe moved the following resolution:—

"In view of Mr Upton's retirement and his long record of service on the board of the bank, and through the board to the shareholders, this meeting passes a resolution of appreciation of his services, with an expression of goodwill and hope that he will have many years to enjoy his retirement."

The resolution was seconded by Mr T. Shailer Weston and carried unanimously.

Mr Watson stated that he would have pleasure in forwarding copy of the resolution to Mr Upton.

This closed the proceedings.



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

THE AMALGAMATED PRESS (1922), LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

INCREASED ADVERTISING REVENUE.

COMPANY'S PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Amalgamated Press (1922), Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon street, London, E.C.

Sir George A. Sutton, Bart. (chairman of the company), presided.

Mr J. R. Sumpter (joint secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—I assume the report and accounts will, as usual, be taken as read.

It is my pleasure to present to you to-day the balance-sheet of our last year's working, and, in view of the disturbed state of trade, increasing unemployment, and the unsettled state of the world in general, the year's result may be considered satisfactory. The profits, as you will have seen from the balance-sheet which has been placed before you, amount to £540,117 17s 7d.

SOUND FINANCIAL POLICY.

The one item in the balance-sheet which calls for explanation is that of investments. The directors thought it wise to invest the sum of £142,486 in the purchase of £150,000 4 per cent. Treasury bonds, 1933. This money, although invested, is available for the special requirements of the business, as short-dated trustee securities are always in demand, and could be immediately realised.

The balance of the increase is accounted for by the purchase of ordinary shares in the Imperial Paper Mills, Limited, to enable that successful company to complete their extensions, to which I shall refer later.

Our intention is to continue the conservative system of finance which has been the policy of this concern since its inception.

SUCCESSFUL NEW PUBLICATIONS.

During the year under review we have successfully established some 12 new publications, including fortnightly and annuals. As you know, it is our policy to take advantage of any new markets that open for fresh enterprise, or to meet changes in popular taste, and thus we started this year *Popular Music Weekly*. Its success was instantaneous, far exceeding our most sanguine expectations.

We also launched a new style of fashion journal in *Mab's Fashions*. Having secured the exclusive services of "Mabs," who is, perhaps, the best-known fashion artist in this country, *Mab's Fashions* appeared in the spring. It has taken a high place in the favour of the public, and what is equally important, it has been received enthusiastically by the large and increasing body of advertisers who support our fashion publications.

And since the financial year closed at the end of June last, we have launched, with every indication of enduring success, yet another magazine, the *Merry*. Although only two numbers have so far appeared, there is every evidence of its becoming the most popular and largely circulated magazine of its kind in the country.

"ANSWERS" AND "HOME CHAT."

In view of our numerous successful productions of recent date, it might seem invidious to quote the old tag that "old friends are best" as we turn to your older-established journals, but one can't help it in considering your old friend *Answers*, which was the foundation-stone of this great business. *Answers* still holds its unique position as the most up-to-date popular periodical in the country, and its revenue from advertisements last year was the largest in its history, while its net sales record speaks of its ever-increasing popularity.

Home Chat, with its net weekly sale of over 200,000 copies, maintains its unrivalled position as the most widely circulated woman's paper of its kind. Its net sales, of course, are available to any advertiser.

"CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA" AND "CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER."

The "Children's Encyclopedia," the new and entirely re-edited edition of which was started nearly two years ago, will shortly come to an end, having achieved a very notable success. Already circulating in French, Italian, Spanish, and other languages, new foreign editions of the later issue are in hand. Its weekly offshoot, the *Children's Newspaper*, is to be found in most of the homes of the country, where its arrival is eagerly looked forward to.

You would not expect me to go into details of the rest of your many papers, but I may mention that we have been pursuing generally a policy of solidifying all your existing periodicals.

The cost of efficiently maintaining these continues to increase, and working expenses, due to the continual upward trend in wages, are becoming greater each year, while markets are becoming more crowded each day.

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING.

An aspect of our work that is worthy of note is less concerned with financial success than with our reputation in the field of educational publishing. I refer here to our famous series of Harmsworth Encyclopedias. Let me just run over the list of those that have been issued since the spring of 1920. First the "Universal Encyclopedia" in 63 fortnightly parts, then "Harmsworth's New Atlas" in 40 parts; "Peoples of all Nations," 49 parts; "Household Encyclopedia," 42 parts; "Wonders of the Past," 24 parts; the "Wireless Encyclopedia," 24 parts; and the entirely new and extended edition, already noted, of that juvenile classic the "Children's Encyclopedia," in 54 parts. In no part of the globe where English is read are these splendid educational works not to be found—their circulation is as universal as their interests. Especially in the British Colonies are they esteemed both as fortnightly publications and in their subsequent continuous sale in volume form. The headmaster of an important Australian school wrote to the editor of the "Universal Encyclopedia" not long ago to say that for him, in common with many of his friends, the name "Harmsworth" had come to mean the hall-mark of a good publication, and his motto was, "If it's Harmsworth's, it's good."

"Countries of the World," another of this great series, was successfully launched last spring, and other ideas are ripening for early production, as no efforts will be spared to maintain our predominant position in this particular field, where it is not merely a question of profit, but of giving to the reading public a body of useful, recreative, and instructional literature which will remain a permanent distinction to the activities of this great publishing house.

A SELF-CONTAINED BUSINESS.

Last year I pointed out that this is a self-contained business, with its controlling interest in Timber Limits in Canada, its own paper mills at Gravesend, its vast printing and publishing factories, and its share-interest in the largest printing ink works in this country. The completion of the extensions of the Imperial Paper Mills makes that now the second largest paper mills in this country, with an output, approximately, of 2,000 tons a week, most of which is sold on the open market.

I mention these facts again in order to correct an erroneous impression so often published, that our entire profits are derived from the sale of periodicals and magazines.

Our printing is now concentrated in three extensive factories—two in South London and one at Gravesend—and during the past year we have been fortunate in being able to keep them occupied, thus contributing to greater efficiency, so essential in view of the increased cost of production, to which I have already referred.

ADVERTISEMENT REVENUE.

Turning now to the advertisement revenue, I would like to point out that the profit created by this side of the firm's activities is not responsible for so large a part of the company's total profits as many people may imagine.

It has always been our policy to sell advertising space at prices showing only a small margin over actual cost of production. In other words, our rates are reasonable and fair. Moreover, all space is sold on a net sale basis, and in every other respect we endeavour to give fair dealing and fair value for money.

It is for these reasons that an ever-widening circle of responsible advertisers and advertising agents consider your publications to be most excellent and profitable media. There is, indeed, no other periodical publishing house in the world which can offer (especially to the manufacturer of articles appealing to women) such a wide audience and such high publicity value.

Figures show most gratifyingly the extent to which the selling value of your magazines and periodicals is appreciated. Year by year the revenue from advertisements has grown. You will, I know, be pleased to hear that the total for the year under review has exceeded by 10 per cent. the total for the preceding year.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

Although the current year is not yet two months old, there are already indications which make it practically certain that the advertisement revenue for 1925 will show at least as great an increase over that for 1924 as 1924 showed over 1923.

New records have been established by many of your publications. *Answers'* revenue for the year was a sum far greater than the total for any other year of its long history; *Home Chat* showed a most notable increase; without an exception, each of the great group of domestic weeklies, *Woman's Weekly*, *Woman's World*, *Home Companion*, *Family Journal*—I need not name them all—beat its previous best.

Mab's Fashions, to which I have already alluded, has shown advertisers excellent results. It converts what was your trio of "large circulation" fashion monthlies into a quartet!

ADVERTISING CONVENTION.

One other word in connection with advertising. You have all read of the great Advertising Convention held last month at Wembley. This firm, like many others, lent moral and financial support towards the bringing to London of many hundreds of prominent business and advertising men and women from all over the world to discuss the practice and value of advertising. The results abundantly justify the efforts made. Apart from the fellowship and good will which the convention stimulated, I believe that on the practical side it achieved much. It directed the attention of the entire business community to the mission of advertising: increasing production by the encouragement of demand. There is no doubt that the most important result of the convention will be an all-round increase in the volume of advertising. By that increase your company, in common with other publishing houses, will largely benefit.

The outlook depends to a large extent on the settlement of European troubles and their natural effect upon unemployment in this country, and some relief from the present crushing taxation would encourage large manufacturing businesses such as ours to expand in many directions, and would enable private enterprise to become active once again.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

To the members of the staffs of our various departments we should like to convey our thanks, as well as those of the shareholders, for the loyal and enthusiastic way in which they have co-operated with your directors during this and other years.

To keep well abreast of the times and be enterprising, the directors realise they must encourage a young and up-to-date staff, and I believe we have just such a staff, and also one that is more efficient than that of any other similar firm.

In this connection it should be clearly realised that the maintenance of the profits depends upon initiative and ceaseless enterprise; the finding of new markets in place of those which may be waning, and developing existing ones on novel and up-to-date lines.

As to the future, I shall be faithful to the policy we have always adopted at these meetings, and not venture into the realms of prophecy. But this may be said: we have a very active autumn campaign in front of us, both in regard to our existing publications and also to new enterprises. More you will not expect me to say, in view of the rapidly increasing competition we have to face nowadays, but you may depend upon your directors, whose long association with the building up of this business is known to you, to take whatever steps in their expert opinion may be wise and necessary for its extension.

THE RESOLUTION.

I now have to move:—"That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts at June 30, 1924, be received, approved, and adopted, and that a final dividend for the year of 2s a share, less income-tax at 4s 6d in the £, be now declared on the ordinary shares." I will ask Mr Linforth, the vice-chairman of the company, to second the resolution.

Mr Arthur E. Linforth (vice-chairman): Gentlemen, I beg to second the resolution.

The Chairman: Has any shareholder any questions to ask?

SHAREHOLDERS' APPRECIATION.

Mr J. Harwood Panting: Mr Chairman, before the resolution is put to the meeting, I should like to have the pleasure of adding a few words of appreciation of the excellent report which you have just presented. In that report you say that "the cost of maintaining existing journals continues to increase, and working expenses are becoming greater each year." You might also have added another important factor—that competition from other enterprises grows fiercer and fiercer every year. In fact, there are gloomy prophets who are continually prophesying in face of this competition that the days of this company's success are numbered, and that, instead of being on the up-grade, the time is coming, if it has not already come, when it will be on the down-grade.

The best answer to these gloomy prophets and prophecies is the report you have just presented. There is no nonsense about figures: they are cold, stubborn facts—facts which cannot be argued away. Well, sir, what do we find? In spite of fierce competition, this company still comes up smiling each year; indeed, the record of one year, as you have said, is excelled by the next, until this year it has again beaten its own record. To what are these results attributable? They are attributable, in the first place, to you, Sir George, to your colleague Mr Linforth, and to your co-directors and the admirable crew under your command. You are the pilot on the bridge, on the watch for storms and rocks, so that the ship may be steered into the port of safety and success. It is to these qualities that this company owes its success; they mean success to the company, dividends for the shareholders, and, last but not least, good wages and employment for thousands of workers. Gentlemen, these are results of which any company might be proud.

THE RESERVE FUND.

Mr Arthur Bennett (Warrington): As a small shareholder from the North of England, I should like to add my tribute both to the chairman for his able address and to the directors generally for the admirable statement of accounts they have submitted to us this morning. It is hardly a criticism, but it occurs to one that the reserve fund might be increased to advantage. It is relatively small when one looks at the very large figures incorporated in the balance-sheet. The directors are more competent to express an opinion than I am, but, in view of possible contingencies, I should like to see in future a somewhat larger reserve fund. Apart from that, I view the balance-sheet with complete satisfaction, and I hope and believe we shall see year by year increasing prosperity for this great company.

The Chairman: With regard to the question put by the last speaker, you must remember that this is really the Amalgamated Press (1922), Limited, so that the company is only two years old. As a matter of fact, we have every intention of increasing the reserve fund.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr Charles Steele: I shall have pleasure in proposing the reappointment of Messrs Turquand, Youngs, and Co., and Messrs E. Layton Bennett, Sons and Co. as auditors of the company for the ensuing year.

Mr E. S. Baring-Gould: I have pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to, and, the Chairman having thanked the shareholders for their attendance, the proceedings terminated.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK, LIMITED.

STEADY AND SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Limited, was held, on the 29th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the London office was now well established, and showed steady and satisfactory development. Acceptances were growing slowly but steadily, great care being taken in the selection of that business which was most strictly limited to transactions genuinely reflecting the movement of commodities. Its expansion was a fair indication of a general improvement of trade conditions in Central Europe. Operating as the board did in six Continental countries, they naturally watched with sympathy, and assisted, to the best of their power, any movement toward the restoration of normal conditions and the increase of production. Last year he had taken the opportunity to recount briefly the story of Austria's transformation in 1922 from her apparently hopeless post-war position to a state of hopefulness and self-confidence.

The year 1923 had been characterised by a general tendency to further consolidation, and in 1924 the process of re-establishment was carried one step further. After lengthy negotiations the scheme for the financial reconstruction of Hungary under League supervision had been finally approved by all those concerned, and in June and July, 1924, the £12,000,000 Reconstruction Loan was, with the co-operation of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, successfully placed in the 45 different lending countries. Hungary was pre-eminently an agricultural nation, and her recovery was therefore much less dependent than Austria's upon factors outside her own control. The bank's branch in Budapest had enjoyed a most successful year.

JUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY.

Another very important step forward had been the conclusion of a treaty between Yugoslavia and Italy, which, by settling the Fiume question, had removed a cause of grave economic and

	New Zealand.				Buying.		Selling.	
	Buying.		Selling.					
	Aus- tra-lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra-lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra-lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra-lia.	New Zeal'nd
T.T.	100	98	100	101	97	..	98	100
Demand	100	98	100	101	97	..	98	100
30 days	98	96	..	..	96	97	96	98
60 days	98	96	..	..	96	97	96	98
90 days	98	97	..	..	95	96	97	98

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended August 27, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
	£	To—	£
France	2,595	Sweden	315,700
British South Africa	100,523	Norway	281
Other countries	1,400	Belgium	733
		Bombay, via other Ports	8,700
		Other countries	750
Total declared value of imports	104,518	Total declared value of exports	326,174

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write as follows on August 27th:—

GOLD.

Owing to the large amounts shipped direct from Durban to India recently, the offerings of gold here this week were very small, and were readily absorbed for India. The following figures relate to Indian trade (private account) for July, 1924 (in lacs of rupees):—

	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.
Merchandise	2,593	1,998	595	..
Gold	1	175	..	174
Silver	25½	148½	..	123½
Total net exports	2,597	2,221	595	297½

SILVER.

The market keeps in good heart. America has been more inclined to buy than sell on most days. Bear covering—Indian or otherwise—and some intermittent inquiries from the Continent have provided support. Selling has come from speculative quarters, but not so much from China as in the preceding weeks.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	July 31.	Aug. 7.	Aug. 15.
Notes in circulation	17,624	17,623	17,653
Silver coin and bullion in India	8,257	8,258	8,258
Silver coin and bullion out of India	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government)	5,735	5,733	5,733
Securities (British Government)	1,400	1,400	1,400

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 23rd inst. consisted of about 43,200,000 ounces in sycee, 46,000,000 dollars, and 1,910 silver bars, as compared with about 42,900,000 ounces in sycee, 45,500,000 dollars, and 1,910 silver bars on the 16th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver. Cash.
		Cash.	Forward.		
Aug. 23....	91 8	34½	34½	Sept. 7, 1918..	49½
25....	92 1	34½	34½	5, 1919..	58½
26....	92 3	34½	34½	3, 1920..	59
27....	92 0	34½	34½	2, 1921..	38½
28....	92 1	34½	34½	1, 1922..	35½
29....	92 1	34½	34½	Aug. 31, 1923..	30½

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January	283,794	240,056	261,310	250,880
February	288,225	304,488	237,018	233,212
March	134,932	257,356	211,379	236,166
April	282,396	265,591	232,765	256,352
May	225,841	273,562	248,870	275,826
June	258,800	247,161	253,226	234,697
July	279,269	263,918	244,848	262,236
August	265,151	271,142	232,546	..
September	271,452	240,846	255,107	..
October	363,374	255,619	246,616	..
November	306,636	251,646	246,943	..
December	267,005	240,084	240,531	..
Total Gold	3,217,275	3,111,469	2,909,159	..

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

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Aug. 22, 1924.	(c) Week ended Aug. 23, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Aug. 24, 1924.			Aggregate 34 Weeks, 1924.		
			Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	387,000	344,000	731,000	9,034,000	1,133,800	20,374,000	21,508,000
Do for 1923	3,747	363,000	322,000	685,000	8,999,000	1,196,800	21,067,000	22,263,000
London & North-Eastern	6,722	589,000	688,000	1,277,000	15,201,000	2,294,900	38,150,000	40,445,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	569,000	659,000	1,228,000	15,252,000	2,482,000	40,073,000	42,555,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,942	828,000	885,000	1,713,000	21,853,000	2,913,000	50,384,000	53,297,000
Do for 1923	6,942	784,000	823,000	1,607,000	21,859,000	3,069,000	52,488,000	55,547,000
Southern	2,146	448,500	115,700	564,200	11,350,000	1,821,200	15,171,000	16,992,000
Do for 1923	2,146	421,700	117,400	539,100	11,513,000	1,809,000	15,524,000	17,333,000
Metropolitan (c)	79	42,601	4,285	46,886	1,294,857	131,358	1,426,211	1,557,068
Do for 1923	79	30,888	3,682	34,570	1,081,537	127,422	1,208,955	1,336,487
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	243,226	..	..	7,994,29	7,994,29
Do for 1923	..	..	..	219,854	..	..	7,665,74	7,665,74
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	40,001	..	..	1,306,75	1,306,75
Do for 1923	..	..	..	39,631	..	..	1,371,81	1,371,81
Belmont & Co. Down (b)	80	5,562	1,131	6,693	161,708	42,085	203,79	265,883
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	8,403	3,437	11,840	212,010	119,456	331,26	450,666
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b)	562	23,800	19,200	43,000	651,150	653,000	1,304,15	1,955,300
Gt. Sth. & Western (b)	1,151	35,952	25,836	61,788	808,484	1,043,078	1,851,56	2,891,562
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	12,183	13,613	25,796	314,323	477,764	792,08	1,086,887

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	17weeks	July 26	1,072	Rs. 2,69,000	+ 39,921	Rs. 43,28,871	+ 636,984
Barsi Lt. Ry.	18weeks	Aug. 2	118	24,800	+ 11,600	7,52,300	+ 53,700
Bengal & N. Western ..	17weeks	July 26	2,062	5,58,830	+ 11,347	14,37,000	+ 3,55,930
Bengal Nagpur	17weeks	..	26	14,76,000	+ 60,000	2,66,94,660	+ 21,54,730
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	21weeks	Aug. 23	..	19,31,000	+ 3,77,000	4,82,70,000	+ 44,43,000
Burma	17weeks	July 26	1,342	5,69,710	+ 51,403	1,18,37,926	+ 2,33,950
Calcutta, Umballa & Kalka	20weeks	Aug. 16	239	96,000	+ 15,725	20,73,554	+ 61,540
East Indian	20weeks	..	16	2,873	+ 8,07,000	7,00,22,000	+ 47,16,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	20weeks	..	23	3,175	+ 21,90,400	4,15,300	5,88,53,071
Madras & S. Mahr.	18weeks	..	3	3,029	+ 13,80,000	42,154	2,87,35,564
Robikid & Kumaon ..	17weeks	July 26	259	56,957	+ 13,769	11,11,866	+ 1,24,960
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	17weeks	..	26	54,730	+ 407	15,26,818	+ 1,13,310
South Indian	15weeks	..	12	1,877	+ 10,54,143	55,629	1,55,30,561

ARGENTINE (a).

Argentine N.E.	8 weeks	Aug. 23	754	12,400	+	600	97,800	+	10,61
Argentine Trans.	6 weeks	9		2,463		661	14,051		5,41
B. A. and Pacific	8 weeks	23	3,562	162,000	+	32,000	1,284,000	+	220,01
B. A. Gt. Southern	8 weeks	23	3,948	203,000	+	34,000	1,533,000	+	263,00
B. A. Western	8 weeks	23	1,882	100,000	+	18,000	537,000	+	189,01
			Net	36,000		19,000	279,000		171,00
Central Argentine	8 weeks	23	3,305	223,000	+	24,000	1,773,000	+	327,01
Cordoba Central	8 weeks	23	1,205	74,000	+	5,500	586,100	+	38,30
Entre Rios	8 weeks	23	729	21,200	+	3,400	161,000	+	33,50

CANADIAN.

Canadian National..	33 weeks	Aug. 21	22,680	4,135,849	- 788,660	147,063,552	- 4,251,929
Canadian Pacific....	33 weeks	21	13,814	3,116,000	- 402,000	108,118,000	+ 1,014,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Gt. West. of Brasil	34 weeks	Aug. 23	1,011	6,900 +	800	296,400 -	21.3
Leopoldina	34 weeks	23	1,831	35,395 +	2,805	979,774 +	135.3
San Paulo	34 weeks	24	1,554	36,862 -	1,388	1,221,718 +	261.8

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta	34 weeks	Aug. 24	838	41,835 +	4,040	1,271,335 +	58,490
Nitrato (4-monthly)	32 weeks	15	366	40,020 +	5,981	604,034 +	96,228

CUBAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Havana Central	8 weeks	Aug. 23	..	12,066	+ 941	92,222	+ 1,228
United of Havana	8 weeks	..	23	1,249	+ 66,653	534,503	+ 61,438

URUGUAYAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Central Uruguay	8 weeks	Aug. 23	273	20,086	+ 1,705	169,868	+ 8,676
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	8 weeks	..	23	3,478	+ 502	30,812	+ 2,358
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	8 weeks	..	23	1,227	+ 350	17,024	+ 1,203
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	8 weeks	..	23	2,641	+ 574	18,330	+ 3,680

OTHER OVERSEAS.

OVERSEAS.									
Alooy and Gandia	34 weeks	Aug. 23	33	18,000—	2,000	801,000 +	78,200	844	844
Egyptian Delta	18 weeks		10	575	7,980 +	639	95,928	8,445	8,445
Gt. Southern of Spain	30 weeks		16	104	Pa112,112 +	58,581	3,382,818	383,770	383,770
Mexican Railway	7 weeks		21	432	\$257,500 +	25,100	1,870,000	49,700	49,700
New Cape Central	31 weeks		21	205	2,256 +	43	84,627	9	9
Paraguay Central	8 weeks		23	274	4,280 +	390	35,070	8,180	8,180
Salvador	8 weeks		23	100	2,368 +	267	20,440	1,430	1,430
(a) Converted as above.									

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine....	34 weeks	Aug. 26	329	£84,792	+ 3,225	2,954,176	+ 101,849
Burnley Corporation	1 week	23	12	£2,083	+ 115	..	..
Calcutta Tramways.	34 weeks	23	35	Rs12,699	+ 1,32,222	..	+ 6,45,218
Chatham & District	28 weeks	July 10	15	1,646	208	37,509	4,946
Egyptian Markets ..	34 weeks	Aug. 21	..	£1,493	+ 49	68,856	+ 5,342
Glasgow Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tramways	12 weeks	23	106	£42,780	1,352	519,715	+ 16,225
Isle of Rhénet Trms	16 weeks	13	..	£4,705	74	97,393	+ 5,342
Lanarkshire Trams	33 weeks	21	288	1,614	65	47,599	+ 5,342
Liverpool Corpora	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
tion Tramways ..	21 weeks	23	124	£24,711	2,267	522,144	+ 56,949
L.C.C. Tramways ..	21 weeks	27	163	77,126	6,103	1,701,710	+ 154,474
Madras Elec. S wks	36 weeks	15	..	Rs 49,316	3,860	7,67,080	19,473
Pernambuco Trams	34 weeks	24	..	£3,875	+ 586	148,508	+ 24,342
Singapore Trams ..	29 weeks	23	..	£14,391	+ 2,644	416,457	+ 110,342

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distri- bution.	Appropriation.						Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divid- end.	
					Prefee.	Ordinary.						
						Amount.	Amount.					Rate.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Banks.												
Anglo-Austrian	Dec. 31	20,620	85,033	105,653	24,000				81,653	45,621	..	
Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	754,535	735,832	1,490,367	137,436	349,871	13½ (b)	496,547	506,513	553,639	13½	
Bank of Victoria	June 30	27,439	193,739	221,178	37,508	95,512	9	53,000	35,158	183,706	9	
Commercial Bank of Australia ..	June 30	44,786	264,542	309,328	84,694	57,732	15	101,948	64,954	234,419	15	
Queensland National	June 30	18,177	176,388	194,565	..	137,880	12½	40,000	16,685	149,350	12½	
Breweries.												
Colchester Brewing	June 30	5,066	22,259	27,325	11,000	9,976	8	..	6,349	18,421	7½	
Gas.												
Cork Gas	June 30*	..	4,844	4,844	..	3,290	8	458	1,096	5,506	8	
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.												
Smedley's Hydropathic	July 31	4,221	11,717	15,938	1,125	7,500	12½†	2,500	4,813	12,846	12½†	
Iron, Coal, and Steel.												
Brightside Foundry, &c.	June 30	644	2,058	2,702	2,250	5,000	5†	Dr 5,000	452	..	..	
Walter Scott	June 30	5,094	6,722	11,816	..	..	..	7,531	4,285	67,274	2½	
Rubber.												
Djaboong (Java)	Mar. 31	314	978	1,292	..	..	..	500	792	..	..	
Trusts.												
Glasgow American	June 30	947	8,309	9,256	2,790	4,185	7½	1,000	1,281	9,153	7½	
Second Alliance	June 30	4,528	26,482	31,010	5,929	11,199	17	8,607	5,275	..	..	
Waterworks.												
Woking Water and Gas	June 30*	5,998	6,769	12,767	..	6,471	9 7	250	6,046	5,686	6½	
Other Companies.												
Bradford Coal Merchants	Mar. 31	4,099	11,736	15,835	5,500	7,489	5	..	2,846	..	..	
Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph	Mar. 31	10,618	1,202	11,820	3,600	1,800	3	..	6,420	7,455	6	
W. H. Chaplin and Co.	Mar. 31	16,562	41,419	57,981	5,000	20,000	10	10,000	22,981	40,876	10	

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

(b) Last year the ordinary dividend absorbed £300,000.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1923-24, 1922-23, 1921-22, and 1920-21:—

	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Aug. 23	Cwts. 24,053	Cwts. 216,073	Cwts. 76,230	Cwts. 397,128
51 weeks to Aug. 23	12,768,073	17,184,937	16,216,226	13,274,149
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 11	s d 9 2	s d 11 3½	s d 15 2

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Aug. 16	Cwts. 25,245	Cwts. 3,222	Cwts. 12,556	s d 12 11	s d 13 2	s d 9 7
Aug. 23	24,053	26,899	28,756	12 11	14 3	9 3
1920	66,176	25,554	40,159	21 2	21 11	19 10
1921	397,127	85,761	54,046	15 1	16 8	11 6
1922	76,230	5,818	23,071	11 5	11 0	10 3
1923	216,073	21,914	47,488	9 2	8 8	8 4

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated August 28th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The anticipated improvement, expected after the holidays, has not matured, and business is very quiet indeed. Makers try to maintain the price of No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. at 83s per ton and mixed numbers hematite at 92s per ton, but these prices could no doubt be shaded for prompt business. Manufactured iron and steel: The local steel works have partly resumed operations, but complain of lack of specifications and a dearth of new business. Prices are unchanged at: Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9 10s. Iron ore: There is practically no new business, but sellers are offering various ores on the basis of 22s 6d per ton for best Bilbao Rubio ore.

Our Sheffield Correspondent writes:—The reactionary tendency in crude iron and steel continues, and with three-fourths of the steel-making plant of the district idle through a strike, business has reached an extremely low ebb. Several more large furnaces have been out, and some hundreds of men paid off this week. Unemployment has been increasing of late, chiefly in the heavy branches, and the position in this respect is a good deal worse than a month ago. Buying of pig-iron, billets, wire rods, and iron and steel bars is at a standstill apart from oddments, and production exceeds sale in all directions. Prices also continue unsatisfactory, and for weeks the production of mild steel has been a losing proposition. The rolling mills have next to nothing to do in the rod department, but are fairly busy on sheets, for which there is a considerable export demand. The steel foundries and forges are moderately employed on orders from the engineering and shipbuilding branches. The demand for motor and railway

steel continues fairly large and steady. A distinct recovery is noticeable in crucible steels, although the improvement is confined to a limited number of firms, and the position is still very far short of normal. Some satisfaction is, however, to be obtained from the knowledge that the movement is in the right direction. The hand tool and file branches are well employed, but buying on behalf of the collieries is easier. Conditions in plate and cutlery are mixed, a feature of the trade being the poverty of demand for medium priced goods. The sale of the cheapest wares is on a very large scale, and expensive silver and cutlery goods can find a market. Between these grades trade is at a low ebb. The coal market has recovered somewhat from the effects of the holidays, but is on a very restricted scale, and the immediate outlook is the reverse of satisfactory. Some little improvement in coke is reported. Quotations per ton at pits are:—Best hand-picked branch, 32s to 34s; Barnsley best Silkstones, 26s to 28s; Yorkshire hard, 21s 6d to 23s 6d; Derbyshire ditto, 21s to 22s; Blyth ditto, 20s 6d to 21s 6d; Durham ditto, 24s; rough slacks, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; smalls, 6s to 8s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Consumers are very sparing in their commitments for iron and steel, and there seems to be a spell of hesitancy on the part of traders generally, inconsistent with the more cheerful position in international politics and with the hopes of steadier trade conditions that were expected to arise therefrom. Whatever the cause, the iron and steel trade is experiencing a rather depressing period. Scotch pig-iron makers are curtailing output, and prices are lower. Heavy steel makers are in want of orders to keep the mills going, and merchants connected with the export trade state the demand in several directions is extremely poor. Arising from the fact that Continental competition is now very much less severe than was the case a few months ago, and the placing of one or two fairly good shipbuilding and structural orders this week, there is reason to believe that a good deal more buying will be heard of in plates and sections very shortly. Makers of semi-finished steel are benefiting to some extent by the activity in the light section and sheet trades. The latter continues busy, the demand from various overseas markets being steady, and home consumers' requirements for both black and galvanised sheets show no falling off. The galvanised corrugated sheet trade is in a flourishing condition, the exports being very heavy to all markets. India, the largest consumer, is now anxiously inquiring, and it is anticipated that good tonnages will shortly be placed for that market, but delivery cannot be given before the end of November. Shipbuilding orders placed recently include three steamers for the St. Lawrence River, to be built by Messrs Napier and Miller, and to be engined by Messrs D. Rowan and Co., and two steamers for British Columbia, which are to be built by the Montrose Shipbuilding Company.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

The fear that some of the consuming industries which closed down for the holidays might be slow in restarting has, unhappily, been realised, and the result is that the weakness in the Cumberland and North Lancashire hematite pig-iron trade has become accentuated. The markets in which smelters can sell their iron are smaller, the local and Midland absorption having considerably diminished, while the Scotch, South Wales, and Continental outlets are more constricted than ever, and though there are only 11 furnaces in blast between Workington and Carnforth, iron is now having to be put into stock. The worst of it is that there appears

to be little, if any, prospect of any improvement in the early autumn, and some makers are almost resigned to having further to curtail their output. Consumers are pressing for lower prices, but so far no substantial concessions have been yielded, though there is undoubtedly a shading of the figures quoted for Bessemer mixed numbers—viz., £5 5s per ton delivered at Glasgow, £5 10s per ton delivered at Sheffield, and £5 15s per ton delivered at Birmingham. Special and semi-special qualities of iron are in similarly quiet request, and manganese alloys command no brisk market, and ferro is lower at £13 10s per ton, f.o.b. There is nothing of importance doing in the steel trade, rail orders being very difficult to come by, and operations at the rail mill at Workington, which happens to be working this week, are of a spasmodic character. Native hematite ore is in demand only by the local smelters, and few of the mines are raising a normal output. Superior sorts of low-phosphoric ore are 21s 6d to 23s 6d per ton, and ordinary kinds 16s 6d to 17s 6d per ton. The coal trade has seldom, if ever, been slacker. Three collieries—Camerton, Oughterside, and Allhallows—are idle, but the production of the remaining pits is ample to meet requirements. Irish business continues to be exceedingly poor, merchants across-Channel preferring the cheaper Scotch coal, even if it is not as good quality as is obtainable here. Best round for export is 25s per ton, f.o.b., a figure nearly 4s per ton in excess of the Scotch price. House nuts are lower at 23s 6d, and steam nuts 22s per ton, f.o.b. Gas coal is 25s per ton, f.o.b., and to local consumers 29s to 30s at works. There is not much call locally for industrial fuel; best steam is 30s, and washed steam 29s, delivered. The make of coke is being taken by the West Cumberland and Furness smelters at 24s 6d to 25s 6d per ton, according to carbon content. East Coast coke supplies this week are 4,900 tons.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—A comparatively quiet tone has prevailed on the coal market this week. Best Admiralty large coals continue in short supply, and with the demand fully maintained, quotations are firm at recent levels. In other sections, inquiries circulate on a restricted scale, and new business materialises slowly. A number of collieries are carrying heavy supplies, and in the absence of adequate support, prices are slightly easier. This irregularity in prices is mainly for prompt loading, as, for business on forward account, most collieries quote at slightly enhanced figures, in anticipation of the expected autumnal improvement in demand.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s 6d to 29s; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s; best dries, 26s to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 26s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 25s; best bunker smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s 6d to 15s 6d; coking smalls, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; big vein large, 52s to 53s; machine-made cobbles, 60s to 62s 6d; French nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; stove nuts, 52s 6d to 57s 6d; rubbly culm, 12s to 12s 3d; coke for export, 50s to 52s 6d; inland blast-furnace coke at

ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s; pitwood, ex ship, 30s to 31s. A moderate amount of new business is passing in Welsh tinplates. The Far East and India have bought substantially, but the Continental inquiry remains quiet. Tinplate bars have been reduced 3s 6d per ton to the fixed rate of £8 0s 9d per ton, f.o.b., less 7s 6d rebate to the tinworks, and buyers are now induced to cover their requirements at these new rates.

METALS.

Tin commenced the week with an easier tone, due to selling pressure, but later values improved on buyers becoming more prominent. Standard cash sold at £255 to £250 5s to £253 10s, and three months £256 to £256 15s to £250 to £254 7s 6d to £254. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £255 c.i.f. At Thursday's market rates ruled firmer, though top points were not maintained. Standard cash sold at £255 5s to £256 to £255 15s, and three months £257 to £257 10s to £256 to £256 15s to £255. Tin closed irregular and easier. Standard, cash, sold at £253 to £254 and three months £254 to £254 10s. to £253 10s to £254 15s to £254 10s. English ingots quoted £255. Copper market ruled easier on liberal offerings, combined with lower American advances, with business on a fairly good scale. Standard cash sold at £63 5s to £62 13s 9d to £63 2s 6d, and three months £64 10s to £63 13s 9d to £64 3s 9d to £64 1s 3d. The tendency was fully steady at Thursday's market, while business proceeded with freedom. Standard cash sold at £63 to £63 3s 9d, three months £64 to £64 3s 9d. A quiet tone prevailed at the close, with prices on balance barely steady. Standard, cash, quoted at £63 2s 6d to £63 5s, with three months dealt in at £64 2s 6d to £64 3s 9d. Electros, £67 10s to £68; best selected, £66 15s to £68; strong sheets, £94; wire bars, £68 per ton. Lead easier, and quoted at £32 13s 9d to £32 3s 9d, as to position. Spelter dearer at £33 5s to £32 17s 6d, according to position. Aluminium home £125, export £130. Antimony steady. English regulus £44 10s to £50.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 22, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.		Same Period 1922.	
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.
American	1353	1478	1608	1778	1878	1433	1489	1564	1230	1315
Brazilian	1483	1633	1733	..	..	1483	1633	1733	..	..
Pernam, Macao, &c.	1483	1633	1733	..	..	1483	1633	1733	..	..
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1483	1633	1733	..	..	1483	1633	1733	..	..
Ceara, &c.	1483	1633	1733	..	..	1483	1633	1733	..	..
São Paulo	1508	1558	1608	..	..	1429	1479	..	1220	1300
Egyptian	Fr. G. 1478	Fr. G. 1608	Fr. G. 1778	Fr. G. 1878	Fr. G. 1433	Fr. G. 1489	Fr. G. 1564	Fr. G. 1230	Fr. G. 1315	Fr. G. 1385
Upper	1925	2200	2265	2330	2390	1565	1625	1665	1325	1400
Sakelardis	2120	2505	2555	2670	2765	1550	1625	1765	1500	1725
Brown	1565	2240	2305	2370	2430	1565	1625	1690	1350	1475
Peruvian	1483	1633	1733	..	..	1483	1633	1733	..	..
Rough	1250	1300	1400	..	..	1250	1300	1400	..	..
Modestly Rough	1250	1300	1400	..	..	1250	1300	1400	..	..
Smooth	1658	1733	1808	1858	1883	1479	1554	1654	1305	1455
Tangula	1658	1733	1808	1858	1883	1479	1554	1654	1305	1455
Minatiti	2000	2150	2250	2350	..	1525	1625	..	1150	1450
West Indian, &c.	1700	1750	1800	..	..	1575	..	..	1300	..
Do Sea Island	2400	2550	2750	2900	..	1900	2500	..	2300	2900
African, East, &c.	1370	1470	1620	1720	1785	1100	1250	1450	1125	1300
Do West	1470	1620	1720	1785	1840	1100	1250	1450	1125	1300
East Indian	1583	1693	1803	1883	1933	1479	1554	1654	1305	1455
Machine Ginned Surtee	1505	1545	1585	..	..	1375	..	..	1265	..
Machine Ginned Broach	1200	1240	1280	1320	1360	1120	1160	1240	1095	1125
Machine Ginned Bhowanagar	1080	1130	1180	1230	1280	940	990	1090	985	1035
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1	1090	1140	1190	1240	1290	950	1000	1100	995	1045
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2	1165	1215	1265	1315	..	975	1075	..	1020	1100
Machine Ginned Khandelah	1090	1140	1190	1240	1290	900	950	1050	945	995
Machine Ginned Comptah	1255	1295	..	..	..	1155	..	..	1105	..
Machine Ginned Bengal	1065	1095	1135	1175	1215	865	905	985	875	955
Machine Ginned Seinde	1045	1085	1125	1165	1205	855	895	975	825	945
Machine Ginned	1355	1395	1435	..	..	1290	1330	..	1265	1305
American-Scinde, Punjab	1205	1280	1360	1440	..	1060	1130	..	1040	1080
M. G. Western	1245	1285	1325	..	..	1205	1245	1285	..	..
Western	1205	1245	1285	..	..	1255	..	..	1105	..
M. G. Northern	1270	1310	1350	..	..	1270	..	..	1105	..
Northern	1270	..	..	..	..	1270	..	..	1105	..
M. G. Oconada, Red	Fr. 1245	..	..	..	..	1130	..	..	1065	..
China, Szechuan, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MANCHESTER, August 28.

A quieter state of affairs has prevailed in the market during the past week. The tendency of raw cotton prices has been easier, and bearish sentiment in Lancashire is now more pronounced than has been the case for some time back. Many buyers have held aloof in anticipation of a lower level of values being registered in the near future. At the same time, the outlook with regard

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Aug. 28, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Aug. 21.	Price, Aug. 14.	Price, Aug. 7.	Price, July 30.	Price, July 24.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	15-40	16-33	17-08	17-27	19-37	18-60
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair						
— Egyptian	25-15	25-85	26-15	25-45	26-15	25-15
Yarns—32's twist	24 1/2	25	25 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2	26
— 40's twist	25 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	27 1/2	26 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2	37 1/2	36
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	34 6	35 0	35 0	35 0	36 37 9	36 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	38 9	39 3	39 3	40 9	42 0	41 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	20 3	20 6	21 0	21 0	21 6	21 0
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.	18 9	19 0	19 6	19 6	20 0	19 6

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Aug. 28, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	15-40	15-30	15-76	10-76	22-60	19-21
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair						
— Egyptian	25-15	16-65	18-00	18-00	67-00	30-00
Yarns—32's twist	24 1/2	21	20 1/2	18	51	41
— 40's twist	25 1/2	21	19 1/2	16 1/2	46 1/2	40 1/2
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35 1/2	29	28 1/2	31	90	61
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	34 6	30 6	32 6	31 0	78 6	59 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	38 9	34 0	32 6	30 6	76 0	57 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs.	20 3	18 3	17 3	18 0	45 6	34 6
39-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs.	18 9	16 6	17 0	17 0	37 6	30 3

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The market has become more active during the last few days, and a big turnover has been done in wool and tops. Stocks of merino wool and tops are now very low, and some firms have nothing to offer. In sympathy with the improved demand, prices of practically all qualities have moved to a higher level, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to buy. Good warp 64's tops are about 1d dearer on the week, and are now quoted at 76d, with some sellers wanting more. Super 60's are firm at 68d, 56's average at 48d, 46's carded at 28 1/2d, and 40's prepared at 27 1/2d per lb. Spinners are showing more interest in tops, but the recent advances have been dictated more by the general expectation of dearer wool than by increased activity among spinners and manufacturers. There has been some improvement in the demand for yarn lately, but orders are few and far between, and no great weight is taken at a time. Moreover, it is still impossible to make prices to cover replacement costs. In sympathy with the advance in wool and tops, however, spinners are now endeavouring to make more money, and in most cases quotations have been advanced for both botany and crossbred yarns. A settlement of the German problem would bring immediate relief to the yarn trade here, for it is known that a considerable amount of business is being held up on account of the political situation and the financial stringency. Some manufacturers report a rather better week, inquiry both on home and export account having been more general. It is still a struggle to make prices in harmony with the cost of production, and the cheaper lines continue to be favoured. Home-grown wools are very firmly held, and prices show a hardening tendency.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

There is generally a spirit of hopefulness abroad regarding the forthcoming London sales, and already it is a foregone conclusion that a sensible advance will take place both in merinos and crossbreds. A 10 per cent. advance is very freely forecasted, and some expect even more in the case of merinos. If the business done during the past month is anything to go by, we daresay an all-round advance of 10 per cent. will be justified, but one wonders how much actual consumption is responsible for the business done, and so far as the West Riding is concerned it is doubtful if more spindles and looms are running than in July. Judging by the increasing unemployment, it would appear as if consumption is contracting and not expanding. That, we are sorry to say, offers no explanation of the big business which Bradford merchants and top-makers have done during recent weeks, and we must look further afield for the real source of the demand for wool. We are satisfied that America has purchased considerable quantities, the big, well-known mill trust having bought considerable weights of both merino and crossbred wool at the lowest point of the market. In fact, the beginning of the improvement is directly traceable to the action of America, big weights of wool, noils, and wastes being secured before the advance really commenced.

Then, again, the Continent has shown unmistakable signs of awakening, and considerable private sales have been effected by Coleman Street selling brokers at sensible advances. Hopes are largely concentrated upon an increased Continental demand rather than on any augmented inquiry from America, and everything seems to indicate healthier manufacturing conditions both in France and Germany as the result of the London Agreement. It is to-day a well-known fact that stocks of merino wool in Bradford are practically nil—at least half-a-dozen of the biggest topmakers have nothing to offer in botany tops. Therefore, a new season is about to open with clean-swept boards, and with buyers keen to operate. Naturally, the high standard of values ruling to-day is a serious factor, but the trade cannot stand still and users refuse to operate because prices are not on a level which altogether suits buyers' ideas.

We believe that, notwithstanding to-day's somewhat high and dangerous standard of prices, the world demand for wool will be as pronounced as ever, and users will be in the market to buy at current rates.

Messrs Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited, ask us to state that the date of their second sale at Adelaide will be October 10th.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The timber trade has been more than usually slow this holiday month, the quietness being accentuated by the trouble in the building trade. Since the previous report on the market in the *Economist* large supplies of building woods have been imported from Finland, Sweden, Russia, to name the largest in their order of importance, with good supplies from Latvia and Poland. Prices for European woods on the spot have been unsteady, on account of the moderate demand, large stocks, and the fact that there have been more sellers than buyers; but one satisfactory feature is that, as customary, there have been no public sales this month, and therefore no opportunity of forcing wood on an overwrought market. With their resumption early next month the building trade, it is hoped, will have got once more into its stride with an increased demand after weeks of idleness, and the close of the holiday season should bring a resumed call for timber for work of a general character in almost all industries. In the free-on-board market the position is, perhaps, less gloomy than on the spot. Here importers and merchants are confronted with large stocks, but recent f.o.b. sales have been few, and arrivals will taper off considerably for weeks to come. Foreign exporters, however, are still holding fairly large balances; at a conservative estimate, Sweden and Finland have still between them some 400,000 Petrograd standards still unsold; and as this country, the largest buyer, is full up and "fed-up" with supplies, and the Continental consuming markets are quiet, it seems that sellers will have to offer still further inducements to attract business unless a sudden demand sets in. A feature of the free-on-board market again worthy of notice is the increased supplies of building and joinery timber from Russia to this country this year—267,000 loads, compared with 80,500 loads for the seven months of 1923 and 61,400 loads in 1922—and also compared with Finland's total this year of 422,000 loads and Sweden's 392,000 loads. In Canadian spruce the demand on the West Coast, where this wood is largely used for building purposes, has been poor, but there is a little improvement in the packing-case trade, which has assisted the consumption. In American pitch-pine buyers have not yet become reconciled to the small advanced quotations, shipbuilding being in such a poor condition, while stocks here show an increase. In the furniture woods market the demand is still of a dull character. Very large supplies, particularly of oak, and to a lesser extent of mahogany, poplar, ash, and "satin walnut," in boards and planks, have arrived from the States, with fair supplies of birch from

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH

DIRECT TO

NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

August 30	-	-	ss. "PARIS."
September 6	-	-	ss. "FRANCE."
September 13	-	-	ss. "LAFAYETTE."
September 20	-	-	ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

Canada. In mahogany logs sellers are firm in their prices, stocks in first hands are lightly held, and not much is expected to come forward, but even for this highly prized wood buyers at late July sales showed an inclination to hold off, many logs being withdrawn; but the holiday period and the building lock-out may have been factors that will be non-existent when the mahogany sales are resumed next month. For colliery timber the imports are considerably less than a year ago, depression in the coal trade being the cause, but market prices are stated to be firmly held, and stocks at the collieries comparatively small.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets generally have taken a distinctly easier turn. Following a decline in seed, linseed oil has been a falling market, current value of raw, ex Hull mill, now being about £41 on spot and around £40 for September-December delivery. Prices on a good home trade and a fair export demand, in which America figured, sharply advanced to £42, but the gain has since been lost, further inquiries from U.S.A. not having fructified. Cotton oils have been in better demand, except for common edible, which is slightly easier. Crude Egyptian offers freely at £42, ex Hull mill. Rather more inquiry has been experienced for soya oil. In the oilseed section prices of Plate linseed have been affected by better weather reports from Argentina.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market remains firm and steady, as best ox again sold at the auctions in Bermondsey from 7 1/2d to 9 1/2d per lb, seconds making from 6 1/2d to 8 1/2d. Best cows were unsold, seconds changing hands at 6 1/2d to 8 1/2d. Calf again advanced, making from 7 1/2d to 15 1/2d, and showing advances of 1/2d to 3/4d per lb on last quotations. Lambs sold from 3s 10d to 13s 2d, and shorn pelts from 5s 10d to 10s each. The South American frigorific position is slightly weaker, Argentine ox selling at 7 1/2d and cows 7d. High prices have, however, been paid by the Continent for saladeros, 9 1/2d having been paid for Santos ox and 9d for Concordias. Dry hides are fairly firm, but many sorts are yet too high for our tanners' ideas of price. The Chicago market is cabled as steady, with best heavy Chicago packers selling at 16 cents.

There is a better tone in the leather market, and sampling is going along freely. Northern tanners are sending out, however, a good deal of leather at very firm prices. Advances are being obtained on the lower grade of bends from dry hides, and tanners are also asking more money for certain classes of English and wet-salted bends, as supplies are not too plentiful. Repairers are cutting up a good deal of medium-class leather, and merchants have been busy this week in this direction. Split hides are hanging fire a little, as tanners are advancing prices in view of the firm hide market. Continental sole has advanced in price, this making the position of home tanners very strong.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, August 29.

SUGAR.—Quite an even market again resulted, and with regard to spot parcels sellers adhered to previous asking prices. British refiners' boards were moderately well cleared, particularly standard goods. Recent arrivals for Java sugars have been well absorbed by continental interests, in which Russian figured largely, and with but limited quantities now available, demand has shifted to vessels due in six or eight days. All continental sugars continue to be sparingly offered, and the undertone of the market is one of distinct steadiness. Of British refined Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 44s 3d to 45s 3d; crushed, 42s 9d; granulated, 42s 1 1/2d; fine and coarse grain 39s 10 1/2d; No. 1, 39s 7 1/2d; No. 2, also London and T.L. 39s 4 1/2d; ditto, forward to September, 39s 3d; yellow crystals, spot, 36s 10 1/2d; caster, 41s 6d to 43s 7 1/2d, as to quality. Later prices were advanced 6d per cwt for all descriptions. White Java, spot, 35s 10 1/2d to 35s 3d; ditto, afloat, 23s to 23s 3d, as to position of steamer; July-August, 22s 3d, c.f. and i., London. Czecho granulated, spot, 38s 6d; November-December shipment, 21s 3d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Dutch granulated, spot, 38s; J. November-December, 21s, f.o.b., Rotterdam. American granulated, spot, 38s 9d; afloat, 23s 9d, c.f. and i., London. Belgian granulated, October, sold, 23s 3d; November-December, sellers, 20s 9d, f.o.b., Antwerp-Ghent. Polish crystals, spot, 35s 9d. White Java to Indian, October-December, sellers, 21s 9d; January-March, 22s, c. and f. terms. Mauritius crystals, October, 20s 6d, f.o.b. terms. Cuban basis 96 per cent., August-September, quoted 19s 7 1/2d, c.f. and i., U.K. White terminal market quietly steady. August sold, 23s 10 1/2d to 24s; December, 20s 4 1/2d to 20s 7 1/2d.

COFFEE.—Spot market continues to show firm features for all the finer qualities, which are in small supply. East African kinds realised higher prices.

COCOA.—There was only a small movement regarding spot parcels, but sellers required steady prices. Some fine pale Java bold sold, 115s; Accra, F/F grade, October-December, sold, 34s to 33s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions embraced some 38,800 packages, and with brisk competition recent rates were not only fully maintained in the early part of the week, but in many instances slightly exceeded, though a quieter tone set in later. Pekoe sold, 1s 5 1/2d to 1s 10 1/2d; broken orange, 1s 6 1/2d, with finest up to 3s 1d. Ceylon sales totalled 23,350 packages, which soon cleared to a good demand at full to dearer rates. Pekoe sold, 1s 5 1/2d to 1s 10 1/2d; broken orange, 1s 6 1/2d to

2s 3 1/2d. At public sale, 4,800 packages Java and Sumatra were catalogued. Competition from a good attendance of buyers was carried on with activity at full to dearer prices. Pekoe sold, 1s 3d to 1s 7 1/2d; broken ditto, 1s 0 1/2d to 1s 8 1/2d; pekoe souchong, 1s 4 1/2d; orange pekoe, 1s 4d to 1s 6 1/2d; broken orange, 1s 4 1/2d to 1s 10 1/2d per lb in bond. There was a good steady inquiry for China teas, particularly common sorts, at firm values.

RICE.—Business pursues a quiet course, but, in the absence of any pressure on the part of shippers, prices show no material change. Two Stars, spot, 17s; September-October, 16s 6d, c.f. and i., London. Market also quiet, but steady, for both Italian and Spanish, with actual business doing, more or less of retail proportions. Japanese peas, spot, 19s 9d; September-October, 20s to 20s 3d cwt, business done. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 34s, 35s cwt, as to sample.

SPICE.—Pepper held steadily, but there was not much response from buyers. Black Singapore, L.S., August-October, quoted 4 1/2d; Lampong, October-December, sellers, 4 1/2d; Muntok, October-December, 8 1/2d. Zanzibar cloves quiet. Spot, 1s 1d to 1s 1 1/2d; October-December, value 9 1/2d per lb. Spot tapioca quiet on former terms. Singapore flake, August-September, Havre, quoted 28s; Penang seed, ditto, to London, 23s 6d. Sago flour, June-August, to U.K., quoted 15s 7 1/2d; August-September, 15s 3d; September-October, October-November, both 15s 1 1/2d, c.f. and i. Desiccated coconut firm. Fine cut, spot, 41s 6 1/2; medium, 41s; halves, August-September, sold, 40s 3d; September-October, sellers, 40s 9d; October-November, 41s cwt, c.f. and i., London. Ginger slow, at late rates.

DATES.—New crop rather quiet. Hallowee, first tide, sold, 23s; Khredrowie, 19s; and Siam, 16s cwt, landed terms, London.

JUTE.—Market firmer, but inclined to be somewhat unsettled at times, though a fair demand ensued. Firsts, August, Continent, quoted £34 5s; August-September, sold, £34 to £33 15s; September-October, £33 15s to £33 10s; November-December, £33 5s ton. Hessians and twills firm, but quiet.

HEMP.—Manila steady in value, though general trade moved quietly. J grade, August-October, quoted £44; K, £43; L, £42 15s; M, £41 15s ton. African and Mexican sisal steady, with a fair demand prevailing for the latter.

SHELLAC.—Market stronger. T.N., fair quality, spot, 300s to 305s; October, sold, 300s; December, 290s cwt.

COPRA very steady, with business on a moderate scale. F.M.S. Straits, June-August, Rotterdam, quoted £30 15s; July-September, sold, £30 7s 6d; August-October, £30 5s; September-November, £30 2s 6d. Dutch East Indies, July-September, quoted £30 5s. Ceylon, September-October, £31 5s. Java, July-August, £30 10s. Palm kernels steady, June-August, Liverpool, quoted £21; September-November, sold, £21 2s 6d ton.

RUBBER steady though generally quiet. Plantation standard sheet, spot, and September, sold, 1s 1 1/2d; October-December, 1s 2d; January-March, 1s 2 1/2d, with first crepe 1 1/2d lb more money. To New

SOUTH-NORWAY.

FREDRIKSSTAD

PRIVATBANK,

Fredriksstad.

Banking and Exchange

Business

of every description.

London Bankers:—Hambros Bank, Limited; Westminster Bank, Limited; Midland Bank, Limited; Cox & Co.

per cent. has been a usual rate. Discount quotations have been maintained, the minimum rate for fine three months' bills, closing at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., while December Treasury Bills for payment this week have been freely offered at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Not until the end of the week were there signs of any demand from the banks for short-dated Treasury Bills, when Octobers were bought at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and a few Septembers at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The market hardened yesterday afternoon on the Treasury Bill results.

	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 29, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	5 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	..

Thursday's Bank return showed an increase of £353,400 in the Active Circulation as the result of end of the month requirements, and the Bullion Stock rose by £87,400. Other Securities rose by £577,600, although market borrowings on one day in the latter part of the previous week were offset by repayments on two days in this week, and the Government dividend payments were reflected in a decline of £6,646,000 in Government Deposits, together with a rise of £2,660,000 in Government Securities, Private Deposits gaining £9,504,200 as a result of these movements. As the result of the decline in the Reserve and the increase in the Liabilities, the Proportion was 0.7 lower at 17.8 per cent. of liabilities. Currency notes outstanding show an increase this week of £716,300 to £289,435,300, which includes £1,374,100 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £238,611,200, or £9,579,700 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The influence of the signing of the London Agreement is felt on the Stock Exchange, where an increase in confidence among investors and speculators is noticeable. The general volume of business, however, remains restricted by holiday influences. Gilt-edged securities are, in the absence of new issues, benefiting from the automatic flow of accumulating investment money, but the market is fairly quiet, interest being keener among industrial and speculative sections. A feature of the week is the revival of the wild gamble in German and Prussian bonds; Chinese bonds are weak owing to the fighting in China. In the Home Railway market London Midland and Scottish are prominently strong. Argentine rails are good on dividend prospects. Rubber shares are stagnant, but tea shares have again been very lively, the top of the boom being succeeded by a shake out, from which prices quickly recovered. Insurance, banking, shipping and iron and steel shares are firm. The oil share market is erratic, the reduction in the price of petrol being a disturbing influence. The Kaffir market is better, apprehensions of labour trouble on the Rand being less acute.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The position of wool is probably the most interesting feature in the commodity markets; a substantial advance at Brisbane was expected, but the actual rise was not up to expectations. The cotton trade is marking time, and there is still much uncertainty as to future values in the raw material. A scarcity of new business on the Cardiff coal market is reported, while the pig-iron and the manufactured iron and steel industries are in a state of depression. Tin began the week with a firm tone, and the price moved up, but subsequently part of the advance was lost. Copper also opened well, but weakness subsequently developed. Wheat is better all round, and sugar firm. Tea continues in demand. Rubber is inclined to weakness. The hide market is steady, and vegetable oils and oilseed quiet. Jute is higher on account of Indian mills according good support to the market. Further particulars of markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market continued quiet until the middle of the week, when a certain "liveliness" developed in the franc, and business in all currencies was again on a very limited scale. Sterling and dollars, especially the latter, were again those chiefly in demand. The effect of these limited transactions should be a fairly safe guide as to the future probable course of the franc, if it is remembered that heavy seasonal demands for dollars on account of the usual autumn shipments of cotton and grain are now about due; and the same consideration must be borne in mind in anticipating future sterling-dollar relations. The franc, opening at 82 on the 29th, reacted slightly to 83.15 on the 1st, probably in response to profit-taking; rose again to 82.80 on the 2nd, and fell to 83.80 on the 3rd in response, it is believed, to demands from the stock market for sterling and dollars. Further weakness was shown on the 4th, when it fell to 84.20, probably as a result of the unfavourable reception in Paris of Mr Ramsay MacDonald's Geneva speech. The weakening tendency continued this morning (5th) with the publication of the unfavourable Thursday statement of the Banque de France showing an increase of 364 millions in note circulation and of 300 millions in advances to the State. This brought the rate to 84.55-84.65, at which it stands at the moment of writing. The Belgian franc, on the other hand, opened at 89.25 on the 29th, and improved to 88.25 on the 2nd on the publication of favourable Budget figures. Although it reacted later to 89.37 on the 4th, and stands at 89.60 to-day (5th), it has managed to maintain in part, at least, its improvement relatively to the French franc. The reaction in the sterling-dollar exchange in favour of the latter, which we indicated in last week's issue, continued on the appearance of the first of this season's cotton bills in the New York market. Opening at 4.49 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 29th, cable rates moved to 4.49 $\frac{1}{2}$ -50 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 30th, but reacted sharply to 4.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 3rd, and continued the movement to 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 4th, standing finally on the 5th at 4.45 $\frac{1}{2}$. Montreal moved on parallel lines from 4.49 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 29th to 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 4th, finishing at 4.45 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 5th. The peseta has reflected Spain's varying military fortunes in Morocco in its reaction from 33.74 on the 29th to 33.88-33.92 on the 2nd, when it even touched 33.95, then recovered slightly to 33.84-33.86 on the 3rd, and finished rather better at 33.82-33.87 on the 5th, on better news coming in from the front. The other principal Continental exchanges showed little or no movement. Amsterdam gained slightly against the dollar on the 1st. Milan opened at 101 on the 29th, declined slightly and steadily to 101.50 on the 4th, winding up at 102 on the 5th, probably as a reflection of the growing uncertainty of the Fascist political horizon. Swiss francs showed a slight weakness at 23.86-23.88 on the 30th, but improved to 23.71 on the 4th and 23.64 on the 5th. Copenhagen relapsed rather sharply from 27.28 on the 29th to 27.40 on the 2nd, but improved to 26.85-90 on the 4th, and remained at this level on the 5th. Berlin was unmoved at 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ -19 throughout. Helsingfors, Christiania, and Stockholm kept steady after their recent improvement with the dollar. Riga and Reval were also practically stationary at about 23.25 and 19.50. Warsaw, now another "dollar exchange," showed a slight appreciation from 23.30-23.60 to 23.25-23.50. The lei continued its appreciation on favourable Budget figures, rising from 890-920 to 850-875, where it now stands firm. Of the South American exchanges, the Brazilian milreis improved from 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ on the 4th, after touching 5 7-32 on the 2nd. Buenos Ayres improved from 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ (pence to the peso) to 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 2nd and 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ -42 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 5th. Eastern rates showed no great changes, in spite of the disturbing conditions in China, Hongkong remaining at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Singapore at 2s 4 1-32d and Shanghai at 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The latter had a slight reaction to-day (5th) to 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d on news of the imminence of military operations. Rupees continued to harden with the favourable monsoon reports. Japan improved from 1s 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, in sympathy with her gradual economic recovery. Silver has been rather dull, and such movements as there have been have

taken their tendency from the dollar, but not, perhaps, so much as has heretofore been the case. China has been quite out of the market, as might perhaps have been expected.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended August 30th:—

(000's omitted.)			
EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Supply Services	7,236	From Revenue	10,577
Interest, &c., on Debt	1,234	Decrease in Exchequer Balances	519
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	1,126		
Decrease in National Debt	940		
	11,096		11,096

Revenue for the week ending August 30, 1924, amounted to £10,577,000, compared with £11,730,000 a year ago. Customs and Excise receipts were both down on the week at £1,699,000 and £973,000, against £2,229,000 and £1,158,000 respectively. Estate Duties brought in £990,000, against £860,000. Property and income-tax yielded £4,258,000, against £4,778,000, and Super-tax was also lower at £290,000, against £450,000. Corporation Profits Tax only reached £220,000, against £570,000. Post Office Receipts were £50,000 higher at £800,000, and Special Receipts were £100,000 higher at £500,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £940,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
	£		£
Public Department Advances	+ 1,000	Treasury Bills	- 1,230
		National Savings Certificates	- 150
		Sundries	- 560
	+ 1,000		- 1,940

The floating debt was reduced by £270,000 to £768,583,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to August 30).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	308,433,838	Raised by Revenue ..	298,961,184
		Decrease in Balances ..	4,227,470
		Amount borrowed ..	5,245,184
Total	308,433,838	Total	308,433,838

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE GENEVA DISCUSSIONS.

In the palmy days before the war we were accustomed to think of August and September as a dead season. But in recent years it has become almost a rule that great events in politics come to a head in these months. The summer time events of the last four years have included, in order, the Upper Silesian crisis, involving the possibility of a breach between England and France; the Turco-Greek war in Asia Minor and the Chanak affair; the Italo-Greek dispute and the Corfu incident; and this year we have the London Conference. The fact, moreover, that the Assembly of the League of Nations meets in September means that in any case this month will always be one in which international discussions will claim a large share of public attention. Certain organs of the British Press, however, seem determined to maintain the traditions of the "silly season" by their attitude towards public questions. We have this year, for example, the spectacle of an important daily journal endeavouring to thwart the united efforts of the Governments of the chief Powers to set upon a stable

basis the economic life of Europe. The proposed loan to Germany is an indispensable step in this direction; some of the terms of the London Agreement are not all we could have wished, but the raising of prejudice against the whole idea of a German loan implies that we should be better off if German finances remained in chaos, if German production and consumption remained far below normal, and if the trade of the whole world remained as it has been for some years, cramped and checked by the lack of normal markets in Europe. We may add that our expectation that the conditions on which the fears of the *Daily Mail* are based, and particularly the low level of wages in Germany, would steadily be modified is confirmed to-day by our German correspondent, who points out in a later column that real wages in Germany in the last few weeks have been rising as a result of the stabilisation of money, and are now for unskilled labour almost equal to real wages before the war. The figures in the last two months show a rise for skilled labour from 27 gold marks per week in January to 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ gold marks in July. This futile campaign to wreck the London Agreement is in keeping with the efforts made in the same quarters in regard to last year's crisis. The action of Italy towards Greece was applauded, and the Government urged to prevent the League of Nations from interfering with matters which were supposed not to concern it. We have expressed the view more than once that the crisis of last September, while it showed the limitations of the League, brought home to certain Governments in Europe that the public opinion of Europe, as expressed in the Assembly, had become a factor to be reckoned with. We will merely call attention here to two of the sequels to this incident. The question whether the League had competence in this affair was referred to a committee of jurists. Early this year, with the concurrence of the Italians, the jurists unanimously decided in favour of the League. Secondly, in Thursday's *Times* a telegram from Rome on Italy's attitude to the League contains these significant remarks: "Last year many newspapers were calling for Italy's immediate resignation from the League; this year the same newspapers exhort their readers not to underestimate the importance of the Assembly for the future of Italy." The telegram continues with a quotation from *Epoca*: "For many years the interests of our country must be defended at Geneva; for many years we shall find in this Assembly the measure of our progress and our strength."

The decision of England and France that the questions of security and disarmament must be dealt with at Geneva, and the presence of several Prime Ministers lend exceptional weight to the present meeting. The discussions are only just beginning, but we already have before us Mr Ramsay MacDonald's speech to the Assembly. The British Prime Minister scored a great oratorical success. In a few hours he has clearly caught the spirit of the Assembly, for both in his general references to the League and in his specific statement of what the League should do, he assigns to the League more important responsibilities than would be gathered from his previous public declarations and from letters addressed to Geneva from this country. In several of his references, such as that to the Traffic in Arms Convention, to which America has for years been a stumbling-block, Mr Ramsay MacDonald seemed imperfectly acquainted with the work which the League has been doing. But it is not to be expected that, with all the burdens he has upon his shoulders, Mr MacDonald should have expert knowledge of the far-reaching ramifications of the League's activity. The major points of his speech, however, merit more careful examination. They are briefly as follows:—

(1) Military alliances cannot produce security, and agreements for security that savour of or include provisions that are really military alliances will recreate the conditions of 1914. Great Britain will not be a party to any of them.

(2) Peace must mainly depend upon devising a proper system of arbitration. Improvements (unspecified) must be made in the courts already existing, and the optional clauses in the present statutes of the International Court of Justice should be reconsidered, and perhaps modified with a view to general ratification. (Under these clauses

States may bind themselves in advance to accept the arbitration of the Court—instead of relying on the conciliation effort of the Council—in certain classes of disputes with all States who have also accepted the clauses in question; but so far only a few minor States have bound themselves in this way.)

(3) The League is to summon as soon as possible a conference, which is to be held in Europe, to discuss land disarmament.

(4) The Covenant of the League to which Great Britain put its signature, and still strictly adheres, should be elaborated.

(5) Germany should at once be admitted to the League.

The last of these points is of immediate practical importance. The League cannot make real headway until this is achieved; but we are disposed to think that France will require, and properly require, that Germany should first be given a clean bill in the report of the Military Commission at present investigating whether Germany remains disarmed or not. The other points made by Mr MacDonald show goodwill; but they are very vague, and can hardly be said to constitute a "plan" on the important problem which France and England have referred to the League. In the first place, it is worth while to recall what are at present the provisions in regard to disputes in the Covenant to which we and over 50 other nations are parties. The problem is very much like the case of industrial disputes. The nations of the world are not prepared as yet to agree that every kind of dispute should be referred to a court of law, just as our trade unions will not agree to submit to arbitration such questions as whether or not their organisations should be "recognised." Apart from this unwillingness, indeed, there are many problems which are not appropriate to a legal settlement, and there is, therefore, a wide field for what is called, in the case of industrial disputes, "conciliation." The Covenant, therefore, provides that disputes which are not considered suitable subjects for arbitration must be brought before the Council for discussion and report. It also adopts the principle, which is applied in the industrial legislation of Canada, and is likely ultimately to be adopted in this country, that disputing parties must not go to war until the dispute has been considered by the Council, or has by agreement been referred to arbitration. The parties may refuse to accept the conclusions of the Council, and may subsequently go to war. But they are pledged to bring their case up for discussion, and, in any case, to delay hostilities until at least three months after the Court has decided or the Council has made its report. No other member of the League may go to war with a country which accepts the decision. Mr MacDonald is perfectly right in urging that progress should be made along the line of developing the functions of the Court of Justice, and by steadily enlarging the categories of disputes on which nations pledge themselves in advance not merely to submit cases to the Court, but to accept the decision of the Court when given. But this will never cover the whole field of possible international differences, and is unlikely to cover the greater part of the field for many years to come. In the meantime, what mutual security are members of the League able to give to each other which will give them sufficient confidence to enable them to reduce their armaments? The Covenant commits them "to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League," and in cases in which an act of war is committed against a member of the League, they may be called upon to use economic weapons against the aggressor. These sanctions may be very potent ones; though France and some other nations of Europe feel that a policeman is a more effective guardian of public order than a bailiff. The real difficulty, however, is to define who is the aggressor, and, as Mr MacDonald truly says, that question may often not be decided until the verdict of history is given perhaps 50 years later. Where, then, are we to find a basis for strengthening the security which the League Covenant should give to its members?

The answer is, we think, along the lines indicated recently by Mr Asquith, who suggested that it must be obligatory, as at present, upon every member in all its disputes to use the machinery of the League—namely, conciliation by the Council if no other provision applies

to the case in point, arbitration in certain types of case previously agreed upon or if the parties to the particular dispute in question are willing, and in any case several months' delay before an act of war is committed. If this procedure is not complied with by any party, he is a law-breaker, whatever may be the merits of the particular dispute. International pressure should be concentrated—by using force, if necessary—not on enforcing decisions which may take time, but upon insisting that disputants use the machinery of peaceful settlement. Sooner or later, we are convinced that not merely moral pressure, but material and military pressure will be exerted by the members of the League against breaches of the peace. This is the principle for which M. Herriot pleaded in his reply on Friday, and we sincerely hope it will not be rejected by Mr MacDonald under pressure from the extreme pacifist elements of his party.

RUSO-BRITISH TRADE BEFORE THE WAR.

For reasons only too well known to most people, British trade with Russia has been under a cloud for some years past. Whether Mr MacDonald's Treaty with the Soviet authorities marks the beginning of better things is a matter of uncertainty, but at all events its signature has served to bring Russian affairs into the limelight once more. The occasion may not, therefore, be inopportune for a brief review of our pre-war commerce with the Russian Empire, even if it serves no more useful purpose than to measure the width of the gulf separating the present from the recent past.

Ten years ago the annual statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom showed that Russia stood sixth in the list of our customers, and held the same position among the nations of the world from whom we obtained our external supplies. In 1913 the total value of our exports and re-exports amounted to £634,800,000, and of this value the share taken by Russia was 4.4 per cent., and amounted to £27,700,000. In that year the total value of our imports was £768,700,000, and our purchases from Russia amounted to £40,300,000, or 5.2 per cent. The combined value of our imports from and exports to Russia amounted to £68,000,000, and the great bulk of these cargoes was carried in British ships, and thus considerably increased the value of our trade with Russia.

Coming to the details of our imports, we find that before the war Russia was the chief source of our supply of imported eggs, sending us £4,745,000 worth, or more than twice the value of the eggs that we bought from Denmark (£2,297,000). Russia, also, was second in the supplies of butter and barley, of which the value of our imports from her was £3,831,000 and £1,847,000 respectively. She supplied us with oats to the value of £865,000, and maize to the value of £490,000, and with bacon to the value of £685,000. Since that date great bacon factories have been erected at a point where the three provinces of Tambov, Orel, and Voronezh meet. Russia stood third in the list of countries supplying us with oats and maize, fourth in the list as regards bacon. As regards our imports of raw materials, Russia stood in 1913 easily first in her supply of wood and timber, sending us £13,622,000 worth, or almost half of our total imports. She also sent us more flax than any other country did, its value amounting to £2,807,000. She was second only to the United States in the value of petroleum, with which she supplied us, and sent us almost our entire import of manganese ore. The following table shows the value of our principal imports from Russia in the last pre-war year:—

Food Imports.	Value, £	Raw Materials.	Value, £
Eggs	4,745,000	Wood and timber	13,622,000
Butter	3,831,000	Flax	2,807,000
Wheat	1,985,000	Petroleum	1,028,000
Barley	1,847,000	Seeds of all kinds	916,000
Oats	865,000	Hides (raw)	580,000
Bacon	685,000	Manganese ore	463,000
Maize	490,000	Ramp	432,000

The next table shows the 12 countries from which we drew our principal supplies of food and raw materials in 1913, and how high a position Russia held among them.

Imported from—	Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	Raw Materials.	Total Values.
United States	50,400,000	64,500,000	114,900,000
Argentina	35,800,000	6,300,000	42,100,000
British India	20,000,000	21,400,000	41,400,000
Russia	15,200,000	22,800,000	38,000,000
Australia	15,600,000	18,400,000	34,000,000
Canada	20,900,000	7,700,000	28,600,000
Germany	16,500,000	7,100,000	23,600,000
Denmark	23,400,000	288,000	23,688,000
New Zealand	8,900,000	11,400,000	20,300,000
Egypt	680,000	20,300,000	20,980,000
Netherlands	17,200,000	2,300,000	19,500,000
France	9,200,000	6,900,000	16,100,000

The table shows that, whereas Russia stood fourth on the list in the combined values of imports of food and raw materials, it was second in the value of raw materials, which it supplied in 1913 to the United Kingdom.

Turning now to the value of our principal exports of British produce and manufactures, and our re-exports of colonial and foreign produce, we have compiled a table from the figures given in the annual statements of trade of the United Kingdom, showing the values in thousands of pounds of our chief exports and re-exports to Russia for the years 1904 to 1913, comparing the average value of the five later years with that of the five earlier ones:—

Values in Thousand £'s.	Coal and Coke.	Machinery.	Raw Cotton.	Rubber.	Herrings.	Iron and Steel Manufactures.	Woolen and Worsted Yarns and Manufactures.	Cotton Yarn and Manufactures.
1904	1,512	1,748	3,143	1,483	547	939	455	331
1905	1,377	1,578	2,917	1,545	576	696	521	368
1906	1,611	1,417	2,574	1,358	792	612	604	564
1907	1,946	2,030	2,944	1,376	1,050	709	782	868
1908	2,205	2,464	3,765	1,069	962	775	713	726
1909	1,910	2,814	2,711	1,587	1,223	646	745	741
1910	1,909	2,362	3,436	2,295	1,433	782	1,048	794
1911	1,954	3,472	4,247	1,279	1,380	881	1,126	1,075
1912	2,673	2,959	3,068	1,647	1,624	891	854	965
1913	4,441	4,192	3,832	2,205	1,988	1,010	845	787
Average of 1904 to 1908	1,730	1,847	3,069	1,366	785	746	615	571
Average of 1909 to 1913	2,577	3,240	3,459	1,803	1,490	842	924	872
Actual increase	847	1,393	390	437	705	96	309	301
Percentage increase	49.0	75.4	12.7	32.0	90.0	12.9	50.3	52.7

After the close of the Russo-Japanese war British exports to Russia rapidly increased in value, and our exports of yarn and woollen and cotton manufactures were half as valuable again in the latter quinquennial period. Our exports of machinery (which included "belting of all sorts") were over 75 per cent. more valuable in the latter period, and our exports of coal and coke were almost half as valuable again in the latter period. From 1903 to 1912 inclusive Russia twice stood first among the sources of our imported wheat, viz., in 1905 and 1910, when we imported 25,600,000 cwts and 28,900,000 cwts respectively; and in four other years—1903, 1904, 1909, and 1911—Russia stood second:—

Imports of wheat (grain) in million cwts.	From Argentina.	From British India.	From Russia.	From United States.	From Canada.	From Australia.	Total imports.
Average import from 1903 to 1912	20.05	17.75	17.30	16.50	13.35	9.05	97.55

THESE figures make a melancholy comparison with those of the present day. Since 1921 our trade with the area officially classified in the returns as "Russia" has been as follows:—

	1921.	(Million £'s.) 1922.	1923.	1924. (6 months.)
Imports	2.7	8.1	9.3	4.6
Re-Exports ..	1.2	1.0	2.0	2.8
British exports	2.2	3.6	2.5	0.7
Total exports	3.4	4.6	4.5	3.5

With an earlier table of our pre-war exports and re-exports to Russia may be compared the following figures for 1922:—

Value in Thousand £'s.	Coal and Coke.	Machinery.	Raw Cotton.	Rubber.	Herrings.	Iron and Steel Manufactures.	Woolen and Worsted Yarns and Manufactures.	Cotton Yarn and Manufactures.
1922	720	106	...	181	52	169	359	75

The contrast between these conditions and those of the pre-war era is too well known to call for special emphasis. The present Union of Socialist Soviet Republics administers a smaller area than that of the former Russian Empire, but its 130 millions of subjects may one day provide an effective market for British goods on a sale which will bear comparison with pre-war days. That consummation, unfortunately, is not likely to be brought about for some time to come. While the majority of the population continues to live in an extremely modest, self-sufficing way, and the economic machine functions with so much difficulty and uncertainty, a speedy return to the 1913 volume of overseas trade is an obvious impossibility. If any money is to be forthcoming for the project of putting the country on its feet again, every precaution should be taken to ensure that the proceeds are spent on none but productive purposes, among which the restoration of the transport system should certainly take a prominent place.

THE STATE OF FRANCE.

THE Report on the economic condition of France, by Mr J. R. Cahill, the Commercial Counsellor to the British Embassy in Paris, which the Department of Overseas Trade has just published,* is in two respects the direct antithesis to the traditional railway refreshment room sandwich. It is not stale, for it carries us up to June 30, 1924, and in the case of some of the statistics, up to July 31st. In this respect it also contrasts happily and strikingly with many official publications. Secondly, its 224 pages are absolutely packed with the nourishing meat of information and statistics. A great deal of the ground has, of course, been covered from time to time in the *Economist*, either by our Paris correspondent or ourselves, and we need not, therefore, follow Mr Cahill through his story of such leading events of the period as, for instance, the new taxation measures, or the wild movements of the franc exchange in the spring. But there are several points in Mr Cahill's crowded narrative that strike the reader with renewed force. The first and foremost of these points is summed up in the word "prosperity." This is how the Report opens:—"The brilliant economic revival that ensued in the early months of 1922 has as yet suffered no eclipse. The entire population of France has continued in full employment, and her production has been consistently retarded by the dearth of labour." That is the keynote, and throughout the industrial section of the Report it is well sustained. Let us quote one or two illustrations at random. In June, 1924, the average number of workers in receipt of unemployment relief was 643. "Unbroken prosperity has been enjoyed since the last months of 1921 by the French woollen industry, which appears to have completely regained at least its pre-war situation." Again, "the French coal industry..... has enjoyed a period of great prosperity since the early months of 1922." The tonnage carried by the seven French railway systems rose from 191.6 millions in 1921 to 250.1 millions in 1923. The engineering trades "have continued to receive constant and abundant orders." Illustrations of this almost monotonous story of activity and shortage of labour may be multiplied at will.

* H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6s net.

But there are exceptions. Of these, iron and steel was or a time, at any rate, a case in point, although even here 1923 production showed an advance over 1922. Mr Cahill gives the following comparative figures of steel and pig-iron production in 1913 and 1923 for Britain, U.S.A., and France.

PERCENTAGE of 1923 to 1913 OUTPUT.

	Steel.	Pig-Iron.
Great Britain	110.8	72.5
U.S.A.	138.1	129.3
France	73.5	60

Instructive in this connection are some figures given regarding the effect of the Ruhr occupation:—"The gravity of the non-arrival of German coke after the Ruhr occupation, is evidenced by the fact that the number of blast furnaces in operation, which had been 116 on January 1, 1923, was only 90 a month later, and only 77 in April and May. By the end of the year the figure for January 1, 1923, had been regained, and even exceeded, recovery being produced by "the improvement in supplies gradually brought about by intensive efforts in home coke production, purchases of coke and coking coal in Great Britain and America, and seizures of stocks at the German works." And finally the iron and steel industry joins the prosperous category: "The prosperity enjoyed by the iron and steel industry in the last three months of 1923 become even more marked in the first four months of 1924." The fall in the franc assisted, but its recovery did not check the movement:—"It has been frequently reported that the improvement of the exchange caused a slackening of the orders, but the works were then even over-abundantly supplied in view of labour shortage, and at the end of May there was no doubt that the metallurgical works were fully occupied, that, although the supplies of German coke had dropped from 600,000 tons in April to 250,000 in May, abundant stocks were held, and that the industry was likely to work well at least for many months to come."

The French Labour shortage, due largely, of course, to the decline in population, led to a large immigration of foreign workers. Mr Cahill indeed describes the immigration movement as "the most striking phenomenon in the social life of France during the last 30 months." In 1922, 180,000 alien industrial and agricultural workers were introduced into France through State agencies; in 1923 the figure rose to 262,877, while in May, 1924, "alien workers were entering the country at the rate of 6,000 a week." Among the immigrant workers in 1923, Italians, with 112,500, formed the largest contingent, and there were 55,000 Poles, 36,500 Spaniards, 34,000 Belgians, 12,000 Portuguese, and so on. If the immigration movement continues on this scale, one cannot help inquiring, may not the effects on French political and social life be far-reaching?

Mr Cahill's chapter on French finances deserves careful reading. As most of the salient figures have appeared in the *Economist* we may here pass it by with two comments and a quotation. The chapter should be read by those who wish to realise the progressive efforts to bridge over the gulf between revenue and expenditure; while attention is due to Mr Cahill's emphasis upon the great increase in efficiency of tax collection. We trust that this is fully deserved. It may not perhaps be generally realised in England that up to 1914 France had no income-tax, while in 1923 the yield thereof was 2,542 million francs. Since Mr Cahill regards it as "idle to speculate" as to the future course of the external value of the franc, we may content ourselves with reproducing without comment his remarks on the subject in abbreviated form:—

The positive factors that should tell in favour of a not too remote recovery are many. With the maintenance of peace, France should rapidly regain, and indeed considerably surpass, her former productivity, as a result both of the reconstruction of the devastated areas and of the improvements as regards equipment, magnitude of units, and organisation in the coal, mining, metallurgical, engineering, textile, and other industries therein, and of the general improvement in the manufacturing power of other areas. The weight of unduly large imports on the franc will therefore tend to diminish with her increased productivity in industry and agriculture. French finances have now traversed their worst period. Reduction in expenditure appears destined to be accompanied by a considerable expansion in revenue, so that, granted fairly normal developments, the primary causes of the depreciation of the French franc—undue expansion of the fiduciary currency, and the

far greater indirect inflation by the unbroken policy of loans or issues of various kinds under State guarantee—should gradually cease to produce their inevitably pernicious effects, and, as gradually, the franc should recover its gold value by the removal of the factors most directly ministering to its present disease.

As unrepentant Free Traders we may perhaps be pardoned for concluding this cursory notice of a valuable and well-compiled report with a reference to some of the difficulties which France encountered in the matter of tariff-bargaining during the period under review. Some of the cases attracted lively attention as they arose; and by an effort we restrain ourselves from retelling the stories as propaganda for our fiscal faith. But even if this Report were not crammed, as it is, with important matter from cover to cover, it would be well worth the while of a Free Trader to spend six shillings in order to read and smile over the stories of tariff bargains and difficulties detailed on pages 35 to 39.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

As the net result of conflicting movements in various groups, our Index Number of wholesale commodity prices reacted slightly in August after the substantial advance recorded in the previous month. The figure for the end of August is 4626, as compared with 4657 at the end of July—a drop of 31 points. The percentage increase over the 1901-5 basis falls from 211.7 to 210.3. As will be seen from figures given below, there was a tendency in many directions for prices to rise, but the effect of this tendency was more than counterbalanced by notable declines in the quotations of textiles and cereals. A year ago the total figure was 4188, or 438 points below that for the end of last month. The following table compares the figures for the five groups and the total with those recorded at the close of previous months:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Wheat, Sugar, etc.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Timber, Oil, etc.).	Total.	%
Basis (avg. 1901-5) ..	600	300	600	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914	879	382	616	464	583	2668	116.6
Dec., 1915	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.2
Dec., 1917	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	265.9
Nov., 1918	1289	782	1848	908	1389	6212	282.6
Mar., 1920	1808	914	2974	1246	1709	8852	399.6
Dec., 1921	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
Dec., 1922	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
Dec., 1923	861	706	1184	705	807	4264	193.8
Mar., 1924	824	752	1178	840	797	4392	199.6
June "	815	773	1177	773	761	4301	195.5
Aug. "	828	762	1119	734	744	4188	190.4
Sept. "	823	782	1214	732	745	4297	195.8
Dec., 1924	853	815	1382	774	755	4680	208.2
Jan., 1924	909	845	1349	789	769	4662	211.9
Feb. "	899	859	1308	819	783	4658	212.2
Mar. "	897	843	1313	805	780	4640	210.9
Apr. "	904	802	1364	788	778	4637	210.8
May "	912	730	1357	753	774	4627	209.8
June "	914	736	1347	764	769	4631	209.9
July "	951	732	1423	777	773	4657	211.7
Aug. "	941	744	1385	781	774	4626	210.3

The decline in the first group is partly due to wheat, which in accordance with our expectations receded from the high level to which it had been driven by exaggerated fears as to the world's harvests. Flour fell in proportion, potatoes recorded a seasonal decline, and oats dropped more than 1s per cwt, while rice became a shade cheaper. These movements were sufficient to outweigh upward movements in meat (especially pork), and a big jump in barley prices due to weather conditions. Among subsidiary foodstuffs, butter continued the upward movement which was noticed in July, tea markets were a shade harder, while a rise in coffee offset a drop in cane sugar.

Turning to textiles, we find a big drop in raw cotton prices contrasted with an advance in raw wool. The fall in cotton, after the rise in July, was due to the unexpectedly favourable change in the latest crop estimate in the United States. Referring to this movement, Messrs Robert

Barbour and Brother, Limited, write in their latest market report:—"Ever since the rapid rise in prices following the bullish report on the condition of the crop up to the middle of July opinion had been practically unanimous that the advance had been altogether too rapid, and that a few days of good rains in Texas might change the whole situation. This is exactly what occurred. The violent fluctuations which took place prior to the improved weather news had thoroughly unsettled the market, and the extraordinary discrepancy between official and private advices was a source of endless bewilderment. But with the relief of the drought scare, the prospect of a yield of at least 13 million bales, with further possibilities, the likelihood of a carry-over of something like 2½ million bales, and the assurance of nothing worse than minor damage to the new crop by the ravages of the boll weevil, sentiment again became definitely bearish. A lower level of prices was the normal outcome of the more favourable conditions, but the legitimate determination of spinners and manufacturers to extract some benefit for themselves from the drop in cotton prevented rates for yarn and cloth both at that time and later on from coming down to an extent proportionate to the decline in the raw material." The authorities quoted are hopeful of the benefit that the cotton industry may derive from the progress of European settlement, and the Bradford wool trade is basing considerable hopes on the same factor.

Among minerals, pig-iron weakened under a slackening demand, but the chief movement in this group was an advance of between £7 and £8 per ton in tin, which thus continued the sharp rise recorded in the previous month. In the miscellaneous group, the hardening of rubber prices is the feature, and there were contradictory movements in oils and oilseeds.

In the next table we show the changes in the index number of each separate commodity in comparison with that figure for the end of July, the figure 50 representing in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	94	- 7	Cotton, A	143	- 21	Copper	52	..
English	85	- 4	Cotton, B	153	- 14	Minerals	721	+ 4
Flour	114	+ 2	Cloth	144	- 10			
Barley	72	- 9	Wool, Eng.	174	+ 10	Baltic timber	103	..
Oats	73	- 19	Do Aust.	145	+ 2	Amer. timber	89	..
Potatoes	127	+ 4	Silk	107	+ 10	Leather	604	..
Rice	123	+ 8	Flax	177	+ 3	Petroleum	108	..
Beef	140	+ 15	Ramp	634	+ 4	Oil	72	..
Mutton	84	+ 15	Wine	112	+ 2	Oilseed	80	+ 2
Pork	84	+ 15	Tea	112	+ 2	Tallow	84	..
			Textiles	1,345	- 38	Indigo	83	..
Cereals & meat	941	- 10				Crystals	85	..
			Pig-iron	89	- 4	Rubber	154	+ 3
Tea	158	+ 6	Steel rails	73	+ 4			
Coffee	118	+ 5	Iron bars	91	..	Miscellaneous	774	+ 1
Sugar, cane	123	- 5	Coal, steam	48	+ 4			
Sugar, beet	99	- 6	House coal	136	- 4	Total	4,626	- 31
Butter	130	..	Lead	89	+ 3			
Tobacco	115	+ 12	Tin	89	+ 3			
Other foods	744	+ 12						

The result of these changes is to reduce from 81.6 per cent. at the end of July to 80.4 per cent. at the end of August the percentage advance over the level of prices at July, 1914. How this figure and similar figures for the various groups have moved in recent times is shown below:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	188	241	237.5
Dec., 1919	249	250	398	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920	261	260	494	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1921	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1922	159	180	180	184	168	169.6
June, 1923	174	192	184	149	160	171.1
Sept. "	151	194	181	150	148	163.3
Dec. "	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
June, 1924	141	220	191	167	137	167.7
Dec. "	148	231	225	167	136	178.6
Mar., 1924	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
Apr. "	156	228	221	170	141	180.8
May "	157	208	220	162	140	176.5
June "	158	210	219	164	139	176.6
July "	164	208	231	167	140	181.6
Aug. "	162	211	225	168	140	180.4

At the end of August, 1923, the percentage increase over the pre-war level was 63.3, and two years ago it was 66.

THE RUBBER TRADE IN AMERICA.

(FROM A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

THE long-anticipated shortage of rubber for near-by arrival, resulting from the hand-to-mouth method of buying by consumers here, is now becoming apparent. It is clear that that method has been overdone, and the consequences are likely to be serious for many manufacturers, a few of whom may have to close down operations temporarily for want of supplies.

The exceptionally long, cold, wet winter and spring postponed the public demand for tyres, and manufacturing consequently was restricted. With the advent of warm weather in the latter part of June public buying recommenced and has made rapid progress since. Now the manufacturers have discovered that they underestimated demand, and consequently their own requirements in raw materials. This sudden and unexpected call for an increase in production is causing them anxiety, for they find that supplies here are at an exceptionally low ebb and expected arrivals during the next month or two, unless the London stocks are raided, will be insufficient for their necessities.

This situation has not yet been reflected in prices, although spot and August deliveries, reversing recent history, are at a premium over futures. The fact is that manufacturers, particularly the larger consumers, are afraid of showing their interest in the market until compelled to do so, for they know that the nominal market position is being manipulated by shorts, who are using every effort to depress prices to cover their commitments before the facts of the situation become generally known. When that time comes, a race between them and the consumers seems unavoidable.

The statistical position is being watched very closely by manufacturers, and it is recognised that this is strong to an unusual degree. The official figures recently published by the Rubber Association of America show that, contrary to expectations, consumption here during the first half of this year increased by 39,600 tons over the last half of 1923, the figures being 158,800 tons, as compared with 119,200 tons. Manufacturers now estimate that consumption for the second half of this year will be on a heavier basis than for the first six months, and that at least 320,000 tons will be used in 1924, an increase of about 15,000 tons over 1923. Stocks on hand and afloat for both manufacturers and dealers at the end of June were less by 21,000 tons than at the beginning of the year, and less by 39,400 tons than a year ago.

Where are these increased requirements to come from? Total imports here in January to June were 156,300 tons (including 15,500 tons from Europe), some 33,700 tons less than the same period last year. Net shipments from Malaya and Ceylon, the restricted output areas, during the same period were about 92,600 tons, as compared with 119,400 tons last year. Now that the permitted exports from the restricted areas have to be further reduced to 55 per cent. of the standard production during the current quarter, we cannot expect direct arrivals for the rest of the year to be maintained, even on the above levels. Consequently we must look to the Dutch Indies and London stocks for additional supplies. As regards the former, it does not appear that the threatened great rate of increase in production is materialising, exports in January to June being only some 15,000 tons more than last year, and Brazil cannot at present be relied on. As regards the London stock, fears are expressed that possibly a substantial portion may not perhaps be in a very satisfactory merchantable condition by this time, and it is considered that in any event the 50,000 tons there is little in excess of the normal balance which should be carried if manufacturing requirements are to be provided for.

The facts of the situation are appreciated by the manufacturers here, who are showing much nervousness, fearing that almost at any moment there will not only be a sharp advance in prices, but that they will have difficulty in securing the volume they need. Meantime, they have been quietly absorbing all offers which nervous holders have been willing to sell under the stress of the present

manipulated market, but this has only produced comparatively small quantities—at all events, nothing like sufficient to fill requirements. The arrivals for the current month are small, and will be insufficient by some 10,000 tons to fill September requirements, and a similar situation faces the market, though perhaps in a less marked degree, for the coming months.

All the markets are, and have been for a fortnight past, extremely sensitive, swayed from hour to hour in opposite directions, largely, it is reported, under the influence of a prominent speculative operator in Mincing Lane, whose transactions there and here have been bold and caused much confusion. Their ultimate adjustment needs to be closely watched in order to minimise as far as possible the effect of operations which would be impossible in a better organised market.

Once again the inefficiency of present methods in the industry is exemplified, always at the expense of British growers. In spite of the depressed prices ruling between February and early July, it is only now recognised that supplies were less and demand greater than before. It would appear that British growers are merely wasting time in considering the terms on which a central selling organisation should be established, when the whole problem before them is the comparatively simple question of marketing and distribution. They seem afraid of the Dutch growers and the so-called native producer, when they could surely find a way of using their competitors' tactics to their own financial advantage.

However one may differ about the soundness or otherwise of restriction of output from a theoretical or economic point of view, it might at least be expected that its adherents would be prepared to support its administration in an intelligent and effective manner. Have they shown any signs of doing so? The only apparent reply is the suggested Central Selling Agency. No wonder the Dutchman smiles and grows fat on selling his product at a farthing per lb under the maximum price which British growers have advertised as being the height of their expectations. It seems to us on this side an example of the tail being allowed to wag the dog!

Postscript.—Notwithstanding the conditions outlined above, which are gradually being recognised here, a decline of about 10 per lb has since been produced in this market, and London has followed. This decline has been brought about not so much by selling, for the volume of business passing has been almost negligible, but the big buyers have continued to refrain from showing any interest, and a few small sellers have thus been able to mark nominal quotations down.

Whether or not we shall see the logical result of the situation having its effect on prices within the next few weeks remains to be discovered, but it certainly seems a pity that London does not appear to appreciate facts which it could turn so much to its advantage.

EMIGRATION FROM THE BRITISH ISLES.

THE problem of unemployment in this country is considerably influenced by the reduced rate of emigration compared with pre-war days. Last year, however, showed a considerable increase, and some figures recently published by the Board of Trade throw considerable light on the trades and occupations from which they came. Under the Merchant Shipping Acts, persons of 12 years of age and upwards are counted as "adults." A separate analysis has, however, been made on this occasion of the returns of British emigrants and immigrants of 18 years and over, the respective totals being as follows:—

British Subjects.	Emigrants.*			Immigrants.*		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Males—						
Total number of adults of 12 years and upwards	79,462	77,073	141,027	29,945	25,851	23,066
Adults of 18 years & upwards	73,205	70,272	130,188	26,792	24,742	22,126
Females—						
Total number of adults of 12 years and upwards	87,554	70,816	89,884	28,606	29,518	25,025
Adults of 18 years & upwards	81,522	65,753	82,721	27,323	28,161	23,807

* To and from non-European countries.

The above figures include migrants from and to the Irish Free State, the returns for 1923 thus being comparable with those of 1921 and 1922. The next table shows the occupations of the emigrants and immigrants of 18 years or upwards who left or took up permanent residence in the British Isles during the last three years. For this purpose, residence for a year or more is regarded as "permanent."

Occupations.	Emigrants from the British Isles.			Immigrants into the British Isles.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Males—						
Agricultural	13,454	12,937	26,223	2,884	2,373	2,343
Commercial, finance, and insurance	12,404	9,706	12,960	5,810	5,151	4,348
Professional	5,583	4,404	4,387	3,467	3,622	2,807
Skilled trades—						
Mining and quarrying	3,577	4,836	7,300	1,249	737	779
Metal and engineering	8,016	10,536	24,724	2,881	2,557	2,893
Building	1,345	1,525	3,642	614	408	482
Other	8,151	7,835	16,887	3,495	2,546	2,130
Transport & communications	3,086	3,009	4,973	1,287	1,190	1,026
Labourers not in agriculture or transport	9,661	7,022	19,017	2,287	1,545	1,262
Other and ill-defined occupations	7,918	8,462	10,495	4,848	4,613	4,156
*Grand total 18 years and over	73,205	70,272	130,188	26,792	24,742	22,126
Females—						
Domestic, hotel, &c., service	21,986	18,025	23,580	2,932	3,531	2,797
Commercial, finance, and insurance	4,471	3,099	4,389	959	952	880
Professional	4,999	4,180	3,674	1,989	2,296	1,967
Clothing trades	2,148	1,809	2,365	499	493	344
Wife or housewife (not otherwise described)	38,904	30,824	39,106	15,676	15,066	12,399
Other and ill-defined occupations	9,014	7,816	9,707	5,268	5,823	5,490
*Grand total 18 years and over	81,522	65,753	82,721	27,323	28,161	23,807

* Inclusive of migrants of 12 years of age and over, whose ages were not specified.

Commenting on these figures, the *Board of Trade Journal* observes that in each of the three years under consideration the number of emigrants from the British Isles who were classified in the agricultural group exceeded the number in any other individual group, the percentage in this group being 18.4 of the total males of 18 years and upwards in 1921 and 1922, and 20.1 in 1923. The numbers recorded in the mining, engineering, and building groups showed increases in 1922 and 1923 as compared with the figures for 1921, the most noticeable proportional increase being shown in the metal and engineering group, where the percentage of the total rose from 11.0 in 1921 to 15.0 in 1922 and 19.0 in 1923. The percentage employed in mining and quarrying and in building increased in 1923 as compared with 1921. In the commercial, finance, and insurance and professional groups proportional decreases were shown in 1923 as compared with 1921, the percentage in the former group falling from 17.0 to 10.0, and in the latter group from 7.6 to 3.4. Of the female emigrants the number of wives or housewives (not otherwise described) amounted to nearly one-half of the total in each of the three years. The percentage employed in domestic, hotel, &c., service was 27.0 in 1921, 27.4 in 1922, and 28.5 in 1923. Little relative variation is shown in the other groups.

Of the men going overseas, by far the larger number are young men. The following figures show for three important occupational groups the proportion of male emigrants who were between 18 and 30 years of age:—

Occupational group.	From England and Wales.	From Scotland.	From Ireland.
	Percentage of occupational	percentage of total in group.	
Agricultural (1921	56	60	73
(1922	63	70	71
(1923	68	73	75
Metal and engineering (1921	49	60	58
(1922	53	65	68
(1923	57	66	65
Labourers (not in (1921	59	66	65
agriculture or (1922	63	70	83
transport) (1923	65	67	81
			82

The figures show what a large proportion of young Scots and young Irishmen are included among the emigrants in these trades. The numbers who went to the several divisions of the British Empire and foreign countries indicate that, although the bulk of the agricultural workers from England, Wales, and Scotland go to places within the Empire, principally to British North America, Australia, and New Zealand, an increasing number of skilled

workers has left for the United States. Of the 26,886 skilled workers who emigrated from Scotland in 1923, those reported as leaving for the United States numbered no less than 18,793, including 10,188 employed in the metal and engineering trades. Though this emigration makes room for others, it is a serious matter for these trades to lose so many of the best class of worker.

BUCKET SHOP ACTIVITY.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

WE have devoted some little attention to the various forms of allurements trailed in front of the public by the outside brokers, who are for ever hanging upon the skirts of Stock Exchange activity in any market which happens to be popular for the moment. It is not likely that many readers of the *Economist* will be misled by the flaming advertisements of these firms, but possibly the informed man is so familiar with this literature that, when he receives it all he does is to throw it into the wastepaper basket without giving a thought to the fact that a great deal of the harm is done amongst people who cannot see as clearly as he does the risk, and almost certain loss, which subscription to such offers will involve.

When a bus conductor, and a servant girl, ask in the same week whether they shall send respectively £5 and £1 to outside firms terming themselves stock and share dealers, it is time to suggest that a word of warning can be very usefully dropped by the business man in directions which are likely to be tempted by the get-rich-quick methods of advertising bucket-shops. Within the last week or two one firm has disappeared, which swamped the country with circulars offering shares at prices well below market quotations. The offers were made so substantially under market levels that this, in itself, would have been sufficient to arouse suspicion in the mind of the ordinary person, but it evidently had its effect in appealing to some who thought that they saw a rare chance of a bargain, and who answered the advertisements of the firm. It is surprising what a number of variations can be run upon the call-option principle.

• Within the past few days, we have come across circulars which profess to have something entirely new to offer in the way of such speculation, but which, upon a very cursory glance, reveals itself to be nothing more than the ordinary gamble on the tape for differences over a longer or shorter period. As a rule, the firms act in the capacity of principals, the inference being, of course, to the tutored mind that the shares are never bought at all, and that they are simply run against the client on the chance of the price going against the latter. Considering the width of the prices sent out on the tape—prices upon which the bargains are mostly based—it is obvious enough that stock, for instance, has to rise quite substantially before anything like a profit appears, though, on the other hand, the fall need be very modest for the cover to run off. For instance, if North-Western stock is quoted 99½-100, the bucket-shop takes option money at 100, and the price must rise to 101-101½, a gain of 1½ points, before a point profit becomes available. On the other hand, it has only to go to 99-99½, a fall of ½, for the margin to run off. If a profit does happen to accrue, the "lucky" speculator is invited to let it run; while, on the other hand, should the price go back, the transaction is immediately closed as soon as the margin runs off, unless more money is put up to keep it alive. Splashes of red ink and plenty of big print announce the "unexampled offer," as it is called, of a £10 combined call option for five different lots of shares in various companies for 30 days. The chance of making a profit on a combination of five different shares may sound attractive. But, in practice, the risk of losing is increased, not diminished, by the money being spread in this manner.

The Cambrian Trust, Limited, is in the field offering units of property in some oil region in Arkansas, upon which it is proposed to develop and to drill for oil at certain favourable positions thereon, locations to be chosen by a

geologist. The chance of striking oil in Arkansas is very slender, and if oil were found the business man will doubtless point out at once that it is likely to require a lot of money for its handling before anything like a decent profit can be expected. Another concern goes to the expense of sending telegrams to people who apply for its literature, urging them to remit money at once for operations in whatever shares it may be that the firm are suggesting. Possibly the mere fact of receiving a telegram tends to throw the unguarded into a state of excitement which results in money being sent for some operation, the chances of profit on which are considerably more in favour of the bucket-shop than of the client. The difficulty is to get any official recognition taken of these touts for business in stocks and shares, touts whose activities drag into disrepute the genuine business of the Stock Exchange itself, and which can easily discredit the House in the minds of people who, through ignorance, do not discriminate between members of the Stock Exchange and the firms of "stock and share dealers," as they call themselves, who apply their tactics under the guise of such a title. The one great argument in favour of giving the Stock Exchange a Charter lies in the monopoly which this would throw into the hands of the House, but there are many matters which require to be carefully weighed in the balance before a Charter is likely to be sought by the Stock Exchange. In the meantime, protection of the public in the matter of warning them against bucket-shop and outside share dealers' activities has to be left to private enterprise.

Notes of the Week.

The Trade Union Congress.—The proceedings at the Trade Union Congress, which has been holding its annual session at Hull this week, derive peculiar interest from the fact that it is the first Congress to be held during a Labour Government's tenure of office. On the whole, the work of the conference has been of more importance than that of many of its predecessors. The step to which the chief significance attaches is the granting of larger powers to the General Council. The Trade Union Congress is powerful as an organ for focussing and expressing opinion, but its executive weakness has been notorious, because it sits but once a year, and has hitherto withheld from its Council any broad or effective powers. On Tuesday, however, the Congress took the plunge, and decided by an overwhelming majority to entrust the Council with powers that will enable it to exercise a guiding influence on the conduct of trade disputes. It will now be obligatory upon individual unions to keep the Council informed on all matters in dispute; but the Council is not to intervene until there is danger of the ordinary negotiations breaking down. On paper, the innovation is very important, for it provides for the first time a body able to co-ordinate and keep under review the movements of the unions in respect of wages and conditions, and puts that body in a position to participate in disputes with authority. Whether it will prove equally important in practice remains to be seen. That will depend largely on three things—the personnel of the Council, the loyalty of trade unions to the new arrangement, and the ability of the Council to achieve general lines of agreement among themselves. To suppose that all these conditions will be fulfilled is a very large assumption. Next in interest in the Congress proceedings come the efforts of the Communists. They began on Monday by trying to exploit the uneasiness about the Dawes' scheme which was expressed in Mr Purcell's presidential address, but met with a rebuff. Ill-success attended them again on Tuesday, when, after an hour's discussion on the relations between British trade unionists and the Communist trade unions of Russia, the Conference decided to pass on to the next business; nor did they fare any better when they attempted to raise the question again on the following day. The Communists have, indeed, had a bad week, for, together with these failures, comes the decision of the Labour Party that they will not adopt any Communists as official Labour candidates at the next election. Mr Purcell's address was more outspoken than those of some of his predecessors. He

urged the Government to go out for a bolder legislative programme, and to show less timidity with regard to the opinion of those who considered themselves to be "the superior classes." Congress proceeded on Wednesday to give shape to the idea of the bolder programme which the Government should, in its view, follow, and adopted unanimously what it calls the "Industrial Workers' Charter." This is an immense political programme, which, however, contains little that is new to the official Labour platform, with the important exception of the proposal for a maximum working week of 44 hours. For the rest, the "Charter" includes public ownership and control of natural resources, nationalisation of land, mines, minerals, and railways, and extension of municipal enterprise. Thursday was devoted to the reception of "fraternal delegates" from abroad, but, in spite of the presence and speeches of Russian delegates, the proceedings were dull.

The Conflict in China.—A correspondent writes: If events in China could be interpreted by European experience, the fighting which began on Tuesday might open a way towards the restoration of order and peace throughout the republic. The pretext for it appears to be that Lu-Yung-Hsiang, the Tuchun of Chekiang, has harboured troops from Fukien who had revolted against its Tuchun, and it is primarily a struggle between him and Chi-Hsih-Yuan, the Tuchun of Kiangsu, to obtain control of Shanghai. Chi-Hsih-Yuan, representing the Chih-li party, is supported by Wu Pei-Fu, Inspector-General of Hupeh and Honan, and the chief military leader, the Tutchuns and armies of the adjacent provinces of Kiangsi, Anhui, and Fukien, and by the authority of the struggling Peking Government. Chekiang is the last stronghold of the Anfu party, reduced almost to impotence by Wu Pei-Fu in 1920; and Lu-Yung-Hsiang, who avows himself the champion of provincial Home Rule, is backed, and probably financed, by Chang-Tso-Lin, the Military Governor of Manchuria, which is now being developed by Japanese settlers and capital, and is probably the most prosperous part of the former Chinese Empire. If Lu-Yung-Hsiang were crushed and Chekiang controlled by Chi-Hsih-Yuan and his associates, and if they held together, the way would be open for an eventual march southward on Canton, where Sun-Yat-Sen's supremacy is imperilled by his quarrel with the local Volunteers—a force raised by the business community of Canton to defend the city and put down brigandage in Kwangtung—and by various rival leaders. Should the Chekiang army be defeated, however, it is predicted that Chang-Tso-Lin may move southwards to attack the victors; but he is more than a thousand miles from the seat of war, and would have great difficulty in reaching it owing to the recent terrible floods on the Yellow River. Both the contending Tutchuns have large forces—together exceeding 100,000—and are fairly well provided with munitions and artillery, and even have some aeroplanes; but the fighting is mainly in difficult country, amid rice-fields and swamps, the coalition between the supporters of the Chih-li party is extremely unstable, the Chinese are not keen fighters, and it seems probable that the negotiations which have hitherto failed will end in a compromise which will leave things much as before. British, American, French, Italian, and Japanese warships are protecting the foreign concessions at Shanghai; but the chief immediate effects of the struggle will probably be an increased disposition on the part of the Tutchuns to seize the railway receipts, and further interruptions of traffic. Peace cannot come till the armies are paid off and disbanded, and that is impracticable without foreign financial aid, which cannot be given until the country in general submits to the authority of the Peking Government.

Japan's Progress in Reconstruction.—Last Monday was the first anniversary of the most disastrous earthquake of modern times. In the intervening twelve months the Japanese people have made great efforts to repair the serious results of that great tragedy. Visitors to Tokyo or Yokohama still find them cities of temporary buildings.

Practically no permanent rebuilding has yet been begun, for the Government has wisely recognised that Tokyo needs to be replanned, and that it must be intersected with wide arterial roads which will prevent a fire in the future from spreading right through the city. We are informed that some 70 to 80 per cent. of the inhabitants have returned to the devastated areas. Factories have been restored to the extent of about 80 per cent., judging from the number of employees. In Tokyo, although some time is still required for the completion of the telephone work, the condition of the telegraph, electric light, electric power, waterworks, gas works and tramway services is nearly up to the standard obtaining before the earthquake. The restoration of similar services, however, in Yokohama is not so far advanced. But the replanning of great cities takes time, and it means that reconstruction will continue for a considerable time to come. In the meanwhile Japan has had considerable trade difficulties to contend with. Nevertheless, Japanese credit still stands high, and trade is active. During the second half of August the general trend of the money market remained easy, although the rate of day-to-day hardened a little to about 8½ per cent. per annum. The rates in respect of short loans were rather steadier than the previous month, as there was a turnover of funds in connection with the end-of-month requirements, while the monies which went into the provinces for the seasonal settlements had not yet fully returned. The latest cabled figures of the Bank of Japan show the note circulation practically unchanged at 1,300 million yen, against 1,287 million yen, while discounts and advances have risen from 346 million yen to 457 million yen. The results of the subscriptions for various debentures were generally good, but there is a pause in issues of this kind for the time being. Foreign trade continued good. Figures for the first six months of the year now available show that exports rose from 714 million yen to 808 million yen, a large part of the increase being under the heading of manufactured goods, and particularly cotton tissues. On the other hand, imports rose to an even greater extent from 1,108 million yen to 1,472 million yen, the increase in imports being fairly general, but the largest increase being under the heading of iron and steel products, no doubt chiefly for reconstruction. The adverse trade balance rose from 394 million yen to 664 million yen. The share market remained inactive. The prices of rice and cotton were unchanged, but the price of raw silk rose gradually to 19.20 yen for the best grade, in consequence of an increased demand of late. There has also been some demand for this latter commodity for autumn settlement. The quotations of the materials for winter requirements were well maintained, owing to signs of scarcity in stocks.

Irish Free State Trade.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—The boundary issue still continues the dominant factor in all discussions and in all contemplated political developments. The principal danger in the near future will lie in the possibility of "incidents" on the border which might precipitate a conflict, and this is a very serious and real danger. There are hotheads on both sides of it, whose partisan interests would be well served by such incidents if they were to occur. There are proposals here that the Free State, like France in July, 1914, should withdraw all its uniformed men a few miles behind the Boundary—and that it should call on Great Britain to take such steps as may be necessary to guarantee peaceful conditions on the other side of it. The trade returns for the first six months of the current year have just been published. Total imports stand at £33,478,305, and total exports at £21,877,493. Experienced observers are frankly puzzled over the exact significance of this great preponderance of imports. It is easy to speculate, but it is impossible to speak with certitude in the absence of such information of an exact character as would render an explanation convincing. Indeterminate factors like these demonstrate the futility of discussions about a separate Irish currency, for until the whole of the facts are ascertained with substantial accuracy all such discussions are in the air. The Revenue

is coming in well in spite of the severe commercial depression, and at the last week-end there was a credit balance in the Exchequer of £4,469, 652.

The Dawes Scheme Appointments.—Mr Owen D. Young, one of the American signatories to the Dawes Report, who, it was hoped, would be the Agent-General for Reparation Payments, has unfortunately not been able to accept the post permanently. He has, however, been appointed as a temporary measure, and will initiate the scheme. The permanent Agent-General is to be Mr Seymour Parker Gilbert, an American financial lawyer in the firm of Mr Paul Cravath, who was an American representative on the Inter-Allied Finance Council at the end of the war. The Reparations Commission has appointed one of its members, M. Delacroix, the former Premier of Belgium, who changed places with Colonel Theunis when the latter became Prime Minister, to be trustee for the Railway bonds, while the trustee for Industrial bonds will be M. Nogara, who was financial adviser to the Italian Peace Delegation, and is now a member of the Ottoman Debt Council. The Commissioner for Controlled Revenues is to be Mr. McFadyen, formerly of the British Treasury, and at present general secretary of the Reparations Commission. We are glad to learn that "the Reparations Commission has decided to prepare a plan of reorganisation which should have the effect of resulting in economies at least large enough to cover the expenses entailed by the new organisation to be set up under the Dawes Plan. The combination of the office of delegate and of trustee will not involve for the holder of these appointments any increase of emoluments."

Spain and Morocco.—The news from the Spanish zone in Morocco is very grave indeed. The Spanish Government, in spite of its essentially military character, is ready to carry out the change of policy announced by one of its predecessors at the end of 1922. The Marquis de Estella has again made known that the offer tendered to the native leader, Abdul Krim, in 1923, still holds good—economic and administrative independence, with financial aid from Spain towards the development of the resources of the region, the withdrawal of the Spanish troops and the substitution of a native army, and a Spanish Protectorate. The natives, however, stand out for complete independence; Abdul Krim, a born leader of men, controls them entirely; and fighting is actively proceeding, both in the East and West. In the West Raisuli and his adherents remain loyal, but his powers are failing, and there is unrest and intermittent fighting in the region of Larache and Arzeila. In the East the Spaniards are struggling to relieve their scattered out-stations in intensely hot weather and extremely difficult country—mountainous, roadless, and covered by almost impenetrable thickets, which facilitate constant surprises and native attacks. The native auxiliaries of Spain are not altogether trustworthy, and there is some danger that the disturbance will spread to the French zone, where the frontier tribes are beginning to follow the example of their Rifian kinsmen. Reinforcements are being poured in from Spain to both zones, but necessarily they consist of conscripts, and the terrible sufferings of the troops may possibly produce some unrest among them, or a division in Spanish opinion, which at present appears to be united in supporting the continuance of the war. Operations on a larger scale are now announced officially, and it seems to be intended that there shall be a fight to a finish. The region has at present no economic value, though it is believed that its wealth in minerals, if they could be worked, is very great. But the honour of Spain is affected, and it seems to be generally felt that withdrawal is impossible. Meantime the immense expenditure necessary must destroy the hopes of a reduction in the Budget deficit, which it was recently announced would disappear in 1925.

Index of "Free" Shipping Freights.—As foreshadowed in these columns last month, "tramp" shipping freights reached a turning point in August, and for the first time since last February our Index records a slight advance. The figure for August was 121.49, equivalent to a percentage rise of 0.6 as compared with July. The move-

ments of the various groups in the Index are indicated in the following table:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	529.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December, 1920.....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.67
December, 1923.....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February, 1924.....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March, 1924.....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April, 1924.....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May, 1924.....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June, 1924.....	128.66	133.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37
July, 1924.....	123.66	121.87	121.91	120.13	114.69	121.96	120.70
August, 1924.....	120.45	128.10	119.94	118.97	113.31	128.19	121.49

The month's changes in the Index of each group and subgroup are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	106.74	+ 6.16	S. America—outwards ..	89.23	— 7.10
Bay—outwards	133.94	+ 1.83	" homewards	150.66	+ 3.17
" homewards	132.26	— 3.22	India—outwards	187.72	+ 6.68
Mediterranean—outwards ..	131.23	— 3.06	" homewards	110.23	— 7.93
" homewards	111.74	— 2.53	Far East, &c.	113.31	— 1.88
North America—outwards ..	128.10	+ 6.25	Australia	128.19	+ 6.25

The growing strength of the homeward freight markets was a noticeable and satisfactory feature of the month. In the case of the River Plate, chartering was again conducted on a very large scale, and a strong and steady demand developed for grain carriers from North America. Further fixtures at improved rates were secured for the new season's crop at Australia, and business in the East showed a welcome, though belated, revival. On the other hand, with ample tonnage on the market, outward coal freights displayed continued weakness, and homeward chartering from the Bay and Mediterranean was of a moderate character. A better demand for ore carriers, however, appears to be probable in the near future, and the movement of ballast tonnage to attractive markets further afield should have a beneficial effect upon rates in European waters. The relation of the Index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

	(1913 = 100.)				
Month.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	
January	194.59	.. 131.60	.. 114.05	.. 117.11	
February	164.54	.. 135.76	.. 112.73	.. 123.78	
March	162.17	.. 135.53	.. 115.23	.. 122.09	
April	147.48	.. 129.46	.. 115.45	.. 117.22	
May	158.42	.. 125.12	.. 114.55	.. 114.27	
June	165.73	.. 117.45	.. 106.82	.. 108.48	
July	169.87	.. 114.52	.. 103.39	.. 103.75	
August	170.60	.. 113.16	.. 100.16	.. 104.43	
September	154.47	.. 110.37	.. 103.04	.. ..	
October	141.85	.. 114.42	.. 107.86	.. ..	
November	136.47	.. 119.43	.. 111.21	.. ..	
December	134.66	.. 117.39	.. 111.81	.. ..	
Mean for year	158.40	.. 122.02	.. 109.69	.. ..	

A review of the whole situation would appear to suggest that the autumn revival in freights has now been ushered in, and providing a reasonable measure of stability is reached in European affairs, the shipping industry may assuredly look to the future with quiet confidence.

The Reduction in the Price of Petrol.—Last week we gave the economic facts which might cause the big distributing oil companies to consider reducing the price of petrol in this country. We ventured the opinion that a reduction in the near future of 3d or 4d a gallon was not unlikely. On Thursday of this week it was announced that a reduction had been agreed upon of 3½d per gallon in the retail and 3d per gallon in the wholesale price. This brings the price of the No. 1 brands of the three or four big companies to 1s 7½d per gallon retail and 1s 5d per gallon wholesale. Seeing that the garage still gets a commission of 2½d per gallon on petrol in the tin, and 4d per gallon on petrol from the pump—which is, in fact, a bigger profit than the big petrol companies normally make

for themselves—it is reasonable to give the motorist the advantage of an extra ½d reduction at the expense of the garage. We welcome the present retail price of 1s 7½d as being ½d below the pre-war price. Petrol must now be classed among the cheapest commodities. The fluctuations in the retail price in recent years have been:—August, 1921, 2s 5½d; September, 1922, 2s; July, 1923, 1s 8½d; September, 1923, 1s 6½d; January, 1924, 1s 11d; September, 1924, 1s 7½d. A heavy item in the cost of petrol is, of course, the distribution charges. At enormous expense the big petrol companies have built up a distribution service covering the whole country which is admittedly very efficient. A uniform price is charged throughout England—in Scotland it is 1d more, and 2d more in Ireland—so that, in effect, the accessible places are bearing part of the cost of distribution to inaccessible places in addition to their own. We think, however, that a large consuming centre such as London, in which the turnover is big and the costs of distribution from ocean storage depots on the Thames relatively small, should have some advantage in price over the rest of the country, if it is practicable to enforce a dividing line. "One price, one quality," for the whole country is certainly a policy that does credit to the three big petrol companies; but in the case, say, of London, we should welcome an exception to the rule as regards price.

Record Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of the gold mines of the Transvaal for July amounted to 829,437 fine ounces, being an increase on June of 56,384 ounces, and surpassing the record of 809,003 fine ounces established last May, by 20,434 fine ounces. This is, strictly speaking, the second occasion on which the 800,000 ounce mark has been exceeded, though, as a matter of historical accuracy, it may be pointed out that the actual declaration of gold for March, 1912, was 830,723 ounces, but this included 70,143 ounces existing at the end of the previous month. The value of the July output was £3,867,250, as against £3,652,675 in June, and £3,822,539 for May. It has to be taken into account that the value of gold for July is calculated at £4 13s 3d per fine ounce, while in the preceding two months it was taken at £4 14s 6d, and it would be much better if for comparative purposes the value of gold for each month was taken at the standard rate of £4.24773 per fine ounce. Using that basis, the value of the May output is £3,431,324, June £3,270,435, July £3,523,224. There is, however, a further factor to be considered. The July total includes the output of the West Springs Mines, which started crushing towards the end of April, and has now made its first output declaration. The quantity of gold is given as 28,218 ounces, which at the month's gold value of £4 13s 3d would give a total value of about £130,649. It is obvious, therefore, that the new mine is responsible for the increase in the output. An outstanding feature in the returns of the mining groups is the performance of the star mine of the Barnato group, the Government Areas Mine—the Rand's leading producer. This mine earned a profit of £206,289, as compared with £197,438 for the shorter month of June, and £200,287 for May. The latest monthly profit is the highest in the history of the mine, and the working costs average of 16s 8d per ton milled is the lowest recorded. On the whole, the July performance, though hardly up to expectation, is not unsatisfactory, as there is still a labour shortage. The next full 27 days' working month is October, and if the miners' demands for 20 per cent. advance in wages do not cause trouble, and no other unforeseen hindrance occurs, that month should see the July record broken as far as output is concerned, though a fall in the gold premium may prevent the total profit being much greater than in July. It is possible, with the accession of West Springs and the Central West to the productive list, that the total output of the Transvaal may be well on to ten million ounces for this year. In addition to these new mines there is the further expected expansion at New State Areas, at Brakpan and elsewhere. As to the value of the year's output, seeing that the value for the first half-year has been over 22½ millions, it may be assumed that, subject to the gold premium not falling materially below the present figure, the value for the whole year

should reach at least £45,000,000, and thus constitute a record. This amount is, of course, without deduction of exchange and realisation charges.

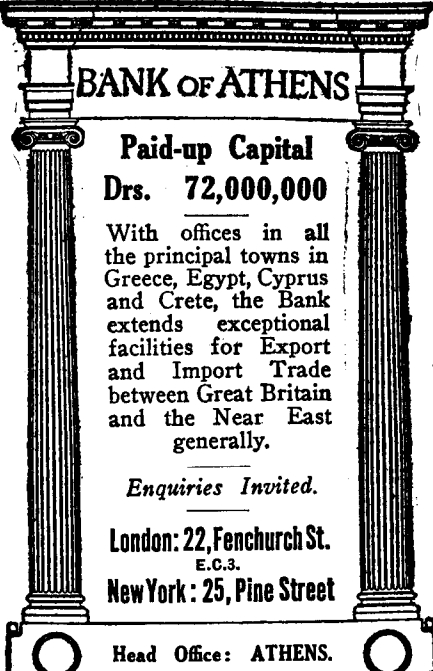
The Tin Position.—Standard tin this week rose to £262 three months, and in the East £264 was recorded, these figures being the highest witnessed for several months. The improvement was based on bear covering, light offerings, and expectations of an expansion in the demand for both American and European account before the close of the year. The world's visible supply of tin on September 1st amounted to 20,390 tons, which compares with 19,462 tons in the previous month, and 16,295 tons a year ago. There is thus an increase of 928 tons shown on the month and one of 4,095 tons on the year. This in the ordinary course of events would be a bad point for the commodity, but it is well known that during the last year or so there has been a very wholesome reduction in the State-owned tin in the East. This big tonnage was held under the Bandoeng Agreement, and it is stated that the Federated Malay States Government has sold no fewer than 6,975 tons of its holdings, and has now only 3,087 tons to dispose of. The sales in the open market last month were 800 tons; assuming that this is kept up, the end of the year will assuredly see the last of this "pooled" tin, and therefore it is quite reasonable to say that, notwithstanding the increase of 928 tons in the visible supply last month, the general statistical position is healthier. Moreover, technical conditions are much sounder, and the outlook certainly favours higher prices in the near future. The monthly supplies for August came to 8,710 tons. The Straits shipments were 6,555 tons, and 921 tons was Banka tin. The supplies are full compared with the deliveries, which only amounted to 7,782 tons, but both this country, Holland, and the rest of the Continental users have been taking less, this being due to quite seasonal causes. The American deliveries at 4,805 tons were better, but still well under the average for the previous 12 months. The reports from the United States anent the tinplate industry are very good, with every prospect of a busy autumn season. The average export of tinplates from the United States for the first half of 1924 was 16,500 tons per month, as compared with 10,500 tons, the average for all 1923, and 6,000 tons for 1913. This shows how the industry in America is increasing its output, and in Great Britain the export trade also has been doing very well during recent months. The stocks in the Swansea warehouses and vans are now about 193,000 boxes, compared with 232,000 boxes at this time last year, and the foreign demand for British plates is well above the 1913 level. The total supplies of tin for the 12 months ended August 31st were 107,214 tons, against 100,058 tons for the previous year, and 54,498 tons for the 12 months to August 31, 1921. Thus in four years the supplies of tin have nearly doubled. The deliveries in the same period were 103,119 tons, against 104,996 tons in the previous 12 months, and thus both the British and American users cannot be very well covered. The American takings during the last year have been fully 5,500 tons per month, and if this continued the outlook would be exceptionally good, especially when the surplus supplies are exhausted.

The Tea Boom.—Encouraged by the remarkably good prices that are current for tea in the Sales Rooms, people have been buying tea shares in a manner which served to lash market conditions into a state of boom. The excitement started about six months ago, and suffered no serious check to its cumulative force until July, when floods in Southern India, accompanied by loss of coolie-life on one or two estates, pulled up the enthusiasm with a jerk. Speculation in tropical produce is never free from the shadow of unexpected natural phenomena, and many people sold their tea shares, mostly at handsome profits, upon this evidence of unlooked-for possibilities. But the set-back did not last for long. Buyers returned in greatly increased numbers to the tea share market, and a sharp

reaction on Tuesday in this week was followed by an equally prompt recovery in prices. Tea meanwhile is advancing, and at this week's auctions a parcel of particularly fine quality went at 4d per lb above the price obtained for the same grade at the previous sale. Less gilt-edged tea fetched higher prices, too, though not of the same sensational order. The spirits of the Stock Exchange bulls revived, and again a fresh set of purchasers came forward. Because of the widely-fluctuating character of the tea industry, tea shares have been always regarded as possessing a very speculative flavour, but the companies are, as a general rule, conservatively managed by boards that have made a special study of the business. Not many years ago, the tea industry fell upon a series of misfortunes that threatened the very existence of all but the strongest companies. Some concerns went under, but the survivors profited by their troubles, and the result has been a building-up of reserves that justifies the payment of remarkably high rates of dividend. Fear of competition is no bugbear, because Ceylon is almost planted up with tea, while labour shortage in India renders it unlikely that any considerable extension of tea-growing will be attempted in the Southern provinces. The entry of the United States into the ranks of tea-drinking countries is a potent factor in expanding the demand for tea. Russia, once a consumer of vast quantities of tea, may come to market again before long as a big customer, and the amount of tea drunk in our own country has never been so great as it is to-day. These are amongst the considerations which justify, according to the bullish argument, the anticipation of a possible shortage, with its natural corollary of rising prices for the leaf. The tea-drinker rejoiced when the Government reduced the duty upon tea in the last Budget, but within the past fortnight retailers have put up their prices, and still higher levels are threatened. As the wholesale quotations rise, picking of the coarser leaves is encouraged by the necessity for selling tea to the customer who, if unable or unwilling to pay more money, must be satisfied to drink tea of a lower quality than heretofore. It is not surprising for the share market to have developed exuberance, considering all the present circumstances and the dividend outlook, but, as already mentioned, the hand of Nature can ban, as well as bless, a tropical industry. From the narrower Stock Exchange viewpoint, the danger is that, if unforeseen mischance occurred, the narrowness of the market in the shares would render it a matter of difficulty to get out if the ardent buyers of to-day should become the urgent sellers of to-morrow.

Mexico and the Oil Industry.—For the greater part of its revenue the Mexican Government is dependent on its oil industry. Apart from royalties on State concessions, it levies taxes both on oil produced and oil exported. The rate of tax varies according to the price of fuel oil in New York harbour. For the months of July and August the production tax on light crude oil was 24.4 cents per barrel, and on heavy crude oil 12.7 cents per barrel, while the export duties, as from August 8th, have been 8 cents per barrel on light crude oil, 5 cents on heavy crude oil, 6 cents on fuel oil, and so on. It will therefore be appreciated that the progress of the oil industry is of great financial consequence to the Mexican Government. For the first half of this year the total crude oil production, happily for the Treasury Department, was very little different from that of the first half of 1923. There was, in fact, a slight increase of 47,804 barrels. It so happened that although the output of the light oil fields declined heavily, by as much as 42 per cent., the increase in the output of the heavy oil fields made good the difference. The detailed figures are as follows:—

MEXICAN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION (In Barrels).			
	First half, 1923.	First half, 1924.	
Southern (light oil) fields	34,978,762	20,002,476	
Panuco (heavy oil) fields	40,184,998	55,209,088	
Total	75,163,760	75,211,564	
Exports (all oils)	70,924,636	71,231,665	



BANK OF ATHENS

Paid-up Capital
Drs. 72,000,000

With offices in all the principal towns in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and Crete, the Bank extends exceptional facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally.

Enquiries Invited.

London: 22, Fenchurch St.
E.C.3.
New York: 25, Pine Street

Head Office: ATHENS.

The production and exports of the four leading companies were as follows:—

	Production.		Exports.	
	First Half 1923.	First Half 1924.	First Half 1923.	First Half 1924.
Standard Oil (N.J.)	10,250,396	11,879,594	6,815,188	15,559,810
Mexican Petrol (Doheny interests) ..	19,296,806	12,772,406	16,774,891	15,188,067
Mexican Eagle	5,640,027	4,176,792	9,373,122	4,796,529
Corona (Royal Dutch)	15,703,241	6,580,765	11,267,624	8,526,066

These company output figures indicate the course of production. The drop in the output of the Mexican Petroleum Company was due to the salt water intrusion in the youngest of the Southern fields, the decline in which is likely to continue during the remainder of the year. The production of the heavy oil fields should, however, continue to rise. The Corona Company, which lost heavily in the earlier part of the year on account of salt water trouble in the Cacalilao field, has since made good its losses and is to-day the largest producer of heavy oil in Mexico. The Mexican Eagle is also producing in the heavy oil district. Further, the new pipe-line of the Mexican Petroleum Company, 60 miles in length, from Ebano to Tampico, will enable that company's production, both in Ebano and Cacalilao, to be very largely increased. The total production of Mexico for the year is therefore likely to show some increase over that of 1923. But small, if steady, progress of this kind will hardly satisfy the Mexican Government, burdened as it is by the costs of the De La Huerta revolution. The oil companies, dissatisfied with the position of foreign capital in Mexico, are holding back from the exploratory work and the test-drilling necessary for the proving of new fields in other parts of the country. The oil production of Mexico (and with it the oil revenue) will never recover former proportions without the expenditure of vast sums of money on the part of the oil industry. The Mexican Government, in a recently issued report, has estimated the investment in oil in the Republic at \$796,400,000 (Mexican gold), and the value of oil obtained since 1901 at \$1,758,403,464 (Mexican gold). This realisation, after deducting expenses, has amply compensated, in the Government's opinion, the capital investment, while the investors still have their installations and reserves of land. But apparently the oil companies are not convinced. President Obregon has unfortunately declared that American oil interests are inimical to Mexico's development. The conference which was to have taken place between the President and the leading American oil magnates—with regard to future concessions—has broken down. There, for the time being, the matter rests.

The Cotton-seed Oil Industry in the U.S.A.—A correspondent writes:—The contest between the dairy interests and the manufacturers of cotton-seed oil and margarine in the U.S.A. has been long and bitter. Up to the present the dairy interests seem to have had the best of it, and have succeeded in getting a certain amount of anti-margarine legislation on the statute book. Since the makers of margarine (oleo-margarine, as it is called in the States) have hitherto been the principal consumers of high-grade cotton-seed oil, producers of this oil have directly suffered from the hostility of the butter makers. This hostility, together with adverse tariffs, has indeed brought the cotton-seed oil industry very near to disaster, and its position to-day is precarious. So much is this the case that two of the largest companies in the business—the Southern Cotton Oil Co. and the American Cotton Oil Co.—have gone into liquidation. These two companies formerly disposed of more than half a million barrels of cotton-seed oil in Europe alone, but a great part of this export market has now been lost. In an authoritative survey of the whole industry recently read before the Interstate Cotton-seed Crushers' Association at New Orleans, Mr John Aspegren, president of one of the largest cotton oil companies in the south, said that twenty-five years ago cotton-seed oil could only be used for soap-making, but such progress has now been made in refining and other processes, including that of hardening or hydrogenating the oil into a hard white fat, that it is now possible to supply not only a high-grade liquid oil for culinary purposes and as a salad oil, but also a hard fat for margarine manufacture and as a lard substitute. This business was in a flourishing position in 1920-21, when the fight against the dairy interests became intensified. The present chief line of attack by the butter people is to try and emphasise the alleged lack of vitamins in margarine made from vegetable oil; to which the margarine manufacturers have replied by introducing concentrated vitamin preparations into margarine. In 1920-21 the sales of refined cotton-seed oil reached 1,500,000 barrels, but since then there has been a disastrous falling off and loss of export trade. Mr Aspegren thinks that one of the principal causes of the slump was the tariff against importation of vegetable oils from China and Japan, but it is probable that the main cause lies deeper. The cotton-seed oil industry has shared in the very deep depression which overtook the world's vegetable oil industry a year or two ago, from which it is with great difficulty recovering. Doubtless, also, the cotton-seed oil industry of the U.S.A. was adversely affected by conditions peculiar to that country, including excessive tariffs. The enormous production of lard in the U.S.A. is another special and disturbing factor. The total annual production is now about 5,000,000 tierces, of which about 2,000,000 are consumed in the U.S.A., so that an outlet must be found for the remaining 3,000,000. In addition to and in strong competition with this enormous production is the lard substitute made from cotton-seed oil to the extent of about 3,000,000 tierces per annum. Difficulties have been increased by the short supply of cotton-seed due to three short cotton crops, and the rash competition and scrambling for supplies among the oilmill buyers. This competition is severely condemned by Mr Aspegren, who advocates more regular buying and a spirit of co-operation among the buyers. The same thing applies not only to the manufacturer of the crude oil, i.e., the actual buyer of the seed, but also to the oil refiner and lard substitute manufacturer. These, also, should reform their buying methods and cease fierce competition among themselves.

A South African Local Loan "on Tap."—The Union of South Africa as from August 1st to January 15th next is offering to the public 5 per cent. local stock at par, repayable January 15, 1935. According to a published statement in front of us, the money is required "for the purpose of railway and harbour and other public works in the Union." An interesting point about this loan is the proposed scheme of subscription. It is provided that "on application, 5 per cent. or more of the nominal value of the amount of stock applied for" should be paid forthwith, and the balance on or before February 15, 1925, in one or more instalments, and on such date or dates as the

subscriber may elect." A correspondent writing to us on the subject observes that: "The unlimited amount of issue, 5½ months open list and pay 'as you please' conditions, are surely an entirely new departure in finance." We would remind our correspondent, however, that the prospectus of Treasury bonds issued by our home Treasury did not state any definite sum required. Further, these bonds were "on tap" for a considerable period. The "pay-as-you-please" conditions certainly intrigue us, and we shall be interested to learn if this is a more efficient method of attracting money from small investors than the Savings Certificates. Much depends upon the book-keeping organisation. We do not think that Sir D. Drummond Fraser, when advocating bonds on tap, has so far suggested that the bonds should be payable as and when the subscriber elects.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—This Australian enterprise has a wonderful record, but the period of transition from a mining to an industrial undertaking has, writes our mining correspondent, proved very trying, as well as unprofitable to the shareholders. No dividends have been paid for 2½ years, and the price of the shares is not much more than half that at which the last issue was made in connection with the financing of the iron and steel works. For the twelve months ended May, 1923, a loss of £106,100 resulted, no profit being derived from the ironworks. Last year the mine at Broken Hill was reopened, and the steel works at Newcastle, N.S.W., gave a record output. Hence the profit and loss account shows a credit of £279,300. The directors are of the opinion that the shareholders' interests would be best served by not drawing upon the resources at the present moment; they anticipate, however, that dividends may be resumed during the next twelve months should the company's affairs continue as at present. Various additions have been, or are being, made to the plant, and the fleet has been increased. A departure which may prove of considerable importance is the acquisition of an interest in a coal property—the consumption already amounts to 900,000 tons per annum. Labour, tariffs, and other points were also dealt with by the chairman in his speech, a lengthy cabled summary of which has been made available by the enterprise of a daily contemporary.

Mount Morgan.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The full text of the annual report indicates that the conclusions based on the cabled summary were somewhat erroneous. Encouragement was derived from the statement that the accounts showed a deficit of only £15,300, as against £70,000 for the year ended May, 1923. It appears, however, that the loss on operations amounted to £17,100, or rather more than in the preceding period; the difference in the total net results arose from the marked increase in the sum received as dividends on investments. The net cash assets are now set out as £419,650. This does not include the company's substantial shareholdings in the Electrolytic Refining Company, the Australian Fertilisers, and the Metal Manufacturers—which obviously provided the additional income. Once again work was impeded by labour trouble, this time on the part of the coke employees on the south coast of New South Wales, but by recourse to its own coal mine the company was enabled to avoid shutting down the smelter. The hopes of an improvement in the copper market were only realised in a limited degree, the price secured for electrolytic averaging £73 7s 10d per ton, as compared with £72 6s 9d in 1922-23. A feature of the mining was the discovery of gold values above the average of the reserves; this was reflected in an increase of 9,400 ozs (to 73,160 ozs) in the quantity of the precious metal recovered. At 2,851,650 tons the ore reserves display a shrinkage of 180,500 tons in quantity, the copper value of 2.59 per cent. being a shade up, and the gold average of 6.02 dwts a shade down. The endeavours made to secure better recoveries of the metals have been attended with such a degree of success that the continuance of further experimental work on the mill tailings is considered to be unnecessary. In past years the company has paid fairly substantial dividends, the lowest being the last—5 per cent. for 1919-20. The outlook would be much improved by an advance in the price of the red metal, or easier economic conditions.

THE Board of Trade give notice that they are recommending that the date to be fixed by Order in Council under Section 6 (3) of the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924, shall be January 1, 1925. If this recommendation is adopted, the rules contained in the Act will apply to all contracts within the scope of the Act which are made after December 31, 1924.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—EARNINGS OF FARMS—RECORD DYE PRODUCTION IN 1923 — COTTON CROP PROSPECTS AND TEXTILES—MONEY, STOCKS, AND BONDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, August 26.

"AMERICAN agriculture, since the slump of 1920, has not yielded a commercial interest return on its invested capital, or a fair wage for the average farm operator and his family." This is one of the conclusions reached by the Department of Agriculture as the result of an investigation, covering a period of several years, into results of farm operations in all sections of the country. The Department ascertained that after the low point of depression had been reached in 1920-21, farming business generally showed some improvement in the following year, while in the last two years the improvement has been quite noticeable, and the belief is expressed that this improvement will continue. Other interesting conclusions given in the survey, which has just been completed, may be summarised as follows. Interest paid on total farm indebtedness absorbed all capital earnings in the crop years 1920-21 and 1921-22. In the next two years there was a return of 3.1 per cent. on the total capital invested in agriculture, including rewards of management. It calculates this return was 6.2 per cent. for 1919-20, 0.6 per cent. for 1920-21, 1.4 per cent. for 1921-22, 3.1 per cent. for 1922-23, and 3.1 per cent. also for 1923-24. Even this meagre showing, it is said, was only made by valuing labour of farm operators and their families at no more than the current rate for common labour. While agricultural capital as a whole had only the small returns indicated, the survey shows it was paying an average of more than 6.7 per cent. on mortgage and other indebtedness. The Department places the gross income of American agriculture (the value of production less feed and seed) at \$15,830,000,000 for 1919-20, at \$12,782,000,000 for 1920-21, at \$9,552,000,000 for 1921-22, at \$10,592,000,000 for 1922-23, and \$11,467,000,000 for 1923-24. Net income for the different years is figured at \$4,954,000,000 for 1919-20, \$438,000,000 for 1920-21, \$865,000,000 for 1921-22, \$1,916,000,000 for 1922-23, and \$1,863,000,000 for 1923-24. After the farmers had paid interest on their total farm debt, the net income left on their unencumbered capital is estimated by the Department at \$4,057,000,000 for 1919-20, losses of \$468,000,000 and \$73,000,000 for 1920-21 and 1921-22 respectively, a net balance of \$964,000,000 for 1922-23 and of \$921,000,000 for 1923-24.

The United States is rapidly increasing its production of dyes and dyestuffs and finding an export market for such commodities, according to the report of the Tariff Commission for 1923. Furthermore, owing to the larger domestic output in recent years, prices of dyes and dyestuffs, the Commission says, have declined sharply. The opinion is also expressed that, as a result of the expansion of this industry in the United States, Great Britain, France and other countries, Germany will find it most difficult to regain the position of supremacy she held in this trade prior to the war. The effect of the famine in dyes, which after the beginning of the war threatened textile and other industries, is no longer apparent in this country. The report discloses a record output of dyes in the United States during 1923, with notable progress, for the first time here, in manufacturing many new dye products and other synthetic organic chemicals. Last year, it is shown,

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits	\$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



88 firms in this country produced a total of 93,667,524 pounds of dyes, as against 64,632,187 pounds produced by 87 firms in 1922. Total sales for 1923 are placed at 86,567,446 pounds, valued at \$47,223,161. The pre-war production in 1914 by seven firms amounted to 6,619,729 pounds, valued at \$2,470,096. Dyes produced in the United States last year supplied about 96 per cent. of the apparent consumption of coal tar dyes, according to the Commission's findings, and there was in addition an exportable surplus of various dyes aggregating 18,000,000 pounds, approximately. Last year nearly 100 entirely new dyes were produced, as compared with 1922, while other dyes which had been reported previously in small quantities were manufactured on a substantial commercial scale. These comprised, generally, dyes of the speciality class, of greater complexity and more difficult and costly to manufacture. The new products include dyes for silk, cotton, and wool. Although somewhat deficient in the production of certain vat dyes, the domestic industry, the report says, supplies more than 95 per cent. of the demand. Exports of coal tar dyes last year totalled 17,924,200 pounds, valued at \$5,885,457, as compared with 8,344,187 pounds, valued at \$3,996,443, in 1922. "As a result of this remarkable period of expansion and development, the world's present capacity to produce dyes is nearly double that of the pre-war period," the Commission says. "The estimated annual capacity to produce dyes of the seven leading producers—Germany, United States, Great Britain, Switzerland, France, Japan, and Italy—is considerably in excess of 600,000,000 pounds. The maximum estimated or officially reported output of the seven leading dye producers is as follows:—Germany (1913), 280,000,000 pounds; United States (1923), 94,000,000 pounds; Great Britain (1920), 43,000,000 pounds; Switzerland (1920), 24,000,000 pounds; France (1923), 24,000,000 pounds; Japan (1919), 16,000,000 pounds; and Italy (1922), 10,000,000 pounds. This existing capacity to produce over and above normal requirements is resulting in an era

of severe competition in the world's markets," the Commission remarks, "which may eliminate many of the German industries now in operation." In an attempt to regain her lost trade in dyes, Germany, the Commission declares, is seeking to form affiliations in the new producing countries. In Italy, for instance, one of the largest dye producers, the Bianchi Company, is said to have a working agreement whereby the Germans are to supply technical assistance, and, in return, share in the profits. In France, the Compagnie Nationale is said to have effected a similar arrangement with the German Interessen Gemeinschaft, but the conditions arising from the French occupation of the Ruhr, it is reported, affected the operation of this agreement.

In primary markets for cotton goods, demand, which quickened considerably a few weeks ago, has fallen to light proportions, and prices recently have shown a much easier tendency. The decline has been more marked in printcloths than in other unfinished lines, prices having dropped about $\frac{1}{2}$ c a yard to 9c for 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch 64 x 60's, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1c on grey goods. Various mills have been willing to contract for deliveries to the end of this year at the lower levels, but buyers manifested little disposition to cover distant requirements, confining their purchases, as a rule, to small lots for early shipment. The hesitancy of merchants to operate very far ahead, as well as the recession in prices, is attributed largely to the recent sharp declines in raw cotton and to the Government's latest crop report, which indicated a condition and prospective yield much better than had generally been expected. The Department of Agriculture's forecast of a crop of 12,956,000 bales as of August 16th on an average condition of 64.9 per cent. of normal represents an increase of 605,000 bales over the Government estimate on August 1. This is the critical period for the cotton crop, but it is apparent that the crop made good progress in the first half of the month. Already the cotton trade is beginning to discuss the prospects, if not likelihood, of the yield exceeding 13,000,000 bales, as against less than 12,000,000 which the Department predicted in July. Thus far boll-weevils have caused no serious damage to the crop as a whole, although destructive in some localities. The crop, generally, however, is late; the ravages of the weevil are said to be increasing in many sections, and there is still time for considerable damage to be done. On the other hand, the crop is in a much better condition than it was a year ago at this time.

There has recently been a downward revision of prices on certain lines of southern cottons as a result of wage reductions in some large southern mills. While southern cotton goods manufacturers are increasing their active capacity in many instances, they are also cutting wages. One of the leading southern mills will shortly go on full time, but with a 10 per cent. wage reduction; other plants have resumed full schedules, with a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cut in wages, while several are doubling their output, but have made a downward revision of 10 to 15 per cent. in wages. In all cases such reductions have been made without any concerted action. Very little, if any, progress has been made by New England mills at lowering their operating costs by reducing the wage schedules. One company attempted a cut of 10 per cent., with an increase in working hours, but this resulted in an immediate strike of loom fixers, and the reduction was rescinded. It now seems unlikely that northern mills will endeavour to force any wage cuts, at least until after the presidential election in November, owing to fears of precipitating a general strike.

Rather striking figures are presented in a survey of labour wages during the past ten years, just completed by the National Industrial Conference Board. In 23 leading manufacturing industries, covering on the average 700,000 employees, wages show an advance of 127.3 per cent. since July, 1914. Taking the relation of the changes in earnings to the change in the cost of living from the common base of July, 1914, the figures show that the wage-earner in these industries is 27 per cent. better off to-day than he was in July, 1914. Among the hourly wage increases in some of the manufacturing industries during the past decade may be noted 122 per cent. in the automobile trade, 141 per cent. in iron and steel, 158 per cent. in rubber, 125 per cent. in boot and shoe, and

166 per cent. in Northern cotton mills. Industries other than manufacturing show similar increases, namely, anthracite mining, 191 per cent.; first-class railroad, 135 per cent.; building, 108 per cent. without bonuses, and agriculture 89 per cent. Excepting building and mining industries, all wages are now below the high peak of 1920. Less striking, but still of considerable significance, is the change in employment, which in identical manufacturing plants throughout the period advanced 12 per cent. between July, 1914, and June, 1924. This is a noteworthy expansion when it is recalled that employment in June of this year was at a low ebb, being 25 per cent. lower than in June, 1920.

After further bullish demonstrations in the stock market, which carried the average price of representative industrial shares to 105.57, a new high record since 1920, and the average price of rails to 92.65, a new high record for this year, the market generally reacted sharply. Severe declines in many issues eliminated weak speculative and top-heavy accounts, and apparently strengthened the technical position, because in the past day or two fresh buying for the rise has developed, cancelling a substantial portion of the recent slump. Trading, however, is largely professional. Although money continues in abundant supply, rates for time loans against Stock Exchange collateral are $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent. higher than a week ago, and the entire money market displays a somewhat firmer undertone, which may or may not be due to the usual month-end requirements. Partly as a result of this firmer tendency, bond prices generally have declined, the heaviest losses being sustained by speculative issues.

FRANCE.—BUDGET PREPARATIONS—WHEAT AND SUGAR CROPS—IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT—THE LAW AND THE USE OF THE CHEQUE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 3.

THE French Parliament will remain on holiday for some weeks yet, but it is understood that from Monday next Ministers will begin the work of preparing the Budget for the coming financial year. A strong effort is again to be made this year, it is announced, to ensure that the Budget shall be voted by both Houses before December 31st, so that it may come into operation with the beginning of the new financial year, and thus avoid the necessity for the monthly votes on account which have been the rule (with only little exception) for several years past. Much curiosity is already being expressed as to what M. Clementel's proposals are likely to be in regard both to suppression of some of the existing taxation and the finding of new sources of revenue. On the face of it, the Finance Minister's task is not likely to prove an easy one. He is a prisoner, to some extent, to the reckless promises made by the new majority at the last Election, which included more or less definite pledges to suppress the double décime or 20 per cent. increase of taxation, which enabled the Poincaré Government at a stroke to bring the Budget for the present year to within sight of a balance, and to abolish the turnover tax. Reports are current that a strong effort will be made to carry out the letter of the first of these promises, although not the spirit of it, by skilfully recasting the incidence of a number of imposts in such a way that, although technically abolished, the double décime will be for all practical purposes entirely retained. As an instance of the manner in which this may be effected, it is pointed out that, so far as the income-tax is concerned, all that would be necessary would be a comparatively simple manipulation of the abatement allowances and other factors, which, while apparently reducing the scale of payment to the extent of the double décime, would really leave the total yield at the same figure as before.

The promised abolition of the turnover tax was based on the thesis that this tax is responsible to an unwarranted extent for the high cost of living, and for this view there is good foundation. It is now yielding between three and four milliards a year, however, and will be extremely difficult to replace. At present, as is known, this tax, which originally stood at 1.1 per cent. *ad valorem*, is

levied at every stage in the commercial ladder, beginning with the purchase of the raw material and ending with the sale of the finished product to the consumer. In effect, therefore, it constitutes an impost not of 1.1 per cent., but in many cases of something like 5 per cent. on the retail price of the commodity. The suggestion is made that, instead of being abolished entirely, this tax should be reduced to a less onerous figure, which should be exacted at one point only in the journey of any given commodity from the original producer to the consumer. A statement issued to-day from apparently inspired sources announces that no modification of either the turnover tax or the double décime will be considered before the estimates of expenditure for the coming year have been completed.

Reports on the wheat harvest which are now available indicate that the total yield this year in France proper will be in the neighbourhood of 80 million quintals, or about five million more than last year. In Algeria, however, which was able to export wheat last year, the crop is seriously short, and French North Africa will need about 5,000,000 quintals of imported grain to meet requirements during the coming year. As a consequence, France will have to purchase about the same quantity of foreign-grown wheat as in 1923, in spite of a much larger area having been sown than last year. The price situation may be summed up in the facts that at this time last year, when the franc stood at 83.25, wheat was quoted here at 86f 50c, whereas last week, with the franc at practically the same rate, the quotation was 106f 75c. The difference is alleged to be largely due to the constantly rising cost of labour and fertilisers. Bread is now at the highest retail price ever known in France, and is expected to rise still higher.

The sugar beet crop this year is above the average, both in acreage and in quality. The latest estimates fix the total yield from the new crop at 750,000 tons of refined sugar, as compared with 400,000 tons in 1923. This means that for the first time for many years France will find the home crop equal to requirements, and that the beet industry has been the first completely to recover from the effects of the war.

The production returns just issued by the Comité des Forges show that the number of blast furnaces in operation on August 1st was 133, or two less than on July 1st. Thirty-five plants were ready to start up, the balance of 52 being either under reconstruction or repair. The total output of pig-iron during July was 636,468 tons, or 2,705 tons less than in June, and 46,211 tons below the total for May, which returned the highest figures ever registered. The output of steel during July amounted to 564,876 tons, or 9,955 tons more than in June, but still 33,551 tons below the total for May. Out of the total output during July, the liberated territory of Lorraine contributed 252,080 tons of pig-iron (against 251,436 tons in June), and 194,808 tons of steel (against 189,573 tons in the previous month).

The Chambers, before separating, passed a very useful piece of legislation which has for object the removal of one of the great obstacles that has hitherto militated against the payment of bills of exchange by cheque. An enormous proportion of the payments made at the end of every month in this country has for many years been liquidated in cash, on the presentation of bills which mature as a rule on the last day of the month. The vast majority of holders of bills have hitherto refused to accept cheques in payment, because, in the event of the cheque not being honoured on presentation, the holder would not only have parted with his bill, but would have lost the opportunity of protesting the bill (which the law stipulates must be done in the event of it not being paid on the day following its due date), as cheques, in the ordinary way, require at least 24 hours for clearance. The new law, which was promulgated last Friday, strengthens the position of the holder enormously. First, it extends from 24 hours to five or eight days the period in which a bill which has been paid by cheque may be protested, the period being longer or shorter according to whether the cheque is drawn on a bank in the same town or elsewhere; secondly, it compels the debtor, in the case of his cheque being dishonoured, to restore the bill to the holder; thirdly, it confirms a ruling already established by the French courts to the effect that payment by cheque is not equivalent to the substitution of

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - £1,250,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits - £1,606,457

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.
Over 180 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

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

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted

a new obligation to that constituted by the original bill.

The result of the new law will not only be to remove the risks hitherto run by persons who consented to accept cheques in payment of matured bills, but enormously to encourage the use of cheques in making payments, and also the "banking habit," to which an enormous proportion of the French people, including many quite important firms, still appear to have a rooted objection. Incidentally, the new law will contribute largely towards enabling the quantity of paper money in circulation to be reduced. It is to be hoped this reform will be followed by the abrogation of the absurd rule laid down for French Government departments, which forbids them to accept cheques whose dates show they have been drawn prior to the day on which they are presented as payment. The Ministry of Finance has been trying for some years past to encourage payment by cheque, but this excellent policy is not aided by the rule which makes it necessary for cheques to be presented on the date on which they have been drawn.

GERMANY.—REPARATIONS SETTLEMENT—FINANCES—CURRENCY—INDUSTRY—JULY FOREIGN TRADE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 2.

THE passage through the Reichstag of the Dawes Bills has caused general relief, and the optimistic sentiment in industrial, financial and Bourse circles, which continued even at the most doubtful moments last week, has been greatly strengthened. The immediate advantages which Germans expected for themselves—leaving the doubtful question of ultimate advantage to Ally countries unsettled—are beginning to show themselves. Industry is becoming more active. The expected foreign credits seem to be on their way. Several groups of American financiers have had representatives here for weeks past, and one of these is reported to have signed a contract for a large credit on the morning after the Reichstag vote. A smaller American credit is stated to have been given to one of the "D" banks. According to the *Deutsche Handelsdienst* news bureau, certain German agents who have been seeking credits in London have no authority from the concerns which they profess to represent, and are likely by their methods to do harm to legitimate negotiators. Little doubt is felt that the 800 million mark Loan will be subscribed. The Commerz-und-Privat Bank expresses the fear that the use of part of this loan for increasing the cover of Reichsbank note issues might lead to a gold inflation, which would diminish the buying power of the currency. The Bank comments that the weakest point of the Reparations settlement lies in doubt as to the obtaining of markets for industrial products, in view of the general diminished buying power of Europe, and of the foundation of competitive industries in Ally countries since 1914; and adds that Germany's position is strong only in the chemicals, potash, and optical branches. Only in the most favourable production and selling conditions can the interest on the Reparations industrial bonds be paid.

The Federal finances are at present the most promising of the three sources of Reparations payments. The monthly averages of receipts since the beginning of the financial year indicate that the estimated year's revenue from taxes and customs of 5,243 million gold marks will be more than realised. Direct taxes and taxes on busi-

ness are likely to yield 1,000 millions more than estimated, and customs and excise 100 millions more. The first were to yield 4,108 millions; on basis of April-July receipts they would yield 5,028 millions. The second were to yield 1,099 millions; on basis of April-July results they would reach 1,183 millions. Estimates and year's probable receipts on basis of the four months of individual taxes are (in millions of marks):—

	Estimates.	Probable Receipts.
Income-tax	1,344	2,002
Corporation income-tax.....	145	280
Sales tax	1,440	1,839
Customs	160	257
Tobacco	360	467
Beer	126	186
Traffic tax.....	230	243

Against this the sales tax is to be reduced from 2½ to 2 per cent., and the property, sugar, and spirits taxes have so far yielded less than was estimated. Nevertheless, the prospects of raising the standard payment (1928-29) of 1,250 millions out of taxation, apart from the traffic tax, are good.

The Cabinet has decided to reduce railway freight rates. Details of the reductions have not been published. Rates are considerably higher than in 1913, and have risen relatively more than prices. Receipts per ton kilometre were 5.6 gold pfennigs in May, 1924, against 3.6 pfennigs in 1913. The index figures (100 in 1913) on July 22nd were freight rates, 169; seven commodities, 157. In detail for the chief commodities:—

	Freight Index.	Price Index.
Grain	155	174
Meats, fats, &c.....	160	149
Hides and leather	210	214
Textiles	237	132
Coal and iron.....	169	157

The official *Wirtschaft und Statistik*, putting present German freight rates for seven chief commodities at 100, puts Swiss rates at 153, Swedish 116, Dutch, Hungarian, and Polish 74, Austrian and Czechoslovak 66, French 49, Italian 45, Belgian 38. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* wholesale price index for August 28th shows 132.49, against 131.09 on the 14th. The index for manufactured goods is 136.62; ten home-produced commodities 111.63; ten imported commodities 128.57; retail food prices 124.47. The Gold Discount Bank's return for August 31st shows discounts £6,471,912, and rediscount liabilities to abroad, £7,334,685. The Reichsbank's return for August 23rd shows a further increase, to 507,004,000 gold marks, in the gold reserve. Discounts and loans both in paper and Rentenmarks declined, as did also the note circulation. Wages are slowly rising. The average weekly wage of skilled workmen in July was 34.55 gold marks, against 30.47 gold marks in April, 27.31 gold marks in January, and 34.35 gold marks in 1913, the real wage being 87.1 per cent. of that of 1913. The average weekly wage for unskilled workmen is 27.24 gold marks, against 24 gold marks in 1913, the real wage being 98.3 per cent. of that of 1913. The difference between skilled and unskilled wages is again increasing, thus tending to return to pre-war conditions. The highest weekly wage both in the skilled and unskilled classes is earned by miners, the lowest by textiles employees.

The feeling in industry is distinctly hopeful, and it is confirmed by increasing activity in retail selling. The iron and steel branches continue to improve; the Solingen cutlery branch also reports better business, and the furniture branch is more active as the result of increased building. There is, however, so far no sign of any very marked animation, and last week's statistics for Berlin industries show a further slight increase in the number of unemployed. The Leipzig Autumn Fair, which began yesterday, promises fairly good business; as usual, there are a great many new technical devices, but lack of money tends to check business. Over 1,000 visitors have come from Poland, very many from Spain, and, for the first time, French and Belgians have come in large numbers. The impending removal of the internal Customs barrier has encouraged buyers. The coal trade is still badly depressed. Stocks of unsellable Ruhr coal have increased to large dimensions. In August work was reduced by 830,000 shifts. The improvement in iron and steel con-

tinues, and scrap-iron is much in demand. The Stinnes interests have acquired control of the Berlin Aktiengesellschaft fuer Automobilebau, having relinquished their interest in the Adler automobile concern. The same interests are extending their activities in iron in South Germany and Czecho-slovakia. The Becker Steelworks Company, which has been in difficulties, and shows a deficit of 12,750,000 gold marks in its new gold mark balance-sheet, is reported to have obtained financial help from a Dutch concern. The company expanded greatly during the war. The important Roehling iron and steel concern of Voelkingen reports that it has of late been working at a heavy loss, and it threatens to close down.

Foreign trade figures for July show an export surplus of around 17 million gold marks. Imports totalled 556,244,000 gold marks, against 753,121,000 gold marks in June, exports 573,362,000 gold marks, against 475,248,000 gold marks. Imports in the first seven months of 1924 were 5,037,929,000 gold marks, exports 3,400,641,000 gold marks. July imports and exports by groups were (in thousands of gold marks):—

	Imports.	Exports.
Livestock	3,173	809
Food and drinks.....	151,414	48,895
Raw materials	198,032	40,749
Half-finished materials	45,999	36,438
Manufactured goods	140,730	445,369
Gold and silver	16,896	1,102

As compared with June, there was a large decrease in imports of raw materials, which may be put down to the business stagnation, and also in finished goods, and a large increase in exports of manufactures, which in June totalled only 383,013,000 gold marks. Exports in all of the other five groups also increased. Exports of machinery were 25,442 metric tons, against 20,374 tons in June.

The Bourse last week showed resisting power against the threat of failure with the Reichstag bills; only on Thursday was there any set-back worth mentioning, and Friday was firm. On the whole week stock averages fell not more than 1 or 2 per cent., and paper mark loan quotations rose. There was considerable foreign buying. For this week many buying orders were given, also largely foreign, conditionally upon the passage of the Bills, and a boom was expected. On Monday stocks and bonds were very firm, and after a reaction due to profit-taking, closed at the highest point of the day; but to-day, while loans were very active and rose, War Loan reaching over 1 billion paper marks per 100 marks nominal, or 1 per cent. of its original gold value; industrial stocks were neglected, and late in the day stocks were distinctly weak. Day money moved between three-eighths and five-eighths per mille per day. The failure of the Bourse to react more markedly to last week's settlement is probably due to the big rise of securities while the London Conference was under way. Paper mark loans to-day and at the end of 1923 (quoted in milliards of paper marks per 100 marks nominal):—

	Dec. 31, 1923.	Sept. 2, 1924.
War Loan	50	1,040
Fours	400	1,475
3½ %	250	1,500
Threes	1,250	1,800
Colonial Fours	1,550	6,000
Prussian Threes	300	1,800

Last week saw heavy buying of municipal loans by natives and foreigners, in expectation of partial restoration. Some Bavarian pre-war loans sold in extra-bourse trading with 9 and 10 gold marks per 100 marks nominal. The Munich Municipality has issued a warning, which shows the danger of indiscriminate speculation in local securities. One of its post-war loans, which was subscribed in badly depreciated marks, rose to a quotation which represented twice as much gold as the borrowing municipality obtained; Munich, proceeded the warning, has no intention to repay her loans at that price. Federal Forced Loan was also bought to-day at a gold price exceeding the value paid in by the subscribers.

The issue of gold mark balance-sheets, which will first cast light on the real condition of joint-stock companies, is progressing. A hundred and one companies, mostly of minor importance, have, after scaling down,

as a rule heavily, their inflated paper mark capital, fixed their total new gold mark capital at 224,092,000 gold marks, against 178,377,000 gold marks in 1913. Five private railways show a decrease in their balance totals from 79,621,000 gold marks in 1913 to 61,307,000 gold marks, but an increase in their capitals from 30,232,000 gold marks to 49,221,000 gold marks. The capital increase, despite big declines in values of assets, is made possible by the reduction in the total of mortgages, bonds, and short-term debts to about one-sixth. The new gold mark balance-sheets do not show the companies' burdens of Reparation bonds, which have not yet been apportioned.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—GENERAL AND RAILWAY BUDGETS—THE GOLD STANDARD—NEW LOCAL AND LONDON LOANS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, August 6.

MR HAVENGA, the new Minister of Finance of the Hertzog Ministry, in introducing the Budget, said that as barely a month had elapsed since the new Government took office, neither members nor the country would expect material changes in financial policy. Last year's revenue of £24½ millions was nearly £400,000 above the original estimate. Customs, "that elastic source of revenue which has on former occasions more than once come to the rescue of a despairing treasurer," produced an increase of £427,000, postal and telephone revenue one of £130,000, Government ownership of diamond mines of £152,000. Altogether, there was an increase of £1,051,000. Among decreases, totalling £692,000, one of £206,000 in income and super-tax was most prominent, excise fell £143,000 short of the estimate, while decreases of £73,000 and £27,000 were shown in excess profits tax and diamond export duty respectively. The Minister went on to explain that if mining taxation, which showed an increase over the estimate of £368,000, were excluded, the income-tax position appeared much worse. General income-tax and super-tax were £418,000 below estimate, partly owing to the smaller "carry over," which has been reduced to £900,000. Expenditure was swollen by £324,000 on locust destruction, while the pensions vote increased owing to special contributions. "But even in normal years the figure will be nearly in that vicinity."

For the first six months of the year, overseas trade has been well maintained, imports increasing £5½ millions, or by 20 per cent., while exports have increased £1½ millions, or by 4 per cent. Thus the balance of trade is becoming more normal. Importations of motor cars are more than double those for the corresponding quarter. I would point out that American manufacturers have an enormous hold on this market, while the Ford Company is a pioneer in erecting cars in South Africa. For the first half of the year the mineral production was £28½ millions. This indicates an advance of £5 millions for a whole year, of which about two millions would be due to higher currency premium, one to increased production of gold, and two millions to increased production of diamonds. The output of coal continues at the enhanced rate of a million tons a month. "The improvement in mineral production has come opportunely, tending to compensate for decreased agricultural production as the result of drought and locusts.....It is due in part to increased gold production owing to lower working costs."

Satisfied that the restoration of the gold standard was essential to the well-being of the Union and of the mining industry, they frankly recognised, in view of the intimate commercial and financial relations with the United Kingdom, they could not act independently. British measures of deflation appeared to be stimulated by the Dawes report, and "while a few months ago the early return to the gold standard seemed almost impossible, it seems possible this year.....there was (? a) little possibility that the Union may be obliged to take independent action to protect her own interests." The exact nature of the action to be taken, and its effect upon various interests and industries in the Union, were technical questions requiring consideration by experts, and a commission would be appointed to go into them as soon as the session was

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

ADVANCES UPON OR PURCHASES MADE OF DEBENTURES AND SHARES OF EASTERN PLANTATION COMPANIES. RECONSTRUCTION ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN. 1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET - LONDON, E.C.3.

over. The country expects to know what action is proposed.

For the year 1924-25 the estimated expenditure is £24,365,000, or £372,000 more than the original figure, owing to increased provision for locust destruction, unemployment relief, the new labour department, and water boring. Revenue on the existing basis of taxation is set down at £24,328,000, or £447,000 more than the original estimate presented by the former Minister of Finance, the Hon. Henry Burton.

The floating debt is about £19 millions, excluding about four and a-half millions of Savings Certificates, a large figure even allowing for the £11½ millions due to the Custodian of Enemy Property. The Government has therefore decided to issue a local 10-year loan. Instead of making it repayable at the option of the Government after five years, it is to be fixed for ten years. Its issue synchronises with the maturity of the first Union Loan certificates. The Minister patted himself on the back for "a step to a more conservative policy by establishing a sinking fund." But the annual contribution, one sees from the prospectus, is only 1 per cent. of the amount subscribed together with the income arising, so the accumulation will not amount to a very large proportion of the accruing liability. Both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth are also offering loans of varying currency, also at 5 per cent., and also at par. The Union Government contemplates issuing a stock loan in London late in the year.

The Railway Budget was introduced the following day. For the year to March 31, 1925, the railways, harbours, and steamships are estimated to yield a revenue of £24,120,000, a decrease of £309,000, owing to surrender of £500,000 by reduced rates and lesser agricultural traffic consequent upon drought and locust ravages. Expenditure is the restoration of increments to staff, operation owing to the restoration of increments to staff, operation of elevators, and increased allowance for depreciation, a round £1,500,000 instead of a charge of 7 per cent. on the revenue, a principle which the new Minister has discarded.

The use of motor transport is to be developed, bringing remoter districts into touch with the everyday markets of the Union. But so conservative are some of our legislators that Mr Louw "feared that the general introduction of motor lorries would seriously militate against the interests of those who lived on horse transport." Thus does the history of 35 years ago repeat itself, when President Kruger appeased similar objectors—in that case to steam traction—by calling the original reef railway, built between Roodepoort and Boksburg by the Netherlands Railway, as the "Rand Tram." The Nationalist-Labour Government had adopted the policy, at any rate as far as immediate needs are concerned, "of retaining for local manufacture as much of our requirements as possible, the decision of the former Minister in respect of 25 third-class saloons having been reversed." These are now to be built in South Africa instead of overseas, at a cost of £96,250, or an increase over the overseas quotation of £19,000. Fifty-nine first-class saloons are to be built later. Furthermore, the preference accorded to South African manufacturers is being increased from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent., as is done in the case of other departments. Thus an ardent free-trader in Mr J. W. Jagger has been succeeded by an enthusiastic protectionist in Mr C. W. Malan! The railways are going to spend £6,860,000 on capital account, the largest items being £1,550,000 on new lines, £1,414,000 on electrification, and £1,172,000 on harbour improvements.

The market for gold shares is firm, but with little activity. Government Areas are £6 15s, being strongly favoured on account of immunity, in terms of the lease, from any fresh taxation, the safeguard of the Government inspection, and the regularisation of dividend, as, owing

to the incidence of the participation formula, the major portion of any decline in profits owing to the "fading" of the currency premium on gold, which is being much discussed at the moment, falls upon the Union Treasury, conversely as the Government netted about 10d out of every shilling of premium, when that was considerable. A Government report shows that upwards of £6 millions has been spent on compensation to miners' phthisis sufferers since the inception of legislation in 1911.

NEW ZEALAND.—BANKING RETURNS—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—TAXATION COMMISSION—RAILWAY STRIKE DEBACLE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, July 21.

THE banking returns for the June quarter, with the return of imports and exports, show a considerable easing of the financial situation, due happily to the best possible cause, a slackening of the heavy volume of imports that caused concern at the end of 1923, and threatened to bring difficulty and strain again towards the end of 1924. Earlier in the year it was pointed out in the *Economist* that the trade returns for the March quarter were abnormal, and that no reliance was to be placed upon the great increase in the value of exports disclosed therein. The figures for June quarter bear out those statements, export values being £12.9 millions, as against £16.1 millions for the same quarter of 1923. This drop of over £3 millions, despite high wool prices, is proof that the bulk of the wool values came this year in the March quarter. However, the expected fall in export values has happily been more than counterbalanced by an even heavier fall in imported goods, which amounted only to £10.8 millions in the June quarter of 1924, as against £15.9 millions in the June quarter of 1923. This decrease of importing liabilities must considerably relieve any prospect of strain such as appeared possible earlier in the year. The banking returns show that the position is almost unchanged from the March quarter, and this is fairly satisfactory, even though the usual seasonal recovery in the June quarter did not occur this year.

The Commission on Taxation has presented a unanimous report, which has just been laid on the table of the House. Only summaries of the report are available as yet, but the main lines are clear. The Commission was composed of four leading business men, and was presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court. Evidence, mainly of business men and some farmers, was heard in all the main centres of population. The unanimous report of the Commission is that taxation should be reduced, and that in the reduction, the method of assessment should be changed as rapidly as convenience and revenue allow, from the present basis of the corporate income of companies, to the income of individuals. During the transition period a low, flat rate of corporation tax is suggested to supplement the individual income-tax.

Consistently with the recommendation to base assessment upon individual incomes, the Commission proposes to abolish the direct taxation of land, and make farmers subject instead to income-tax. This recommendation is not likely to meet with the same chorus of approval as the former, since the taxation of land values was one of the fundamental principles of the experimental legislation of New Zealand in the 'nineties. It is not clear that the Commission's assumption, that capital invested in land must be treated as any other investment is treated, is altogether tenable. The dropping of the graduated tax would be equivalent to a bonus on land values, which would, of course, be particularly valuable at the present time to farmers. But the graduated land tax on unimproved value was one of the chief weapons against aggregation, and has long been an article of faith among radical legislators. It is probable that the proposal to abandon it may provide an issue such as has been lacking for many years upon which a new alignment of political parties may be made. The leasehold system of land tenure has been largely abrogated by the granting of the freehold to a large number of the leaseholders; the abandonment of the tax on unimproved value would involve the definite reversion to the principles of land-

holding in vogue prior to 1893, when the Liberal-Labour Government came into power. The only remaining plank of their land legislation—the State advances to settlers—is, however, still popular, and working on a much larger scale than ever before.

Minor recommendations of the Taxation Commission provide for the levying of taxation at ordinary commercial rates upon Governmental and municipal trading ventures; but this, again, is not likely to command unqualified assent. Much more likely to do so is the proposal to levy income-tax upon the Crown leaseholders, who at the present time pay neither land nor income-tax.

The railway strike, mentioned in an earlier communication to the *Economist*, ended in the complete submission of the union, upon which the Cabinet referred the matters in dispute to the Arbitration Court, reinforced by two assessors for the men and the department respectively. The whole conduct of the strike was unfortunate, and showed bad leadership. The actual *casus belli* was the refusal of the chairman of the Railway Tribunal to consider wages apart from the other questions that the Tribunal had been set up to investigate. The strike was called suddenly in order to cause inconvenience during a holiday period; but the Government was strong enough to withstand the first assault, and the end of the strike was a *débâcle* for the union leaders. There were said to be signs of the men returning to work, when, after the Cabinet had rejected the offer of a new Tribunal named by the men, the strike was called off unconditionally. In the subsequent washing-up the men have lost their 44-hour week, and the union has had to cancel its affiliation with the Alliance of Labour. The Arbitration Court has heard evidence, but has not yet made a pronouncement on the wages question. The men have, therefore, lost almost every point, and are probably much worse off than they would have been if the strike weapon had not been used so hastily.

ROUMANIA.—TARIFF REVISION—LIVING COSTS—PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS—TRADE FIGURES.

BUCHAREST, August 18.

THE new import tariff rates, which became effective at the beginning of this month, show, in general, striking increases over the rates of the June, 1921, tariff. The new schedule is computed on a gold basis, with a present co-efficient of 30 paper lei to 1 gold lei—although at current exchange rates the co-efficient should be 40. Furthermore, the rates announced are declared to be the minimum, and that imports from countries which do not accord "most-favoured nation" treatment to Roumania, will be subject to maximum rates three times greater than the minimum. In a statement explaining the reasons for increasing the tariff, the Minister of Finance gives first place to the protection of home industries, stating that "during the past three years (since exchange depreciation destroyed the protection afforded by the tariff of June, 1921) the greatly increased importation of a number of commodities that can be manufactured in the country has impelled our industrial leaders to demand an upward revision of the tariff." The Minister added, however, that it has not been the intention to increase rates to the point where they would affect the internal price level. Whatever might have been the intention in this respect, the result has been that retail prices were raised even before the new rates actually became effective.

The industries and commodities for which special protection is sought under the new tariff are, briefly (and according to the statement of the Minister of Finance), the following:—Wool, hair, and articles manufactured therefrom—rates increased about 100 per cent.; textile and kindred industries, including tow and twine—rate or binder twine increased from 15 lei to the equivalent of 2,010 lei per 100 kilograms; paper, increased 300 per cent.; agricultural implements and such other machinery as is manufactured in the country, increased by as much as 500 per cent.; vehicles (but not including automobile and motor-cycles) and chemical products, increased several hundred per cent.; paints and varnishes, slightly increased leather, harness, and shoes, increased about 100 per cent. cement, from 35 lei to 60 lei per 100 kilograms; with sul-

stantial increases in the rates on most of the edible products that can be produced in the country. Without the stimulus of the new tariff, and in spite of the earnest attempts which the Government have made during recent years to control the price of basic commodities, the *Argus* index of living costs for the end of July shows that the internal purchasing value of the lei is now approximately on a parity with its external value—i.e., one-fortieth of the gold value.

The preliminary figures on crude oil production in the first half of 1924 show a total of 857,325 metric tons (approximately 6 million barrels), against 761,104 tons for the same period of 1923, 666,126 tons in 1922, and 550,405 tons in 1921. At the present rate of increase the total production for 1924 will probably exceed the 1,800,000 tons obtained in the years immediately preceding the war. New drilling in the first half of this year has averaged more than 10,000 metres per month, and the number of wells now in production exceeds 1,000. Of the companies in which British capital is chiefly interested, the Royal Dutch-Shell "Astra-Romana" is credited with a production of 236,070 tons in the first half of 1924, against 205,550 tons for the first six months of 1923; the "Steaua-Romana" 125,284 tons, against 110,436; and the Phoenix Oil and Transport Co. 63,297 tons, against 54,581. The Standard Oil Co.'s "Romano-Americana," on the other hand, has declined from 122,884 tons in 1922 to 80,151 tons in 1923, and to 79,556 tons in the first half of 1924. The export of petroleum products during the first five months of the present year totalled 135,347 tons, against 139,739 tons for the same period of 1923. In other words, somewhat less than 20 per cent. of crude production is now being exported from Roumania as refined products, whereas more than 50 per cent. was exported before the war. The increase in crude production, therefore, is more than absorbed by the requirements of the home market for finished products. It is still very uncertain what effect the recently enacted mining legislation will have on the operations of the foreign-controlled companies, but it is stated that the "Romano-Americana" is seriously considering the discontinuance of its operations in Roumania—at least, as a producing company. The American Minister left Bucharest a few days ago to report fully to his Government at Washington regarding the probable effect of the new Mining Act on American capital invested in this country.

The Government's preliminary figures on exports (by groups) are given as follows:—

	From Jan. 1 to May 31, 1923.	1924.
Agricultural products (metric tons)	632,512 ..	674,880
Petroleum products (metric tons)	139,739 ..	135,347
Lumber (exclusive of firewood)—		
(Metric tons)	298,443 ..	265,401
(Cubic meters)	24,137 ..	14,437
Livestock (head)	43,431 ..	47,575

Exports have been greatly impeded during recent months (so it is claimed) by the sanding-up of the mouth of the Danube at Sulina, and much of the blame for this has been charged to the "C. E. D." (European Danube Commission), local interests claiming that the Commission has been neglectful of its obligations.

Letters to the Editor.

GERMAN REPARATION DELIVERIES AND THE BRITISH MINERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your article, "The Settlement and Its Effects," you appear sceptical as to the repercussions of the forced German coal deliveries upon the British coal industry. Your contention is that "if large quantities of Reparation coal are delivered to France, it is perfectly true that Great Britain will sell her less than before the war; but against this, Germany has always been a British market, and it is probable that we shall increase our sales to that country."

Although agreeing with you as to the above, may I nevertheless point out to you an effect of the German coal

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD. 1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3. AGENTS AND SECRETARIES OF TEA, RUBBER, AND OTHER PRODUCE ESTATES AND COMPANIES.

deliveries which is often overlooked? The German coals, being delivered to Belgium and France against Reparations, cost these countries practically nothing, and the French and Belgian Governments will sell their German coals at any price below the figure at which they are accounted for in Reparations, rather than forgo any of these coals and so lose the whole of their value. Where this takes place, it has practically the same effect as a Government bounty in favour of the importation of German coals into France and Belgium. This policy tends to depress prices and explains the recent complaints of Belgian producers against the competition of German coals, although the present Reparations deliveries to Belgium do not exceed the pre-war importation of German coals into Belgium. It is clear that the present methods of selling the German Reparations coals must also have a disturbing effect upon the normal marketing of British coals abroad, and it appears to me that in this respect the opposition of the British miners to the coal Reparations deliveries is justified.

A way out of the present difficulty might be found, not by reducing the German deliveries to Belgium and France, but by an arrangement, leaving the German collieries free to sell their coals into Belgium and France, without any Government interference. Part of the sale price (for instance $\frac{1}{2}$) would be paid by the buyer to the German producer, the balance (in this instance $\frac{1}{2}$) being paid by the buyer to the Belgian or French Government, and credited against Reparations. This would tend to ensure the sale of German coals at a figure more in sympathy with ruling market conditions and leave the economic factors more free play than at present.—Yours truly,

Lokeren, August 31st, 1924.

G. VAN DRIESCHE.

THE ADULTERATION OF LEATHER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a quotation from your issue of June 14, 1924, forwarded to this office by the head of the Hide and Leather Division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, relative to what you know as the Adulteration Act of 1923 of South Africa, and expressing the feeling that your tanning industry is much agitated over this question. The article goes on further to say that "In America the practice is still followed by sole leather tanners to add glucose and barium to their product," and while expressing the idea that even though seriously agitated, the British tanners are not guilty of such bad practices, but the American tanners habitually follow such sinful ways.

The unconscious humour of your correspondent is not missed on this side, but fortunately I would say for the whole American leather industry, which I have the honour to represent, that the American tanner is, and has been for some time, singularly free from the reproach which your correspondent thrusts at him. You will be interested to know that United States Government Standard Specifications, which represent a good average of American production, are very high. We are not worried about "adulteration acts," but just at this time we are spending thousands of dollars annually upon research so as to find out how to make our leather better, and not how to adulterate it more. The results are in evidence with every day's transactions. American sole leather is conceded to be of a higher standard to-day than ever before. Barium is an unknown article of use in American sole leather tanneries.

American leather, in the shape of shoes or other manufactured articles or as simply leather, is favourably known all over the world. It needs no defence. In our endeavour to improve our product we are fitting ourselves for more world competition than ever. We welcome reasonable

and constructive criticism, and after that we will let the facts speak for themselves.

In justice to a great industry, may I ask that you give this equal prominence with the statement from your correspondent in Bermondsey?—Very truly yours,

FRASER M. MOFFAT, President.

41 Park row, New York, August 7th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION AND THE STATE.*

THE method of securing that a country shall be adequately provided with railway communication has now only an academic interest for the chief countries of Western Europe. India, however, has 40,000 miles of railway, and is held to require at least 60,000 more; the question there is still open, and India is the real subject of Mr Jagtiani's book. Originally a thesis for the degree of Master of Science in the University of London, it deals with the origin and growth of the railway systems in England, Prussia, and India. In England capital was abundant and private enterprise supreme, and it has provided an efficient railway system, though at a greater cost and perhaps less adequately than what might have been effected by a well-considered scheme propounded beforehand by the State. Competing lines have been constructed with a greater expenditure of capital, and ultimately at a permanently greater cost in rates and fares to the public, than the construction of one line would have involved; the agricultural districts have had too little provision made for their needs, direct communications and the industrial districts perhaps too much; the idea that monopoly would be averted by the sanction of competing lines has proved illusory; speculation has been encouraged, and has led to heavy losses, and railway extension has fluctuated with the hot and cold fits of the investing public. In Prussia, where capital was relatively scarce and private enterprise more than correspondingly weaker, a mixed system was adopted, the history of which Mr Jagtiani sets out very fully. Private enterprise constructed the more profitable lines, largely with British capital: the State co-operated by guaranteeing interest, or else by constructing the lines which private capitalists would not undertake, partly out of a special tax on the privately-owned railways, and thus it obtained a share in the management. Nationalisation came mainly as a remedy for delays in construction, owing to the financial troubles in the 'seventies, and also for high rates and defective management, and Mr. Jagtiani holds that it has proved satisfactory, especially in providing local lines. In India private enterprise was wholly lacking, and capital was attracted by guarantees of interest, at first on terms very onerous to the Government and hurtful to the efficiency of the railways. Relying on it, they spent lavishly on construction and neglected development of traffic, and were hampered by the dual control exercised by their own boards and the Government. The gradual progress towards the existing system of guarantees supplemented by direct State construction is elaborately recorded by Mr Jagtiani, but it cannot be summarised briefly. The guarantees appear to have been an inefficient stimulus to new construction, and the action of the State is dependent on the demands on the yearly Budget for other purposes, so that progress is uneven and unsatisfactory. Following the Acworth Committee, Mr Jagtiani insists that railway revenue and expenditure should be dissociated from the Budget—a course just rejected by a Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly, though not entirely for financial reasons. He maintains that "railways should breed railways"; a railway being essentially a monopoly, the profitable railways may fairly be taxed to assist in the construction of lines which may not show an actual profit, but of which the total benefit to the community cannot be measured by their dividends. The book is commended by the high authority of Sir William Acworth, and we echo his hope that the author will extend his studies in railway history. Mr Jagtiani dismisses

the English method as "uneconomic," and holds that the alternatives are "a well-considered guarantee system and a well-regulated State system." But it may fairly be remarked that in the early days of British railways State interposition would have been not only impossible, but unimaginable.

A DISCOURSE ON VALUE.

MR G. B. DIBBLEE is always a stimulating writer, some of his stimulus being usually supplied through the process of exasperation. In his new book,* as in his "Laws of Supply and Demand," he pours out a great deal of erudition, produces a large number of interesting and original assertions, and makes highly effective use of the rare advantage that he possesses, among economic writers, in the shape of facts gained from actual experience of business life; but at the end of it he is likely to leave the average reader, albeit refreshed and encouraged by the writer's confident optimism, vaguely doubtful as to his meaning and purpose. For example, in a characteristic passage in the preface he tells us that "the population of the existing world can be exceedingly rich in a comparatively short period, whenever various sections can cease their disputes about the partition of rewards and work together on an organic instead of a mechanical system." They should consequently aim at the ascertainment of values, in other words, the interpretation of ideal modes of living in the use of various commodities. "The higher the ideal, the better will be the choice of objects for expenditure. Expenditure must not aim at reckless quantity, but at healthful and, if one may say so, spiritual enjoyment. We cannot live with so few goods as formerly on the shores of Galilee, but we can do with a great deal less than what is now considered necessary in the great cities of the world." Mr Dibblee, no doubt, knows quite well what he means when he says that our productive system should be "organic" instead of "mechanical," and implies that it would therefore be much more effective; but the student may be excused if he asks for more light. And if we are all to be "passing rich on thirty pounds a year" by doing with a great deal less goods and indulging in spiritual enjoyment, the ordinary man, while admiring and admitting the truth of this high doctrine, will naturally observe that this is not what is usually meant by being "passing rich." In criticising the Austrians for their indifference to moral issues, Mr Dibblee observes that "in the seven reasons given by Wieser for which mankind attaches value to a commodity, he never mentions the conception of a higher life, which for me lies behind the purchase of a match or a penny paper." And yet on a later page, after a very interesting analysis of the minds of the men who have made great fortunes, he says that they are, universally, truly expert in one subject, and that is, "the proper appreciation of values. They do not follow the example of the clever man, who gives the public what he thinks it ought to want, but they first ascertain what large masses of men really want, and they take all risks in supplying it in the largest possible quantities," &c. If this is the "proper appreciation of values," Wieser does not seem to have been far wrong. And has Mr Dibblee ever bought a single match?

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Problems of Public Finance. By J. P. Jensen. (London) George G. Harrap and Co., Limited. 10s 6d net.
Outline of British Trade. By David W. Caddick. (London) George G. Harrap and Co. 3s 6d net.
Outbreak of the World War. German documents collected by Karl Kantsky. Translated by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Division of International Peace. (New York) Oxford University Press, American Branch. \$4.00.
Preliminary History of the Armistice: Official Documents Published by the German National Chancellery, by Order of the Ministry of State. Translated by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (New York) Oxford University Press. \$2.00.

* "The Psychological Theory of Value." By G. B. Dibblee. Constable and Co., 1924. 12s 6d net.

Annuaire Général de la France et de l'Etranger. 1924. Société d'Études et d'Informations Économiques. (Paris) Librairie Larousse. 45f.
Labour's Alternative. By Edo Fimmen. (London) The Labour Publishing Co. 3s.
History of the White Australia Policy. By Myra Willard, M.A. (Melbourne) University Press. 10s 6d net.
City of Manchester: Abstract of Accounts, 1923-24. (Manchester) City Treasurer.
Farm Loan Banking. (Boston) First National Corporation, 1 Federal street.
Der Schwankende Geldwert. By Irving Fisher. (Berlin) Walter de Gruyter and Co. 2 marks.
Income-Tax in the British Dominions. Supplement No. 2. Compiled by the Inland Revenue Department, London. H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. 1s.
Annual Report on Reforms and Progress in Chosen (Korea), 1921-1922. (Keijo) Chosen Government General.
The Nineteenth Century and After. September. (London) Constable and Co. 3s.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, September 7. ACCOUNT, September 8.

The influence of the signature of the Peace Pact is beginning to exert its force in various financial directions, and the Stock Exchange finds that one result is the uprising of a greater confidence, in the minds of investors and speculators, than has been noticeable for a long time past. At the same time, so many alarms and excursions have followed the previous, and unsuccessful, efforts at the establishment of peace, that a certain natural hesitation is felt in regard to the latest issue of international negotiations, in spite of their happy termination.

For this reason the purely investment markets continue in a quiet condition, interest stirring more actively amongst industrial branches. The Consol market is exceedingly placid, fluctuations in War Loan and other gilt-edged stocks

being insignificant and occasional. Thanks to the absence of new issues, the investment money which goes on automatically accumulating is turned into existing securities, of which, so far as the Consol market is concerned, a reasonable supply is on offer to meet the present moderate demands.

The foreign market is witnessing a repetition of the wild gamble in German and Prussian bonds which was a feature in January last. Prices have been rushed up in violent fashion. Arbitrage houses declare that most of the buying is German, and comes through Amsterdam. Prices stand substantially higher on the week, while French bonds are dull, the French railway issues moving on a line of their own and at advancing prices. Chinese bonds are very weak, in consequence of the revolution that has now openly developed. Portuguese issues made upward progress on the theory that the British-held bonds will be "sealed" some time this month, and that this will give these particular securities a better standing than they have hitherto enjoyed. Egyptian and Turkish bonds are quiet: private advices from Alexandria speak as though the trouble were over for the time being, but those from Cairo are less confident.

London Midland and Scottish ordinary stock has again reached three figures, this being a feature of the Home Railway market, where, in spite of good traffics, there is not much general business afloat. Undergrounds are inclined to sag, owing to the possibility of the Exhibition not being reopened next year. Argentine Railway stocks make a good showing now the dividend time is at hand. The Argentine exchange also helps the market, and a feeling of optimism is abroad. Other foreign railway stocks are hard. Grand Trunk Pacific Debenture holds its recent rise.

Rubber shares are stagnant, but the tea share market bristles with points of interest. The boom culminated on Monday with top prices in the present movement. This was succeeded by a shake-out on Tuesday, but prices again went ahead towards the end of the week, in consequence of the high prices realised for tea at the Mincing lane sales. The market is broadening out daily, and excites a most unusual amount of popular interest. The oil market is better in places, though movements continue to be somewhat erratic for want of public dealing: Thursday's reduction in petrol is not a bull point.

Amongst tobacco shares United Tobacco South spurred strongly, partly on dividend hopes, partly on the market being caught short of shares to meet a little buying which sprang up. The insurance group shows improvements on balance, but the recent buoyancy has subsided to some extent. Firm-

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital	- £10,000,000	Issued Capital	- £8,734,660
Reserve Fund	- £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	- £4,367,330

Northern District Office 69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch 19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,

54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

ness characterises the banking and the shipping markets. In textiles, the Manchester division are giving their favourites a rest, but the iron and steel descriptions are better, on support from the North, although at the beginning of the week prices were adversely affected by the unexpected calling-up of the remaining 8s per share due on Bolckow Vaughan partly-paid. Nothing of consequence has occurred in the electric supply group. London Electricity Supply shares are not likely to move until Parliament deals, at the end of October, with the postponed questions which surround the future of the industry. Cable and wireless stocks are steady, and the hotel list holds its own, while brewery stocks go quietly ahead. Some of the Chinese industrials are weak. Mexican utilities, on the other hand, present a better appearance upon buying of stock said to emanate in the first place from New York. London tramway shares strengthened, thanks to the Traffic Bill.

The Kaffir Circus has taken a turn for the better, the Cape evidently having recovered from its apprehensions of threatened labour disturbances on the Rand. Discussion is concerned with the prospects for the price of gold, as to which there is a noticeable conflict of opinion. Diamonds are better, and Paris has been buying some of her favourite copper shares. Tanganyikas stand out with conspicuous strength, both ordinary and preference being in favour. Animation in Rhodesians is considerably less than the activity in Canadian mining shares, the attractions of the latter having received advertisement from excellent results published by the Vipond Consolidated. Mexican mining shares are a little better, too, and the Middle East has not yet ceased buying the tin shares of companies in the peninsula and its vicinity. West African and Cornish tin are somewhat neglected, while other shares in the miscellaneous mining markets present no features of special interest.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Sub- scription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 130,825,901*	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
	* Adjusted figure.			

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED AUGUST 30, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Aug. 30, 1924, Dr £2,050,000 ..	Dr £150,000 ..	Dr £150,000 ..
To Shareholders only—		
Second Alliance Trust, 30,000 New Shares, £5, at £4 17s 6d per share ..	90,000 ..	146,250 ..
Total offered to shareholders only.....	146,250 ..	146,250 ..
Total offered for subscription to date in—		
1924.....	130,825,151 ..	271,391,173 ..
1923.....	202,230,317 ..	573,675,650 ..
1922.....	508,248,328 ..	388,978,203 ..
1921.....	155,306,480 ..	367,549,656 ..
1920.....	277,523,984 ..	1,036,059,951 ..
1919.....	896,300,213 ..	1,393,381,441 ..

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
WAR				Aust. 6% 1931-41	104	104	
Loans				Canada 4½% 1920-25	100	100	
3½% 1925-28	96	96		India 3½% Stock	66½	65½	+
4½% 1925-45	97½	97½		Do 7% 1926-31	112½	109½	+
5% 1926-47	101½	101½		Do 5% 1932	100	100	
4% 1928-42	102	102		Do 4½% 1922-32	89	88½	
Funding Loan 6%	89	90	+	N.S.W. 5% 1922-32	102	102	
Victory Bonds 4%	92	92½	+	Nigeria 6% 1929-79	115	115	
Conversion Loan 3½%	77½	77½		U. of S.A. 6% 1930-40	106	106	
Consols 2½%	57½	57½		U. of S.A. 6½% 1924-34	102	102	
Irish Land Stock 2½%	59½	59½	—	W. Aust. 6% 1930-40	104	104	
Local Loans 3%	66½	66½	+				

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. 108½ .. 108½ ..	108½ .. 108½ ..	.. ..	Southern, Ord. "A" .. 39½ .. 39½ ..	39½ .. 39½ ..	.. ..
London & North-Eastern .. 81½ .. 81 ..	81½ .. 81 ..	.. ..	Do Ord. "B" .. 91 .. 91 ..	91 .. 91 ..	.. ..
Do Pref. Ord. 81½ .. 81 ..	81½ .. 81 ..	.. ..	Do Pref. Ord. 84½ .. 84 ..	84½ .. 84 ..	.. ..
Do Def. Ord. 30 .. 30 ..	30 .. 30 ..	.. ..	Do Def. Ord. 42½ .. 42 ..	42½ .. 42 ..	.. ..
London, Mid., and .. 100½ .. 100½ ..	100½ .. 100½ ..	.. ..	Underground Electric .. 23 .. 23 ..	23 .. 23 ..	.. ..
Scottish, Ord. 78 .. 78 ..	78 .. 78 ..	.. ..	Do "A" (17) .. 38½ .. 38½ ..	38½ .. 38½ ..	.. ..
Metropolitan .. 51½ .. 51½ ..	51½ .. 51½ ..	.. ..	Do Inc. Bds. (£100) .. 95½ .. 95½ ..	95½ .. 95½ ..	.. ..
Metropolitan District .. 51½ .. 51½ ..	51½ .. 51½ ..	.. ..			

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, Lpd.) .. 28½ .. 28½ ..	28½ .. 28½ ..	.. ..	Nat. Bank of S. Africa 6½ .. 6½ ..	6½ .. 6½ ..	.. ..
Chartered Bk of India 20 .. 20 ..	20 .. 20 ..	.. ..	National Provincial .. 10½ .. 10½ ..	10½ .. 10½ ..	.. ..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) .. 24½ .. 24½ ..	24½ .. 24½ ..	.. ..	Standard of S. Africa .. 11½ .. 11½ ..	11½ .. 11½ ..	.. ..
Midland (£12, with £4 paid) .. 8½ .. 8½ ..	8½ .. 8½ ..	.. ..	Westminster Bank (£20, with £5 paid) .. 17½ .. 17½ ..	17½ .. 17½ ..	.. ..
Bank of Egypt (£10) .. 25½ .. 25½ ..	25½ .. 25½ ..	.. ..			

American Railroads.

Chicago & Ohio .. 95 .. 96 ..	95 .. 96 ..	.. ..	Southern .. 76 .. 75 ..	76 .. 75 ..	.. ..
Do 4% 1st Pref. 31 .. 32½ ..	31 .. 32½ ..	.. ..	Do Non-cum Pref. 83 .. 83 ..	83 .. 83 ..	.. ..
Do 4% 2nd Pref. 43 .. 45 ..	43 .. 45 ..	.. ..			

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons ..	87 ..	87 ..	—	Leopoldina ..	23½ ..	23½ ..	—
B.A. and Pacific ..	84½ ..	84½ ..	—	Mexican Railway ..	23 ..	23 ..	—
B.A. & Gt. Southern ..	88 ..	88½ ..	+	Do 1st Pref.	23 ..	23 ..	—
Buenos Ayres West. ..	77½ ..	79 ..	+	Do 2nd Pref.	10 ..	10 ..	—
Canadian Pacific ..	164 ..	165½ ..	+	San Paulo ..	150 ..	150 ..	—
Central Argentine ..	73½ ..	74½ ..	+	United Havana ..	85½ ..	86 ..	+

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5% 1886-7 .. 100 .. 100 ..	100 .. 100 ..	.. ..	Japanese 4% 1910 .. 62 .. 61 ..	62 .. 61 ..	.. ..
Austrian 6% Guar. 92 .. 92 ..	92 .. 92 ..	.. ..	Do 5% 1924 .. 90½ .. 90½ ..	90½ .. 90½ ..	.. ..
Belgian 3% .. 72 .. 72 ..	72 .. 72 ..	.. ..	Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 37 .. 38 ..	37 .. 38 ..	.. ..
Brazil 5% Fund. 1914 .. 71 .. 71 ..	71 .. 71 ..	.. ..	Peruvian Corp. Pref. .. 33 .. 32 ..	33 .. 32 ..	.. ..
Chilian 4½% 1895 .. 89 .. 88 ..	89 .. 88 ..	.. ..	P.L.M. 6% .. 92½ .. 92½ ..	92½ .. 92½ ..	.. ..
Do 7% .. 104½ .. 104 ..	104½ .. 104 ..	.. ..	Portuguese (New) .. 27 .. 29 ..	27 .. 29 ..	.. ..
Chinese 5% 1912 .. 69 .. 68½ ..	69 .. 68½ ..	.. ..	Russian 5% 1906 .. 7 .. 7 ..	7 .. 7 ..	.. ..
Egyptian 4% .. 75½ .. 75½ ..	75½ .. 75½ ..	.. ..	Spanish 4% .. 66 .. 66 ..	66 .. 66 ..	.. ..
French 5% .. 25 .. 24½ ..	25 .. 24½ ..	.. ..	Selme (Dept.) 7% .. 103½ .. 104 ..	103½ .. 104 ..	.. ..
Do 4% .. 20 .. 20 ..	20 .. 20 ..	.. ..	Siam 7% .. 107 .. 104½ ..	107 .. 104½ ..	.. ..
Greek 5% 1884 .. 55½ .. 56 ..	55½ .. 56 ..	.. ..			

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 23½ .. 23½ ..	23½ .. 23½ ..	.. ..	Marconi Canada .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Marconi Wireless .. 12½ .. 12½ ..	12½ .. 12½ ..	.. ..	Marconi Marine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Imperial Tobacco (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..
Amal. Cottons (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Linggi Plantns. (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..	Lipton (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..	Liverpool Corp. (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
As. Palm. Cement (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Do 8% On A. Pref. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..	1 .. 1 ..	.. ..
Barker, John (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Do 8% On P. Ord. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..	1 .. 1 ..	.. ..
Bhamo Small Arms (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Lister (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Brazil Traction (£100) .. 52 .. 53 ..	52 .. 53 ..	.. ..	Lobitos Oilfields (£1) .. 10½ .. 10½ ..	10½ .. 10½ ..	.. ..
British-American Tobacco (£1) .. 5½ .. 5½ ..	5½ .. 5½ ..	.. ..	Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) .. 4½ .. 4½ ..	4½ .. 4½ ..	.. ..
Burmah Oil (£1) .. 4½ .. 4½ ..	4½ .. 4½ ..	.. ..	Mexican Eagle (£10) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Costs (A. and B.) (£1) .. 4½ .. 4½ ..	4½ .. 4½ ..	.. ..	Nobel Industries (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Courtaulds (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..	Pekin (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Cunard (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..	Rubber Plantations .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Dorman, Long (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Investment (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Dunlop Rubber (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Shell Transport (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..	Smithfield & Argentine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Forestal Land (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Meat (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Highlands and Low .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	United Dairies (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Islands Rubber (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	United Serdang (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Hudson's Bay (£1) .. 52 .. 52 ..	52 .. 52 ..	.. ..	United Tobacco (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
			Vallambrosa (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
			Vickers (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
			Watney Del. Bk. .. 24½ .. 24½ ..	24½ .. 24½ ..	.. ..

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..	Knights .. 8½ .. 8½ ..	8½ .. 8½ ..	.. ..
Broken Hill Prop. (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Modderfontein (10) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..
Chartered (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Modderfont. "B" (5) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	1½ .. 1½ ..	.. ..	Modderfont. Deep (5) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..
Crown Mines (10) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..	Premier Def. (2/6) .. 5 .. 5 ..	5 .. 5 ..	.. ..
De Beers Def. (£24) .. 11½ .. 11½ ..	11½ .. 11½ ..	.. ..	Rand Mines (5) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..
East Rand Prop. (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..	Belukwe .. 3 .. 3 ..	3 .. 3 ..	.. ..
Geduld (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..	Rio Tinto (65) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	3½ .. 3½ ..	.. ..
Gov. Gold Areas .. 62 .. 62 ..	62 .. 62 ..	.. ..	Spring Mines (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	2½ .. 2½ ..	.. ..

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of August was 67,644 barrels, equal to approximately 9,600 tons; and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, amounted to about 8,150 tons.

GENERAL PETROLEUM COMPANY OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—The estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of August was approximately 1,187 tons.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS.—The production for August is cabled as 15,284 tons.

STEARA ROMANA, BUCHAREST.—Production for the month of August was 24,330 tons, as compared with 24,920 tons during last month, and 19,094 tons during August, 1923.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLD, LIMITED.—Oil produced during August, 18,700 tons; oil purchased during August from other companies, 9,650 tons.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts (June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,800,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

IMPROVED DEMAND FOR WEST AFRICAN PRODUCTS.

Mr J. H. Batty (chairman of directors), presiding over the annual ordinary general meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, at Liverpool, on Friday, the 29th ultimo, said there had been an improved demand for products exported from West Africa, and the quantities exported had materially increased. The outlook was certainly more encouraging. In 1923 there was a striking increase in the exports from Nigeria of palm oil, palm kernels, and ground nuts. There were no less than 90,000 tons of palm oil, 225,000 tons of palm kernels, and 60,000 tons of ground nuts exported, and it was anticipated that, although these figures constitute a record, they should see them materially exceeded in the present year. It was satisfactory to report that palm oil was coming more under the category of an edible fat, and during the past 12 months very considerable quantities had been absorbed for edible purposes. He looked to a great future for palm oil in supplying the world's needs in this direction.

TAXATION AND TRADE COMPETITION.

He was glad to say a great deal had been done in the past year towards the reduction, and wherever possible the removal, of excessive taxation. It was eminently satisfactory that in every instance where relief had been given there had been an almost immediate improvement in trade and increased revenue. However, there was no disguising the fact that competition was very keen, and a large proportion of the trade was done on an inadequate margin of profit; therefore, though the volume of business was increasing, they must not look to profits increasing in ratio whilst the present competition continues.

The chairman referred to the loss the corporation had sustained by the death of Mr Edwin Beazley, one of the directors; the appointment of Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria, to be Governor of Ceylon, whom Mr Batty described as one of the greatest Governors they had ever had on the West Coast; and of the prospects the corporation have of finding oil in payable quantities at Half Assinie in the Gold Coast Colony.

FREIGHT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST AFRICAN LINES.

He also referred to the freight agreement between the West African shipping lines, and said that experience had probably shown them that it was only by such mutual understanding they could obtain an adequate return on the capital employed. This example may give cause for reflection to other interests in the trade. A final dividend on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent., less tax, was declared, making, with 4 per cent. interim already paid, a total dividend for the year of 8 per cent.

The retiring directors, Messrs J. H. Batty, A. A. Cowan, and Major-General Grey, were unanimously re-elected; and the auditors, Messrs Harwood Banner and Son, were re-appointed.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Sept. 8—Sept. 13 were opened on Sept. 5, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £51,165,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Saturday at £99 1s 0d, about 25 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £40,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Aug. 1, 1924.	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
Aug. 8 ..	35,000,000	44,460,000	3 13 5-11	101 11-11
Aug. 15 ..	35,000,000	46,625,000	3 15 4-32	101 11-11
Aug. 22 ..	30,000,000	41,320,000	3 15 3-24	101 11-11
Aug. 29 ..	30,000,000	37,225,000	3 13 9-16	101 11-11
Sept. 5 ..	40,000,000	52,340,000	3 15 1-76	101 11-11
Sept. 12 ..	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6-87	101 11-11

Tenders will be received on Sept. 12, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 10, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 20, 1924.	July 10, 1924.
Gold	97,548	95,330	93,683	92,789	83,760
Foreign coin and balance	278,398	280,515	272,138	250,641	258,997
Private loans & discounts	183,122	183,748	174,950	163,295	154,494
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	377,833	390,339	394,263	344,549	351,876
Deposits	172,690	147,074	127,687	117,996	117,996

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1923.
Gold	108,451,524	108,459,265	108,422,249	73,390,999
Foreign bills	3,154,177,976	3,181,174,765	3,242,543,802	2,917,953,149
Bills discounted	3,205,955,036	3,275,670,670	3,275,670,670	651,992,621
Treasury bills	2,230,242,911	2,230,242,911	2,230,242,910	2,538,718,937
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011
Notes in circulation	7,289,900,136	7,615,569,206	7,723,735,717	5,458,159,892
Deposits	1,406,378,278	1,171,595,011	1,180,360,480	722,398,478

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1924.	Aug. 7, 1923.
Metal reserve—				
Gold coin and bullion	449,936,585	449,931,936	448,301,955	448,301,955
Drafts and notes	1,380,455,296	1,352,779,851	1,289,659,534	1,289,659,534
Silver coin and bullion	13,557,846	13,557,846	13,557,846	13,557,846
Share capital not yet paid up	9,400,366	9,400,366	9,400,366	9,400,366
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,339,790,288	1,305,320,058	1,286,495,504	1,286,495,504
Advances to the Treasury	1,978,130,438	1,978,130,438	1,978,130,438	1,978,130,438
LIABILITIES.				
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986
Notes in circulation	3,427,451,929	3,497,031,340	3,456,017,698	3,456,017,698
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	1,604,504,397	1,511,486,443	1,475,094,912	1,475,094,912

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1923.
Gold	72,325	72,336	72,339	72,335	63,065
Other coin and notes	19,668	22,345	21,265	20,087	17,952
Foreign credits	365,552	357,736	356,784	344,366	349,973
Bills	1,243,224	1,231,312	1,212,551	1,177,397	1,253,179
Govt. advances	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,568,617
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,701,372	5,689,122	5,628,242	5,567,577	5,605,319
State credits	389,551	389,551	389,551	389,551	373,116
Deposits	420,166	385,102	415,979	359,266	619,240

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-issuing Department.

(In Tchernovets—000's omitted.)

Assets.	Sept. 1, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	12,680	12,479	11,429	10,311	7,490
Silver in bullion	743	743	743	743	743
Platinum	9,969	9,954	10,003	9,962	1,898
Foreign bank notes	344	343	343	341	404
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	19,340	16,691	15,891	14,546	5,695
Bills (less 10% discount)	6,875	5,891	5,891	5,933	3,080
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	46,156	43,950	41,750	40,650	18,400
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	3,796	2,150	2,550	1,300	238
Balance to which notes may still be issued					

(Note: 1 Tchernovets = 10 gold roubles.)

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	2,534,671	2,534,636	2,534,615	2,534,603	2,525,788	521,775
Silver	660,772	658,855	655,183	655,183	655,183	728,600
Loans & discounts	2,153,957	2,153,957	2,153,957	2,153,957	2,153,957	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,394,663	4,393,942	4,422,380	4,430,211	4,429,502	901,550
Deposits	1,013,436	896,926	898,455	901,233	1,022,222	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 6, 1924.	July 30, 1924.	July 23, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,551	9,554	9,531	9,520	27,040
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	161,467	140,393	129,746	125,329	70,709
Discounts	172,856	176,881	176,253	180,739	220,786
Government loans	1,467,759	1,447,997	1,436,978	1,432,858	1,042,227
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,649,865	1,626,806	1,613,529	1,617,718	1,254,065
Deposits	30,493	34,840	33,172	30,800	31,897

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 10, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 24, 1924.	July 16, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash	1,545,177	1,591,737	1,604,681	1,572,404	1,434,849	1,221,875
Inland bills	3,289,791	3,345,938	3,301,491	3,319,434	5,186,943	418,400
Foreign bills	15,628	15,635	15,635	15,635	15,179	81,500
Advances to the Treasury	5,633,960	5,633,918	5,652,841	5,652,918	5,833,821	nil
Other advances	1,521,657	1,767,531	1,624,076	1,720,593	2,059,058	79,175
Securities	406,762	413,215	411,940	420,508	371,712	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,357,057	13,321,574	13,114,330	13,268,029	13,077,216	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,831,442	1,959,989	1,821,590	1,806,359	1,471,485	193,975

LONDON RATES.

	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 10, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1924.	Sept. 2, 1924.	Sept. 3, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—							
90 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
3 months' do	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
6 months' do	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Discounts (Treasury Bills)—							
3 months'	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Short	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Deposits—allowances: Banks	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
Discount houses at call	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%
At notice	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%	2 1/2%

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.						Trade Bills.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
		3 Months.			4 Months.			3 Months.			4 Months.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
Aug. 1924.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%</

Statistics for the month of August last are appended:—

	BAR SILVER—Per Oz. Standard.		BAR GOLD.	
	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.	Per Ounce.	Fine.
Highest price.....	34½	34½	93	10
Lowest ".....	33½	33½	90	7
Average ".....	34.212	34.235	91	9.6

NOTICES.

On and after Monday, September 15th, the business of the Colonial Office of the Bank of England will be conducted at 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2.

A branch of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, was opened on the 1st instant at Blyth, Northumberland, under the management of Mr Wilfred Sinclair.

Mr A. H. Barlow, at present acting chief manager, has now been appointed chief manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in place of the late Hon. Mr A. G. Stephen.

The directors of the Union Discount Company of London, Limited, announce that allotment letters for the 25,000 new shares offered recently to the shareholders have been posted.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Pay- ment.	Method of Payment.		
Last Pre- vious					
Banks.					
Bank of Athens	5%*		Free Greek taxes	%	%
Bank of Australasia	13*	Oct. 3	Tax free	5	6
Bank of Canada	4%		Quarterly	..	..
Bank of Nova Scotia	3%	Sept. 30	Quarterly	..	..
Guaranty Trust	3%	Oct. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Molson, Montreal	12%*		Tax free	..	..
Myers Bank	20	Sept. 17	Tax free	..	..
National of India	17	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..
Northern Banking Co., "A" ..	22	Sept. 15	Less tax	..	..
Do "B"				..	..
Railways.					
New Brunswick	10%†			13	..
Nizam's State	24½†	(bonus 5%)	..	10	10
Mining.					
Alaska Treadwell Gold (in liq.) ..	\$1 p.a.	Sept. 23	Less tax 3/3 in &	..	..
Ballaghat Gold	16 p.a.	Oct. 1	Tax free	..	..
Central Provinces Manganese ..	10 %	Sept. 30	Less tax 3/4 in &	..	..
Nunddroog	60 p.a.	Oct. 15		..	..
Oriental Consolidated	\$50 p.a.			..	..
Other Companies.					
Albany (Middleton)	15 p.a.†			..	..
Alder Spinning	15 p.a.		Tax free	..	..
American Power and Light	24%		Quarterly	..	..
American Telephone, &c	24%	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	..
Argentine Land and Investment ..	7½†	Oct. 3	Less tax	10	10
Artisan's Dwellings	5	Sept. 10	Less tax	..	..
Barnsley Brewery	12½		Subject to tax	..	..
Do Bonus	5 p.a.		Tax free	..	..
Bedford and Mill Lane	15 p.a.*		Tax free	..	..
Bradford Traction, Pref.	14%	Oct. 1	Quarterly	..	..
British Tobacco (Australia)	3%*	Sept. 30		..	..
Canadian General Electric, Pref. ..	15%	Oct. 1	Quarterly	10	10
Charles Roberts and Co.	5½†		Tax free	..	..
City of Chester Gas, "A"	10			..	..
Do "B" and "C"	7			..	..
Clover (Rochdale)	13 p.a.†			..	..
Croft (Rochdale)	15 p.a.†			..	..
Deft-Bastard Tobacco	18%			..	..
Dundalk Gas "A"	20 p.a.			..	..
Do "B"	15 p.a.			..	..
Dundee Tramways			Less tax	7	..
Eastern Extension Telegraph	5 p.a.	Oct. 15	Quarterly	..	..
Edward Lloyd	19 p.a.*	Oct. 1	Tax free	..	..
Egypt and Levant Co. (in liq.) ..	22½			..	..
Farranti	9		Tax free	15	..
Godalming Gas, Orig.	26½			..	..
Do New	26½		Tax free	3 p.a. 3/1	..
Imperial Tobacco of Canada	11%	Sept. 29		..	..
J. Mandelberg	1 p.a.*			..	..
John Barker and Co.	10*	Oct. 6		..	..
Jones and Higgins	7*			..	..
Lidstone, Pref.	3%		(Arrears)	..	..
Lincoln Wagon and Engine	5%		Less tax	..	..
Liverpool Exchange	8 p.a.*			13	1
London and Edinburgh Shipping ..	4 p.a.*		Tax free	..	..
Manor Park Cemetery	22 p.a.*			..	..
Mutual Mills	24%*	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..
Newcastle Electric	5		Less tax	..	..
Scottish Tube, Pref.	10*			..	..
Stewart and Lloyds, Pref.	3%*	Oct. 1		..	..
United Collieries, Pref.	11½†	Sept. 30	Free S.A. tax	30	1
United Tobacco Cos. (South)	16 p.a.		(& bonus 1/ p.a.) Tax free	5	..
Wardle and Davenport			Tax free	..	..
Wright, Bindley, and Gell				..	..

THE FERRYBURN NAVIGATION COLLIERY CO., LIMITED, announces that in view of present high costs due to the new wages agreement, also the big drop in coal prices, the directors have thought it wisest not to pay an interim dividend on the ordinary shares in respect of last half-year's working, so as to provide for probable loss during the current half-year.

KENNEL'S MINES.—The directors of the Huronian Belt Company announce that they will pay the dividend of 8 per cent. and bonus of 4 per cent. declared by Kennel's Mines in respect of shares "marked" by them on and after Sept. 23rd, at rate of exchange fixed by committee of London Stock Exchange—namely, 4s 4½d per dollar.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Aug. 23, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Aug. 31, 1924.		Aggregate 35 Weeks, 1924.	
		Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.	Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.
Great Western.....	3,754	393,000	352,000	9,427,000	11,690,000
Do for 1923.....	3,747	350,000	327,000	8,777,000	11,244,000
London & North-Eastern.....	5,722	601,000	709,000	1,510,000	1,580,000
Do same period 1923.....	5,702	575,000	680,000	1,355,000	1,587,000
London, Mid., & Scottish.....	6,942	852,000	912,000	1,764,000	2,270,000
Do for 1923.....	6,942	815,000	846,000	1,661,000	2,287,000
Southern.....	2,146	467,500	133,700	601,300	1,181,800
Do for 1923.....	2,146	449,700	123,600	573,300	1,194,800
Metropolitan (c).....	794	42,765	4,285	47,060	1,337,622
Do for 1923.....	794	30,921	3,682	34,603	1,112,458
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	242,427	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	221,839	..
Lon. & Sth. Group (c).....	..	..	..	39,137	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	38,137	..
Belmont & Co. Down (b).....	80	5,328	1,193	6,521	167,036
Dublin and S.-East (b).....	160	7,773	3,125	10,898	219,783
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b).....	562	23,100	20,900	44,000	674,380
Gt. Sth. & Western (b).....	1,151	29,916	27,876	67,792	838,400
Midland Gt. West. (b).....	538	12,129	14,329	26,458	326,452

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Receipts.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	18 weeks	Aug. 2	1,072	2,63,000	+ 37,175	45,91,871	+ 6,74,180
Barelly R.R.	18 weeks	Aug. 9	118	21,100	+ 1,400	7,74,000	+ 55,100
Bombay & N. Western.....	18 weeks	Aug. 2	2,062	5,78,120	+ 77,171	1,26,11,140	+ 5,04,534
Bombay Nagpur	18 weeks	Aug. 2	2,800	13,17,000	+ 30,000	2,80,11,680	+ 21,74,880
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	21 weeks	Aug. 30	2,142	5,58,520	+ 7,976	1,25,51,013	+ 48,06,000
Burma.....	18 weeks	Aug. 2	239	93,000	+ 10,760	22,43,584	+ 97,339
Delhi, Umballa Kalka.....	22 weeks	Aug. 30	2,873	3,25,300	+ 81,000	7,32,75,000	+ 85,35,100
East Indian	22 weeks	Aug. 30	3,175	21,90,400	+ 4,15,300	5,88,53,071	+ 72,85,973
G. Indian Peninsula.....	20 weeks	Aug. 30	3,029	13,50,000	+ 18,732	3,00,25,584	+ 30,73,517
Madras & S. Mahr.....	18 weeks	Aug. 2	299	53,260	+ 10,563	11,65,136	+ 1,26,526
Rohilk'd & Kumaon.....	18 weeks	Aug. 2	314	57,760	+ 12,746	13,94,878	+ 1,36,681
Do Lucknow-Breilly.....	18 weeks	Aug. 2	1,877	10,54,143	+ 55,629	1,55,30,661	+ 3,24,526
South Indian.....	15 weeks	July 12	1,877	10,54,143	+ 55,629	1,55,30,661	+ 3,24,526

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Receipts.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine.....	35 weeks	Sept. 2	300	284,758	+ 17,100	5,038,944	+ 118,946
Burnley Corporation.....	1 week	Aug. 30	12	45,147	- 22	..	..
Calcutta Tramways.....	35 weeks	Aug. 30	354	84,266,320	+ 11,570	..	..
Chatham & District.....	3 weeks	Aug. 30	28	41,700	- 86	49,269	+ 5,781
Egyptian Markets.....	3 weeks	Aug. 30	21	41,493	+ 49	68,856	+ 5,346
Glasgow Corporation.....	13 weeks	Aug. 30	106	844,237	- 340	563,953	+ 16,490
Ile of Thanet Tram.....	4 weeks	Aug. 30	13	44,705	- 74	97,393	+ 5,397
Lancashire Tram.....	3 weeks	Aug. 30	21	1,614	- 65	47,599	+ 5,633
Liverpool Corporation.....	22 weeks	Aug. 30	194	234,538	- 3,188	546,483	+ 80,498
L.O.C. Tramways.....	23 weeks	Sept. 4	163	79,094	- 4,305	1,780,597	+ 188,081
Madras Elec. (3 wks).....	37 weeks	Aug. 31	..	81,281	- 7,978	8,18,361	+ 27,113
Pernambuco Tram.....	35 weeks	Aug. 30	..	84,694	+ 308	152,236	+ 6,007
Singapore Tram.....	30 weeks	Aug. 30	..	814,565	+ 2,603	431,353	+ 118,946

* Combined revenue.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.										
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney	June 30	£ 88,489	£ 451,567	£ 540,056	..	330,170	10	£ 120,000	£ 89,886	£ 422,068
Woking District.....	June 30*	2,807	2,673	5,480	1,251	1,046	6	..	3,183	3,558
Motor and Cycle.										
Singer and Co.	July 31	30,235	70,445	100,680	..	31,005	20	20,000	49,675	37,269
Rubber, &c.										
Martapoera	Mar. 31	1,658	470	2,128	..	..	..	..	2,128	2,301
Tramways.										
Dundee, Broughty Ferry, &c.	July 31	623	4,724	5,347	2,325	1,559	7	1,000	463	4,183
Trusts.										
Atlantic Trust.....	June 30	2,915	4,079	6,994	..	..	..	5,000	1,994	13,948
Other Companies.										
Bath and Portland Stone Firms..	June 30*	26,625	22,486	49,111	..	15,625	12½	..	33,486	17,650
Lawes' Chemical Manure	June 30	Dr 2,788	Dr 4,469	Dr 7,252	..	..	..	Dr 7,252	Dr 22,894	..
Wright, Bindley, and Gell	June 30	2,143	14,498	16,641	5,004	6,562	5½	2,000	3,075	10,553

* Half-year. † Tax free.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 4th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: We cannot report any improvement in the pig-iron trade. There is very little business doing, and stocks have continued to accumulate. No. 3 G.M.B. is quoted at 83s per ton f.o.t. or f.o.b., makers' works. The hematite trade is still very depressed; two more furnaces have been put out of blast, partly owing to accident and partly to the slump in trade. Mixed numbers East Coast hematite are quoted at 92s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: New business is very scarce, and keen competition prevails for the few orders that are being placed. Semi-finished steel from the Continent can be delivered here much cheaper than our cost of production. Prices remain unchanged.—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Business is confined to odd cargoes, for which lower prices must be accepted. Sellers of best Rubio are still quoting 22s 6d, c.i.f. Tees, but this price could no doubt be shaded for prompt business.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—No movement has developed this week to ameliorate the distressful conditions in which the trade in open-hearth steel is being carried on. The position is now one of extreme gravity, and justifies the anxiety felt throughout the trade. The volume of output and buying and selling reached its lowest point a fortnight ago, but an increase in the local unemployed list which has since been recorded indicates further contraction. Most of the additions to the recipients of relief come from the branch of trade mentioned above. There are few inquiries for billets and similar material, and no new contracts worth mentioning have been placed for a long time. On the other hand, suspensions of delivery have been advised, and some contracts cancelled. It is not surprising that such conditions are straining very seriously the financial position of the large steel companies. Hopes are entertained of an early settlement of the strike, which has stopped three-fourths of the local open-hearth steel output. Business is moderate in railway material, steel sheets, and cold rolled strip. Prices continue to fall in the fuel market, more particularly for secondary qualities, cobbles, nuts, and slacks, and big concessions are offered to secure export orders. The market is in a thoroughly unsatisfactory state. Best qualities of house coal are scarce with high prices. Quotations for steam coal are nominally 20s for Yorkshire and Blythes, and 22s for Durhams at pits.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—A dull tone pervades the pig-iron market here, and notwithstanding the reduced output owing to the smaller number of furnaces in operation, business is on a small scale, but as foundries and engineering works in Scotland are fairly well off for work, the demand should come away when work in the building trades gets into full operation. In the steel and iron trades only a small amount of business is passing. Some plate-makers are fairly well employed on ship-plates, but these are mostly firms associated with particular yards. Output is still far short of capacity, but there is a distinct feeling that the present indications of better trade conditions will materialise before the autumn is over. Structural steel is in steady request for export, and also for local engineers, who have some very good contracts on hand. Bar-iron makers are doing a restricted trade of the hand-to-mouth variety. Export demand for re-rolled steel bars is fairly steady, and black sheet makers have plenty of work on hand, with a regular flow of inquiries from all markets. An exception to this may be mentioned in the thin sheet trade for Japan, which has been considerably restricted on account, it is understood, of heavy purchases made in America by the Japanese. There is, however, a steady demand for the thicker gauges for this market. Galvanised corrugated sheets are being bought for November delivery. Works are full up in some instances till almost the end of the year. The 48,000 ton order for Argentine Government, which has been hanging about the market

for over six months, with terms and conditions attached that no British firm could accept, has now been definitely placed with U.S.A. works. Among new contracts is one for a 4,500 ton motor vessel, to be built by Messrs. Barclay, Curle and Co., and provided with Diesel type engines by Messrs. Kincaid and Co., Limited, of Greenock.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been a noticeable scarcity of new business on the Cardiff coal market this week. Salesmen have made repeated efforts to resist the "bearing" tactics of buyers, but with little success, and in practically all sections prices, although reduced, are for the most part nominal. Many collieries are working short time, but even then it is found difficult to dispose of the limited outputs. Forward inquiry is on a greatly restricted scale, while the prospects of the trade are viewed with misgiving. Rumours recently circulating in regard to the reopening of the Cambrian pits, which were closed down two weeks ago, are now stated to have been incorrect, and no negotiations have yet taken place between the workmen and the management. The returns for the week ending August 30th show an appreciable expansion in

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH
DIRECT TO
NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

September 6	-	ss. "FRANCE."
September 13	-	ss. "LAFAYETTE."
September 20	-	ss. "PARIS."
September 27	-	ss. "FRANCE."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, &c. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent, or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.

the South Wales coal export trade, particularly heavy shipments being recorded to South America. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 29s; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s; best dries, 26s to 26s 6d; Western Valleys, 25s to 25s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s 6d; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s 6d to 15s; coking smalls, 16s 6d to 17s; big vein large, 52s 6d to 55s; machine-made cobbles, 60s to 62s 6d; French nuts, 58s to 60s; stove nuts, 55s to 57s 6d; rubbly culm, 12s 6d to 12s 9d; coke for export, 50s to 52s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s; pitwood, ex ship, 30s to 30s 6d. Business on the Welsh tinplate market this week has been moderately active, and prices remain firm. The signing of the reparations agreement has led to an increased Continental demand, while substantial sales are again reported to the Far East.

METALS.

Tin commenced the week with a firmer tone on higher Eastern cables, though offers were fairly well absorbed. Later, however, some irregularity was noticeable, and part of the advance was lost on sellers becoming more prominent. Standard, cash, sold at £258 5s to £258 15s, and three months £259 to £258 10s, £262 to £259 5s to £260. Eastern advices reported sales on the basis of £264, c.i.f. At Thursday's session prices opened easier, but improved towards the close, though on balance 5s 6d to 5s 9d per ton lower. Standard, cash, sold at £255 to £254 15s to £255 15s, and three months £255 to £256 to £255 15s. At the close the tendency was firmer though somewhat irregular. Standard cash sold at £256 10s, and three months £258 to £257 to £258 10s. English ingots quoted at £258 15s to £259 5s. Copper also opened firmer, due to sellers being reserved in their offers, and a good demand for distant positions. Standard, cash, £63 15s to £64, to £63 15s to £64 1s 3d to £64, and three months £64 15s to £64 17s 6d to £64 13s 9d, £65 2s 6d to £64 18s 9d. Active trading ensued on Thursday, but prices moved in favour of buyers. Standard, cash, sold at £63 12s 6d to £63 10s, and three months £64 10s to £64 12s 6d. Copper continued in good demand on following day, while rates were irregular and the turn easier. Standard cash sold at £63 2s 6d, and three months £64 7s 6d to £64 2s 6d to £64 10s. Electrocs £68 to £68 10s, best selected £67 to £68 5s, strong sheets £94, wire bars £68 10s per ton. Lead firmer, and quoted at £33 2s 6d to £32 2s 6d, as to position. Spelter quiet at £33 to £32 15s 6d, according to position. Aluminium steady. Home quoted at £125, export £130. Antimony, English Regulus, £44 10s to £50.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The outstanding topic of interest is the sale held at Brisbane this week. A substantial advance in values was generally expected, but the actual rise is beyond what most people imagined it would be. There seems to have been keen and general competition, and the result is that the new selling season in the colonies has opened on a very high level. It will be difficult for importers to do much with wool at Brisbane rates until the Bradford market has come more into line, but there are indications that the levelling up process is already at work. All tops have been sharply advanced this week, and in some cases topmakers have withdrawn quotations entirely. For a really good 70's warp top sellers are now wanting 8s 4d, and 78d is the general market quotation for warp 64's; the latter price represents an advance of 4d in the last four weeks. For super 60's sellers are wanting 60d to 70d; 56's average are quoted at 50d, 46's, carded, at 20d, and 40's, prepared, at 28d. The sharp upward movement is holding up new business to some extent, but a fair turnover has been done during the week, and spinners are "nibbling" all the time, especially as they are carrying light stocks for the most part. The demand for yarn certainly shows a slight improvement, but business is "spotty," and some firms are much better off than others. The chief difficulty is to make prices commensurate with the cost of production, and although yarn quotations are being advanced in sympathy with the rise in wool and tops, the actual selling prices are still well below what they should be. Rather more business is being put through in piece-goods, both home and export markets having been more active during the week. Prices are firm, with a distinct hardening tendency.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Everybody expected that the Brisbane sale would open strong, but some of the costs cabled to Bradford have staggered even the "bulls," being anywhere from 3d to 4d a lb. more for 64's than has been made even during the strong market of the past fortnight. It must be obvious to most users that the manufacturing end of the industry is not likely to follow these values just at present, if ever. There is plenty of confidence in the raw material, but it is nearly all amongst those interested in wool and not amongst users of yarn and piece-goods. One or two of the largest mills in Yorkshire and Scotland have advised some of their customers not to purchase heavily at present, but to wait until nearer Christmas, and there are a number of topmakers in Bradford who would certainly sell merino tops for January and February on the basis of this week's Brisbane costs, even though several of the largest firms have sold all the merinos that they have available, and

have closed their books until they know what wool can be bought at and what supplies are likely to be available. The season that is now opening is expected to produce for sale in Australia at least 200,000 bales more than last year. If only half of this quantity is merino, users will be better off than they were in the 1923-24 season, even though during that time they had the addition of 80,000 bales of B.A.W.R.A. wool. During the past fortnight or three weeks the market has risen rapidly, and Bradford and the Continent have absorbed a fair amount of wool re-offered from Boston, which appears still to be the cheapest market for combing classes, as it has been for the last few months. Less wool, however, is now being re-offered from America, and prices have stiffened very considerably. American worsted mills are said to be badly placed for new business, but the woollen section is a good deal better off. It seems as if in America, as in this country, the woollen side of the industry is likely to have a much more successful winter than the worsted, as neither topmakers, spinners, nor manufacturers are happy with the season beginning on the present high level. Another sign that present-day values in merinos are considered too high to be healthy might be found in the policy of most topmakers during the past fortnight or three weeks, which has been to dispose of all the stock they had, much of which had been held through many hopeless months.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—August 29, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.
American	d	d	d	d	d	d	1326	1451	1576	1736	1836	1338
Brazilian	Mid	M F	P F	G F	Fne	Fne	1462	1618	1716	..	..	1453
Peruvian	..	..	..	..	..	..	1466	1618	1716	..	..	1453
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1466	1618	1716	..	..	1453
Oceania	..	..	..	..	..	..	1491	1541	1591	..	..	1428
Sz, Paulo	..	..	..	..	..	..	Fr. G. F.	For Gd	Fne	Fr. G. F.	Gd	Fr. G. F.
Egyptian	..	..	..	..	..	..	1825	2100	2165	2230	2290	1595
Upper	..	..	..	..	..	..	1825	2100	2165	2230	2290	1595
Bakellardis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2080	2465	2515	2630	2725	1580
Brown	..	..	..	..	..	..	1865	2140	2205	2270	2330	1595
Peruvian	..	..	..	..	..	..	Fr. G. F.	For Gd	Fne	Fr. G. F.	Gd	Fr. G. F.
Rough	..	..	..	..	..	..	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	1455
Moderately Rough	..	..	..	..	..	..	1641	1716	1791	1841	1866	1478
Smooth	..	..	..	..	..	..	1641	1691	1741	1791	1916	1478
Tangula	..	..	..	..	..	..	2000	2150	2250	2350	..	1525
Midland	..	..	..	..	..	..	1650	1700	1750	..	..	1575
West Indian, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2400	2550	2750	2900	..	1900
Do Sea Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	1570	1670	1735	1790	..	1100
African, East, &c.	1320	1420	1570	1670	1735	1790	1100	1250	1450	1525	1500	1300
Do West	..	..	..	..	..	..	1566	1575	1586	1666	1746	1478
East Indian	G F	For Gd	F G	Fne	S Fm	For Gd	1390	1405	1445	1485	..	1390
Machine Ginned Surtee	..	..	..	..	..	..	1100	1140	1180	1220	1260	1135
Machine Ginned Brooch	..	..	..	..	..	..	1030	1080	1130	1180	1230	955
Machine Ginned Bhowanagar	..	..	..	..	..	..	950	1040	1090	1140	1190	955
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1065	1115	1165	1215	..	990
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	990	1040	1090	1140	1190	915
Machine Ginned Khandesh	..	..	..	..	..	..	1155	1195	1235	1275	1315	1170
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1005	1045	1085	1125	1165	980
Machine Ginned Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	925	1035	1075	1115	1155	870
Machine Ginned Soinde	..	..	..	..	..	..	1255	1295	1335	1375	1415	1305
Tinnivelly	..	..	..	..	..	..	1105	1150	1195	1240	1285	1105
American-Soinde/Punjab	..	..	..	..	..	..	1145	1185	1225	..	..	1105
M. G. Western	..	..	..	..	..	..	1105	1145	1185	..	..	1105
Western	..	..	..	..	..	..	1170	1210	1250	..	..	1170
M. G. Northern	..	..	..	..	..	..	1145	..	..	..	..	1145
Northern	..	..	..	..	..	..	1145	..	..	..	..	1145
M. G. Cocanada, Bod.	Fr.	1145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1055
China, Suifu, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

MANCHESTER, September 4.

Trading in the market has been on a reduced scale compared with last week. Producers, owing to the recent larger turnover, have presented a stiffer front to customers, and buyers have not been inclined to pay fuller rates. A lull in business, therefore, has come round. There is still much uncertainty as to future values in the raw material. Cloth inquiry for India has kept up fairly well, but there has been less activity in grey shirtings, and only a moderate turnover in bleaching and printing materials. Trade for China has been adversely affected by the disturbances abroad. Fewer orders have been booked for Egypt. Some encouraging lines have been reported in poplins for the United States. Distribution in home trade goods has been of fair extent. Some manufacturers, especially in grey staples, are wanting longer delivery terms for fresh contracts. Quotations in American yarns remain firmer, and a fairly healthy demand has been met with in small lots for quick delivery. There has not been much activity in Egyptian spinnings. Some useful lines have been booked in yarns for India, and in extra hards for the Near East.

The NET COST
of an **ANTICIPATED BONUS POLICY**
in the **NATIONAL PROVIDENT**
is considerably less
than that of
any **NON-PROFIT** policy.
Write for particulars to:—
48 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

wharves, amounted to 11,730 packages, showing a decrease during the month of 1,041 packages. At auction to-day 585 casks tallow were offered, and 500 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine 47s; good to fair, 46s to 45s; dull to dark, 42s 3d to 41s; hard 47s. Australian beef: Fine, 48s; good to fair, 45s to 43s; dull to dark, 41s 9d to 41s; sweet, none. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 45s. Present shipment from South America,

46s to 44s. The market letter is dearer. Tallow, 1s; stuff, 6d. Town tallow, 41s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 44d; melted stuff, 31s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 40s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 41s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 43s 6d; fair to dull, 42s to 41s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 37s 6d; melted stuff, 37s 6d, f.o.b.

SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY, LTD.

(INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.)

Presented to the Shareholders at an Ordinary General Meeting held at the Head Banking House, George Street, Sydney, on Friday, 25th July, 1924. The Directors submit to the Shareholders a Balance Sheet showing the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank on the 30th June, 1924, and present the following Report:—

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss, after adding the amount brought forward, and deducting Interim Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, paid on 22nd January, 1924, rebate on current bills and accrued interest on fixed deposits, reducing premises accounts, paying Land, Income and other taxes, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and making an addition of £15,000 to the Officers' Provident Fund, amounts to

out of which the Directors recommend the following appropriations:—
To Payment of a Dividend for the past Half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the Year's Profits ... £173,042 5 10
" Transfer to Reserve Fund ... 120,000 0 0
" Balance carried forward ... 89,885 18 6

In terms of Article 94 the Hon. Sir Thomas Hughes, M.L.C., and Mr. Owen Esmond Friend were appointed Directors to fill the vacancies caused respectively by the resignation of Mr. Owen Esmond Friend in November last and the resignation of the Hon. James William Macarthur Onslow in January last. Sir Thomas Hughes and Mr. Friend are now eligible for election, and have given notice of candidature. This Meeting is called upon to elect a Director, consequent on the retirement in terms of the Articles of Association of Mr. George Judah Cohen, who is eligible for re-election, and has given the requisite notice that he is a candidate for the Office. It rests also with this meeting to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. During the year branches of the Bank have been established at Barellan, Bull and Wyong, in New South Wales.

GEORGE J. COHEN, Chairman.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS (including London Branch to 30th June, by Cable).		Dr.		By	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Capital ...	23,476,287 10 0	By Coin, Bullion, Australian Commonwealth Notes and Cash at Bankers ...	28,680,273 8 2		
Reserve Fund ...	2,580,000 0 0	" Money at short call ...	2,135,000 0 0		
Reserve Capital ...	3,500,000 0 0	" Short-dated British Treasury Bills ...	500,000 0 0		
	29,556,287 10 0	" British and Australian War Loan Stocks and Government and other Securities ...	3,324,496 8 8		
To Capital Paid-up ...	23,476,287 10 0	" Bills Receivable in London and Remittances in transit ...	2,392,104 17 10		
" Reserve Fund ...	2,580,000 0 0	" Notes and bills of other banks ...	322,924 4 4		
	6,056,287 10 0	" Bills discounted, and other debts due to the Bank ...	22,978,635 14 8		
" Notes in circulation ...	8,908 0 0	" Bank premises, furniture, &c. ...	955,000 0 0		
" Bills in circulation ...	1,246,133 13 1				
" Deposits and other liabilities ...	33,594,177 3 10				
" Profit and Loss Account ...	382,928 4 4				
	241,288,434 11 3				

PROFIT AND LOSS.

£	s. d.	By	£	s. d.
To Interim Dividend for the Half-year ended 31st December, 1923, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, paid on 22nd January, 1924, out of the Year's Profits ...	157,127 14 2	By Amount brought forward from last year ...	88,488 14 11	
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—		" Profit for year ended 30th June, 1924 ...	451,667 3 7	
To Dividend for past Half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the Year's Profits ...	2173,042 5 10			
" Reserve Fund ...	120,000 0 0			
" Balance carried forward ...	89,885 18 6			
	382,928 4 4			
	2540,055 18 6			

RESERVE FUND.

1924—June 30th	£2,580,000 0 0
By Transfer from Profit and Loss ...	120,000 0 0
	£2,700,000 0 0

GEORGE J. COHEN, Chairman. H. H. MASSIE, General Manager. L. A. PARKER, Secretary. Sydney, 14th July, 1924.

We hereby certify that we have examined the bills, compared the balances and counted the coin in the Head Office of THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LIMITED, and have compared the returns of the Branches, and have found the same as specified in the foregoing Balance Sheet.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—That the Report and Statements of Account be received and adopted, and ordered to be circulated among the Shareholders. That Mr. George Judah Cohen be re-elected a Director and that the Honourable Sir Thomas Hughes, M.L.C., and Mr. Owen Esmond Friend be elected Directors of the Bank. That Messrs. Harrington B. Cowper and Justin J. Brennan be appointed Auditors for the ensuing year. That the Shareholders, having heard with regret of the intention of the General Manager to retire from the management of the Bank, place on record their high appreciation of the services which Mr. Massie has rendered to the proprietors since his appointment to the Bank staff forty-six years ago, and they hope that he will long enjoy his well-earned rest. That the thanks of the Shareholders be presented to the Directors, General Manager and Officers of the Bank for their very satisfactory management of the affairs of the Institution.

H. H. MASSIE, General Manager.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA. 4½% REGISTERED STOCK, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the above Stock will be CLOSED from the 15th day of September, 1924, to the 30th day of September, 1924, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the Warrants for the half-yearly interest due 1st October, 1924.—For the Union Bank of Canada,
W. F. SPARHAM, Manager.
6 Princes street, E.C.2.
4th September, 1924.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO 4% REGISTERED STOCK, 1947.

For the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants due 1st November, 1924, the BALANCES will be STRUCK on the evening of the 1st October, 1924, after which date the Stock will be transferred ex-dividend.—For Bank of Montreal,
G. C. CASSELS, Manager.
47 Threadneedle street, E.C.2.
1st September, 1924.

CITY OF CALGARY 4½% DEBENTURES.

The City of Calgary announces that the COUPONS falling due 1st October, 1924, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be PRESENTED on and after the 15th September, 1924, between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle street, E.C.2. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application at the Bank.

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY STERLING 4% 500-YEAR DEBENTURE STOCK.

Baring Brothers & Company, Limited, give notice that the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 22nd to the 30th inst., both dates inclusive, for the preparation of the Warrants for the interest due 1st October, 1924.
8 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.
1st September, 1924.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Bank will be closed from the 3rd September to 16th September, both days inclusive.—By Order of the Board,
J. Y. MUNRO, London Manager.
National Bank of India, Limited,
26 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.
2nd September, 1924.

THE Investor's Monthly Manual (Established 1864).

The MOST COMPLETE PERIODICAL RECORD in existence of the dealings, throughout the United Kingdom, in every description of stocks and shares.

Post free 1s. 8d.
Annual Subscription £1 1s. 0d.

3 Arundel St., Strand, London, W.C.2

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1924.

No. 4,229.

CENTENARY, 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting

ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

Issued by the Company may be obtained on application from the Head Office or any of the Offices or Agencies of the Company.
O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	405	Government Returns—	
Leading Articles—		Public Income and Expenditure	427
The Russian Loan	407	National Debt	427
The Progress of Belgium ..	408	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	428
The First Stage at Geneva ..	410	Currency Notes Account ..	428
Position of the Paper Trade ..	411		
Canal Companies' Results ..	412	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Public Debt of Egypt ..	413	Bank of England	428
Notes of the Week—		Clearing Returns	428
The Irish Boundary	415	Overseas Bank Returns ..	428
Overseas Trade in August ..	415	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks	429
The Conflict in China	416	Loan and Discount Rates ..	430
The New Order in Chile ..	416	Overseas Bank Rates	430
Mexico and Great Britain ..	416	Rates of Exchange	430
More Reparation Appointments	416	Bullion	431
American Cotton Crop	417	Imports and Exports of Gold	431
English Agricultural Conditions	417	Gold and Silver Prices	431
Nobel Industries	417		
Calico Printers' Profits	418	Company News—	
Porcupine - Davidson Surprised	418	Mining Outputs Statistics for August, 1924	431
Transvaal Gold Output	418	Dividend Announcements ..	432
Overseas Correspondence—		Oil Outputs	432
United States	419	Weekly Traffic Returns ..	433
France	419	Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	433
Germany	420	Reports and Notices	433
Italy	421	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	434
India	422	Transvaal Gold Output Statistics	434
Australia	423	Commercial Reports—	
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Trade Returns ..	435
German Issues of Chinese Bonds	424	Corn Trade	435
Books and Publications—		Iron and Coal Trade	436
A World Survey	424	Metals	436
Books Received	425	Cotton Trade	437
Stock Exchange News—		Wool Trade	437
The Stock Markets	425	Vegetable Oil and Oilseeds ..	438
New Issues	425	Hides and Leather Trades ..	438
Active Securities	426	Overseas Produce Markets ..	438
		Price Current	440

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 14s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s 0d. Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 0d per Annum. Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap. Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street. P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate. Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street. Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 123 Moorgate. Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY became scarce again at the beginning of the week, chiefly owing to the absence of maturing Treasury bills in the hands of the market. The usual withdrawals by banks for balance-sheet purposes and transfers of funds through taxation channels consequently had rather more than their normal effect, and though applications to the Bank of England were not necessary, the market had very little margin to spare. There was a little Continental

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital ...	£40,000,000
Paid Up ...	£10,000,000
Reserve ...	£10,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italo credit, Cannon, London."

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

inquiry for bills, just sufficient to check the upward tendency of discount rates:—

	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 29, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills) ..	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return showed an increase of just over a million in the Reserve, almost entirely due to the reflux of notes from circulation. Government and Other securities declined by half-a-million and 3½ millions respectively, and the total deposits were thus three millions lower. Public deposits rose by half-a-million, and Other deposits declined by 3½ millions. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £673,900 to £288,761,500, which includes £1,373,066 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,938,400, or £10,252,500 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances of the London Clearing Banks for August, printed in full on a later page, shows a drop of £26 millions in deposits, as compared with July. In the table below we summarise the aggregate figures for the nine English banks:—

(Million £.)

	June, 1923.	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.3	116.3	118.7	119.2	119.4	119.4
Acceptances	73.8	96.1	99.2	85.3	79.0	75.7
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.) ..	1,637.7	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,651.9	1,649.9	1,616.9
Total liabilities	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3	1,812.0
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection ..	240.7	254.2	230.2	249.1	236.7	234.0
Money at call	113.3	111.3	93.5	108.1	98.3	101.7
Investments	355.5	365.8	361.7	349.3	348.1	346.0
Discounts	270.8	276.3	224.0	245.9	259.3	244.5
Loans and advances	746.9	755.5	785.5	791.7	791.5	792.0
Over for accept., premises, &c.	100.6	123.4	126.2	113.2	107.3	103.8
Total assets	1,827.8	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3	1,812.0

Cash has declined by £2½ millions, but money at call is higher by £3½ millions. Discounts are lower by about £25 millions.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Towards the end of the week talk of political issues forcing a General Election caused some uneasiness in the Stock Exchange. But, generally speaking, the recent general firmness has been maintained. In the absence of new issues, gilt-edged stocks are benefiting from the normal accumulation of investment resources. But the trend of the markets continues more in favour of speculative sections than of purely investment stocks. The gamble in German and Prussian bonds has again been vigorous, and the Stock Exchange maintains that the big buying is coming from German sources via Holland. Home Rails, after early signs of strength, fell back into neglect, but Argentine rails are very firm and active. Once again tea shares have been a main feature, boom conditions prevailing. Rubber shares have at last shown some improvement, while brewery and tobacco shares are rising markets. Public interest in the Kaffir market is at a low ebb, and the oil share market is very dull.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Business is restricted in the wool trade, and it is likely to continue so until the position of the raw material has been tested at the London wool sales, which take place next week. The feature of interest in the cotton trade has been the further decline in raw material rates. There has been no improvement in the coal markets; the pig-iron trade is quiet, makers, it is stated, experiencing difficulty in finding an outlet for their products. Tin and copper were better. Wheat was firmer on lower Canadian crop estimates. Sugar prices were stabilised at recent higher values. Tea continues in demand. Rubber advanced on moderate inquiry. The hide market is firm. Vegetable oils and oilseed maintain their position.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was again very quiet, and inclined to be featureless throughout the week; but, whilst the seasonal demand for sterling and dollars was maintained on a slightly smaller scale, the franc came a little more into the picture at the end than has been the case of late. America and Germany were, it seems, both purchasers of francs to a considerable extent, and this brought a rally when the general tendency appeared to be one of further weakness. Paris opened at 83.50 on the 5th and fell to 84.50 on further purchases of sterling and dollars on stock market account, finishing the day slightly better at 84.20-30. On the 6th further dollar purchases put the rate as high as 84.70 (even 85 was touched for a short time), and there were fairly wide fluctuations in both directions, considering the cramped state of the market. There was no change early this week, but on the 9th a sensible improvement set in, which continued until yesterday. The raising of the Bank of France's rate for advances is a strengthening factor. In considering the future of the franc, which is certainly made brighter by the renewal of the dollar credit given by J. P. Morgan and Co. last March, it would perhaps be wise to take up an attitude of some reserve, with one eye on Geneva. Sterling rates against the dollar seemed rather inclined to follow the franc, probably on sentimental grounds as much as anything else, although other factors, chiefly seasonal buying of dollars, obscured this tendency, so that it did not become visible until later. Opening at 4.45½-46 on the 5th, sterling fell sharply to 4.43½-44 on the 6th, and at opening on the 8th to 4.42½-43. Reaction set in on the 9th, when sterling improved to 4.45-45½, followed by another decline on the 10th to 4.44½-45, but the factors mentioned appear to have exerted their influence on the following day and yesterday, when sterling improved again to 4.45-45½ and 4.45½-46 respectively. The Belgian franc opened at 89.20, but did not follow Paris in its downward course to quite the same extent, moving only to 89.25 on the 6th and 89.62 on the 7th. When Paris started to improve, however, the Belgian franc reacted in sympathy to 89, but later lost its advantage, and finished relatively rather weaker at 89.37 on the 11th and 89.25 yesterday. The lira was slightly weaker at 102 on the 6th, but improved later to rather better than its previous levels, and reacted, also in sympathy with the franc, to 101.60 on the 11th, where it remained yesterday. The peseta remained hesitating, as might have been expected with Spain's troubles in Morocco. Of the other Continental exchanges, Berlin remained unchanged at 18½-19, and Christiania at 33.38-42; Stockholm and Helsingfors moved only slightly between 16.76-16.73 and 177½-177 respectively, and followed the dollar, Switzerland doing the same between 23.66-23.68. Copenhagen suffered from some comparatively violent reactions, and wound up rather weaker, but better on balance at 26.35-40 yesterday. Of the Baltic States, Esthonia remains at 1,820-1,880, after temporary weakness at 1,850 on the 8th. Latvia finished slightly stronger at 22.93, after having improved to 22.82 on the 9th and 10th. The leu continued its recent improvement, and moved from 850 to 830 on the 11th and 820 yesterday chiefly, it is believed, because of heavy sales of foreign currencies by Roumanian exporters. Of the South American exchanges the Brazilian milreis was slightly better on balance at 5½, and Buenos Aires showed steady improvement during the week from 42½ to 42½. This is probably seasonal, and due to export movements of meat, wool, and other commodities to Europe. In the East the rupee maintained its strength, and was generally harder on balance, closing at 1s 5½d yesterday. The Chinese exchanges were also firmer, Hongkong moving from 2s 4½d to 2s 4½d, Shanghai from 3s 3½d to 3s 5½d during the week, these movements coinciding with the enhanced price of silver. Japan was rather weaker at the close at 1s 9 31-32d, having declined from 1s 10 3-32d at the beginning of this week. In the silver market there was much more activity, military operations in China causing a considerable demand from that quarter. Supply being short owing to the movement of the dollar cutting off sales from America, the price was forced up to 35d, the highest level since June. If military operations in China

continue on any scale, a firm market seems probable, specially as it would appear that bear influences recently at work have been caught short, and are finding it difficult to cover.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 6th:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Apply Services	6,513	From Revenue	10,875
Interest, &c., on Debt	13,399	Amount borrowed	10,431
Banking Fund	1,152		
Unclaimed	212		
Unclaimed in Exchequer Balances ..	30		
	21,306		21,306

There is little change in the revenue figures as compared with a year ago. The total receipts for week ended September 6th amounted to £10,875,200, against £10,770,900. Property and Income-tax yielded an increased revenue, amounting to £4,558,000, against £3,976,000. Customs produced £2,234,000, against £2,654,000; and Excise £938,000, against £1,112,000. Special Receipts brought in £500,000, against £216,200. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £10,431,200, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
EXPENDITURE.	£	REVENUE.	£
Bank of England Advances ..	+ 3,750	National Savings Certificates ..	150
Public Department Advances ..	+ 5,394		
Treasury Bills	+ 890		
Sundries	+ 47		
	+ 10,581		150

The floating debt was increased by £10,539,000 to £779,122,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to September 6).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	329,709,941	Raised by Revenue ..	309,836,407
		Decrease in Balances ..	4,197,176
		Amount borrowed ..	15,676,358
Total	329,709,941	Total	329,709,941

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.

THERE are some things that improve upon acquaintance. But the Russian Treaty is not one of them. It is in every way desirable that in dealing with foreign nations the country should speak with one voice, but it has already become increasingly evident that this hasty and ill-considered agreement is destined to become an apple of discord in the political arena in the next few months. Since the text of the Treaty was issued, various stories, more or less authentic, have been put into circulation of the way in which the final agreement was patched up after a breakdown of the negotiations had actually been announced. We will not attempt to judge here whether this astonishing episode represented a surrender by the Bolsheviks—as Mr MacDonald claims—or the capitulation of the Prime Minister under pressure from the left wing of his party—as the Russians claim—for this matter will doubtless be brought under the searchlight of question and answer in the House of Commons. But whatever the truth may be, the circumstances give the Treaty a bad start by labelling it as the result of backstairs diplomacy rather than a carefully planned decision representing the judgment of the country. Moreover, in the

intervening weeks the political parties have begun to take position on the question. The I.L.P. demands that the Government should stick to every letter of the document, and stand or fall by it, while the Liberal Publication Department, in a document which obviously has the support of the leaders of the party, denounces the Treaty as a "sham" and a "fake." It is difficult to see how the Liberal leaders can go back upon this view, and it looks on the surface as though a political crisis is inevitable when Parliament meets. But no one wants an election this autumn, and it is, therefore, possible that the gift of compromise may descend upon the heads of embarrassed politicians and a way be found out of what at present looks like a deadlock. For our own part, we have already expressed our views on the Treaty, and have no doubt that the financial chapter, if it retains its present form, ought to be rejected summarily by the House of Commons, in spite of the serious disadvantage entailed in disowning the signature of a British Prime Minister.

It will indeed be difficult for Mr MacDonald to withdraw from the position he has taken up, for even if he were willing to do so, a large section of his followers hold strong views on the issue. Many supporters of the Labour Party, who fully realise that Communism is not a practicable method of running society, and recognise the ghastly failure of the experiment in Russia, nevertheless feel intense sympathy with a country which has broken with what they regard as the injustices of the existing economic order, and believe that, though Russia may have failed in her first experiment, she may eventually point the way to a more practicable form of Socialism. In any case, they feel an instinctive sympathy with any revolt against capitalism. To all such, the opposition to the Treaty will readily be represented as a nefarious plot on the part of capitalist wire-pullers to overthrow their most dangerous enemy.

Except for the fact that capitalism is on the defensive, and not the offensive, this view is not far from the truth, and the controversy will be a bitter one, just because there will be these opposing principles at the back of the minds of most of the protagonists. The practical view, however, does not present itself in these terms. The Western world has long passed the stage when any responsible section of opinion wishes to boycott Russia because of the economic theories and practice of its Government. It is neither practicable nor sound in principle that any other country should attempt to dictate to Russia how it should organise its internal affairs. At the same time, Russia urgently needs not only to trade with the rest of the world, but also to encourage Western capital and enterprise to come into Russia and help her to restart her economic life. On the other hand, the world needs—though a good deal less urgently—to trade with Russia. The problem, therefore, is to find a working basis upon which to develop trading relations which have already begun in a small way. Let us consider for a moment the stage which has already been reached in Russia.

It is well at the outset to remember that the economic life of Russia was in the first place smashed by the Great War. This was a war of machinery depending upon transport and the highly complex organisation of supplies for millions of men torn from their ordinary environment. Russia, who was left almost entirely to her own resources, proved unequal to the task primarily through the breakdown of her transport system and her inability to furnish her armies with food and munitions. But the Great War and the civil war which followed are only partly responsible for the condition to which Russia sunk. The ruin was completed by the Bolshevik revolution. In the report of the League of Nations on the condition of Russian agriculture published in 1922 in connection with the great famine, it was pointed out that the disaster was due not merely to drought, but to the fact that in the preceding years the cultivated area of Russia had dropped to not much more than half of the cultivated area before the war. Moreover, the area that was sown was being cultivated much worse than before the war. The reason for the falling off was that the Bolshevik organisation of the country put an end to capitalist cultivation, and took away the incentive from the peasant cultivator to maintain his production. The slowing up of production in the country was accompanied by the gradual cessation

of economic life in the towns, and the great cities of Russia became in effect dead cities.

In the summer of 1921 the new economic policy was introduced permitting freedom of exchange of goods. Since that time economic life has been slowly reviving on lines which have been gradually approaching the methods of other nations. The taxation of the peasant has been based upon principles which permit him to benefit from his own labour; but in trading and in industrial matters the State remains an active participant. We have no space here to describe present-day Russia; but, briefly, it may be said that under this composite system international trade is slowly reviving so far as the exchange of consumable goods is concerned. It is true that recent figures do not show any recovery in exports from Great Britain to Russia in the first half of 1924, as compared with a year ago or even two years ago, but imports from Russia are growing, and this is the first step towards revival of trade. This revival of imports from Russia is due to the fact that Russian organisations can now get credit to finance overseas sales of current production, and as this trade slowly grows British and other institutions will be willing to extend the period of their credit from a few weeks to a few months or even a year.

But Russian conditions require the reconstruction of her capital equipment, and when it comes to lending money to Russia for enterprises which involve the locking up of resources for a long period of years the Russians are unable to give security which commands confidence in the financial world. It is at this point that the advocates of a Government guaranteed loan intervene, and urge that the British Government should step in where financiers fear to tread. The difficulty, however, is that such loans imply very much more definite support of and confidence in the present régime than do the credits that are to-day being made, and, apart altogether from the root objection to the Ponsonby plan that it asks Russia only to recognise her obligations in so far as we pay her to do so, there are very serious objections to lending money to the Soviet Government at all.

There are very few cases in which it is ever desirable for a Government to encourage its investors to lend money to foreign Governments. If this is done at all, it is usually from some ulterior motive. For example, the loan of large sums of French capital to the Tsarist Government in the years preceding the war were closely connected with the Franco-Russian alliance, and the effect of these loans was to strengthen Russia's preparations for war. In the chaotic state of Europe since the war there have arisen some special reasons which may make it desirable for Governments to encourage the flow of capital into special channels, but where this is done it is an inevitable condition that the lending States require the country which is to be helped to fulfil certain terms, partly political and partly financial. Thus the Austrian agreement provided for her territorial integrity, the balancing of her Budget, and the carrying out of numerous financial reforms—steps which make her a credit-worthy country, and enable her to enter into normal economic trading relations with the rest of the world.

None of these conditions are fulfilled in the case of Russia. Moreover, as Mr Aylmer Maude pointed out in the *Times* of Wednesday, the evolution of Russia in the last few years has been a conflict between the tendency to restore freedom of contract as it applies in the Western world and those who are struggling to retain as much of the Soviet system as possible. If the British Government assists the Soviet Government to get the capital it needs, it will postpone the date when the change is to be made.

But even if we could safely assume that the present degree of security of contract in Russia is maintained, that there will be no further confiscation, and that the present loans will be safe from repudiation, the plan of lending large sums of British savings to the Soviet Government is very undesirable. It is no new thing for Russian officials sitting in their Government offices to sketch out plans for reorganising half a Continent. Those who had to deal with Russian war requirements know well the magnificent volumes of statistics produced from Russian Government offices, which could work out with the greatest precision—on paper—the nation's requirements in every commodity, from shells, steel rails, and agricultural

machinery to clinical thermometers. But these plans had little relation to reality. The same officials are at work to-day, and the results of their labour are to be seen in Soviet official publications. The imaginative statement of Russia's capital requirements put forward at the Hague Conference in 1922 is a case in point. If a loan of, say, £30 millions was made to Russia, we have no confidence whatever that the bureaucracy would make the best use of it in allocating it among large numbers of rival claimants. Moreover, in this connection the proposed loan is clearly the beginning only, and we should like to know whether the Soviet Government would use it to complete one or two big undertakings, or to make a beginning with a large number. If the latter, would it be assumed that a further loan was to follow on the same terms, or that the present operation would be sufficient to tide over the time until long-termed credits can be raised on ordinary commercial terms on the money markets of the world? Our own view is that, as soon as Russia can give real security for long-termed credits, they should flow to Russia on the principle that each undertaking should provide the specific security for the capital it needs, and that it should be open to the lenders to apply commercial tests in each case. It may well be that a restricted degree of assistance in the form of a British Government guarantee might be added to long-termed credits to Russian undertakings, but, if so, it should be done on the principle of the Trade Facilities Act, under which each case would be considered in London strictly on its merits.

With all these considerations weighing against the proposition we do not believe that there is any chance of the House of Commons sanctioning a British guarantee for a Russian loan. Quite apart from all question of Russia's present position and policies, the objections are very strong, and we even doubt whether, even in the case of the German loan, which is an indispensable step in the plan for European recovery, the Government could obtain Parliamentary sanction for lending their guarantee to the operation, if such a proposal were on foot, which, of course, it is not. We would put one final question to Mr MacDonald, and it is this. Would he have ever dreamt of guaranteeing a loan to Russia (or to any country in Russia's present economic and financial position) had it not been that the Labour Party sympathises with the struggles towards a Socialist régime which the present Russian Government is making? There is, we believe, only one answer possible.

THE PROGRESS OF BELGIUM.

In last week's *Economist* we noted "prosperity" in France as one of the dominant notes of the description of her condition given by the Commercial Counsellor to the British Embassy in Paris. Now, from a communication that has been forwarded to us, and is stated to be based on very high authority, we are able to infer satisfactory progress in the finances of Belgium, the Ally who in currency values, in policy, and in economic experience seems to march in step with France. As all the nations are constantly telling one another, while most of them omit to put the precept into practice, the first essential of sound finance is a balanced Budget, and very definite progress towards this end has been certainly achieved by Belgium. On the revenue side, "fiscal receipts," which were 383 million francs in 1913 and 566 millions in 1919, were over 1,000 millions in 1920, over 2,000 millions in 1923, and were estimated at 2,788 millions for 1924. The actual results for the first four months of this year, however, have exceeded, by 227 millions, a third of the estimate for the full year, and it is therefore taken to be probable that the final figures will show a surplus over estimates of 600 to 700 millions. Moreover, the Government is about to lay before the Chambers fiscal proposals from which additional revenue of 200 millions is expected. On this basis a total of 3,500 millions for fiscal receipts is considered a safe estimate for 1925; and besides "fiscal receipts" there are other ordinary revenues estimated for 1924 at 528 millions. It may be objected that it is easy to

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits • \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

expand revenue, on and in paper, in a time of currency depreciation; but if this is true, as it undoubtedly is within limits, it is still more true that the business of contracting expenditure is made much more difficult, and so on this side of the Budget balance-sheet Belgium's achievement is all the more remarkable. State expenditure, which stood at 530 millions in 1913, and at 9,492 millions in 1920, is estimated for 1924 at 5,405 millions, a reduction of 43 per cent. from the highest point. These figures include all budgetary expenditure of every kind, except the expenses of the "régies"—railways, post, and telegraphs, &c.—which are dealt with in a separate Budget, and will be, in the current year, covered by the receipts of the enterprises which require them. In the 5,400 millions of expenses for 1924 there are included 3,380 millions of ordinary expenses, about 430 millions (under the extraordinary Budget) of productive expenditure on "capital account," and about 1,600 millions of expenses corresponding to reparation of war damage as provided by the Treaty of Versailles. This last-named item of expenditure has been brought down to this figure from 5 milliards, which was its first total, and 3 milliards, at which it stood during several years. It includes 700 millions of inevitable charges (war pensions and the service of loans specially contracted for reparations) and 900 millions of damage remaining to be made good, and these 900 millions will only be expended in so far as payments from Germany will provide them.

There is thus a good deal of practical achievement in support of the view, expressed by the communication from which we have taken these figures, that the near approach to completion of the reparation of war damages, the growth of normal receipts, and the reduction of public expenditure give an assurance that Belgium will shortly enter on a period of debt redemption. It is calculated that for 1924 ordinary receipts, at 3,830 millions, and ordinary expenditure, at 3,370 millions, will leave a balance of 460 millions. The "reparations budget" involves an inevitable charge, as has been shown, of 700 millions, and 900 millions that will only be paid if provided by Germany; and it is anticipated that the receipts which may be expected on this account, added to the surplus on the ordinary Budget, will be amply in excess of the 700 millions inevitable charge. In 1925 there should be 200 millions of fresh revenue, from the proposals shortly to be submitted, and the surplus on the ordinary Budget should exceed 650 millions, while the creation of a Caisse Nationale des pensionnés de guerre is expected to effect a reduction by 100 millions of the charges of the State. If these expectations are realised, the permanent charges of the Reparation Budget will be fully covered by ordinary Belgian receipts; and the payments from Germany and the value of her deliveries of coal, dyes, &c., can then be devoted entirely to the payment of the war loans remaining to be liquidated, and to the amortisation of existing debt.

If the situation of Belgian public finance thus appears to be making satisfactory progress towards soundness and stability, it has to be noted that the general economic position of the country was described in somewhat conservative

terms in the Report lately published by the Department of Overseas Trade, from the pen of Mr J. Picton Bagge, Commercial Secretary to the British Embassy in Brussels. He bore witness to the maintenance throughout the whole of the year 1923 of the improvement in Belgium's industrial activity first noticed in the autumn of 1922. Unemployment, less than in pre-war years at the end of 1922, had been practically wiped out and a certain amount of foreign labour had had to be imported; and the railway goods receipts, the shipping returns, and the figures of manufactured exports had all given evidence of active industry and enterprise. This satisfactory position was ascribed by Mr Bagge chiefly to the large export demand favoured by the depreciation of the franc, and in a minor degree to the elimination of German competition; and he thus found himself faced by the question whether the improvement was durable, or was caused purely by the artificial and temporary advantage given to Belgian exporters by the depreciation of the franc, "the dominant factor in the lower cost of production"; and though he thinks that in the case of the plate-glass industry the improvement may be durable, since automobile construction, especially in the United States, has produced a phenomenal demand, he finds that, in general, durability is more than doubtful. From the fact that, in spite of the undeniable scarcity of labour, permits to reside in the country are required by every foreigner entering employment, and are only issued provisionally and for short periods, it is inferred that those responsible for the administration of labour questions foresee that the present intensive export demand may cease as soon as the peculiar exchange conditions, which obtained when he wrote, are no longer assisting it. At the same time, the re-entry of the German metallurgical works into the world's markets was another circumstance which had to be foreseen and was already making itself felt. The attitude of industrialists also indicated scepticism as to the staying power of the prosperity that they enjoyed. They were accumulating no stocks, and were solely accepting and executing orders for immediate or early delivery. Moreover, Mr Bagge noted that even with her exports thus artificially stimulated, Belgium had an adverse balance of foreign trade which was far from being covered by invisible exports. To liquidate this balance, as he points out, she has either to purchase foreign currencies with paper francs or to borrow abroad. In August, 1923, a loan of 400 million French francs was floated in Paris. Last week, as our readers will remember, a Belgian loan for \$36 millions was successfully floated in New York. In our monthly Trade Supplement, published with the *Economist* of August 23rd, the figures of Belgian trade for the first six months of 1924 showed an adverse balance of 1,852 million francs.

It is thus clear that, although Belgium's public finances are in promising and improved shape, the trade position is not yet all that those interested in her welfare would desire. Active official propaganda, however, is being carried on for the development of export trade, and the Government's agricultural policy is designed to decrease imports of foodstuffs. If, as we hope and believe, a con-

siderable expansion of world-trade follows settlement in Europe, Belgium's artificial prosperity, due to exchange depreciation, may well be replaced by a sounder and more firmly based activity.

THE FIRST STAGE AT GENEVA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, September 9.

THE important Assembly discussion on security and armaments, if it has resolved nothing definitely for the present, has at least cleared the air and brought out the essentials of the problem to be faced. The speech by Mr MacDonald was the most constructive yet delivered in any Assembly of the League, and the French Prime Minister wisely eschewed the empty delight of making points which some of his excited compatriots were urging him to do. What he did was to underline what there was of agreement between himself and Mr MacDonald, and moderately to develop the French view of the necessities.

To the minds of many people here the most significant and striking element of the discussion has been the rally to Mr MacDonald's powerful advocacy of the development of compulsory arbitration. France, Czechoslovakia, the South American States, the neutral States, Italy, and, in fact, nearly all States whose representatives participated in the debate, either welcomed warmly or expressed their readiness to develop the idea. It is not perfectly clear, but I am disposed to think that M. Herriot's acceptance of it is to be bound up with satisfaction on security (according to his view of the word); that is to say, arbitration, security, disarmament, are linked up in one whole. There seems no reason why this combination should not be made, but the declarations of Mr MacDonald placed more emphasis on the compulsory arbitration end of security, while the declarations of M. Herriot placed it rather on the practical guarantee end.

Mr MacDonald says compulsory arbitration, wisely developed, and adhesion to the compulsory jurisdiction clause of the Permanent Court of International Justice (made clearer and more explicit), will, if adopted and faithfully carried out, provide the basis of real security, which is the removal of conflicts from the sphere of arms to the sphere of arbitration. The French thesis, which was expanded in a speech of remarkable ability by M. Politis, the Greek representative, is that precise provision must be made for failure to submit to arbitration, or to carry out arbitration awards. To this Mr MacDonald replied in advance that the British Government stood by the Covenant, and in making this declaration he went out of his way to underline the fact that Article XVI., which is the main Article containing League sanctions, is of a much stronger character than it is sometimes supposed to be; Lord Parmoor quite definitely asserted the British Delegation's agreement to the principle that refusal to refer a dispute to arbitration or to accept an award might be taken to involve at least financial and economic sanctions.

This is a great step for a British Government to make, for although Lord Parmoor seems to forget that Article XVI. also envisages the ultimate use of force, no British Government could very well participate in a financial and economic blockade of any other State without using the British Navy, and, in fact, an economic and financial blockade quite clearly raises a state of war. I believe the French would be satisfied with a definite declaration that any country refusing to arbitrate or to accept an arbitration award becomes automatically in a state of war with all the other countries in the League. I do not believe they would accept compulsory arbitration without it.

There are those who, not without reason, feel that if this Assembly rises with some definite step towards compulsory arbitration, more will have been done for security and reduction of armaments than has been achieved in the last 100 years; and it is a great fact that the Jurists Committee of the Assembly is definitely charged with studying this side of the matter. It is

fundamental. If it could be achieved even separately, it would obviously increase security, and the reduction of armaments might be left as a natural and gradual sequel.

Neither the great significance of this, nor, it is true, the difficulty of giving precision to it, has been fully realised. It is undoubtedly linked up with the other question of enlarging the membership of the League, or, at any rate, ensuring the collaboration of the great States still outside. One gathers that Germany would have acted upon Mr MacDonald's definite invitation if M. Herriot had been a little warmer in his observations in this respect, but no one believes for a moment that, while the French Premier finds it difficult to be too open-hearted, he or the French Delegation would place obstacles in the way of a normal application from Germany for a normal admission through the normal procedure. It is quite reasonable for the French Government to say "no privileges," but it is quite unreasonable to say that this implies refusal to consider Germany's membership of the Council. What France asks is that Germany should do what the Covenant says, namely, give general assurances of her intention to fulfil her international obligations and to submit to a consideration of her armaments position as definitely provided for in Article I. of the Covenant. But for Germany's admission I think we shall have to await either the next Assembly or a special Assembly summoned beforehand.

The first stage has been reached in the general deliberations on security and armaments. The Committees of the Assembly have a very big task in considering the arbitration proposals and in coming to some conclusions which may form the basis of a detailed study leading to a general armaments conference, if possible within the next twelve months. The Assembly is not likely to rise with cut and dried plans, but if it can reach some agreed basis of discussion for the international conference, it will have achieved a good deal, and it is important that the principal participants in the debate have made it quite clear that the International conference is to be summoned and organised by the League of Nations—in Europe. It is essentially a European problem first of all. It is scarcely conceivable that America can object, and the criticisms which have been telegraphed from America to some of the English papers are clearly based on one-sided American considerations arising out of the momentary political situation in America itself. Mr MacDonald has at least shown that in his often expressed desire to develop and push forward the League he is also prepared to show a little courage in standing by the League. America can, if she will, contribute enormously to the arbitration side of the problem, but on the armaments side she can offer nothing but benevolent advice, unless she is prepared to lay down conditions in regard to debts, or to accept obligations of some sort.

Meanwhile, it is no use blinking the fact that there are many divergencies of views to be reconciled. But those who speak as if failure to produce final results at this Assembly will mean the final discredit of the League, understand neither the fact that the League is only the 54 States which comprise it, that it is the only way of a general solution, that the whole matter bristles with difficulties of a definitely practical nature, and that in attempting to accomplish what has never been attempted on so broad a scale before, it obviously needs time and attention. Would anyone have thought it possible that within four or five years of the greatest war in history, arousing the greatest passions, the vast majority of the nations of the world would be assembled together giving practical consideration to the adoption of the principle of compulsory arbitration, and would anyone suppose, further, that progress to such a stage would have been possible without the continuous study, effort, and influence of the League? It is strange to find, too, that the Assembly of the League should be regarded as working under the special advantages of a new era developed at the London Conference. It is true that it represented a great change in the relations of Germany and France, but what is persistently ignored or overlooked is that the London Conference was the last stage in the precise application of the methods previously adopted (certainly in less important respects) by the League. Those who laud London and belittle Geneva forget that Geneva gave London the cue. It was not until the Allies at long last followed the practice adopted by

the League in Austria and Hungary that any progress whatever was made in the settlement with Germany.

The great anxiety is that the British Delegation will not be equal to its task. Mr MacDonald kicked off the ball and left his weak team to shoot the goals. They have against them a brilliant French Delegation, to which it is neither helpful nor to the credit of the British Government that there should be opposed to it mainly the obstinacy of Lord Parmoor. Despite the great significance given to this meeting by the presence of Mr MacDonald, M. Herriot, M. Theunis, three other Prime Ministers, 15 Foreign Secretaries, and a number of former Prime Ministers and Foreign Secretaries, it is still a matter of perplexity to everybody here that the British Government should have considered its present Delegation either an adequate one for the task or one representing the expression of the British Government's wholehearted adhesion to the League. It is an extraordinarily interesting, and at the same time critical, moment.

POSITION OF THE PAPER TRADE.

Now that the paper trade is making a tardy approach towards more normal conditions, it may be interesting to take stock of some events that have happened in this great industry during the past 70 years. Fortunately, the foreign trade records give us considerable help, more particularly in relation to the raw materials used. As regards the finished products, the Board of Trade has made so many re-classifications of imports and exports that it is difficult to carry back accurate comparisons for more than 35 years or so.

It is, of course, well known that imports of paper are very large. Some of our popular newspapers, with enormous circulations, have established their own mills in Scandinavia and Newfoundland, and this alone probably accounts for quite a large proportion of our present imports. For example, in 1920 shipments of paper landed here were worth, at the swollen values then prevailing, about 30½ millions sterling. Of this amount no less than 17½ millions came from Norway, Sweden, and the British Possessions (mainly Newfoundland), leaving 12½ millions as the contribution from all the rest of the world. Out of the 17½ millions, 4½ millions came from British Possessions, and all this may be reckoned as the output of mills in British ownership. The remaining 12½ millions, from Norway and Sweden, is largely the product of British-owned factories, though it is impossible to hazard a guess at the proportion. It would, however, be safe to say that more than a quarter of our total imports come from British factories established abroad, and that it is possible the proportion may be nearer to a half than to a quarter.

Bearing this in mind, let us glance at the import and export records for the last 35 years:—

BRITISH OVERSEAS TRADE IN PAPER OF ALL KINDS.

5-Year Averages.	Gross Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports.
£	£	£	£
1889-93	2,162,000	1,646,000	516,000
1894-98	3,130,000	1,487,000	1,643,000
1899-03	4,573,000	1,642,000	2,931,000
1904-08	5,390,000	2,108,000	3,282,000
1909-13	6,722,000	3,246,000	3,476,000
1914-18	6,225,000	3,555,000	2,670,000
Single Years.			
1919	13,021,000	4,231,000	8,790,000
1920	30,244,000	12,810,000	17,434,000
1921	11,601,000	7,726,000	3,875,000
1922	12,374,000	6,748,000	5,626,000
1923	13,592,000	8,770,000	4,822,000

* Playing cards and other miscellaneous goods have been added to imports in 1910 and after. These have apparently swollen the figures by ½ million to nearly a million a year.

† Account, note, and exercise books have been added to exports in 1920 and after, which may go far towards balancing the additions made to imports since 1910.

The enormously inflated values of 1920 must not be forgotten. In that year the quantity imported was not much different from the quantity registered in 1923. Yet in the

three years the value had fallen from 30½ millions to 13½ millions. On the other hand, the quantity exported in the same period had risen very materially, though the value dropped from 12½ to 8½ millions sterling. This, however, will be shown more clearly later, when we compare pre-war and post-war values.

The point to be noted now is that the excess of imports over exports amounts to about the value above estimated for the production of British-owned factories established overseas. The estimate was ¼ to ½ of the imports—the mean between the two extremes being ¾. Last year, it will be observed, the excess of imports was very nearly one-third of the total imports. We may, therefore, say that the products of these British factories in the colonies and Scandinavia account for virtually the whole of the excess of imports over exports. This was not true of 1920; but, as we shall now see, exports have grown materially, while imports have shrunk since that year.

The following table shows both quantities and values for 1903, for the last pre-war year (1913), and for the four post-war years to 1923:—

PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR VALUES.

	Gross Imports.			British Imports.		
	Thous. Cwts.	Thous. £	£ per Cwt.	Thous. Cwts.	Thous. £	£ per Cwt.
1903.....	7,259	4,941	0.7	1,146	1,796	1.6
1913.....	12,882	7,692	0.6	3,499	3,679	1.0
1920.....	12,940	30,244	2.3	2,350	12,810	5.5
1921.....	6,783	11,601	1.7	1,463	7,726	5.3
1922.....	11,079	12,374	1.1	2,454	6,748	2.7
1923.....	12,629	13,592	1.1	4,348	8,770	2.0

Comparing 1920 with 1923, we see that imports have fallen by more than 300,000 cwts, while exports have risen by nearly 2,000,000 cwts. The relation between the two has become much more satisfactory. Indeed, our shipments last year at 4,348,000 cwts were considerably larger than in 1913, and more than 1,000,000 cwts larger than they have ever been for any other year in the history of the trade. It may be added that down to 1909 the quantity of British-made paper sent abroad had never in any year reached 2,000,000 cwts.

The comparison since 1920, however, is the more reliable, since this is not affected by the additions made to imports in 1910 and to exports in 1920. That comparison is in every way satisfactory.

Now let us consider values per cwt. From these it is clear that the export trade is, roughly, of 100 per cent. higher grade than the import trade. This was the proportion both in 1913 and in 1923. But in the interim there had been a noticeable divergence. As compared with 1913, the boom of 1920 sent up values of exports more than fivefold, while those of imports were raised not quite fourfold. In 1921 there was little reduction (4s per cwt) in exports, but a drop of 12s per cwt in imports. Since then, however, exports have come down by £3 6s per cwt and imports by another 12s per cwt. Doubtless this has meant a severe struggle for our paper-makers, but the result is seen in the doubled exports of last year, creating a "record" in the quantity shipped. And this year promises to be even better than last, so far as volume of exports is concerned.

There can hardly be a doubt that prospects for the paper manufacturer are improving, though he is unquestionably feeling the stress of competition, and will probably feel it more keenly still when European affairs are cleared up and the whole Continent gets to work in good earnest. But that will be a matter of time, for it cannot be expected that the machinery of international production and exchange, even with full success for the Dawes scheme, will be set going again as by the wave of a magic wand.

The foregoing statistics have only given us a view of the paper-maker's contest with foreign competitors. We have now to estimate the growth of the home trade, which he principally supplies, and which has undoubtedly expanded enormously during the past generation or two. Fortunately the foreign trade returns will help us, even in this quest. Part of the raw materials used in the trade is imported. Records of the imports of these, both in quantity and value, can be readily secured for the past

70 years, and in the following table they are reduced to quinquennial averages:—

IMPORTS OF PAPER-MAKING MATERIALS.			
Five-Year Averages.	Tons.	£	£ per Ton.
1854-58.....	11,000 ..	245,000 ..	22.3
1859-63.....	21,000 ..	395,000 ..	18.5
1864-68.....	85,000 ..	752,000 ..	8.9
1869-73.....	138,000 ..	1,272,000 ..	9.2
1874-78.....	174,000 ..	1,497,000 ..	8.6
1879-83.....	264,000 ..	2,023,000 ..	7.6
1884-88.....	366,000 ..	2,325,000 ..	6.3
1889-93.....	442,000 ..	2,473,000 ..	5.6
1894-98.....	579,000 ..	2,892,000 ..	5.0
1899-03.....	721,000 ..	3,409,000 ..	4.7
1904-08.....	864,000 ..	4,053,000 ..	4.7
1909-13.....	1,097,000 ..	5,121,000 ..	4.7
1914-18.....	802,000 ..	8,751,000 ..	10.9
1919-23.....	1,089,000 ..	16,959,000 ..	15.6

A glance at the tonnage figures shows that there has been nearly a hundred-fold increase during the 70 years. Expressed otherwise, the increase is 9,800 per cent. How enormously the home trade must have expanded in order to use up this vast increase in the supply of raw materials can easily be imagined. Doubtless some of the material is now used by the artificial silk trade, but that is a development of comparatively recent years, and it will be seen that there had been almost a 70-fold increase, even before the beginning of the present century.

The extremely high value of these materials in the 'fifties and early 'sixties of last century is very noticeable. In those days imports were mostly of rags. In 1861 there were 20,000 tons of rags worth £17 a ton, and less than 1,000 tons of other materials worth about £8 a ton. By 1868, however, the proportion had changed to 18,000 tons of rags and no less than 96,000 tons of other materials. In 1923 there were rather less than 16,000 tons of rags and 1,353,000 tons of other materials—chiefly wood pulp. A statement of the imports for the last four years, with variations in the price, may be interesting:—

IMPORT PRICES OF PAPER-MAKING MATERIALS.			
	Tons.	£	£ per Ton.
1913.....	1,229,000 ..	5,816,000 ..	4.7
1920.....	1,276,000 ..	33,250,000 ..	26.0
1921.....	674,000 ..	13,843,000 ..	20.6
1922.....	1,110,000 ..	9,611,000 ..	8.7
1923.....	1,369,000 ..	11,542,000 ..	8.4

The quantity of imports last year was a "record," the two previous records having been in 1920 and 1913.

A glance at the first table is quite sufficient to show why it was that paper went up in 1920 to over five times the pre-war price, and why even last year's price was nearly double that of 1913. The fall that has taken place since 1920 is highly satisfactory, but it is to be hoped that it will go much further in the next few years. There is some hope of this, for the imports for the first seven months of 1924 have averaged about 7.7 pounds per ton. Cheaper paper means cheaper books and news-sheets for the general public, and is of great importance to a number of industries which use it largely for packing and wrapping purposes.

CANAL COMPANIES' RESULTS.

It is our intention in the course of this article to review briefly the accounts of a few representative canal companies. We recognise that it would require many pages to deal with the economics of canal transport. But we shall rest satisfied if these lines bring into relief the patent fact that canals, when run under modern economic conditions, are capable of rendering efficient service to the community, and at the same time of returning a satisfactory yield to patient investors of the conservative type. In proof of this we refer sceptics to the statistics and figures of the Manchester Ship Canal.

The following brief description of the undertakings dealt with may be of interest:—The Birmingham Canal Navigations, to give the company its full title, is an amalgamation of four concerns who constructed the system under Acts of Parliament passed between 1768 and 1818. The total mileage is approximately 160 miles. The Grand Junction runs from

Braunston, Northamptonshire, where it connects with the Oxford Canal, to Brentford, Middlesex, and the total mileage, including the branches, is 189 miles. The Manchester Ship Canal, whose traffic is far in excess of those of the other four companies, was opened in 1894, and is 35½ miles in length, though the company also owns the Bridgewater Canals, which are 51½ miles long. The Regent's Canal and Docks Company's undertaking consists of the Regent's and Hertford Union Canals, with a mileage of 10½ miles, and the Regent's Canal Dock at Limehouse. The Sharpness New Docks and Gloucester and Birmingham Navigation Company, which was incorporated in 1793, owns the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal and the Worcester and Birmingham Canals, 46 miles in all, and leases the Droitwich Canal and the Droitwich Junction Canal, and owns a controlling interest in the Severn and Canal Carrying Company.

Our first table shows the gross receipts of these concerns:—

GROSS RECEIPTS.						
	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Birmingham..	£ 191,345	£ 296,039	£ 306,221	£ 254,792	£ 236,516	£ 233,956
Grand Junction	101,680	146,877	145,619	128,960	144,993	138,735
Manch. Ship..	1,077,018	1,976,591	2,448,848	1,861,132	1,964,813	1,984,476
Regent's.....	81,275	105,795	127,840	111,286	113,086	113,264
Sharpness....	85,308	109,478	97,017	71,764	89,575	88,810

Taken on the whole, gross receipts last year of all the companies show very little difference from those of 1922. The Birmingham, Grand Junction, and Sharpness exhibit minor reductions, but, on the other hand, slight increases occurred in the takings of the Manchester Ship and Regent's Canals. Compared with 1913, however, the figures all show expansion, the largest proportionate advances being recorded by the Birmingham and Regent's undertakings.

Our next table shows the expenditure on operations:—

EXPENDITURE.						
	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Birmingham..	£ 88,061	£ 193,330	£ 224,579	£ 194,258	£ 149,551	£ 145,929
Grand Junction	50,275	100,573	100,939	76,512	84,598	83,329
Manch. Ship..	720,941	1,342,081	1,659,006	1,324,514	1,186,326	1,194,103
Regent's.....	38,992	66,123	89,899	71,182	73,415	64,106
Sharpness....	33,523	78,549	60,656	53,901	49,435	48,218

With the exception of the Regent's, all undertakings are maintaining expenditure at a high rate, but in the case of this company a substantial reduction is noticeable. The Birmingham has effected a considerable reduction since 1920, the figures of £224,579 then recorded falling to £149,551 in 1922 and £145,929 in 1923.

Our third table gives the net profits realised:—

NET PROFIT AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.						
	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Birmingham..	£ 68,532	£ 57,698	£ 33,090	£ 23,646	£ 46,906	£ 56,130
Grand Junction	45,405	38,849	36,509	44,146	51,825	48,818
Manch. Ship..	34,742	314,970	465,425	203,511	398,134	464,766
Regent's.....	15,495	17,752	16,092	15,504	20,848	20,057
Sharpness....	19,573	4,574	9,904	8,371	14,067	14,888

A study of the foregoing figures discloses an interesting fact. In 1913 the Birmingham, on an expenditure of £88,000, obtained net profits of £68,500, but in 1923, with expenditure nearly doubled at £145,900, the net profit was actually £12,400 below that of the earlier year at £56,100. In the case of the Grand Junction, a similar position is shown. Expenditure in 1913 absorbed £50,300, and income totalled £45,400, but last year, with outgoings of £83,300, the net revenue was only £48,800. The Sharpness Company also participated in this movement, but the Regent's provides an exception, net profits in 1913 aggregating £15,500 on an expenditure of £39,000, while in 1923 profits are struck at £20,100 and expenses at £64,100.

On going closer into the accounts, first and foremost for consideration comes the Manchester Ship Canal. A further improvement in results is shown in the report of this undertaking for the year 1923. There was an

increase in the weight of sea-borne traffic on which Ship Canal tolls were paid of 1,026,077 tons as compared with the previous year, and an increase of £52,253 in the receipts from Ship Canal tolls, ship dues, &c. The gross receipts of the whole undertaking, including the Bridge-water Canals and the railways, amounted to £1,984,500, an increase of nearly £20,000, and expenditure, at £1,194,100, showed an increase of nearly £8,000. Arrears of dues and tolls accrued during the years 1916 to 1922, payable as a result of the judgment which the company obtained against traders on the Weaver Navigation, brought in £56,400, and the net income shows an increase of £77,000 at £869,900. After payment of rentals and other fixed charges, there is a balance of £510,100; of this, £50,000 is placed to reserve for contingencies and repairs, the dividend on the 3½ per cent. corporation preference stock requires £37,100, and dividends of 5 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares, £387,500, leaving £35,500, or £10,000 less, to be carried forward. A year ago the ordinary shares received 4 per cent., and two years ago 1½ per cent. The surplus from the working of dock labour was less by £10,650 than that of the previous year. According to the report, the reduction made by the company in charges for labour services more than absorbed the savings effected by wages reductions. The result of the working of the company's railways for the year showed a credit balance of £29,300, an increase of £4,800 in comparison with the previous year.

The other canals are not of such outstanding importance. Birmingham Canal Navigations, with a total capital of over £3,000,000, had a balance available for dividend of but £58,333, and in its report stated that the additional sum of £39,250 required to make up the dividend of 4 per cent. would be provided by the London Midland and Scottish Railway under the terms of the London and Birmingham Railway and Birmingham Canal Arrangement Act of 1846. Incidentally, in the accounts of this undertaking we find the auditor's certificate a model of brevity. "Examined and found correct" precedes the signature of the firm of accountants. Students of accountancy methods might compare this with the auditor's certificate attached to the accounts of the Manchester Ship Canal. The Regent's Canal still adheres to its half-yearly reports and accounts, and here again we notice the cryptic auditor's certificate, "Examined and found correct." In this case we must confess that the statistics are ample, while the previous half-year's accounts are appended for comparison. Our next undertaking, among other matters of interest, is remarkable for the length of its title. The directors of "Sharpness New Docks and Gloucester and Birmingham Navigation Company" state that the "improvement noted in the last report has not only been maintained, but the volume of traffic has slightly increased. Although the quantity of timber imported was not quite up to the previous year, the grain trade showed a most welcome revival, there being an increase of nearly 100 per cent. compared with 1922. Further reductions in charges have been of necessity made, in rather greater ratio than costs, but the financial position is practically the same as last year."

The following table shows a record of dividends during the past few years:—

DIVIDENDS.						
	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grand Junction, ord. stk. ..	% 3	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½	% 4	% 4
Manchester Ship, ord. £10..	nil	2½	5	1½	4	5
Do pref. £10.....	nil	4½	5	3	5	5
Regent's, ord. stk.....	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Sharpness, ord. stk.....	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Do 5% "A" pref.	5	5	5	5	5	5
Do 5½% "B" pref.	5½	nil	nil	nil	nil	2½
Do 5% "C" pref.	2½	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Dividend distributions are not on a generous scale. Indeed, it brings home to those in control of the older concerns the necessity for holding inquiries into methods with a view to locating the root cause of the trouble. Obviously a return of 1½ per cent. on ordinary stock from one undertaking, and of "Nil" from another concern of such stabilised characters, are reflections of some of the

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING
BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

obstacles to be overcome before canal transport comes into its own again.

The following are the principal items in the latest balance-sheets:—

	Capital.		Balance of Capital Account.	Reserves.	Cash and Investments.	Debtors and Loans, Less Creditors.
	Deben- ture.	Ord. & Pref.				
Birmingham ..	£ 797,400	£ 2,439,575	Dr. 265,844	£ ..	£ 36,224	£ 31,695
Grand Junction	150,000	1,223,700	..	30,093	40,569	20,017
Manchester Ship..	8,432,300	9,061,230	Dr. 496,511	44,280	349,965	260,515
Regent's	842,284	1,358,100	4,632	4,667	28,041	2,555
Sharpness	620,658	633,283	..	103,087	30,403	49,774

There is little need for comment on the balance-sheet figures, but it is well to observe that in the case of the Birmingham, which has a combined share and debenture capital of £3,236,900, there is no reserve fund.

Our final table will enable the investor to see at a glance how these securities have fluctuated in value over a period of years, and the yield obtained therefrom to-day:—

	Amount.	Share or Stock.	Highest Price 1898-1922.	Price July 30, 1914.	Price End Aug., 1923.	Price End Aug., 1924.	Yield.
Birm'ham Canal, cons.	£ 2,439,575	Stock	146½	99	82½	81½	£ s d 4 18 3
Grand Junction, ord...	1,130,000	10	152½	90	76	72½	5 9 6
Manchester Ship, ord.	4,000,000	10	7½	1½	9½	7½	5 13 0
Do 5% pref.	4,000,000	10	7½	1½	8½	8½	6 4 8
Regent's Canal, ord...	1,358,100	Stock	72½	25½	24½	29½	4 4 0
Sharpness New Docks, &c.....	303,782½	"	24½	8	6	17	Nil
Do pref. "A," 5% (cum.)	109,500	"	123½	80	60	72½	6 18 9
Do pref. "B," 5½% ..	100,000	"	110	58½	35	60	4 11 9
Do "do" "C," 5% ..	120,000	"	99	37½	..	29	Nil

It will be noticed that in some cases prices have fallen from the highest levels recorded. In the case of Manchester Ship Canal, a wonderful record of progress is revealed which that enterprising concern has well merited.

THE PUBLIC DEBT OF EGYPT.

THE public debt of Egypt owes its origin to Said Pasha, who left a funded debt of £3,260,000, and a floating debt of about £10 millions. His successor, Ismail Pasha, increased these figures to £55,332,000, and some £21 millions respectively, and by 1875 had exhausted the assignable assets of the country, and was forced to borrow on Treasury bills at usurious rates of interest. The unsatisfactory state of the finances disclosed in March, 1876, by Mr Cave, who had undertaken an enquiry at the request of the Khedive, so alarmed the Powers that they insisted on assuming control. Accordingly, on May 2, 1876, a decree instituted the Commission of the Debt, which has continued to our day, with various changes in its constitution, as the Caisse de la Dette Publique. It is worth while recalling that international control in Egypt

was due to default on the debt, preceded the British occupation of 1882, and is not affected by the declaration of March, 1922.

At first the Commission consisted of representatives of France, Austria, and Italy only; the British Government steadfastly declined to interfere by officially nominating a commissioner, and when in 1877 Sir Evelyn Baring (Lord Cromer) arrived to fill that post, he came on the private nomination of Mr Goschen. From its inception the chief functions of the Commission were to receive on behalf of the bondholders the revenues assigned for the service of the debt, and from them to pay the coupon and administer the sinking fund. The power of the new Caisse was strengthened by two contemporaneous events. On January 1, 1876, a decree of the Khedive instituted special tribunals, the mixed courts, to which the Powers delegated their capitulatory rights of jurisdiction, in civil cases, and in November an arrangement was concluded with the following provisions:—(1) Certain short loans, £4,293,000 in all, were deducted from the unified debt, and made the subject of a special agreement; (2) The loans secured on the Khedivial Dairas (estates), £8,815,000 in all, were also arranged for separately; (3) a 5 per cent. preference stock, the privileged debt, was created, with a capital of £17 millions; (4) the rest of the debt was consolidated in the unified debt of £59 millions; and (5) the Caisse de la Dette was declared to be permanently constituted till the complete amortisation of the debt.

At this time, then, the debt was as follows:—

Unified debt	£59,000,000
Privileged debt	17,000,000
Short loans	4,293,000
Daira debt (with charges)	9,512,900
	89,805,900

Even the substantial concessions made were insufficient to extricate Ismail from his difficulties, and in 1878 a Commission of Enquiry was granted full powers to investigate the finances, which were in a state of the utmost confusion. Their first-fruits were the cession to the State of certain Khedivial estates, on the security of which a loan, the Domains Loan, was negotiated through the Rothschilds for £8½ millions at 5 per cent. This brought the total indebtedness of the country to over £98 millions, with an annual charge of £6 millions. Further enquiry showed that Egypt was unable to meet this obligation, and in the end the Commission recommended that the debt should be liquidated. This was done in 1880, and the following changes were made:—

(1) New preference stock to the amount of £7½ millions was created to wipe off various arrears; the service of the Privileged Debt was fixed at £1,187,404, and the revenues of the railways, telegraphs, and port of Alexandria were assigned as security, with a charge on the revenues assigned to the Unified Debt in case of deficit.

(2) The interest on the Unified Debt was reduced from 6 to 4 per cent., at which it has since remained, and an additional amount of £1,958,235 was created for the conversion of the balance of the short loans mentioned above.

(3) The commutation by certain landlords of a moiety of their land tax—the Mukabala—was annulled, and a sum of £150,000 was to be set aside as compensation.

Scarcely was this liquidation put into operation when it was nullified by the events of 1882, and the Sudan campaign; and the Powers concluded a convention at London in 1885, by which Egypt was empowered to raise £9,424,000 at 3 per cent., on the revenues affected to the service of the Privileged Debt, and guaranteed by the six signatory Powers; and a German and a Russian commissioner were added to the original four of the Caisse de la Dette.

In 1888 a loan of £2,330,000 at 4½ per cent. was issued, and in the same year the sinking fund was partially suspended to create a reserve fund of £2 millions. Two years later this loan was converted into preference stock; new Privileged Stock of £1,300,000 was created; and the old Privileged Debt was converted from a 5 to a 3½ per cent. basis, with a bonus of 9 per cent. of new stock. By these operations the capital of this debt was increased by £7,103,200. The resulting economies were to be paid into a special reserve fund.

In 1898 a convention between the Government and a

syndicate arranged for the sale of the Daira Estates through the latter, the repayment of the Daira Loan, and a division of the net profits equally between the two parties. The £6.3 millions of this debt were accordingly entirely repaid in 1905. The existing balance of the Domains Loan of 1877 was also repaid in 1913 from the proceeds of the sale of lands.

New Privileged Debt of £1,734,200 was created for the improvement of the railways in 1900; but since then no further capital debt has been created, though obligations equivalent to a public debt of about £2.6 millions at 6 per cent. have been undertaken to finance the acquisition of the Port-Said and Ismailia and the Kena-Aswan Railways, and the construction of Aswan Dam.

The improving credit of the Government and the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904 enabled several steps to be taken by which the relations between the Government and the Caisse de la Dette were simplified, and the control of the former over its own revenues was increased. The principal financial results were:—

(1) The service of the debt as a whole was secured on the land tax of all Egypt, except the province of Kena, and the previous pledges were merged with the general revenues of the State and relegated to the second place.

(2) The Caisse was given a reserve fund of £1,800,000—sufficient for six months' charges—and a working capital of £1,250,000, but in return surrendered to the Government the very considerable balances then in their hands.

(3) The Ministry of Finance was empowered to retain any surplus after providing for the service of the debt.

On the outbreak of war the German and Austrian Commissioners lost their seats on the Caisse; the Caisse protested against the legislation that legalised the pound sterling in place of the sovereign at 975 millimes, since this affected the value of the coupons, which are payable in gold; and the Government contested their liability to pay the Turkish tribute, since they were no longer vassals of Turkey. On the latter point the decrees undertaking to pay the tribute to the Bank of England and to Messrs Rothschild are clear: the one, dated May 30, 1894, undertook to pay £329,249 4s 1d sterling in gold annually till October 15, 1955; the other, dated March 20, 1891, £280,622 18s 4d till 1951.

The position of the debt at the end of 1923 was as follows:—

Debt.	Capital. £ Sterling.	Charge. £s.	Redeemable.
Guaranteed debt 3%	5,368,900	307,125	July 15, 1910
Privileged debt 3½%	31,127,780	1,062,235	" "
Unified debt 4%	55,971,560	2,182,906	" 1912
Totals	92,468,640	3,552,266	
Expenses (estimate, 1923-4)		44,501	
Turkish tribute		664,826	
Various annuities		354,916	
Total annual charge		4,616,509	

The two last items are not payable through the Caisse; those which are amount to £3,596,767. To meet this there is pledged the land tax of 13 provinces, amounting to close on £5 millions, and subsidiarily the general revenue, which in 1923-4 was estimated at nearly £35 millions. There is a reserve fund in the hands of the Government amounting to close on £12 millions, and in the Caisse of over £3 millions. The security is ample, but besides that there are the various Government properties, the ports, railways, domains, &c., and, finally, their contingent right to the Suez Canal, which in the ordinary course will revert to the State in 1968.

Egypt has a population of 13.4 millions; her total debt may be capitalised at about £105 millions, or under £8 per head, and the annual charge is only 344 millimes, or, say, 7s per head. These cannot be called heavy burdens; the country can assuredly pay the interest and sinking fund without difficulty; whether she will depends on the good faith of her rulers, which it is not open to us to question. Furthermore, the bondholders are still represented by the Caisse, whose hold over Egyptian finances has not been abrogated, but as Lord Lansdowne reminded us in 1904, held in abeyance "so long as the punctual payment of the interest on the debt is assured."

Notes of the Week.

The Irish Boundary.—The two-and-a-half years old letter from Lord Birkenhead to Lord Balfour, which the latter has sent to the Press this week, is important, because it is a contemporary document. But, in fact, it carries us no farther, for it adds nothing to Lord Birkenhead's speeches made at the time, with which it appears to be entirely consistent. The views expressed therein as to the disputed Boundary clause of the Treaty we accept at their face value, just as we must also accept at their face value the contemporary statements of the late Mr Michael Collins, which read very much more into the clause than does Lord Birkenhead. The difference in interpretation may be taken as genuine and sincere, and it is not without significance that Mr Lloyd George, who was, of course, Prime Minister at the time, endorses Lord Birkenhead's letter. Nor is it difficult to explain the difference. When the Treaty negotiations were going on both sides were honestly striving to reach agreement, and both deserved full credit for a great work of accommodation. But obviously both parties knew that if the Treaty was to have any chance of being ratified, each must place the most favourable interpretations upon the meaning of the agreement according to wishes and views of those whom they had to persuade. Mr Collins could hardly say in Dublin that no serious rectification of the frontier was intended; nor could Lord Birkenhead tell the Conservative party that large surrenders of territory by Ulster were contemplated. In the event, Lord Birkenhead laid stress on the narrower interpretation, and carried with him all but the Die-hards; while Mr Collins, by emphasising a wider interpretation, just managed to secure ratification in Dublin. Each believed in his own interpretation; neither surely can have shut out from his mind the inevitability of eventual trouble over the Boundary clause. But it is equally likely that both were content to leave this in the background, trusting to the hope that, before that trouble arose, the Free State would have successfully wooed Ulster into a willingness to approach the wider problem of a united Ireland. This hope loomed large, as we know, in the minds of Mr Griffith and Mr Collins, and Lord Birkenhead puts the same hope into words in his letter to Lord Balfour. Had Mr Griffith and Mr Collins lived, the hope might, perhaps, have been realised. But fate willed otherwise, and we are now faced with a deadlock, which directly involves not only the future of Ireland, but also the good faith of Great Britain. To us it seems that the commonsense interpretation of the clause lies in between the two conflicting views. Lord Birkenhead and Mr Lloyd George would not have accepted the Treaty if they had read the clause to mean huge transfers of territory. The Free State leaders could not have faced their own people had they taken the clause to be trifling in its meaning, and the wording of the clause itself, especially the reference to "wishes of the population," seem definitely to imply something more than mere trumped-up deviations of boundary walls. As Lord Birkenhead believed in March, 1921, we believe to-day, that "the Tribunal, not being presided over by a lunatic, will take a rational view of the limits of its own jurisdiction, and will reach a rational conclusion." The Tribunal, we know to-day, is to be presided over not by a lunatic, but by Mr Justice Feetham, an eminently sound, judicial, impartial person, who has taken considerable pains to acquaint himself fully with every aspect of the matter in dispute. Sir James Craig still persists in his refusal to appoint a Commissioner, and, although all men of goodwill will strive to find a way out, it looks as if legislation to implement the disputed article will become a deplorable necessity.

Overseas Trade in August.—The returns of overseas trade in August do not reflect the seasonal decline in business as a whole, which has lately been responsible for a marked increase in the numbers unemployed in this country. Although August, 1924, comprised one-and-a-half fewer working days than August, 1923, the trade figures for the month reveal an all-round expansion, after all allowance has been made for rather higher prices, particularly on the import side. A summary comparison of

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

value figures for August and for the first eight months of this year and the last reads as follows:—

MONTH OF AUGUST.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in August, 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	88,420,981	102,196,492	+ 13,775,511	+ 15.6
British exports	60,103,360	66,288,294	+ 6,184,934	+ 10.3
Re-exports	6,128,781	8,970,029	+ 2,841,248	+ 46.4
Total exports	66,232,141	75,258,323	+ 9,026,182	+ 13.6
Excess of imports over total exports	22,188,840	26,938,169	+ 4,749,329	+ 21.4

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	704,009,640	808,556,483	+ 104,546,843	+ 14.8
British exports	502,286,237	526,036,385	+ 23,750,148	+ 4.7
Re-exports	78,747,448	93,272,789	+ 14,525,341	+ 18.4
Total exports	581,033,685	619,309,174	+ 38,275,489	+ 6.6
Excess of imports over total exports	122,975,955	189,247,309	+ 66,271,354	+ 53.9

The rise in imports during August, as compared with a year ago, is common to most commodities, food imports accounting for about £3 millions of the increase, raw materials for £6 millions, and manufactures for £4½ millions. Raw cotton was valued at £5,449,696, as against £3,524,158 a year ago, and raw wool at £3,407,040, against £2,303,403, the 1924 figure in this case reflecting the steep upward trend of prices which has lately affected the wool markets of the world. On the export side, while textiles make a favourable showing, coal and coke show a significant drop, coal shipments declining from £8,314,710 in August, 1923, to £5,732,629 last month, exports to the four countries chiefly affected by the Ruhr occupation last year—Germany, Holland, Belgium, and France—falling from £4,935,108 to £2,210,037. Quantity figures for the first eight months of the last three years, in the case of some of the leading import and export groups, are shown below:—

EIGHT MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31.

	1922.	1923.	1924.
IMPORTS.			
Wheat	41,268,034 cwt	36,931,968	41,765,530
Raw cotton	8,554,655 cents	6,424,287	8,301,934
Sheep's and lamb's wool	8,637,309 "	5,961,482	5,936,607
Iron ore	2,161,000 tons	4,177,702	4,246,339
Iron and steel manufactures ..	526,783 "	894,433	1,546,488
EXPORTS.			
Coal	38,393,844 tons	53,156,546	41,693,690
Iron and steel manufactures ..	2,061,664 "	2,847,190	2,665,354
Machinery	247,424 "	286,334	299,019
Cotton yarn	141,570 thous. lbs	92,543	112,003
Cotton piece goods	2,672,455 thous. sq yds	2,752,898	2,981,417
Woollen tissues	80,268 "	98,005	113,903

The expansion in textile exports is noteworthy. Exports of iron and steel manufactures have tended slightly to decline this year, concurrently with an increase in imports from abroad. It would not be surprising if the present slight recession in industrial activity in Great Britain were to bring about a certain contraction in the volume of our overseas trade during the next two or three months.

The Conflict in China.—The struggle between the Tutchuns of Kiangsu and Chekiang has developed into a conflict between the supporters of central and those of federal government. Chih-Hsih-Yuan, the Kiangsu Tutchun, is backed by Tsao-Kun, the President of the Republic, and by the Peking Government, and, what is more important, by Wu Pei-Fu, the ablest and most successful of the military leaders, and the commander-in-chief of the best troops in China, including those of Feng-Yu-Hsian, the "Christian general," who have definitely come in to support the Centralist cause. Lu Yuan-Hsiang, the Tutchun of Chekiang, represents, with Chang Tso-Lin in Manchuria and Sun Yat-Sen at Canton, the supporters of autonomy, especially in fiscal matters, for the provinces, either singly or in groups. Chang Tso-Lin has denounced the Centralist attempt to occupy China by force, and threatens, and probably intends, to march southwards; and though he cannot reach the seat of war in time to make his intervention effective, his advance may compel Wu Pei-Fu to divert troops to protect Peking. Sun Yat-Sen threatens to advance northward, attacking the Fukien army, which is threatening Chekiang in its rear; but he has quarrelled with the Cantonese, he is threatened by various rivals, and his consciousness of impotence, and perhaps his accessibility to Bolshevik influence, are exhibited by his absurd ascription of the present struggle to British intrigue. The fighting, on a line a few miles south of Shanghai, has been fierce for China, and some of the Powers now concerned to protect their subjects have indirectly promoted it by allowing the export of munitions to the combatants. Shanghai is protected by European, American, and Japanese marines and warships, and the only danger to its foreign residents lies in the possible influx of refugees—either defeated soldiery or civilian Chinese escaping from the labour conscription imposed by both the contending generals. Intervention has been suggested by the United States Government, primarily to secure adequate protection for foreigners throughout China, and, secondarily, to restore peace. But it can only take the form of an invitation of the Chinese leaders to a round-table conference, which might possibly effect a compromise. The Four-Power Treaty of 1921 does not become operative unless controversy arises between the signatories or unless their possessions are threatened by some other Power; but its existence justifies them in offering friendly mediation. A Conference might conceivably suggest a solution on the lines laid down by Sir John Jordan in the *Observer* last Sunday, including the readjustment of fiscal relations between the provinces and the Central Government, and a further readjustment of the Customs tariff, so as to put an end to the like duties levied by the provincial Governments, which set up unauthorised exactions and involve much interference with traffic. Were the Peking Government recognised and adequately supported by the whole of China, the Consortium might enable it to pay off the armies by a new loan. But it is doubted whether Wu Pei-Fu would take part in a conference, and these possibilities are still remote.

The New Order in Chile.—Chile, like Italy and Spain has now, by a *coup d'état* performed this week, acquired a quasi-military Government. The Congress, in which the elections last March had made the Liberal Party predominant, had failed to pass the Budget, and so to provide pay for the public services, but the Lower House had passed a Bill for the payment of its members, which is prohibited by the Constitution. The President had been urged to veto the Bill, but his veto requires to be countersigned by a Minister, and the Cabinet had resigned. Meanwhile, prominent Army officers had got into open conflict with Congress, and a combination of generals and admirals offered their services to President Alessandri as successors to the outgoing Ministers. Though himself a Liberal, he accepted the offer, more or less compulsorily, and the new Cabinet was sworn in on the evening of September 5th. He took refuge for a night in the American Legation, and has departed to Buenos Ayres, nominally "on leave." General Altamirano has become Vice-President, and has formed a Ministry apparently of civilians. The new Ministers, who control the Army and Navy, are not likely to meet with much opposition. All of them are men of

the highest reputation and character, and the change is virtually the substitution of non-partisan rule for that of professional politicians. General Altamirano, the new Prime Minister, promises radical changes in the administration, the stabilisation of public finance, the abolition of party politics, and honest government. We may be excused for smiling at the third item on this programme. Meanwhile, foreign investors are showing little sign of alarm. The position of the public finances had already been greatly improved by the income-tax established early this year by general consent; but the late Government had "Labour" sympathies, and "Labour" in Chile, which is not at present strongly organised or military, might have been encouraged by it to emulate the extravagant demands of the Labour Party in Argentina. Votes are purchased, quite openly, by both sides in Chilean elections, and a Government so elected is no great loss. Leading local officials have been changed, and some Liberals arrested, but there seems to be little opposition to the new Ministry, and Chilean securities have been only slightly affected by the change. We can only hope that the new Ministers will carry out their promises and justify their "bloodless revolution" by preparing Chile for real popular government.

Mexico and Great Britain.—The "Correspondence respecting the withdrawal of Mr H. A. C. Cummins from Mexico" (Cmd. 2225, 9d) is well worth reading as an illustration of the present situation in Mexico and as a story of a woman's endurance and courage. In his despatches to Lord Curzon and Mr Ramsay MacDonald, Mr Cummins expressed himself very freely and very unfavourably with regard to President Obregon's Government, and, if that Government knew his real opinion of it, it had a very good reason for desiring his withdrawal. But his Notes to it, which were assigned as the ground for his expulsion, are perfectly courteous and proper; and he tells Lord Curzon that he has received hints from President Obregon's supporters that his own private interests would be furthered if Great Britain were persuaded to grant recognition, and that the Government expected that a British Labour Ministry would do so. Thus, as recognition was not accorded, the Mexican Government, as it seems, invented a reason for his expulsion. Apart from this question, the correspondence shows that President Obregon's Government, having promised land to its helpers in suppressing the de la Huerta rising, was constrained to fulfil its promises to these and prior claimants at once; that, though compensation was promised to the landowners, the bonds intended for payment had never been paid, or even printed, and at present would have been almost worthless; that Mrs Evans's estate had been so improved by irrigation and other work done by her and her husband, that from being comparatively worthless it had come to be worth some £70,000; that the expectant holders (mostly her own employees) were inclined to be loyal to her, and were not very eager for her land, except a few incited by agitators promoted to local office; and that the officer in charge of the Federal troops sent to protect her was expressly ordered not to interfere with the distribution of part of her land, which was being carried out by force. She and a brave young American, Mr Camp, succeeded in postponing it, though Mr Cummins, fearing for her life, strove to persuade her to withdraw, but without success. The result, after this correspondence closed, was her murder. The whole story has made it more difficult than ever for Great Britain to recognise President Obregon's Government. Possibly President Calles may be more amenable, but the reports of his attitude do not encourage such hopes.

More Reparation Appointments.—The post of General Secretary to the Reparations Commission, vacated by Mr Macfadyen on his appointment as Controller of Combined Revenues under the Dawes scheme, is to be filled by Mr S. A. Armitage-Smith, C.B., formerly Secretary of the British Delegation. His post will be taken by Mr Goodchild. The Commission announces that the Committee of Guarantees, provided for under the Treaty of Versailles, and especially in Berlin in connection with the London Schedule of Payments, 1921, will cease to function during the application of the Dawes plan. The Commission also

announce that they have appointed the Committee of Control provided for by the Geneva Agreement in connection with the Reparations of Hungary.

American Cotton Crop.—At the beginning of the week the United States Government published a further report on the cotton crop for this season. The condition on September 1st was given as 59.3 per cent., against 64.9 per cent. a fortnight earlier and 67.4 per cent. on August 1st. It was stated that the condition indicates a crop of 12,787,000 bales, exclusive of linters. These figures, writes our Manchester correspondent, were scarcely equal to expectations, and there was some surprise in the markets when, as a result of selling pressure, prices gave way about $\frac{1}{4}$ d per pound. The fact of the matter is the markets at the moment are technically weak, and bearish sentiment is very pronounced. It is now possible, with some degree of accuracy, to analyse the position of American cotton supplies and consumption during the next twelve months. The carry-over at the end of last July was estimated at 2,320,000 bales. If linters are added to the present forecast, the output for the season should be about 13,500,000 bales. This means that available supplies for the current season will be about 15,800,000 bales. It is rather difficult to estimate the probable requirements of users. Last season the consumption, owing to bad trade, especially in the United States, was comparatively small, at 11,240,000 bales, as in the previous twelve months the amount used was 12,630,000 bales. It is reasonable to anticipate some improvement in industrial conditions in the near future, and tentatively the consumption may be put down at 12,000,000 bales. There is a possibility, therefore, that at the end of this season the carry-over will be about 3,800,000 bales. According to some private cables recently received in Manchester, there is a possibility of the crop this season being much larger than indicated by the Government reports. It is this fear of bigger supplies and lower prices which is holding back trade developments in manufactured articles. Buyers are exercising considerable caution in placing orders with spinners and manufacturers. It is believed, however, that before very long there will be signs of prices grounding, and when it is realised that the bottom in values has been touched, a buying movement of considerable volume is anticipated, as dealers in manufactured goods in distributing centres abroad have become very bare of stocks.

English Agricultural Conditions.—Reporting on agricultural conditions in England and Wales at September 1st, the Ministry of Agriculture states that the very unsettled weather of August has delayed farm work. Haymaking is not yet finished in many districts, and comparatively little corn has been stacked, whilst in the later districts corn has ripened slowly. The cleaning of root crops has been very difficult. At the end of the month dry, sunny weather was badly needed, not only for the harvest, but for the growth of roots and for livestock. In the earlier districts the great bulk of the crops have been cut, but only a comparatively small proportion have been stacked. Some sprouting has taken place, but the low temperatures have been an advantage in this respect, and little damage had occurred up to the end of August. The wheat ears are generally well filled, and forecasts of the yield are for a crop of about 17½ cwt per acre, or nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt above average. Where cut, spring barley and oats have become discoloured to some extent, and many of the crops still uncut have been beaten down by the rains. Barley is forecasted at 15½ cwt per acre and oats at 14 cwt, in each case from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt per acre above average. Owing to the rank growth of "seeds," the sheaves will be difficult to dry, and in many cases barley has been left loose on this account. Beans and peas are mostly cut, and some have been carried. Those still out are suffering from the wet, and there is a tendency for peas to shed. The yield of beans is again forecasted at 16.2 cwt per acre, but peas are now only expected to yield 14.7 cwt per acre. Both these yields are above average, beans by $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt and peas by nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The forecasts given last month of the production of this year's corn crops have been revised in accordance with the later informa-

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application. On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1. JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

tion available, and the revised figures are set out in the table below. These forecasts are based on estimates made at the beginning of September.

	Acreage.		Yield.	
	1923. Acres.	1924. Acres.	1923. Cwts.	1924 (Estimate). Cwts.
Wheat....	1,740,000 ..	1,546,000 ..	30,431,000 ..	27,055,000
Barley....	1,327,000 ..	1,316,000 ..	19,301,000 ..	20,003,000
Oats.....	1,978,000 ..	2,035,000 ..	27,059,000 ..	28,490,000

In the east and north potatoes have done fairly well, except those on heavy land, but in the west they have suffered from the wet, and light yields are expected. On present appearances, the average yield per acre over the whole country is forecasted at 5.8 tons, which is much the same as last year. The estimated total production, 2,643,000 tons, is some 115,000 tons less than the small crop of 1923. Roots generally have grown well during August, but dry, sunny weather would now be beneficial, especially for mangolds, as the roots are still small. The great bulk of the hay crop was secured in good condition, except in the late districts, more particularly in the north and in Wales. The yield of seed hay is estimated at 33 cwt per acre—5 cwt above average, and that of meadow hay at 23½ cwt—2½ cwt above average. Good second cuts will be obtained should weather conditions become favourable. Despite the wet and cold weather of August, hops made good growth on the whole. The total production is likely to be appreciably greater than last year. The total crop of cooking apples is light and below average, but the fruits are large and well grown, except where damaged by scab and capsids. Good average crops are being obtained of French and runner beans and spring cabbage. All root crops are promising. Onions promise average crops, though some damage by mildew is reported. Tomatoes under glass have ripened rather slowly, but crops are average on the whole; outdoor tomatoes have set well, but will not ripen unless more sun supervenes. Celery, broccoli, autumn cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and savoy are doing well. Over most of the country the supply of labour is sufficient for requirements, but in some districts farmers could have employed more casual workers if they had been available.

Nobel Industries.—Shareholders will be pleased to learn the results achieved by Nobel Industries, Limited, for the year ended December 31, 1923, and the directors are to be congratulated upon the way in which they have been able to steer their barque through the sea of industrial depression. Profits are shown, less note and debenture interest:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Gross profit.....	£ 827,073	£ 809,242	£ 1,157,137	£ 1,178,443
Net profit	788,807	604,264	942,901	1,032,489
Brought forward	230,389	757,498	463,349	509,018
Available for shareholders	1,019,196	1,361,762	1,406,250	1,541,507
Preference shareholders..	261,698	269,243	284,986	297,902
Ordinary shareholders ..	nil	279,170	413,301	493,474
Balance of note issue written off.....	..	..	148,945	..
Reserves	..	350,000	50,000	100,000
Carried forward	757,498	463,349	509,018	650,130

In the latest balance-sheet the creditable financial operation redeeming the note issue and substituting the debenture issue is reflected. Profits shown above are struck after £30,000 premium payable on redemption of the 8 per cent. notes has been deducted, and also after writing off one-thirtieth of the cost of the debenture issue—namely, £2,977. The ordinary shares obtain 8 per cent., as against 7 per cent. a year ago, and after placing £100,000 to special investment reserve account, £650,130 is carried forward, as against £509,018 brought in to the accounts from the previous year. The balance-sheet is not a model of lucidity, although we have offered to us much detailed work. The cost of the debenture issue is shown, after paying the year's quota, as £86,333. Out of figures under "Assets" totalling £23,731,436 the sum of £21,494,444 represents investments in other concerns. These are given in two items, (1) cost of shares in constituent companies, £17,452,015, and (2) other industrial investments" was below the figures given. The position would be made clearer if investments comprised under (1) were subdivided into (a) non-quoted shares in constituent companies at cost, and (b) quoted shares in companies at cost, together with quoted values in brackets. The reduction affected by the substitution of the debenture issue for notes is certainly an excellent point in the company's favour, the loan capital falling from £3,000,000 to £1,762,432. Further, the rate of interest—5½ per cent., as against 8 per cent.—contributes directly to better ordinary dividends. Amounts due to constituent and associated companies are higher, at £3,891,251, as against £3,123,442, but cash is shown as £990,226, as against £849,320 a year ago. Amounts due from constituent and associated companies are £610,174, as against £819,956. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in our usual column, but most of us after perusing it will sigh and wait patiently for the full story to be told in amplified accounts, which will reveal actual assets and liabilities. In the case of a company with assets of nearly £23½ millions, we should, in the ordinary course of events, express some anxiety if we found a reserve of £400,000 only recorded, other circumstances being equal. Here, of course, the figures of the constituent companies hold the key to the situation.

Calico Printers' Profits.—A decline is recorded in the accounts of the Calico Printers' Association for the year ended June 30, 1924, and accordingly the directors have wisely refrained from offering a bonus to shareholders, contenting themselves with maintaining the ordinary share distribution at 10 per cent. Of the £205,724 set aside for reserves, £50,000 goes to the employees' benefit fund. Results since 1906 are shown in the following table:—

Year Ended June 30.	Gross Profit.	Maintenance and Depreciation.	Net Profit, Less Debenture Interest.	To Reserve, &c.	Dividends.	Ord. Rate.
	£	£	£	£	£	%
1906.....	682,160	200,120	354,040	150,000	201,074	4
1907.....	776,752	224,711	424,041	150,000	276,476	6½
1908.....	383,612	212,237	93,375	..	150,805	nil
1909.....	448,880	207,565	163,315	Dr 50,000	150,805	nil
1910.....	723,953	201,615	394,338	200,000	201,073	2½
1911.....	612,630	208,860	403,771	185,000	226,208	3½
1912.....	463,904	205,020	130,884	Dr 80,000	226,208	3½
1913.....	718,851	216,174	374,677	150,000	226,208	3½
1914.....	443,786	210,276	105,510	Dr 50,000	150,805	nil
1915.....	210,818	261,994	Dr 179,176	Dr 200,000	nil	nil
1916.....	1,104,732	312,345	664,387	300,000	351,878	2½
1917.....	1,268,058	562,340	577,719	300,000	251,342	5
1918.....	1,271,559	573,606	569,953	310,000	251,342	5
1919 and 1920.....	3,040,392	1,567,432	1,216,961	350,000	603,221	10
1921 and 1922.....	2,418,777	1,659,200	503,532	50,000	552,952	7½
1923.....	1,525,514	597,306	800,208	400,000	402,147	12½
1924.....	1,191,524	522,739	540,786	205,724	351,879	10

Maintenance and depreciation continue to absorb a heavy portion of profits, especially when compared with the previous year. The company has substantial liquid assets. Out of total assets amounting to £7,849,149, cash and bills represent £900,114. Stock-in-trade is £1,695,875, as against £2,054,403 in the previous balance-sheet; while sundry debtors, investments, and other debit balances at £4,263,432 compares with £3,908,072. We pointed

out in these pages a year ago that it would add to the usefulness of the balance-sheet from the shareholders' point of view if those responsible could see their way to further sub-division of this item, which represents more than half the total assets of the association. At present it is impossible to ascertain what proportion represents amounts owed to the company on trading account, or how "investments" are divided between shares in subsidiary concerns and more liquid securities. A summary of the balance-sheet is given on the usual page.

Porcupine-Davidson Surprise.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Following closely on the heels of the Esperanza incident, referred to in our issue of August 16th, comes a somewhat similar débâcle in connection with a Canadian mining enterprise, the Porcupine-Davidson Gold Mines, registered in Ontario during August, 1921, to acquire the property of another Canadian company. The purchase consideration was £625,000, payable in cash, but the vendors agreed to subscribe for £175,000 in preferred and £450,000 in ordinary shares. In April, 1922, 800,000 of the preferred shares, which have participating rights, were offered for sale here at par. The prospectus was accompanied by reports on the part of two well-known mining engineers, Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Feilding and Frank C. Lorrington, and Mr G. E. Bent, the general manager. It is not quite clear whether Mr Lorrington's observations were the outcome of a personal examination, but Lieut.-Colonel Feilding referred to his visit and to assays taken by himself. The exploratory work done in drilling, shaft-sinking and driving was considered to have given such conclusive evidence that an estimate could be made as to the ore reserves—these, at date, were computed as 171,500, value \$2,486,100 gross. In his report for 1922, the general manager stated that the drilling results indicated the existence between the 500 feet and the 1,000 feet levels of additional ore, raising the total to approximately \$10,000,000, or about \$10 per ton. To a large extent these estimates represented "indicated" or "probable" ore; nevertheless, they seemed to have a measure of foundation. It therefore came as a shock to those interested to learn this week that there had been posted up in the Stock Exchange an official communication intimating that two of the directors, who also acted on the board of the vendor company—had resigned, and that an expert, who had just completed an examination of the property, had made a preliminary report to the effect that assay values of his sampling were unpayable, and he could, therefore, not confirm the three engineers' reports upon which the property was bought. Doubtless one or both of the engineers responsible for the original estimates will make a statement as soon as the full text of the expert's report is available, if not before. It is quite possible that the disparity in the conclusions arises from the erratic nature of the deposits. The greatest mistake of all consists in the building up of so substantial an edifice of conjecture upon so slight a foundation.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The production of gold from the mines of the Transvaal in August was 809,571 fine ounces, and compares with 829,437 ounces in July, and 769,371 ounces in August, 1923. The following table gives the monthly outputs since the beginning of 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January..	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728	764,469	796,768
February..	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	671,123	701,970	760,617
March ..	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	639,728	764,469	796,768
April	717,000	691,944	686,979	681,362	511,338	743,651	768,923
May	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	699,786	786,564	809,003
June	727,696	702,379	715,967	678,480	675,897	755,309	773,063
July	726,199	725,497	735,099	689,555	730,635	754,306	829,437
August	740,810	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490	769,371	809,571
Total (8 months)	5,732,644	5,579,650	5,543,028	5,329,582	5,399,674	6,040,286	6,343,043
September	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089	739,504	..
October..	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,842	..
November	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	..
December	641,245	650,191	632,215	661,847	790,712	778,849	..
Total (12 months)	8,420,560	8,320,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	..

In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of each of the past eight months by

members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Jan., 1924.	Feb., 1924.	Mar., 1924.	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.
Gold mines	181,659	182,055	176,483	173,022	173,586	174,198	174,347	175,770
Coal mines	16,109	15,958	15,763	15,800	15,863	16,042	15,574	15,486
Diamond	3,482	3,419	3,170	2,762	2,863	2,999	3,155	3,025
	201,250	201,432	195,416	191,584	191,312	193,239	193,076	194,281

The number of natives employed at the gold mines shows a further increase.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—EXTENSIVE FOREIGN FINANCING—BOND MARKET FIRMER—CRUDE OIL AND GASOLINE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 3.

FURTHER evidence of the vast accumulation of funds in this country seeking employment is found in the quick flotation here of the \$30,000,000 Kingdom of Belgium external loan 25-year 6½ per cent. gold bonds. The entire issue was subscribed for before the subscription books were formally opened and immediately closed to-day. A syndicate, headed by J. P. Morgan and Co. and the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, offered the bonds at 94 per cent. and accrued interest, to yield more than 7 per cent. The bonds are issued under a contract whereby the Belgian Government covenants that if in the future it shall issue by public subscription any loan having a lien on any specific revenue or asset, these bonds shall be secured equally and proportionately with such a loan. Provision is made for monthly sinking fund payments, beginning October 1, 1924, at the rate of \$1,200,000 annually, to be used to purchase the bonds if obtainable at not exceeding 100 and accrued interest, any unexpended portion of the monthly sinking fund payments at the end of the month to be credited against the next payment. According to a statement published here, and prepared from information supplied by M. Theunis, Finance Minister of Belgium, the proceeds of these bonds will be used to retire \$18,500,000 five-year 6 per cent. gold notes and \$8,559,445 6 per cent. Treasury notes, both due January 1, 1925; to that extent the present bond issue, therefore, does not increase the outstanding debt of Belgium.

At least three other large foreign loans are likely to be brought out here within the next few months, and, including the Belgian loan, just floated, will reach a total of approximately half-a-billion dollars. A Canadian Government loan of some \$200,000,000 is expected to be announced shortly, of which about one-half will be offered in New York, according to Toronto advices, and the remainder in Canada. Then there is the forthcoming German loan, of which \$100,000,000 is expected to be offered in this country, while France, as previously mentioned in this correspondence, is likely to undertake financing on an extensive scale in the United States before long, the amount of the French loan being variously estimated at \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000. Owing to the great plethora of available funds in the United States, even these big pieces of new financing are likely to be absorbed quickly, provided they are offered at prices which will afford a reasonably attractive investment yield.

After a rather drastic decline in prices during the past fortnight, the bond market has again turned upward, and in the past few days has recovered much of the previous loss. Most of the recent liquidation of United States Government issues was apparently institutional selling, for trading decreased in volume as prices slumped. Most of those obligations scored a moderate net gain last week. The general list rallied vigorously following the announcement of the acceptance by the German Reichstag of the Dawes plan agreement reached at the London Conference. European Government bonds were conspicuously strong. Belgian 7½'s, for instance, advanced from a low level of 106½ and closed at 109, while French 7½'s, after falling to 100½, regained all of their loss and recorded for the

LEGAL & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE

EXCEPT MARINE

Head Office

10 FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1836

General Manager W. A. WORMAN, F.I.A.

week a gain of ¾ at 103½. French 8's rose from their low level last week of 104, and closed at 106½. The rally in these issues was representative of the upturn in prices, not only in the foreign list, but in the bond market as a whole. So long as money continues so plentiful, with rates abnormally low, it seems unlikely that the bond market will suffer more than temporary reactions.

Domestic production of crude oil continues to increase. The output gained 8,050 barrels daily in the week ended August 23rd, when it averaged 2,037,700 barrels, according to statistics of the American Petroleum Institute. In the week ended August 25th last year production was at the rate of 2,242,400 barrels daily. Oil imports for the week ended August 23rd of this year were at the rate of 277,857 barrels daily, against 154,714 in the preceding week. Owing largely to the heavy production of crude, resulting in lower prices, which give refiners cheaper raw material, gasoline prices have declined sharply, despite record consumption; for the first six months of this year the latter showed an estimated increase of about 21 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1923. Recent cuts in gasoline prices in the East following previous reductions by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana in its territory, the average tank wagon price for 30 leading cities of the United States has fallen to a new low record for this year at 15.21 cents a gallon, or approximately 3 cents below the price prevailing six months ago. The present average price compares with last year's low level of 12.7 cents a gallon and high of 21 cents.

FRANCE.—M. HERRIOT AND THE BUDGET—THE EXCHANGE POSITION—FRENCH BANKING AND THE GERMAN LOAN—REPARATION DELIVERIES AND BRITISH COAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 10.

M. HERRIOT is allowing himself no real holiday, and has already thrown himself into the work of preparing the Budget for 1925. The estimates drawn up by the various Ministries have already been carefully gone over by the Finance Minister and his assistants, with the result, it is reported, that before they reached the hands of M. Herriot reductions in their demands had been effected to the amount of 723,000,000f. Since then further cuttings down, totalling 326,000,000f have been made in various directions, making a total reduction of 1,049,000,000f in the credits to be submitted for consideration by the Finance Commission. Whether this and other proposals which are in contemplation will enable the Government to carry out its election pledges (1) to suppress the additional 20 per cent. (or *double décime*) which was imposed in respect of most of the existing taxation by the last Parliament, and (2) to get rid of the much-discussed tax on turnover, remains to be seen, but the general opinion is that the utmost that can be done for the relief of the taxpayer in these two directions will be to bring about certain plausible modifications in both these forms of taxation, which, while disguising their outward appearance, will still enable the Treasury to avoid having to impose new taxes to replace them. Simultaneously, the Government is devoting close attention to the question of the high cost of living which, with bread—although its sale price is periodically fixed by prefectorial decree—now standing at a higher price than ever known before

(if 30c per kilogramme), has now become a problem of critical importance.

The exchange situation, again, although it is regarded at present by experts here as far more satisfactory than foreign critics estimate it to be, appears likely to undergo a change for the worse in the near future. There is undoubtedly a widespread desire here that the franc shall remain stabilised in the neighbourhood of 80 to the pound. Any suggestion that it should be brought back to anything like par, or even to the neighbourhood of 40 or 50, is regarded as madness. French exports have undoubtedly benefited enormously from the fact that manufacturers here have been able to quote in depreciated francs, while French imports from high exchange countries have been automatically reduced to the minimum of requirements. Quite apart from economic considerations, however, French opinion regards any marked improvement in the franc as likely to prove positively disastrous from the point of view of the national finances. Such an improvement, it is argued, must inevitably be accompanied by a sharp fall in wages and in profits, whereas there would be no corresponding diminution in the annual interest charges on the colossal French internal debt. The present heavy taxation would consequently become an impossible burden, and national bankruptcy might become inevitable.

It is curious to note that Frenchmen, in this connection, seldom make even a passing allusion to the enormous debt France owes to Great Britain and the United States, or to the effect any scheme for their liquidation might have upon the franc. Most people here, as a matter of fact, although they freely recognise the indebtedness of this country to her Allies, so far as the principle of the thing is concerned, insist that it is just as impossible for France to liquidate her inter-Allied debts as it has been found impossible to find a means of extracting the payment of her reparation debt from Germany. M. Loucheur, it may be remembered, has more than once enunciated this doctrine, in so many words, and particularly in a speech delivered at Lyons. On that particular occasion, M. Loucheur was misrepresented as having said France would not pay her inter-Allied debts, whereas his actual statement was that she could not do so.

There is a certain amount of nervousness in banking circles here as to the effect the forthcoming German loan may have on the franc. I was informed in private conversation a day or two ago that it is regarded as probable that the new issue will result in a drop in the exchange value of the franc of something in the neighbourhood of ten points, as against sterling. The technical argument is based, of course, on the fact that the German loan is to be made in gold. It is understood that one of the objects of the recent visit to Paris of Mr Mellon, the Secretary to the United States Treasury, was to sound financial leaders here as to their intentions in regard to the forthcoming German loan. The visit was ostensibly a private one, but Mr Mellon had conversations both with M. Clementel and M. Robineau, the Governor of the Bank of France, and also, I am informed, with other financial leaders. He found a strong distaste for French participation in the loan, and to combat this feeling he argued that French participation, to however small an extent, would go a long way towards overcoming such sentimental feeling as is entertained against the loan in the United States itself, to whom all concerned are looking to absorb the bulk of the issue. The counter-argument used by the French bankers was to the effect, to put it in plain language, that France has already done more than her share towards "putting Germany on her feet again" by shouldering the burden of raising the 100,000,000,000 which Germany has not paid for the restoration of the devastated areas. The further argument was advanced that since 1871 no German loan has ever been quoted on the French market, and that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to overcome French dislike for loans in gold marks. Mr Mellon made various ingenious suggestions for overcoming these prejudices, one of which was that if the French banks would underwrite not more than 5 per cent. of the total loan (40,000,000 gold marks, or \$10,000,000) the scrip for this purpose might be issued in dollar denominations, so that France, theoretically, would be lending to America, rather than direct to Germany. So far as can be gathered, no definite decision has yet been come to as to whether this country will or will not participate in the

loan. The indications, however, tend to show that the French banks are now rather inclined to take up the \$10,000,000 which Mr Mellon suggested should be allotted to them. In any case, the final decision will rest with the Government itself.

The French case in favour of Germany being compelled to continue to make Reparation payments in kind—particularly in coal—as well as in cash, is ingeniously set forth in a statement issued here, which is based on the argument that, owing to the peculiar distribution of the French industrial regions, it is greatly to the advantage of the British mining industry, as well as to France, that German deliveries of Reparation coal should be kept to as high a level as possible. The English belief that France and other continental countries absorb more British coal in proportion to the extent to which German Reparation coal deliveries are reduced is pronounced to be fallacious. The real fight for the European coal market, it is pointed out, lies between Great Britain and Germany. All the German coal stocks which remain after Reparation deliveries are satisfied are available, therefore, to compete against British coal; consequently, the smaller the quantity of coal required for Reparation payments, the larger the stock is which is available to be thrown on the foreign market in competition with British coal. In the Central European countries the German coal barons have the coal market to themselves, and are able to make a sufficiently high rate of profit to justify them in undercutting their British competitors elsewhere. The geographical situation of France is such that her industries in the east, from Strasbourg to Lyons, are necessarily dependent on German coal, whether it is received from Germany in the ordinary way of trade, or in the form of Reparation deliveries. As a market for British coal, that part of France, it is argued, does not exist. On the other hand, as a glance at the map will show, Germany is in a position to compete on level terms with Great Britain in selling coal, by way of Antwerp and Rotterdam, to any of the French ports, from Dunkirk to Bayonne, or from Cette to Nice, while it has the consumers from Strasbourg to Lyons at its mercy. Germany has also the monopoly of the supply of metallurgical coke to the Lorraine iron and steel area, which is dependent solely on the Ruhr for its supplies. The more coal Germany has to deliver in the form of Reparations, it is therefore argued, the less she will be able to utilise for the purpose of underselling the output of the British collieries.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES AND CURRENCY —WAGES—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 9.

THE Cabinet has been brought into a somewhat difficult position by its promise to communicate to foreign Governments its repudiation of national responsibility for the war, as admitted in the Versailles Treaty. Past Cabinets repeatedly repudiated responsibility without even provoking foreign comment; but the new plan, adopted in order to propitiate the German Nationals, to embody this in direct communications to the Allies was seen here from the first to be at best fruitless, and at worst provocative. The Cabinet will now have to find some way out. The Geneva declarations have attracted a good deal of attention. The League of Nations, however, has a bad public; and except in the Left Press not much enthusiasm is shown in the coming Reparations Loan flotation, not only for itself, but because the result will indicate the general attitude of international capital. It is expected that the Loan will be fully subscribed if issued at an effective interest rate of around 8 per cent. Very large sums are being applied for in New York by would-be German private borrowers; but the prospects of such transactions will probably only be revealed after the 800 million mark loan has been issued. In the meantime, it is reported that negotiations for a credit of 10 million dollars to the Ruhr industry have been practically concluded, on condition of a guarantee by German banks. Money here is cheaper, the rate for three months' loans, where these can be had at all, having fallen to around 15 per cent. a year. The capital market is reviving. New companies

in August issued shares of nominal value 8,716,000 gold marks, against 4,326,000 gold marks in July; and existing companies raised their capital by 22,355,000 gold marks, against 19,547,000 gold marks. No loans or bonds were issued.

The impending reduction of railway freight rates, reported last week, will, it is stated, be by between 10 and 15 per cent., and will probably be accompanied by a reduction in coal prices, which were last reduced 20 per cent. on July 1st. The coal congestion is as serious as ever, and markets must be found. The Finance Ministry's return for the last ten days of August shows receipts 228,610,292 gold marks, expenditure 217,760,764 gold marks, of which 224,152 gold marks were for redemption of the Gold Loan, and 53,558,609 gold marks for reparations deliveries and liabilities. The last item is for the first time separately booked. In the five months April-August, receipts totalled 2,806,993,730 gold marks, expenditure 2,740,615,678 gold marks, of which 229,753,981 gold marks were for redemption of Gold Loan, 103,412,609 gold marks for Reparations deliveries and liabilities, and 6,734,825 gold marks for expenditure in foreign currencies on execution of the Peace Treaty. The subventions to States and Municipalities totalled 1,020,147,659 gold marks, so that the cost of federal administration proper was only 1,380,566,604 gold marks. The Government has issued an ordinance providing for the partial restoration of insurances. The Third Taxation Decree of last February, which regulated private claims, recognised in principle the *Aufwertung* of depreciated insurance claims, but left the details for later settlement. The new ordinance creates an *Aufwertung-Fund*, to be managed by a trustee, to which will flow all the insurance companies' investments (in the main mortgages) that have been partially restored (to 15 per cent. of the original value) under the February Decree, and also further contributions from the companies in so far as their financial positions allow of such. The trustee will prepare a plan for division of the *Aufwertung-Fund*. Claims will be calculated according to the gold value of premiums at times of payment. In general claims will not be paid until 1932, before which the 15 per cent. of mortgages and bonds is not payable.

The Reichsbank's return for August 30th shows a further increase of the gold reserve by 9,480,000 gold marks to 516,484,000 gold marks, the source of the increase being, as usual, sales of exchange held abroad. The part of the gold reserve held in Berlin remains unchanged at 439,401,000 gold marks. The month-end settlements caused a big credit demand. The total of loans, discounts, and investments rose by 148,400,000 billion marks to 1,997,200,000 billion marks, and the paper note circulation by 262,672,475 billion marks to 1,391,895,246 billion marks. Rentenmark circulation rose by 152,800,000 Rentenmarks to 1,865,000,000 Rentenmarks. The Gold Discount Bank's returns of late show little changes. Total of discounts on August 30th was £6,220,417; total of rediscount liabilities abroad, £7,429,079. The wholesale index number on September 2nd was 121.6, against 120.9 one week earlier; the cost-of-living number, 115, against 114 in the four preceding weeks.

Concerning industrial wages may be added to what was stated last week: In the metal industry in twenty towns in July the nominal wage per hour for skilled workmen was 64 pf, or 97 per cent. of the pre-war wage; for unskilled workmen, 47 pf, or 104.4 per cent. of the pre-war wage. In the wood branch (skilled) the hourly wage was 71 pf, against a pre-war 61 pf; unskilled, 60 pf, against 52 pf. In the building branch, skilled, 76 pf, against 71 pf. pre-war; unskilled, 64 pf, against 56 pf.

The improvement in industry is slow. The number of publicly supported unemployed in unoccupied territory on August 15th was 355,848, against 328,111 on August 1st. Figures of later date from individual towns show no or only slight declines. The Leipzig Fair ended rather disappointingly. Home buyers showed great reserve, and in general bought only enough to cover their minimum demand. Among foreigners, Poles and Spaniards bought well, but Holland, Switzerland, and Scandinavia gave relatively few orders. From Hamburg is reported an improvement in the freight market, the increased demand being mainly for grain vessels. Bankruptcies seem to have passed the maximum. For August were reported

ROTTERDAMSCH BANKVEREENIGING.

Rotterdam, The Hague, Amsterdam.

Capital ... fl. 75,000,000
Surplus ... fl. 37,000,000

Collections.

Letters of Credit. Foreign Exchange.
Purchase and Sale of Stocks and Shares.

Including its affiliated institution the Nationale Bankvereeniging, Utrecht, the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging is represented in about 100 places in the Netherlands.

792, against 1,185 in July. The pre-war monthly average was about 800 tons. Coal production in July was 11,272,997 metric tons, against 3,443,274 tons in July, 1923. In the first seven months of the year production was 62,772,031 tons, against 42,220,233 tons in the same months of 1923, and 82,453,165 tons in the same months of 1913, in the present area of the Republic. The Prussian Trade Ministry's monthly report gives a fairly favourable account of the industrial movement. The iron and steel branches have only slightly improved; the chemical and paper branches not at all, and the rubber branch a little. The improvement in textiles is marked, particularly in the woollen branch. A large demand for woollen goods from England, France, and Italy is reported. The cotton and linen branches report smaller improvements. The boot and shoe branch shows no material improvement, but great activity prevails in the clothing, millinery, and allied branches. In the heavy metals branch the improvement is confined to ingots, slabs, bars, and wire rods.

ITALY.—POLITICAL UNEASINESS—THE SUMMER SLUMP IN STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS— BIG CAPITAL INCREASES—POOR WHEAT CROP.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, September 2.

JULY and August were troublous months in politics and economics for Italy. In politics, there is not in sight a ray of hope of a solution of the Matteotti crisis. Two decrees which suppress the liberty of the Press, giving to the local agents of the Government (prefetti) the power to prohibit future issues of obnoxious newspapers, have not quieted the unrest of public opinion, which is bent on obtaining justice against all guilty parties. The parliamentary opposition is determined not to return to the House after the autumn recess, unless conditions of absolute liberty are restored to all parties. Fascism in power, however sure of its two-thirds majority, is planning constitutional reforms; universal suffrage is, it seems, to be substituted by a sort of professional representation, where trade, industry, agriculture, liberal professions groupings will have a voice.

All these may be simply rumours, which keep the political world uneasy guessing the future. In the business world unrest also prevails. In a previous letter I gave figures illustrating the stock exchange fever, which culminated at the end of May. Recently the fever has subsided. Bachi's general index number for State securities (taking as the basis 100 the quotations for December, 1918), which had increased continuously from 96.4 in December, 1923, to 109.5 in May, 1924, fell to 106.9 in June and 105.8 in July. Quotations for the end of August do not show a noticeable advance. As usual, fluctuations were greater for "variable dividend" securities. From 85.67 in December, 1923, these had advanced to 114.34 in May, 1924; in June they fell to 110.82, in July to 107.62. Navigation, hemp and flax, cotton, motor-cars, sugar, land and houses were foremost in the fall. Operators were obliged to liquidate speculative holdings at a great loss. The end of August account saw many forced sales on the stock exchanges. Bull positions were almost cleared out, and new engagements reduced almost to nothing. If the political uncertainty were not repressing any sustained speculative endeavour, the autumn months would probably see another frantic rise.

Banks and financial circles are interested in the rise, in view of the big increases of capital which are in contemplation. In the first half of 1924 there were constituted 845 new joint-stock companies with a capital of 510.4 million lire, and 650 old companies increased their capital by 2,389.9 million lire. Only 246 companies with a capital of 288.9 million lire were wound up; 187 reduced their capital by 259.5 million lire. In the aggregate the number of joint stock companies rose by 583 to 8,335; and their capital by 2,289.4 million lire to 26,111 million lire. The movement has not spent itself; perhaps a total of 1,000 million lire increases of capital are planned at present. A very big figure, which is an indication of a great abundance of new capital in the country. The balance-sheets of three foremost Italian banks (Banca Commerciale Italiana, Credito Italiano, and Banco di Roma) have increased their liabilities from 13,925.3 to 14,963.1 million lire between February 29 and June 30. The increase is wholly due to increased deposits.

The black spot in our economic situation is the indifferent agricultural crop prospects. The wheat yield, which was 6.1 million tons last year, is calculated for 1924 at only 4.8 million tons, a big decrease, which will cause a corresponding increase of wheat imports. In part, the low yield is due to diminished sowings—4,550,000 hectares in 1923 against 4,743,640 in 1922. Agriculturists were discouraged last year by the low prices quoted for internal wheat at sowing time. Owing to the abundant internal crops, mills were able to buy from agriculturists at prices much below those ruling in the international markets. To-day, owing to scarcity of yield, internal prices are higher: 110-120 lire per 100 kg, against 85 last year. But the international level is higher still—perhaps from 130 to 140 lire at Genoa. The prospect of imports of from 2.5 to 3 million tons at those prices is already hardening foreign exchanges.

INDIA. — SUGAR PRODUCTION — MERCANTILE MARINE—CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE—TRADE PROSPECTS—WAGON MANUFACTURE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, August 21.

THE importance of increased sugar production in India must be sought not only in the retaining for her own cultivators and traders of the 20 crores per annum now paid to foreign producers, but in the release, for utilisation in other markets, of the 500,000 tons which India now buys from abroad—though well able, with improved methods of cultivation and manufacture, to satisfy her own requirements, and even leave a surplus for export. The practical possibilities are indicated by the Indian Sugar Bureau, which points out that the great problem before India is to increase the production of factory-made sugar. Already the efforts made by the official experts have shown that it is possible to increase the yield of cane in the white sugar tract in North India by over 50 per cent., and that these canes can do equally well both in years of short rainfall and heavy precipitation. These canes are now being given out to cultivators in the tract, and it is believed that in five years they will bring about an increase in the production of sugar in this area by 100,000 tons. "No other country," as the Sugar Bureau says, "has such advantages, and no other country worth the name would be content to sit and watch another nation make a fortune out of her. The prosperity of Java is in many ways the direct outcome of India's apathy."

"First things first" is an economic adage Indian economists and statesmen, in their impatience, are apt to overlook. In relation to sugar production, India's opportunity is unique—subject only to adequate capital and efficient direction. Can the same claim be made, notwithstanding the ponderous recommendations of the official Mercantile Marine Committee, for the immediate establishment, mainly by reservation of the coasting traffic, of an indigenous mercantile marine? The question is the more pertinent, inasmuch as the recommendations in question predicate heavy official subsidies—if not, indeed, the enforced purchase by the Government of India of one of the shipping lines now operating. How is it proposed to finance this scheme? The Finance

Member has been petitioned by Indian traders and legislators to eliminate sterling loans as far as possible from his programme. This year he acted on that advice. He asked for 15 crores. He has been given 13½ crores, just sufficient to finance railways and irrigation works. Even the most enthusiastic advocates of Indian shipping would hesitate to urge that the present and contemplated outlay on these two items should be curtailed. The question is, indeed, one of relative urgency. Furthermore, Indian railways normally yield substantial profits, utilisable either in relief of taxation or for further development. American and Canadian experience suggest that State shipping, in present conditions, is inevitably, and to a disastrous extent, unprofitable, and would involve, for India, a return to the period of deficit budgets from which she has recently, and with so much difficulty, escaped. Unless these objections can be proved illusory, shipping subsidies—altogether apart from the relative merits of private and State enterprise—will, it is felt, be extremely difficult to defend.

India, at present, is indeed ill-equipped to supply additional capital for shipping, or any other new industrial enterprises, commercial or industrial, and is best occupied, until prosperity revives, in consolidating the advance made in other fields. Whatever the causes, money remains extraordinarily "tight," every indication pointing to as much difficulty occurring in financing trade next busy season as in the season recently terminated, when, despite large advances by the Government of India to the Imperial Bank, the Bank rate rose to 9 per cent. and remained above its normal level far beyond the usual period. It is easy to call for wider banking facilities, but to carry that determination into practical effect will take years. Notice has been given of private Bills, for introduction at the next Assembly, aiming at the reversion of the official exchange ratio to the former standard of fifteen rupees to the sovereign. This may be desirable, but those who assume that it would imply a lower Bank rate forget that an 8 per cent. Bank rate was common when the old rate of exchange was operative, viz., before the war. In other words, previous experience carries the lesson that the exchange rate and the Bank rate have very little connection. What is possible is that there has been excessive contraction of currency; in other words, that the need of every progressive country for a steady increase in its currency, not in the busy season alone, has been overlooked in some quarters. The Government of India makes much of the 24 crores advanced last year, but it forgets the 62 crores by which, in the four preceding years, the volume of currency had been deflated. This is the complaint made in the financial Press.

The strong objections raised to the policy of deflation are not theoretical or gratuitous. They are urgent and practical, and are heavily accentuated by the considerable stimulus to Indian trade to which any genuine settlement in Europe is expected to lead. To any appreciable expansion of manufacturing activities in Europe, an enlarged demand for the raw materials, which only India can supply in the requisite quantities, is a preliminary. Without unrestricted access to Indian products, Germany's effort to enhance her exports, as involved in the acceptance and enforcement of the Dawes Report, is not likely to make much headway. Foodstuffs, such as tea, wheat, rice, &c., will probably be in equally strong demand. All this means a heavy drain on banking resources, which it is the duty of the Government of India to support by issuing currency to the full extent of the country's manifest needs. As the former automatic methods of expanding currency are temporarily in suspense, official control is no longer partial or qualified; it is complete and absolute.

When the largest wagon manufacturing works in India, a few weeks ago, was temporarily closed for lack of orders, the Railway Board met with sharp criticism. Subsequently, tenders for 2,300 wagons, to be manufactured in India, were called for, and orders for these, it is understood, have now been allotted, the three firms affected all being located in or near Calcutta. A tariff on imported wagons being deemed undesirable, the Tariff Board recommended the grant of a bounty to wagon manufacturing firms, the sum payable not to exceed, in the aggregate, 7 lakhs of rupees; and this concession has overcome the difficulties encountered by Indian producers in competition with British exporters, who in the last

three years have quoted abnormally low prices rather than lose a valuable connection. That the railway finances of India have benefited by this close pursuit of trade goes without saying, but the Indian wagon industry survives, and, under domiciled British direction, but with a good deal of Indian money involved, is likely to expand, rather than contract, in the next few years.

AUSTRALIA. — COMMONWEALTH BUDGET—OVERSEAS TRADE—INTERNAL BORROWINGS—WOOL SALES PROGRAMME.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, August 7.

THE Commonwealth Budget for the financial year ending June 30, 1925, presented by the Treasurer, Dr Earle Page, on July 31st, shows an estimated surplus of £26,032, after giving effect to reductions of taxation to the extent of about £2,000,000, principally by raising the Federal income-tax exemption from £200 to £300. By this and minor alterations 260,000 persons will be relieved altogether from Federal income-tax, and 180,000 other taxpayers will obtain a reduction of tax, the amount payable by individuals who remain in the field of income-tax being reduced by 10 per cent. The number of individual payers of Federal income-tax (as distinguished from companies) will thus be reduced to about 200,000, against 464,298 for 1922-23 and 752,699 for 1921-22. The announcement has been favourably received by the public. Before the Budget, much discussion was going on as to the proper treatment of the accumulated surplus of £10,015,758 as at June 30, 1924, of which £2,587,184 arose in 1923-24 and the balance in earlier years. The Government, however, has dealt with this by applying £4,915,755 to debt redemption (in addition to about four millions from sinking fund moneys derived from revenue), and by allocating £3,500,000 to defence purposes, £500,000 to main roads development, and £500,000 to a scheme for marketing primary products. The estimates for 1924-25 may thus be compared with the results for 1923-24 as follows:—

	1923-4.	1924-25 (Estd.)
Revenue	58,692,665	56,928,375
Expenditure	56,105,481	56,902,343
Surplus for year	2,587,184	26,032
Balance brought forward	7,428,574	600,003
Balance carried forward	10,015,758*	626,035

* Reduced to £600,003 by above-mentioned allocations.

These figures are shown after deducting £7,466,625 for 1924-25 (against £7,324,538 for 1923-24), paid by the Commonwealth to the States out of taxation collected by the former.

There is special reason for applying a large proportion of the accumulated surplus to debt redemption, rather than to more liberal remissions of taxation, seeing that the Customs revenue for 1923-24 was swollen to the extent of about six millions by heavy imports, which have been stimulated by public borrowings in London. The total Customs revenue, which amounted to £21,731,210 in 1920-21, £17,328,310 in 1921-22, and £22,597,306 in 1922-23, rose to £25,177,882 for 1923-24, being equivalent to over 17 per cent. on imports of all kinds. For 1924-25, however, the Customs revenue is estimated at £23,675,000. Even this means that imports will require to be at a high level, and while various Australian borrowings in London during the last few months give some basis for this expectation, it is obvious that a curtailment of external borrowings in the future, which would necessitate smaller imports, would correspondingly affect the Commonwealth revenue. This appears to be recognised by the Government, and the Treasurer stated that the remission of taxation on incomes is rendered possible only because a large Customs and Excise revenue is being received.

The Commonwealth public debt at June 30, 1924, was £415,600,098, of which £55,385,628 has been lent to the States for public works, soldiers' settlement, and similar purposes. The total includes £89,270,922, due to the British Government, which is being reduced by annual payments. The war debt is £351,997,515 out of the above 415 millions.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

TRANSACTS ALL BUSINESS USUALLY UNDERTAKEN BY AN EASTERN PLANTATION TRUST COMPANY.

APPROVED ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.

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

The Commonwealth trade returns for the twelve months ended June 30, 1924, show increases of £8,812,018 in total imports and £1,697,260 in total exports. A comparison for the last three financial years is as follows:—

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Imports—			
Merchandise	103,030,950	131,733,323	140,545,283
Gold	35,486	24,512	24,570
Total imports	103,066,436	131,757,835	140,569,853
Exports—			
Merchandise	124,363,296	115,642,121	116,719,564
Gold (inc. prem.)	3,483,239	2,228,026	2,847,843
Total exports	127,846,535	117,870,147	119,567,407

The excess of imports for 1923-24 was £21,002,446, against an excess of imports of £13,877,688 for 1922-23, and an excess of exports of £24,780,099 for 1921-22. During 1921-22 and 1922-23, however, the exports included part of the wool purchased by the British Government and paid for at an earlier period, so that as regards payments the figures for those two years were less favourable in reality than in appearance. As regards 1922-23 and 1923-24, it is necessary to provide not only for the excess of imports, but also for interest and other payments to be remitted abroad, which may be estimated at over 25 millions per annum. So far these amounts have been balanced by the Bawra remittances, representing the Australian wool-growers' half-share in profits on resales of wool purchased by the British Government, and by the large fresh borrowings effected during the last few years. Loans floated in London during the first half of 1924 will operate in the same direction, and with the prospect of a heavy gross value for the new wool clip at present prices, the position of exchange remains favourable to Australia. But in face of the annual remittance of over 25 millions to be made, the position is open to considerable modification if fresh London borrowings are reduced.

Imports have shown divergent movements. Apparel and textiles amounted to £33,946,834 for 1923-24, against £39,157,593 for 1922-23, or a decrease of £5,210,759. Against this there is an increase of £8,543,900 in metals, metal manufactures and machinery, inclusive of motor cars, this group amounting to £43,747,194 for 1923-24, against £35,203,294 for 1922-23. The following is a comparison of some of the principal exports for the last three financial years:—

	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Wool and tops	47,977,243	57,138,764	56,197,676
Wheat and flour	34,164,036	12,991,550	19,292,769
Butter	7,987,558	6,133,864	4,919,653
Frozen beef, mutton & lamb ..	4,007,542	6,116,652	2,473,002
Copper	704,988	664,124	467,844
Lead	1,730,341	2,561,616	3,323,463
Tin	284,357	320,691	447,757
Zinc	237,175	846,054	1,057,737
Zinc concentrates	586,329	1,461,016	1,171,439
Silver	854,840	1,117,145	1,080,872

Allowing for Bawra wool included in 1922-23 exports, the wool exports for 1923-24 showed some increase in value, notwithstanding the smaller clip.

A programme for wool sales in Australia has been arranged up to Christmas for a total of 850,000 bales out of a total estimated clip to be offered in Australia of approximately 2,000,000 bales. The September quantity is 155,000 bales, October 236,000 bales, November 261,500 bales, and December 197,500 bales. This is subject to readjustment if necessary, while the exact arrangements after Christmas will depend upon the financial situation.

The Commonwealth and the six States have made an arrangement by which the former will conduct all borrowing within Australia on behalf of the latter during 1924-25, the amount being a little over £10,000,000. This is to be completed by about the end of January, and the

way will thus be cleared for preparations for the Commonwealth conversion loan to provide for the $\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. War Loan of £68,813,000 maturing in Australia on December 31, 1925.

Letters to the Editor.

GERMAN ISSUES OF CHINESE BONDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—There seems to be some doubt in China as to the method of repayment of the German issues, so in response to inquiries from the Far East I have ascertained from the Chinese Legation in this country that the following scheme is proposed, and I pass the guidance on to your readers:—

Tientsin-Pukow, 1908.—Interest due October, 1917 (that is, after the declaration of war), will be paid October, 1924; interest due April, 1918, will be paid April, 1925, and so on. Payment on drawn bonds due 1919 will be made in April, 1926, and payment on drawings after 1920 will be similarly made.

Tientsin-Pukow, 1910.—Interest due November, 1917, will be paid November, 1924, and soon. Payment on drawn bonds 1921 will begin in 1928, drawings in 1922 in 1929, and so on.

Hukuang, 1911.—Overdue interest since 1917 will be paid at once, but drawn bonds of this issue will not begin to be paid till 1929.—Faithfully yours,

CHARLES WATNEY.

London Correspondent, *North China Herald*.
Courtfield House, Courtfield road, S.W. 7.

August 27th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

A WORLD SURVEY.*

SURVEYS of the world in cross-section perform a useful function at a time when the face of the world has just been transformed by a sudden upheaval like the European War; yet such works have their technical limitations, and Mr Bowman's book displays the weaknesses of the class to which it belongs. It is neither a pure study in the present operation of geographical environment upon contemporary human society, nor is it an exhaustive digest of the diplomatic and military transactions which have redistributed the territory and resources of the world among the different nations during the last dozen years; nor, again, does it give the full historical background of any one of the problems with which it deals, though it sketches in a feature here and there with somewhat arbitrary differences in the degree of detail. In fact, it is a momentary *aperçu* rather than a possession for ever, but to leave our description at that would be to give no idea of the interest and value of the book. In order to appreciate Mr Bowman's work, a European should read it backwards—beginning with the supplementary chapter on "The Situation of the United States," which is the principal new feature of this revised edition, and then working back through the chapters on Latin America, the Pacific, and the Far East, until he reaches (without necessarily working through) the opening sections which treat of Europe and the Near and Middle East.

The survey begins with Western Europe, partly because, by a tradition of several centuries standing, that region has been regarded as the pivot of world affairs, and partly because it is on the eastern fringes of Europe

that the greatest political and territorial changes have been brought about by the World War; but, in adopting this conventional arrangement of his material, Mr Bowman reserves his best wine for the last. Not that these chapters on the Old World are incompetent or inadequate. On the contrary, they show the same sound learning as the rest of the book. Yet it is inevitable that an American writer should treat of this region with a certain remoteness and lack of intimacy which will cause most European readers to prefer the publicists of their own continent, however partisan or even polemical they may be. In dealing with the problems of Europe, even the most sympathetic and well-informed American observer is hampered by a psychological barrier, for Europe is the city of destruction from which the ancestors of every living American citizen broke away, in whatever generation they crossed the Atlantic, and from whatever European stock they came. This is one of the profound sentimental bases of the American national consciousness, and the shrinking from Europe which it produces—an inhibition temporarily overcome during 1917-19, only to be followed by a more violent reaction—is an impediment to an intimate understanding of European affairs.

This American attitude towards Europe, of which Europeans are well aware, has created, however, a misconception among the European public in regard to America's outlook upon the world as a whole, and it is as a corrective to this misconception that Mr Bowman's book will be of special interest to European readers. Impressed as we are with our own paramount importance, we assume that, because the Americans shrink from scalding their fingers in our witches' cauldron, they are indifferent to everything beyond their own borders. Mr. Bowman, who ought to know his own countrymen, presents us with quite another picture. His main theme is that, if the American people have been preoccupied with their own internal affairs for the past 150 years, that is simply because they have had the unique but transient opportunity of developing a virgin continent. This mighty conquest of Nature is now almost at an end. Very soon the territory of the Union will be settled almost as thickly, and its resources exploited almost as intensively, as those of the older civilised regions, and then the American people, with their pioneer spirit and exalted standard of living, their accumulated energies and multiplied wants, will cross their borders and not only look but act beyond them—not, perhaps, in Europe, whose dust they or their ancestors have shaken off their feet, but most certainly in Latin America and in the Pacific. Thus, when Mr Bowman writes of these regions which affect the immediate interests of his country, he writes with the same zest and certainty that a Frenchman displays in dealing with Central Europe, or an Englishman with the Middle East; and at the same time he is sharply critical of his fellow-citizens. On the one hand, he blames them for their slowness in abandoning the self-centred outlook of the last phase in their history, at a time when it is fast becoming impossible to satisfy the national ambitions and the national needs within the four borders of the national territory—vast though it may be. On the other hand, he points out how rapidly (though unconsciously) the United States is already turning her activities outwards in the form of increased foreign trade and investments, and how, in the nearer regions of Latin America, this extension of economic interests is rapidly resulting in an extension of political control. He dwells on the alarm and hostility which this expansion of the United States is producing in the Latin American world as a whole, and he is evidently perturbed lest his countrymen may be swept by a sudden and unexpected wave of imperialism if some foreign Power crosses a path on which they have entered without yet being aware whither it leads. Thus, while Mr Bowman's first purpose is to portray to Americans the new world which has been created in Europe by the war, he will be at least as successful in illuminating for European readers another new world of which they hardly suspect the existence—a world in which the Pacific is the central ocean, the United States and Japan the rival Powers, China and Latin America the prizes, the competition of white and coloured races, the formidable substitute for our family quarrels of nationality, and Europe—the Antipodes!

* "The New World: Problems in Political Geography." By Isaiah Bowman, Ph.D., Director of the American Geographical Society of New York. Revised and enlarged edition. (London.) 1924. Harrap. 21s net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Principles of Railway Transportation.* By Eliot Jones, Ph.D. (London) Macmillan and Co. 16s net.
Principles of Foreign Trade. By C. E. Griffin, Ph.D. (London) Macmillan and Co. 14s net.
Investment a New Profession. By Henry S. Sturgis. (London) Macmillan and Co. 10s net.
The A.B.C.'s of Business. By Henry S. McKee. (London) Macmillan and Co. 5s net.
Money in Fetters. By Henry Lowenfeld. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.
Commerce Monthly, August. Published by National Bank of Commerce in New York. Containing articles on the Place of Russia in International Trade, and World Wheat Situation.
Seven Years' View of Sales and Expenses of Retail Clothiers, 1916 to 1922. By Horace Secrist, Ph.D. (Chicago) North-Western University School of Commerce. \$1.
Manual on Canadian Mining. By Capt. H. Burges Watson. (London) S. Straker and Sons. 1s, post free 1s 3d.
Die Deutschen Banken im Ausland. By Dr Karl Strasser. (Munich) Ernst Reinhardt. 6 marks.
Le Peripie Monetaire del Dopo Guerra. By Achille Loria. (Milan) Università Bocconi.
International Year-Book of Agricultural Statistics, 1923, pp. xcv.-471. (Rome) International Institute of Agriculture. 8s.

A valuable work of reference, which includes chapters on area and population, apportionment of areas, agricultural production, live stock, international trade in agricultural products, prices, freight rates, fertilisers, &c., the data for the most part covering the years 1909 to 1923, and including statistics relating to some 219 states and countries of the world.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester.
Bradford Foreign Branch 18, Market Street, Bradford.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, September 24. ACCOUNT, September 25.

The trend of Stock Exchange markets runs in the direction of favour being shown to speculative investments rather than to purely gilt-edged stocks, though the latter continue to be absorbed with a steadiness which causes prices to harden. Supplies of stock are readily taken by accumulating money which has, at the moment, no particular temptation in the shape of new issues to divert it from existing securities. The War Loan, Conversion and other British Government funds are better on the week. There is some demand also for the newly issued Colonials, although New South Wales Fives, on which a call of 95 per cent. is due at the beginning of next month, are still somewhat heavy.

The gamble in German and Prussian bonds is being carried on with great vigour. Prices are rushed up and down in extraordinary fashion. The Stock Exchange market still maintains that the really big buying comes from German sources, via Holland, and it is claimed that blocks of bonds are taken off the market every week and paid for in cash. French bonds fluctuate narrowly, though the railway descriptions keep strong. A number of Chilean prices have fallen a point or so. Chinese and Mexican bonds are better, the Mexican Irrigation issue being five points higher. The two series of Chinese 8 per cent. Notes put on several points upon a statement, read as being hopeful, from the Legation.

Home Railway stocks, after being a better market, fell back disconsolately in consequence of the complete absence of public interest. People are afraid of Labour politics and diminished

earning power. Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debenture stock continues to make headway, and Canadian Northern Income debenture stock has improved, in sympathy with the rise in Trunk Pacific. Mexican Rails are a little lower. Brazilians have spurred, San Paulo being remarkably strong. The Argentine Railway market presents a very firm appearance. Rises have been secured by most of the leading stocks, a fair amount of speculative business coming into the market.

Rubber shares are decidedly better, on the assumption that American stocks of the material are running low. The market of the moment, however, is that for tea shares, where boom conditions have prevailed. Prices have been rising hand-over-fist day by day, and the knowledge that the autumn interim dividends will be satisfactory adds fuel to the flame of optimism. On contango day last Tuesday it was shown that the bull account could not be called excessive, and the majority of recent buyers have been ready to pay for their shares. Thursday's settlement proved the largest that the market has ever handled. Some of the coffee descriptions are good, with Dumonts outstandingly better.

Another rising market is that for the less marketable tobacco companies' shares, including Copes, R. and J. Hill, Albert Bakers, Carreras, Picardos, &c., where prices have gone ahead. On the eve of the Dunlop scheme, prices of the company's shares gave way to a slight extent. A few of the artificial silk companies' shares show noticeable strength. Grouts and Hinde and Hardy rising substantially, though Courtaulds are neglected. Various textiles are up on the week. Hudson's Bays are better, and Egyptian shares found a few cautious supporters. The insurance market keeps on the upward path. Banking shares are very quiet, and the shipping group presents no special feature. Various brewery stocks and shares stand higher, and hotels have been on the rise, expectation looking for increased dividends owing to the influx of Exhibition visitors. There is a tendency, not very pronounced, to buy nitrates. The iron and steel group is hesitating, the movements being insignificant and irregular. Two or three of the gas stocks are better, in accordance with the usual seasonal inquiry at this time of the year, while the electricity supply list remains dormant for the time being.

Johannesburg apparently takes a less serious view than it was disposed to do a fortnight or so ago of the Labour outlook on the Rand, but public interest in Kafir shares has sunk to a minimum. A few Rhodesians are better, under the leadership of Cam and Motors. An unpleasant incident was a sharp fall in Porcupine Davidson shares, upon unfavourable reports from the engineers. Esperanzas have dropped to a nominal price, on the latest information from the board. The Canadian-Mexican markets are showing a mild amount of activity, but part of the previous strength was lost upon a profit-snatching attempt to sell by some of the earlier buyers. The tin markets are quiet, prices holding their ground without noticeable fluctuations. Indian mines are not particularly good, and Russians remain reactionary. Shares in companies mining copper, lead, and other baser metals have been marking time.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£130,822,151	£	£	£

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 6, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Sept. 6, 1924, Dr£2,200,000	£	Dr£150,000	£	Dr£150,000
---	---	------------	---	------------

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1924..... 130,672,151	1923..... 271,308,173
1925..... 202,630,317	1922..... 575,976,050
1926..... 503,238,328	1921..... 388,978,953
1927..... 155,970,920	1920..... 367,949,666
1928..... 285,038,884	1919..... 1,036,069,953
1929..... 897,776,663	1918..... 1,303,381,441

Manchester Corporation Bills.—The Corporation of Manchester give notice that tenders will be received at the Chief Cashier's office, at the Bank of England, London, on September 15, 1924, at one o'clock, for Manchester Corporation bills to be issued under the Manchester Corporation Acts, 1901, 1903, 1908, and 1920, to the amount of £500,000, in part replacement of bills falling due on 19th idem. The bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000, or £10,000. They will be dated September 19, 1924, and will be payable at twelve months after date—viz., September 19, 1925. The tenders must specify the net amount per cent. which will be given for the amounts applied for, and the tenders of private individuals must be made through a London banker. The bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England, London.

Coventry Corporation.—Issue of £250,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1954-74. This stock has received the sanction of the Ministry of Health, and is authorised by the provisions of the Coventry Corporation Act, 1920, Section 124, and consent order of the Ministry of Health dated September 4, 1924.



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

<i>Authorised Capital</i> - £10,000,000 <i>Reserve Fund</i> - £4,000,000	<i>Issued Capital</i> - £8,734,660 <i>Paid-Up Capital</i> - £4,367,330
---	---

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.
 54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
 (Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Sept. 15—Sept. 20 were opened on Sept. 12, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £48,335,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Saturday at £99 1s 1d, about 6 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Aug. 8.....	35,000,000	46,625,000	3 15 4-32	nil
Aug. 15.....	30,000,000	41,390,000	3 15 3-24	nil
Aug. 22.....	30,000,000	37,225,000	3 15 9-16	nil
Aug. 29.....	40,000,000	52,340,000	3 15 1-76	nil
Sept. 5.....	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6-87	nil
Sept. 12.....	40,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3-27	nil

Tenders will be received on Sept. 19, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.
1923.						
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	17-3 261,479
June 28.....	295,374	13,538	5,000	28,500	19,450	16-3 254,313
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,646	7,000	27,000	21,150	16-6 246,466
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,877	7,000	27,000	21,150	15-9 258,922
1924.						
Mar. 28.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3 241,294
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3 242,446
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-6 238,596
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-5 255,032
1924.						
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-6 236,867
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-0 246,198
Aug. 20.....	291,362	12,656	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-0 247,456
Aug. 27.....	288,719	12,436	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-1 244,559
Sept. 3.....	289,435	12,309	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-1 245,173
Sept. 10.....	288,761	12,356	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-2 244,517

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum advance issue for 1920 fixed at £30,600,000, for 1921 at £317,566,000, for 1922 at £308,908,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, September 10, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£	Government debt	£
146,348,695		11,015,100	
		8,734,900	
		126,598,695	
146,348,695			

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital	£	Government securities	£
14,553,000		40,758,443	
3,716,315		76,320,315	
10,842,481		21,616,965	
111,395,944		1,825,262	
13,245			
140,520,985		140,520,985	

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Sept. 10, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Res.	3,716,315	+	7,680
Public deposits	10,812,481	+	446,609
Other deposits	111,395,944	+	4,887,357
Government securities	40,758,443	+	6,281,180
Other securities	76,320,315	+	6,154,602
Reserve	23,442,227	+	134,720
Note circulation	124,731,730	+	640,945
Coin and bullion	128,423,957	+	775,665
% of reserve to liabilities	19%	+	18%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
Aug. 6.....	128,307,587	127,106,315	124,247,385	121,379,487	20,951,272	16 1/4
13.....	128,315,112	126,031,220	122,202,346	118,267,257	22,030,892	18
20.....	128,315,748	125,118,705	125,609,727	120,785,097	22,947,043	18 1/2
27.....	128,315,386	125,372,330	122,434,262	117,902,270	22,693,356	18 1/2
Sept. 3.....	128,402,791	125,725,405	125,292,555	121,139,856	22,427,386	17 1/2
10.....	128,423,957	124,731,730	122,238,425	117,078,758	23,442,227	16 1/2

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to August 27.....	23,047,986	1,050,556	1,896,799	25,995,341
Sept. 3.....	675,491	28,742	49,664	753,697
Sept. 10.....	555,085	27,374	58,379	641,338
Total to date 1924.....	24,278,362	1,066,672	2,005,342	27,390,376
Do 1923.....	22,605,051	1,092,303	2,198,125	25,895,479
Increase or decrease in 1924.....	+ 1,673,311	+ 1,469	+ 24,127	+ 1,711,807
%.....	+ 7 1/4	+ 1 1/3	+ 1 1/2	+ 6 1/2
Total for year 1923.....	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922.....	32,780,619	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923.....	- 510,246	- 28,096	+ 4,489	- 533,856
%.....	- 1 1/2	- 1 1/2	+ 0 1/2	- 1 1/4

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Number of Working Days.....	Month of August.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Sept. 8.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
26	25			
BIRMINGHAM.....	8,932,000	9,117,000	82,617,100	83,874,500
BRISTOL.....	4,938,000	4,666,000	41,857,000	41,056,000
DUBLIN.....	4,604,000	4,305,000	216,804,300	195,531,800
LEEDS.....	3,921,000	3,806,000	38,506,100	37,660,300
LIVERPOOL.....	2,611,000	2,469,000	36,824,000	36,804,000
MANCHESTER.....	35,328,000	37,757,000	260,194,000	27,397,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.....	56,985,000	60,496,000	208,098,800	324,136,800
NOTTINGHAM.....	8,185,000	7,911,000	524,984,300	542,148,000
SHEFFIELD.....	2,347,000	2,364,000	22,425,700	21,584,000
Total.....	132,499,000	137,152,000	41,061,000	38,632,800

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Gold Discount Bank appeared in the Economist of June 21: Rentenbank in August 16; Canada, Estonia, Bulgaria and Egypt in August 23; Denmark, Finland, Danzig, Poland and Rumania in September 6.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

Resources.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Sept. 7, 1924.
Total gold reserve.....	3,081,090	3,115,270	3,126,650	3,102,010
Legal tender notes and silver reserve.....	78,750	87,120	86,300	76,320
Bills discounted for member banks.....	301,950	262,550	259,280	850,090
Bills bought in open market.....	69,580	49,290	25,720	174,560
Government obligations owned.....	542,150	541,630	541,110	58,770
All other resources.....	91,650	91,220	90,810	67,630
LIABILITIES.....				
Government deposits.....	35,150	33,020	28,290	38,530
Other deposits.....	2,134,070	2,117,340	2,129,360	1,863,840
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation.....	1,760,760	1,740,710	1,738,060	2,257,280
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation.....	11,980	12,250	11,930	510
Capital and surplus.....	332,920	332,930	332,920	328,090
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....	80 1/4%	82 3/4%	82 5/8%	76 1/4%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	July 19, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion.....	549	549	549	549	549	549	123
Gold certificates.....	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,032
Subsidiary coin.....	50	50	50	50	50	50	53
Bills discounted.....	3,973	4,109	4,555	50	50	50	135
Loans and advances to Govt.....	1,700	1,700	1,950	3,926	3,807	3,907	3,907
Investments.....	223	223	223	2,700	2,700	2,450	2,450
LIABILITIES.....							
Capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.....	153	153	153	153	152	152	39
Notes in circulation.....	10,166	10,434	10,704	10,283	10,196	10,493	10,493
Bankers' deposits.....	4,937	4,790	5,217	5,760	5,744	5,597	5,597
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.....	69 7/8%	69 1/2%	66 2/3%	65 7/8%	66 1/2%	68 %	

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	July 19, 1924.	July 12, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Cash and bullion.....	1,112,000	1,114,016	1,113,515	1,113,515	1,109,670	231,320
Discounts.....	260,934	304,424	245,517	243,978	243,978	41,740
Advances.....	314,381	302,752	282,175	276,791	174,030	70,540
LIABILITIES.....						
Notes.....	1,180,667	1,235,442	1,197,350	1,168,991	1,120,579	352,270
Govt. deposits.....	984,666	937,836	920,501	937,339	890,354	87,340
Other deposits.....	66,046	76,136	75,083	83,338	33,707	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion.....	5,543,904	5,543,855	5,543,801	5,538,161	3,730,625
Of which held abroad.....	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion.....	300,923	300,923	300,923	300,923	300,923
Discounts and advances.....	6,835,694	7,828,229	7,118,766	4,112,576	632,650
Advances to the State.....	43,000,000	23,000,000	24,800,000	23,800,000	7,327,775
LIABILITIES.....					
Notes.....	40,514,545	40,399,150	40,024,484	37,701,655	5,811,875
Government deposits.....	13,001	15,680	16,146	26,378	183,700
Private deposits.....	1,775,289	1,907,169	1,963,651	1,927,467	845,950

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.
(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. August, 1924.	Bank of Liv'pool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	West- minster Bank, Limited.	Willm's Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	6,259	31,934	1,438	2,841	34,447	50,957	28,258	3,975	27,462	3,907	191,478
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	1,785	6,872	626	1,053	7,851	11,934	7,249	125	8,032	1,218	46,745
Items in transit											
Money at call and short notice	3,664	21,045	2,662	6,350	14,098	14,099	14,785	3,278	22,873	2,086	104,940
Bills discounted	4,103	37,944	1,603	1,512	49,261	44,622	39,959	2,819	53,349	2,054	237,226
Investments	9,086	64,782	4,180	9,671	85,650	40,360	45,650	17,624	55,891	5,162	338,056
Advances to customers and other accounts	37,342	139,246	7,180	8,174	153,995	190,964	128,660	16,678	106,107	20,308	808,654
LIABILITIES OF CUSTOMERS FOR ACCEPTANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, &c.	3,656	8,164	31	1,658	13,994	27,757	8,420	90	10,749	1,006	75,525
Bank premises account	1,721	5,247	346	695	5,559	5,584	4,318	713	4,062	755	29,000
Investments in affiliated banks	..	7,451	..	..	6,580	5,848	2,754	..	2,992	..	25,625
	67,616	322,685	18,066	31,954	371,435	392,125	280,053	45,302	291,517	36,496	1,857,249
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	10.42	10.98	8.74	9.95	10.34	14.96	11.18	10.06	10.45	12.05	11.56
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up	2,349	15,592	800	1,060	14,373	11,975	9,479	1,500	9,052	1,875	68,055
Reserve fund	1,600	8,250	800	530	10,000	11,975	9,479	1,200	9,051	1,200	54,085
Current, deposit, and other accounts	60,010	290,678	16,435	28,540	333,068	340,418	252,675	39,485	262,652	32,415	1,656,376
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	3,657	8,165	31	1,658	13,994	27,757	8,420	90	10,750	1,006	75,528
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,027	12	..	3,033
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	166	..	..	..	..	..	..	166
	67,616	322,685	18,066	31,954	371,435	392,125	230,053	45,302	291,517	36,496	1,857,249

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1923.
Gold.....	3,453,177.242	3,151,177.976	3,181,174.765	3,050,084.956
Foreign bills.....	3,225,260.646	3,209,955.036	3,273,670.670	647,188.427
Treasury bills.....	2,219,450.056	2,230,242.911	2,230,242.911	2,536,718.937
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund.....	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011
Notes in circulation.....	8,002,142.235	7,289,900.136	7,615,569.206	5,894,786.367
Deposits.....	997,677.154	1,406,378.278	1,171,595.011	413,383.490

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1923.
Metal reserve.....	449,944.619	449,936.585	449,931.936	449,931.936
Gold coin and bullion.....	1,382,885.007	1,380,455.296	1,352,779.851	73,390.999
Drafts and notes.....	13,557.733	13,557.846	13,557.846	13,557.846
Silver coin and bullion.....	1,494,386	1,494,386	1,494,386	1,494,386
Share capital not yet paid up.....	1,438,453.800	1,339,790.288	1,305,320.058	647,188.427
Inland bills, warrants, and securities.....	1,978,130.438	1,978,130.438	1,978,130.438	1,978,130.438
Advances to the Treasury.....	449,673.986	449,673.986	449,673.986	449,673.986
LIABILITIES.				
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000).....	3,659,756.519	3,421,451.929	3,497,031.340	3,497,031.340
Notes in circulation.....	1,473,230.536	1,604,504.397	1,511,486.443	1,511,486.443
Current accounts, deposits, &c.....				

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1923.
Gold.....	72,325	72,325	72,325	63,105
Other coin and notes.....	21,115	19,668	22,345	19,429
Foreign credits.....	364,316	365,552	357,736	346,863
Bills.....	1,276,052	1,243,224	1,231,312	1,292,876
Govt. advances.....	4,564,520	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,564,523
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation.....	5,821,933	5,701,372	5,689,122	5,719,291
State credits.....	389,949	389,951	389,951	373,136
Deposits.....	355,831	420,166	385,102	510,762

NATIONAL BANK OF ROMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	July 19, 1924.	Aug. 4, 1924.	May 12, 1924.
Gold.....	560,929	560,923	560,923	545,266	545,273
Silver, &c.....	3,845	4,007	4,366	523	775
Government loan.....	11,522,520	11,520,474	11,496,530	11,877,984	12,585,130
Other advances.....	7,273,320	7,270,312	7,230,501	5,355,216	5,037,448
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	18,147,401	18,050,622	17,963,553	16,610,258	15,845,486
Deposits.....	6,763,650	6,832,749	6,859,772	6,229,479	7,077,360

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.—In drachma (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 31, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	June 14, 1924.	July 31, 1923.
Gold and balances abroad.....	2,619,281	2,745,395	2,697,667	2,807,205	1,502,554
Government loans and securities.....	3,981,259	3,985,540	3,987,189	4,000,407	4,081,623
Discounts and loans.....	1,911,775	1,894,460	1,860,731	1,806,368	1,760,250
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	4,475,186	4,522,182	4,512,260	4,577,186	4,211,113
Government deposits.....	893,927	829,919	751,011	791,657	276,326
Private deposits.....	1,938,484	1,819,504	1,878,250	1,761,614	1,469,120
fixed dates.....	1,072,401	1,070,225	1,070,916	1,066,343	997,893

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold.....	2,534,802	2,534,671	2,534,636	2,534,613	2,525,792	2,525,792
Silver.....	665,121	660,772	658,855	655,602	659,936	728,600
Loans & discounts.....	2,226,736	2,161,349	2,153,957	2,172,893	2,080,783	800,726
Spanish 4% stock.....	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,474	344,475
Treasury bills.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation.....	4,448,710	4,394,663	4,393,912	4,422,380	4,172,691	4,011,560
Deposits.....	896,974	1,013,436	896,926	898,455	1,007,082	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 13, 1924.	Aug. 6, 1924.	July 30, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1923.
Coin and bullion.....	9,572	9,575	9,551	9,554	27,066
Of which gold.....	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad.....	167,796	163,070	161,457	160,393	93,570
Discounts.....	166,431	171,091	172,856	171,281	214,753
Government loans.....	1,476,271	1,471,297	1,467,759	1,447,997	1,057,225
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	1,644,143	1,648,909	1,649,865	1,626,806	1,278,213
Deposits.....	28,217	28,527	30,493	34,840	34,932

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 13, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 20, 1924.	Aug. 24, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash.....	1,583,544	1,545,177	1,591,737	1,604,681	1,464,290	1,221,875
Inland bills.....	3,221,097	3,289,791	3,345,338	3,301,491	3,151,625	418,400
Foreign bills.....	15,626	15,628	15,635	15,635	13,148	81,300
Advances to the Treasury.....	5,633,755	5,633,860	5,633,918	5,632,841	5,813,816	nil
Other advances.....	1,582,030	1,521,657	1,767,531	1,824,076	2,154,896	79,175
Securities.....	402,916	406,762	413,215	411,940	371,570	305,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation.....	13,079,688	13,357,057	13,321,574	13,114,330	12,800,082	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts.....	2,124,223	1,831,442	1,959,989	1,821,590	1,623,170	193,975

LONDON RATES.

Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	Sept. 5, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Sept. 9, 1924.	Sept. 10, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.
Market rates of discount:							
60 days' bankers' drafts.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 months' do.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 months' do.....	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Discount (Treasury Bills).....							
3 months'.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Loans—Day to day.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposits—allowances: Banks.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
			3 Months.	4 Months.	5 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	5 Months.
1924.		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Aug.	22.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
	29.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Sept.	5.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
	12.....	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Amsterdam.....	Changed.	%	Madrid.....	Changed.	%
Jan. 24, 1924.....	.. 5		Mar. 25, 1923.....	.. 5	
Jan. 14, 1923.....	.. 7 1/2		Jan. 17, 1924.....	.. 6	
Belgrade.....	.. 6		Prague.....	May 27, 1924.....	.. 6
Sept. 15, 1923.....	.. 90		Riga.....	Feb. 16, 1924.....	.. 6
Brussels.....	.. 5 1/2		Rome.....	July 11, 1922.....	.. 5 1/2
Sept. 22, 1923.....	.. 5 1/2		Stockholm.....	Nov. 9, 1923.....	.. 5 1/2
Bucharest.....	.. 10		Swiss Bank.....	.. 10	
Budapest.....	.. 10		.. 10		
Calcutta.....	Aug. 21, 1924.....	.. 5	.. 10		
Christiania.....	Nov. 10, 1923.....	.. 7	.. 10		
Copenhagen.....	Jan. 17, 1924.....	.. 7	.. 10		
Danzig.....	Sept. 11, 1924.....	.. 10	.. 10		
Helsingfors.....	Mar. 5, 1924.....	.. 9	.. 10		
Lisbon.....	Sept. 12, 1923.....	.. 9	.. 10		
New York.....	.. 3		.. 10		
.. 3			.. 10		

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12 % loans on collateral security, gold francs, 18 %.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Sept. 14, 1923.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.
Paris.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	77.90-78.00	84.10-84.20
Berlin.....	marks to £1	T.T.	20.43	450/480 minus	184-19 bills
Vienna.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	320/325,000	314/319,000
Prague.....	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	151-151 1/2	148 1/2-149 1/2
Warsaw.....	zloty to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	..	23.25-25
Reval.....	Estons to £1	T.T.	..	..	1825-1900
Riga.....	lats to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	..	22.97-23.22
Budapest.....	lei to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	970-980	845-855
Constantinople.....	piastres to £1	T.T.	24.02	75/95,000	340/350,000
Sofia.....	leva to £1	T.T.	110	760-780	1344/348,000
Belgrade.....	dinars to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	815-825	821-830
Amsterdam.....	florin to £1	T.T.	12.107	410-430	610-620
Brussels.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	11.54-11.55	335-340
Christiania.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18.159	28-30	28-30
Stockholm.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18.159	28-30	28-30
Copenhagen.....	kroner to £1	T.T.	18.159	28-30	28-30
Helsingfors.....	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	182-190	177-184
Greece.....	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	235-245	245-250
Italy.....	lire to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	102-102 1/2	101 1/2-102
Madrid.....	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	34-35	33-34
Lisbon.....	pence to escu.	T.T.	53 1/2	24-25	24-25
Alexandria.....	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
New York.....	dollars to £1	Cable	4.85 1/2	4.54 1/2	4.54 1/2
Montreal.....	dollars to £1	Cable	4.85 1/2	4.54 1/2	4.54 1/2
Buenos Aires.....	pence to peso	T.T.	47.62 1/2	39 1/2-39 3/4	42 1/2-42 1/2
Rio de Janeiro.....	pence to milr.	T.T.	51	51	51
Valparaiso.....	pence to milr.	T.T.	13.33	35-36	41-44 1/2
Lima.....	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	..	..	45-46 1/2
Calcutta.....	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	8 1/2 prem
Bombay.....	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	8 1/2 prem
Madras.....	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	8 1/2 prem
Hong Kong.....	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	..	24-25 1/2
Shanghai.....	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	..	24-25 1/2
Singapore.....	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	..	24-25 1/2
Yokohama.....	ster. to yen	T.T.	24.58 1/2	24 1/2-25	24 1/2-25
Manila.....	ster. to peso	T.T.	24.06 1/2	24 1/2-25	24 1/2-25
Mexico.....	pence to dolr.	T.T.	..	24-25	24-25

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Sept. 13, 1923.	Aug. 14, 1924.	Aug. 21, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.
Call money.....	%	%	%	%	%	%
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.).....	5 1/2	3	3	3	3	2
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Non-members—eligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days.....	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days ..	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2

Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Copper.	
Freemantle Trading	Shipped.
Messina	141
Namaqua	263
New Guinea	120
Poderoso	300
Tanganyika	9,254
Tin.	
Anglo-Nigerian	112
Aramayo	189
Bangrin	35
Berenguela	17
Bisichi	70
Chenderiang	21
Deebok Dredging	13
Filani	64
Geevor	45
Gopeng Consolidated	13
Ida	28
Jantar	98
Jos	184
Kaduna Prospectors	143
Kaduna Syndicate	22
Kamunting	111
Kem	40
Kinta	34
Kramat Pulai	231
Lahat	103
Lower Bisichi	774
Malayan	40
Mongu	8
Monguna	9
Naraguta Ext.	8
Nigerian Cons.	65
N. Nigeria (Bauchi)	7
North Ropp	200
Pahang Consolidated	52
Parl	42
Pengkalan	4
Premier Hydraulic	534
Pusing	164
Rahman Hydraulic	44
Rambutan	394
Rayfield	114
Renong	4
Ropp	96
Rukuba	56
Siam	323
South Croft	48
Southern Perak	48
Sungei Besi	40
Sungei Bunt	30
Tavoy	48
Tekka	8
Tekka-Taijing	48
Tin Fields of N. Nigeria	48
Tongkah Harb. ur	504
Tronoh	3
Yarde Kern	
Coal.	
Chinese Engineering	87,782
Clydesdale	22,607
Dundee	48,321
East Kent	4,312
Natal Navigation	45,105
Northern Natal Navigation	25,400
South African Coal	64,140
Twofontein United	65,248
Vereeniging	156,362
Vryheid (Natal)	32,721
Wankie	31,990
Miscellaneous.	
Burma Ruby	..
Crown Diamond	..
Keeley Silver	..
New Vaal River	..
Rhodesia Broken Hill	612
Transvaal Silver	..

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended Sept. 6th, 19,950 tons of crude oil and 10,071 tons of de-leaded slimes residues were treated and produced 3,290 tons of lead concentrates, assaying 61 per cent. lead and 20 ozs silver per ton, also 5,252 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 44 per cent. zinc.

BURMA CORPORATION.—During August 21,549 tons of ore were mined; 21,100 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 10,502 tons of lead concentrates, 10,519 tons of lead-bearing material were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 4,251 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery; refinery products were 4,240 tons lead and 449,000 ozs silver. Of silver production, 500 ozs were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Experimental zinc plant produced 1,515 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 10.6 ozs silver, 7.8 per cent. lead, and 45.5 per cent. zinc. In addition to above, 300 tons of copper matte were produced from the treatment of 1,353 tons copper ore and accumulated smelter by-products.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC.—Production during four-weekly period ended Aug. 20th, 3,560 tons zinc product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation, containing 550 tons lead, 58,000 ozs silver. The above production includes 115 tons of zinc used at company's works at Risdon.

NEW GUINEA COPPER.—Cable:—From Aug. 19th to Sept. 1st smelted 1,730 tons ore, producing 424 tons matte, containing 68 tons copper and 110 ozs gold. Figures for August, 3,006 tons ore, producing 750 tons matte, containing 120 tons copper and 194 ozs gold. Stoppages during month, seven days.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—August: 36,810 tons of crude ore were treated, producing 6,640 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63.6 per cent. lead, 29 ozs silver per ton, and 7.1 per cent. zinc; also 5,955 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47.8 per cent. zinc, 6.8 per cent. lead, and 8 ozs silver per ton.

SAN FRANCISCO.—August:—Ore treated, 14,047 tons; lead concentrates produced, 2,184 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 2,405 tons; estimated net smelter return on lead, \$136,875 (U.S. Currency); on zinc, \$57,372; total, \$194,247; operating expenses, \$83,340; estimated operating profit, \$110,907; capital expenditure, \$25,557.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER.—During August 3,688 tons of ore were produced; 2,931 tons, with approximately 800 tons of quartz flux added, were smelted, producing 433 tons copper matte, assaying 30 per cent.

THE SULPHUR CORPORATION.—During the four weeks ended Aug. 23, 1924, 2,726 tons of function ore and 1,130 tons of slimes were milled at the Central Mine, producing 612 tons of lead concentrates (including 50 tons from de-leading plant), which assayed 39 ozs silver, 56 per cent. lead, together with 696 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 12 ozs silver, 9 per cent. lead, and 46 per cent. zinc per ton, and 80 tons of special slimes, assaying 19 ozs silver, 17 per cent. lead, and 17 per cent. zinc per ton.

ZINC CORPORATION.—August:—Lead concentrator treated 18,439 tons of ore, producing 3,907 tons of lead concentrates and 1,876 tons of zinc concentrates. Estimated gross profit with lead at \$24 per ton, \$14,508. Increase (or decrease) for each \$1 fluctuation in price of lead, \$2,497.

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

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Lat/ni Pre-vious.
Railways.						
Ile of Man	5 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Banks.						
Central of India	10 %	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Chartered of India	14 %	Sept. 17	..	Tax free	..	..
East India	4 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Imperial Bank	8 %	Sept. 19	..	Less tax	..	..
Mining.						
Deebok Dredging	1/2 p.s.	Sept. 22	..	Less tax	..	..
Johannesburg Cons.	1/2 p.s.	Oct. 7	..	Tax free	..	..
Lahat Mines	2 1/2 %	..	..	Tax free	..	..
North's Navigation	5 %	Oct. 7	..	Less tax	..	..
Pari Tin	5 %	Oct. 7	..	Less tax	..	..
Do (to June 30, 1925)	5 %	Oct. 7	..	Less tax	..	..
South African Real Estate	2 1/2 %	Nov. 3	..	..	..	..
Sungei Besi	1/2 p.s.	Sept. 29	..	Less tax	..	..
Tronoh	1/2 p.s.	Sept. 30	..	Less tax	..	..
Do (for 1924)	1 %	Sept. 30	..	Less tax	..	..
Utah Copper	1 %	..	..	Quarterly	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Bukit Selangor	10 %	Sept. 25	..	Tax free	2 1/2	2 1/2
Caledonian Tea	10 %	Oct. 2	..	Less tax	3 1/2	3 1/2
Chembong Malay	7 1/2 %	Sept. 30	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	15	10
General Ceylon	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	4	10
Kalijerrek Rubber	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	4	10
Padang Jawa	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	4	10
Seaport (Selangor) Rubber	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	4	10
Tail Ayer Rubber	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	4	10
Other Companies.						
Achille Serré	10 %	Sept. 30	..	Less tax	..	..
American Cyanamid	8 1/2 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..
American Invest. and Gen. Def.	10 %	Oct. 15	..	Less tax 2/4-7 in £	10	10
Apex (Ivinidad) Oilfields	7 1/2 %	Oct. 15	..	Less tax	10	10
Argentine Land and Investment	1 1/2 %	Oct. 15	..	..	..	..
Asbestos Corp. of Canada, Prof.	1 1/2 %	Oct. 15	..	..	..	..
Bath and Portland Stone	1 1/2 %	Oct. 15	..	..	..	..
Boots' Pure Drug	5 %	Oct. 1	..	Quarterly	..	..
British Aluminium	5 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
British Borneo Petroleum	5 %	Sept. 25	..	Less tax	..	..
British Gas Light	4 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Burt, Boulton, and Haywood	4 1/2 %	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Butterley Co.	4 p.s.	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Calico Printers	2 1/2 %	Oct. 4	..	Less tax	10	12 1/2
Cammell, Laird	2 1/2 %	Sept. 10	..	Less tax	..	..
Clarke Chapman	5 %	..	..	..	..	..
Cramphorn	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Crosswells Cardiff Brewery	7 1/2 %	Sept. 30	..	Less tax	12 1/2	12 1/2
Cuban-American Sugar	1 1/2 %	Oct. 1	..	Quarterly	..	..
C. Whittaker	1 1/2 %	Oct. 1	..	..	..	..
Dominion Glass	5 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..
Facit Spinning	1/2 p.s.	Sept. 26	..	..	..	..
Ferado	5 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..
Foreign, American, and General	4 %	Sept. 26	..	..	..	..
General & Com. Invest., Def.	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Harrisons and Crosfield, Cum.	1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Hickleton Main Colliery	1/2 p.s.	Sept. 30	..	Less tax 4/3 in £	..	..
Illingworth, Morris	5/2 p.s.	Sept. 10	..	Tax free	..	..
Irrawaddy Flotilla	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
J. Brockhouse and Co.	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Leyland & Birmingham Rubber	2 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 1	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	10	10
Liebig's Extract of Meat	5 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
London United Laundries	8 1/2 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	11 1/2	10
Mackay Co.	2 %	Oct. 1	..	..	..	..
Manila Electric Corporation	2 %	Oct. 1	..	Quarterly	..	..
Martinez Gassiot	3 %	Oct. 2	..	Less tax	20	15
Millars' Timber, Pref.	5 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax (arrears)	..	..
Natal Land and Colonisation	10 %	Sept. 29	..	Less tax	..	..
New Tamarugal Nitrate	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nobel Industries	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Shipping	..	..	..	Tax free	5	7
Nottingham Manufacturing	..	..	..	Tax free	5	..
Oxford Electric	3 1/2 %	Sept. 15	..	Less tax	7 1/2	..
Pontpool Gas and Water "A"	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Do "B," "C," and "D"	5 %	Sept. 11	..	Tax free	..	..
Pritchett and Gold	5 %	..	..	..	..	..
Rawlings Bros.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Samuel Webster and Sons	5 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	5	..
Shrewsbury & Wem Brewery, Pl. 10/	10/ p.s.	Oct. 1	..	Less tax (arrears)	..	..
Stewarts and Lloyds, Pref.	10 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..
Southend Waterworks (10 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Max	4 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Do (7 1/2 % Max.)	3 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Do (5 % Max.)	2 %	Oct. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Tarapaca Waterworks	4 %	Oct. 6	..	Less tax	..	..
T. Lyons and Co.	7 %	..	..	..	..	..
Tunncliffe and Hampson	2 1/2 %	..	..	Tax free	..	..
United Indigo and Chemical	5/2 p.s.	Sept. 19	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	15	15
Western Telegraph	5 %	Sept. 29	..	Less tax	..	..
Woolley Sanders	5 %	Sept. 16	..	Less tax	10	10

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH BURMA PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.—A cablegram has been received from Burma reporting that the production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of August amounted to 59,379 barrels.

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED.—The total production during August amounted to 144,169 barrels, or approximately 20,596 tons, including St. Helen's Petroleum Company, Limited, 39,306 barrels (5,187 approx. tons); Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, 26,418 barrels (3,774 approx. tons); Kern Romana, S.A., 30,808 barrels (4,401 approx. tons); Kern Mex Oilfields, Limited, 2,471 barrels (353 approx. tons).

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.—The London financial agents of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, Limited, are advised that the production for the week ended August 30, 1924, was 99,000 barrels. About 9,200 barrels daily were shut in owing to congested storage.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for week ending Wednesday, September 3, 1924, amounted to 864 tons.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Sept. 5, 1924.	(c) Week ended Sept. 6, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 36 Weeks, 1924.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	357,000	341,000	638,000	9,784,000	120,310,000	21,815,000	..	..
Do for 1923	3,747	324,000	338,000	662,000	9,773,000	120,310,000	22,406,000	..	..
London & North-Eastern	6,722	551,000	655,000	1,206,000	16,353,000	243,130,000	40,666,000	..	..
Do same period 1923	6,702	532,000	671,000	1,203,000	16,359,000	241,720,000	42,531,000	..	..
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,941	761,000	845,000	1,606,000	23,435,000	323,200,000	55,755,000	..	..
Do for 1923	6,941	761,000	845,000	1,606,000	23,435,000	323,200,000	55,755,000	..	..
Southern	2,146	417,700	104,400	522,100	12,235,700	149,590,000	16,295,000	..	..
Do for 1923	2,146	417,700	104,400	522,100	12,235,700	149,590,000	16,295,000	..	..
Metropolitan (c)	794	44,303	4,445	48,748	1,381,925	13,688,000	1,521,613	..	..
Do for 1923	794	44,303	4,445	48,748	1,381,925	13,688,000	1,521,613	..	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	31,463	3,767	35,230	1,143,921	13,871,000	1,278,792	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,495,694	..	..
London & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,122,362	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,453,670	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b)	80	5,693	1,258	6,951	172,729	44,536	217,265	..	..
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	9,812	3,742	13,554	229,595	126,123	355,718	..	..
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b)	563	25,900	21,700	47,600	700,150	725,600	1,425,750	..	..
Gt. Sth. & Western (b)	1,151	32,946	29,870	62,816	871,346	1,100,824	1,972,170	..	..
Midland & Gt. West. (b)	538	11,909	17,108	29,017	538,361	509,201	847,562	..	..

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Ra.	Rs.	Ra.
Assam Bengal	19 weeks	Aug. 9	1,072	2,95,000	+ 69,859	48,87,871	+ 7,41,019
Barak L. Ry.	20 weeks	..	118	22,800	+ 7,700	9,36,400	+ 62,800
Bengal & N. Western	16 weeks	..	2,062	5,80,910	+ 1,23,072	1,31,92,050	+ 2,47,606
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	20 weeks	..	2,800	13,56,000	+ 1,61,000	3,07,00,660	+ 6,21,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	23 weeks	Sept. 6	2,800	19,47,000	+ 2,04,000	5,21,34,000	+ 50,10,000
Burma, B., & C.I.	19 weeks	Aug. 9	1,342	8,81,172	+ 32,376	1,32,39,185	+ 4,62,624
Delhi, Umballa & Kalke	23 weeks	Sept. 6	239	33,000	+ 27,872	2,35,551	+ 1,25,711
East Indian	23 weeks	..	6,2873	32,33,000	+ 8,03,000	1,64,98,000	+ 63,29,000
G. Indian Peninsula	20 weeks	..	20,000	20,000	+ 2,58,200	1,40,38,855	+ 17,75,939
Madras & S. Mahr.	21 weeks	Aug. 30	31,523	38,462	- 38,462	1,66,20,270	+ 23,48,778
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	20 weeks	..	9,259	46,979	+ 7,210	12,12,114	+ 1,42,738
South Indian	20 weeks	..	9,314	60,356	+ 8,522	14,31,943	+ 1,34,538
South Indian	16 weeks	July 19	1,877	8,64,323	- 69,050	1,64,87,934	+ 3,47,949

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Gas.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
British Gas Light	June 30	52,715	50,911	103,626	7,000	49,697	7½	46,929	48,184	11
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
John Spencer and Sons	June 30	Dr27,627	Dr63,341	Dr90,968	..	..	..	Dr90,968	Dr55,048	..
Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills	June 30	Dr13,509	Dr12,912	Dr26,421	..	..	..	Dr26,421	Dr18,476	..
Rubber, &c.										
Caledonian (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber	June 30	912	14,993	15,905	1,920	7,000	20	5,000	1,985	16,253
Kalidjereok	Mar. 31	5,844	11,219	17,063	..	10,875	15	6,188	7,223	10
Padang Jawa	Mar. 31	11,404	3,714	15,118	..	5,469	7½	4,649	4,969	10
Tali Ayer	April 30	17,288	10,751	28,039	..	12,000	4	16,039	10,623	7½
Textiles.										
Calico Printers' Association	June 30	235,433	540,786	776,219	150,805	201,074	10	205,725	218,615	12½
Illingworth, Morris, and Co.	May 31	45,175	32,393	77,568	27,402	..	..	28,932	21,234	10
Waterworks.										
East Kent District	June 30	2,128	2,736	4,864	487	1,671	3	2,706	..	..
South Kent Water	June 30	1,936	2,213	4,149	766	1,019	2½	2,364	1,939	2½
Other Companies.										
Burt, Boulton, and Haywood	June 30	10,162	72,928	83,090	1,500	34,350	8½	30,000	17,240	..
Nobel Industries	Dec. 31	509,018	1,032,489	1,541,507	297,902	493,474	8	100,000	650,131	7
United Indigo and Chemical	June 30	9,969	36,918	46,887	22,500	13,125	15	11,262	38,663	15

(b) British Gas Light.—This dividend was paid on a larger capital. Last year's dividend of 11 per cent. absorbed £47,452.
* Half-year.

guarantee the plus values against eventual diminution in consumption.

(a) (b) (d) (e). In addition to these amounts, import duties equivalent to £99 in the case of (a), to £6,197 in the case of (b), to £11,737 in the case of (d), and to £36,098 in the case of (e), were paid in gold at the Piræus Customs.

RUBBER.

CALEDONIAN (CEYLON) TEA AND RUBBER.—The net profit for the year ended June 30, 1924, amounts to £14,993, against £16,253 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is 20 per cent., against nothing for preceding year. The sum of £1,985 is carried forward. The tea crop amounted to 589,555 lbs., against 510,562 lbs. in 1922-23. The rubber crop was 145,455 lbs., against 178,681 lbs. The net prices realised for produce actually sold was 15.26d per lb for tea, against 13.76d per lb in preceding year. Rubber 11.92d per lb, against 10.72d per lb. Cost of production was: tea, 8.18d per lb, against 8.35d per lb, and rubber 7.23d per lb, against 6.16d per lb.

TALI AYER RUBBER.—The net profit for year ended April 30, 1924, amounts to £10,751, against £10,623 in preceding year. The dividend on the ordinary shares is 4 per cent., against 7½ per cent. in preceding year. The sum of £16,039 is carried forward, against £17,289 brought in. The crop harvested amounted to £679,496 lbs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN, AND CO., LIMITED.—The directors have decided to make two calls of 4s each on shareholders registered in the company's books on August 27, 1924, in respect of the ordinary £1 shares with 12s paid on each. The first call is payable on September 29, 1924, and the second on December 29, 1924. All transfers must be accompanied by call letter and shall be fully paid.

BRITISH GAS LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED.—The net profit during the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £50,911, compared with £48,184 for the preceding period. A final dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. is recommended, making 7½ per cent. for the year on the ordinary stock. This dividend absorbed £49,697. The dividend of 11 per cent. paid in preceding year absorbed £47,452, being paid on a smaller capital. After paying the dividend the balance to be carried forward is £46,929, against £52,715 brought in.

BURT, BOULTON, AND HAYWOOD, LIMITED.—The report just issued, for period ended June 30, 1924, points out that for the first time in the history of the company, and in accordance with the new articles of association, the directors present to the shareholders an annual report and balance-sheet instead of a half-yearly one as heretofore, also for the first time a profit and loss account is issued to the shareholders. Since the last report the share capital of the company has been increased by the issue of 92,000 ordinary shares, and there has also been an issue of £300,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock to take the place of the bank loan appearing in the balance-sheet. Most branches of the company's business show satisfactory results, although, as was expected, the fall in prices, strikes, and a restricted demand have acted adversely on the deals trade. Net profits earned during the year, after writing off £20,000 to depreciation, amount to £72,928. The dividend is 8 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year. The sum of £30,000 is carried to reserve, and £17,241 is carried forward.

ILLINGWORTH, MORRIS, AND CO., LIMITED.—The net profit of this well-known undertaking for year ended May 31, 1924, amounts to £32,393, against £27,402 for preceding year. There is no dividend for ordinary shareholders, who received 10 per cent. in the preceding year. The directors are placing £28,932 to a special reserve, against the net debit balances of subsidiary companies

which have not made profits this year. The sum of £21,234 is carried forward, against £45,175 brought in to the accounts.

NIGER COMPANY, LIMITED.—The forty-fourth ordinary general meeting of this company will be held at Cannon street Hotel, Cannon street, London, E.C. 4, on Friday, September 19, 1924, at noon, for the general business of the company. The meeting is convened in compliance with the articles of association, but, owing to the alteration of the company's financial year, the directors' report and accounts will not be ready for submission to the shareholders on the above-mentioned day. After other business has been disposed of, the chairman will, therefore, move that the meeting be adjourned until a day to be fixed by the directors.

SHEFFIELD FORGE AND ROLLING MILLS, LIMITED.—Report for year ended June 30, 1924, shows a debit balance on working of £12,912, which compares with a debit balance of £18,475 in preceding year. The debit balance carried forward is £26,421. Some interesting particulars are given in the report concerning conditions during the year. The adverse results are attributed to high cost of production. Output has been low, and prices most unremunerative. Economies have been effected during the year. Plant has been maintained in a high state of efficiency, and when trade again becomes normal, will be ready to meet all demands made upon it.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	July, 1924.			August, 1924.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	13,500	14,810	2,002	13,500	14,485	2,013
Brakpan	75,700	133,072	53,964	74,800	128,365	49,406
City Deep	103,000	185,468	71,379	100,000	175,722	55,901
Consolidated Main Reef	54,000	72,728	10,001	57,500	74,191	10,395
Crown Mines (10s shares)	219,000	297,204	90,351	222,000	295,689	89,587
Durban Road Deep	14,500	46,240	1,638	36,000	43,974	709
East Rand Proprietary	133,000	148,288	16,012	134,500	146,820	15,442
Ferreira Deep	34,300	38,286	5,005	35,000	38,454	6,132
Geduld Proprietary	71,000	113,741	48,856	71,000	111,146	46,120
Golden Deep	68,200	70,275	4,213	67,000	67,028	2,688
Glyn's Lydenburg	4,930	6,920	1,493	4,150	7,309	960
Government Areas	165,000	338,120	206,389	161,700	327,073	196,909
Kleinfontein, New	51,000	58,084	7,500	52,300	55,259	4,560
Langlaagte Estate	103,000	128,733	29,342	97,600	118,319	24,021
Leopards Vlei	21,740	21,557	261	21,034	21,037	593
Meyer and Charlton	14,800	33,806	16,601	15,100	34,513	18,061
Modderfontein B.	68,000	135,024	51,566	67,500	121,688	59,536
Modderfontein Deep Levels	45,200	110,356	74,329	44,000	104,313	69,250
Modderfontein East	31,300	47,416	6,113	31,000	41,392	3,024
Modderfontein, New (24 sha.)	124,000	252,310	145,198	124,000	252,889	145,156
New State Areas	70,000	114,378	40,008	65,000	108,627	37,533
Nourine Mines	46,000	59,015	3,967	51,000	62,175	4,618
Primrose, New	22,000	21,363	2,739	22,200	20,364	2,517
Randfontein Estates	211,000	282,238	60,015	204,000	234,554	52,642
Robinson (25 shares)	10,100	10,621	2,734	9,500	10,080	2,387
Robinson Deep	59,000	111,894	45,548	75,000	109,562	44,856
Rose Deep	59,000	65,350	16,601	59,000	62,596	14,320
Simmer and Jack	73,000	73,409	14,021	75,200	72,555	14,154
Spring Mines	67,300	137,913	67,702	64,600	129,856	62,669
Sub-Nigel	10,000	27,846	7,794	10,800	27,398	7,233
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	16,500	27,402	4,370	16,600	27,294	5,474
Van Ryn	38,000	47,207	12,015	38,100	46,206	12,024
Van Ryn Deep	68,400	143,676	80,060	66,300	136,597	72,548
Village Deep	56,800	79,272	13,003	56,500	76,890	16,118
West Rand Consolidated	38,600	43,020	4,015	38,300	42,468	4,023
West Springs	37,700	64,670	28,421	38,800	63,632	25,999
Witwatersrand Deep	43,150	64,937	11,852	41,800	51,011	11,497
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	50,000	52,422	8,201	52,000	51,291	7,594
Wolfontein	32,000	35,226	3,231	32,300	34,889	3,027

a £4 13s 3d per fine oz. b £4 10s 9d net per fine oz.
c £4 11s per fine oz. d £4 8s 6d net per fine oz.

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended Aug. 31.		Eight Months Ended Aug. 31.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	10,021,931	11,769,834	64,133,718	70,807,218
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	551,563	631,429	3,875,850	4,872,509
C. Meat	9,385,714	9,291,722	77,220,911	71,993,838
D. Animals, living, for food	922,319	2,172,506	6,007,528	13,594,118
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	12,731,234	13,364,356	99,069,260	106,918,197
F. " " dutiable	9,522,491	9,001,696	73,793,118	80,464,373
G. Tobacco	612,470	707,531	9,645,001	9,213,809
Total, Class I.	43,747,722	46,942,053	333,679,766	357,370,062
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,209	1,157	7,556	10,517
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	488,393	523,997	3,811,964	3,994,576
C. Iron ore and scrap	483,789	788,542	5,435,685	6,318,765
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,195,066	1,565,944	8,376,020	10,326,382
E. Wood and timber	5,813,710	6,475,639	27,844,114	30,211,445
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	3,524,158	5,449,696	43,277,788	69,450,983
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	2,303,403	3,407,040	38,766,625	54,309,589
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	96,923	230,357	920,223	1,129,251
I. Other textile materials	570,546	699,814	7,097,101	8,437,610
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	3,696,359	4,709,106	30,906,650	34,306,204
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,530,347	2,051,299	10,920,236	14,189,490
L. Paper-making materials	983,512	1,147,911	7,055,947	7,107,995
M. Rubber	691,668	765,927	6,691,619	6,157,872
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	957,180	852,104	6,499,472	6,420,968
Total, Class II.	22,338,263	28,578,533	198,481,000	252,364,447
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	2,676	129	10,846	4,544
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	655,664	712,249	4,782,360	5,535,610
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,175,628	1,630,502	9,041,886	14,596,159
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	2,064,122	3,642,886	16,135,583	22,093,512
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	477,966	760,711	4,521,126	4,825,340
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	168,130	243,539	1,422,880	1,839,165
G. Machinery	745,139	838,852	6,208,123	6,952,626
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	367,098	442,758	3,012,801	3,371,029
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	725,640	760,395	5,737,624	5,919,796
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	976,230	1,123,308	7,567,740	9,878,311
K. Silk and silk manufactures	2,005,478	2,076,639	14,282,348	16,542,557
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,842,468	1,288,688	9,106,188	10,633,062
M. Apparel	1,446,350	1,562,057	10,971,154	12,085,270
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,315,825	1,270,992	8,914,761	9,565,681
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	3,580,244	3,905,944	24,852,122	27,198,958
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	934,716	1,071,962	7,798,481	8,365,169
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,134,388	1,259,922	8,285,825	9,007,261
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	405,340	1,046,337	5,224,947	6,034,016
S. Rubber manufactures	476,628	408,004	3,619,398	3,026,036
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,074,497	2,110,144	17,071,726	16,379,752
Total, Class III.	21,774,217	26,156,986	168,567,919	194,421,924
IV.—Animals, not for food	139,569	279,245	799,803	1,438,101
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles	421,210	240,675	2,481,152	2,761,949
Total	88,420,981	102,196,492	704,009,840	808,556,483

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended August 31.		Eight Months Ended August 31.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	£46,957	579,848	2,688,662	4,428,740
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	87,631	188,934	1,095,083	1,919,076
C. Meat	76,022	107,378	793,291	983,382
D. Animals living, for food	18,745	18,948	93,376	181,963
E. and F. Other food and drink	2,331,317	3,001,499	17,507,655	22,331,168
G. Tobacco	567,743	473,768	4,263,951	4,477,325
Total, Class I.	3,428,415	4,370,375	26,448,018	34,331,654
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	8,314,710	5,732,629	67,571,441	50,099,242
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	198,329	177,238	1,218,222	1,413,856
C. Iron ore and scrap	31,094	28,259	354,212	318,457
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	145,510	89,647	1,585,491	839,733
E. Wood and timber	51,149	63,581	296,144	434,563
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	122,458	101,821	1,162,155	1,190,134
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	696,378	825,622	6,720,719	7,391,830
H. Silk, raw, knubs and nolls	3,010	3,781	74,869	90,046
I. Other textile materials	43,876	24,708	395,300	425,181
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	275,967	416,057	3,705,659	2,875,133
K. Hides and skins, undressed	157,252	119,030	1,720,727	1,707,042
L. Paper-making materials	84,167	133,018	1,007,017	1,203,891
M. Rubber	6,219	10,004	87,183	78,246
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	103,444	98,527	2,895,662	2,608,137
Total, Class II.	10,223,573	7,823,922	89,765,811	71,935,391
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,155,256	540,796	5,880,597	4,261,277
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	998,070	1,081,181	7,675,521	8,500,417
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,917,588	5,834,496	48,786,569	51,555,210
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	986,707	1,242,845	9,441,438	10,611,512
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	504,861	710,718	4,587,581	5,640,490
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	623,553	811,216	5,367,272	6,399,454
G. Machinery	3,227,821	3,464,379	30,220,198	28,950,159
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	161,032	168,885	1,089,592	1,411,387
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	14,783,927	16,890,344	118,597,049	133,398,386
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	5,859,222	6,376,505	42,197,836	46,101,774
K. Silk and silk manufactures	174,240	214,370	1,230,668	1,489,665
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,827,388	2,091,580	15,513,198	17,718,269
M. Apparel	3,355,713	2,868,135	16,488,700	19,436,485
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,644,934	2,015,404	16,501,258	17,212,174
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured	549,651	621,293	4,518,384	5,945,478
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	393,717	487,183	3,652,644	4,954,915
Q. Paper and cardboard	539,802	766,819	5,332,215	5,993,840
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,200,008	3,793,765	20,531,920	17,888,303
S. Rubber manufactures	371,880	520,187	3,494,325	4,021,368
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,160,413	2,634,417	18,959,058	20,757,566
Total, Class III.	45,445,362	53,134,632	379,286,123	411,622,119
IV.—Animals, not for food	124,394	205,765	737,801	1,421,876
V.—Parcel Post	881,616	753,610	6,508,484	6,726,345
Total	60,103,360	66,286,294	502,286,237	526,036,385

free on rail. Millers' offers firmer. Broad bran quoted at 6s, middlings 9s 9d, fine ditto 11s 3d, bags included, ex mill; light oats 6s 9d, powdered oat husks 8s 9d, feed oatmeal 11s 3d, ground oats 14s 3d per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal firm, with a good spot demand. London made, flaked 19s 6d, rolled oats 19s, medium and fine cuts 19s, coarse and medium pinhead 19s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 19s 6d per cwt.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 11th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is still no change to report in the pig-iron trade, which is very quiet. No. 3 G.M.B. is quoted at 82s 6d per ton f.o.b. or f.o.t. makers' works. The hematite trade is still extremely quiet, and makers are having great difficulty in finding an outlet for their products. Mixed numbers East Coast hematite is quoted at 91s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Conditions are extremely quiet, and the same competition takes place for what few orders are put out. Prices remain unchanged, as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Sellers of best Rubio are still quoting 22s 6d c.i.f. Tees, but this price is a nominal one, and for actual business would no doubt be shaded.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The acute depression in open-hearth steel has not lifted in the slightest degree during the present week, and the position could be described without exaggeration as a state of collapse, as buying has been at a standstill for a long period. Three-fourths of the furnaces are still idle, in consequence of the strike, yet no scarcity of billets and other semi-steel has resulted, and the makers not affected by the dispute are working at greatly reduced capacity. The market has, in fact, gone to pieces, and there is no explanation of the situation. Foreign competition is rather less than more severe than in the past. No substantial quantities of foreign steel are coming to this district. The pig-iron market is also depressed, but there are signs of a coming improvement. The high-grade steels are selling more freely, and large quantities are going into the manufacture of tools. A movement towards revived activity in the lighter and finished branches of the steel trade, which set in soon after Easter, continues to spread, and some firms cannot obtain enough skilled labour. The expensive tool steels are selling more freely than at any time since the war. Brisk business is being done in steel castings, files, building goods, cold rolled strip and steel sheets. The demand for motor and railway steel is considerable, but below the capacity of the works to supply. The output of cutlery is large, but mainly of the cheaper grades, and orders for sterling silver have fallen to a very low ebb. Conditions in the coal market continue depressed, very little demand existing from the Continent. The cheaper grades are almost a drug, and prices keep dropping. Best qualities of house coal are scarce and dear. Best Yorkshire hards command 20s to 21s per ton at pits. Prices of slacks and nuts are irregular and tending downward.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The pig-iron market is undoubtedly passing through a period of deep depression, and whatever be the cause, there is little or no encouragement at present to cherish hopes of an early revival. The improved political situation abroad has not yet had the expected stimulating effect on trade. No doubt the benefits will come in due time, but so far as regards the iron and steel industry there has been little improvement in sentiment discernible. Meanwhile, orders of the day-to-day variety are enabling makers to keep going, and in a few branches there is quite a fair trade being done. Bar-iron makers, for instance, are better off for work than for some time, and the demand in the light sheet trade is not appreciably slackening, orders from Japan and India being more in evidence and for galvanised sheets delivery of even small lots is difficult to obtain earlier than November. The heavy steel makers are working considerably below capacity, specifications being very scarce. Clyde shipyards have nearly double the amount of work on hand that they had this time last year, and as engineers and structural concerns are well supplied with orders there is likely to be a fair run of orders for the iron and steel works. An awakening of the export demand is required, however, to brighten the prospect. Ship plates remain nominally at £10 5s per ton for local delivery, and for export as low as £9 5s has been quoted. The market for scrap is very weak, and values are declining. For bundled scrap buyers are offering 75s, but sellers are inclined to hold out for at least 80s. The shipments of pig-iron from Glasgow Harbour for the week ending September 16th totalled 1,011 tons, of which 611 tons were on foreign account. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 814 and 722 tons respectively.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement this week in the position on the Cardiff coal market. So far as any new tendency has been observed, it has been towards still easier conditions, for quotations for spot deliveries have been lower, particularly for small coals. The financial position of the collieries in July was better than it was in June, but it remained so unsatisfactory as to yield the collieries no profit. In June there was a loss of £241,198 on the whole of the coalfield, representing a deficit per ton on the output of practically 1s 5d, while for July the official figures show that the proceeds of the industry, amounting to £4,164,789, were £72 less than the amount paid out in wages and absorbed by other costs. The owners, therefore, were unable to retain a penny of their standard profits, and the total deficiency carried forward into the August audit amounts to as much as £1,682,806. So disheartened are the colliery owners by

these results, and the workmen by irregularity of their employment under the increased minimum wage, that the two sides are apparently indifferent as to the fate of the proposed new wages agreement. This agreement ought to have become operative last May, simultaneously with the national agreement, but various causes have delayed its conclusion, and a week ago the miners' representatives refused to sign on account of differences on the question of the procedure to be adopted with a view to the removal of the anomalies in the wage rates of certain classes of day workmen created by the raising of the minimum from 28 per cent. to 42.22 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates. The miners are to consider what action they will take in regard to this particular matter at a meeting to be held next week.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 28s to 28s 6d; second Admiralties, 26s 6d to 27s; best drys, 26s to 26s 6d; black veins, 25s 6d to 26s; Western Valleys, 25s to 25s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s 6d; best bunker smalls, 15s 6d to 16s; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s to 14s 6d; coking smalls, 15s 6d to 16s 6d; anthracite big vein large, 52s 6d to 55s; machine-made cobbles, 60s to 62s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; stove nuts, 55s to 57s 6d; rubble culm, 12s 6d to 13s; coke for export, 50s to 52s 6d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s to 29s; pitwood ex ship, 29s to 29s 6d. In the tinplate trade the minimum prices have been raised from 23s to 23s 6d per basis I.C. box, f.o.b., and tinplate bars by 3s. 6d. to £8 12s 6d f.o.b., less the usual rebate of 7s 6d per ton to the manufacturers who are parties to the stabilisation agreement. The works are fully employed, and the export trade active.

METALS.

Tin easier at commencement, due to lower advices from the East and America, combined with selling pressure, though later some irregularity was noticeable, and values improved. Standard cash sold at £250 15s to £252 15s to £252 5s, and three months £256 10s to £254 10s to £251 to £254 10s to £253 12s 6d. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £256 15s c.i.f. At Thursday's session, rates, after opening easier, improved on buyers becoming more prominent, though sales were on a fairly good scale. Standard cash sold at £251 15s to £252 10s to £252 5s, and three months £253 to £251 10s to £254. Closing business ruled in buyers' favour, standard cash being dealt in at £250 10s, and three months £253 to £251 to £251 5s. English ingots £250 10s. Copper in good demand, but prices fluctuated slightly, while generally moving in buyers' favour. Standard cash sold at £63 1s 3d, though chief interest was shown in three months' at £64 2s 6d, while finally at £64 8s 9d to £64 to £64 3s 9d to £64 to £64 2s 6d, while finally at £64. Values opened firmer, but top points were not maintained on Thursday. Standard cash sold at £63 7s 6d to £63 2s 6d, and three months £64 5s to £64 7s 6d to £64 2s 6d.

Trade with Mexico

MEXICO is potentially one of the richest countries in the world. In development of its trade lies your opportunity.

The National Railways of Mexico are the prime movers—in both senses of the word—in the re-opening of European Trade with Mexico.

Their system spreads a vast network of trade arteries from the Gulf of Mexico clear across to the Pacific, and from the United States border takes a southward sweep, feeding the Capital and all the interior.

Mexico can absorb supplies and pay for them.

The time is ripe for enquiry. You will receive reliable, well-informed guidance upon request.

Dictate a line to

E. J. BRAY,
General European Agent,

NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF MEXICO
(Government Administration).

Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

Copper steady at final market, with active trading. Standard cash sold at £63 7s 6d to £63 6s 3d, and three months £64 5s to £64 7s 6d to £64 2s 6d. Electros £67 15s to £68, strong sheets £64, wire bars £68, best selected £66 15s to £68. Lead firmer, and quoted at £33 5s to £32 10s, as to position. Spelter firmer at £33 6s 3d to £33, according to position. Aluminium, home £125, export £130. Antimony, English £49 10s to £52.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 5, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.
American	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	
Brazilian	Mid	M	F	G	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	
Perman, Macoto, &c.	1441	1591	1691	...	...	...	1512	1562	...	1094	1244	
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1441	1591	1691	...	...	...	1512	1562	...	1094	1244	
Cocao, &c.	1441	1591	1691	...	...	...	1512	1562	...	1094	1244	
Sho Paulo	1466	1516	1566	...	...	...	1487	1537	...	1144	1224	
Egyptian	Fr.	G	M	F	G	M	Fr.	G	M	F	G	
Upper	1725	1975	2030	2080	2140	1600	1660	1700	1300	1375	1500	
Sakellaris	2055	2440	2490	2535	2700	1617	1685	1825	1450	1675	1975	
Brown	1765	2015	2070	2120	2180	1600	1660	1725	1300	1425	1625	
Peruvian	M	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	
Rough	2200	2300	2350	...	...	...	1450	1600	...	1300	1425	
Moderately Rough	1750	1850	1850	...	...	...	1562	1612	...	1225	1375	
Smooth	1691	1666	1741	1791	1816	1537	1587	1687	1225	1375	1525	
Tangul	1691	1641	1631	1741	1866	...	1550	1650	...	1150	1450	
Madras	1950	2100	2200	2300	...	...	1900	2200	...	2300	2900	
West Indian, &c.	2400	2550	2750	2900	...	...	1125	1325	1525	1050	1225	
Do Sea Island	1495	1695	1660	1715	1175	1325	1525	1050	1225	1425	1575	
African, East, &c.	1491	1501	1511	1591	1671	1512	1522	1612	1104	1171	1244	
Do West	G	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	
East Indian	1420	1460	1500	...	...	...	1445	...	...	...	1185	
Machine Ginned Surtee	1115	1155	1195	1235	1275	1190	1230	1310	1015	1055	1133	
Machine Ginned Broach	1030	1080	1130	1180	1230	1010	1060	1160	915	960	1040	
Machine Ginned Bhowanagar	1040	1090	1140	1190	1240	1020	1070	1170	920	970	1045	
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1	1115	1165	1215	1265	...	1045	1145	...	945	1025	1100	
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2	1040	1090	1140	1190	1240	970	1020	1120	870	920	995	
Machine Ginned Khandalah	1170	1210	1250	1290	1330	1225	1265	1305	1025	1065	1105	
Machine Ginned Comptah	1020	1060	1100	1140	1180	935	975	1055	760	800	875	
Machine Ginned Bengal	1010	1050	1090	1130	1170	925	965	1045	750	790	875	
Machine Ginned Solade	1270	1310	1350	1390	1430	1360	1400	1440	1185	1225	1265	
Tinnivelly	1120	1160	1200	1240	1280	1160	1200	1240	963	1000	1037	
American-Scinde, Punjab	1120	1160	1200	1240	1280	1160	1200	1240	963	1000	1037	
M. G. Western	1120	1160	1200	1240	1280	1160	1200	1240	963	1000	1037	
Western	1185	1225	1265	1305	1345	1225	1265	1305	1025	1065	1105	
M. G. Northern	1185	1225	1265	1305	1345	1225	1265	1305	1025	1065	1105	
Northern	1185	1225	1265	1305	1345	1225	1265	1305	1025	1065	1105	
M. G. Cocoonada, Red	Fr.	1160	...	...	...	1200	...	...	985	...	...	
China, Smyrna, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

MANCHESTER, September 11.

The feature of interest in the market this week has been the further decline in raw material rates. Bearish sentiment has been very pronounced, and buyers have refused to give out orders of weight, there being extreme caution in all directions. Spinners and manufacturers have not given way in price to the same extent as the fall in the raw material. Cloth inquiry for India has been of fair extent, but business for the most part has been confined to small lots. Only retail lines have been mentioned for China. A moderate trade has been done for most of the minor outlets East and West, but home trade buyers have limited their purchases. American yarn quotations have been generally firm, and when spinners have sold there has been an improvement in the margin, but the turnover has been comparatively small. There has been very little activity in Egyptian yarns. Export numbers have been rather quieter, but useful contracts have been secured for India.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Sept. 11, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Sept. 4.	Price, Aug. 28.	Price, Aug. 21.	Price, Aug. 14.	Price, Aug. 7.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	14-14	15-25	15-40	16-33	17-08	17-27
— Sakellaris Fully Good Fair	24-40	24-40	25-15	25-25	26-15	25-45
Yarns—32's twist	24	24	24	25	25	25
— 40's twist	24	24	24	25	25	25
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35	35	35	36	36	36
32-in. Printers, 115 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	33	34	34	34	35	36
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	38	38	38	38	39	40
38-in. ditto, 36 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	19	19	19	19	20	21
38-in. ditto, 37 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	17	17	17	18	19	19

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Sept. 11, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	14-14	17-25	13-42	13-69	23-73	19-07
— Sakellaris Fully Good Fair	24-40	17-60	17-50	22-03	62-00	30-00
Yarns—32's twist	24	23	20	21	40	41
— 40's twist	24	23	19	19	45	42
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35	30	28	32	80	61
32-in. Printers, 115 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	33	32	32	32	34	36
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	38	38	38	38	39	40
38-in. ditto, 36 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	19	19	17	17	20	21
38-in. ditto, 37 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs	17	17	16	16	19	19

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Business in wool and tops has been rather more restricted during the week, high protective prices having had the desired effect. It is obvious that sellers are not anxious to add to their commitments until the raw material position has been tested in London next week, and as stocks of fine wool and tops are almost negligible, the motto in a good many cases seems to be "safety first." Several large top-makers are out of the market entirely for the time being, and in other cases quotations are manifestly designed to hold off buyers. Another all-round advance has been made in quotations during the week, and warp 64's tops now stand at 6s 8d, a rise of 6d per lb in four weeks. Super 60's are about 2d dearer on the week at 6s; 50's average are firm and unchanged at 4s 2d; 48's carded have advanced ½d, and are now quoted at 3½d; and the same rise is seen in 46's at 2½d; while 40's prepared are also ½d up at 28½d per lb. Most people are now waiting for a new lead from Coleman street Wool Exchange, and the general expectation is that values will show an advance of at least 10 per cent. compared with the July auctions. There is certainly more doing in yarns, and spinners are advancing their quotations all round, but it is still impossible to sell on anything like to-day's basis of wool and top prices. Cheap stock lots, however, have disappeared, and the tendency is decidedly against the buyer, with a prospect of still higher prices in the near future. Manufacturers are also in a much better position, and have recently booked some good orders both on home and export account. Here, also, prices are gradually rising, but they have a long way to go before they will harmonise with current prices of wool.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Next Tuesday will see the beginning of the fifth series of London sale is Coleman street, when expectations are running high regarding the probable course of values. The interval has been somewhat sensational, values having advanced considerably since the close of the last sales in the same centre. As the movement of top values during an interval usually has an important bearing upon wool values, the following figures will be of interest:—

Description.	July 15, 1924.		Aug. 2, 1924.		Aug. 28, 1924.		Sept. 10, 1924.	
	Per Lb.	d	Per Lb.	d	Per Lb.	d	Per Lb.	d
70's warp	72	..	75	..	80-81	..	84	..
64's average	69	..	71	..	75	..	80	..
60's	60-61	..	62	..	66	..	69	..
56's	43-44	..	45	..	48	..	50	..
46's carded	26½	..	27-27½	..	28½	..	29½	..
40's prepared	25½	..	26-26½	..	27-27½	..	28	..

The way merinos have gone has surprised everyone, but that can be taken as evidence that in Bradford stocks are exceedingly low, a good many firms being so situated that they are not disposed to sell anything in face of the unexpected happening. To-day many firms will not quote. They are simply waiting the advent of the sales to see how values move before naming a price for tops in Bradford, and although some firms are asking as high as 6s 10d for warp 64's, I very much doubt that any more than 6s 8d has yet actually been made. However, no one is so much concerned to-day about top values as what wool is likely to fetch next week, and everybody is expecting an all-round advance of 10 per cent. both in merinos and crossbreds. It would almost seem as if there is more room for crossbreds to advance than merinos, and we think

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY OF VALUE

By G. B. DIBBLEE, M.A.

Demy 8vo. 12/6 net.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

"Mr. Dibblee's new book is of first-rate importance because it refuses either to despair of theory with the exponents of merely descriptive economics, or to shirk the difficulties of a complete analysis with the dominant school of theorists."

Mr. Dibblee, if his interests are philosophical, has an experience of actual business that few economists possess. He draws on his experience to illustrate his theory and summarises his theoretical results in frequent phrases that illuminate his experience. His book should be read by all serious students of economics."

CONSTABLE & COMPANY, LTD.,

10/12, ORANGE ST., LONDON, W.C.2.

it is high time the trade ceased rushing values at the beginning of a Colonial selling season. The slightest disturbance of confidence would bring values back sharply, and Roubaix-Tourcoing spinners and manufacturers are just as much surprised with the wool position as the West Riding. No one will deny that Sir A. Goldfinch's observations regarding a wool shortage have been verified fully, but one wants to know if to-day's high values are not going to restrict consumption somewhat, for certainly the impoverished communities of the Continent cannot afford to pay for clothing made out of merino wool at present values. It would have suited the trade infinitely better for wool values to have remained at last July prices rather than undergo another stiff advance, hence I think that the time has arrived when no one should force the pace. I regard wool values as safe, but every higher point reached means an increase of danger.

The quantity of wool available is about 182,500 bales. This is a very large quantity for a September series, but there should be no difficulty in the whole lot being lifted, and a straight edge made for the arrival of the forthcoming new clip. Already there is talk of a fair weight being carried forward to the final auctions of the year in order to make a decent offering, but if a strong market is encountered, I think owners should sell. I regard the present as a sellers' market, and there can be no excuse for carrying wool forward at values which are likely to prevail.

A sheep-breeders' conference has been held this week in Bradford, over 70 pastoralists who were paying a visit to the West Riding being present. Important questions affecting wool growers and users came up for discussion. I fully endorse the view that as very many Colonial pastoralists visit the old country, a conference of this nature could be held annually to the advantage of the entire industry.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Market conditions have been generally stable, and prices of vegetable oils have, as a rule, been sustained. Raw linseed oil, in sympathy with dearer seed, hardened to £42 per ton, naked, ex Hull mill, but has since eased slightly, £41 15s being quoted for spot and £41 10s for August delivery. Neither home nor export demand has been substantial. Cotton oils have been in good request all round, crude Egyptian in particular being a good market up to £42, technical refined £45, and common edible £46 10s ex Hull mill. Crude soyabean oil has improved to the level of crude cotton oil. Palm kernel oil has been in better demand, and is dearer at £43.

In the oilseed section, linseed prices have fluctuated with the varying weather reports from Argentina. New crop Plate to Hull has been done at £19 15s and £19 17s 6d January-February, while London has been a buyer of Calcutta at £22 12s 6d, August-September shipment. Cottonseed has eased off, and a good trade in Egyptian has been done at the lower level. Soyabean has also commanded more interest, both here and on the Continent, £13 17s 6d being paid for seed on passage, and £13 7s 6d October-November loading.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The hide market remains steady to firm, and tanners are anxious as to their position in view of the demand for cheap leather. Best ox sold at the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday from 7d to 9d, and seconds from 7d to 8d per lb. Calf were again firmer in the lower grades, and advanced 1d, but best sold at last week's prices, viz., 7d to 15d per lb. Values are fairly firm in imported hides, and from 8d to 8d has been paid for frigorific ox by British tanners; Germany is reported to be in the market for cows, whilst the United States has again showed a renewed interest in South American hides. Cables from New York report the Chicago position as steady, with best heavy packers making 16 cents and native cows 14½ cents—an advance of ¼ cent on last prices of the latter class.

Business in sole leather is quite good, although merchants are not in a speculative mood, holding that prices must be lower. Shoe manufacturers and repairers are, however, buying freely, and as stocks are low in the Northern and Western yards, tanners are very firm on prices. Shoulders and bellies are very firm, whilst the trade in rough leather seems to be steadily improving.

Business in upper stock is better, as there is a consistent call for willow and box calf at firm prices. Much fear is felt in regard to further German competition, and that this is based on fact is proved by the news that yet another Northampton chrome tannery is advertised for sale this week. Glacé kid in best and low grades is selling, but patent is easily first favourite. Dressed leather of various kinds is also going to the United States.

The boot trade remains good except for women's shoes, but little new business is now expected until the advent of the Shoe and Leather Fair in October, when many overseas buyers will be present.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, September 12.

SUGAR.—A moderate clearance was recorded in spot parcels at recent higher level of prices both with regard to British and foreign makes. The undertone of the market is one of stability in face of comparatively small supplies to handle. White Javas are arriving at

a steady pace but good quantities continue to be taken overside, having been disposed of previously on export account so that no augmentation to existing stocks results therefrom. Leading continental producing countries still offer reservedly and in the case of Czechoslovakia, fabricants are encouraged in the matter of holding back owing to climatic conditions not being favourable for ripening of roots. Dutch sugars for shipment are held above buyers' views. Of British makes, Messrs. Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 45s 9d to 46s 9d; crushed, 44s 3d; nibs, 46s 9d; granulated-stoved, 43s 7d; fine and coarse grain, 41s 4d; No. 1, 41s 12d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 37s 10d; caster, finest, 45s 12d; A, 44s 7d; B, 43s. Glebe granulated, spot, London, 40s 3d; Greenock, October 15th, 39s 6d. White Java, spot, London, 36s 6d; afloat steamers, 22s 3d; November-December, 21s 10d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Polish crystals, spot, 33s 6d early September shipment, 27s 6d, c.f. and i. terms. Belgian Ghent. Dutch granulated, November, 22s 9d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. W.S.R., ditto, 23s 3d, f.o.b., Amsterdam; Dutch, spot, 39s. Cuban basis, 95 per cent., September, 21s 6d, c.f. and i., U.K. White Java and Hungarian crystals, November-December, 22s 9d; January-March, 22s 9d; White terminal market presented quiet and easy features. October, sold, 23s 6d; December, 21s 4d to 21s; March, 20s 10d to 21s and 20s 6d; May, 20s 9d per cwt.

COFFEE.—The market continues very firm for all the finer mild descriptions, which are sparingly offered and wanted, particularly by the home trade. Some bold sizes of mountain-grown Jamaica, sold, 190s to 221s 6d, peas fetching 223s, Bold colony, Colombian, 157s; peas, 188s to 190s.

COCOA.—There was only a moderate clearance in spot parcels at late rates. Accra, F/F grade, October-December, sold 34s 6d to 34s, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions totalled 49,886 packages, which met with active support and were well distributed. Medium and good medium teas realised steady prices, fine being firm to 3d per lb. Pekoe sold, 1s 5d to 1s 11d; broken orange, 1s 5d up to 3s 9d. Ceylon sales of 21,000 packages. A good demand prevailed, and fine qualities were firm to occasionally sold, 1s 6d to 2s 2d; broken orange, 1s 8d to 2s 8d per lb in bond. 5,340 packages, Java and Sumatra, auctioned, met an active demand at 1d to 1d per lb advance. Pekoe, sold, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; broken, 1s 2d to 1s 11d; pekoe souchong, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; orange, pekoe, 1s 6d to 1s 11d; broken orange, ditto, 1s 4d to 1s 11d, with one lot of flowery broken orange from Sumatra, 2s 3d per lb in bond.

RICE.—Business proceeds quietly, but Eastern shippers are firm in their demands, owing to firmness of rupee exchange rate. Two stars, spot, 17s; S.Q. double bags, to Cuba, held for 16s 7d. Italian and Spanish quiet, but steady. Egyptian crop prospects favourable, and an outturn of about 200,000 tons is indicated. Japanese peas, spot, 20s 3d; September-October, 20s 4d. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 35s to 36s cwt. Rangoon bran firm, and October-December sold, £7 13s 9d to £7 15s per ton, ex ship, London-Liverpool.

SPICE.—Pepper steady, with fair inquiries. Black Singapore, L.S., October-December, 54d; f.a.q., ditto, held for 5d. Lampung, L.S., October-December, 43d; Muntok, ditto, October-December, sold, 94d; f.a.q., ditto, 81d. White Singapore, f.a.q., sold, 84d lb. Tellicherry, September-October, 52s; Aleppy, 50s cwt. Cloves steady. Zanzibar, spot, 1s to 1s 1d; October-December, sold, 9d per lb. Tapioca quiet. Singapore flake, spot, 38d; fine Java, 4d lb. Singapore, September-November, to Havre, quoted 28s 6d; Penang seed, to London, 21s 6d. Sago flour, August-September, quoted, 15s; September-November, sold, 15s 3d. Desiccated coconut steady. Halves, spot, 41s 6d; September-October, 40s 6d cwt.

JUTE.—Steadier. Firsts, August, Continent, sold, £34 10s to £35 10s; August-September, £34 7s 6d to £35 5s; September-October, £34 10s, £34 5s, and £35 5s. Hessians quiet, but fairly steady. 10 oz, spot, Dundee, sold, 39s; September-October, sellers, 37s 3d; November-December, 35s; January-March, 33s 6d. 8 oz, spot, 29s; September-October, 29s; November-December, 28s; January-March, 27s per 100 yards. A twills spot, 130s; September-October, 115s; October-December, 110s; B, spot, 91s; September-October, 91s; October-December, 90s; sugar, spot, 106s; October-December, 106s; flour, October-December, 116s; bran bags, 56 by 28, October-December, 63s 6d per 100 bags.

HEMP.—Manila again sparingly offered, and market firm, 500 bales, J, August-October, sold, £46; K, September-November, £45; L, sellers, £45; M, £44; G, quoted £55; streaky threes, £57. New Zealand H.P.F., September-November, £41; fair, £39. African sisal No. 1 Tanganyiki, September-November, £47; Kenya, £46 per ton.

SHELLAC. quiet. T.N., spot, 310s; October, 322s 6d; December, 292s 6d per cwt.

COPRA quiet, and market easy. F.M.S. Straits, June-August, Rotterdam, quoted £30 15s; July-September, £30 11s 3d; August-October sold, £30 10s 9d; September-November, £30 7s 6d. Dutch E.I., August-October, £30 6s 3d. Others quiet on about former terms. Palm kernels, August-October, Liverpool, quoted £21 5s; September-November, £21 7s 6d; October-December, £21 8s 9d; and October-December, to Hull, £21 17s 6d per ton.

RUBBER steady, with a moderate inquiry. Plantation, spot, crepe and sheet, also September, sold, 1s 1d to 1s 2d; October, 1s 2d to 1s 2½d; October-December, 1s 2½d to 1s 2¾d; January-March, 1s 2¾d to 1s 2½d. To New York: Standard estate sheet, September-October, buyers, 1s 2½d, c.f. and i. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 2½d; soft fine, 1s 1½d; ball, 9d lb.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market firm. Hen albumen, spot, sold, 4s 10d; September-October, buyers, 4s 9d lb; hen liquid yolk, spot, 80s to 82s 6d cwt.

FRUIT (Dried).—Market remained steady, with a moderate trade in force. Currants steady. Pyrgos, 4 bags quoted 45s to 46s; Patras, 48s to 50s; Gulph, 52s; Panariti, 56s; Vostizza, 60s to 64s; Australian, new, 4 cases, fair, 48s to 52s; good, 55s; fine, 60s. Raisins: Cape, new, 44s; ditto, fine, 50s to 52s. Sultanias: Greek, 4 cases, 48s to 53s; Smyrna, September shipment, 39s, c.f. and i.; Australian, 4 cases, 50s to 58s. Figs: Genuine naturals in bags, September, 24s. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots, 72s to 76s; choice, 85s to 90s; extra ditto, 96s to 100s; peaches, choice, 45s; extra ditto, 50s; new crop, fancy, 65s; plums, Californian, 60 to 70s, 45s; 30 to 40's, 87s; Oregon, 30/40, 67s 6d; 35/45, 52s; 40/50, 56s per cwt. Dates steady. Hallowie, first tide, 23s; Khadowie, 19s; Sair, 16s per cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—Sardines firm, with improved inquiries. Portuguese 1½ flats quoted 3s 3d to 3s 6d; clubs, 3s 6d to 4s; 12 oz, 5s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 9s 6d to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Lobster firm while in short supply. Fancy halves, 158s to 160s. Crayfish quoted 72s. Salmon remains firm and in good demand. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, quoted 55s; ditto, tall, 48s to 49s; 1 lb tall pink, 26s to 26s 6d; cases of 96 ½ lbs, 27s to 29s case.

CANNED FRUITS meet with good support, and prices tend in sellers' favour. Singapore pines, 48 1½'s, best quality, 5s 9d to 6s; cubes, 24 2½'s, 10s 9d to 11s 6d; slices, 48 1½'s, 5s 6d to 5s 9d. Californian apricots, 2½'s, 8s 3d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1½'s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Peas, 2½'s, 14s to 16s. Peaches, 2½'s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; 1½'s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad, 2½'s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1½'s, 10s 3d per dozen tins. Canned meats are in fair request at steady rates.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 20s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £10 to £19; Cochin, £24 10s to £29. Ceylon bristle, £23 to £30; cinnamon leaf oil, 54d; Citronella, 3s 3d; Java, 5s 7d.

OILS.—Linseed firmer, with a good demand. Spot, net, naked, April, 40s 6d. Rape steady. Crude, spot, 48s 6d, refined, 51s 6d. Castor oil steady. First pressure, spot, quoted 71s; second pressure, 69s; and pharmaceutical, 76s per cwt, Hall, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton steady. Crude Egyptian, spot, 44s; Bombay, 42s; common-edible, 50s; deodorised, 55s 6d. Chisawood firm. Hankow, spot (barrels), 76s 6d; October-November, 75s 6d. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 48s; September-October, 46s 6d; Cochin, ditto, nominally 48s. Soyabean firm. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 45s 6d; bulk, 42s 6d. Cod steady. English, spot, 33s 6d to 34s 6d. Groundnuts firm. English, crushed, naked, spot, 51s; deodorised, barrels, 60s. Turpentine dull and easier. American, spot, 66s; September-December, 67s 3d; January-April, 69s 6d; Rosin firm. American, grade B, 14s 3d; G, 14s 6d; W.G., 17s 9d; W.W., 19s per cwt. French W.W., 17s 6d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 18 1½d; and water white, 18 1½d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed irregular. Calcutta, afloat, sold, £22 15s; August-September, sold, £22 12s 6d; September-October, £22 10s. Plate, afloat, sold, £21 to £20 15s; August-September, £20 17s 6d to £20 15s; and January-February, £19 15s to £19 17s 6d. Rape-seed firm. Toria, September-October, £22 10s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £22 5s. Cottonseed active but irregular, owing to fluctuating advices from Alexandria. Egyptian, black, new, October, £13 2s 6d; November-January, £13. Sakellaridis, November-January, at £11 17s 6d to £11 16s 3d. Bombay, August-September, £11 2s 6d, and new crop, December-January, £10 7s 6d. Gingelly seed firmer. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £27 5s. Groundnuts firm and sparingly offered. Coromandel, machine-dried, September-October, £27 5s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., ditto, £26; East African, August-September, £26 17s 6d. Soyabean firmer. Manchurian, afloat, £13 17s 6d; October-November, sold, £13 5s to £13 10s. Castor seed firm. Bombay, August-September, £30 5s; Calcutta, ditto, £29 7s 6d per ton.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on September 10th as follows:—The tallow market was firm during the week, and prices were 6d dearer to-day for all kinds. The comparatively high prices now asked for South American supplies have induced buyers to take more interest in Australian varieties for shipment. At auction to-day 1,241 casks tallow were offered, and 773 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 47s 6d; good to fair, 46s 6d to 45s; dull to dark, 42s 9d to 41s 6d; hard, 47s. Australian beef: Fine, 47s 6d; good to fair, 4s 6d to 43s 6d; dull to dark, 41s 9d to 41s; sweet, 47s 3d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 45s 6d. Present shipment from South America, 46s to 44s 6d. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 41s 6d per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 44d; melted stuff, 31s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 40s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 41s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 43s 6d; fair to dull, 42s to 41s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 37s; melted stuff, 37s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—SEPTEMBER 11.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	7 4 to 7 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	nominal
Shorthorns	7 0 to 7 6	Canadian	nominal
Devons	7 4 to 7 8	Sheep—Downs	10 4 to 11 4
Norfolks	nominal	Ewes	6 8 to 7 0
Scottish	nominal	Crossbred	
Irish	6 0 to 6 6	Scottish	
Fat Cows		Lamb—Downs	12 4 to 13 4

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—SEPTEMBER 11.

English—King Edwards	7 4 to 7 8	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.
Sharpe's Express	6 0 to 6 6	6 0 to 6 6	6 0 to 6 6
	6 0 to 6 6	6 0 to 6 6	6 0 to 6 6

FRENCH LINE

Regular Express Passenger Service

Carrying the French, American and British Mails, and sailing regularly from

PLYMOUTH DIRECT TO NEW YORK

IN UNDER SIX DAYS.

The route that cuts off the corner.

NEXT SAILINGS.

September 13	-	ss. "LAFAYETTE."
September 20	-	ss. "PARIS."
September 27	-	ss. "FRANCE."
October 11	-	ss. "PARIS."

The shortest Route is PLYMOUTH to NEW YORK, and the FRENCH LINE steamers are the FASTEST on the SHORTEST route.

The steamers are magnificently fitted, and the FRENCH LINE is FAMOUS for its CUISINE and CHOICE WINES. Private suites, unique public saloons, Café Terraces, etc. English freely spoken on all steamers.

For full particulars, apply to:

Your Local Tourist Agent or The

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, Ltd.
22, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Phone: Regent 3270.



ARCOS LTD
SOVIET HOUSE
49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.
Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA
TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA
MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

Turnover (from June, 1920, to May, 1924) £36,826,214

BRANCHES:
MOSCOW: Truskava 1, (Ugol Pl. Revolutii).
CONSTANTINOPLE: Grande rue de Fern, No. 464.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg Trading Corporation, 136, Liberty Street, New York.
LENINGRAD: Ul. Gorkizna, 24.
KHARKOV: Chernogolovskaya, 1.
TIFLIS: 38 Rustaveli Prospekt.
RIGA: Valdemars iela 61, da. 3.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.		INDIA RUBBER—lb.		PROVISIONS—	
COCOA—Dutch, British grown	47 0 0	Para, fine hard spot	1 2 0 0	Butter—per cwt.	156 0 0
Do do foreign 1st cwt.	47 0 0	Plantation crepe	1 2 0 0	Do factory	156 0 0
Trinidad, per cwt.	47 0 0			Do creamery	156 0 0
Grenada, per cwt.	47 0 0			Do factory	156 0 0
Oeylon, plantation	47 0 0			Do factory	156 0 0
Guaymas, per cwt.	47 0 0			Do factory	156 0 0
Bahia, finest	47 0 0			Do factory	156 0 0
OFFICE—British grown		INDIGO—per lb.		SPICES—Pepper, lb.	
Do do foreign 1st cwt.	47 0 0	Bengal, good red	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 2nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 3rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 4th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 5th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 6th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 7th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 8th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 9th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 10th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 11th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 12th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 13th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 14th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 15th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 16th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 17th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 18th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 19th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 20th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 21st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 22nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 23rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 24th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 25th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 26th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 27th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 28th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 29th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 30th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 31st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 32nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 33rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 34th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 35th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 36th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 37th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 38th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 39th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 40th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 41st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 42nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 43rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 44th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 45th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 46th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 47th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 48th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 49th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 50th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 51st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 52nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 53rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 54th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 55th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 56th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 57th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 58th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 59th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 60th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 61st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 62nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 63rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 64th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 65th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 66th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 67th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 68th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 69th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 70th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 71st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 72nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 73rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 74th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 75th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 76th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 77th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 78th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 79th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 80th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 81st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 82nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 83rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 84th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 85th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 86th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 87th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 88th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 89th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 90th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 91st cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 92nd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 93rd cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 94th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 95th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 96th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 97th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 98th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 99th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0
Do do foreign 100th cwt.	47 0 0	Do do to fine	6 0 0 0	Black, fair white	8 0 0 0

Preliminary Announcement for information only.

SCOTTISH UNITED INVESTORS LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1908 to 1917.)

Share Capital - £800,000,

80,000 Shares of £10 each.

which are offered for subscription at par payable as under:

10 0 per Share on Application.	
£1 10 0 do. on allotment.	
£3 0 0 do. on 27th October, 1924.	
£3 0 0 do. on 24th November, 1924.	
£2 0 0 do. on 31st December, 1924.	
£10 0 0	

Subscribers may pay in full on allotment or on any instalment date, and discount at the rate of 3% per annum will be allowed on such pre-payments.

The number of Shares to be placed "firm" has been restricted to 50,000. This number has already been applied for and will be allotted in full.

The Shares allotted in terms of this prospectus will, as and when fully paid up, be converted into Preference and Ordinary Stock as from 1st January, 1925, in the proportion of sixty per cent. of the former and forty per cent. of the latter; that is to say, each Share will be converted into £6 of Preference Stock and £4 of Ordinary Stock. The Preference Stock will be entitled to a cumulative Preferential Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum as from 1st January, 1925, and to priority as to Capital, but will have no further participation in profits or assets. The Preference and Ordinary Stock will be transferable in sums of £1 or multiples thereof.

Directors.

R. M. WILSON, 75, Bothwell Street, Glasgow (Chairman, Wilsons & Clyde Coal Co., Ltd. Director, Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd.).
 NORMAN L. HIRD, 191, Ingram Street, Glasgow, Banker.
 R. G. SIMPSON, 3, Albany Place, Edinburgh, Chartered Accountant (Managing Director, Scottish Investment Trust Co., Ltd.).
 JOHN T. TULLOCH, 209, West George Street, Glasgow, Chartered Accountant (Director, Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society).

Bankers.—THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Branches.

Solicitors.—WRIGHT, JOHNSTON & MACKENZIE, 150, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

Brokers.—BUCHANAN, GAIRDNER & TENNANT, 19, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.
R. G. GREIG & CO., 29, St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

Auditors.—GRAHAMS, RINTOUL, HAY, BELL & CO., C.A., 105, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

Secretaries and Registered Office.—MOORES, CARSON & WATSON, C.A., 209, West George Street, Glasgow.

Copies of the full Prospectus, with Forms of Application for Shares, may be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers of the Company or at the Registered Office.

The Economist,
WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1924.

No. 4,230

THE
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT
INSTITUTION
UNDER ITS
DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM
OF MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE
ISSUES
THE BEST POLICY
FOR A
BUSINESS MAN
FUNDS : : : £17,500,000

HEAD OFFICE : : : EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.
(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

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

Branches as under.

34 offices in Portugal,
24 " " East and West Africa.
5 " " Brazil.
5 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York—Trust Company of North America—28, Liberty Street.
Paris Office—2, Rue du Helder.
London Office—3, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE
ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorized £100,000,000
Capital, Paid Up £40,000,000
Reserve £20,000,000
Deposits £20,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY
AGENCIES IN NEW YORK AND CONSTANTINOPLE.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France, Switzerland, Nice, etc.)
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & ROMANA, Bucharest.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & ROMANA, Bucharest.

London Office - 22, THAMES STREET, E.C.3.
Manager: M. CARLO.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY
Every description of Banking Business Transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market 441	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—	The Stock Markets..... 461	
Our Obligations Under the	New Issues 461	
Covenant 443	Active Securities..... 462	
The Restoration of Belgium 444	Company Meetings 462	
Public Finance in New		
Zealand 445	Government Returns—	
India's Foreign Trade.—I. 446	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
The International Law Con-	by Public Tender 465	
ference at Stockholm..... 447	Currency Notes Account .. 465	
London Property Companies 448	National Debt..... 465	
	Public Income and Expen-	
	diture 465	
Notes of the Week—		
Ulster's Refusal 449	Bankers' Gazette—	
The Conflict in China 449	Bank of England 466	
Control of Building Mater'ls 450	Clearing Returns 466	
Employment in August .. 450	Overseas Bank Returns .. 466	
Cost of Living..... 450	Loan and Discount Rates .. 468	
Iron, Steel, and Coal Output 450	Overseas Bank Rates..... 468	
Cotton Mill Shares..... 451	Rates of Exchange..... 468	
The New Zone for Petrol	Bullion 468	
Prices 451	Imports and Exports of	
Rubber Developments 451	Gold 468	
L.M.S. Conversion Scheme 452	Gold and Silver Prices 468	
Co-operative Trade & Trade		
Union Membership 452	Company News—	
The Dunlop Scheme 452	Analysis of Balance-sheets . 462	
Metal Price Movements .. 452	Mining Outputs 469	
British Celenese..... 453	Oil Outputs 469	
Naraguta 453	Dividend Announcements.. 469	
Oversea Correspondence—	Weekly Traffic Returns 470	
League of Nations 453	Monthly Traffic Returns 470	
United States 454	Reports and Notices 471	
France 455	Profit and Loss Accounts ... 472	
Germany 456	Commercial Reports—	
Austria 457	Corn Trade 471	
South China 458	Iron and Coal Trade 472	
	Metals 473	
Letters to the Editor—	Wool Trade 474	
The Proposed Russian Loan 459	Cotton Trade 474	
The Adulteration of Leather 459	The Timber Market 475	
	Vegetable Oils 475	
Books and Publications—	Hides and Leather Trades .. 475	
The Financial Situation of	Overseas Produce Markets.. 476	
France 460	Price Current 476	
Books Received 460		

	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 29, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return showed an increase of £634,000 in the Reserve, mostly due to the reflux of notes. Government securities expanded by £1,230,000, while Other declined by £2,047,000. On the liabilities side, Public deposits declined by £463,000, and Other increased to the extent of £301,000. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £1,309,800 to £287,451,700, which includes £1,371,500 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £236,630,200, or £11,560,700 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Public interest in the stock markets has this week been centred mainly in the gilt-edged market and in home industries, the possibilities of a General Election before the end of the year having failed to affect the strength of the former. The gambling in German bonds has subsided somewhat, and the foreign market generally has been quieter than of late. Home rails have had a dull week, prices being lower all round, but Argentine rails have maintained their firmness on the declaration of the anticipated dividends. Rubber shares have been fairly good, but tea shares have reacted a little after their recent strength, while business in oils has been confined to the professionals. The feature in the industrial section has been the strength of shipping shares on the improvement in the freight position, but the iron and steel market is flat. Mines have been dull.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Our Cardiff correspondent this week describes the depression in the South Wales coal export trade as severe. There is a slightly better feeling in the pig-iron trade, but business is still very restricted. Our Sheffield correspondent states that depression is acute in all the chief centres of the industry. Tin relapsed on selling pressure, and though copper experienced a good demand, prices also gave way. In the cotton trade the market continues to be brighter, owing to the recent increase in the demand for yarn and cloth; spinners and manufacturers are in a stronger position. At the wool sales prices advanced all round. Wheat ended the week dull with quotations low. Business in sugar is quiet, but tea was in demand. Jute was higher, while rubber moved steadily upwards.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was again very quiet, business being much restricted, and the demand for foreign currencies was perhaps the smallest experienced for some time past. Consequently, there are no very frequent or wide fluctuations to record, and the only feature it is possible to select for mention in an almost featureless market was the comparative strength of the sterling rate against the dollar, which at one time reached 4.48½. Paris opened stronger at 82.80-83 on the 12th, as a result of the Morgan loan, but closed the day weaker at 83.35. It improved, however, to 83.00 on the 13th, but weakened slightly subsequently to 83.80 on the 14th, recovered to 83.60 on the 17th, and again relapsed on the 18th to 83.90. At the time of writing, to-day (19th), there is no indication of any reaction, this morning's rate being 84. Belgian francs followed the above movements in sympathy, though they did not improve with Paris on the 13th. Opening at 89.25-50 on the 12th, they weakened gradually to 89.90-90.10 on the 18th, and stand to-day (19th) at the same figure. The £ opened rather weak at 4.45½ on the 12th, but showed signs of recovery from its previous relapse, and finished up last week on the 13th considerably better at 4.46½-¾. A reaction set in on Monday, however, and sterling weakened to 4.45½-4.46, after having been firm at 4.47 earlier in the day. This latter rate was again reached and maintained early on the 16th,

the closing rate of the day being even better at 4.47½. This firmness was continued on the 17th, with sterling at 4.47½-¾, the level of 4.48½ being reached during the day, and both Germany and Japan are reported to have sold fair parcels of dollars on these two dates. There was some weakness on subsequent days, with sterling at 4.46½-¾, and this tendency is continued to-day (19th), the rate being 4.46-4.46½ at the time of writing. Early in the week most of the Continental exchanges showed a tendency to move in our favour, though Madrid was an exception. Opening at 33.76 on the 12th, the peseta improved to 33.68 on the 13th, 33.66 on the 15th, but then fell off to 33.69 on the 16th, 33.79 on the 18th, and finished a trifle weaker on balance, though at a slight improvement on this last figure, at 33.78 to-day. Switzerland, on balance, was also firmer at 23.65 on the 18th, as against 23.68 on the 12th, and this tendency is continued by to-day's rate of 23.61-23.66. Holland, at 11.61½ on the 18th, and 11.61-11.61½ to-day is a little firmer than its opening rate of 11.62½-¾ on the 12th. Italy is weaker on balance at 101.80-90 yesterday and 101.85-102 to-day. The Scandinavian exchanges showed no changes calling for detailed comment, though Helsingfors was rather weaker at the close at 178½-¾, as against 177½-¾ on the 12th. The Baltic exchanges were equally devoid of life, and little or no dealings appear to have taken place in them. Berlin remains pegged at its previous rate of 18½-18¾ billions, at which it has now stood for several weeks past, and Warsaw shows the increasing stability of Polish finance by its steadiness at about 23.15-23.30. The leu showed a slight falling off at 850-880 to-day (19th), as compared with 830-845 on the 12th. This only brings it back, however, to the favourable level of the early days of this month, after the marked appreciation in this currency had set in. Of the Eastern exchanges, the rupee was rather weak about the 12th and 13th at 15 13-32-¾d, but gathered strength at the close, standing at 15 5½d-1s 5 19-32d on the 18th and 19th. Hong Kong showed firmness at 2s 4½d-2s 5½d on the 18th, after a slight relapse to 2s 4½d-2s 5d on the 13th. Shanghai is steady at 3s 5d-3s 5½d, but relapsed to 3s 4½d to-day (19th) on news of fighting in the neighbourhood and possible threats to the port. Singapore shows no change at 2s 4 1-32d-2s 4 5-32d. The yen closed rather weaker at 1s 9½d on the 18th, after opening at 1s 9½d-1s 10d on the 12th, and it still stands at the first-mentioned level to-day (19th). Of the South American currencies, none calls for any remark except the Argentine, which, opening on the 12th at 42½ (pence to the peso) improved to 43 on the 13th, 43½ on the 15th, and 43½ on the 16th and 17th. After a slight reaction to 42½ on the 18th, it recovered to-day to 43-43½, and shows every sign of remaining firm at this figure. It is probable that the strength and steady appreciation of this currency are due not only to good exports of Argentine products, normally shipped at this time of year, but to large shipments of gold to the United States in settlement of Argentina's public debt. The silver market was on the whole quiet, though the high price recorded last week of 35d brought in speculators. Profit-taking reduced prices somewhat to about 34½d for a time, but this reaction was probably too great, and subsequent buying from both the Continent and America brought about a recovery to 34½d, at which level there seems every prospect of the market remaining steady.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 13th:—

EXPENDITURE.		REVENUE.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	5,950	From Revenue	9,660
Interest &c., on Debt	958		
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	458		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	104		
Reduction of Debt	1,690		
	9,660		9,660

The total revenue amounted to £9,659,800, against £11,384,800 in the corresponding period. Customs receipts at £1,825,000, compare with £2,432,000. Excise yielded £1,171,000, against £1,545,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £3,442,000, against £3,722,000. Special receipts amounted to £500,000, against £14,000.

The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £1,690,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		£	
Treasury Bills	+ 5,260	National Savings Certificates ..	50
		Bank of England Advances ..	3,750
		Public Department Advances ..	1,950
		Sundries	1,200
	+ 5,260		6,950

The floating debt was reduced by £410,000 to £778,712,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to September 13).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	337,575,270	Raised by Revenue ..	319,496,203
		Decrease in Balances ..	4,092,709
		Amount borrowed ..	13,986,358
Total	337,575,270	Total	337,575,270

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE COVENANT.

THE discussions in Geneva have taken an unfortunate turn in concentrating attention on the question whether the British navy is to be used to enforce the decisions of the Council of the League. As our Geneva correspondent points out on a later page, there is no likelihood of anything being done in the crude form originally proposed, and there is no ground for the hasty fear that the right to call on the British navy will be unconditionally conceded to the League. Alarm on this point arose partly from the inadequate reports of the Geneva discussions. But even when full allowance is made for imperfect reports, the discussion has clearly been unfortunate for a number of reasons. In the first place, the whole question, being one of paramount importance to this country, ought to have been thoroughly thrashed out in Parliament, so that the Government could have entered upon the discussion with full knowledge of the trend of Parliamentary and public opinion. Then again, the concentration of the discussion upon the use of the British navy suggests the idea of one world policeman only. Britain certainly will not undertake any such burden as is suggested unless a similar undertaking is incurred by other nations in proportion to their strength. In any case there are, of course, only a limited number of fields in which naval action is efficacious.

The present suggestion is that the British fleet should be made available to support decisions of the Council of the League. On this point confusion exists in the public mind. Is the idea that the navy should be used to enforce arbitration, to carry out the findings of a court of law, or to back the recommendations of the Council of the League? It is not in the least likely that the fleet could be called upon to enforce the last-named class of decisions either if carried by a majority or by a unanimous vote. The whole discussion, and the confusion to which it has given rise in the public mind, reveal lack of knowledge of the constitution of the League and the terms of the Covenant. It is therefore desirable to repeat that there are several forms of provisions aiming at preserving peace, all of which have analogies in measures in vogue in this country for the settlement of industrial strife. In the first place there is conciliation by the Council. Members of

the League undertake not to go to war without first bringing the matter for discussion before the Council, which must report within six months. Even after this report the members agree to refrain from war for a further period of three months. In other words, this form of procedure relies for its efficacy upon publicity and delay. The Council, it should be carefully noted, does not necessarily adjudicate on the simple question of right and wrong, its function being rather to suggest a compromise or reasonable solutions. In brief, the process is one of diplomacy, not of law. It is not going too far to say that the majority of international disputes call for diplomatic settlements and not for legal decisions. Under the Covenant the Council cannot enforce its decisions upon any member, but if its report is unanimously in favour of one side rather than the other, and if the disputants reject the Council's proposals and go to war, then the members of the League are bound not to take sides against the party to whom the Council's report is favourable.

If, however, the parties agree, the matter may be referred to arbitration, and the Covenant enumerates certain classes of disputes as being suitable to arbitration, namely, "disputes as to the interpretation of a treaty, as to any question of international law, as to the existence of any fact which, if established, would constitute a breach of any international obligation, or as to the extent and nature of the reparation to be made for any such breach." But the members are not compelled to resort to arbitration in these cases. A court has, however, been set up in case they should agree to arbitrate.

The statutes of the Permanent Court provide, however, optional clauses under which those who care to sign may undertake in advance that they will carry these "justiciable" disputes to the Court if ever they become involved in them. One of the problems engaging attention at Geneva to-day is that of sharpening up and defining more clearly these "justiciable" disputes, so that all nations may subscribe to these clauses and undertake to resort to arbitration. It has, however, to be observed that, even if this is done, there will remain the cases to which conciliation by the Council, and not arbitration, is the appropriate remedy.

As regards the use of force or pressure, our signature to the Covenant already binds us in certain definite respects. Under Article 10 we are under obligation to "undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League. In case of any such aggression, or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled." The most precise statement of the sanctions required by the Covenant is, however, under Article 16, which provides certain action if any member resorts to war in disregard of its undertakings under Articles 12, 13, and 15—that is to say, if it does not in any case bring the matter to the Council or to the Court of Arbitration in cases where it is agreed to do so. Such disregard is automatically construed as an act of war against all members of the League, who, thereupon, undertake to sever commercial and financial relations and to impose an economic blockade. No specific provision is contained as to how this blockade is to be enforced, but it is the duty of the Council "to recommend to the several Governments concerned" what military measures they should take. The obligation to apply these economic sanctions under this article does not arise merely if the parties are unwilling to accept the solution proposed by the Council, the duty of the members in such a case being limited to the negative action of not siding with the party in the wrong. They arise solely if one of the disputants goes to war without first trying peaceful methods of settlement. The two questions at issue in Geneva are whether these obligations should be extended so as to involve enforcement of these decisions; and, secondly, whether any definite military undertakings should be given in support of the economic penalties described.

The above are the main obligations to which we are already bound by the Treaty of Versailles. If the United States had signed the Covenant, these obligations would not have caused serious doubt in any mind in this country.

But with the League incomplete, there is less assurance either that the League Council's decisions will be the right ones, or that in supporting them we shall find ourselves in harmony with the mass of civilised world opinion.

On the other hand, we have no sympathy with the view of certain journals who think that because the arbitration machinery set up at The Hague before the war completely failed to stop the world war that similar plans, such as those embodied in the Covenant, will fail now. Our conclusion is the opposite one, that because it failed before the war it is more imperatively necessary than ever that the machinery should be made effective. To make it serviceable, the terms of the mutual obligations of members of the League need to be made more specific; and, so far as we as a nation are concerned, we agree that Europe, and particularly France and Belgium, have the right to know what the signature of Great Britain and the British Dominions to the Covenant exactly implies, and whether we are prepared to enlarge our undertakings. For our part, we think the answer is that opinion is not yet ripe, nor confidence in any international tribunal as yet sufficiently strong, to say that we and other nations will rally to enforce either the decisions of the International Court or the recommendations of the Council of the League. We do think, however, that in general terms we should show that we are ready to use not merely economic, but military pressure, to insist that the machinery of the League must be put into action, and that in all disputes either conciliation or arbitration on questions of international law must in the first instance be resorted to.

Hitherto these questions have been discussed with the shadow of the war heavy upon us. After five years Europe is beginning to consider in cold blood the problem of its international rights and duties, and to examine what restrictions can in practice be placed upon the powers of individual nations to start conflagrations which may bring ruin upon all. The question whether we should concert precise measures before or after disputes are taken up by the Council is a very important and practical one. But it is a minor matter compared with the principle on which we and other European nations must make up our minds—namely, in what cases, under what circumstances, and to what extent we are prepared to intervene to ensure respect for international undertakings. It is, therefore, of the greatest possible importance that everyone should study the terms of the Covenant, and of any proposed amendment of it, for it is destined to become the basis of all future diplomacy. For this reason, it is also very undesirable that rash or hasty commitment should be made, for if we make haste slowly it will be the more certain that the commitments entered into will be faithfully observed when times of crisis arise. It is only if this certainty exists that these undertakings can become the foundation of international security. We may add that the Government is quite right in insisting that these undertakings are linked with the duty of disarmament, for it is clearly a much bigger undertaking for any country to intervene to help to restrain an aggressor in a world of nations which are armed to the teeth, than to take action if standing armies and navies are on a reasonable basis, and if every country needs time to put itself into a dominating military position.

We regret particularly that Great Britain's interests, the greatest of which is that stable peace should be established, are not in more skilled hands at Geneva at the moment. This question of our League representatives is an urgent matter, to which we hope the Prime Minister will give his immediate attention. Although we are inclined to think that some extension and definition of our commitments should be made, it is, in any case, essential that no such step should be taken until the matter has been thoroughly thrashed out in the Imperial Parliament, and considered not only so far as it concerns this country, but also from the point of view of the Dominions. In our view, it would be a great pity if the results of the present discussions are put into the form of protocols to be presented to the various countries for ratification or rejection. It would be far more serviceable at this stage if the proposals as now framed at Geneva were first submitted to the nations and Governments for discussion and observation.

THE RESTORATION OF BELGIUM.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

In the *Economist* of last week there appeared an article in which was examined the "Progress of Belgium" towards financial and industrial recovery. It happens that I have just returned from a month's visit to Belgium, in the course of which I have carefully gone over all the towns and areas which suffered devastation or serious injury during the war. I have been in Ypres and Dixmude, Ostend, Antwerp, Malines, and Louvain, and can give first-hand testimony of the extent to which the industrious people of Belgium have repaired the ravages of war. There are now at this moment no "devastated areas" in Belgium, and a few years hence it will be difficult for a casual visitor to discern any traces of the war except those which have been retained as permanent memorials.

Let me begin with Ypres, where not only the ancient Flemish city, but more than a hundred square miles of fertile territory, was smashed and churned up, and turned into a barren waste. It was a waste worse than barren, for it was strewn everywhere with the debris of war. Every house and village was destroyed, every tree was blasted, every yard of the soil was pitted with shell holes. The moment the war ended, even before the Armistice had been concluded, the Belgians got to work and began to clear up the frightful and unholy mess. They were out there digging in the Flanders plain while the guns were still booming in the Argonne.

I came into the Ypres area by road, travelling by car by way of Thorout, and until we reached Staden—the low eminence which was the principal German observation post behind the lines—a stranger from Mars could not have suspected that the land through which we were running had ever seen war in its roughest form. He might have been surprised to see so many bright new farms, with barns and sheds and homesteads all roofed with light red tiles. He might have thought it strange that no trees—except here and there a tenacious sprouting trunk—appeared to be more than six years old. But until he reached the top of Staden, and saw beside the road one thing that was old in a land brand new—a wooden grey worn Calvary—and beside it a concrete gun emplacement, there was nothing which would have cried to him of war.

From Staden I looked over the plain of Ypres to the famous hills beyond—to Kemmel and the Monts de Flandre—and received my first big shock of surprise. I looked for a scarred waste, the waste which one had seen in aeroplane photographs many a time, a lifeless waste like that of the moon seen through a strong telescope. I saw instead of this a fair green countryside, exactly like from the distance any other countryside in August in the fertile land of Flanders. And as I went on by the Forêt d'Houthulst—a wilderness of naked tree trunks—past Poelcapelle, and came to the scene of the first gas attack in April, 1915, the wonder grew. All these villages and farms, whose names ring, and ever will ring in British ears, all these Poelcapelles and Paschendaels, these Langemarcks and Zonnebekes, have sprung as by magic out of the mud into which they had been churned. They have all been rebuilt, their inhabitants have come back, and with the dauntless industry of their race, have cleared and dug and sown. Much of the land, it is true, will take years to recover its fertility. There are broad patches where nothing grows now except rough grass. Yet crops there are also, potatoes and oats, and roots, and men are reaping now where shells and gas rained six years ago.

I entered Ypres by the Menin road, and found myself in the midst of streets. Real streets, bordered by tall houses, which, though new and raw, were not uncomely. There has been no attempt to reconstruct the old Flemish Ypres, or to adopt a town planning scheme. The old lines of roads have been followed, and facing them now are large solid erections in brick and tile; hotels, restaurants and cafés, and shops in profusion. Well-fitted, well equipped shops, too. In the Grande Place the new tall houses look down upon the shored up scraps of the famous Cloth Hall, and the walls of the shattered Cathedra.

dral. These ruins, patched and strengthened so that they may not be a peril in a modern city, are to remain as a memorial for ever. But everything else is new.

It is easy, and rather cheap, to say that the Ypres of 1924 is a vulgar upstart of to-day, having no relation to the Ypres which went down in the war. But what most impressed me about it was the courage displayed in its re-creation. The Belgians, when they came back to it in 1918, found a heartbreaking chaos. It took three years merely to clear away the masses of tumbled debris, and to relay the foundations. The re-draining of the area was by itself a colossal task. Every drain, every water and gas-pipe, was smashed to bits. It would have been much easier to have left the site to the rats and owls. But Belgium is a small country, very thickly populated. It cannot spare great areas, however sacred we may think them. So the new Ypres has arisen, and all the land around, over which British and Germans fought and re-fought during four years, bears its poor crops of to-day, and will bear its rich crops of to-morrow.

And it is the same in all the other areas of major and minor devastation. Between Ypres and Dixmude there is no trace of war, except the significant newness of the farms and houses, and the prevalence beside the roads of saplings. Dixmude, smashed by us almost as thoroughly as Ypres was smashed by the Germans, has been entirely rebuilt. The Yser basin, flooded under the stress of war's necessities, has been restored to cultivation. Far away from Ypres, Louvain, of which more than 2,000 houses were burned by the Germans in a fit of panic in August, 1914, Louvain has arisen from its ashes. From the Place des Martyrs by the station to the Hotel de Ville (unharmed) all has been rebuilt. The University, its immensely valuable library gone for ever, is in course of reconstruction on the original lines. It is quite small, smaller than a single College at Oxford or Cambridge. At Malines, which came within the war zone, the damaged Cathedral of Cardinal Mercier shows scarcely perceptible signs of reparation. And it is the same with Ostend by the harbour, and with Antwerp. Everywhere I went fields and restored houses and bridges told the same story of Belgian industry and courage.

There were devastated areas in Belgium, but they are devastated no longer. And it was not until the labour of restoration had been completed that the Government and people of Belgium could direct their undivided attention towards the recovery of trade and the balancing of their national Budget.

PUBLIC FINANCE IN NEW ZEALAND.

DWELLERS in Albion will learn with surprise—and not a little envy—that in certain happy Isles on the other side of the world successive Finance Ministers have not merely been able substantially to ease the taxpayers' burden without any upset of budgetary equilibrium, but have in five years devoted to desirable social developments an amount almost equal to the whole of the Government's current annual income without any appreciable increase in the National Debt. If to this be added that the Debt is itself largely represented by revenue-earning assets, the full strength of New Zealand's financial position will be apparent. The story of these achievements is narrated in the financial accounts for 1923-24 presented to the Dominion Parliament by Mr. Massey on July 23rd last.

In cold figures, the following is a condensed statement of the national balance-sheet for the last two financial years:—

(000's omitted.)

REVENUE.	Year ended March 31.		EXPENDITURE.	Year ended March 31.	
	1923.	1924.		1923.	1924.
Customs.....	£ 6,032	£ 7,238	Interest	£ 7,904	£ 7,878
Beer Duty	612	632	Sinking Fund & Funded Debt Reduction	996	1,004
Stamp and Death Duties	3,581	3,344	Pensions	2,481	2,331
Posts and Telegraphs	2,705	2,681	Postal and Telegraph Expenses	2,113	2,118
Income-tax & Land Tax	5,373	5,203	Railway expenses	4,946	5,153
Railways	6,720	6,954	Education	2,515	2,605
Other Revenue	2,556	1,903	Other expenses	5,309	5,059
Total	27,579	27,960	Total	26,264	26,148

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
THE TRUST SPECIALISES IN PLANTATION FINANCE.
ADVANCES MADE UPON APPROVED SECURITY OF
ESTATES, SHARES OR DEBENTURES.
TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

14, GREAT TOWER STREET - LONDON, E.C.3.

For the year 1924-25 revenue is estimated at £27,857,620 (allowing for tax remissions totalling £1,000,000) and expenditure at £27,505,060, leaving a balance of £352,560 for supplementary estimates, which, in addition to normal requirements, will be required to cover increases in pay arising out of the regrading of public employees' salaries.

The debt position as at March 31st last was as shown:—

	Amount.	Gross Annual Charge.
Held in—	£	£
New Zealand.....	104,632,868	4,554,057
Australia	2,106,600	86,828
London	114,876,893	4,977,563
	£221,616,361	9,618,448
Annual sinking funds.....		739,442
Repayment of Imperial funded debt		307,718
Total gross charge		10,665,608
Estimated recoveries from trading and other accounts		2,108,111

Net annual charge at March 31, 1924..... 8,557,497

The following review of Mr. Massey's speech is contributed by our New Zealand correspondent:—The delivery of the Budget has given fairly general satisfaction. The very strong financial condition of the Dominion is apparent throughout the statement of the finances, and though it closes on a note of warning against extravagance, the tone of the Minister's speech is one of quiet and justifiable optimism. In the course of economic recovery from the difficulties that followed the sharp fall of prices in 1920, the Dominion revenue is still buoyant, and shows a further increase in 1923-4 of £380,927, despite a remission of 20 per cent. in the income-tax and the removal of the super-tax upon the unimproved value of land. Most of this increase, however, is accounted for by the great volume of imports in 1923-4, the Customs revenue showing an increase of no less than £1,205,923. It is one of the ironies of the Dominion's economic position that the heavy importations that caused strain upon the banking mechanism should so relieve the public finances. From the other side the irony has even more point. The Minister has based his estimates for the forthcoming year largely upon the expectation of an even greater revenue from the Customs duties, and hinges upon that expectation his proposals to reduce taxation still further by concessions of approximately £1,000,000 to the taxpayers. The trade returns for the first quarter of the new financial year, however, show a decrease of imports from £16 millions to approximately £11 millions, with a corresponding shrinkage in Customs revenue. It is too soon to tell yet whether that shrinkage will be maintained in succeeding quarters, but the estimate is clearly hazardous.

The reductions in expenditure carried out in previous years have been more than maintained, and the year's accounts show a further net decrease of expenditure which is gratifying. Upon the strength of these sustained decreases and the buoyancy of the revenue the Minister is able to promise further reductions in taxation, but has not indicated what form they will take. It is generally understood, however, that the Land and Income-tax will be chosen for reduction, even though the Government is 'unable to carry out in full the recommendations of the Royal Commission whose report was commented upon recently in the columns of *The Economist*.

The management of the Public Debt since the war has been hinged upon the accumulation during the boom of very large surpluses, which still provide the Government with substantial credit balances to work upon. The policy of the Government is not to reduce debt by the direct application of these surpluses; but to provide from them much of the expenditure needed to meet demands for such urgent problems as housing, re-settlement of discharged soldiers, and other revenue-earning investments. An

astonishing amount of assistance has been rendered in this way by the Government without increasing the net total of the Public Debt. The financial operations of a New Zealand Government are intricate and hard to follow, since there are so many lending departments, and the cross-operations by means of which the advances to settlers and workers department uses accumulated surpluses or balances of other departments are apt to be confusing. But the net result has been that the Public Debt is almost stationary, while at the same time considerable outlay upon development work has been possible. The figures for the Public Debt are as follows:—

Year Ended	Gross Debt.	Sinking Funds.	Net Debt.
March 31.	Mil. £.	Mil. £.	Mil. £.
1922	219.1	10.7	208.4
1923	219.0	11.9	207.1
1924	221.6	13.0	208.6

Against these figures must be set the expenditure of £26.6 millions for the settlement and housing of discharged soldiers. Over 22,000 soldiers have been assisted in this way. At the same time very large amounts have been borrowed cheaply upon the credit of the State and re-loaned upon the principle of amortisation re-payments to large numbers of individual citizens. For the last financial year alone 9,648 new borrowers received loans amounting to over £8 millions. The machinery of State advances has, in fact, done a great deal to solve the housing problem in the Dominion, and to solve it in the right way, by making it possible for workers to own their own homes, and pay for them in the course of a period varying from 20 to 36 years. During the last five years the number of houses erected with State assistance of this type to become the property of the borrowers was 30,459, and the amount involved was almost £19 millions. In addition, sums amounting to £13 millions were lent on mortgage by various departments, all of which is in addition to the amount spent upon soldier settlement. That this expenditure could have been made without adding to the net debt is proof of the great resources and buoyant prosperity of the Dominion.

The State advances scheme seems to show very little at which even the most carping critic of State assistance may cavil. The Department simply borrows upon the community's credit, and gives individual citizens the benefit of the cheap rates of interest. There has been a slight profit over and above the working expenses of the Department, the people are settled in houses of their own, and as the regular repayments of interest and principal steadily increase the Department's margin of security there is little danger of losses.

The advances to soldier settlers are, however, on a much less satisfactory basis, having been undertaken in a boom period, and in consequence involving substantial losses, part of which have already been written off. The accounts show arrears of interest and principal amounting to £751,524 and arrears of rent amounting to £487,100. In another part of the Budget it is stated that "the principal officers of the Lands Department are at present very fully occupied in connection with the pressing duty of revaluing discharged-soldier settlers' holdings," and this is made an excuse for the delay in promoting closer settlement, which seems a doubly unfortunate result.

One must, however, regard the probable loss upon advances to the soldier settlers as the Governmental counterpart to the losses that have been made in recent years by the farmers, and be thankful that the matter is no worse. On the whole, the proud review of development with which Mr Massey closes his Budget is the best reason for future confidence. To take only the main export items in the last ten years, during which population has increased by 18 per cent., the following impressive figures may be quoted:—

DECADE INCREASE, 1915-24.

Export.	Volume.	Value.
	%	%
Wool	17	35
Frozen meat	18	103
Butter	236	418
Cheese	136	288

These figures explain why a population of 1,300,000 has over 700,000 depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank with deposits amounting to over £44 millions.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.—I.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

How far Mr Gandhi means to attempt a boycott of "foreign" goods as distinct from "British" is not made clear by his recent declaration in favour of Protection. He has declared himself as being strongly opposed to the boycott of "Empire" goods, such action, he considers, being "wholly indefensible"—*tempora mutantur!*—but apparently he has made no declaration of his policy regarding "foreign" goods. In view of the possible attitude towards these which he and his followers may adopt, it may be of interest to notice some particulars of India's foreign trade, which is to a great extent centred in the five principal ports, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon, and Karachi. Calcutta's trade as the centre of the jute manufacturing industry is naturally very extensive. The publication of inland trade statistics has been discontinued, but in 1921-22—the last year in which these were published—the total volume of Calcutta's trade for the year amounted to 7,979,000 tons, of which 6,253,000 tons were inwards and 1,726,000 tons outwards, while river steamers and boats brought in an additional 1,227,000 tons. Bombay, with its cotton spinning and weaving mills, had during the year 1922-23 an import trade of the value of Rs.123,445,332, while exports were valued at Rs.93,571,311. Taking the same period for Madras, the value of the import trade at this port amounted to £15,420,770, while exports were £9,152,826. The chief industry of Rangoon is rice milling, but a large export trade is carried on in timber and oil. The total value of imports into Rangoon during 1922-23 was £23,888,044, and of exports £36,217,003. The value of imports from Karachi for the year 1922-23 was £24,682,296, and of exports £22,566,688. In normal years the balance of trade is in favour of India, the value of exported produce and merchandise considerably exceeding the value of imported goods. If a boycott of "foreign" goods as distinct from those of "British" origin was successful, the countries most affected would be Japan and the United States of America. Taking an average for the five years ending 1923, the percentage of India's import trade of her three chief customers—excluding the United Kingdom—is as follows:—Japan, 9.6; the United States, 9.1; Java, 7.0. Japan's percentage for the year 1918-19 was 19.8, but this has declined to 6.2 last year, while the percentage of the United States for the same period also shows a decline from 9.5 to 5.7, though the imports from both these countries are still far in advance of pre-war figures. It is of interest to note that, while the import trade from Japan and the United States shows a decline, the percentage of trade from Germany shows an increase, the figures for 1922-23 being 5.1 per cent., as compared with 2.7 per cent. in the previous year and of 6.9 per cent. in 1913-14. Of other foreign countries, it may be noted that while the percentage of imports from France and Italy have during the last few years steadily decreased, the percentage of Belgium's trade is higher than before the war. The only other countries able to show an increase in exports to India last year were China and the Straits Settlements. Statistics have just reached this country showing the condition of India's foreign sea-borne trade for the three months ending June 30th last, during which period there was a favourable balance amounting to Rs.4.32 crores compared with Rs.15.93 crores in the corresponding period of last year. For the four months ending July 31st the total revenue realised was Rs.14.20 lakhs, as compared with Rs.12.20 lakhs for the same period in 1923. Import duties contributed Rs.11.35 lakhs, and export duties Rs.1.55 lakhs, while Excise duties on cotton manufactures were Rs.60 lakhs, on kerosene Rs.32 lakhs, and on motor spirit Rs.26 lakhs. Increases were noticeable in import duties on cotton yarn and piece goods, sugar, liquors, metals (other than iron and steel), and motor cars and cycles, while decreases occurred in machinery, railway plant, mineral oils, matches, and tobacco. The three principal categories of imports into India fall under the headings of—

(1) Cotton manufactured goods, principally from the United Kingdom.

(2) Machinery, the total value of importations increasing from Rs.24 crores in 1920-21 to Rs.35½ crores in 1922-23, the share of the United Kingdom increasing dur-

ing this period from 79 to 83 per cent., while the share of the United States decreased from 17 to 13 per cent.

(3) Sugar.—India is the third largest importer of sugar in the world, her chief source of supply being Java, with a yearly average of 625,000 tons, and Mauritius with 61,000 tons. A yearly average of about 15,000 tons of sugar-beet is imported from Belgium. Other imported articles include iron and steel, railway rolling stock, wheat, coal, mineral oils, motor-cars, silks, liquors, and hardware. Under this latter heading the percentages last year of both the United Kingdom and the United States show a decrease, while hardware imports from Germany have increased from 3 to 10 per cent.

It requires but little knowledge of India's needs, and of her own resources in their present stage of development, to see how dependent she is upon imports, and how vitally necessary they are for any internal commercial expansion. If a successful boycott was imposed upon them it is difficult to see by what methods this need could be met. For 50 years prior to the Great War exports from India exceeded imports into the country, the percentage of excess varying from an average of 29 per cent. for the first half of the period, to an average of 19 per cent. for the 20 years ending March 31, 1914. In 1919 a very great change was manifest, the total value of imports exceeding exports by £58,932,425. Taking an average of four years ending 1923, the total imports were £217,057,955, and of exports £205,075,739, while the "foreign" share of these imports was about 40 per cent. If a boycott upon imported goods is attempted, it is only natural to infer that the countries of origin of these goods will retaliate by boycotting exports from India to their countries. The result of any such action would be disastrous to India, for she is absolutely dependent upon imports not only for any possible expansion of trade, but for the maintenance of her existing industries. If these should cease through any action taken by foreign countries in retaliation for the boycotting of their goods, it would be quite beyond the power of India to supply the deficiency and meet her own requirements, and the result would be not merely commercial stagnation, but an outbreak of misery and poverty unexampled in the history of the country. It is, therefore, to be hoped that Mr Gandhi and his followers will carefully consider the probable result of any boycott of goods from foreign countries, and realise the foolishness of such a suicidal policy.

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE AT STOCKHOLM.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the whole of last week the Riksdagshuset at Stockholm—the Swedish Parliament House—was a cosmopolitan place. Representatives of nearly all the countries of Europe, of the United States, and of several of the States of South America had come together for the thirty-third conference of the International Law Association. They had assembled to talk practical business, as well as to constitute a temporary clearing-house for all kinds of ideas about the best way to regulate and improve the organisation of international society. There were judges of various degrees of rank, advocates, bankers, shipowners, underwriters, average adjusters, and representatives of commercial organisations. Of whatever race, they all met together freely on common ground, as it were, and, if there was no one language common to all, the matter of speech was, nevertheless, so managed that there was an open and ready exchange of views. A touch of distinction was given by the presence of the King of Sweden and other members of the Swedish Royal family at the inaugural session. This opening gathering took place in another building—the historic Riddarhuset, or Hall of the Nobles—and was necessarily somewhat formal. Thereafter, in the Riksdagshuset, those assembled for the conference divided themselves into two main groups. One of these was a general meeting for the discussion of a varied programme of topics, while the other, in a separate chamber, formed a maritime section, which went independently into the affairs with which it concerned itself, until, at the end of the week, it reported results to the concluding sitting of the full conference.

The chief business of the maritime section was the revision and enlargement of the rules of general average, a

matter, on the face of it, as dry and technical as could be found, and yet closely interwoven, in its everyday applications, with the main currents of international trade and shipping. Importers, exporters, shipowners, marine insurance men, bankers and commercial lawyers all come into touch from time to time with questions involving what is known as general average, though the complexities and intricacies of that subject are mainly handled, in practice, by the average adjusters, the members of a profession numerically somewhat small, and inclined to regard itself as a close corporation of mystery men. Really, the adjusters are very acute, capable and useful members of the business community. The general average statements which the adjusters prepare are the means of distributing, amongst the various interests concerned in a maritime adventure, extraordinary losses, which for the common safety have, in the first instance, been thrown upon or borne by one particular part of the property, whether cargo or ship, involved in the adventure. The business of the adjusters is to work out an equitable apportionment, for the purpose of which contributions are exacted from all, to make good the loss borne in the first instance by one. The system of general average seems to date back to days of small ships, when to make good to the owner of some particular cargo or ship's gear, jettisoned for the common safety, a rough and ready levy on what reached port was made to adjust matters. It probably originated before our system of marine insurance, but it has continued as a kind of mutual marine insurance alongside the practice of taking out policies to cover directly the risks of sea carriage. In modern times of large steamships carrying heavy mixed cargoes the working out of the adjustments has become a highly technical business. Elaborate investigations and valuations are required, which in not a few instances take years to complete, and a complicated machinery of deposits, guarantees, refunds of excess, and so on has been developed. General average losses and expenses may include not only those resulting from jettison—that is, throwing overboard—but also expenses of entering a port of refuge, salvage, and other matters. The problem of how far various kinds of expenses are to be deemed consequential on what is termed a "general average act," and therefore to be brought into the adjustment, has been worked out differently in the various maritime countries of the world. Moreover, there are numerous divergent national laws of general average. In most instances the charter party or bill of lading stipulates that general average is to be adjusted according to standard international clauses, which are incorporated by reference as the York-Antwerp Rules, 1890, but where those rules do not apply (and they do not cover all cases) the national law applicable has to be ascertained and followed.

These are the circumstances to the improvement of which, in the interests of oversea commerce as a whole, the Stockholm Conference applied itself. The same International Law Association that has been undertaking the reform of the law of general average drew up the international Rules of 1890, which, as just mentioned, are now in general use, so that it was the body to which the further work naturally fell. Complaints of the heavy expense of working out the complicated adjustments called for by modern conditions have been heard, and yet business men have been reluctant to abandon the Rules with which they have been familiar. The Rules of 1890 have, on the whole, worked well, too, though they deal only with specific points of practice. They contain no statement of principles, and, for the settlement of matters which they do not cover, they let in the national law, so that international uniformity has so far been only partially attained. In effect, the adjuster's individual discretion often determines the matter. This is usually well exercised, but the current state of affairs means that the adjusters remain "mystery men," who pursue their own practices, which certainly vary from country to country, as well as within countries.

In taking up the question of the revision of the rules of general average, the object of the International Law Association was to improve the methods of business. The preliminaries of reform have been under way for some years, and have been the work of men of many nationalities. The purpose in view has been to simplify the rules to be applied, as well as to revise them in detail, having

regard to changed conditions of sea transport. The conservatism of business men, and their somewhat partial trust in reforming lawyers, have made the task more difficult, and perhaps hindered its more complete achievement; but it may be said that, broadly, the objects sought have been attained as the result of the Conference. Representatives of business interests have throughout co-operated with the jurists. There has, as Sir Norman Hill, the chairman of the maritime section of the Conference, pointed out, been no question of dictating a code of general average. The one idea has been to find out and express the wants of commerce. The York-Antwerp Rules of 1890 have been, as the result of the work of the Conference, revised, and will be available, in their new form, as the York-Antwerp Rules, 1924, for voluntary incorporation in shipping documents, as the existing Rules of 1890 have been. The new Rules include a statement of principles to be applied in circumstances not specifically covered, and these general principles take the place of the concluding rule of the current series, now omitted, which referred the settlement to whatever national law might apply if the Rules did not cover the point.

So the rules of general average have been revised, added to in the way of provision for certain specific matters, and further supplemented by the insertion of a short series of preliminary rules defining principles. These preliminary rules are designated by letters of the alphabet, so that the familiar numbers of the existing rules have not been altered, the additional rules dealing with specific points of practice being added at the end of the numbered rules.

It remains to be said that, in one sense, the method of adjusting and distributing loss does not matter. Economically the burden of the losses in question, wherever they first fall, will adjust itself, and will have its effect on prices, shipping freights, or marine insurance premiums, but it is certainly important that methods of adjustment carried out by deliberate human action should be simplified and made, as far as possible, certain and uniform throughout all the channels of international trade. Possibly it is too late to consider the sweeping away of general average altogether. It has become too ingrained in practice, and too much the subject of vested interests, to allow of what logically would be the most complete and desirable reform, namely, its abolition, and the covering of the risks and losses with which it deals by means of direct insurance. From the practical standpoint, therefore, the settlement at the Stockholm Conference of the York-Antwerp Rules, 1924, may be welcomed as a contribution to the easier settlement of business difficulties, and, consequently, the easier conduct of business itself.

For the rest, the Conference discussed questions of nationality, of international courts of justice, aviation, foreign judgments, systems of evidence, territorial waters, codification, commercial arbitration, bankruptcy in its international aspect, problems connected with the League of Nations, and other matters, which, all together, constituted too full a bill of fare to admit of anything like complete digestion. The purpose of the International Law Association, however, is in part to convince a wider public than its own members of the importance of the part played by international law in many kinds of human activities. The number and variety of topics examined, even incompletely, is, therefore, justifiable, inasmuch as the pursuit of that purpose may thereby be helped.

LONDON PROPERTY COMPANIES.

ALTHOUGH still burdened by restrictive legislation, scarcity of labour, and the high costs of materials, the position of property is becoming slowly stabilised in this country. The difficulty of attempting to interfere with the law of supply and demand has been well exemplified in the history of housing control for the last few years. The little group of companies which we have brought together for the purposes of a review covers various fields of activities in the estate and property world. Most of the companies tell their objectives in their titles. Thus the Artizans' Labourers and General Dwellings Company provides houses for what were formerly termed the working classes. It has block buildings throughout inner

London, and small houses in various suburbs. City Offices, and City of London Real Property Company, Metropolitan Association for Improving Dwellings, do not need any further introduction, while Warner Estate and Wembley Park Estate are types of the companies which came into existence in suburban districts with the object of providing villas at reasonable rents.

It does not need a strong flight of imagination to envisage the favourable position in which many property companies now find themselves, with properties taken into their accounts at cost, and erected at a period when building costs were at a specially low ebb. To erect similar buildings now would cost in most cases well over double the amount then expended. How favourable the position really is for many concerns may be judged from a perusal of a circular issued in November last by the City of London Real Property Company. Properties which formerly stood in the balance-sheet of the company at £3,871,064 were revalued last year, and a new price of £10,718,034 set against them. Thus the new price levels had been very generous in this direction. Of course, it may be argued that this is an exceptional case, as the properties owned are situated in the City itself. This increase in values, however, must be taken into consideration by anyone who holds the view that prices of to-day are fairly well stabilised for some years to come.

Our first table shows gross receipts and net profits, after payment of debenture interest, in the past three years:—

Name of Company.	Gross Receipts.			Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Int. rest.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Artizans', &c., Dwellings	£ 339,950	£ 345,989	£ 338,014	£ 121,663	£ 128,954	£ 145,870
City of London Real Property	77,168	80,622	80,688	13,668	15,890	17,382
Consolidated London Properties	437,571	520,243	574,743	369,640	450,083	484,792
Law Land Company	132,218	136,239	147,141	20,311	26,020	26,200
Metropolitan Association for Improving Dwellings, &c.	194,726	198,624	202,041	39,317	43,659	47,899
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings	40,131	39,856	38,294	6,909	7,706	8,053
Pinners Hall (Austin Friars) ..	55,945	51,420	55,945	13,545	15,451	15,896
Warner Estate	20,307	21,198	21,225	11,485	11,784	11,829
Wembley Park Estate	169,667	172,569	170,336	29,068	39,919	43,312
	6,039	5,378	6,562	3,264	3,156	4,718

It will be observed that profits show a steady rise in the three years; this increase has generally been obtained by lower expenditure.

Our next table shows the principal assets and liabilities during the past three years:—

Name.	Principal Liabilities.			Principal Assets.			
	Share Debt and Loan Capital.	Creditors.	Reserves.	Properties.	Debtors.	Investments.	Cash.
Artizans' &c., Dwellings—							
End 1921	£ 2,939,230	£ 50,552	£ 324,021	£ 3,317,345	£ 419	£ 67,885	£ 11,271
End 1922	2,939,230	46,413	350,417	3,297,266	647	54,492	32,791
End 1923	2,939,230	40,411	381,999	3,295,235	947	95,72	30,437
City Offices—							
End 1921	£ 630,650	£ 24,993	£ ..	£ 651,796	£ ..	£ ..	£ 1,608
End 1922	630,650	23,094	..	645,796	..	..	1,528
End 1923	612,494	24,262	3,000	639,101	..	..	2,631
City of London Real Property—							
Apr. 12, 1922	£ 3,743,180	£ 114,470	£ 465,633	£ 3,786,594	£ 363,161	£ 237,354	£ 69,630
Apr. 12, 1923	3,728,364	130,769	674,472	3,871,065	285,207	316,915	221,474
Apr. 12, 1924	10,731,336	197,507	804,541	11,418,167	209,819	301,134	63,129
Consolidated London Properties—							
March, 1922	£ 467,030	£ 49,015	£ 43,967	£ 459,839	£ 41,752	£ 59,979	£ 21,694
March, 1923	463,850	53,344	61,194	456,689	40,949	103,043	6,169
March, 1924	460,575	61,304	76,897	453,414	45,884	131,503	6,647
Law Land Co.—							
End 1921	£ 1,079,435	£ 51,954	£ 269,617	£ 1,358,118	£ 21,614	£ 13,087	£ 9,852
End 1922	1,070,863	52,910	281,059	1,358,318	21,826	4,207	30,879
End 1923	1,078,905	51,089	289,519	1,403,398	25,823	3,40-	3,342
Metropolitan Association, &c.—							
March 31, 1922	£ 256,785	£ ..	£ 48,281	£ 310,286	£ ..	£ 43-	£ 990
March 31, 1923	256,785	..	49,749	310,286	..	435	2,279
March 31, 1924	256,045	..	51,812	310,286	..	435	3,397
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings—							
Sept. 29, 1921	£ 274,750	£ 6,643	£ 24,832	£ 317,058	£ 1,729	£ 10,285	£ 4,975
Sept. 29, 1922	269,020	6,870	25,963	317,058	2,152	11,130	5,604
Sept. 29, 1923	262,250	6,506	26,013	310,000	2,213	11,13-	5,603
Pinners Hall (Austin Friars)—							
Sept. 30, 1921	£ 277,092	£ 7,212	£ 19,023	£ 253,500	£ 16,641	£ 39,000	£ 2,719
Sept. 30, 1922	277,092	4,817	24,293	253,000	17,239	38,000	3,101
Sept. 30, 1923	277,092	5,114	27,096	252,500	21,411	38,000	4,166
Warner Estate—							
March 31, 1922	£ 777,471	£ 17,929	£ 130,250	£ 917,423	£ 1,204	£ 3,500	£ 5,571
March 31, 1923	777,436	20,630	126,000	914,438	1,081	3,50	7,126
March 31, 1924	744,888	28,641	139,000	913,063	933	3,500	6,331
Wembley Park Estate—							
June 30, 1922	£ 74,621	£ 3,830	£ 17,631	£ 83,139	£ 2,227	£ 38,340	£ 6,659
June 30, 1923	74,621	7,602	21,143	82,612	1,830	54,433	8,118
June 30, 1924	74,621	6,379	23,407	86,553	566	57,375	6,588

City Offices begins a reserve fund with £3,000. This company, however, takes care to draw shareholders' attention to various sinking funds; indeed, for the matter of that, most well-managed property companies possess substantial leasehold reserve sinking funds as a provision against expiring leases. The Law Land having reached the limit laid down for reserves, namely, £200,000, has increased its authorised limit to £300,000. In a small way this company makes a bonus issue each year.

It is not a matter of surprise to find "cash" items somewhat on the low side in our table, and this trend will be accentuated as conditions become more normal. While repairs and renovations were being held over for prices to fall, an accumulation of liquid assets was perhaps inevitable, but from its nature, a property company simply returns a slight trickle of revenue very steadily over a long period of years. Our column of capital, with one notable exception, is remarkable for its steady evenness. The Warner Estate records a change on account of a reduction in temporary loans. It will be noticed that the Law Land has increased its property item from £1,358,318 to £1,403,393. This increase is solely on account of expenditure in connection with new property.

Our concluding table shows the dividends for the past three years, also comparative prices of ordinary shares and stocks and present yields:—

Name.	Dividends Last 3 Complete Years.			Prices of Shares or Stock End of August.			Present Yield.
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.	
Artizans', Labourers', and General Dwellings Ord. Stock	% 4½	% 5	% 5	67½	72½	73½	6 16 0
City Offices (£12 shares)	14/p.s. 15/p.s. 18/p.s.	12½	13½	8½	8½	12	7 10 0
City of London Real Property (£1)	2½	12½	13½	1½	1½	1½	13 12 6
Consolidated London Properties (£1)	6	8	10	52½	57	66	8 17 9
Law Land Co. (£1)	5	5½	6	1	1	1	6 0 0
Metropolitan Association Ord. Stk.	5	5	5	52½	57	66	7 14 0
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings (£5)	5	5	5	..	..	..	8 14 0
Wembley Park Estate (£1)	10	12½	12½	..	..	..	8 14 0

† Free of income-tax.

In order to make the dividend on City of London Real Property strictly comparable, we have taken the amount of ordinary dividend as being paid on its present capital of £8,000,000. This table also indicates that property companies have enjoyed steady progress during the past few years. The Law Land having distributed, in addition to a dividend of 6 per cent., a bonus of three £1 ordinary shares for every 100 shares held, its £1 ordinary shares show a return at the par quotation of about 9 per cent.—a very generous yield from such an efficient and conservatively controlled concern.

Notes of the Week.

Ulster's Refusal.—At a meeting held on Tuesday the Cabinet of Northern Ireland finally decided not to appoint a representative on the Boundary Commission. The statement in which this decision was conveyed to the Press was of a polemic nature, and maintained the position that in signing the Treaty of 1921 Mr Lloyd George and his Government infringed the rights of Northern Ireland as conceded by the Act of 1920. It therefore becomes incumbent upon the British Government to propose legislation to carry out its Treaty undertakings in relation to the Boundary Commission, and Parliament will meet on September 30th for this purpose. There is little room for doubt that the Government will obtain sanction for its Irish Bill; but Ulster's refusal, although expected, has brought the Irish problem once more into a state of great anxiety. There are, it is true, several elements of hope. Sir James Craig is still ready to discuss a settlement with Mr Cosgrave, and a party of Members of Parliament drawn from all parties has returned from Ireland convinced of the existence of a general desire for a settlement by conference; and the pacific desires of the Dublin Government are beyond doubt. But, as usual, the danger comes from extremists. In the Free State there are formidable anti-Treaty sections, who are watching for any weakness on the part

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.

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

TEA — RUBBER — PRODUCE
HARDWARE — TEXTILES
GENERAL EASTERN MERCHANTS.

of Mr Cosgrave, on which to base a denunciation of the Treaty and a fresh campaign for complete separation. Nor is Sir James Craig by any means without embarrassment from intransigents. We are, therefore, faced by a dilemma. A conference would obviously have more hope of success if it met now with a virgin field of discussion than if it met after the Boundary Commission had pronounced a decision which one party finds completely unacceptable. But it is equally obvious that Mr Cosgrave, owing to the forces at work in the Free State, cannot enter into conference until he has insisted upon the Free State's rights under the Treaty, and has compelled the British Government to implement its undertakings and vindicate its good faith. So now for the next few weeks the course of affairs is fairly plain. The British Government will redeem its word. The Commission will sit, and will produce a decision of which Ulster will take no cognisance, and which is hardly likely to satisfy the Free State. The only way out of a dangerous deadlock would appear to be through negotiation for a united Ireland. But, unfortunately, there is a danger lest the passions which will rise higher and higher in the next few weeks will make any such *dénouement* even more difficult than at present. There is, therefore, good reason for pessimism and anxiety. But we cling to the hope that the debates in the British House of Commons may indicate a "bridge" on which men of goodwill in Northern and Southern Ireland may meet.

The Conflict in China.—The contest for the control of Shanghai has come to a sudden and unexpected collapse. It had been carried on with more persistence and many more casualties than are customary in Chinese warfare, and the Chekiang troops, though outnumbered by their Kiangsu opponents, appeared to have held their positions and even gained a slight advantage. But they were threatened with attacks in their rear from Fukien and Anhwei, and two divisions went over to their Kiangsu opponents. Lu Yung Hsiang and the Chekiang army are reported to be retreating on Shanghai, where the foreign concessions are well protected by European, American, and Japanese warships, and by the local Volunteers. The chief interest of the struggle had already shifted northwards, to Peking and Manchuria. Chang Tso-Lin, having again formally denounced Wu Pei-Fu and the Peking Government, had begun to move southwards from Mukden on Peking, and the troops under Feng Yu-Hsian, "the Christian General," had been diverted from the Shanghai conflict for the defence of the Chinese capital. The outposts of the armies of Wu Pei-Fu and Chang Tso-Lin are stated to be in contact near Shanhaikwan, half-way between Mukden and Tientsin, and a war council held in Peking on Wednesday has appointed Wu Pei-Fu commander-in-chief of the forces defending the Peking Government. Mr W. W. Yen, who has had an American education and held professorships in the United States and Shanghai, has become Prime Minister for the third time; but the power is entirely in the hands of the military chiefs. Chang Tso-Lin, however, would have had great difficulty in forcing his way southwards, and he may now defer his advance to a more convenient season. So may Sun Yat-Sen, who had been preparing to organise an advance northward in aid of the Chekiang forces. The insecurity of his own position is exhibited indirectly by the letter in another column from our Hong-kong correspondent, and directly by his own confession of the failures of his administration and the inducements—in the shape of local self-government and remission of taxation—which he offers for the support of the population under his rule. His resort to Bolshevik advisers will not recommend him to them, and his Yunnanese troops are probably unreliable.

Control of Building Materials.—One of the chief topics of the autumn session will be the Government's proposals embodied in a Bill dealing with the prices and supply of building materials. The Bill provides, firstly, that in cases where the Minister of Health represents that any article used in connection with the building of working-class houses is at too high a price, the Board of Trade shall have power to investigate "prices, conditions of supply, costs, and profits." If they are satisfied that the prices are unreasonably high, or that restrictive conditions are being imposed upon supply, the Board of Trade is empowered to make orders fixing or regulating prices, or to intervene to prevent the restrictive conditions. Full powers are given in regard to these investigations to demand information and to inspect books. The information obtained is, however, to be kept secret unless the information has to be given in court, or if the parties agree to publication. Secondly, if, after investigation, it appears that the supply of such materials is being unreasonably prevented, the Minister of Health may take over stocks, or the output of factories, or may even take possession of the lands and buildings in which production of these articles is carried on, and may carry on the business himself. He must, however, return these premises if and when he is satisfied that the supply will no longer be unreasonably restricted. Compensation is to be paid for direct loss suffered by reason of this interference, but the compensation is not to make any allowance in respect of loss of profits that would have accrued if the Minister had not taken possession of the premises. These provisions are much wider than any hitherto contemplated in connection with trusts or with profiteering, and will certainly be very strongly criticised. For a Bill which contains such sweeping powers, the draft is little more than a summary, and in its present form full of ambiguities both in regard to compensation as well as in other clauses. In our view, the Bill proceeds along the wrong lines. We entirely agree that the first step in matters of this kind should be investigation; but the second should be not the fixing of prices, but the publication of the facts if the inquiry itself does not produce the desired remedy. Publicity and the pressure of opinion was regarded by the Committee on Trusts of 1918 as the first and most desirable form of pressure against excessive profits, and with this view the Labour representatives on the Committee, including Mr Sidney Webb, entirely concurred. The fixing of prices and the commandeering of works is a very drastic remedy which Parliament is unlikely to entrust to the Department concerned on the strength of information which is not to be disclosed. Even during the war, when the suspension of ordinary economic influences made it more practicable than at present to fix prices, this power was in the main exercised with the help and co-operation of the best brains in the business world. It is a very different matter to have them fixed by Ministers and Civil Servants at times when competition is in full swing. In any case, the proposal bristles with difficulties, for it is apparently intended to apply it only to the use of material required for the building of working-class houses. Manufacturers of bricks, castings, cement, wall-paper, and a host of other products would come within the scope of the Bill for part of their output only, and it is difficult to see how a portion of production can be so controlled without leading to the requisitioning of a certain proportion of all the industries concerned. We have every sympathy with attempts to check the strangling of competition by monopolistic organisations, whether in the building or other industries, and the State should possess carefully thought-out powers for this end. But this is a very different matter from a partial intervention, which will probably produce a shortage of supply of these commodities for other purposes, and lead to two prices in the same market. But, after all, perhaps our ill-starred attempts to interfere with the laws of supply and demand in housing have as their natural corollary the necessity of making similar efforts in associated industries.

Employment in August.—The extent of the August increase in unemployment is shown by the figures published this week in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. The trade union percentage of unemployed, representing

mainly skilled workers, rose from 7.4 at the end of July to 7.9 at the end of August. Monthly movements of this percentage over a number of years are shown below:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.								
	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	7.4
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	7.9
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	..
October	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	..
November ..	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..
December ..	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

The trade union figures for July and August are, however, not so bad as they appear. Owing to the strike in the building trade, the figures for that industry, in which unemployment was at a very low level, were eliminated from the totals for July and August, thereby making the general percentage for those months somewhat misleading as to general trade union employment. If the building trades are excluded from the June figures as well, we get the following proper comparison of the trade union unemployment percentages for the past three months:—June, 7.6; July, 7.4; August, 7.9. On this basis the August increase over June is only 0.3, and not 0.7, per cent. Among the 11½ millions of workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed rose from 9.9 at July 28th to 10.6 on August 25th. This compares with 11.4 per cent. a year ago. The live register of the Employment Exchanges showed between these dates a rise of exactly 100,000 in the total of unemployed. Of the increased number, 72,000 were men. Of these over 38,000 were accounted for by the iron, coal, steel, and engineering trades. A feature of the figures is an improvement in the cotton trade.

Cost of Living.—For the third month in succession the *Ministry of Labour Gazette's* index of the cost of living rose in August by one point. Thus at September 1st the cost of living for an average working-class family was estimated to be 72 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 71 per cent. above that level a month earlier. Monthly movements in this index figure over a number of years are shown in the following table:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE over JULY, 1914.—All items. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)								
Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	
January ..	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77	
February ..	90	120	130	151	88	77	79	
March ..	90	115	130	141	86	76	78	
April ..	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73	
May ..	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71	
June ..	100	105	150	119	80	69	69	
July ..	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70	
August ..	110	115	155	122	81	71	71	
September ..	110	115	161	120	79	73	72	
October ..	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	..	
November ..	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	..	
December ..	120	125	169	99	80	77	..	

The rise in the percentage in August was almost entirely due to increases in retail food prices. For food alone the average increase over the pre-war level was 66 per cent. at September 1st, as compared with 64 per cent. on August 1st and 68 per cent. a year ago.

Iron, Steel, and Coal Output.—The monthly statistics of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show that the production of pig-iron in August amounted to 588,900 tons, compared with 615,600 tons in July and 599,800 tons in August, 1923. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 173, a decrease of two since the beginning of the month, and the lowest

number in blast since December, 1922. The production includes 187,400 tons of hematite, 183,700 tons of basic, 155,800 tons of foundry, and 33,800 tons of forge pig-iron. The output of steel ingots and castings amounted to 527,500 tons, compared with 689,300 tons in July and 567,500 tons in August, 1923. The low output in August is to a considerable extent due to holidays. The production of coal for the four weeks ended August 30th was 19,031,400 tons, which compares with 19,382,400 tons in the four weeks of July, the output for August Bank Holiday week dropping from over 5 million tons to 3,446,100 tons. For the week ended September 6th the production was 5,180,400 tons.

Cotton Mill Shares.—The recent substantial fall in raw cotton prices and the improved prospects for spinners in Lancashire, writes our Manchester correspondent, has stimulated demand in mill shares, and during the last few weeks the market in Oldham and Manchester has been much more active. Brokers have experienced a larger demand, and prices have hardened. The following list of comparative quotations shows the rise that has taken place in the shares of leading companies. In each case the shares are of the nominal value of £1, with 10s paid up:—

	July 30, 1924.		Sept. 17, 1924.		Advance.	
	s	d	s	d	s	d
Argyll	2	3	3	7½	1	4½
Belgian	0	7½	1	6	0	10½
Boundary	1	3	3	1½	1	10½
Briar	2	3	4	6	2	3
Butterworth Hall..	1	1½	2	4½	1	3
Cairo	5	0	6	9	1	9
Cavendish	0	6	1	7½	1	1½
Commercial	2	9	4	9	2	0
Crown	4	6	6	3	1	9
Fern	5	1½	7	6	2	4½
Ivy	1	7½	3	0	1	4½
Melbourne	5	3	6	4½	1	1½
Monarch	5	7½	7	7½	2	0
Ram	1	4½	2	7½	1	3
Swan	8	10½	10	3	1	4½
Warwick	2	4½	3	4½	1	0

Compared with a month ago the margin of profit for spinners is distinctly better. The mills engaged on American cotton are still working only 26½ hours per week, instead of the usual 48 hours, but it is believed that the Masters' Federation will recommend the running of longer hours at an early date. Spinners are being hampered at the moment by the poor selection of raw cotton in this country, but in this connection the position is expected to improve within the next few weeks, when supplies will certainly move forward more freely from the United States.

The New Zone for Petrol Prices.—In commenting upon the fall in the price of petrol in our issue of September 6th, we expressed the hope, if not belief, that a further reduction would be made in the London districts where the turnover is large and the costs of distribution lower than in other centres of consumption. We therefore particularly welcome the reduction of 1d per gallon which the three big petrol distributing companies made applicable on September 16th to London and adjacent districts, in effect, to the South-east corner of England, taking a line drawn from Aylesbury eastward through Bishop's Stortford to Burnham-on-Crouch, and southward through Reading and Guildford to Worthing. Within this zone the standard brands of the big companies are now 1s 6½d and 1s 4½d per gallon. There is no suggestion of a price war in this latest move, and we have reason to believe that further "zone-ing" throughout the country is unlikely. It seems that the big petrol companies are making an exception to the rule of the uniform price in the case of London and the South-east merely as an act of self-defence. "Pirate" merchants, who do not serve the public generally, have naturally taken advantage of the policy of the uniform price—at a time when petrol is plentiful—by undercutting in districts where they need incur little expense or trouble in distribution. The three big petrol companies, who have spent millions in providing a country-wide service of distribution, must perforce protect their investments, that is, maintain the turnover that remunerates the capital

invested in distribution plant and equipment. It is a sign of healthy, if uneconomic, competition. The country is probably over-equipped for the wholesale distribution of petrol.

Rubber Developments.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—Hard upon the heels of the rise in tea shares, a rise which suffered something of a check upon a good deal of selling by people who deemed it discreet to take big profits, there has come a rally in rubber shares, and prices have moved up considerably during the past few days. It is natural that tea and rubber shares should move together, the two industries being connected fairly closely in certain respects, one of which is that people who follow the fortunes of the tea industry very often make a study of rubber conditions as well. The fact of tea prices having mounted to a level which gave cause for a halt on the part of investors, rendered cautious through comparing current prices with those of six months ago, caused the speculative investor to be more favourably inclined to look at the prospect held out by rubber shares, particularly as this seems to offer a certain amount of scope for improvement. An article in the *Economist* a fortnight ago, page 375, upon the rubber trade in America, and written by a New York correspondent, attracted a wide circle of attention. The arguments which your correspondent put forward to support his contention that the long-anticipated shortage is now becoming apparent received endorsement from good authorities on this side. So far as the share market is concerned, history has repeated itself. There was the same violent rush to buy shares; the same vivid jump in prices; the same disclosure of shortage of supply in the market with which previous movements of this kind have familiarised the public and the Stock Exchange. On former occasions there has been too great an eagerness shown to buy shares at any price, with the invariable result that people paid more than they considered they ought to have done. As soon as shares came to market, attracted by the rise which occurred, the backwash of reaction has led to prices being dropped almost as abruptly as they advanced. On a mild scale, the same thing has happened this week, but it cannot be said that the public have lost their heads. Your New York correspondent gave chapter and verse, from official rubber statistics published in the United States, to show why a real danger of shortage in the supply of rubber could be expected. He added, however, that big buyers, by continuing to refrain from making purchases, allowed a few small sellers to mark down the nominal quotations for raw rubber. This may occur in Mincing lane. Rubber has gone up with a jerk to 1s 2½d per lb., but the eyes of the cautious, looking back upon disappointing experience, are afraid to colour too rosy the immediate prospect. Six weeks have gone out of the current three-monthly period within which rubber must average at least 1s 3d per lb if the standard production is not to fall to 50 per cent.—against the present 55 per cent.—on November 1st next. Meanwhile stocks are being diminished at the same time that it becomes increasingly probable there will be another 5 per cent. reduction in output a few weeks hence, with United States demand developing in volume. Where are the increased supplies to come from? asked your correspondent in New York. The Dutch, Chinese, and Brazilian rubber is not likely to prove sufficient. The cry for removal of restriction has been heard, but, all the circumstances considered, it is not taken very seriously. The shareholder who looks ahead, and recognises the future possibilities, is now trying to buy shares at cheap prices to average those acquired higher up. But there are not many people who care to sell. The supply is limited to the scanty amount available in the market, and to the shares of such proprietors who take the view that the latest rise in rubber is no more than another flash in the pan. These sellers maintain that the present little blaze of excitement in Mincing lane will fizzle out as the United States manufacturers tap unexpected sources of supply. Thus there are two opposing camps, but the optimists possess a much greater numerical strength.

L.M.S. Conversion Scheme.—A letter to proprietors of London, Midland, and Scottish Railway ordinary stock from the chairman of the company should finally remove any doubts entertained by holders as to the advisability of accepting the offer for conversion made by the "London, Midland and Scottish Stock Conversion Trust," to which reference was made in the *Economist* of August 23rd (p. 310). The chairman of the railway company states that the use of the name "London, Midland and Scottish" by the promoters of the Trust Company is "entirely unauthorised" so far as the railway company is concerned, and must not be taken to indicate that the latter approves of the proposals. Indeed, he goes on to say that in the opinion of the board of the railway company, proprietors of L.M.S. ordinary stock will be well advised to decline the offer for the following reasons:—

(a) The promoters of the Trust base their views of the capital value on the London and North-Eastern Railway stock, but there can be no comparison between the London and North-Eastern second preference stock and the preference stock of the Trust. The one is a trustee stock, the other cannot ever rank as such.

(b) Judging by the difference between the market value of the London Midland and Scottish ordinary stock and the stocks of the Stock Conversion and Investment Trust, Limited (one of the trustees of the new Trust), which were issued for a small amount of the former London and North-Western ordinary stock, any capital appreciation will be negligible.

(c) The charge for management expenses and the deduction of £2 10s from the £100 preference stock to be issued means that the stockholders are asked to submit to a reduction of 4s 6d in their yearly income received from each £100 stock.

(d) Stockholders who transfer their railway holdings to the Trust will receive in exchange stock of less stability, and certainly one of considerably less marketability.

(e) Stockholders who convert their stock will lose their voting power.

In conclusion, he remarks that if at any time the railway company decides that it would be in the interests of the proprietors to split their stock, they will take steps to obtain the authority of Parliament to do so.

Co-operative Trade and Trade Union Membership.

A correspondent writes:—Despite the general depression in industrial centres, the banking and the trading turnover of the Co-operative Wholesale Society for the six months ended June 28th has shown an upward movement—particularly on the Tyneside and in Lancashire and Yorkshire. The total sales of the society were £34,941,331, of which £11,334,293 were supplies from the society's own productive works. These represented increases of 8 and 9 per cent. respectively as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. The profit was the substantial amount of £1,141,012, from which interest has been paid on capital and £250,860 applied to the depreciation of property. That leaves £355,985, which with £150,000 brought forward gives a sum of £505,985 for disposal. This the directors recommend should be allocated by way of a dividend of 2d in the £ on the purchases, which will take £264,856; £76,343 in writing off fixtures, and carrying forward £164,016. It would therefore appear that the payment of dividends, which was resumed at the beginning of the year, is now likely, as in the case of the Scottish C.W.S., to continue. The operations of the C.W.S. Bank have correspondingly increased, and the deposits and withdrawals for the half-year totalled £273,270,505, an advance of £24,890,525. The most notable feature in the banking development has been the steady growth of trade union accounts. These now number 8,722, out of 18,120 current accounts. Most of the distributive co-operative societies act as agents for the C.W.S. Bank, and facilitate the deposit and withdrawal of the funds of local trade unions. Further evidence of the close association between the co-operative and the trade union movements is afforded by the attitude of the society towards its employees. In January, 1919, the business meeting adopted a resolution making membership of a trade union a condition of employment. Since then the directors have endeavoured to carry this out, and in the majority of cases the employees have joined; but some have failed to carry out the instruction. The matter has been raised from time to time, and while societies have been pressing the directors to adopt drastic action, petitions have been received from sections of the employees appealing

against the rigid enforcement of the resolution. In order therefore, to bring the knotty problem to a definite issue, the delegates at the forthcoming business meeting will be asked to adopt the recommendation "that managers, buyers, heads of departments, principal and confidential assistants, and employees over 60 years of age, be exempted from the scope of the 1919 resolution regarding trade union membership." But "that, in the case of all other eligible employees, continuing membership of one or other of the trade unions eligible for affiliation to the Trade Union Congress shall be a condition of employment by this society, and dismissal shall follow non-compliance therewith accordingly." This will doubtless be endorsed by the societies as affording a satisfactory concession to the older men. The rate of subscription to trade unions and the fact that members joining at an advanced age are not likely to obtain any tangible benefits, has led to many of the older employees naturally resenting the compulsory character of the resolution adopted by recent meetings. Managers, too, are not wanted within the ranks of the unions; they, too, do not want to be forced into action of which they disapprove from the disciplinary point of view. These facts were not taken into consideration by the delegates who, in 1919, sought the enforcement of a condition of employment that has caused considerable irritation. It is hoped by all parties concerned with the business side of co-operation that the proposed recommendation will afford a means of allaying the irritation and enable the members and employees to take advantage of the trade revival that is promising fuller employment and better business.

The Dunlop Scheme.—The scheme for the reorganisation of the capital of the Dunlop Rubber Company, prepared by the investigation committee, has now been placed before the shareholders. It was stated in the circular issued in June last that the accounts for the year to August 31, 1921, revealed heavy losses, and subsequent profits up to June 30, 1922, have been applied to reducing the adverse balance. There still remain items, however, which are considered to stand at figures in excess of present values, and in order to bring the capital more into line with the value of the assets further adjustments are necessary. The deficiency, which amounts to £11,353,667, it is stated, would normally fall upon the ordinary shareholders, but the special circumstances of the case are considered to warrant some sacrifice on the part of preference shareholders. The plan formulated is as follows:—The ordinary shareholders are asked to write down their shares to a nominal value of 6s 8d per share. The preference shareholders are to surrender their rights of participation in surplus profits. The "C" preference shares are to be reduced from 20s to 16s, though the rate of interest is to be raised from 8 to 10 per cent. The preference dividend arrears are to be liquidated by a cash payment of £1,126,250; this operation to be rendered possible by the issue of £800,000 short-term second debentures. The reduction in the share capital effected by the writing down is to be made good by the creation of 31,582,628 new ordinary shares of 6s 8d each, which will be held in reserve. By the appropriation of forfeited share account and of the balance of profits for the eighteen months ended December, 1923, the transfer to goodwill of £130,000, and the writing down of the capital, the deficiency of £11,353,667 will be met. These proposals may in parts possess vulnerable points of attack. It is, however, again a brave attempt to reconcile conflicting interests. It is obvious that valuable energies are being expended in getting the Dunlop house into order which could be put to highly profitable use in an aggressive industrial policy.

Metal Price Movements.—The non-ferrous group of metals this week has had to face considerable selling pressure. This was due to the disappointing trade demand, the unsettled political outlook and a series of bear raids. Tin at the opening displayed considerable weakness. Prices early in the week broke very violently, and standard cash at one time was down to £232, representing a loss of about £30 from the best of the present month, and nearly £70 under the top figure paid

in March. Forward tin sold down to £234, but later the tone improved, although the market was still somewhat unsettled. The unexpected bear raid dislodged a lot of tin, and thus the market is all the better for the shake-out of the weak holders. At the fall there was a good deal of American buying, and with Straits shipments for all September likely to turn out quite moderate, an early recovery is looked for. Copper moved downwards in unison with the general movement, but the market was very active at the decline, and later trade began to harden up again. The European demand so far has been disappointingly small, but possibly next month will see some improvement. There has been a lot of cheap second-hand electrolytic copper on the market in New York, and the undertone has been very sensitive. Lead has been easier, with anticipations of much metal having to be taken up. The importations have continued on a very full scale, and trade buying is very moderate at the moment, although more business should come along in the late autumn. The spelter position is rather puzzling in view of the firmness displayed in the States. Prices this week kept firm at first, but later fell away again, and the galvanisers did very little. The general fall in the non-ferrous markets should attract buyers, and once the selling pressure is exhausted there will be a sharp recovery. Statistically all the metals are very sound, and very little buying would be required to start a good upward movement again.

British Celanese.—The balance-sheet of the British Celanese Company (formerly the British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company) for the year ended February 29, 1924, does not make very pleasant reading. The greatest satisfaction which shareholders can obtain is the fact that the previously existing debit balance of £491,782 has been increased only by £74,046 during the year. It is difficult to understand why there should be much grounds for satisfaction over this. A total deficit of £565,827 is now recorded. Although the prospectus of this concern, issued in March, 1920, held out promise of early success, and the board had "exact knowledge of the cost of manufacture," we ventured to point out at the time that the company had yet to prove that it could "produce artificial silk on a commercial basis." The report dwells upon the fact that "the special advertising and propaganda programme undertaken for the purpose of popularising the 'Celanese' products have been charged to revenue." In view of the fact that "goodwill, patents, and patent rights" continue to stand in the balance-sheet "at cost," £1,886,945, it is certainly a wise step not to add to the amount. Indeed, it might be a reasonable course to attempt to reduce it. Moreover, since the last balance-sheet was issued liabilities have been increased. In the place of £300,000 first mortgage debentures is now an issue of £700,000, while sundry creditors are up from £119,109 to £180,052, although debtors are only up from £74,862 to £78,497. The balance-sheet is fully analysed on another page.

Naraguta.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The results of this Nigerian tin proposition for the year ended March 31st last fall below what might have been expected, in view of the enhanced level ruling for the metal during a portion of the period. The explanation is that the better price received for the concentrates sold was to a large extent offset by an appreciable reduction in the output, due mainly to the prolonged drought. Thus the net profit of £22,200 is only £4,500 up. In respect of 1922-23 the directors pursued a conservative policy as regards the distribution of profits, paying no more than 5 per cent. Now a final dividend of 5 per cent. is declared for 1923-24, making a total of 10 per cent., and leaving a somewhat reduced balance to be carried forward. With this balance dividend will be disbursed 2½ per cent. interim on account of the current year. There would, consequently, seem little hope that the total for 1924-25 will exceed that of 1923-24, although a recovery in the output is expected. In these circumstances it is a little difficult to explain the quotation of the £1 shares even at the reduced price of 24s. On the basis of 9 per cent. dividend the yield to the shareholder (allowing for the 7½ per cent. included in the

price) is only 8 per cent., whereas the return on a base metal share should be 12 to 15 per cent., to cover the risk attaching to fluctuations in the price of the product. The manager reports in favourable terms on the mining position, and estimates the proved ore reserves at the substantial amount of 10,000 tons of 70 per cent. ore. He adds that the whole of this should be profitably recovered, providing the price of metallic tin is not less than £200 per ton for any considerable period. This condition appears likely to be fulfilled.

Oversea Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.—THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY—ARBITRATION, SECURITY AND ARMAMENTS—MOSUL QUESTION—AUSTRIAN BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, September 16.

THE substance of the problems of arbitration, security, and reduction of armaments is now being examined in close detail by several sub-committees. It is early yet to give definite lines of progress, as it is unwise to indulge in premature abuse or premature exaltation concerning the tentative approach from various sides towards solution. A good deal of nonsense has appeared in the English Press, but there certainly has been progress, and no great obstacle to agreement has yet arisen. One sub-committee is discussing hopefully the points arising out of the compulsory jurisdiction clause of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, and the possible forms of arbitration on questions not comprised in this compulsory jurisdiction clause; another sub-committee is studying in detail the problems of security and reduction of armaments in so far as they can be taken separately, and there is a joint committee of these two sub-committees, so that the whole work may be co-ordinated. It looks as if some general plan may be ready by Monday, but some further information may be available earlier than that.

Broadly speaking, what they are attempting to do now is to secure either a resolution, or preferably a protocol, closing all the doors in the Covenant to any possibility of resort to arms by reference to some form of compulsory arbitration, and this resolution or protocol would also comprise in general terms the sanctions and reduction of armaments to follow. Assuming that agreement is reached on the broad grounds of arbitration and sanctions, this will probably be dependent upon later agreement at the International Conference on Armaments, thus following the principle laid down at an earlier Assembly, that security shall be dependent upon reduction of armaments. It is not clear yet what the British Government is prepared to do about the Fleet, but it may be safely assumed that it is not going to bind itself to be at any and every service of the League without very clear definition of the conditions. In any case, I do not believe it will give a promise of any particular kind beforehand, and France knows it. It is quite certain, also, that there is no truth in the suggestion that the British Government is considering, or is likely to consider, placing its Fleet at the disposal of the League on the majority decision of the Council. What looks like happening is that if any party to a dispute elects to refer it to the Council in the ordinary way, and if the Council fails to reach unanimous agreement, provision will have been made in the present discussions for reference to some other body of an arbitral character. Points like this show the danger of partial assumptions. What the British Government says in general is: "We stand by our Covenant obligations, and you must believe in our word."

There is still a good deal of speculation about an application from Germany, and M. Stresemann is reported to have sent a representative to explore the ground, but an application now seems to be a very outside chance. The Turkish Delegation has arrived for the Council's consideration of the Mosul question which may come up this week, and has allowed it to be understood that it will press for a plebiscite—a very difficult operation amongst populations of the kind such as exist in the

Mosul vilayet. Another extremely important point which may be taken by the Council shortly is the organisation of the method of carrying out the League's right of investigation into the armaments in ex-enemy countries as soon as the Allied control ends. What is important in this connection is that the League should avoid to the utmost degree appearing to be doing the work of one set of Powers against another set, and this appearance can only be completely avoided if, when a general plan for the reduction of armaments is agreed upon, a similar system of investigation is applied all round. The right of investigation in some form or other is included in most of the plans for reduction of armaments now under consideration, but it will be infinitely better if, in dealing with the immediate question of organising the right of investigation in ex-enemy countries, the Council does it in such a form as to apply to all countries when the time comes.

I understand agreement has been reached on the figure at which the Austrian budget shall be balanced, and the Council will be taking the subject for final decision to-day or to-morrow. The Assembly devoted a morning's discussion to the scheme for the financial reconstruction of Hungary, which has made so admirable a beginning, and a unanimous resolution was passed noting with great satisfaction the active association in the work of many countries whether by the signature of the Protocols or through the issue of the loan.

UNITED STATES.—TEXTILE TROUBLES—JULY RAILROAD EARNINGS—COTTON REPORT—COMMODITY PRICES—MAINE ELECTION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 9.

FURTHER evidence of the severe and prolonged depression in the textile industry, particularly in New England, is found in two recent developments. One is the passing by the American Woollen Company, the dominant factor in woollen and worsted goods in this country, of the regular quarterly dividend of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on its common stock, due at this time. The other is the default by B. B. and R. Knight, one of the largest and best-known cotton goods manufacturers, on the September 1st interest on its first mortgage 7 per cent. bonds, which are outstanding to the extent of \$7,393,000.

To those familiar with conditions in the woollen goods trade and industry, however, the dividend omission referred to was no surprise. Business has been, and still is, far below normal, with the result that the present year is one of the worst ever experienced by the American Woollen Company.

Owing to the close relations between the American Woollen Company and the Republican party, the passing of the dividend in the midst of a Presidential election campaign has created quite a stir in political circles. Both Democratic and third party interests have eagerly grasped this development, and are using it as a campaign argument against the Republicans, claiming it is tangible evidence of the breakdown of the present tariff law. Republican managers themselves are apparently perturbed somewhat by the company's action. Whether or not the latter has or will have any decided bearing on the political situation it would be difficult to say definitely. It is doubtful, however, whether foreign competition has been much of a factor. Unseasonable weather this year is probably responsible in large measure for the meagre demand for woollen and worsted goods, especially lightweight lines. Unusually low temperatures prevailed last spring, with the result that clothing manufacturers and distributors suffered an exceptionally poor trade for that season, and there is reason to believe rather heavy stocks were left on their hands.

Comparatively less surprise was occasioned by the announcement that B. B. and R. Knight, Inc., which operates seventeen cotton goods mills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, had been unable to meet the September interest on its first mortgage bonds. That unfavourable conditions have prevailed for many months in the New England cotton goods industry was pretty generally known. The omission of third-quarter dividends by fully

one-half of the Fall River mills plainly reflected the acute depression. The default by the Knight mills is rather far-reaching. It makes necessary a reorganisation of the big Consolidated Textile Corporation, of which the Knight concern is an important part.

The combined net operating income of Class I. railroads amounted to \$74,027,600 in July, as against \$84,866,400 in the same month of last year, showing a decrease of \$10,838,800, or 12.7 per cent., but approximately \$8,500,000 larger than in June of this year. The July net represented that month's proportion of an annual return at the rate of 4.31 per cent., on a total property valuation of \$19,745,000,000, as compared with a return of 4.93 per cent. on a valuation of \$19,175,000,000 in July, 1923. In both cases the valuation figures are based on the Interstate Commerce Commission's tentative valuation for rate-making purposes as of the end of 1919, plus capital expenditures for subsequent calendar years. Gross earnings of the carriers in July, totalling \$481,296,200, according to the Bureau of Railway Economics, showed a decrease of some \$54,700,000, or 10.2 per cent., from July a year ago, while operating expenses of \$369,711,000 were \$45,037,000, or 10.9 per cent. less. During July 27 railroads were operated at a loss, of which 10 were in the Eastern and 17 in the Western district; in June 38 roads reported operating deficits. Freight traffic in Eastern territory was almost 20 per cent. smaller in volume than in July of last year. For the first seven months of this year, the aggregate net operating income of all first-class railroads in the United States reached \$465,616,601, representing a decrease of \$66,095,989, or 12.4 per cent. from that of the corresponding period of 1923. The seven months' net was equivalent to the seasonal proportion of an annual return at the rate of 4.67 per cent. on property valuation, as against 5.50 per cent. in the 1923 period. It is considered likely that earnings for August will show improvement. For the week ended August 23, 982,248 cars, a new high record for this year, were loaded with revenue freight, that number showing an increase of 29,360 cars over the preceding week, but a decrease of 87,667 from the same week of last year. The largest gains last month were in the movement of coal and miscellaneous freight, although traffic in grain and grain products was heavier than a year ago.

Commodity prices, on the average, continued to rise during August. The advance was not so extensive as in July, although most of the different groups showed gains. Two groups which were conspicuously strong in July, namely, breadstuffs and textiles, declined in August, reflecting apparently the better crop reports and higher estimates last month of prospective harvests. Bradstreet's index number as of September 1st is \$12.8095, showing a gain of 1.4 per cent. over that of July 1st, but a reduction of only eight-tenths of 1 per cent. from September 1st of last year. During August, nine out of thirteen groups of commodities advanced, including provisions, metals, fruits, hides and leather, naval stores, live stock, drugs and chemicals, coal, coke, and miscellaneous products. Among those showing declines were textiles, breadstuffs, oils, and building materials. Of the 106 commodities used in figuring the index number, 41 advanced last month, 21 declined, and 44 remained unchanged.

The cotton crop suffered less deterioration last month than the average for August in the past ten years, according to the Department of Agriculture, whose latest report places the condition of the crop on September 1st at 59.3 per cent. of normal. The department now predicts a total yield of 12,787,000 bales, which is 169,000 bales less than its estimate based on the condition of the crop in the middle of August, but 2,658,000 bales more than last year's actual crop. The loss indicated by the department's report was much less than the trade generally had expected, with the result that the cotton market on Monday, following publication of this condition percentage and crop estimate, broke more than 1 cent a pound. The violent slump carried the New York price for spot cotton down to 24.60 cents a pound, representing a decline of nearly 7 per cent. since the first of this month, and about 35 per cent. from the peak level of last December. What apparently happened was that speculative interests who had been holding cotton on the chance that the Government report might, sooner or later, make a drastic reduc-

tion in the prospective yield, were surprised by the unexpectedly favourable showing in this week's report, and hastily unloaded. In some years, notably in 1920, the Government's final estimate was much larger than the September forecast. That may or may not happen this year, but with the actual carry-over as of August 1st larger than expected, the present outlook, based on the latest report, is that the cotton goods industry will have plenty of raw material to meet its requirements during the coming year, unless consumption should reach unexpected proportions.

The stock market suffered a steady and extensive decline last week, the average price of representative industrial issues falling more than \$4 a share, and that of leading rails nearly \$2, with much heavy losses in certain individual stocks, which for special reasons were depressed by extensive liquidation, and for aggressive short-selling by bearish operators. American Woollen common, for instance, broke about 18 points in two days following the announcement that the quarterly dividend had been passed. Selling pressure is now less in evidence, and there has been some recovery this week from the lowest levels. The market was deprived last week of support from many interests who held off pending the outcome of the election in the State of Maine yesterday. The result, which became known to-day, has apparently strengthened the confidence of those who hope for and predict the re-election of President Coolidge, and this better feeling has been reflected in both stock and bond markets. As cabled reports have probably indicated, the Republican party elected its entire ticket in that State, and won by an unusually large majority over the Democratic candidates for Congress and for the Governorship. The State legislature also remains Republican.

FRANCE.—BUDGET—REVENUE RETURN—EIGHT MONTHS' TRADE—THE BANK'S POLICY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 17.

THE Budget for 1925, which it is universally agreed must be so drafted as at least to prepare the way for replacing the national finances on a sound basis, is proving a much harder problem than the new Herriot Ministry at first appeared to realise. It now appears to be generally recognised that not only must the lavish election promises of reduced taxation inevitably be left unfulfilled, but that, on the contrary, the screw must be turned still tighter on the hapless taxpayer. It is admitted by even the Government's supporters, although no public statement has yet been issued to that effect, that there is not the remotest prospect of the 20 per cent. all-round increase in taxation imposed by the last Poincaré Budget being taken off, and that it is extremely doubtful whether even the hated turnover tax, instead of being suppressed, will not have to be changed in an upward direction.

The Finance Act for the present financial year provided for a total estimated expenditure of 29,659,000,000, and for a total revenue of, in round figures, 27 milliards, thereby involving an estimated deficit of 2,000 millions. The yield from taxation for the first eight months of the year, which has largely exceeded Budget estimates, has amounted to 17,195,696,000, of which 15,870,584,000 was derived from ordinary and permanent resources, the balance being represented by 1,081 millions from still outstanding arrears from the special tax on war profits (which expired many months ago), and nearly 39 millions from the liquidation of war stocks. The results of the first two-thirds of the financial year, therefore justify the belief that the eventual deficit will not be more than the two milliards anticipated last spring.

The Government, it is reported, has definitely decided that, come what may, the Budget for 1925 shall be rigorously unified, and shall include, without exception, all revenue during the coming financial year and all expenditure, even to the extent, so far as the disbursements on

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits	\$14,000,000

The National Bank of Commerce in New York places complete banking services at the disposal of its customers throughout the world by placing them in contact with all phases of commerce and industry in the United States.

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



the devastated regions are concerned, of the interest charges in respect of the additional debt to be contracted during the next twelve months. M. Herriot has himself promised that he will tolerate no additional expenditure without revenue being provided to meet it. In these circumstances, increased taxation appears to be inevitable, and there is some alarm as to what particular heresies the Radical, Socialistic-Radical, and Socialist majority now in control propose to rob.

In view of the large amount of additional money that will have to be found, if the Government (as they appear likely to do) carry out their latest decisions, a strenuous effort has been in progress during the past fortnight for the purpose of cutting down all kinds of departmental expenditure. This effort is reported to have resulted in a reduction of last year's estimates by about 1,500 millions. This will make little difference to the general situation, however, as the Government finds itself practically compelled to carry out its undertaking to increase the pay of the vast majority of its servants. To this, if the means to do so can be found, no section of the community will raise objection. The French public servants are notoriously underpaid, and no class in the nation (with the exception, perhaps, of the small *rentiers*) has suffered such undoubted hardships in this respect since the war began. The vast majority of them, in spite of so-called "extra allowances for the increased cost of living," are to-day in receipt of lower pay, proportionately speaking, than they were in 1914. The extra expenditure that will be involved by this act of justice will amount, at the minimum, to 1,200 millions. The deficit to be met from some source or other, if the Budget for 1925 is to be made to balance, will therefore amount to at least 3,000 millions.

The revenue returns for August show that the total yield from taxation of all kinds (exclusive of that from posts, telegraphs, and telephones, which is now included in a separate Budget) amounted to 1,788,508,000, as compared with 2,529½ millions in July, 2,122 millions in June, and 1,968½ millions in May. The drop was partly

due to the fact that August is the holiday month, and partly to the artificial increase in June and July owing to the rush of taxpayers in their desire to avoid the threatened surcharge of 10 per cent. provided for in the last Budget Bill as a penalty for recalcitrants. The abnormally high revenue during July represented the greatest sum ever received in taxation in a single month. Of the total revenue of 1,788½ millions received during August, 1,690 millions was from "normal and permanent" taxation. The total revenue from indirect taxation and State monopolies during the month was 1,435,582,000f, or 68,177,500f in excess of Budget estimates. Of this excess, 53,919,000f was represented by the continued unexpectedly high yield from the turnover tax, which in August produced 334,017,000f, or 76½ millions more than in August, 1923. The effect of the poor situation of the franc is again strikingly shown by the fact that the revenue from Customs duties during August was only 125,665,000f, or over 42 millions below the amount expected from this source. The influence of high taxation and other factors on the purchasing power of the wealthier classes is shown by the poor return from the luxury tax, which last month yielded only 392,000f, barely one-third of the total expected from it, and actually nearly 100,000f less than during August last year.

The foreign trade returns for August show that for the third month in succession there was again a surplus of imports over visible exports, whereas during February, March, April, and May exports each month considerably exceeded imports. August figures were:—Imports, 3,071,943,000f; exports, 2,967,146,000f; deficit, 104,797,000f. This deficit, of course, was more than compensated for by "invisible exports" connected with expenditure by tourists, which is always at its height during August. The comparative figures for the first eight months of 1924 and 1923, in spite of the falling off during the past three months, reveal a balance of exports amounting to 1,218,584,000f:—

	First Eight Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Imports—			
Foodstuffs	4,618,447,000	5,800,121,000	+ 1,181,674,000
Raw materials	1,250,489,000	16,948,837,000	+ 4,443,959,000
Manufactured goods	2,793,590,000	3,295,617,000	+ 502,027,000
Total.....	19916,935,000	26,044,575,000	+ 6,127,640,000
Exports—			
Foodstuffs	2,014,060,000	2,531,863,000	+ 517,803,000
Raw materials	5,889,012,000	7,035,975,000	+ 1,146,963,000
Manufactured goods	1,014,424,000	16,450,758,000	+ 6,304,334,000
Postal parcels	998,079,000	1,244,563,000	+ 246,484,000
Total.....	19047,575,000	27,263,159,000	+ 8,215,584,000

These figures indicate that since the beginning of the year the value of French exports has increased by 44 per cent., as compared with those of the corresponding period of 1923, while imports have increased by 30 per cent. The bulk of the increase in exports, or 6,304,000,000f (equivalent to 62 per cent.) was in manufactured goods. In tonnage there was an increase of 3,064,043 tons in the exports, and of 2,656,767 tons in imports.

The decision of the Bank of France last week to raise the rate charged for advances on securities from 7 to 8 per cent. was directly due to an ingenious new form of speculation which was proving damaging to French credit, and also tending to increase the note circulation. It had been noticed for some time past that many capitalists were again taking advantage of the fact that, in consequence of the drop in the quotations for Rentes and certain issues of short-term bonds, these now yield something in the neighbourhood of 8 per cent., whereas the Bank has been in the habit of making advances on securities of this kind at 7 per cent. Money obtained by taking advantage of these conditions was being extensively used for Bourse speculation, the profits from which furnished a substantial addition to that of 1 per cent. secured by making use of the Bank's accommodating methods. A similar situation arose some time ago, and was brought to an end by similar means to those now adopted. The Bank's discount rate remains unchanged at 6 per cent.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—PRICE POLICY—FINANCES—INDUSTRY—AGRICULTURE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 17.

THE Marx Cabinet has got itself into a difficult position, and it is hardly likely that it will continue without some change in its composition until the Reichstag reassembles next month. The notification to the Powers of the denial of responsibility for the war has been postponed. The pretence is maintained that it will nevertheless be made within, as Dr Stresemann's organ says, "visible time." Dr Stresemann now holds that it would be impossible to enter the League of Nations without first making the notification; but entry into the League of Nations does not seem to be near. The episode has weakened the Cabinet, and at the moment of weakness the German-Nationals have come forward with their demand for Ministerial posts, so creating the anti-Socialist "Bürgerblock." The Nationals declare that they have a right to participate in the carrying through of the Reparations agreement, they having been partly responsible for its sanctioning. The former Chancellor, Dr Wirth, and other non-Socialist Left politicians, condemn the "Bürgerblock" in any form. The Social-Democrats, believing that a General Election would strengthen their numbers, are trying to upset the Cabinet. The Nationals declare that if their terms are not granted they will resort to sharp opposition. As the Cabinet is in conflict with the Socialists on the Food Duties question, Nationalist opposition might bring about a Government defeat.

The Government has taken a number of measures, some of them promised months ago, to bring down the price-level. The aim is partly to counteract the increased price of food, but in the main to increase the competitive ability of industry. Such of the measures as would normally have required new legislation have been put through by decree under the emergency Article 48 of the Constitution. The Sales Tax has been reduced from 2½ to 2 per cent. Taxes which hinder industrial capital transactions have been reduced. The stamp duty on new issues of shares (Gesellschaftssteuer) has been reduced from 7½ to 5 per cent. The pre-war rate was 3 per cent. The stamp duty on debenture issues has been reduced from 4 to 3 per cent.—pre-war rate 2 per cent. Railway freight rates, including the special coal rate, are reduced 10 per cent., and the supplement for transport in covered wagons is reduced from 10 to 5 per cent. It is officially stated that the restoration of the railways in occupied territory has made these reductions of rates financially possible. Telegraph, telephone, postal-order, and post-check fees will be reduced. Silesian coal prices are reduced on an average 10 per cent., and with the restoration of the Westphalian Coal Syndicate, Ruhr coal prices will be reduced by at least 10 per cent. In the credit question the following measures are promised. The Reichsbank will increase by 10 per cent. the ration of credit to industry which was fixed on April 7th. For commercial bills the discount term is prolonged to three months. This will probably lead to a general increase in the use of three months' bills, which hitherto the commercial banks have fought shy of on the ground that they were not rediscountable at the Reichsbank for longer than six to eight weeks. The Reichsbank will also in future discount bank acceptances. Pressure will be brought to bear on the commercial banks to return to normal commission charges. The exchange restrictions, which create much work for the banks, and are adduced as an excuse for the high commissions, will, with certain exceptions not yet stated, be abolished.

These measures are expected to influence prices considerably. Already the interest rate has fallen much, averaging for month-term money in Berlin last week about 17½ per cent. per year, against 27 per cent. in early July, and 72 per cent. at the beginning of May. In Hamburg in early May the rate for such loans rose to 107 per cent. The Reichswirtschaftsrat's inquiry into the prices of textiles brought out the fact that high interest rates were factor of wages was relatively smaller than before the war.

The latest cost-of-living index number is 116. Concerning salaries of clerical and technical employees in the steel and iron industries, the following official data

are published:—Essen, average monthly salary of a clerk, aged 26, 105 gold marks; head book-keeper, 230-257½ gold marks; engineer qualified for difficult independent work, 185 gold marks; engineer in high and responsible position, 230 gold marks. Women clerical employees are paid 90, sometimes 100, per cent. of the salaries of men with the same training. Salaries are somewhat higher in small centres, where the competition to obtain work is not so keen. English apprehensions on the score of very heavy competition from this country are considered exaggerated. German production costs may perhaps be kept very low; but neither the volume of German production nor conditions in the world market make possible a sudden great increase of German exports. It is certain that if Germany can at all create the export surplus necessary for Reparations, she cannot do it except by increasing very largely the whole volume of her trade; with her present import trade, the calculated export surplus would be quite impossible. Professor Gustav Cassel, last week, told a business assembly in Lubeck that to attain a 2,500 million gold-mark export surplus, imports would have to be raised to 12,500 million gold marks, exports, therefore, to 15,000 million gold marks. The figures for 1923 were respectively 6,081 million gold marks and 6,079 million gold marks.

Revenue receipts in the first ten-day term of September totalled 119,973,100 gold marks; expenditure, 97,459,600 gold marks, of which 53,457,700 gold marks were for general administration; 35,000,000 gold marks for subventions to states and municipalities; 893,900 gold marks redemption of Gold Loan; and 7,804,100 gold marks for cost of Reparations deliveries. Gross revenue receipts in August totalled 592,033,933 gold marks, of which 464,613,174 gold marks were for direct taxes and stamp duties, and 126,796,355 gold marks for Customs and Excise. Revenue in the first five months of the financial year, April-August, was 2,689,985,382 gold marks, of which 832.8 millions were from income-tax and 760.8 millions from sales tax.

It is reported that the American potash credit, to a total of 6 million dollars, has been completed, and that a condition is the recognition of German potash bills as first-class discountable paper in New York. The American Ruhr credit is believed to have become perfect by the creation of the Coal Syndicate. This has been at last attained, but only by means of State intervention. In the final negotiations companies and firms representing 90 per cent. of output came to an agreement, including the Thyssen and some other interests which had hitherto held out. The total coal sales represented in the old syndicate were 112½ million metric tons. The Ewald, Rombach, Graf Bismarck, and nine other concerns, including three which are controlled by French or Belgian capital, remained outside the agreement. The Ministry for Industry has now declared that all the outside concerns are compulsorily made members of the syndicate. The term of the new syndicate is for five years. The coal situation is still unfavourable, and stocks at the pits' mouths increase. The general industrial situation improves very slowly, if at all. The last Berlin Labour report shows a stoppage in the increase of unemployment. In the Rhine Province 135,000 unemployed receive public support; but here also the lowest point seems to have been reached. On the bourse there is a good deal of vague talk about an industrial improvement. Relatively favourable reports are published about the rubber industry, which has attained pre-war dimensions, although its proportionate share in the world's output has declined. Imports of rubber, nearly all of which was raw materials, in 1923 totalled 22,863 metric tons, against 32,551 tons in 1913; exports were 19,411 tons, of which 18,032 tons were finished goods, against 29,439 tons, of which 19,706 tons were finished goods, in 1913. The year 1913 was, however, an exceptionally good year, and the 1923 figures exceed considerably those of 1912 and 1911.

Reports on the crops are less favourable. The quality of part of the grain crops is reported to be indifferent, and part of the spring crops had not ripened up to the first week of this month. The area under crops of all kinds this year was 28,244,409 hectares, against 28,075,072 hectares in 1923, and 29,208,424 hectares within the present political frontiers in 1913. Although the total area has de-

clined little, there are great differences for individual crops, in general the bread grains having lost heavily. In 1924 the area under winter wheat was less than in 1913 by 14.7 per cent., spring wheat 9.4 per cent., winter spelt 48.6 per cent., winter rye (the most important crop) 21.1 per cent. The area under oats declined 10.1 per cent., potatoes 2.8 per cent., sugar beet 11.4 per cent. The areas under turnips, rape, flax, and lucerne increased largely. The area under bread grains in 1924 was 29 per cent. of the whole cultivated area, against 34 per cent. in 1913.

The bourse last week and early this week was slack, with a slight improvement yesterday. The present main influence on speculators is the severity or otherwise with which companies scale down their capital in compiling their new gold mark balance-sheets; and rumours of drastic scaling down dominated the market last week. The small holders of shares feel themselves injured by this policy. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* index shows a fall of stocks in the week September 5-12th from 601.83 to 519.5, and of paper mark loans from 9.99 to 9.41.

AUSTRIA.—THE COMMISSIONER AND THE FINANCE MINISTER—FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION—BALANCE OF TRADE—MONEY AND STOCKS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, September 1.

THE representatives of the League of Nations have arrived in Vienna and are again investigating the financial and economic conditions of this country in order to decide whether the increase of expenditure in the "Normal Budget" as asked for by the Austrian Government can be recommended to the League. On account of this, political activity, which during the summer months has been very quiet, has revived earlier than usual. A point for very lively discussion was the last report of General Commissioner Zimmerman, whose severe criticisms on the policy of the Treasury and the National Bank were felt by many parties to be unjust. The Austrian Finance Minister particularly is of the opinion that the financial situation is much better than represented by the General Commissioner, and also that his criticisms on the National Bank are uncalled for. The President of the National Bank, Dr Reisch, has joined in the discussion, and has addressed an open letter to the General Commissioner in which he energetically defends the policy of the National Bank. The decisions which the delegates of the League of Nations in Vienna will arrive at will probably also have political consequences. If it proves impossible to eliminate the differences between the Austrian Treasury and the General Commissioner and secure the increase of the Budget, a reconstruction of the Cabinet is hardly to be avoided.

The difference of opinion between the General Commissioner and the Austrian Finance Minister regarding the situation of the State Finances may be explained by their different standpoints according to their respective positions. While the Finance Minister expects that the good result in revenues obtained last year will continue, the General Commissioner is of the opinion that the population is over-taxed, and therefore the revenue will decrease. He is in favour of lowering taxation and making up the loss in the revenue by cutting down expenditure. The Budget for the year 1924 now shows, after its last revision, a total revenue of 8,679 milliards, against an expenditure of 9,845 milliard kronen, so that the deficit amounts to 1,166 milliard kronen. According to a recent statement by the Finance Minister, the estimate for 1925 will show a reduction in the revenue of 951 milliard kronen, and a reduction in expenditure of 1,535 milliard kronen. This estimate will contain investments amounting to 818 milliard kronen. It is doubtful if the League of Nations will consent to these.

The financial crisis through which Austria has passed during recent months seems to have come to an end. During August no bank failed, but some small firms which had continued their activities hoping for a revival on the market, have closed down. The fact that the Anglo-Austrian Bank has paid no dividend on its ordinary

shares for the past business year, and continuously decreases its business activities in Austria, has created a bad impression in financial circles. The industrial situation is not uniform, but cannot generally be judged as bad. The brewery and electrical industries, some metal goods factories, and some agricultural machinery factories, are fully employed, whilst the coal and steel industries are rather badly off. A revival of German competition is generally feared, inasmuch as the working day there has been extended from eight to nine and ten hours.

The balance of trade shows a further deficit, imports during the first half-year 1924 amounting to 1,045.7 million Goldkronen, and exports to only 528.9 million Goldkronen, so that the deficit amounts to 516.8 million Goldkronen. Last year the deficit was only 310.3 million. The following table shows the most interesting items referring to foreign trade in 1923 and 1924:—

(In Million Goldkronen.)

	First Half-year.			
	Imports.		Exports.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Live stock	48.9	54.9	7.3	3.1
Foodstuffs and drinks	214.1	256.9	8.3	9.4
Mineral fuel	88.8	107.4	1.0	0.6
Other raw materials and partly manufactured goods	153.1	232.5	78.6	108.2
Finished goods	258.9	394.0	358.3	407.6

During last month the National Bank increased the bank rate from 12 per cent. to 15 per cent., and left no doubt that this measure was mainly due to the advice of influential English financial circles. The National Bank and the Treasury expect from this measure a stronger influx of foreign capital, and also hope that Austrian capitalists will invest moneys which hitherto have remained idle. The increase of the Bank rate has roused varying comments. Some people defend it, while others are of the opinion that however high the Bank rate is fixed it does not necessarily increase the capital available, but that, in the first place, the return of confidence is necessary. As a matter of fact, new sources of capital abroad which remained closed for some time have been re-opened.

Although the tension on the stock market has been somewhat relieved in the month under review, business was spasmodic, and at times the turnover was hardly worth mentioning; the reason for this is partly the lack of new buyers, partly the restrictions against bear selling. In general, however, the level of quotations remained steady. There was only a heavy slump in the shares of the companies founded by a company promoter, who founded during last year a number of various companies—such as glass, porcelain, chemicals and electricity companies—which, being badly financed, were not able to withstand the financial crisis. The total number of shares issued by him amounts to about 40 million, and were mostly acquired by small investors. The money market was remarkably easy, the money rates moving between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per week.

SOUTH CHINA.—A HONGKONG STRIKE—ANTI FOREIGN CAMPAIGN—DR SUN YAT SEN'S ACTIVITIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONGKONG, August 5.

THE past month has seen no improvement in the unhappy condition of trade in South China. Despite a period of quietness in the civil war zone, and the absence of any serious piracies or bandit outrages, fresh troubles have cropped up to interfere with commerce generally. Floods in the districts bordering the Canton River delta have been the worst for many years, and have caused much loss of life and damage to crops, while a strike of all Chinese employed on the foreign settlement of Canton (both domestic servants and office workers) has led to a suspension of business, particularly affecting the export of silk.

This strike has lasted three weeks, and still continues. It has caused much concern here principally on account of its anti-foreign character, and there is a certain amount of apprehension as to what it may lead to. Possibly the dispute may be settled without much further delay and pass into oblivion. On the other hand, it may be the starting-point of a campaign to oust the foreigners, and particularly the British, from the markets of South China. The strikers are mere pawns in the hands of a few well-known labour agitators, who, with the tacit approval of Dr Sun Yat Sen, are endeavouring to work up an outburst of anti-foreign feeling. Dr Sun has several Russians on his staff, and there seems little doubt that the Labour Union has derived a certain amount of financial assistance from Moscow.

The trouble revolves round the framing of new regulations for the closer control of persons, other than residents, using the Shameen, as the foreign concession of Canton is called. A provisional set of regulations was drawn up by the British and French Municipal Councils last April and submitted to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, with the idea of eliciting any points which might occur to the Chinese mind, and also to allow publicity to be given to the proposals. Owing to the dilatory methods of the Chamber, no agreement had been reached when an event occurred which brought matters to a head. This was the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Governor-General of Indo-China while the guest of the French community at a hotel on the British portion of the Shameen. This outrage was responsible for the death of several French residents, and naturally caused a great deal of excitement. Statements were made in the heat of the moment which caused further friction between the Chinese authorities and the foreign community, and in the end all Chinese employed on the Shameen deserted their posts at the command of the Labour Union. In most cases the strikers left unwillingly, under the threat of loss of life in the event of their disobeying the Union's orders.

The foreign residents accepted the situation philosophically, and made every preparation for a siege, which now turns out to have been quite justified. Negotiations were opened up by the Labour Union within a few days of the commencement of the strike, and the municipal councils consented to discuss terms. In fact, the councils went to an extreme length in conceding the demands of the other side, which, curiously enough, included no representative of the strikers, and all outstanding points had been agreed to with the exception of the last. This was a demand that the Chinese police constables should be reinstated. The council demurred, and protested that these officials had deserted their posts and could not be regarded as on the same footing as the other strikers. The union retorted that the constables had taken no oath and were ordinary employees. A long argument ensued, and finally the Labour leaders put forward an offer which showed little regard for the interests of their protégés. All that was required was that the police should be reinstated, but if the council wished to dismiss them next day no objection would be raised. The council obviously could not be a party to such a bargain, and negotiations were broken off. This was a blow to the organisers of the strike, who had counted on a successful issue, and had prepared to celebrate the victory by marching on to the Shameen with bands playing and flags flying.

All this happened some two weeks ago, since when no further change in the situation has been reported. Some of the strikers have come down to Hongkong, where living is cheaper, and certainly more comfortable. Those who remained behind are having a wretched time owing to scarcity of food and lack of the strike pay which was lavishly promised. The Canton Government does nothing openly, but it is surmised that their policy is to prolong the strike in order to give time for the anti-foreign agitation to gain ground. Propaganda of a distinctly Russian flavour is being broadcast, and the translations which appear in the papers here show it to be childish nonsense. It is difficult to refute, however, because there is no medium of counter propaganda, the Canton Press being under the strict censorship set up by Sun Yat Sen.

The deadlock which prevails is exasperating to the foreign merchant, but to the Chinese community it is doing untold harm. The cessation of business on Shameen means that the Chinese merchant cannot sell his

silk, and the producer has no funds to pay his employees. This all reacts on the prosperity of the province, and the Chinese stand to lose far more than the foreigners.

A graver aspect of the affair is the open violation of Treaty Rights, which gave to the foreigner full freedom to trade in the Treaty Ports without interference. During the past year or two one incident after another has occurred showing that breaches of these agreements may be made by the Chinese without fear of any penalties being imposed. True, there is invariably a protest lodged by diplomatic representatives, followed by an exchange of notes; but the fact that the Central Government has no authority outside Peking is poor comfort to the harassed merchant. Residents in the Far East fully realise that the Foreign Powers are busily engaged in setting Europe on its legs, but they do feel that the time has come when a show of armed force would perhaps bring some of the Tutchuns to their senses and awaken them to their responsibility for the protection of the foreigner in their midst.

Letters to the Editor.

THE PROPOSED RUSSIAN LOAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR.—All the arguments hitherto levelled against the Russian treaties seem effectually to culminate in the article, "The Russian Loan," published in your issue of September 13th, and containing a number of definite statements either bearing directly on the treaties, or on present-day conditions in Russia, which, at first sight, would seem to go a long way towards discrediting the British-Soviet settlement.

I venture, however, to maintain that a large number of these statements are based on a complete misrepresentation of actual fact. Thus, in stating the terms for the loan to Austria, your article points out that the assistance extended to that country was made conditional upon her carrying out numerous financial reforms, including the balancing of her budget, and it maintains that none of these conditions are fulfilled in the case of Russia.

I will not enlarge upon the fallacy—as it must seem to many—of a parallel between Russia and Austria as economic and political entities, nor will I stress the all-too-obvious fact that whilst Austria was, at the time when outside financial assistance was solicited, vanquished and prostrate, Russia has neither been defeated, nor is she any longer in the throes of economic disruption. It must be pointed out, however, that Russia was the first country amongst those whose financial system was completely shattered by inflation, to stabilise her currency, and place her budget on a sound basis, and that she alone of all countries did this without any outside help. Whether this stabilisation is to prove permanent is, after all, in a certain measure dependent upon the good sense of the members of the world's family of nations. If Great Britain persisted in the policy of economic ostracism towards Russia, if she scrapped the new agreement as suggested, she would be the first to suffer from the consequences of her shortsightedness.

As to the charge brought against Russia of turning out voluminous and unreliable statistics, I will not here attempt to disclaim this statement at any length, but I venture to hope that this statement is not entirely founded upon proofs as gratuitous as those advanced in your article. To call Russia's capital requirements, as put forward at the Hague "imaginative," and especially to regard them as incongruous with the sum at present required, as is implied in the article which appeared in your last week's issue, and was definitely stated in the recently published Liberal pamphlet on the Russian treaties, is surely to ignore the essential difference of the objects of the 1922 conferences, and that of 1924, and to overlook the change of circumstances in Russia itself.

For it must be remembered that the real point at issue both at Genoa and the Hague was the economic rehabilitation of Europe, for the achievement of which nothing short of the complete economic rehabilitation of Russia to the pre-war level was then deemed adequate.

At that time, too, financial assistance to Russia, who had just embarked on the period of reconstruction, was contemplated on an international scale.

Now, however, the objects aimed at are no longer the same; they are confined to the restoration of full economic intercourse between Great Britain and Russia, to the mutual advantage of both, whilst Russia herself has in recent years made very considerable progress towards the restoration of her economy.

As for the statement that no confidence can be felt that the Russian bureaucracy will make the best use of a loan in allocating it amongst large numbers of rival claimants—a charge so unfair can only be founded on an insufficiently careful reading of the treaties themselves. For in Article 12 of the General Treaty it is definitely stipulated that "the amount, terms and conditions of the loan and the purposes to which it will be applied shall be defined" in the second treaty, which is provided for in Article 11.

In conclusion, I may perhaps be forgiven for turning to the criticisms made in the first part of your article, and based on the report of the League of Nations in 1922, on the conditions of Russian agriculture, wherein, as you say, it was pointed out that the disaster of the famine was due not merely to the drought, but to the fact that in the preceding years the cultivated area of Russia had dropped to not much more than half the area cultivated before the war—a perfectly true statement in itself. But whilst ample weight and currency is given in explanation of these circumstances to reasons both real and imaginary, one of the root causes which led to the deplorable state of affairs in Russia is entirely overlooked.

The fact is that agricultural methods under the Tzarist régime were extremely primitive. The areas sown depended greatly upon the supply of animal manures, since artificial manures were all but unknown. The war, and then persistent attacks by "White" forces, with the assistance of foreign interventionists, caused havoc in the peasants' economy by ruthless requisitioning and the slaughtering of cattle.

The appalling reduction in the numbers of cattle, with the consequent shortage of animal manure, was one of the chief reasons of the peasantry's failure until recently to cultivate a sufficient area for the requirements of the country.

In thanking you in advance for the hospitality of your columns,—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. M. KAZARINE.

Authors' Club, 2 Whitehall court, S.W. 1.

September 17th, 1924.

[Mr Kazarine's remarks about "ostracising" Russia are irrelevant. From the business standpoint, Russia has ostracised herself by repudiating all the rules of the game. She entirely fails to re-establish her position by the conditional concessions which she makes to her creditors' claims in the proposed treaty.—Ed., Econ.]

THE ADULTERATION OF LEATHER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have read with interest the letter on the above matter from Mr Fraser M. Moffat, of New York, which appeared in your issue of September 6th, and note that he takes exception to my statement that American tanners weight their leather by artificial means. Well, better late than never, for I have seen American sole leather sides in Bermondsey warehouses, and in Northampton and Leicester, simply covered on the grain side with a whitish "spue," or efflorescence, which on analysis turned out to be glucose and epsom salts. It is quite possible—as Mr Moffat says—that barium is not used for weighting purposes by American tanners, but he knows as well as the writer that American sole leathers are usually "doped" with glucose and other substances to add to the weight of the material.

As a matter of fact, American tanners make no secret of this system of adding weight to leather, it being a recognised practice. The addition of glucose on a small scale is perhaps necessary in a dry climate like that of America, as it keeps the leather mellow, but when such loaded leather comes to this country and encounters the humidity of the British climate, the weighting becomes at once apparent. Some years ago, at a meeting of the leather trade in London, a truthful American tanner told

his audience that he "doped his leather as much as his customers would stand." I have also seen analyses of American sole leather which showed a high percentage of adulteration, but as our tanners seem to have beaten American sole leather almost out of our own market, I hear little complaint of adulteration now of added weight—for obvious reasons.

I do not for a moment wish to infer that British tanners are averse to "loading" their sole leathers; they are past-masters in the art of getting in uncombined tannins which add to the weight of the leather, but, as a whole, they do not use either glucose or Epsom salts for the purpose. I am pleased to hear that "American sole leather is conceded to be of higher standard than ever before"; perhaps this is because our American friends have seen the error of their ways! Years ago American hemlock tanned sole was the best of its kind in the world, but as hemlock bark became scarce and dear, the waterproof and wear-resisting qualities gradually fell off in other American tannages; so much so that very little American sole leather is now imported into this country.

—Yours faithfully,

"YOUR BERMONDSEY CORRESPONDENT."

London, September 17th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF FRANCE.

THE contrast in recent years between the public and private economy of France has been very striking. Here is a country whose industries flourish, whose transport system is under extensive development, and whose unemployment is practically non-existent—in June of this year only 643 persons received unemployment relief; yet her Budget fails to balance, her national debt piles up, and her currency, debilitated by the needs of the Treasury, shivers in the wind of speculation and trembles at the breath of the seasons. Vast new resources have added to her private opulence. France has acquired the iron ore and the developed industries, textile and metallurgical, of Alsace-Lorraine. The devastation of the war has been, for all practical purposes, completely repaired. Her factories, enlarged and newly equipped with the best devices of modern invention, have leaped forward in efficiency since the war. Her surplus wealth enables vast schemes of electrification to be planned and carried out on 6,000 miles of her railways; her ports are being enlarged; her canals and inland waterways extended and improved; even her roads receive favourable notice. For two years her industry, hampered only by shortage of labour, has worked at full blast; and employment for many thousands of foreigners has been found within her frontiers. Yet the boundary between private and public affairs once traversed, the scene changes from affluence to poverty; the inhabitants of the latter domain move in paper rags; their future is uncertain and their present harassed.

The causes of this unhappy state of the French national finances have been often discussed. The latest study* of their origin lays bare the circumstances in which they arose. The story is a melancholy one of hesitation and difficulty.

Before the war the taxes of France were chiefly levied on outward signs of prosperity. Such marks are most obvious and most significant amongst an agricultural population, and fiscal systems which employ such criteria operate somewhat unjustly in epochs of industrial development. Reform was therefore desired even before 1914, and plans for its institution were laid before the tempest of the war broke loose. The troubles which began in August, 1914, delayed and circumscribed the sweeping improvements originally intended, but some, even during the years of war, were carried through, and after victory a sweeping reform was concluded in 1920. This reform based the French system of taxation on real wealth; it assessed personal incomes and gathered its revenues from the individual. Businesses were not neglected; a turnover tax and a business profits tax were forged; their power and their yield are great.

Unfortunately, the delay of this reform caused the fiscal

system to sustain great hardships during the early years of the war. Expenditure increased by leaps and bounds, but revenue in 1914-15-16 declined even below the level attained in 1913. Then an improvement set in, which has persisted steadily. The gap between expenditure and revenue was widest in 1918, when a deficit of nearly 50 milliard francs was incurred; since then, expenditure, except in 1920, has diminished, and revenue has constantly increased. At the end of 1923 the fatal result of this depressing history was recorded. France then had spent, since 1913, 426 milliards; she had levied in taxes only 126 milliards; her internal debt had attained the total of 300 milliards; and her foreign borrowing had aggregated about 140 milliards—i.e., her total debt amounted to some 440 milliards of francs. In the past, hopes of financial relief have been largely pinned on the receipt of Reparations from Germany, and French statesmen have repeatedly made repayment of their foreign debt contingent upon these; but the most sanguine economists no longer expect this straddle-back method to operate to the world's entire satisfaction.

M. Germain Martin presents a full, clear detailed analysis of French financial methods and reforms. He traces the history of the changes which have come about since 1914, and explains the difficulties of finance during the war. His criticism is acute and far-reaching. Especially interesting is his exposition of the methods of the Treasury. The short-term bonds which it issued, especially the Bons de la Défense Nationale, enabled currency to be economised, and thus operated in fact, though not in intention, to increase the supply of currency. He explains how the note issue of the Bank of France came to be expanded. His customary perspicacity flags when he examines the factors which operate on the value of the franc, and he does not seem to be clearly cognisant of the exact workings of those deep irresistible forces which maintain, raise, or depress the purchasing power of a currency. Nor is his exposition of the economics of reparations satisfactory.

These are the chief flaws which mar an otherwise admirable book. Nevertheless, it cannot be whole-heartedly recommended for study by any except experts especially concerned with the detailed development of French finance. The book is far too long for the general reader—it extends to over 850 quarto pages. Most meticulous attention is bestowed, even upon minutiae. Furthermore, its format is unfortunate; instead of being printed, it apparently has been multigraphed from a written copy, and the cursive script, uneven as it is in size, proves very fatiguing to the reader. In spite of these impediments to popularity, M. Germain Martin's book deserves to be examined by all concerned to possess clear ideas about French financial history; whilst exhaustive students of that extensive, intricate, bewildering subject will be grateful for so lucid, so learned, and so competent a guide.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- A History of Currency in the United States.* By A. Barton Hepburn, LL.D. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. 16s net.
- Plain Talks on Economics.* By Fabian Franklin. (London) G. P. Putnam's Sons. 12s 6d.
- A Plea for an Effective Gold Standard in India.* By P. A. Wadia, M.A., and Prof. G. N. Joshi, M.A. (Bombay) University of Bombay.
- The Indian Currency Reform.* By K. T. Shah, B.A., B.Sc. (Bombay) University of Bombay.
- The Only Way to Permanent International Peace.* By Benn Zusman. (London) 120 Belgrave road, S.W. 1. 3d.
- Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.* July, 1924. (London) Royal Statistical Society. 7s 6d net.
- The Port of Leith.* (Leith) Chamber of Commerce.
- A Brief Survey of Rural Credit in New Zealand.* By J. B. Condliffe, M.A., and H. Belshaw, M.A. (Wellington, N.Z.) W. A. G. Skinner.
- Experiments in State Control in New Zealand.* By J. B. Condliffe, M.A. (Geneva) International Labour Office.
- The Legality of the Occupation of the Ruhr.* By Arnold McNair. (London) London School of Economics and Political Science.
- Living Religions.* By Victor Branford. (London) Leplay House and Williams and Norgate. 5s net.

* Germain Martin. "La Situation Financière de la France." Les Cours de Droit. 3, Place de la Sorbonne (1er étage), Paris (Ve).

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL . . . £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL . . . £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND . . . £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1924) . . . £295,698,105

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET,
September 24.

ACCOUNT,
September 25.

THE growing belief that there is likely to be a General Election some time within the next three months fails to exercise any restraining effect upon the business which is increasing daily in the Stock Exchange markets. The broad trend of public interest flows into two channels, the one towards British Government stocks, and the other towards industrials. Mining markets are neglected, and oil shares are left very largely to the hands of the professionals.

The strength of the 3½ per cent. Conversion stock is one of the outstanding features of the week. It is pointed out that the 4½ per cent. Conversion is a little cheaper so far as yield is concerned, but demand insists upon having the 3½ per cent., and the price has risen sharply. The War Loan moved up to 102½, and other British Government stocks, especially Funding, exhibit a strong appearance. Gilt-edged stocks, as a whole, are better, and the withholding of new issues acts as a tonic to prices in this department.

The violence of the gamble in German bonds has subsided to a noticeable extent. The big lines of stock which had been previously changing hands are less dealt in, and the speculators are now the chief actors in this drama. French bonds move up and down within narrow margins of price. There is not a great deal doing in foreigners. Speculation toys with the possibility of the price at which the new German loan will be forthcoming. Some people guess 6 per cent. at 80, others 7 per cent. at 90; but these are, of course, merely personal estimates.

Home Railway stocks have disappointed recent hopes of improvement by a fresh falling away in their prices. No one is taking any active interest in them, and the chance of a General Election is held to be a bear point, if anything, for the Home Railway industry. Grand Trunk Pacific debenture has also gone back, and Mexican Rails are heavy. Argentines keep fairly firm, the declaration of the anticipated dividends on Buenos Ayres Western, Buenos Ayres Great Southern, and Central Argentine stocks serving to keep the market in a good humour. Brazilian railways, together with Brazilian Government, traction, and coffee issues, are generally higher. Brazilian warrants, however, gave way on the passing of the interim dividend.

Rubber shares have developed further activity, the statistical position being held responsible for a sudden inrush of public inquiry, accompanied by a certain amount of willingness to buy shares. The tea market, after looking somewhat glum, cheered up towards the latter part of the week, though speculation has fallen off, as compared with a fortnight ago, to a noticeable extent. The oil market remains professional, as already noted. Shipping shares have been awakened by the better state of affairs in the freight market, and many rises in shipping stocks stand out as a feature of the week. The iron and steel market is flat, owing to renewed fears of German competition and to the passing of the Pearson and Knowles preference dividend. This depression has also affected colliery and similar shares. Brisk rises occurred in a few of the tobacco shares, upon amalgamation and other rumours, but the rises have tempted selling, and the best prices were not held. Courtaulds dropped to 50s 6d, before recovering a sixteenth. The textile market, as a whole, is a good one. Celanese are unfavourably affected by the report, showing another loss in respect of the year recently ended. Gas stocks are better, continuing their seasonal rise,

while the proposed absorption by the Gas Light and Coke Company of the Brentford Gas, has aroused lively interest. Banking and insurance shares keep firm, on the whole. The Dunlop proposals for reorganisation of the company are expected to be passed at the meeting next week, and the shares are steady. The wireless and cable groups show no fresh developments, but the strength of Automatic Telephones has been qualified by the issue of new shares at 21s 6d. Cable Construction shares remain a quiet market after the reaction which overtook prices, following upon their breathless rises. The electricity supply group marks time, holding its prices as the time draws near when Parliament shall again consider the questions which surround the future of the undertakings.

Kafirs are in very quiet case, and there is scarcely anything stirring in the market. It appears as though labour unrest were settling down at the Cape. Amongst Rhodesians, the fall in Cam and Motors is almost the only movement of consequence during the week. Tin has given way very heavily, the fall dragging in its train the prices of Malayan and West African tin shares, though the reaction in these has been comparatively slight. Porcupine Davidsons and Esperanzas both keep in the neighbourhood of 6d. Copper shares are somewhat irregular, and in the miscellaneous sections of the mining market the dealers complain, with justification, that the public interest has diminished to a very low ebb.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ ..	£ 130,672,151 ..	£ ..	£ ..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 13, 1924.

	£	£
April 1, 1924, to Sept. 13, 1924, Dr £2,250,000 ..	Dr	50,000 ..
	Dr	50,000 ..

To the Public—				
Macdonald, Greenlees, and Williams (Distillers), Limited, 400,000 7% Cum. Pref. Shares, £1, at par ..	400,000 ..	400,000 ..	50,000 ..	350,000
Scottish Eastern Investment Trust 250,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at par ..	250,000 ..	230,000 ..	31,250 ..	218,750
Scottish United Investors, 80,000 Ord. Shares, £10, at par ..	800,000 ..	800,000 ..	40,000 ..	760,000
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, 700,000 5% Stock (rep. at par Oct. 1, 1944), issued at 98 % ..	700,000 ..	686,000 ..	35,000 ..	651,000
Total offered to the public ..	2,136,000 ..	156,250 ..	1,979,750	
Total offered for subscription to date				
1924 ..	132,758,151	1923 ..	271,385,173	
1924 ..	204,561,317	1922 ..	573,675,650	
1923 ..	510,021,328	1921 ..	388,978,203	
1922 ..	166,202,642	1920 ..	367,549,656	
1921 ..	290,810,788	1919 ..	1,036,069,951	
1920 ..	900,639,363	1918 ..	1,393,381,441	

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.—Issue of £700,000 5 per cent. stock, 1944, at 98 per cent. The stock is repayable at par on October 1, 1944, and the Board reserves no power to anticipate that date. The proceeds of the loan are required mainly for the conversion of cable lines to electric traction. The Board is a statutory body, charged with the operation of tramways in the capital of Victoria and in 27 adjoining municipalities, and controls 125 miles of track. During the year to June 30th last traffic receipts amounted to £1,870,300. After meeting debenture interest there was a surplus of £125,700. The capital outlay to the end of the year was £5,103,000, against which debenture and other liabilities, including contracts for work in progress, aggregated £2,367,800. In addition to the £700,000 now offered here, £1,000,000 is being raised in Australia. Should revenue at any time not produce sufficient to meet charges, the Board has power to levy a rate on the area served to make up the deficiency, but it has never yet been compelled to do so. The capital value of the rateable property within the jurisdiction of the Board is estimated at £240,000,000. The population of the area served by the tramways is 668,000, and the extent of such area 192,000 acres. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council of Victoria. Holders of the stock not domiciled in Victoria are not subject to the taxes of this State. A good investment in its class.

Scottish United Investors, Limited.—We are informed that the lists for the Scottish United Investors, Limited, prospectus were closed on September 16th at 11 o'clock, the shares having been largely over-applied for.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 3½, 1925-28 .. 96 .. 96 ..			
Loans 4½, 1925-45 .. 97½ .. 97½ ..			
5%, 1925-47 .. 101½ .. 102 ..			
4½, 1925-42 .. 102 .. 102½ ..			
Funding Loan 4½ .. 90 .. 90 ..			
Victory Bonds 4½ .. 92 .. 92 ..			
Conversion Loan 3½ .. 77½ .. 78 ..			
Consols 2½ .. 57½ .. 57½ ..			
Irish Land Stock 2½ .. 59 .. 59 ..			
Local Loans 3% .. 62 .. 62 ..			

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. 108½ .. 107 ..	1	Southern, Ord. "A" .. 38½ .. 38½ ..	
Lond. & North-Eastern .. 80½ .. 79½ ..	1	Do Ord. "B" .. 9 .. 9 ..	
5% Pref. Ord. 29½ .. 29½ ..		Do Pref. Ord. 83½ .. 82½ ..	1
Do Def. Ord. 29½ .. 29½ ..		Do Def. Ord. 41 .. 40½ ..	½
Lond., Mid., and .. 99 .. 97½ ..	1½	Underground Electric .. 28 .. 27½ ..	½
Scottish, Ord. 75 .. 75 ..		Do "A" (1) .. 9 .. 9 ..	
Metropolitan .. 50½ .. 50½ ..		Do Inc. Bds. (£100) .. 95½ .. 95½ ..	

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) 24½ .. 24½ ..		Nat. Bank of S. Africa 6½ .. 6½ ..	
Chartered Bk of India 19½ .. 19½ ..		National Provincial .. 10½ .. 10½ ..	
Lloyds (£5 with £1 .. 23½ .. 23½ ..		Standard of S. Africa .. 11 .. 11 ..	
Midland (£12, with .. 8½ .. 8½ ..		Westminster Bank .. 17½ .. 17½ ..	
£2½ paid) .. 24½ .. 24½ ..		Do (20, with £5 paid) 17½ .. 17½ ..	
Nat. Bank of Egypt .. 24½ .. 24½ ..			

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio .. 96 .. 96 ..		Southern .. 74 .. 75 ..	+ 1
Erie .. 31 .. 31 ..		Do Non-cum Pref. 84 .. 85 ..	+ 2
Do 4% 1st Pref. 43 .. 43 ..			

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons. 87 .. 87½ ..	½	Leopoldina .. 25 .. 25½ ..	+ ½
B.A. and Pacific .. 84½ .. 85½ ..	+ 1	Mexican Railway .. 6 .. 6 ..	
B.A. & Southern .. 88½ .. 88 ..	- ½	Do 1st Pref. 22 .. 22 ..	
Buenos Ayres West. .. 79½ .. 78½ ..	- 1	Do 2nd Pref. 19 .. 19 ..	
Canadian Pacific .. 165 .. 165 ..		San Paulo .. 161 .. 159 ..	- 2
Central Argentine .. 74½ .. 73½ ..	- 1½	United Havana .. 67 .. 87½ ..	+ 2

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentina 5%, 1886-7 .. 100 .. 100 ..		Japanese 4%, 1910 .. 61 .. 62 ..	+ 1
Austrian 6% Guar. 92 .. 92½ ..	½	Do 6% 1924 .. 90½ .. 90½ ..	
Belgian 3% .. 72 .. 72 ..		Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 35 .. 37 ..	+ 2
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914 .. 72 .. 72 ..		Peruvian Corp. Pref. .. 32½ .. 32½ ..	
Chilian 4½, 1895 .. 88 .. 87 ..	- 1	P.L.M. 6% .. 95 .. 94 ..	- 1
Do 7½ .. 102½ .. 103 ..	+ ½	Portuguese (New) .. 26½ .. 26 ..	- ½
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 68 .. 69 ..	+ 1	Russian 5%, 1906 .. 7 .. 7 ..	
Egyptian 4% .. 75 .. 75 ..		Spanish 4% .. 65 .. 66 ..	+ 1
French 5% .. 25 .. 24½ ..	- ½	Seine (Dept.) 7% .. 103½ .. 103½ ..	
Do 4% .. 20½ .. 19½ ..	- 1	Slavonic 7% .. 104½ .. 107 ..	+ 2½
Greek 5%, 1884 .. 55½ .. 55½ ..			

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 23½ .. 23½ ..		Marconi Canada .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Marconi Wireless .. 18 .. 18 ..		Marconi Marine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Imperial Tobacco (£1) 3½ .. 3½ ..	
Amal. Cottons (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Linggi Plantns (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) 23½ .. 24 ..	+ ½	Lipton (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Liver Br 7% Cmp (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..	
and Co. (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Do 8% Cmp A Pr (£1) 1 .. 1 ..	
Ass. Portland Cement (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..		Do 20% Cmp P Ord (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Barker, John (£1) .. 23½ .. 24 ..	+ ½	Lister (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
B'ham Small Arms (£1) .. 5½ .. 5½ ..		Lobitos Oilfields (£1) 10½ .. 10½ ..	
Brazil Traction (£100) 54 .. 54½ ..	+ ½	Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) 4½ .. 4½ ..	
British-American .. 54½ .. 54½ ..		Mexican Eagle (£10) .. 4½ .. 4½ ..	
Tobacco (£1) .. 54½ .. 54½ ..		Nobel Industries (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Burnham Oil (£1) .. 54½ .. 54½ ..		Pekin (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Coca (J. and P.) (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Rubber Plantations .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Courtaulds (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Investments (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Cunard (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Shell Transport (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	
Dorman, Long (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Smithfield & Argentine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Dunlop Rubber (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Meat (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Fine Cotton Spinners .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		United Dairies (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
(£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		United Serdang (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Forestal Land (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		United Tobacco (£1) .. 4½ .. 4½ ..	
Furness, Withy (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Vallambrosa (2) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Highlands and Low .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Vickers (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
lands Rubber (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Watney Def. Stk. .. 244½ .. 249½ ..	+ 5
Hudson's Bay (£1) .. 5½ .. 5½ ..			

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..		Knights .. 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Broken Hill Prop. (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..		Modderfontein (10) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..	
Chartereds (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Modderfont. "B" (5) 1½ .. 1½ ..	
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) 1½ .. 1½ ..		Modderfont. Deep (5) 2½ .. 2½ ..	
Crown Mines (10) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..		Premier Def. (2/6) .. 5 .. 5 ..	
De Beers Def. (£24) .. 11½ .. 11½ ..		Rand Mines (5) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	
East Rand Prop. (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..		Selukwe .. 34½ .. 34½ ..	
Geduld (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..		Rio Tinto (£5) .. 34½ .. 34½ ..	
Gov. Gold Areas £1 6½ .. 6½ ..		Spring Mines (£1) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..	

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

BRITISH CILANSE, LIMITED.
February 29, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with Feb. 28, 1923.	ASSETS.		Compared with Feb. 28, 1923.
	Amount.	£		Amount.	£
7½ cum. pref. £1	4,250,000	..	Freehold land,		
Ord. shares £1 ..	1,500,000	..	buildings, &c.,	3,747,641	.. + 302,265
1st mt. 8% deb. ..		- 300,000	Goodwill, &c.,	1,88,945	.. + 494
6% inc. bds.		- 286,000	Furn ture, &c.,	15,160	.. + 2,596
7% deb.	700,000	.. + 700,000	Stocks	224,829	.. + 48,335
6½% bds.	286,000	.. + 286,000	Sundry debtors.	122,153	.. + 47,291
Loans.	75,000	.. - 10,000	Cash	74,497	.. + 24,83
Sundry creditors	180,032	.. + 60,943	Profit and loss	565,827	.. + 74,046
Total	6,641,052	.. + 450,943	Total	6,641,052	.. + 450,943

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

NOBEL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

DEVELOPMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SIR HARRY MCGOWAN ON THE POSITION.

The 5th ordinary general meeting of Nobel Industries, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Sir Harry McGowan, K.B.E. (chairman and managing director), presiding.

The secretary (Sir Josiah Stamp, G.B.E.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I will open my survey by dealing first with our chief line of manufacture, blasting explosives and accessories. You will be glad to learn that during the past few years we have been, and still are, rapidly consolidating our position in these important products. The home trade, as you are doubtless aware, is an important part of our business, and while one must always expect criticism by consumers, we know from day to day contact with our customers that they are satisfied with the service we are giving them and with our selling prices. I hold that they have every reason to be satisfied, because our present-day selling prices compare most favourably with those ruling prior to the war. This I would emphasise has been rendered possible only by the policy of concentration of manufacture and scientific research adopted by your company, which have enabled us to reduce our selling prices in the home market on many occasions during the past three years. I would remind you that these prices stand on their own merits, unassisted by tariffs or other artificial aids. We know and fully appreciate the risks attached to the miners' calling, and leave nothing undone to ensure that the highest quality explosives are produced at our various factories throughout the country. Furthermore, we spend large sums of money annually in our efforts to reach still higher standards.

THE CANADIAN COMPANY.

Leaving the home market, you are aware that we possess a large interest in Canadian Explosives, Limited, a company formed some years ago in conjunction with influential American manufacturers. This company owns factories in Eastern and Western Canada, and with its associated concerns supplies the major part of the requirements of blasting explosives and accessories in that great Dominion. I returned about a fortnight ago from Canada, and am happy to say that that company has a highly efficient organisation, is doing well, and that its prospects are excellent. Canadian mining developments are progressing steadily, and we can look forward with every confidence to the future of the explosives trade in Canada.

In South America our business is on a satisfactory basis. The Chilean Explosives Company, to which I referred last year, is now operating, and while we have met with the usual difficulties incidental to the starting up of any new factory, especially so highly technical as that for explosives, we anticipate that your Chilean company will in due course become the main source of supply of explosives for the nitrate oficinas in Chili and the great copper and other mines in Chili, Bolivia, and the neighbouring countries.

SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

Culminating in a visit I paid to South Africa towards the end of last year, together with some of my colleagues, important negotiations were completed, as a result of which the Cape Explosives works, owned wholly by De Beers Consolidated Mines, were merged with Nobel's interests in South Africa into a new company under the title of African Explosives and Industries, Limited—the shareholders of the new company being ourselves and the De Beers Company. The new company possesses two large explosives factories, one near Cape Town, and one near Johannesburg, and also a factory near Durban, where are produced fertilisers, insecticides and cognate articles.

We have established excellent relations with the various groups of mines on the Rand, which, as you know, are large consumers of explosives, and contracts have been arranged with those groups covering a large percentage of our output over a long period of years on terms satisfactory both to us and to those important consumers. From a mining point of view the South African market holds out great possibilities. Its mineral fields are many and

valuable, and, apart from the established gold-mining on the Rand, most mining people hold the view that base metals will be found in large quantities in other parts of South Africa. In countries further north, such as Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, &c., I see a growing outlet for explosives in railway and public works construction. There is no reason to anticipate anything but a satisfactory outcome from the consolidation of interests in that important area, and from the manufacturing and other economies which must flow therefrom.

After our work in South Africa was finished, one of my colleagues proceeded to Australia, and the result of his efforts has been still further to strengthen our position and prepare for our future activities in that extensive field.

PROSPECTS IN EUROPE.

As regards the European Continent, the friendly arrangements which exist with the French, Belgian, and Spanish manufacturers continue to work satisfactorily.

Some three years ago, although world-wide conditions, particularly those obtaining in the Balkans, were somewhat obscure, we realised that in many important fields mining and industrial developments must come in the near future, and we therefore decided to invest money in the explosives industry there. Knowing the advantages from psychological and political points of view of association with local interests, we considered it wise to have the co-operation of those interests in our local ventures. In pursuance of that policy, we acquired interests in explosives and fuse factories in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Roumania, and I am glad to say that all those factories are now operating profitably and to our entire satisfaction. Not only do we benefit by our capital participation in those companies, but the associations thus created also provide direct contact with the Government in those countries, which should result in remunerative business in certain of the products of our home factories.

Russia up till now has not attracted us, but if one day that vast country recovers, and things do begin to improve, we shall not be behind in looking for further outlets for our products there.

In the Far Eastern countries, such as India and China, we are well established, and business there has been well maintained.

The picture I have given you will show that in the explosives and accessories part of our business throughout the world we are on solid foundation.

THE METAL INDUSTRY.

That section of our business which is next in importance is the metal industry. You will appreciate the difficulties attendant on the change from warlike conditions to peaceful pursuits that applied to those of our companies engaged in that branch. However, by application of scientific factory administration, we are now producing a superior quality of goods as compared to pre-war days, and I am pleased to say that the companies producing rolled metal and other metal products are, in consequence, in excellent shape, and doing a steadily increasing volume of business over the whole range of products. In particular, our metallic ammunition reaches the highest standards, and is much appreciated by Government authorities, and we receive nothing but commendation for the quality of the ammunition now sent out. It is expected that this end of our business will continue to contribute largely to the revenue of Nobel Industries.

Allied to the metal end is the sporting ammunition branch of our business. This is a field where research has wide scope, and we are continuously spending large sums of money to improve the quality of our products. Complaints reach us from time to time from sportsmen as to the selling prices of sporting ammunition, but every effort is being made to reduce costs of manufacture, which can be reflected in selling prices. To assist us in this direction, I would impress on users of ammunition the desirability of confining their orders to British-made goods. It is not necessary for me to point out that volume is an important factor in costs of production, and support given to Continental makes of ammunition must necessarily lessen our chance of reducing costs.

The Sunbeam cycle and motor-cycle, the Amac carburettor, and the Rotax motor accessories continue to hold a pre-eminent position in their respective fields, despite highly competitive conditions, and are finding increasing favour in the export markets. The same may be said of our manufacture of artificial leather.

INVESTMENTS.

Now let me give you a short general survey of the position of our chief industrial holdings:—

General Motors Corporation.—During my recent visit to the States I spent much time with the officials of that company, and while its trade, in common with industries generally in the United States, has suffered something of a setback since the beginning of April, there was a noticeable improvement from the beginning of July, slow but gradual, and the remaining part of this year holds

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000

Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

Northern District Office - 69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch - 19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

out better prospects to the motor industry in America than were anticipated a few months back.

The slack time experienced recently has enabled the management to introduce some important improvements impossible in boom times, when the factories are working to full capacity. The quality of the General Motors' products is continually being improved, and I found nothing but the greatest confidence in the future of the company.

One satisfactory feature of the position is that this temporary depression did not force motor manufacturers to reduce prices; on the contrary, the prospects of the future are such that the market accepted substantial advances in selling prices on practically every car of consequence. The more one investigates the position, the more one realises that the motor industry of America is rapidly assuming stable conditions.

Our holdings in the Dunlop Rubber and British Celanese Companies remain unaltered, and more details as to the latter will be given when I address the shareholders of that company a week hence. All I can say at this stage is that the company's position shows a decided improvement. The improved position of the Dunlop Company has been fully explained by its chairman at the recent meeting of shareholders.

Taken as a whole, our other investments are progressing satisfactorily. In a company with many ramifications like ours, there naturally must be some investments not doing as well as we would like; but in our case these are relatively unimportant, and have an inappreciable effect on the fundamental strength of our company.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

After dealing with the balance-sheet of the company, the Chairman continued: I now propose to complete the picture by reviewing the position of the Merger as a whole, and giving you a consolidated statement, as at December 31, 1923, of our assets and liabilities as they appear if those constituent companies and Nobel Industries, Limited, are regarded as a single business. This consolidation covers the assets and liabilities of 29 companies as against 34 last year, several having dropped out owing to the completion of voluntary liquidations. As you are aware, the unification of the business in the interests of economy and the elimination of redundant capacity or unsuitable units, was undertaken immediately after the Merger was formed, and the liquidation of some of the companies was the natural outcome. Several such liquidations remain to be completed.

The total assets (not including cost of debenture issue) amount to £23,541,935, as against liabilities of £4,959,658, giving a surplus belonging to Nobel Industries of £18,582,277. Against that must be set Nobel Industries share capital issued, £15,922,513, giving a surplus above share capital at December 31, 1923, of £2,659,764.

The surplus above share capital at December 31, 1922, was £2,363,658. I informed you in previous years that this surplus was then subject to, and sufficient to cover, three kinds of contingencies: (1) Prospective deficiencies due to liquidations of redundant factories, &c.; (2) estimated possible depreciation in the values of minor unquoted investments in industrial undertakings; and (3) differences between the market value of quoted securities at that time, and their cost to the company or its constituents.

Under the first two heads, before arriving at the surplus, effect has actually been given in the figures to various provisions which were in contemplation in previous years. The differences under the third head amounted to less than in previous years, so that the net surplus, apart from the obvious increase above shown, has less to be set against it in the way of possible contingencies at December, 1923, than as at December, 1922, and the comfortable margin of actual asset value over and above the share capital which existed in 1922 has substantially improved.

GENERAL OUTLOOK.

With the recovery of the world's trade which should result from the progressive settlement of the European problems, I foresee development in countries hitherto somewhat backward, and nothing will be left undone by us to ensure that we take full advantage of opportunities as they occur not only in the Empire, but in other parts of the world.

We must show enterprise in this matter, but that enterprise must be supported by efficiency. To be successful in competition low selling prices are necessary, and therefore the first essential is low cost of production. It gives me great pleasure to tell you now that over the past four years, as a result of keen striving on the part of each one in our organisation, I see continuously gratifying results in the direction of efficiency and consequent reduction in costs of our various products. In this connection we must never slacken, and we are spending considerable sums of money annually in research to ensure that the progress in the efficiency of our manufacturing operations is maintained in the forefront.

Some people hold the opinion that a merging of similar interests destroys initiative. It may be true in regard to some industries,

but it has not proved to be so in ours. A careful study of costs and efficiency results prevents slackening of effort on the part of any of us, and when properly administered, I feel sure Merger operates, not merely to the advantage of the shareholders, but even more so to benefit the country at large.

I feel convinced that the salvation of this country must lie in the direction of financial merging of those industries which have a surplus of productive capacity over consumption, as it is only by scientific concentration in the most efficient elements, and by making the most efficient and progressive the standard for all, that we can hope to withstand the serious competition which will ensue when Continental countries recover.

So far we are quite satisfied with the present year's trading, and I see no reason to suppose that the complete year's figures for 1924 will be less satisfactory than those for 1923.

In these circumstances, your directors will consider at an early date whether the time is not opportune to adopt a policy of the payment of an interim dividend on the ordinary shares, and it is possible that towards the end of this year we may be able to make a declaration on the subject.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Ralph W. Anstruther, Bt. (deputy-chairman), seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

ILLINGWORTH, MORRIS, AND CO., LIMITED. BRIGHTER PROSPECTS.

The annual general meeting of Illingworth, Morris, and Co., Limited, was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr I. Ostrer (acting chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, expressed regret that Col. Morris had found it necessary, on account of advancing years, to retire from the board, and stated that Mr Walker George Waldron had been invited to take his place. He felt sure that Mr. Waldron's appointment as a director and chairman would be of great benefit to the company. Shareholders would recollect at the time that the capital was increased from £1,500,000 to £5,000,000 certain most important negotiations had reached an advanced stage, and the increase was definitely necessary to enable those negotiations to be completed. Unfortunately, outside factors intervened, and consequently the board considered it wise to drop the negotiations. Additional capital would only be issued under circumstances calculated to strengthen the company's position, and consequently benefit the shareholders.

Although the factories had been well employed during certain periods, a considerable amount of short time had been experienced, and only by the greatest enterprise and care had they been able to show a substantial balance on the right side. Now that the Reparations problems appeared to be solved, they would be able to look forward with confidence to the future earnings of the company. He believed that the wool trade of the country was improving, and this company should at least have its share, as the prospects for the present year appeared to be much brighter, the trading of the past five months showing marked improvement.

Mr F. W. Turner (joint managing director), in seconding the motion, said he was glad to see that, in spite of the enormous difficulties with which they had had to contend in the past year, they had as good a balance-sheet to present as the chairman had explained in detail. Few people outside the trade itself could have the slightest idea of what the worst spinning industry had had

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

to face during the past twelve months. It had had to contend with the continued rise in prices of raw materials, unfavourable exchanges, higher rates of wages compared with other countries, plus shorter hours worked, and prohibitive tariffs, while on the top of all these things they were faced a year ago with a certain reduced raw wool clip from the chief source of their supply, namely, Australia. During this difficult period they had centred their efforts on improvement of the various organisations, both from the selling and the manufacturing points of view. At the present time they had at least 25 per cent. more machinery running than they had a year ago, and were in a far more favourable position with regard to their order-books. So far as the current year was concerned, they would, he felt sure, have a much better result to place before the shareholders.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Sept. 22—Sept. 27 were opened on Sept. 19, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £51,165,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Wednesday at £99 1s 7d, about 64 per cent., and above in full; Thursday £99 1s 10d, and above in full; Friday £99 1s 5d, and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 7d, about 64 per cent., above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Aug. 15.....	30,000,000	41,390,000	3 15 3/4	100
Aug. 22.....	30,000,000	37,235,000	3 15 3/4	100
Aug. 29.....	40,000,000	52,340,000	3 15 1/4	100
Sep. 5.....	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6/8	100
Sep. 12.....	35,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3/8	100
Sep. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1/8	100

Tenders will be received on Sept. 26, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.
1922.						
Mar. 29.....	310,351	14,255	5,000	18,500	19,450	159
June 29.....	295,374	13,338	5,000	18,500	19,450	159
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	186
Dec. 31.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	186
1923.						
Mar. 29.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
June 27.....	285,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
1924.						
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Aug. 27.....	288,719	12,436	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Sep. 3.....	289,435	12,309	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Sep. 10.....	288,761	12,356	7,000	27,000	22,450	173
Sep. 17.....	287,452	12,281	7,000	27,000	22,450	173

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £30,000,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £308,968,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14
5% Conversion Loan.....	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666	666
4% War Stock.....	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds.....	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	820	820
4% Funding Loan.....	..	409	409	407	399	400	396	396	396
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	360	357	346	335	325	314	314	314
Treasury Bonds.....	..	223	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
Exchequer Bonds.....	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	365
National Savings Certs.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
Other Debt.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	..	51	51	1,121	878	616	552	588	597
Treasury Bills.....	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	552	588	597
Temporary Advances.....	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	182
Other Capital Liabilities.....	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,656
Total Liabilities.....	57	46	47	49	66	70	70	66	64

* Includes debt to American Government.
† Corrected figures from Finance Accounts, 1923-24.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Sept. 15, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Sept. 13, '24.	Sept. 13, '24.
Ways and Means Advances.....	807,191,500	774,475,500	778,712,500	410,000
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England.....	182,811,500	186,155,500	181,717,500	1,950,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.....	624,380,000	588,320,000	596,995,000	5,290,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding.....	..	..	..	..

Total Floating Debt..... 807,191,500... 774,475,500... 778,712,500... 410,000
* Includes £51,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts, Week Ended Sept. 15, 1924.	Receipts, Week Ended Sept. 15, 1923.
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Sept. 13, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Sept. 15, 1923.	
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England.....	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.				
Customs.....	101,800,000	45,518,000	57,958,000	1,824,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	54,475,000	61,318,000	1,545,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,106,000	3,629,000	..
Stamps &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	28,670,000	24,570,000	700,000
Stamps.....	21,000,000	7,120,000	8,630,000	210,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	1,250,000	620,000	490,000	..
Property & Income Tax	265,000,000	97,006,000	97,785,000	3,442,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	23,750,000	19,950,000	380,000
Excess Profits Duties &c.	8,000,000	8,080,000	9,310,000	440,000
Corporation Profits Tax	53,500,000	24,300,000	23,100,000	800,000
Post Office.....	900,000	440,000	410,000	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	5,788,637	6,003,456	..
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	5,548,034	6,450,024	141,796
Special Receipts.....	30,000,000	14,074,532	19,478,545	14,000
Revenue.....	794,050,000	319,496,203	339,076,026	9,659,796
Total, Inc. Balance.....	..	326,27,817	345,894,194	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	5,780,000	3,590,000	10,000	70,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922.....	2,200,000	1,750,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	1,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	270,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—				
By Treasury Bills.....	1,080,884,000	1,133,327,000	52,705,000	52,225,000
By National Savings Certificates	12,450,000	22,100,000	550,000	900,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,521,620	29,208,627	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	312,791,500	326,603,500	2,850,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company Dividends on Shares acquired	23,109	50,081	..	..
Repayments—				
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	549,398	177,550	..	..
Total.....	1,754,328,444	1,863,035,950	65,774,796	64,579,821

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supple- mentary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Sept. 13, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Sept. 15, 1923.	Week Ended Sept. 13, 1924.	Week Ended Sept. 15, 1923.
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	152,009,917	148,820,717	957,922	458,311
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	13,530,353	19,020,844	500,000	..
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	3,247,044	3,028,044	..	138,000
Payments to Local Tax- ation Accounts.....	13,150,000	3,776,891	2,661,316	450,000	350,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,086,832	1,531,108	..	..
Land Settlement.....	750,000	304,949	303,363	7,407	81,378
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	1,004,795	1,151,555	..	..
Supply Services.....	408,919,000	161,551,489	165,499,427	5,950,000	6,016,009
Expenditure.....	793,759,000	337,575,270	342,016,374	7,865,329	7,043,619
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924.....	..	36,891	36,891	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	..	270,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act 1922 and 1924.....	3,950,000	3,050,000	250,000	250,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	..	260,719	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921— Repayment of amounts borrowed.....	..	5,750,000	3,440,000	960,000	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills.....	1,072,260,000	1,124,980,000	7,445,000	43,465,000	..
Principal of National Savings Cer- tificates.....	14,700,000	16,250,000	600,000	450,000	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....	..	31,086,910	..	1,250,000	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	50	269,036	..	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....	317,229,500	337,689,500	8,550,000	12,050,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commis- sioners.....	..	23,109	50,081	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	..	55,214	..	..
	1,751,789,539	1,859,211,006	65,670,329	64,508,698	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	..	Sept. 15, '24	Sept. 15, '23	In or Dec.	For week.
Bank of Ireland.....	584,778	1,951,177	2,025,648	14,533	63,678
Total.....	2,538,905	1,996,396	119,000	135,001	..

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, September 17, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,348,805	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion	126,598,805
146,348,805		146,348,805	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities ..	41,988,443
Reserve	3,697,989	Other securities	74,273,265
Public deposits	10,379,643	Notes	22,249,570
Other deposits	111,696,713	Gold and silver coin ..	1,827,982
Seven-day & other bills ..	11,945		
140,339,260		140,339,260	

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Sept. 17, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Reserve	3,697,989	—	18,356
Public deposits	10,379,643	—	462,848
Other deposits	111,696,713	+	300,769
Government securities ..	41,988,443	+	1,230,000
Other securities	74,273,265	—	2,971,050
Notes	22,249,570	—	2,492,815
Gold and silver coin ..	1,827,982	—	635,325
Seven-day & other bills ..	11,945	—	635,325
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities ..	19.7%	—	8.0%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
Aug. 13	128,315,112	126,034,220	122,202,346	118,267,257	22,030,892	18.4
20	128,315,748	125,118,705	122,609,727	120,785,097	22,947,043	18.1
27	128,315,386	125,472,300	122,434,262	117,902,270	22,935,356	18.1
Sept. 3	128,402,791	125,725,405	122,238,425	117,078,758	23,442,286	17.9
10	128,423,957	124,751,730	122,076,356	116,261,708	24,077,552	19.3
17	128,426,787	124,099,235	122,076,356	116,261,708	24,077,552	19.3

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to September 3 ..	23,723,277	1,079,298	1,946,463	26,749,038
Sept. 10	555,085	27,374	58,379	641,338
Sept. 17	596,734	26,288	51,994	674,016
Total to date 1924	24,875,095	1,132,960	2,057,336	28,065,392
Do 1923	23,143,344	1,117,790	2,032,527	26,293,661
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,731,752	+ 15,170	+ 24,809	+ 1,771,731
= 7.4%	= 1.3%	= 1.2%	= 1.4%	= 6.7%
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923 ..	— 510,262	— 28,096	— 4,489	— 542,847
= 1.6%	= 1.8%	= 0.2%	= 1.4%	= 1.4%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of August.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Sept. 15.
	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	26	25
BIRMINGHAM	8,932,000	9,117,000
Bristol	4,938,000	4,666,000
DUBLIN	4,604,000	4,305,000
LIVERPOOL	3,921,000	3,964,000
LEEDS	2,511,000	2,469,000
LONDON	35,328,000	37,727,000
MANCHESTER	56,985,000	60,496,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,185,000	7,911,000
NOTTINGHAM	2,347,000	2,364,000
Sheffield	4,618,000	4,133,000
Total	132,499,000	137,152,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The late return of the German Gold Discount Bank appeared in the *Economist* of June 21; Rentenbank in August 16; Estonia, Bulgaria, and Egypt in August 23; Denmark in September 6; Lithuania, Greece, Portugal, and Italy in September 13.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1923.
Total gold reserve	3,084,920	3,081,020	3,115,270	3,110,660
Legal tender notes and silver reserve ..	86,920	78,750	87,120	77,000
Bills discounted for member banks	261,230	301,950	262,550	841,160
Bills bought in open market	97,490	69,580	49,290	179,310
Government obligations owned	568,190	542,150	541,630	99,860
All other resources	92,760	91,650	91,220	67,920
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	29,740	35,150	33,020	39,600
Other deposits	2,170,630	2,134,070	2,117,340	1,896,860
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation ..	1,750,670	1,760,760	1,740,710	2,462,530
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	12,460	11,990	12,250	20,580
Capital and surplus	332,900	332,920	332,930	328,050
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	80.3%	80.4%	82.3%	75.9%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	April 30, 1924.	March 31, 1924.	June 30, 1923.
Assets.					
Cash and bank balances	428,158	396,354	437,251	408,226	467,270
Bank balances abroad	78,699	56,948	54,506	56,433	72,270
Call and short loans	279,161	301,555	314,327	312,537	316,306
Securities	509,950	495,333	484,143	469,903	403,169
Loans in Canada	1,103,757	1,095,775	1,111,975	1,110,288	1,161,877
Loans abroad	181,475	173,448	179,737	179,479	126,095
Other assets	144,258	143,869	146,634	147,243	100,986
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	171,396	169,348	161,654	170,851	174,658
Deposits—					
Government	108,456	120,543	135,292	113,949	69,857
Public in Canada	1,718,129	1,684,126	1,715,793	1,686,487	1,745,403
Foreign	340,770	326,929	338,900	335,234	335,712
Bank balances—					
Canadian	13,712	9,835	10,512	10,512	19,444
Foreign	35,834	30,163	35,562	36,161	36,389
Bills payable, &c.	5,429	58,439	59,148	59,646	24,575
Capital and res.	246,785	246,785	247,184	247,185	251,786
Other liabilities	2,597	3,655	3,855	3,122	2,413

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	July 26, 1924.	Aug. 25, 1923.
Assets.						
Gold coin and bullion	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,032
Gold certificates	50	50	50	50	50	50
Subsidiary coin	3,956	3,973	4,109	4,555	3,926	3,864
Bills discounted	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,950	2,700	2,250
Loans and advances to Govt ..	423	223	223	223	223	17
Investments	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
LIABILITIES.						
Reserve	10,104	10,165	10,434	10,704	10,283	10,321
Notes in circulation	4,982	4,937	4,790	5,617	5,760	5,470
Bankers' deposits	69.8%	69.7%	69.1%	66.2%	65.7%	68%
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public ..	69.8%	69.7%	69.1%	66.2%	65.7%	68%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	Aug. 22, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Aug. 8, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	July 25, 1924.	Aug. 24, 1923.
Assets.						
Total securities	16,13,76	16,45,71	17,1,13	18,07,00	17,70,08	12,89,84
Cash	18,93,79	19,74,28	18,77,47	18,69,50	18,23,00	16,23,86
Loans	41,24,24	41,43,38	41,21,08	41,29,95	40,48,06	30,25,03
Foreign bills	6,08,18	5,22,14	4,58,25	4,34,55	4,97,62	4,52,14
Dead stock	2,59,52	2,74,40	2,67,25	2,82,42	2,52,52	2,60,77
Balance with other banks ..	1,36,46	1,31,31	2,59,16	2,58,75	2,58,75	2,41,83
Cash	28,77,50	27,37,49	28,31,60	20,21,61	29,41,38	37,94,51
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50
Total deposits	1,01,77,84	1,01,89,48	1,03,71,51	1,06,35,34	98,95,55	94,05,13
The above includes—						
Deposits in London	1,325	1,327	1,277	1,265	1,616	206
Advances in London	468	460	467	466	477	305
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	913	892	918	924	1,240	48

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Assets.					
Gold coin and bullion	5,541,021	5,543,904	5,543,855	5,538,231	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	301,099	300,923	300,775	294,51	632,650
Discounts and advances	6,65,593	6,815,604	7,828,229	4,937,79	2,327,775
Advances to the State	23,000,000	23,000,000	23,100,000	23,700,000	
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	40,244,483	40,314,545	40,399,150	37,067,371	5,811,875
Government deposits	14,203	13,004	15,680	14,182	183,700
Private deposits	1,746,085	1,775,489	1,907,169	1,877,457	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Aug. 21, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
Assets.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	354,260	353,992	353,821	353,778	347,623	322,650
Securities	1,314,816	1,291,914	1,306,407	1,264,500	1,018,338	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	7,614,518	7,628,010	7,640,931	7,625,087	7,139,547	934,150
Current accounts	327,869	344,037	313,046	272,736	421,653	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Sept. 2, 1924.	Aug. 25, 1924.	Sept. 17, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Assets.						
Gold	531,511	531,511	531,511	531,511	581,789	164,092
Silver	11,810	11,642	11,739	11,835	10,333	8,436
Discounts and advances	378,361	384,267	408,809	374,660	356,322	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	969,467	978,393	1,000,596	946,743	967,270	316,632
Deposits	30,751	38,349	44,318	51,756	34,663	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Assets.						
Gold	219,750	210,500	215,750	215,750	160,850	22,971
Silver	1,051,389	1,051,389	1,051,389	1,051,389	1,051,389	29,785
Discounts, advances, and other investments	153,370	149,060	147,040	144,810	180,003	77,567
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	267,500	267,500	262,500	21,000	264,986	109,499
Deposits and bills payable ..	109,500	103,000	100,000	100,000	134,080	11,250

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Assets.						
Gold	505,103	505,175	505,191	505,242	526,192	171,175
Silver	93,618	93,513	94,069	94,892	94,607	18,350
Assets & advances	284,332	287,485	298,144	280,955	276,046	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	837,839	854,101	858,909	817,810	865,190	275,925
Deposits	109,514	91,375	85,641	113,193	100,465	33,750

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

LONDON RATES.

	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 16, 1924.	Sept. 17, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4
3 months' do	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 months' do	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
6 months' do	4 7/8	4 7/8	4 7/8	4 7/8	4 7/8	4 7/8	4 7/8
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
3 months	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short—	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposits allowances: Banks	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 16, 1924.	Sept. 17, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.
Bank Bills.							
3 Months	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
4 Months	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 Months	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Trade Bills.							
3 Months	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
4 Months	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 Months	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924	3	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923	5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923	7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924	6
Belgrade	Sept. 15, 1923	90	Prague	May 27, 1924	6
Berlin	Jan. 22, 1923	5 1/2	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924	8
Brussels	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Rome	July 11, 1923	5 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 17, 1924	12 1/2	Sofia	Nov. 9, 1923	7
Budapest	Aug. 21, 1924	5	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923	5 1/2
Calcutta	Nov. 10, 1923	7	Swiss Bank		
Christiania	Jan. 17, 1924	7	places	July 14, 1923	4
Copenhagen	Sept. 12, 1924	10	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919	8
Danzig	Mar. 5, 1924	9	Vienna	Aug. 12, 1924	15
Helsingfors	Sept. 12, 1923	9	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Lisbon					
New York Federal Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924	3	Irish	July 5, 1923	1

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Sept. 21, 1923.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	78-95-77-05	83-10-20
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	600/800 mms	184-19-11
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	300/325,000	114-19-00
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	151-151 1/2	148 1/2-149 1/2
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	..	23-20-35
Reval	kopecks to £1	T.T.	..	1850-1875	1820-1870
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	..	22-98-23-24
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	970-990	830-840
Bombay	rupees to £1	T.T.	24-02	75-95,000	340/350,000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1770-1790	820-830
Soňa	leva to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	460-510	505-615
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	400-430	335-340
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12-10 1/2	11-55 1/2-55 1/2	11-61-61 1/2
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	91-00-10	90-10-15
Christiania	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	28-30-35	32-37-42
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-09-12	16-73-76
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	25-14-19	26-40-45
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	1694-170	1774-178
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	245-255	247-252
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	101 1/2-101 1/2	101 1/2-101 1/2
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-54-67	23-61-64
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	25-22 1/2	35-56-59	33-76-79
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-54-67	23-61-64
Alexandria	piastres to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-54-67	23-61-64
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-8 1/2	4-8 1/2	4-8 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-8 1/2	4-8 1/2	4-8 1/2
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47-62 1/2	40 1/2-41	43 1/2-44
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	15 1/2	15 1/2
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	49-40	49-40
Valparaiso	pence to £1	30 days	13-33	35-60	35-60
Lima	per. to £1	90 days	10 to	10 to	10 to
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	10 to
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	10 to
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to	10 to	10 to
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 3/4	2s 3/4	2s 3/4
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	2s 3/4	2s 3/4	2s 3/4
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s 3/4	2s 3/4	2s 3/4
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24-58	2s 3/4	2s 3/4
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24-06	2s 3/4	2s 3/4
Mexico	pence to doles.	T.T.	24-06	24d-26d	25d-27d

† Rate for previous day.

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 864 chervonetz.
£1,000 " " 1932 "

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Sept. 20, 1923.	Sept. 21, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Sept. 24, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.
Cash money	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Time money (90 days' mixed coll)	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances—							
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	Sept. 20, 1923.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.
New York on—					
London—	Dollars for £1	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Cable		4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Cheques		4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Paris—	Cents for 1 franc	19-30	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Brussels		19-30	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Switzerland		19-30	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Italy		19-30	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Vienna		20-26	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Madrid		19-30	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Amsterdam		40-195	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Copenhagen		39-31	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Stockholm		18-06	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Athens		26-55	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Montreal		100	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Yokohama		49-85	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Hong Kong		52-9	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Shanghai		71-25	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Calcutta		30-8	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Buenos Aires		103-65	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Rio de Janeiro		32-42	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2
Valparaiso		20-60	4-8 1/2	4-4 1/2	4-4 1/2

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador.	Buenos to £	10-00	Sight London	Aug. 8
Venezuela	Bolivar to £	5-25	"	Sept. 17
Colombia (Bogota)	Peso to £20.	100	"	Sept. 16
Nicaragua	Corobas to £	4-8 1/2	"	Sept. 16
San Salvador	Colonos to £	9-73	"	Sept. 13
Guatemala	Pesos to £	90-23	"	Sept. 13
Costa Rica	Colonos to £	10-45	"	Sept. 13
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19-20	"	Aug. 22

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From May 10, 1924.	From May 10, 1924.
	London on South Africa.	South Africa on London
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	2 1/2 % prem.	2 1/2 % dis.
30 days	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
60 days	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
90 days	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
120 days	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Aus. New Zeal.	Aus. New Zeal.
T.T.	100 1/2	99 1/2
30 days	99 1/2	98 1/2
60 days	98 1/2	97 1/2
90 days	97 1/2	96 1/2

BULLION.

The Government of India have announced that £13,815,000 has been remitted to the Secretary of State for India from April 1st to August 31st. Purchases of sterling in India amounted to £13,115,000, and sterling taken over by the Secretary of State in London to £700,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended September 17, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
France	2,886	Java	5,000
United States America	240	France	5,593
British South Africa	142,559	British India	18,030
British West Africa	25,899	Other countries	2,314
Belgian Congo	35,765		
Netherlands	4,070		
Total declared value of imports	211,419	Total declared value of exports	31,937

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Silver.
		Cash.	Forward.
			Date.
Sept. 13....	92 7	34 1/2	Sept. 28, 1918.
15....	92 7	34 1/2	26, 1919.
16....	92 8	34 1/2	24, 1920.
17....	92 5	34 1/2	23, 1921.
18....	92 5	34 1/2	22, 1922.
19....	92 9	34 1/2	21, 1923.

NOTICES.

Branches of the Union Bank of Canada have been opened at Climax, Sask., and Lyleton, Man. The branch formerly known as Winnipeg, 491 Portage avenue, will in future be known as Winnipeg, Portage and Good branch.

Branches of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, have been opened at Peterborough (South Australia), and 74 Waymouth street, Adelaide (South Australia).

On and after Monday, September 22nd, the business of the Register Office of the Bank of England will be conducted at 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new branch at 107 High street, Harborne, Birmingham, under the management of Mr H. A. Dodd. They also announce that they have opened a new sub-branch at High street, Wickwar, under the management of Mr W. R. Wadlow, also manager of 49 Corn street, Bristol, branch.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.	Gold Recovered.	Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Mill.	£	£
Akim	560	300	477	116
Akoko Main Reef	3,491	..	..	..
Oroya Links	..	..	..	..
Oroville Dredging (8 days to Sept. 13th)	6,332	..	..	..
Prestea Block A	1,948	..	..	..
Santa Gertrudis	51,651	..	..	..
Do (Inversiones)	..	..	..	..

(a) Premium excluded.

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.
	Tons.	
Falcon	237 1/2	Blister copper; 2,334 ozs gold, and 4,419 ozs silver, est. value £25,325.
Briseis	30	Black tin.
Ex-Landis Nigeria	50 1/2	Black tin, arsenic 45 tons, est. value £9,033.
East Pool and Agar	40	Despatched 48 tons.
Naraguta	9 1/2	..
Nigerian Base Metals	10	..
Gurum River	64,500	..
Chinese Engineering	4,673	..
East Kent	68,938	..
Witbank	..	..

OIL OUTPUTS.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Sept. 12, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 37 Weeks, 1924.
(c) Week ended Sept. 13, 1924.					
Great Western.....	3,754	340,000	344,000	684,000	10,124,000
Do for 1923.....	3,747	314,000	341,000	655,000	10,008,000
London & North-Eastern.....	6,722	543,000	678,000	1,221,000	18,896,000
Do same period 1923.....	6,702	526,000	683,000	1,209,000	18,886,000
London, Mid., & Scottish.....	6,942	763,000	868,000	1,631,000	24,350,000
Do for 1923.....	6,942	734,000	855,000	1,589,000	24,350,000
Southern.....	2,146	398,100	125,700	523,800	7,798,000
Do for 1923.....	2,146	398,100	125,700	523,800	7,798,000
Metropolitan (c).....	794	47,339	4,045	51,384	1,429,264
Do for 1923.....	794	47,339	4,045	51,384	1,429,264
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c).....	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b).....	80	5,011	1,304	6,315	117,740
Dublin and S. East (b).....	160	7,495	2,886	10,381	237,090
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b).....	562	21,850	21,600	43,450	722,000
Gt. Sth. & Western (b).....	1,151	29,662	32,302	61,964	901,000
Midland Gt. West. (b).....	538	11,756	15,391	27,147	350,117

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
INDIAN.					
Assam Bengal.....	20 weeks	Aug. 16	1,072	Rs. 2,87,000	Rs. 11,74,871
Barsi Lt. Ry.....	21 weeks	23	118	20,400	8,17,200
Bengal & N. Western.....	21 weeks	23	2,062	5,03,000	1,37,97,391
Bengal Narpur.....	21 weeks	23	2,800	13,94,000	2,15,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. 24 weeks.....	Sept. 13	13	1,412	18,47,000	75,000
Burma.....	20 weeks	Aug. 16	1,342	5,46,700	47,904
Delhi, Umbaila & Kalka.....	23 weeks	23	239	93,000	27,872
East Indian.....	24 weeks	Sept. 6	2,873	32,83,000	8,53,000
G. Indian Peninsula.....	22 weeks	6	3,173	19,23,900	40,200
Madras & S. Mahr.....	21 weeks	Aug. 23	3,029	13,50,000	84,877
Rohilk. & Kumaon.....	21 weeks	16	259	45,873	8,569
Do Lucknow-Breilly.....	21 weeks	16	314	47,547	5,275
South Indian.....	19 weeks	9	1,877	6,86,659	238,640

ARGENTINE (a).

Argentine N.E.....	11 weeks	Sept. 13	754	12,000	131,900
Argentine Trans.....	10 weeks	6	1,628	1,978	24,859
B. A. and Pacific (b).....	11 weeks	13	3,362	145,000	20,000
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	11 weeks	13	3,948	176,000	19,000
Net.....				49,000	6,000
B. A. Western.....	11 weeks	13	1,882	101,000	26,000
Net.....				37,000	16,000
Central Argentine.....	11 weeks	13	5,305	217,000	2,424,000
Cordoba Central.....	11 weeks	13	1,205	67,000	9,000
Entre Rios.....	11 weeks	13	729	22,000	2,700

CANADIAN.

Canadian National.....	37 weeks	Sept. 14	22,880	4,91,773	550,770
Canadian Pacific.....	37 weeks	14	13,814	2,967,000	580,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Gt. West. of Brazil.....	37 weeks	Sept. 13	1,011	12,000	131,900
Leopoldina.....	37 weeks	13	1,831	33,795	877
San Paulo.....	37 weeks	14	1,534	34,277	7,313

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta.....	36 weeks	Sept. 14	838	42,870	7,880
Nitrato (4-monthly).....	35 weeks	15	366	42,083	6,052

CUBAN.

Havana Central.....	10 weeks	Sept. 6	..	12,222	634
United of Havana.....	11 weeks	Sept. 13	1,249	66,397	7,970

URUGUAYAN.

Central Uruguay.....	11 weeks	Sept. 13	273	19,753	82
C. Urug. (East. Ext.).....	11 weeks	13	311	3,777	12
C. Urug. (North. Ext.).....	11 weeks	13	185	2,146	214
C. Urug. (West. Ext.).....	11 weeks	13	211	2,170	247

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Alcoy and Gandia.....	37 weeks	Sept. 13	33	Pa. 15,000	1,000
Egyptian Delta.....	20 weeks	Aug. 31	575	8,998	604
Gt. Southern of Spain.....	35 weeks	Sept. 6	104	Pa. 99,271	38,700
Mexican Railway.....	11 weeks	14	432	276,800	8,200
New Cape Central.....	34 weeks	Aug. 23	205	2,223	180
Paraguay Central.....	11 weeks	Sept. 13	274	4,530	220
Salvador.....	11 weeks	13	100	2,290	13

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.	Total Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Anglo-Argentine.....	37 weeks	Sept. 13	329	£79,292	6,316
Burnley Corporation.....	1 week	12	12	£3,372	158
Calcutta Tramways.....	37 weeks	13	359	Rs. 30,216	3,226
Chatham & District.....	36 weeks	11	11	£1,650	78
Egyptian Markets.....	11 weeks	11	..	£1,704	159
Glasgow Corporation.....	14 weeks	6	106	£46,854	676
Isle of Thanet Tram.....	49 weeks	3	..	£4,064	147
Leamington Tram.....	13 weeks	Aug. 27	283	1,614	65
Liverpool Corporation.....	24 weeks	Sept. 13	124	£25,064	3,012
Mon. Tramways.....	24 weeks	17	163	80,760	2,325
L.L.C. Tramways.....	24 weeks	15	..	Rs. 53,853	363
Madras Elec. (2 wks).....	39 weeks	14	..	£3,959	197
Panama Canal.....	37 weeks	13	..	£15,094	2,273
Singapore Tram.....	32 weeks	13	..	..	..

* Combined revenue.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.	Gross Earnings.	Net Earnings.
	1922.	1923.	1923.
June.....	235,683	236,739	540,054,165
July.....	235,613	235,477	534,634,552
Aug.....	235,696	235,357	562,292,105
Sept.....	235,525	235,611	544,770,233
Oct.....	236,015	235,608	585,328,886
Nov.....	235,748	235,589	530,106,708
Dec.....	235,555	235,379	493,099,550
1922.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550
1923.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550
Jan.....	235,886	238,698	467,887,013
Feb.....	235,876	235,506	477,809,944
Mar.....	235,520	235,715	504,016,114
April.....	234,970	235,933	474,094,758
May.....	234,452	235,894	476,458,749
June.....	235,691	236,001	464,759,956

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.	Total Receipts.
				1923-24. + or -	1923-24. + or -
INDIAN.					
Southern Punjab.....	2 mths	May 31	717	Rs. 12,60,049	Rs. 1,54,201

CANADIAN.

Canadian National.....	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$19,986,570	\$37,737,134
Canadian Pacific.....	7 mths	31	Gross	\$14,884,000	\$24,680,000
Temiscouata.....	1 mth	31	Gross	\$2,340,000	\$2,340,000

BRAZILIAN.

Brazil Gt. Sothrn.....	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$1,810,000	\$1,810,000
State of Bahia.....	4 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$5,250	\$5,250

CHILE AND PERU.

Peruvian Corp.....	2 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$1,148,300	\$1,148,300
Taital.....	2 mths	31	Gross	\$18,765	\$18,765

URUGUAYAN.

Midland Uruguay.....	2 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$1,361	\$1,361
N.W. Uruguay.....	2 mths	31	Gross	\$5,319	\$5,319
Uruguay North.....	2 mths	31	Gross	\$1,128	\$1,128

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a).....	12 mths	June 30	Gross	\$178,621	\$178,621
Belra and Mashonaland.....	1 mth	30	Gross	121,197	121,197
Bilbao.....	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	2,636	2,636
Bolivar.....	8 mths	31	Gross	3,400	3,400
Costa Rica.....	12 mths	June 30	Gross	29,213	29,213
Dorado Extension.....	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	26,280	26,280
Dorado Rope, Ex. International of Central America.....	8 mths	31	Gross	82,191	82,191
La Guaira & Car.....	8 mths	31	Gross	35,557	35,557
Mexican Railway.....	4 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	1,161	1,161
Mid. of W. Aust.....	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$1,300	\$1,300
Nasajo Oscarsh.....	5 mths	May 31	Gross	11,269	11,269
Puerto Caballo, &c.....	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	4,500	4,500
Rhodesia Rail'ys.....	1 mth	June 30	Gross	149,734	149,734
Samana & Sant'go.....	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	6,000	6,000
Sante Fe Prov.....	1 mth	July 31	Gross	145,498	145,498
Zafra and Huelval.....	7 mths	31	Gross	12,647	12,647

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY & OTHER RECEIPTS.

Argentine Light and Power (a).....	4 mths	July 31	Gross	42,969	42,969
Barcelona (Tram).....	7 mths	31	Gross	4,011,718	4,011,718
Brazilian Tram. receipts in \$.....	7 mths	31	Gross	\$1,730,572	\$1,730,572
Brit. Columbia.....	1 mth	31	Gross	\$1,005,240	\$1,005,240
Electric, &c.....	1 mth	31	Gross	\$903,949	\$903,949
Burmah Electric Trways & Light.....	1 mth	Aug. 31	Gross	\$256,464	\$256,464
Cape Elec. Trams.....	1 mth	31	Gross	\$50,598	\$50,598
Cartagena and Herrerias Trms.....	8 mths	July 31	Gross	\$86,509	\$86,509
Cities Service Co. Elec. Sup. of Viet.....	16 weeks	13	Gross	\$1,320,695	\$1,320,695
Havana Elec. Ri. Light & Power.....	7 mths	31	Gross	\$1,189,584	\$1,189,584
International Light & Power.....	1 mth	1	Gross	\$559,967	\$559,967
Kalgoolie Elec. Trways.....	4 mths	Apr. 30	Gross	\$23,566	\$23,566
Keystone Tele.....	6 mths	June 30	Gross	\$635	\$635
La Guaira Harbr. La Plata Electric Lima Light, Pwr. and Tramways.....	2 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$8,878	\$8,878
Manila Electric &c.....	4 mths	Apr. 30	Gross	\$85,136	\$85,136
Para Electric.....	9 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$303,994	\$303,994
Puebla Tram, &c.....	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$145,139	\$145,139
Rangoon Electric.....	6 mths	30	Gross	\$26,792	\$26,792
Shanghai Electric.....	1 mth	July 31	Gross	\$8,855	\$8,855
United Electric of Montevideo.....	8 mths	Aug. 31	Gross	\$202,602	\$202,602
Veracruz.....	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$51,142	\$51,142
Victoria Falls & Transvaal Pwr.....	Quarter	Dec. 31	Gross	\$1,500	\$1,500
Winnipeg Electric.....	7 mths	July 31	Gross	\$385,473	\$385,473

(a) Formerly Cordoba Light, Power, and Traction. (b) Four-weekly return.

Reports and Notices.

The City offices of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* have been removed to 5 Drapers' gardens, E.C.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that the agreement approved at the extraordinary general court, held on August 20th last, for the acquisition of a majority of the shares of the State Assurance Company, Limited, has now become absolute.

Messrs Coutts and Co. will pay on and after October 1st the coupons of the Peruvian Corporation first mortgage 6 per cent. debentures at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum, in accordance with the resolution passed at a meeting of holders on March 12, 1896.

Advices from Toronto state that Mr H. B. Wills has felt compelled, owing to continued ill-health, to resign the presidency of the Keeley Silver Mines, Limited, Vipond Consolidated Mines, Limited, Canadian Lorrain Silver Mines, Limited, and other subsidiary companies in the group. Mr F. H. Hamilton, chairman of the Huronian Belt Company, Limited, has been appointed to succeed Mr Wills as president of these companies.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION BILLS.—The tenders for £500,000 Manchester Corporation bills were opened on September 15th at the Bank of England. The total amount applied for was £2,080,000. The amounts allotted were as follows, viz.:—In bills at 12 months, £500,000. Tenders were accepted as under, viz.:—For bills at 12 months, at £95 18s 9d, about 75 per cent.; above, in full. Average rate per cent.:—12 months' bills, £4 os 7-35d.

4% TREASURY BONDS, SERIES "C."—The Bank of England give notice that bond certificates of the above issue may now be exchanged for definitive bonds. The bond certificates should be lodged at the Loans Office, 5 and 6 Lombard street, E.C. 3, and must be left three clear days for examination prior to the issue of the bonds.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.—The following circular has been issued to shareholders on the London register, and to shareholders on the colonial register domiciled in Britain. "With a view to assisting the Government of the Dominion in its efforts to finance farmers who are at present protected under the Mortgages Extension Act, the bank has arranged to issue the balance, £1,125,000, of its authorised capital, and with the amount to take up for the use of the advances to settlers department, a Government loan, with a currency of ten years, and bearing interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum. The issue of capital will be made at par on April 1, 1925, and so far as ordinary shareholders are concerned in the proportion of one new share to four existing ordinary shares. The Government under the Act of 1920 will receive one-third of the whole issue. Shareholders will be further advised shortly when the necessary formalities in reference to the issue have been complied with.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	*Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Profes.	Ordinary.	Rate.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.				
Banks		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Royal Bank of Ireland.....	Aug. 31	7,705	78,388	86,093	..	23,025	10	54,000	9,068	67,268	10
Breweries.											
Tennant Bros.....	June 30	9,256	72,367	81,623	8,319	51,048	13½	14,375	7,881	54,034	12½
Gas.											
Alliance and Dublin	June 30*	8,335	46,357	54,692	..	48,496	6½	..	6,196	49,126	5½
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
Staveley Coal and Iron.....	June 30	4,192	365,537	369,729	..	256,041	10	100,000	13,688	304,912	10
Rubber, &c.											
Abaco (Selangor)	Mar. 31	575	1,175	1,750	..	1,500	5	..	250	..	..
British Borneo Para	April 30	7,361	444	7,805	..	..	..	..	7,805	232	..
Caledonian (Selangor) Rubber ..	Mar. 31	2,916	2,487	5,403	..	..	..	..	5,403	..	..
Port Dickson-Lukup	Mar. 31	5,181	10,451	15,632	..	7,702	3½	..	7,930	12,549	5
Seaport (Selangor)	June 30	20,812	6,560	27,372	..	5,812	4	..	21,560	12,759	10
Waterworks.											
Bexhill Water and Gas.....	June 30*	7,682	4,381	12,063	559	4,522	7½	..	6,982	2,099	6½
Other Companies.											
Associated Provincial Picture Houses	May 31	35,478	48,130	83,608	7,503	28,500	7	10,359	37,246	..	..
British Celanese.....	Feb. 21	Dr 491,782	Dr 74,046	Dr 565,828	..	..	..	..	Dr 565,828	..	..
Goldsbrough, Mort, and Co.....	Mar. 31	28,839	231,130	259,969	..	145,027	15	42,500	72,442	170,425	15
Henry Bucknall and Sons	May 31	202	19,653	19,855	18,000	..	..	1,000	855	13,294	..

* Half-year.

† Tax free.

(d) Nine months.

run quoted 49s, patents 51s to 52s, town whites 49s per sack delivered in metropolitan area. Imported descriptions quietly steady. Manitoba patents range from 46s to 48s, and Australian 44s ex store per 280 lbs. Barley firm, and sellers reserved. Californian 63s-66s, Chilean brewing 64s per 448 lbs ex ship. Karachi ex ship 45s 6d, Danubian ex ship 45s, Russian landed 47s 6d, American malting (48 lbs) 44s 6d ex ship to arrive, all per 400 lbs. English new quoted at 14s 9d to 24s 3d per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize fully steady. Plate ex ship 43s 6d, landed 45s, Bessarabian landed 45s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats firm. Plate ex ship 28s, landed 29s 3d, No. 2 Canadian Western ex ship 33s 6d per 320 lbs. English quoted 9s-9s 9d per 112 lbs free on rail. Millers' offals firm. Broad brand quoted at 9s 6d, middlings 10s, fine ditto 11s 6d, bags included, ex mill, light oats 6s 9d, powdered oat husks 8s 9d, feed oatmeal 12s 3d, ground oats 14s 3d per cwt free on rail. Oatmeal steady. London made flaked 19s 6d, rolled oats 19s, medium and fine cut 19s, coarse and medium pinhead 19s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 19s 6d per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22 :-

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to Sept. 13	123,452	391,281	218,051	469,111
2 weeks to Sept. 13	213,596	713,283	455,335	831,416
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d	s d	s d	s d
	12 1	9 0	8 9	13 4

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923 :-

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s d	s d	s d
Sept. 6	90,144	188,779	47,701	12 3	16 3	9 1
Sept. 13	123,452	333,164	60,962	12 1	17 5	9 3
1920	396,210	218,957	97,570	21 1	22 6	19 8
1921	469,140	338,493	70,662	13 3	17 7	10 9
1922	249,051	58,764	47,430	8 11	10 6	8 9
1923	391,281	232,449	57,376	9 0	11 9	8 9

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 18th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There is a slightly better feeling in the pig-iron trade, but business is still very restricted, and only small quantities are being bought by home consumers, whilst the export trade is on a very reduced scale. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is 82s per ton f.o.b. or f.o.t. makers' works, whilst mixed numbers East Coast hematite can be bought at 90s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Owing to the stagnation in shipbuilding, upon which this district is mostly dependent, the local steel works are not

very busy. Some of them are idle, whilst others are only working part time. Makers still adhere to the following quotations:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Deliveries are coming forward against old contracts, but what little new business there is is confined to odd cargoes based on the price of best Bilbao rubio ore at 22s per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The tendency in iron and steel is still in a downward direction, and depression is abnormally acute in all the chief centres of the industry. Bad as the position was a week ago, more ground has been lost since. No weight of forward business in open hearth billets and manufactured mild steel for a long time, and the hand-to-mouth purchases of which can now be satisfied by a small proportion of existing plant. The quietude of steel trade is reflected in the stagnation of hematite pig-iron on the north-west coast, where two more blast furnaces have just been put out of commission. Nine furnaces out of 25 are now working in this area. There is keen competition everywhere for the small amount of business offering, and prices are irregular. Not much Continental steel is coming into the Sheffield district, as users here require for their purposes material of a high and reliable quality. Makers of railway steel are not working much above half capacity. Orders from British railways, who are obtaining all their requirements in the home market, are of considerable volume, but much of the Indian and South American business has gone to Continental firms, whose depreciated exchanges enable them to underquote British prices very considerably. Unemployment continues to increase in the local heavy steel branches. Several firms are fairly well booked for high-grade crucible steels, but this branch is still more or less stagnant. Users of these special and expensive steels on the Continent cannot buy much, because the prices have reached a prohibitive level. A considerable proportion of the factories producing tools for the engineering, building contractors, and shipbuilding trades are working to almost full capacity, but a falling off of orders is reported this week. The cutlery and plate branches are generally unremunerative, notwithstanding a large output. Production figures for August record a reduction of 27,000 tons of pig-iron, and 162,000 tons of steel compared with July, and the totals are the smallest for two years. The loss is partly due to stoppages of work during the holidays. The coal market is encountering bad conditions, and prices are irregular and low except for the best qualities of house coal, which are scarce and dear. Blast furnace coke is a drug on the market, but the iron foundries are buying on a substantial scale. South Yorkshire hards are worth about 21s at pits. Quotations for small and second quality fuels are nominal, and depend upon the prospects of business resulting.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—The pig-iron market is still very depressed, and the trade shows an extraordinary lack of vitality, rather unusual at this season. Export inquiry has almost disappeared, and shipments are only a fraction

of what is customary. The shipments for the week ending September 13th totalled only 175 tons, as compared with 2,492 tons in the corresponding week of last year. In the steel trade very little improvement is observable. Consumers deal only in small lots and refuse to buy ahead or to make contracts, and works are keeping going on the meagre business that can be picked up in this way. Prices for the home trade are maintained at the previous levels, but export specifications are sought after, and severe cutting is going on. Semi-finished steel is round about £8 per ton, as against offers of German steel, which have been going about at £6 5s per ton delivered Glasgow district. It is understood that a large proportion of the plates for shipbuilding contracts in Clyde yards has come from the Continent, hence the disappointment at the steel works. Of course, if foreign competition can only be met by the use of the cheapest possible materials, the shipbuilder cannot be blamed for buying in the cheapest market. The only important fresh business reported as having been placed locally this week is an order for an oil-tank steamer, 394 feet in length, which the Greenock Dockyard Company have received from the Vacuum Oil Company, London. The vessel is specially designed for carrying the special grades of oil, and the machinery will be supplied by Messrs Rankin and Blackmore, also of Greenock. Sheet makers continue to receive specifications for the thinner gauges, but early delivery is generally sought in vain, works being all full up to well on in November. Heavier sheets are, however, somewhat easier in demand. Japan has practically ceased to be a buyer of thin sheets. There is no falling off in the number of inquiries and orders for galvanised sheets for all markets.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no mitigation this week in the severity of the depression in the South Wales coal export trade. In so far as there has been any change at all, it has been in the direction of increased trade restriction, and prices of practically all qualities of coal have been easier. Moreover, there appears no prospect of an early improvement; indeed, greater competition is anticipated in the foreign markets. In Europe to-day the only good coal market is that of France. In Germany and Belgium, as well as in the United Kingdom, collieries are being closed down owing to the lack of demand, and in all the principal coalfields of Europe there are complaints of intense foreign competition. At the Bristol Channel ports apprehensions are felt regarding the possibilities of the rivalry of German coal in the overseas export trade. This week it was reported on the market that contracts involving about one million tons had been placed by France and South America for German coals to be delivered over the next 12 months, but while it has been impossible to verify these reports, it is anticipated that Germany will make a great effort to secure overseas outlets for their surplus outputs until the inland demand in that country has again become normal. The financial position of the industry in South Wales is worse than it was in June, when the industry suffered a loss of over £240,000. In July the loss was a great deal smaller, but in August the value of the coal exported from the Bristol Channel ports was £507,000 less than in July, and as the working costs in that month, owing to the holiday and the increased irregularity of work in the coalfield, were abnormally high, it is feared that the loss suffered by the collieries in that month will exceed that in June. Under the proposed new wages agreement there will be no change favourable to the colliery owners. The workmen have refused to make concessions for the purpose of a more extensive adoption of double-shift working, and for all practical purposes the new agreement, if and when it is signed, will be identical with the old one. The completion of the agreement has been further delayed by a difference which has arisen between the employers and the workmen in regard to anomalies in day wage rates created by the new allowances under the national agreement. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s 6d to 28s; second Admiralties, 26s to 26s 6d; best dries, 26s to 26s 6d; black veins, 25s to 25s 6d; Western Valleys, 24s 6d to 25s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 24s 6d; best steam smalls, 15s to 15s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s 6d to 14s 6d; anthracite big vein, large, 52s 6d to 55s; machine-made cobbles, 60s to 62s 6d; stove nuts, 55s to 57s 6d; rubble culm, 12s 6d to 13s; coke for export, 50s to 52s 6d; inland blastfurnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 27s 6d to 28s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 29s 6d to 30s. In the tin-plate trade the tone continues firm, with makers asking for prices slightly in excess of the recently increased minimum prices. The Far East has been buying actively, but the home demand is not so strong. The shipments of tin-plates and galvanised sheets last week were heavier than they have been for some time past.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(FROM OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

Business continues to ebb in the Cumberland and North Lancashire hematite pig-iron market, and trade is now in a very bad way. Two furnaces have been damped down at Barrow, and

though the number in blast between Workington and Carnforth is only nine, the production is in excess of demand, and iron is having to be put into stock. The suspension of operations at the rail mills at Workington and Barrow is accountable for the large falling off in the local consumption of iron, while Midland needs, always the most important in the open market, have become more meagre, and those of Scotland and the Continent almost non-existent. Users are buying only small parcels for early delivery. No forward sales at all are being effected. The position has seldom been so cheerless. Prices, because they are nominal, do not accurately represent the severity of the depression. Bessemer mixed numbers are quoted at £5 10s at Sheffield and £5 15s at Birmingham, but these figures are, of course, being shaded even in respect of comparatively modest orders. Special and semi-special qualities of iron are in weak request, and ferro-manganese is dull at £13 10s export. Prospects in the steel rail trade are discouraging, and the iron ore industry here is adversely affected by the quietude in the iron trade. Production is low, with best sorts of low phosphoric ore 21s 6d to 23s 6d, and ordinary kinds 16s 6d to 17s 6d.

Scotch competitors have practically deprived Cumberland owners of their position in the Irish market. Little coal is being shipped across Channel from this country. Prices are 3s to 4s per ton higher than those quoted by rivals. Best round is 25s f.o.b., house nuts 22s 6d, steam nuts 21s. The make of coke here for the local smelters of ordinary iron is smaller. The price, 24s 6d to 25s 6d, according to carbon content, will drop 1s 6d under the ascertainment in the iron trade. East Coast coke supplies to the blast furnaces are now only 3,700 tons per week.

METALS.

Tin relapsed sharply on heavy selling pressure, combined with lower Eastern cables, though offers were well absorbed. Standard cash sold at £239 10s to £231 15s to £232 10s, and three months £243 to £243 10s to £233 10s to £234 15s. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £235 10s, c.i.f. At Thursday's session values moved in an upward direction, though top points were not maintained. Standard cash sold at £236 to £234 15s to £236 to £235 12s 6d, and three months £238 to £237 to £238 5s to £237 15s. An easier tendency was apparent at the close, standard cash being dealt in at £234 5s, and three months £236 10s to £234 10s to £236 5s to £235 10s. English ingots quoted at £234 10s. Copper in good demand, but prices gave way under pressure to sell while influenced by adverse American cables, but values registered a partial recovery later. Standard cash sold at £62 18s 9d to £62 5s, and three months £63 17s 6d to £63 18s 9d to £63 to £63 7s 6d. Business was on a smaller scale on Thursday, with rates somewhat irregular. Standard cash sold at £62 10s to £62 6s 3d, and three months £63 5s to £63 7s 6d. No material alteration occurred at the final market, standard cash being sold at £62 7s 6d to £62 5s, and three months £63 5s to £63 7s 6d to £63 6s 3d. Electrodes, £66 10s to £67. Best selected, £65 15s to £66. Strong sheets, £93. Wire bars, £67 per ton. Lead steady, with a good demand, and quoted at £33 2s 6d to £32 10s, as to position. Spelter easier at £32 16s 3d to £32 11s 3d, according to position. Aluminium, home, quoted at £125, export £130. Antimony.—English special brands, £49 10s to £52 10s.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—After the strong demand for wool at Brisbane and Sydney this month all sections of the trade were quite prepared to see a keen and rising market in London this week. In fact, the auctions have proceeded on the lines generally expected, and it was in anticipation of a sharp advance in wool values that topmakers here put up their quotations a week or two before the auctions opened. Nevertheless, it has again been necessary to revise rates, in view of the scarcity of stocks of fine wool and tops, and in most cases quotations to-day show a further appreciation. Good warp 64's are about 2d dearer on the week at 82d, and a similar rise is seen in super 60's at 74d. In crossbreds the advance is not so pronounced, but most qualities are anything from ½d to 1d dearer. Average 56's now stand at about 50d to 51d, 46's carded at 30d, and 40's prepared at 28½d. These new rates are naturally checking business to some extent, and in the case of merinos it is obvious that many topmakers are still largely protective in their quotations. However, they base their policy on the way in which wool is moving, and it does not look as if there will be any lower prices for some time to come. Spinners are certainly doing better, both as regards new business and also in getting particulars more freely, and prices are gradually creeping up. The advance, however, has not yet been nearly sufficient to wipe out the disparity between tops and yarns, and buyers are not disposed to do much forward buying at current rates. The position in the yarn trade is improving, and the same may be said of the piece trade; but in both cases settled conditions on the Continent and stabilised exchanges are needed in order to bring about a sound basis.

[illegible]

	Price, Sept. 18, 1924.	Corresponding dates in										
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.						
		d	d	d	d	d						
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	per lb	13 63	18 58	13 24	15 18	23 28	20 15					
— Sakellardis Fully Good Fair Egyptian	per lb	24 55	19 00	17 50	28 07	37 50	30 00					
Yarns—32's twist	per lb	24	24	19 2	22 4	49 4	40 00					
— 40's wett	per lb	24 2	24	19	21	45	35 15					
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	per lb	35	31	28	43	75	61 1					
		s	d	s	d	s	d					
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's		34	0	34	0	31	0	74	6	58	0	
36-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's		58	9	37	6	31	36	0	73	6	57	0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs		19	6	19	4 1/2	17	22	0	44	6	35	0
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs		17	9	17	9	16	21	0	35	6	30	0

 NEW YORK

'Phone : Regent 3270.

Heavy importation is also the strong feature of the hardwood market, the amount of lumber that has come from the United States this year being remarkable, and importers and merchants in this section of the trade find pleasure in the fact that the domestic demand and mills' prices in the States are increasing, which means, it is hoped, a lower importation and a better chance of prices keeping firm on the spot market this side.

Market conditions on the whole have been steady, and the volume of business moderate to fair. Raw linseed oil has met with a good trade demand, and at £41 10s for September delivery, with a small premium for spot oil, closes slightly below the highest. Cotton oils have not been so active, and crude Egyptian offers freely at £42 15s, and technical refined at £45 per ton naked, ex Hull mill. Palm kernel oil is a fair market, and crude soya oil is firmly held for higher figures. Rape oil, on scarcity, is dearer.

Business in Bermondsey shows a decided improvement, and even the most pronounced pessimists are obliged to admit this. Shoe manufacturers are sending along orders for all kinds of sole leathers, and bends are quoted from, say, 14d per lb to as high as 30d for the best grades. Some flutter has been caused in merchanting circles by the news that certain tanners are grading and stamping their bends—a procedure which obviously does not appeal to the middle men—who have been accused, by buyers of “hissling” with tanners’ selections.

HEMP.—A buoyant market again resulted, a good demand being resolutely met. Japanese interests still absorb large quantities in local Manila market. J grade, September-November, sold, £48 10s to £49; K, £47 15s to £48; L, £47 10s; M, £46 10s; Cebu 2, £38 10s; 3, £33; Daet L, £45; M, £44; G, quoted £58; streaky threes, £63. Mexican sisal resumed business of considerable dimensions, transacted for prompt shipment. G.W., September-October, at £40, c.f. and i. U.K., Continental ports. African sisal, No. 1 Tanganyika, September-November, quoted £46 10s to £47; and Tanganyika ditto, £45 10s to £46 per ton, c.f. and i.

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE MONEY MARKET.

THE approach of the end of the quarter brought stringency back, and the market found itself obliged to have recourse to the Bank of England. At the same time anticipations of a flood of officially created credit to provide for Conversion Loan interest and maturing National War Bonds on October 1, stimulated the demand for bills, which were still highly attractive in the matter of date of maturity. The market was thus affected by cross-currents, and busi-

ness in discounts was difficult with the three months' rate at $3\frac{1}{16}$ per cent.

	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/ Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	$3\frac{1}{16}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$	$3\frac{1}{16}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase of nearly £200,000 in the Reserve, due to the return of notes from circulation. Other securities increased by $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and Public deposits by 3 millions, and Other deposits were nearly a million lower. The latest currency notes return again reveals a reduction in the amount of notes outstanding, which at present amounts to £285,592,400, against £287,451,700 in the preceding week. Notes called in but not yet cancelled amount to £1,370,300. The fiduciary issue is £234,771,000, or £13,419,900 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

This week has seen a spread of interest in the stock markets on the part of the public, especially in the industrial sections. The gilt-edged market remains good, the political situation being regarded with composure. There has been a little revival of the activity in German bonds, while a spurt in Mexican Government securities was the feature of the foreign market towards the end of the week. Home rails have been neglected, but Argentine rails improved on good traffic returns and an improvement in the exchange. Rubber and tea shares have both been good markets, and oils show some improvement, following a jump in Mexican Eagle Oils. A long list of improvements is recorded in the iron and steel list, and brewery stocks have risen a little, but the mining markets are out of popular favour.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

In the cotton trade business has been unsettled owing to wide fluctuations in raw cotton rates, a substantial advance being followed by a reaction. The raw material in the wool trade continues to dominate the position, and both in the primary markets and in London prices were well maintained. The expected improvement in pig-iron has not materialised during the week; indeed, the depression is worse. Foreign competition in manufactured iron and steel is noticeable. Wheat moved in erratic manner. Higher prices for tea are recorded, but jute values were subdued after the recent animation. Rubber was steady, with a moderate inquiry. Other details of markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was again quiet, but showed a little more life than it has during the past few weeks, rather more business being transacted. The feature of the week was the strength and steadiness of sterling against the dollar, which at the time of writing is well maintained. Lancashire is, however, eagerly watching the price movements of the new cotton crop, and, should the longed for ideal of 12d cotton be realised, or closely approached, it is understood that very big purchases would be made involving large orders for dollars. These hopes, or fears, are, however, dashed for the time by the recent reaction of October futures from 12.4d (lowest) on the 23rd to 13.2d on the 24th, on the last Bureau report indicating a smaller crop than previously forecast. Opening the week at 4.46, sterling improved to 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 20th, fell back slightly to 4.46 $\frac{1}{4}$ on the 22nd, and 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 23rd. On the 24th, however, it appreciated suddenly to 4.47 $\frac{3}{8}$, and remained at this level on the 25th. This improvement is said to be due to the transfer of French credits from America to this country. At the time of writing sterling stands at 4.47, a satis-

factory improvement on balance during the week. Paris, after a slight recovery at the end of last week, showed signs of drift early this week, and has weakened steadily since. The rate moved from 84 on the 19th to 83.90 on the 20th, but has fallen steadily from 84.25 on 22nd to 84.80 on the 25th, and on Friday touched 85. The Belgian franc has fared even worse, largely, it is believed, owing to too long a postponement of purchases of sterling and a sudden simultaneous demand from several quarters. After improving a fraction to 89.95 on the 20th, the Belgian franc has gone from bad to worse at 90.45 on the 22nd, 93.10 on the 25th, and even touched 93.75 on this latter date. To-day (26th) it is recovering slightly, and stands at 92.60-92.75 at the time of writing. The lira has experienced very slight fluctuations, and at 101.80 stands at practically the same level at which it opened the period under review. Amsterdam is better on balance at 11.57 $\frac{1}{2}$, but calls for no particular comment. Switzerland is decidedly harder at 23.50 than at the beginning of the week, when it stood at 23.62. The peseta was weakish and hesitating at about 33.75 at the end of last week, but hardened gradually to 33.56 on Thursday on the announcement of a definite Spanish policy in Morocco, and the absence of further set-backs in the field. It has now again improved sharply to 33.40. Helsingfors and Stockholm weakened slightly with the dollar on balance during the week from 177 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 16.74 to 178 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 16.80 respectively. Christiania is slightly better at 32.05, and Copenhagen at 25.98, though this is a reaction from the even better level of 25.90 on the 24th. Berlin is again steady at about 18.7 billions; and Warsaw, Riga, and Reval also remain unchanged. The leu is steady at 860-890, a little worse than the level 855-875 to which it had fallen at the beginning of the week. Of the South American exchanges, the milreis is rather harder at 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ -5 $\frac{1}{16}$. Buenos Aires, as a result of the favourable factors mentioned last week continuing to operate, was very firm throughout, and was harder on Friday at 43 $\frac{1}{2}$. Of the Eastern exchanges, the yen has shown weakness throughout, and has now fallen to 15 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with its opening level of 15 9 25-32d. The rupee has been firm and steady at 15 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d throughout. For the first time since March 4th, when no applications were made for them, India Council drafts are to be on offer in this country next week to the extent of 50 lakhs. At the same time the favourable trade balance and the strength of the rupee has enabled the Council to cover their sterling requirements by the purchase of December Treasury Bills. Hongkong, Shanghai, and Singapore are all steady, Shanghai being rather stronger at 3s 5d. The silver market maintained its firm tone, and prices advanced as a result of bear covering to 35d, the higher level of 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ d being reached on the 23rd. The continuance of the demand caused by military operations, combined with little selling from America and elsewhere, indicate the probable continuance of firm conditions and hardening prices.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended September 20th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	7,475	From Revenue	15,306
Interest, &c., on Debt	690		
Sinking Fund	350		
Sundries	319		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	301		
Reduction of Debt	6,170		
	15,306		15,306

Revenue totalled £15,305,200, against £15,120,700 for the corresponding period of last year. Customs yielded £1,585,000, as compared with £2,775,000. Excise brought in £7,138,000, against £6,516,000. Estate, &c., duties produced £1,140,000, against £700,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £2,309,000, against £2,626,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £6,170,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills ..	— 50
National Savings Certificates ..	— 150
Public Department Advances ..	— 5,900
Sundries ..	— 70
	— 6,170

The floating debt was reduced by £5,975,000 to £772,737,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to September 20).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	346,409,254	Raised by Revenue ..	334,801,403
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,791,493
		Amount borrowed ..	7,816,358
Total	346,409,254	Total	346,409,254
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include a survey of the real trade balances of several countries.

WORLD PEACE AND BRITISH OBLIGATIONS.

THE two months of August and September, which are traditionally supposed to be empty of political interest, have, in fact, been fuller than any two months since the signing of the Versailles Treaty. The penurious reporter who counts upon filling a few columns with records of the appearances of the sea serpent and other myths has had a bad season, for newspaper space has been overcrowded with realities—so crowded, indeed, and in many respects so confusing, that it is as well to glance back for a moment at the course of events. For some years it has been a commonplace that the two nuts that must be cracked before Europe could regain conditions of stability and confidence were the problems of reparations and security. As regards the former problem, the masterly report of the Dawes Committee paved the way for the London Conference, which achieved a success beyond expectation. By the consent of the Allies and Germany a new régime, which, if carried out with tact, determination, and goodwill, should slowly bring Europe back to the paths of sound finance and prosperity, is actually in the process of initiation. But in order to achieve agreement on the reparation problem, Mr MacDonald and M. Herriot agreed to rule out of the London discussions the even knottier problem of security. This problem was reserved for discussion by the League Assembly at Geneva. Both Premiers visited Geneva and made pronouncements which revealed the gulf between the British and French views remaining to be bridged over. They departed from Geneva and left the delegates of the nations faced with the task of bridge-building. Upon this task they entered with a hope and enthusiasm ignited by the spectacle of a reparations settlement, and fanned into flame by the eloquence of Mr MacDonald and M. Herriot. The task was one which the Assembly as such was obviously unsuited to attack. Of necessity it divided up into commissions and sub-commissions, whose proceedings vanished into the mists of conjecture; and it is not too much to say that the public in this country has been completely bewildered by a shower of incomplete and contradictory reports. One point, however, quickly emerged. The delegates whose supposed agenda was the disarmament question enlarged the scope of their endeavours to the immense work of re-drafting a section of the Covenant of the League, and of concerting measures designed not merely, or perhaps even primarily, to provide safeguards against war in the European cockpit of dispute,

but to banish war, so far as may be humanly possible, in all circumstances and in all continents for all time. With knowledge of the terms of the Covenant amazingly scanty, the public became more bewildered than ever, and the natural suspicions engendered by inadequate news and still more inadequate understanding of the points at issue, were transformed into real and active apprehension by the early reports that the British navy was to be promised to the League as its principal policeman for the maintenance of the peace and the restraint of recalcitrant nations.

The Assembly has now sat for nearly a month, and its deliberations are said to be nearing a close, but it cannot be said that the fog has cleared, although one or two points, perhaps, are made clearer by our Geneva correspondent, whose comments on the proceedings are printed on a later page. Some main points of doubt, however, remain, and even the publication of a draft protocol has been followed by fundamental differences in its interpretation among those who have helped to frame it. There are four questions on which the British public wish to be more clearly informed. What is the exact meaning of what our delegation has conditionally promised in the name of Britain? How far do these promises increase the obligations which our signature to the Covenant already entails? Will the Assembly disperse with a clear and unambiguous idea of the interpretation which the British Government puts upon the protocol which will eventually be submitted for ratification to the individual Parliaments of the nations? Finally, even supposing this protocol is ratified, does it really make disarmament agreements easier or not? We confess that at the moment the data for a full answer to these questions are insufficient, and we have to disentangle what we can. Various declarations of Mr Henderson, unless he is belied by reporters, appear to be quite contradictory. At first Mr Henderson pronounced that by signing the new protocol we should be committed to nothing more than we are already committed to by the Covenant. Military sanctions against an aggressor would still be optional. Dr Benes took an opposite view, interpreting the new protocol to make military efforts by members of the League against a Covenant-breaker definitely compulsory; and finally, Mr Henderson veered round towards Dr Benes' view. Nations, he appears to have said, *might* pledge themselves to use all their military resources, and he would strongly recommend to the British Parliament that Great Britain should give such a pledge.

This obviously brings us face to face with a very serious problem. It looks as though the British delegates, whose conduct of the proceedings throughout has entirely failed to inspire confidence, will leave the delegates of other nations to return home with the idea that, whatever other nations may do, Britain will bind herself to use the Navy against a declared aggressor. We imagine that this belief might very strongly influence the views taken by other Governments of the new Protocol; and it is in our view as dangerous as it is premature for such an impression to be given at this stage to other Governments. Obviously, so vital a question demands the most mature consideration and discussion, not only here but in the Dominions. It may be that no Anglo-French agreement on security was possible without "sanctions" pledges of a far-reaching nature. But it is the reverse of helpful to hold out hopes of a pledge which may not mature. For that to happen would be to set back the whole security discussion indefinitely. We yield to no one in our desire to see the dangers of war reduced to a minimum by international acceptance of arbitration and international co-operation through the strengthening and perfecting of the machinery of the League. In the approach to this goal Great Britain must be ready to play her part, to make sacrifices and undertake duties in due proportion as the other nations will do so. We outlined, indeed, last week, the direction in which we might accept an extension of our obligations under the Covenant. But we must repeat emphatically that public opinion will not sanction a pledge of the use of British armed forces—presumably the Navy is chiefly concerned—unless equally binding and explicit pledges are forthcoming from the other great nations. In any case,

even if all the necessary conditions are fulfilled, no such pledge could be given until the whole question has been thrashed out thoroughly not only domestically, but in consultation with the Dominions. For to give such a pledge would involve hosts of important problems in connection with the relations between the Mother Country and the Dominions, of naval disposition and policy, and of an Imperial foreign policy. We wish we could feel certain that our delegates would leave Geneva without giving contingent promises, the non-fulfilment of which would once more afford ground abroad for the old cry of "Perfidie Albion!"

The hope of the League Assembly is that the new Protocol will have been ratified by next May—surely a somewhat optimistic hope—and that a disarmament conference summoned by the League will follow. We are not certain that the cart is not being put before the horse. If some countries are giving pledges that their armed forces may be used as preservers of the world's peace, while others are not, the problem of international disarmament, already immensely difficult, will take on further complications. Moreover, if a disarmament agreement could have preceded, instead of following, the Geneva negotiations, the organisation of preventatives of war might have been easier. For in a world of sternly restricted armaments it would be easier for the great Powers to give pledges of the use of armed forces than it is to-day. Then again, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to participate in a disarmament conference summoned by the League, membership of which she declines as resolutely as ever; whereas in the ordinary course of affairs events might have quickly led up to the summoning by Washington of such a conference.

Thus, though much is still dark, which will come to light later on, we cannot at the moment feel happy as to the stage which the Geneva discussions appear to have reached. And in examining the new Protocol and the Covenant it has all the time to be remembered that three great nations remain outside the League. The Covenant was framed in the belief that the United States would accept it; it contains several clauses, which take on an entirely new significance in view of her abstention. For instance, in the case of a war between two members of the League, one of whom has been named as the aggressor, we and the other members would be bound to do our best to prevent America from trading with the aggressor nation. Again, if America declared war, let us say, on Japan, having refused to submit the dispute to the League, we should be bound to co-operate at least in the institution of an economic boycott of America. These are just two instances which emphasise the extreme care and caution with which the whole problem of extending our Covenant obligations should be approached. As regards German entry into the League, which we have always regarded as an essential step towards League efficiency and European peace, a step forward has been taken. The German Cabinet has agreed to the principle of applying for admission, but, instead of applying direct, has addressed notes to the leading Governments to sound them with regard to the degree of welcome which such an application would receive. We can understand that, before making such application, the German Government wished to make quite certain that she was not courting a rebuff. But in this case the procedure has been manifestly maladroit, for a correct estimate of the atmosphere of the present Geneva Assembly would have satisfied the German Government that acceptance was beyond all question. Germany's more cautious procedure has delayed her entry.

THE FUTURE OF THE COAL INDUSTRY.

AMONG the studies of individual British industries included in the volume entitled "Is Unemployment Inevitable?" recently issued by a committee of economists and business men, that relating to coal, appearing over the signature of Mr Wallace Thornycroft, is perhaps the most arresting. Coal production and distribution is easily the most important single industry in the country; its location often in out-of-the-way places raises social questions peculiar to

itself; on the efficiency and cheapness of its operation a large proportion of the industries of the country depends; and the export section of the trade makes the largest single contribution of any industry to our means of buying overseas our necessary food and raw materials, and provides far the largest bulk of outward freight for our ships. On the other hand, its history and conditions are responsible for the fact that the State has intervened more definitely to control its operations than in the case of any other British trade. At present coal seems destined more than ever to be mixed up in politics, for it is to be the chief commodity by which Germany will pay Reparations. These payments will undoubtedly raise very difficult problems for the industry generally. For these reasons Mr Thornycroft's detailed statistics and analysis are peculiarly valuable.

We have from time to time set out the facts in regard to wages and production costs as revealed by the periodical assessments in the industry, and we do not propose to repeat these facts here. We are concerned rather to call attention to two outstanding features. The first is the distribution of the output, which shows three distinct phases, and the second, the changing character of the export side of the trade. Before coming to these points, however, we may remind our readers that while total output has practically recovered to the 1913 level, this figure represents a drop in proportion to the increasing population of the country. There is also a serious fall in the production per person employed. The position is as follows:—

	1913.	1923.
Coal raised million tons	287	279
Persons employed.....	1,110,000	1,150,000
Coal raised per person per annum tons	259	243

These last two figures show an important drop in output per head, amounting to 6 per cent. On the other hand, the length of the working day has been reduced by a considerably larger percentage. We have no sound figures of the number of shifts worked in 1913, but if the number of shifts per head were the same as in 1923, the figures given indicate that the output per man-hour has increased, largely as a result of the increased application of electric power underground, the electric equipment of the collieries having doubled since 1913, as shown by the figures published in the returns to coal mines inspectors. This increase, however, has not been sufficient to make good the loss of the number of hours worked. Earnings per head have increased from £81 18s in 1913 to £134.6s in 1923, the wages cost per ton of coal raised having risen from 6s 4d to 11s 1.62d, and the average value of the coal raised has risen from 10s 1.52d to 17s 11.32d.

The consumption of coal in the country falls into three groups:—(1) Coal consumed in homes, including the homes of the miners, by gas works, railways and electric power stations; (2) coal consumed in industry; and (3) coal used for export and ships' bunkers. A relatively small proportion is used in the mines.

To Mr Thornycroft's estimate of the division of the output between these various uses in 1903, 1913, and 1922, we have added a final column giving estimates for 1923. The table shows total quantities, and also the same figures in relation to the population of this country:—

	1903	1913.	1922.	1923.
Population, in millions	40.25	46.03	47.5	47.7
	Mil- lion Tons.	Cwts. per Head.	Mil- lion Tons.	Cwts. per Head.
Total coal raised	230	114	287	125
Mine consumption, dirt in coal raised, &c.	14	7	18	8
Domestic and public utility.....	60	30	72	31
Industrial uses	86	42	97	42
Export and bunkers	70	35	100	44
	Mil- lion Tons.	Cwts. per Head.	Mil- lion Tons.	Cwts. per Head.
Total coal raised	230	114	287	125
Mine consumption, dirt in coal raised, &c.	14	7	18	8
Domestic and public utility.....	60	30	72	31
Industrial uses	86	42	97	42
Export and bunkers	70	35	100	44

The amount required for domestic and similar uses is practically constant. Of the total production, less than 6 per cent. was used in house fires in 1913, and about 8 per cent. in 1922. The amount required for industrial uses varies as trade is active or the reverse. In 1913, a year of good trade, it accounted for 33 per cent. of the whole, and in 1922, a fairly slack year, for 28 per cent.

Of all industries, the iron and steel trades are by far the most influential coal consumers. On the assumption that two tons of coal are expended in producing one ton of pig-iron, and another couple of tons go to the making of one ton of steel, we may construct the following table:—

	1913.	1922.	1923.
Coal used for industrial purposes	97	69	87
Production of { Pig-iron	10.3	4.9	7.4
{ Steel ingots and castings	7.7	5.9	8.5
Coal used in iron and steel production.....	36	22	32
Coal used for other industrial processes ..	60	47	55

The general public, when considering questions relating to the coal industry, usually has in mind the relatively small proportion of the whole bought and paid for by private individuals. It accepts price increases with as good grace as possible, and is, on the whole, in sympathy with any efforts the miners may make to secure a higher standard of living. It does not usually reflect that some of the worst consequences of increased coal prices fall on industry as a whole, and may thus result in increased charges for a wide range of commodities. The demand for domestic coal (including the requirements of railways, gas works, &c.) varies directly with the population, and is more or less insensitive to changes in price, but the considerable proportion of the annual output taken by British industry is seriously affected when prices rise.

The second aspect of the industry is concerned with the export situation. The relevant figures are as follows (those for 1923 and 1924 being approximate):—

	1913.	1922.	1923.	1924 (on Basis of First 7 Months).
To Africa	5.35	3.49	3.60	3.89
„ America & the W. Indies ..	7.13	7.84	5.45	5.01
„ Asia	.89	1.56	.46	.58
„ Australasia & E. Indies.....	.06	.13	.07	.04
„ France, Germany, Bel- gium and Netherlands ..	25.78	31.48	46.93	29.27
„ Rest of Europe.....	34.17	19.69	21.43	23.99
Total	73.40	64.20	77.96	62.78

These figures bring out the enormous extent to which the satisfactory state of the export coal industry in 1923 was due to the Reparation situation. If what may be called the Reparation countries are excluded, the rest of the world took only 32 million tons in 1923, against 33 million tons in 1922 and 48 million tons in 1913. Possibly these countries might have been willing to take more British coal in 1923 had not the demand from markets affected by the Ruhr occupation had such a strong call on available supplies. From April 1, 1923, exports of coal to the Irish Free State have been included for the first time in the foreign trade figures, but this factor does not affect the general argument. The figures reflect partly general world stagnation in trade, partly increasing use of fuel which reduces the demand for British coal for distant coaling stations, and partly alternative sources of power, as for example, water power in Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Italy. The figures for these particular countries are instructive. They fell from 16.5 million tons in 1913 to 10.5 millions in 1922, and rose to 12.3 millions in 1923. To some extent the absence of Reparation coal for Italy is no doubt responsible for part of the recovery in 1923, but the figures suggest that the demand for coal has not to a vital extent been superseded by the use of water power. They do show, however, very forcibly that competition in the coal-using markets is going to be very acute—a lesson which the whole study emphasises.

The position of the coal trade may be shortly summarised (by saying that one of its three divisions—the home "domestic" trade—provides it with a very steady market, and one protected in the sense that it is difficult for the home consumer rapidly to modify the form in which he obtains heat and light, while he cannot easily be supplied from abroad. A second and larger section feeds British industries, which are limited in the price they can pay for coal by foreign competition in their products. To some extent the coal industry can exert pressure on these trades, for they may often have to be kept going at a



WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

AFFILIATED ABROAD
Westminster Foreign Bank Limited
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp
Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or Agents
in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United
Kingdom & has Correspondents throughout the World

Head Office
41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

very low profit or at a loss to avoid being put out of business altogether; but the pressure that can be exerted is of a limited kind, and cannot last indefinitely. The third and largest division of the trade has to face the full force of foreign competition directly, and its successful development entirely depends upon the efficiency and cheapness of production. The prospects of this section cannot be said to be as bright at present as they were some years back. Our coal trade with the African coast is now only one-tenth of its volume 25 years ago, with Central America and the Pacific ports of the United States, less than one-tenth; with India, one-half; with the Far East, one-third. These markets are now being supplied chiefly from native sources, or from producing areas nearer home than Great Britain. Oil fuel is an increasingly powerful competitor of coal in the world's mercantile marine—in the world's navies it has already supplanted its older-established rival. The necessity for eliminating all uneconomic costs—in coal production its transport and distribution—was never more imperative than at the present time.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.— MR LA FOLLETTE'S CHANCES.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WITH election day only two months distant, the Presidential campaign in the United States has now reached a stage of keen earnestness and a floodtide of oratory and electioneering literature is submerging the land. There are invariably more than two candidates for the Presidency, but only at distant intervals since the Civil War has the supremacy of the two great historic parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, been seriously challenged. This year, however, Senator Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, the most commanding and significant personality on the progressive side in American politics, is confronting them with the most serious threat that they have faced since Roosevelt organised the abortive Progressive movement of 1912. Although the success of his venture must inevitably mean the construction of a new party on a permanent basis, Senator La Follette does not attempt it for the present, but styling himself an Independent Progressive, merely seeks to draw away strength from the older parties; the calculation is that such a strategy will more readily secure the backing of organisations like the American Federation of Labour, whose present leaders are strongly averse to the submergence of its identity in any political body. And the strategy has justified itself, for Mr Samuel Gompers and his highly conservative associates, who have strenuously resisted the formation of an American Labour party, have given Mr La Follette their blessing and placed their resources at his disposal. A

Communist element persists in prosecuting the candidature of Mr W. Z. Foster, a capable agitator, but the great railway brotherhoods, the various Labour parties which have sprung up in different States, and the official Socialist party have all lined up behind Mr La Follette and straw polls taken by the Hearst papers in important cities indicate that he will secure the preponderating share of the Labour vote. Undoubtedly the successes of the British Labour party have exercised a powerful influence upon the minds of the urban workers of the United States, and converted them to a new belief in the efficacy of political action as a remedy for their grievances. Senator La Follette is also the political heir of the Non-Partisan League, an agrarian body which, in the last decade, has caused the old parties great trouble in the North-Western tier of States, and he is being backed by a number of powerful farmers' organisations and co-operative bodies. But his support is not confined to manual workers in the cities and farmers; the advocacy of his cause by able weeklies like the *New Republic* and the *Nation* ensures the adherence of the element of progressive intelligentsia which followed the Rooseveltian crusade in 1912. In the faculty rooms of the Universities he has an ardent support which would be more effective if not restrained from vocal expression by the sort of plutocratic tyranny so brilliantly described by Mr Upton Sinclair in his book, "The Goosestep," and the younger generation of university graduates offers him many sympathisers. Nor do men of wealth recoil from the new adventure. In Minnesota Mr La Follette's campaign manager is Mr John F. Sinclair, a successful banker, whose writings on the European situation have attracted wide attention. In California, his local chairman is Mr Rudolph Spreckels, a millionaire sugar magnate, and ex-Senator Clapp, a veteran Republican, and Mr Frank P. Walsh, the well-known Kansas City lawyer, who acted as chairman of President Wilson's Committee on Industrial Relations, have declared themselves in his favour.

Nor is the Wisconsin senator devoid of powerful and effective support in the daily Press. The Labour movement in the United States supports a number of daily papers which are at his command; but much more important is the backing, almost unexpected, of the Scripps-Howard chain of papers, which serve some 30 cities, and have a combined circulation of 2,000,000 per day. Their owners are enormously wealthy, but they have resisted the pressure of self-interest which impels most of their class to support Coolidge or Davis, and are giving the Progressive movement very effective aid. The even more powerful Hearst Press has not given La Follette its open endorsement, but it is pursuing a policy of very benevolent neutrality and its steady criticism of the Republican and Democratic parties and programmes is bound to be helpful.

Senator La Follette has been very fortunate in the running mate who has been nominated for the Vice-Presidency. Senator Burton Wheeler, of Montana, is a member of an old Boston family, who became a successful lawyer, and imbibed radical notions in the West; elected to the Senate in 1922 on the Democratic ticket, he soon attained a national reputation for his part in the exposure of the Teapot Dome scandal. He found himself actively co-operating with Senator La Follette and his followers during this controversy, and has now bolted from his old party and definitely thrown in his lot with them. Senator Wheeler is a very good platform speaker, and he is at present directing his fund of vigorous energy to the sort of whirlwind political campaign which the American voter likes, and which Mr La Follette's weight of years makes impossible.

MANY Republican papers and orators have copied the trick of the *Morning Post*, and invariably describe La Follette and his followers as the Socialist party. It is true that the Socialist group, which has in recent elections mustered at Presidential elections between half a million and a million votes, are ranged behind the Wisconsin senator, but by British political appraisal he would only be described as an advanced radical. He has long specialised on transportation problems, and is a convinced advocate of the nationalisation of the American railways. He was an early advocate of woman's suffrage, and has been a consistent champion of a variety of labour causes. He has steadily opposed the use of injunctions in labour

disputes, and no politician in the United States has taken such an advanced position in regard to limiting the abuse of the power of the Supreme Court to declare federal laws like the child-labour statute unconstitutional. He favours a constitutional amendment which would enable Congress to pass and validate a law which the Supreme Court had nullified on technical legal grounds if a two-thirds majority could be obtained in his favour. His pacifist attitude during the war earned him the execration of the mass of the American people, but it has now been largely forgiven, and will reap political dividends from the strong German vote. His championship of the cause of Irish freedom will also win him many Irish votes, and it is significant that Judge Cohan, a well-known Irish leader in New York, has commended his candidature. On the tariff issue Senator La Follette used to be reckoned unsound, but he has in late years modified his Protectionist views. He is not an ardent enthusiast for the League of Nations, which he is inclined to view as an instrument controlled by the international financiers, his pet bogies, but he is in favour of the fullest international co-operation and general disarmament. In his prime he was reckoned one of the three most effective political speakers in the United States, but ill-health and age have impaired his powers, and most of the active campaign work must be left to his lieutenants. The keynote of his campaign appeal was struck in his Labour Day address early in September, from which the following salient passages are taken:—

"Since the Civil War the Government has bestowed privileges and fostered through administrative favouritism a new system, under which a few men are enabled to live on the fruits of the labour of others. It is a system appearing in a form which Lincoln never dreamed. It is a system against which I have fought continuously for the last 30 years.

"The message of the Republican and Democratic parties to-day is a message of despair. In it the American people find no ray of hope for relief from the burdens which oppress them.

"But the people have found a great hope, and that hope is the Progressive movement. We have enlisted in this movement to restore this Government to the service of the public, to secure to the labourer and producer in all lines a greater share of the product of his toil, while protecting the consumer against the trust-fixed prices on all he buys, and to drive out of the Government at Washington the corrupting influences now so dominant there."

It remains to be seen whether an appeal of this character, supplemented by the popularity and prestige attaching to a long record of able service in the cause of popular reform, will avail to break down the innate conservatism of the American voter, which has tied him by traditional loyalties to two parties almost indistinguishable in their outlook and programmes. By common consent the issue of the election depends largely upon the volume of support which the Progressive insurgency is able to attract. At present the policy of the Press and orators of the old parties is to belittle the new intrusion, and profess that its effects can only be seriously dreaded in Wisconsin and Minnesota. But the real political experts know better, and the Republican managers seem to have reached the conclusion that La Follette is a more dangerous enemy than Davis. They have been considerably heartened by the result of the election in Maine, which, for some strange reason, is always held two months before the general poll. Maine is known as a rockribbed Republican State, and all the Republican candidates were returned by about the normal majorities. But no supporters of La Follette were in the field, and for any appraisal of his strength the result is worthless. It seems, however, quite certain that throughout the country La Follette can rely upon the support to an unprecedented extent of all the discontented racial and economic groups. If he can poll the vote normally represented by those groups, he ought to fulfil his followers' hope of carrying twelve or fourteen States west of the Mississippi, and three or four east of it. But even if he only realises half these hopes he will prevent either Coolidge or Davis obtaining a clear majority in the electoral college, and the election will be thrown into the House of Representatives, where another deadlock will be inevitable. It will then be transferred to the Senate; the Democrats and Progressives would certainly combine

to thwart the selection of General Dawes, and in the end some compromise which would put either Senator Wheeler or Governor Bryan, the vice-Presidential nominee of the Democrats, in the White House would be arrived at. But for the moment political visibility is still low, and one thing only is certain, that Senator La Follette has broken down the dikes in the American political world, and the waters are out. The prospects of the old parties will be the subject of another article.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.—II.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE export trade of India dates back to very early times, and as long ago as the first century, spices, precious stones, and fine cotton fabrics were exported from the country. The trend of this trade has always been towards the West, and in the years immediately preceding the War 50 per cent. of India's exports went to European countries. Naturally, therefore, the upsetting of Europe's economic life had a paralysing effect upon industrial India, from which—though recovery has been considerable—she has not yet completely emerged. Given freedom from political unrest, with its unsettling influence upon commercial conditions, there is no reason why pre-war standards should not be surpassed in the future. India, from an industrial point of view, in spite of what British enterprise and capital have accomplished, is still very largely an undeveloped country, containing vast stores of potential wealth and great possibilities of industrial expansion. The present value of India's export trade, including re-exports, is £205,075,739. In 1913-14 37 per cent. of this trade was with the British Empire in the proportion of 23 per cent. with the United Kingdom and 14 per cent. with the British Dominions. In 1922-23 the percentage was 39, 22 per cent. of this being United Kingdom and 17 per cent. British Dominions imports. Before the War Germany was the chief recipient of India's trade, raw jute exports from Calcutta and rice from Burma being her largest purchases. France imported ground nuts, while a large quantity of cotton was shipped to Japan. Taking a five-year average since the Armistice, the most remarkable feature connected with Indian exports is the recovery of Germany as a purchaser. Trade with Russia and Austria has practically ceased; Japan holds about the same position as in 1913, while increased exports go to the United States and China. In considering some of the principal exports, we notice, first of all, *Jute and Jute Manufactures*. Jute cultivation is confined almost entirely to the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta, in the Presidency of Bengal, and the Province of Assam, with the adjoining Indian State of Cooch Bihar. A small quantity is also cultivated in Bihar and Orissa. The total area under jute in 1923 was 2,313,000 acres—a considerable increase over the two previous years, but a decrease upon the area sown in 1914, which amounted to 3,352,200 acres. In 1913-14 the total yield for export was 4,303,326 bales, the three principal purchasers being: The United Kingdom, 1,626,067 bales; Germany, 886,928 bales; and the United States, 659,366 bales. In 1921-22 the total export was 2,619,036 bales, distributed to India's three chief purchasers as follows: Germany, 806,473 bales; the United Kingdom, 508,676 bales; and the United States, 371,963 bales. In 1922-23 the quantity exported was 3,236,548 bales, as follows: The United Kingdom, 874,597 bales; Germany, 792,232 bales; the United States, 510,710 bales. For this latter year the value of raw jute exports was £15,018,976, and of jute manufactures £26,996,101. Taking an average of the last five years, the exports of *Raw Cotton* represent no less than 41 per cent. of the total value of raw materials exported from India. The average yield per acre in India is very low, being only between 75 and 100 lbs, as compared with an average per acre in the United States of 200 lbs, and in Egypt of 360 to 400 lbs per acre. The total area under cultivation in 1922-23 was 21,077,000 acres, with a yield of 5,181,000 bales, as compared with an acreage of 18,451,000 yielding 4,485,000 bales in the previous year. Out of a total export of 12,007,940 cwts in 1922-23, Japan took 5,789,300 cwts, Germany 939,600 cwts, while Belgium was the third best customer with 900,220 cwts, and the United Kingdom came seventh with

a total of 682,620 cwts. The value of raw cotton exports in 1922-23 was £47,316,225, and of cotton manufactures £8,708,125.

Rice is another large export from India. The total world production of cleaned rice has been estimated at about 90,000,000 tons, of which India's share is 35 per cent., and though her export seldom exceeds 5 per cent. of her total production, she is nevertheless the largest exporter of rice in the world. The total area under rice in 1922-23 was 80,577,000 acres in British India, and 1,000,000 tons in the Indian States. A feature of this industry, which compares very unfavourably both with Japan and Egypt, is in the yield per acre, which in British India is about 8½ cwts, as compared with 21 cwts in Japan and 22 cwts in Egypt. The principal countries to which rice was exported, with their percentage, during 1913-14 were: Ceylon, 13.8; Holland, 13.7; Germany, 13.1; the Straits Settlements, 11.8; while the United Kingdom came sixth with a percentage of 6.7. During 1922-23 Ceylon received 17.4, Germany 16.3, the Straits Settlements 8.3, with the United Kingdom fifth with a percentage of 3.8. The value of rice exported from India during 1922-23 was £23,133,212, of which the share of the United Kingdom was £858,249, as compared with a total in 1913-14 of £17,599,582, of which the United Kingdom's share was £1,129,677.

Cotton Manufactures.—About two-thirds of India's cotton is exported raw, the rest being manufactured into yarn and cloth in the Indian mills, the chief centre of this industry being Bombay, in which Presidency 200 out of the total 289 mills in existence are situated. Last year there were in India 137,238 looms and 7,245,119 spindles. Cotton manufactures form 22 per cent. of Indian manufactured goods exported, and 6 per cent. of the total export trade of the country. The chief destinations of export are naturally those where Indian immigration exists. As an example of handloom weaving for export, reference may be made to the Madras "Handkerchief" trade, exports from which amount to a yearly average of £145,000, the United Kingdom and the United States being the two principal countries which receive these goods. Cotton carpets are increasing both in popularity and extent of manufacture. These carpets fall into three categories—bed, floor, and prayer carpets—and in Cawnpore an increasing export trade in the first of these is being carried on with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Wheat.—India produces one-tenth of the world's supply of wheat, the acreage under this crop last year being 30,725,000 acres. In 1914 India was the third largest producer of wheat, but in the percentage of exports to production she ranked fifth. Last year 87 per cent. of India's export of wheat came to the United Kingdom.

There are many other articles exported from India to the United Kingdom which space precludes mentioning, but a brief reference may be made to the trade in

Linseed.—This plant is identical with the flax of Europe, but a feature of its cultivation in India is that it is grown entirely for its seed, and not for its fibre. The average production of seed per annum prior to the War was over half-a-million tons, 75 per cent. of which was exported, but since that date the quantity available for export is about five million tons a year. In 1913-14 38 per cent. of exports went to the United Kingdom, 28 per cent. to France, and 11.5 per cent. to Germany. In 1922-23 the United Kingdom received 52 per cent. of the exports, France 18 per cent., Italy 11 per cent., while Germany's share was 1 per cent.

PROSPECTS OF ARTIFICIAL SILK.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

ARTIFICIAL silk—or "art" silk, as the drapers have begun to call it—has been much before the public recently, and determined efforts have been made to raise a scare as to what foreign competition is going to do at some future time to our allegedly supine producers. The "new" industry, it appears, is to be placed in a position of grave danger (at some future time) by schemes darkly concocted in certain Continental countries that have not hitherto shone very brightly in producing "art" silk.

Let us see what justification there may be for all this pother. In the first place, the Chardonnet process, in which cotton was the raw material, was patented in this country as far back as 1885—nearly 40 years ago. The industry is thus not so very new after all, and as regards foreign competition, we have imported the manufactured article for some sixteen years past at the least, and probably for much longer. It is true that imports in recent years have grown rapidly, but so have exports, and we shall find later that there is little ground for anxiety as to the present state of the trade.

The original process of manufacture, in which cotton was used as the basis, has now been supplanted by other processes, which mainly make use of wood pulp. In all processes the method of manufacture, though highly complicated and scientific, is roughly the same. The wood pulp, by varied mechanical and chemical treatment, is reduced to an extreme degree of pulverisation. It then goes through further processes, which leave it as a mass of very "sticky" material, or "viscose." This is afterwards forced through fine jets into a solution which causes solidification of the threads as they trail out. The material is then ready for dyeing and manufacture into those charming "silk" stockings, neckties, blouses, and other goods that crowd our drapers' and outfitters' establishments. It is thus that the trunks and limbs of trees are turned into clothing for the trunks and limbs of humanity, and the transformation is certainly a standing marvel illustrating the skill and resource of our chemists and manufacturers.

For it should not be overlooked that hitherto England has been foremost in the development of this industry. Extensive works were established at Coventry in the opening years of this century, and the material rapidly became popular with the masses. Not only did home sales grow apace, but shipments to overseas markets followed suit, and became sufficiently important to attract the notice of the Board of Trade in 1908, when exports were first recorded at nearly £46,000. Large increases were registered in each succeeding year, until in 1914 the value of our shipments was nearly £631,000. The War, of course, profoundly affected the trade. Home demands were so great that our own producers (owing to shortage of labour and materials) were quite unable to meet them, and imports bounded up from £24,000 in 1914 to £465,000 in 1916, and over £1,000,000 in 1919. Let us see, now, how the foreign trade looks when viewed in perspective over the last 15 years:—

OVERSEAS TRADE IN ARTIFICIAL SILK.
(In Thousand £, 000 omitted.)

	Imports.	Re-Exports.	Net Imports.	British Exports.	Excess of Imports.
5-year avgs.—					
1909-13	19	11	8	220	212
1914-18	238	20	218	815	597
Single years—					
1919	1,097	158	939	1,494	555
1920*	640	173	467	3,007	2,540
1921	1,200	138	1,062	1,706	644
1922	2,559	290	2,269	2,624	355
1923	4,425	382	4,043	3,460	583

* Manufactures (except apparel) added in 1920 and after to both imports and exports.

In the first place, it is to be noted that the above table covers during the last four years manufactures of artificial silk, as well as the silk itself. It appears to be in these articles, and notably piece goods, that foreign firms have been most successful. Unfortunately, particulars have not yet been published for 1923, but for the three years to 1922 the various sections of the trade showed the following results:—

(In Thousand £.)

	1920.	1921.	1922.
"Art" silk.....Net imports	307	493	945
British exports.....	824	756	1,320
Piece goods.....Net imports	38	438	1,235
British exports.....	1,770	767	892
Other goods.....Net imports	122	131	90
British exports.....	413	183	413

It will be observed that in 1922 the trade in piece goods showed an excess of imports amounting to no less than £343,000. This, however, was much more than neutralised by an excess of exports in other manufactures

of £323,000, and in "art" silk itself of £375,000. The enormous increase in the piece goods landed here is very striking, and it certainly looks as if this is the section in which our producers are most vulnerable. In "Other Goods" the position is entirely satisfactory.

At first glance, these tables appear partly to justify recent jeremiads about the industry, but further examination will correct that impression. Since the war, our prices have mostly been higher than those of our foreign competitors, and home requirements were so great that British makers did not feel called upon to "cut" prices sufficiently to check the imports. Last year's experience, however, awakened them to the necessity of doing something, and prices this year have been so far modified that for the eight months to August, exports nearly balance the net imports. Indeed, for August itself exports were £411,000, against net imports of £405,000, and there seems to be a strong probability that the year will end with a substantial excess of exports.

It is evident, however, that a keen struggle is going on between home and foreign producers, and perhaps the best way of showing how the contest is progressing is to divide the last eight months into two periods, thus:—

ARTIFICIAL SILK (Thousand £.)

1924 (4 Months' Totals).	Imports.	Exports.	Net Imports.	British Exports.	Excess of Imports.
January-April	1,360	184	1,176	1,123	53
May-August	1,750	242	1,508	1,510	2

The tide seems to be flowing in favour of the British firms, and if the promise of August is maintained, results for the full year should be quite satisfactory. There seems to be little ground for doubt concerning the future. Our leading firms are well equipped as to plant, and abundant financial resources for further extensions. Recent developments include the planning of a huge new factory, to cover 40 acres and employ some 4,000 persons, and the company which is responsible for this has always followed so sound a financial policy that it is able to do such things out of reserved profits alone. This is the kind of management that is calculated to place an industry on an impregnable basis. Shrewd conservatism in finance, coupled with the most skilled scientific research and managerial organisation, will eventually triumph, and give to the British factories a position in world trade as commanding as that of Lancashire in the great cotton industry.

Foreign imports there will always be, and it is good that this valuable spur should never be lacking. To it we owe the present schemes for extending and improving our own means of production, which were shown to be essential by the growth of our purchases from abroad. Let us see from which countries these purchases were made, noting, incidentally, the extent of the Italian threat:—

ORIGIN OF IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL SILK (including MANUFACTURES).
(In Thousand £.)

From—	1920.	1921.	1922.
Switzerland	241	353	854
Germany	35	324	786
Belgium	190	141	321
France	41	217	216
Holland	18	43	157
Italy	47	18	128
United States	66	90	58
Other countries	2	14	39
	640	1,200	2,559

Seven countries are here included, in the order of their importance as suppliers to our market. Switzerland heads the list, and Italy—the bogey with which so sensational an attempt has been made to frighten us—comes last but one. Italy supplied in 1922 only 5 per cent. of our total imports of these goods, while Switzerland sent 33 per cent. and Germany 30 per cent. Germany, indeed, appears to be the most serious competitor. Her forests are probably an ample source of the raw material. At all events, she is in that respect more favourably placed than any of the other countries, save the United States, which for other reasons seems to be virtually out of the running. We have long had experience of the ability of Germany in those industries which pre-eminently require the application of scientific research, and this, joined with her ready access to the raw material, appears to indicate her as the competitor to be watched in future

BREWERY PROFITS.

In our issue of May 24, 1924 (page 1045) we examined in detail the reports of 14 brewery concerns, most of which made their reports up to September 30th or December 31st. We now propose to proceed further with this subject by examining the position of 10 important breweries that have recently issued their reports, making them up in most instances to June 30, 1924. The two articles together can be said to give a fairly up-to-date picture of the financial position of breweries. Our first table shows the net profits during the past three years, also the amount carried forward of these leading brewery undertakings:—

Name of Company.	Net Profits, after Payment of Debenture Interest.			Carried Forward.		
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co.	2,252,477	2,046,911	2,389,625	702,288	594,198	713,822
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	176,961	181,129	162,063	34,463	41,592	44,956
Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton	386,063	389,223	463,058	55,748	61,571	93,429
Chester's Brewery	104,219	111,679	108,135	59,836	67,410	68,289
Hoare and Co.	119,456	186,379	207,658	4,987	5,146	7,541
Mitchells and Butlers	412,801	404,471	414,433	220,419	220,772	243,808
Threlfall's Brewery	278,874	288,527	358,582	232,553	244,563	263,314
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	614,613	690,718	702,627	194,494	215,373	185,203
Whitbread and Co.	177,788	175,085	168,812	289,580	319,532	342,489
William Hancock and Co.	45,137	42,399	56,173	14,589	16,288	12,510

The net profit of Arthur Guinness, Son and Co. has been arrived at for the year ended June 30, 1922, by taking the profit and loss total of £2,925,755, and then deducting £528,767, balance of income-tax to June 30, 1922, and £144,511 corporation profits tax. This makes net profit for that year £2,252,477, as shown in our table. The same principle is followed for the year ended June 30, 1923, the disposable total for that year being £2,730,026, from which £547,127 is deducted for income-tax, and £135,988 for corporation profits tax, making net profit £2,046,911. In the accounts for June 30, 1924, the two items mentioned are deducted from sales of the company's products, and therefore do not have to be taken from the disposable total at profit and loss, which for that year is £2,389,625. Our figures of net profits, therefore, can be said to be strictly comparable. Barclay Perkins record a decrease which is practically a general shrinkage in accounts. Chester's Brewery also show a decline, and we glean that Whitbread and Co., although failing to supply us with a detailed profit and loss account, have not had such a good year as that of the previous twelve months.

In our next table we analyse the chief assets and liabilities over the past three years:—

Name of Company.	Principal Liabilities.			Principal Assets.				
	Total Share & Deb. Capital.	Re-serves.	Cred-itors.	Pro-perties, Plant, &c.	Stocks.	Invest-ments.	Cash.	Debt's
Arthur Guinness, ord. stk.	7,000,000	3,630,122	4,738,695	5,876,157	7,873,994	592,646	1,609,744	1,187,248
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	9,500,000	1,195,635	4,721,234	5,900,139	5,986,528	1,195,655	1,361,835	2,987,624
Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton	9,500,000	1,514,700	4,405,355	5,867,456	5,248,755	1,949,843	1,781,641	2,859,435
Chester's Brewery	2,270,079	641,284	178,248	2,355,310	509,548	267,199	77,854	181,743
Hoare and Co.	2,270,079	610,523	178,002	2,328,518	422,087	281,174	85,041	194,594
Mitchells and Butlers	2,270,079	598,455	204,308	2,414,809	379,377	286,295	44,586	159,263
Threlfall's Brewery	5,320,000	800,000	4,471,574	2,544,713	2,257,799	1,063,278	461,908	1,794,932
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	5,320,000	800,000	2,355,382	2,500,067	1,690,030	1,781,469	668,443	1,353,543
Whitbread and Co.	5,320,000	850,000	2,194,624	2,516,386	1,419,957	1,908,562	665,879	1,445,615
William Hancock and Co.	687,230	251,013	160,272	848,525	143,162	192,615	33,812	15,769
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	687,230	281,014	156,428	862,379	123,814	214,929	51,569	16,674
Hoare and Co.	687,230	307,014	143,950	843,781	125,620	245,271	34,794	14,383
Mitchells and Butlers	1,552,500	280,000	371,891	1,832,896	67,497	217,541	108,463	61,279
Threlfall's Brewery	1,552,500	300,000	386,038	1,673,565	50,033	362,043	115,143	41,572
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	1,865,768	400,000	535,262	2,465,801	123,792	50,038	54,845	122,662
Whitbread and Co.	4,584,580	450,000	1,744,999	4,855,124	1,192,163	10,953	1,135,756	118,384
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	4,584,580	550,000	1,158,973	4,861,119	776,153	11,302	1,015,890	98,307
Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton	4,464,580	625,000	1,190,224	4,906,758	728,977	12,803	1,073,488	106,585
Chester's Brewery	3,051,695	242,382	527,723	3,068,649	548,797	128,437	337,829	114,503
Hoare and Co.	3,052,805	242,067	460,777	3,098,028	477,116	32,219	145,855	106,771
Mitchells and Butlers	3,051,552	243,808	389,032	3,171,617	421,007	183,881	222,185	90,392
Threlfall's Brewery	10,258,491	626,731	1,488,194	10,439,803	512,592	555,762	856,368	652,735
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	10,638,355	250,015	1,521,051	10,688,010	477,027	894,346	815,532	647,732
Whitbread and Co.	10,927,301	705,270	1,605,887	11,726,275	442,986	420,006	870,855	638,144
William Hancock and Co.	3,274,000	..	1,006,180	3,304,066	1,131,376	679,260	..	611,488
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	3,272,500	..	659,571	3,261,863	1,033,338	472,631	171,023	503,423
Hoare and Co.	3,272,500	..	603,586	2,235,442	976,127	537,261	157,666	497,235
Mitchells and Butlers	738,886	190,000	325,420	1,000,754	161,380	133,453	6,494	69,331
Threlfall's Brewery	737,774	200,000	281,613	981,797	144,590	133,277	5,007	75,534
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	737,464	165,000	221,964	1,044,030	152,760	1,972	10,366	74,970

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

It is perhaps surprising to find that the company with the largest capital is Watney, Combe and Reid. This is accounted for by an ordinary and preference stock capital of £6,510,424, and a 3½ per cent. perpetual first debenture stock of £4,416,877. Guinness, the second in size in our table, has an ordinary and preference stock capital of £9,500,000, but there are no debentures. Watney's total assets are £14,297,072, as against Guinness's £17,707,130. The prosperity of Guinness's, however, is strikingly revealed when it is considered that it can earn £2,389,625 with its capital, as against Watney's comparatively modest £702,627. On the whole, share capital has remained fairly steady. The steady growth in reserves reflects the prosperity of the industry. Guinness's decline is, of course, made up by its capital increase, the issue being by way of bonus shares. Whitbread and Co. show no reserves, but a balance of £342,489 is carried forward. The increase in capital and properties of Hoare and Co. is on account of the purchase of the Lion Brewery. In most other cases "properties" show little change. It is remarkable to find that Watney's properties have increased from £10,688,010 to £11,726,275 by the purchase of the Isleworth Brewery, and that yet its capital is slightly lower.

Our final table shows the ordinary dividends during the past three years, also comparative prices and present yields:—

Name and Amount.	Ordinary Dividends.			Prices End of September.			Present Yield.
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922.	1923.	1924.	
Arthur Guinness, ord. stk.	% 29 (a)	% 24	% 26 (d)	430	370	470	s s d 15 10 6
Barclay, Perkins, and Co.	1,000+	1,000+	800+	..	..	..	..
Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton	(£) 11+	(£) 11+	(£) 13+	13+	17	24	6 2 3
Chester's Brewery	(c) 25	(b) 22 (c)	25	13+	24	24	8 19 0
Hoare and Co. (£1)	(c) 5	(b) 5	(e) 14+	9+	14+	14+	5 3 3
Mitchells and Butlers (£1)	10	10	10+	13+	14+	14+	15 6 9
Threlfall's Brewery (£1)	20	20	20+	24+	24+	24+	8 4 3
Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co.	32 (a)	16	20 (f)	219+	(b) 178+	251+	7 17 9
Whitbread and Co.	10	10	10	..	9+	10+	9 10 6
William Hancock (£10)	10	10	10	..	9+	10+	9 10 6

+ Free of income-tax. (a) Paid on a larger capital. (b) 7½ per cent. paid free of income tax. (c) 5 per cent. paid free of income-tax. (d) On capital of £5,000,000. (e) £10 shares. (f) On capital of £796,353. (g) On capital of £7,500,000. (h) On capital of £1,592,706.

The brewery share market has recently displayed considerable activity, and prices have moved upward. Evidence of prosperity is apparent if a glance at prices over the past three years be made.

The future for public houses was dealt with by Mr W. Waters Butler, in an interesting speech, made at the annual meeting of Mitchells and Butlers, Limited. We have received, he said, approval from all quarters of "our artistically designed and well-equipped licensed premises which we have erected, and are erecting in our trading area." Mr Butler continued, "I can assure you the return on the capital expended in such new premises is at present a meagre one, but we are building for the future, feeling confident that our policy of the closing down of redundant, badly constructed premises, which offer poor service to the public, and the substitution of more up-to-date premises, not only will tend to strengthen the defence of the industry by the public, for whose needs they are erected, but also advance the sobriety of the nation, which the trade is as eager to promote as the most ardent true temperance reformer."

AN ANALYTICAL DIGEST OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 1923.

THE main reason of late years for extending the suffrage has been to obtain to the greatest possible degree a Parliament which, so far as the House of Commons is concerned, shall represent public opinion. For two years in succession more than twenty millions of voters have been called upon in Great Britain to record their votes upon two of the most important issues that ever presented themselves at a General Election. At each of these elections, which were held in midwinter, more than fourteen million votes were polled. Many voters had to travel a considerable distance, and probably the inclemency of the weather hindered many thousands from going to the poll. But at each election about one-fourth of the registered electors did not vote, and an analysis of the polling in the 550 contested constituencies leaves the student of statistics in perplexity as to the reason why the electors of Cumberland, Devonshire, Somerset, and Wiltshire should show such civic spirit as to poll not less than four-fifths of their electorates, whilst Durham, Lancashire, and Cheshire only polled three-fourths of their electors, and Middlesex, Essex, Sussex and Surrey did not poll even two-thirds. Experienced politicians, from Mr Baldwin downwards, are inclined to attribute these results to the zealous work of Labour organisers, on the one hand, and to the lack of such zeal on behalf of the Conservatives.

In 1900 there were only 9 Labour members elected, and the total number of votes polled by Labour candidates was 118,003. How the Labour party has grown is shown in the following table:—

TABLE I.—Containing 12 COUNTIES of GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from 14 to 66 MEMBERS to the HOUSE of COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.
Lancashire ..	66	22	21	23	Stafford	18	6	9	3
London	62	22	12	28	Middlesex	17	1	14	2
Yorkshire	67	23	20	24	Warwick	16	13	2	1
Lancark	22	16	6	..	Glamorgan	16	2	12	1
Essex	20	10	8	2	Kent	15	2	12	1
Durham	18	10	4	4	Cheshire	14	2	7	5
Total of above ..	245	104	88	53	Total of above ..	97	33	49	15

Mr Hopkinson, who sits for Mossley, is included among the Conservatives, and Mr T. P. O'Connor among the Liberals, who sit for Lancashire; and Mr Mosley, who sits for Harrow, among the Labour members. We have compiled these tables on the basis of the number of members per county, and although a generalisation is dangerous, it may be broadly said that the above table includes the counties with the greatest density of population, and the three succeeding tables groups of counties of progressively scattered populations.

The twelve counties shown in the table contain the bulk of the manufacturing districts of Great Britain, and return 342 members to the House of Commons, or considerably more than half. Of these 342 members, the Conservatives claim 137, the Labour Party the same number, and the Liberals 68. In other words, these 12 counties have two-fifths of their representatives in the Conservative ranks, two-fifths under the Labour banner, and one-fifth are Liberals. As regards the display of civic spirit on the part of the electors in these counties, we may state that 21 of the 61 contested constituencies in Lancashire polled over four-fifths of their registered electors; Yorkshire polled as high in 10 of her 52 contests; Durham and Stafford each polled as well in four constituencies, Glamorgan in five, and Cheshire in two cases.

TABLE II.—Containing 16 COUNTIES of GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from 6 to 13 MEMBERS to the HOUSE of COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.
Hampshire ..	15	..	10	3	Sussex	9	..	8	1
Surrey	12	..	12	..	Norfolk	8	4	1	3
Devon	11	..	4	7	Midlothian and Peebles	8	3	1	4
Gloucester ..	11	4	6	1	Leicester	7	2	1	4
N'umberland ..	10	4	5	1	Somerset	7	1	1	5
Derby	10	5	4	1	Worcester	6	..	6	..
Lincoln	9	1	5	3	Stafford	6	1	4	1
Nottingham ..	9	3	4	2	Monmouth	6	4	2	..
Total of above ..	85	16	48	21	Total of above ..	57	15	24	13

The 16 counties set out in Table II. return 142 members to the House of Commons, of whom 72 are Conservatives, 39 are Liberals, and 31 belong to the Labour Party. Great zeal was shown by the electors of Devonshire, who in six out of their ten contests polled over four-fifths of their electorates. Somerset followed suit in three of her seven contests, and Lincoln, Leicester and Monmouth also polled over four-fifths of their electors in two contests each.

The Isle of Wight is included in the list of Hampshire seats. Surrey and Worcestershire stand out conspicuously as returning Conservatives in every constituency. But the zeal displayed in the two counties was very different. Whereas the electors of Worcestershire polled over four-fifths of their electors (85.8 per cent.) in Worcester, and nearly four-fifths at Dudley and Stourbridge (78.8 and 78.6 per cent.), the highest poll in Surrey was that for Guildford (67.6 per cent.), and in only three other constituencies did the polls reach 60 per cent.

TABLE III.—Containing 25 COUNTIES of GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from Two to Five MEMBERS to the HOUSE of COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Labour Seats.	Con. Seats.	Liberal Seats.
Cumberland	5	3	2	..	Oxford	5	..	3	2
Wiltshire	5	3	2	..	Bedford	5	..	1	4
Northants	5	3	2	..	Buckingham	5	..	1	4
Cornwall	5	..	4	1	Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty	5	3	..	2
Hertford	5	1	2	2	Stirling and Clackmannan	5	3	..	2
Aberdeen	5	1	2	2	Cambridge	5	..	2	3
Dorset	4	1	2	1	Hereford	4	..	2	2
Shropshire	4	1	2	1	Perth and Kinross	4	..	1	3
Berkshire	4	1	2	1	Dumfries	4	..	2	2
Ayr and Bute	4	1	2	1	Carmarvon	4	..	1	3
Renfrew	4	1	2	1	Carmarthen	4	..	1	3
Forfar	4	1	2	1	Denbigh	4	..	1	3
Pife	4	1	2	1	Total of above ..	58	18	19	21
Total of above ..	58	18	19	21	Total of above ..	30	7	9	14

The 25 counties and grouped counties shown in Table III. return 88 members to the House of Commons, of whom 35 are Liberal, 28 Conservatives, and 25 members of the Labour Party. All the five members for Cornwall are Liberals, as are all three members for Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty, and the two members for Carmarvon, as well as four out of the five members for Wiltshire. On the other hand, the Conservatives claim four of the five Hertfordshire seats and three of the four Dorsetshire seats. All five Cumberland constituencies polled over 83 per cent. of their electorates, and four of the five Wiltshire constituencies polled over four-fifths of their registered electors.

TABLE IV.—Containing 19 COUNTIES, and GROUPS of COUNTIES, of GREAT BRITAIN which each Return ONE MEMBER to the HOUSE of COMMONS.

	Labour.	Con.	Liberal.		Labour.	Con.	Liberal.
Westmorland	..	1	..	Roxburgh & Selkirk ..	..	1	..
Huntingdon	..	..	1	Orkney and Zetland ..	..	..	1
Argyll	..	..	1	Anglesey	..	..	1
Berwick and Radcliff ..	1	..	..	Cardigan	..	..	1
Caithness and Sutherland ..	..	..	1	Flint	..	..	1
Banff	..	..	1	Merioneth	..	..	1
Galloway	..	..	1	Montgomery	..	..	1
Dumfries	..	..	1	Pembrokeshire	..	..	1
Linlithgow	1	..	..	Brecon and Radnor ..	..	..	1
Moray and Nairn	..	1	..	Total of above ..	0	1	8
Total of above ..	2	2	6	Total of above ..	0	1	8

The outstanding feature of Table IV. is the fact that of the 19 members elected by these single-membered counties, 14 are Liberals. Table III., which contains the counties returning from two to five members, also shows a large majority of Liberal members (35 out of 88). It appears, therefore, that in the great cities and towns where popular enthusiasm can be most easily aroused the Labour Party and the Conservatives in almost equal degrees dominate the masses, and that Liberalism has its strength mainly where the population is scattered, and electors have to a greater degree to think matters out for themselves, and arrive at the old conclusion that the middle path is usually the safest.

Notes of the Week.

The Emergency Session.—The Emergency Session of Parliament which opens on Tuesday next has been called for the sole purpose of passing a Government Bill to implement this country's undertaking under the Irish Treaty to set up a Boundary Commission in spite of Ulster's refusal to participate. Ostensibly Ireland is the only item on the menu. But the re-assembly of the politicians at Westminster will doubtless afford an opportunity for gaining clearer ideas on several other factors in the immediate future of domestic politics. The skilled observer will perhaps be able to glean sufficient from the lobbies to enable a clearer estimate to be made of the course that the Government will follow over the Russian Treaty, and how much or little ground there is for Mr Churchill's hint that a General Election may come in a few weeks. Mr Churchill seems at last to have plunged definitely into the Conservative sea, on whose brink he has stood shivering for so long; for he has been adopted as Conservative candidate for the Epping division, and appeared on Thursday at a purely Unionist demonstration in company with Lord Balfour and Sir Robert Horne. But as he plunges he casts a glance back at his late Liberal companions, and tells them how easy it is for them to plunge too. The Conservative leaders, Mr Churchill tells us, in effect, have so completely dropped the Tariff plank out of their platform that no ground for fiscal controversy between them and the Liberals remains. We do not know on what particular statement by which Conservative leader Mr Churchill bases this comfortable belief. All that can legitimately be read into the statements of Mr Baldwin in the House of Commons last session is that a severe defeat at the polls has induced the Conservatives to relegate the proposals for a general tariff to cold storage for the moment; while there are prominent members of the Conservative party, such as Mr Amery, who are frankly and avowedly undaunted in their ardour for Protection. It must, moreover, engage the attention of all Free Traders that Mr Churchill, almost in the same breath in which he says that the Tariff campaign is dead, recommends as a cure for industrial evils what few people besides Mr Churchill would describe as "the convenient, flexible, and well-understood" machinery of the Safeguarding of Industries Act. We are confirmed in our belief that Free Traders will be wise to keep their powder dry. But for the moment it is not the fiscal, nor even the Russian, but the Irish question which fills the political stage. We anticipate that the Government will have no difficulty in passing their Bill through both Houses of Parliament. The passage of the Bill is essential for the vindication of good faith with the Free State. But we can hardly hope that the proceedings in the House of Commons will greatly help towards a solution of the Boundary problem. That solution can only be hammered out by Irishmen of the North and South, not by Englishmen. The Boundary Commission will sit, and will eventually report. Their report may or may not point the way to an agreement. But it is only through a simultaneous growth of the spirit of accommodation, both in Dublin and Belfast, that Ireland can hope for escape from the present deadlock. But although Great Britain cannot at this stage help towards solution, she is in many ways as vitally concerned in it as the two Irish parties themselves.

The Anglo-Egyptian Conversations.—Mr MacDonald has scored a distinct success in persuading Saad Zaghlul Pasha to enter upon the conversations which began in London on Thursday—and this without raising any false hopes of radical alterations in the basis of British policy. The crux remains the status of the Sudan. The British Government have made it clear that they will not resign either the juridical rights or the *de facto* position which they possess in that country as a result of its reconquest from the Mahdists and the subsequent Anglo-Egyptian Convention of 1899. On the other hand, Zaghlul Pasha has only consented to negotiate on the understanding that he does so with a free hand—particularly in regard to the four points which the British Government reserved when they recognised the independence of Egypt in 1922,

the most important of which was the Sudan. Zaghlul Pasha is pledged to his countrymen to secure the complete independence of Egypt and the Sudan as a united country. It is for this that he has stood since 1919, and for this that he is solidly supported at the present moment by the Egyptian nation. In coming to London in these circumstances, he has perhaps reached the crisis of his long and distinguished political career. It must be evident to Zaghlul Pasha himself that he cannot in these negotiations achieve the realisation of his full uncompromising programme or anything like it. *A priori*, the negotiations seem doomed to end in an *impasse*, but the history of the Irish negotiations (not to speak of many controversies that have been settled by the Council of the League of Nations) shows that this situation often stimulates statesmen of resource and goodwill to discover a mutually acceptable solution. Will Mr MacDonald and Zaghlul Pasha together prove equal to the emergency? Much depends on the uncertain factor of Zaghlul's own personal hold on the Egyptian people. Will the Egyptians overthrow their idol—as wholeheartedly as they have raised him up—if he fails to achieve in all completeness the miracle which they expect of him? Or is their confidence in him so complete that they will approve as beneficial to the nation any settlement acceptable to him? And in the latter alternative, what are Zaghlul Pasha's own minimum terms? After all, the present status of the Sudan is provisional, and ought logically to remain so for a long time to come, since the country and its inhabitants are both in the early stages of development. Certain concrete points of vital importance, such as the allocation of Nile water, can be settled at once without prejudicing the future in other spheres, and if they are satisfactorily disposed of forthwith, as they can be, that will clear the air. But to settle the political destinies of the Sudanese people at this stage by their definitive incorporation either in Egypt or in the British Empire would be a flagrant breach of the trust which Egypt and Great Britain hold conjointly. Both Powers are under a moral obligation to exercise their authority over the Sudanese in the spirit of a mandate, until the population under their tutelage is in a position to stand on its own feet. When that time eventually arrives they may elect to merge themselves in Egypt or to federate with her, or to enter the British Commonwealth on some definite and permanent footing, or to remain independent of both Egypt and Great Britain, while maintaining close relations with both these neighbouring Powers (for Great Britain would still remain the neighbour of the Sudan in Kenya and Uganda, which control the headwaters of the White Nile). Meanwhile, Great Britain has neither the right nor the desire to oust Egypt from her share in the condominium, and Egypt will be extremely ill-advised if she withdraws from it in a temper. On the other hand, if she elects to maintain her trust, she must administer it in loyal co-operation with her British partner, and for the benefit of the population concerned. The Convention of 1899 may still provide a sufficient basis for Anglo-Egyptian co-operation, or it may prove preferable to replace it by another instrument which would take account of the changes during the past quarter of a century. In either case, we see no reason why a provisional settlement in the mandatory spirit should not be achieved.

The Civil War in China.—Though the Chekiang troops have held out longer than was expected last week, they are so outnumbered by their opponents and so weakened by dissensions among their leaders, and by wholesale defections, that their collapse cannot be very far off, especially as a section of them are not natives of that province, but were raised by Lu Yung-Hsiang in Shanghai, whence he originally came. Meanwhile Sun Yat-Sen cannot safely move northwards from Canton, where his authority is threatened by various rivals, while his misadventures have gone far to deprive him of local support; and it seems very doubtful if Chang Tso-Lin will be able to force his way towards Peking by the railway from Shan-haikwan, along which Wu Pei-Fu is hurrying troops to resist him, or through the hilly country to the west of the line. If, therefore, the Tuchuns of the Northern and Central provinces can hold together in support of the

Peking Government, its authority may be re-established and unity and peace restored throughout the Chinese Republic, except, for the present, in Manchuria and the extreme South. Unfortunately, it is by no means certain that they will hold together, and unless they do so the Powers can do nothing for China. Efforts are being made by the various contending parties, we believe, to borrow money in London, and probably elsewhere, but there seems very little chance of their success. And any form of intervention by foreign Powers at present might easily set up a general anti-foreign reaction.

Indian Railway Reform.—The Government of India has achieved that separation of the Railway Budget from the general Indian Budget which was the chief reform recommended by the Acworth Commission in 1921. The tendency in India has long been towards State ownership of the railways, coupled in some cases with the delegation of management to companies formed for that purpose and controlled by the Government; but this conjunction, as the Acworth Report pointed out, involves some anomalies, and is apparently transitional—though the Nationalist members of the Legislative Assembly seem to have expected its revival. But, if railway management is conducted or controlled by the Executive, the railway revenue and expenditure must not be directly dependent on the Indian Budget, otherwise the needs of railway extension, and even of improved equipment, are limited by the demands of the Government for other purposes, and by the Budget outlook for the near future. The reasonable demands of the railway managers for increased expenditure have been cut down in order to spend on other objects which seem more urgent, and, as any portion of the railway grants unspent during the year reverts to the Exchequer, the railway authorities cannot plan extensions or renewals which may take several years to complete. The inevitable results, as the Acworth Report points out, have been a shortage of rolling stock, a permanent way unfit, through postponement of repairs, to support even the normal traffic, delays in construction of extensions, and loss of interest on the capital expended on lines of which the completion has been postponed in view of more pressing financial needs. Passenger trains have been overcrowded, the despatch of freight delayed, sometimes for months, the development of the resources of the country—especially of coal-mining—has been hindered, and various abuses have grown up, notably that of illicit payments to the railway officials to get goods forwarded out of their turn. A Committee of the Legislative Assembly was recently appointed to arrange for the separation of the Budgets; but the native members insisted on conditions which were obviously the outcome of Swaraj. The compromise just effected, and published in substance on Monday, provides that the Budgets shall be separated, that the lines which are commercially profitable shall contribute 1 per cent. per annum on their capital to the general railway revenue, that the higher posts in the railway administration shall be filled, as opportunity offers, by native officials, who will be trained for the purpose, that stores are to be bought by the Railway Purchase Department (and therefore, presumably, in India if possible), and that any transfer of a State railway to company management may be annulled by the Legislative Assembly. (According to one account the arrangement is for three years only, but it seems likely to be renewed.) These changes may not always make for increased economy or efficiency, but the separation of the Budgets, with the consequent freedom of the railway administration to plan comprehensive schemes of extension and improvement, and to devise methods of raising money for them, is fully worth the cost of the concessions made to Indian Nationalism.

The League and Austria.—One important decision of the Council of the League of Nations refers to financial control in Austria. Agreement, writes a Geneva correspondent, has been reached to fix the level of budget equilibrium at 545 million gold crowns, of which investments amount to 50 millions, so that the ordinary expenditure is fixed at 495 millions, instead of 350 millions, which was the original estimate of the League's Financial

Delegation in 1922. The present level of expenditure is 622 millions. The fact is that the original figure was taken as an absolutely safe margin in the estimated yield of taxation, and the Financial Committee, after investigation on the spot, was unanimously satisfied that the higher figure could now be safely adopted. If certain measures, which in the opinion of the committee are sufficient to stabilise the situation, are taken by the Austrian Government, the control during the next 12 months will be a very great deal reduced, and the Commissioner-General will be concerned not with details of expenditure, but only with the general budget arrangements of the State. The full control was originally arranged for a minimum of two years, and the prospect is that it may be greatly modified for another period of 12 months, after which it may be removed. There will remain, of course, the control of the revenues for the repayment of the loan and of the issue of the unused portions of the loan to cover any deficits.

Lancashire and Foreign Competition.—A deputation of over 40 representatives of Lancashire Cotton interests waited upon the Prime Minister in order to give him their views as to the probable effect upon the export trade in cotton goods which would result from the according of special customs facilities in Germany for the products of Alsace-Lorraine, in the event of a Franco-German agreement on the question being concluded. Dr Alfred Réé, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said that they came to the Government without knowing precisely what the Franco-German Treaty would contain, but referred to the general conviction that French goods had been getting through as Alsace goods and paying no duty. Before the war Alsace supplied the German market, but in the French market her goods paid duty as ours did. Now that Alsace is part of France, he added, she has the open door to the French market and the vast field of the French colonies in Africa and the East at her feet. "That is the difference between pre-war and post-war conditions." The combined French and Alsatian cotton industry, he claimed, would threaten Lancashire in all markets of the world, a possibility which is "intensely disquieting to British exporters of cotton goods in every one of our markets." This alarm, however, does not appear to be general, for at the annual meeting of the Calico Printers' Association last week, the chairman, Mr Lennox B. Lee, in referring to the recent sale of the company's works in France, said: "Our reasons were that, as far as the print trade is concerned, we regarded the commercial outlook in France as uncertain. In the first place, France by acquiring Alsace has increased her productive capacity in the matter of calico printing out of all she has absorbed. In the second place, the French cost of production before the war was greater than that of this country, and it probably will be so again directly the franc is stabilised. Therefore it is difficult to see how France can maintain a large export trade, which is the only alternative to closing down machines. These considerations satisfied us that it would be wise to sell the property if a will have noticed that negotiations have been set on foot having for their object the extension of the period agreed in the Treaty of Versailles during which Alsace may export goods into Germany free of duty. If these negotiations are successful, the difficulties for the French print trade, which I have just indicated, will be postponed; but your directors are of opinion that, even if the period is increased, they will reappear on the termination of such extension." In his further remarks, Mr Lee dealt at considerable length with the question of foreign competition and laid stress on the necessity for price reduction in order to secure business. High production costs were at present the stumbling block, the cost of labour in the cotton trade being 150 per cent. above the pre-war level, while national taxation is up by 300 per cent., and local taxation by 125 per cent. He admitted, however, that in the long run this country would reap the benefit of following the path of sound national finance and be at an advantage as compared with countries which still continued to borrow to meet their deficits.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—On Tuesday last the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Government published a further official report on the cotton crop for this season. The condition as on September 16th was given as 54.4 per cent., against 59.3 per cent. on September 1st, and 64.9 per cent. on August 16th. The indicated crop on the basis of the present condition figure is 12,596,000 bales, exclusive of linters. The statistics were worse than expected, and resulted in a smart advance in prices in New York and Liverpool, until a rise of about a penny per lb was registered. The higher rates, however, have not been maintained, and, owing to extensive selling, prices on Thursday declined practically to the level existing before the Bureau report. In trade circles there is some disposition to discredit the Government figures, as they are not in keeping with the majority of private advices. In any case, if the official report is taken as correct, there is every probability of an output of American cotton this season, including linters, of 13,250,000 bales, against less than 11,000,000 bales for 1923-24. Cotton users throughout the world, therefore, are assured of plentiful supplies. Growers in the Southern States of America have not yet begun to sell freely, and when they do take such action prices are bound to give way. Spinners are purchasing as little as possible, and the Masters' Federation in Manchester this week has decided not to recommend spinners of American cotton to increase the working hours in the mills, which will continue at 26½ per week against the usual 48 hours. The wages agreement between the Lancashire cotton employers and the trade unions has now expired, and it is open for either side to propose a change in list rates. Action, however, on the part of the masters or the workpeople at the present time is very unlikely. Current list rates are 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914, but if allowance is made for the reduction in working hours from 55½ to 48 in 1918 the operatives for a full week can now secure an advantage in wages of about 61 per cent. on the figures existing in 1914.

The Stock Exchange and Bucket Shops.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—In a recent issue fresh evidence was produced of the manner in which the bucket-shop is raising an energetic campaign throughout the country for the purpose of encouraging speculation, the result of which is practically certain to attain the end desired by the advertisers, though not that which is presented to their readers. The difficulty of getting official cognisance taken of these swindlers' efforts is apparent to the thousands of people who receive the circulars. Private enterprise, as already mentioned, is left to raise the voice of caution in season and out of it. Some way, or ways, however, may reasonably be sought for a widened circle of assistance. The New York Stock Exchange carries the war into the bucket-shops' own country, and Canada is now following suit. In both countries the outside firms of bucket-shop dealers, who describe themselves in very much the same way as those of our own country, grew to such a pitch of impudence and number that the official Stock Exchanges felt compelled to take action. For the past two or three years the New York Stock Exchange has been engaged in a vigorous and intensive effort to stamp out the evil which honeycombed the country. Not only does the constant evidence of such swindling affect the public itself; it must react forcibly upon any Stock Exchange, seeing that a large number of the public have very vague ideas concerning the difference between the members of a recognised Stock Exchange and outside people who describe themselves as stock and share dealers, bankers, and such-like. The Stock Exchanges, therefore, have a twofold interest in doing what is possible for the education of the public in the matter of Stock Exchange transactions. In the first place, the official body, standing for what is honest and fair, holds a responsibility towards the public in the way of protecting the latter from insidious attacks; and, in the second place, its own business is directly threatened by the growth of a feeling amongst the public that all stock and share dealers are very much alike. In New York, the president of the Stock Exchange, and other experts on the subject, have been delivering lectures, and have embarked

upon a propaganda campaign that has been carried all over the States. In Canada a fresh effort has arisen for countering the activities of financial pests who are clever enough to keep just outside the range of the law. On this side even recent weeks have seen the dissemination of bucket-shop literature to an extent which suggests that outsiders find the public an easy prey to their beguillings. The London Stock Exchange has a duty to the public in this matter, and is alive to its responsibility, although the difficulties of knowing in what direction effective action should be taken against the outsiders are clearly manifest. The committees of the various Stock Exchanges throughout the country can act only indirectly. They will probably regard it as un-English to expect their chairmen and other highly-placed officials to lecture in the American style, or to take direct steps against the bucket-shops. They could, however, venture upon a wider measure of publicity, and could demonstrate, in various ways, the folly of dealing with people whose actions are free from any liability to responsible bodies, and who are not governed by the strict rules which control the official Stock Exchanges. These rules, in many cases, enforce upon Stock Exchange members a standard of honour and strictness of dealing which stand above the law of the land. Other methods will perhaps suggest themselves. Probably the bucket-shop, like the poor, will always be with us unless the Stock Exchange is given monopoly of the business. Monopoly, however, infers a Charter and a possible loss of liberty. Whether it would be to the advantage of the Stock Exchange to be granted a Charter is a very moot point.

British Timber Ports Congestion.—A circular which has been issued by the Baltic and White Sea Conference comes as a reminder that congestion and delay to shipping in certain British ports, which was the subject of much complaint twelve months ago, has by no means been entirely remedied. In the timber trade especially there has, it is pointed out, been delay during recent weeks at such ports as London, Hull, and West Hartlepool. In London dispatch has not been so slow as last year, and there is a prospect of fair dispatch being maintained. Moreover, the Port of London Authority has—so the Baltic Conference circular observes—a large improvement scheme in hand at the docks, where timber is discharged, on the lines suggested by the London Committee of the Chamber of Shipping's Port Facilities Committee. The report of the last-mentioned committee was referred to in the *Economist* of May 31st—four months ago—and the remark was then made that the part of the report dealing with our metropolitan port was apparently not complete. Despite the lapse of time, the official publication of this part of the report is still awaited, and having regard to the interest necessarily attaching to the views of the practical men on the committee, the long delay in issuing this remaining section of the report is much to be regretted. As to Hull, a state of serious congestion is reported in the Baltic Conference circular to have improved, but at West Hartlepool considerable congestion of wood carrying vessels was continuing, though not to the same extent as last year. A comparison is drawn between British and Continental ports, the facilities at the latter being stated to be such that

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
16, WALL STREET, NEW YORK
PARIS OFFICE
3 & 5, PLACE VENDOME
CABLE ADDRESS: BANKTRUST, PARIS

the maximum traffic in the timber trade, which is seasonal, can be dealt with, while at British ports the dock authority—in the two instances specially mentioned the London and North-Eastern Railway Company—provides only for the average timber traffic, or less than that. Though the railway company, as dock authority, is restricted in the new facilities which it can provide by the effect of the Railways Act, 1921—a point passed over by the Baltic Conference comment—the state of things to which attention is called is disquieting, and certainly the situation calls for close attention on the part of those concerned, with a view to bringing about such improvement as may be practicable.

The Revival in Homeward Freights.—The month now closing has been a very good one for shipowners. Late in August the demand for grain tonnage began to show more activity, but early in September the number of orders in circulation grew by leaps and bounds, and altogether a very large business has been recorded. Steamers have been wanted chiefly from Canada and the Northern Range-Gulf ports, and it is estimated that fully 150 vessels have been arranged for. This would represent about 4,750,000 quarters of grain, or 1,000,000 dead-weight tons of shipping. Bearing in mind the semi-stagnation that had been in evidence for such a long period, this is a really satisfactory development, and British steamers have secured the bulk of the business. The U.S. Shipping Board decided early in the month to put an extra ten steamers into the grain trade from the Gulf of Mexico, and some of them have been taken up by charterers for carrying grain to Hamburg. The freight money paid is 19 cents per 100 lbs, but in view of the heavy cost of working this State-owned tonnage, it is hardly likely that the voyages will pay, whereas vessels in private ownership are coming out on present market rates. There has been a steady upward movement in freights. Grain from Montreal to the Continent, which was no better than 13 to 14 cents per 100 lbs last month, has risen to 17 cents Antwerp-Rotterdam and 18 cents Hamburg. Steamers can be placed for Sweden at 23 cents, and from the Northern Range 15½ to 16 cents is quoted to the Antwerp-Rotterdam range and 17 cents to Hamburg-Bremen. This steady absorption of tonnage for grain has cleared a lot of stale shipping from the markets and given a firmer tone to the general situation. Steamer space for October is already becoming very scarce, and shipowners are confident that they can maintain their position. In the East all loading centres report a shortage of tonnage, and the Australian market has been keenly interested in steamer space for the new crop wheat. The Mediterranean and Bay ports have been rather quiet, but rates are hardening a little, and there is a fair demand for Continental discharge. The oil tanker market is now showing more interest, and several tank steamers have been fixed from the Gulf to this side at 27s. The cut in the price of bunker fuel oil will help shipowners working oil-burning tonnage after the present contracts have expired. A feature has been the keen demand for tonnage for German coal from Antwerp-Rotterdam. The outward coal market from this country is also a little better, with a good demand for South America. British merchant shipping is thus better employed, and all freights show a very fair improvement on the month. Thus the autumn shipping season has started very well, and in well-informed quarters a continuance of the demand for steamer tonnage for European discharge is looked for right up to the close of the year.

Scottish-American and Tankers.—The accounts of Tankers, Limited, for the year ended March 31st last show a profit of £3,800, after paying the interest on the mortgages in favour of the builders amounting to £51,100. This raises the balance at credit of profit and loss account to £66,600. The balance-sheet is still in a state which calls for comment. The first item—the cost of steamers, at £3,861,719—conveys little to us. It is stated that depreciation has been written off to March 31, 1921, to the extent of £60,000. This brings the item down to £3,801,719. We think that the investing public would be glad to know the exact market value of those steamers. The phrase, "including adjustment for cancellation of

two other vessels," is ambiguous unless we are shown what the cancelled order cost the company. The auditors are cautious in giving their certificate. They state that "no provision has been made for depreciation on steamers, tugs, and barges for the year ended March 31, 1924," and that, "in our view the aggregate value of the investments is considerably less than the figure appearing in the balance-sheet." These investments appear as £1,019,313. Incidentally, steamers are mortgaged to secure bills amounting to £1,129,375. The directors state that they are of opinion that the "fleet is too highly valued, and should be written down to approximately replacement value." They also intimate that investments are being carried at "too high a valuation," and state that proposals have been formulated for capital reconstruction; they will be submitted to the shareholders for consideration. We welcome this belated announcement. The ordinary shares of Tankers, Limited, are held by the Scottish-American Oil and Transport Company, Limited. This latter company has just issued its report and accounts. These are succinct; ordinary shares at par in Tankers, Limited, amount to £1,196,964. This sum also is the figure of share capital of the holding company. Cash in hand is shown as £2,011, as against a reserve of £2,000 and creditors, £11. Simple accounts, but subject to a change when reconstruction takes place.

Union Cold Storage.—The remarkable progress made during the past decade by the Union Cold Storage Company continues to be upheld in the latest accounts to hand. Here are figures of profits and distribution covering a period of years:—

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Gross profits	£ 137,094	£ 293,424	£ 306,360	£ 467,393	£ 558,785	£ 581,589	£ 726,904
Deb. interest, &c.	31,727	62,333	58,133	74,118	85,423	85,423	72,830
Net profit	105,367	231,091	248,227	395,275	473,362	496,166	654,074
Brought forward	23,806	46,454	61,066	71,717	87,497	104,028	109,922
Reserve & depreciation ..	126,173	276,545	299,293	466,992	571,496	602,194	763,996
Prof. dividend	43,185	76,679	78,771	87,539	108,687	133,472	138,826
Ord. dividend	46,109	118,800	118,800	281,556	328,800	328,800	395,830
Carry forward	36,879	51,066	71,716	87,497	104,028	109,922	127,840

As will be observed, the 10 per cent. distribution on ordinary capital is maintained, in spite of the fact that the ordinary capital is now £1,000,000, as against £300,000 a year ago. Nor are these figures the full story. In addition to the sum of £138,826 transferred to depreciation reserve and recorded above, there has been further reserve £75,000, and to reserve for equalisation of dividends £125,000, being a surplus resulting from sale of investments. The premium of £82,500 arising from the issue of preference shares has also been placed to reserve. The balance-sheet analysed in another column records some extraordinary changes, which no doubt many of us understand. But a few words in the directors' report might enlighten others not so well versed in these matters. The assets are up from £15,225,590 to £22,314,308, while share capital, which in the previous accounts stood at £4,780,000, is now £8,780,000.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The impression that the report for 1923-24 of this important Kaffir finance house would make a good showing, proves to have been well founded. The net profit amounts to nearly three-quarters of a million sterling, as against a little over half a million in respect of the preceding period. Enhanced receipts from the company's extensive gold and diamond interests include the special distribution of 2s per share made by the Randfontein Estate Company before its absorption of the Central undertaking. In considering the dividend question the directors have obviously realised the desirability of strengthening the cash position of the company. Accordingly £150,000 is transferred to reserve, increasing that entry to £400,000, and the dividend is raised by 2½ per cent. to the record total on the present capital of 15 per cent., tax free. Even now the cash surplus shown does not fully cover the dividend. The principal features of the balance-sheet are the increase in the "stocks and

shares" item, and the disappearance of the "loans to South African companies"—the one, no doubt, being largely a corollary of the other. Cash shows a large increase, and creditors a substantial reduction. Appended is a summary of the accounts for the past three years:—

	1922.	June 30, 1923.	1924.
Stocks and shares	3,930,960	3,666,030	4,036,270
Mining properties and advances ..	282,390	393,110	272,660
Real estate and buildings	407,150	388,590	357,410
Loans on mortgage	158,860	141,230	197,050
to S.A. companies	342,870	284,340	150,720
at short call	219,260	390,280	..
Sundry debtors and dividends	426,670	305,880	358,440
Cash	96,850	369,560	608,970
Sundry creditors	1,213,890	1,079,580	869,630
Net profit	273,990	503,840	746,250
Dividend	296,250	493,750	592,500
Rate per cent., tax free	7½%	12½%	15%
To reserve	..	..	150,000
Carried forward	162,150	172,240	175,990

Two interesting items of information are given with reference to the subsidiary companies. One is the intimation that the New State Areas is expected to reach the dividend stage next year. Another, that the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company has recently leased from the Government a considerable number of Knights Deep claims, "which will substantially add to the life of the mine." With reference to the company's interests broadly, the directors state that the gold produced by the group in the twelve months ended June 30th last reached the record total of £11,000,000. Moderate profits continue to be earned by the coal properties. As to the position of the diamond industry, those interested directly or indirectly will note with satisfaction that the improvement in the demand for the stones is "well maintained," with the feature of a good demand of late for American account. Unfortunately, the sales of rough stones continue to be affected by the offers of cut diamonds from Russia. Various posts which have become vacant are not being filled, doubtless with a view to economy. On the basis of the past year's dividend "Johnnies" shares give the attractive yield of rather over 8½ per cent., tax free.

Modder East.—The report just issued by this Far Eastern Rand proposition may be regarded as marking the end of a particular régime. Since the date to which the accounts are made up the finances have been reorganised, and a new programme is in process of performance. Harking back a little, it may be recalled that some two years ago the decision was taken to deal only with the higher-grade material—this for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of the debentures. As a result, the year's profit jumped up from £37,700 to £262,250. Last year a very natural reaction occurred, the working surplus figuring at £151,700. At the end of June last only £40,000 remained of the original debenture issue, and this has since been repaid. One important point in the position is that the company has hitherto crushed at a hired mill, the scale of operations being thereby restricted and the costs increased. To provide the company with a plant of its own, and cover the necessary incidental expenses, an issue has been made of £465,465 6½ per cent. debentures, until the end of 1928, and convertible into shares at par; at the same time the capital was scaled down to a corresponding amount. As the outcome of last year's work the ore reserves were lightly increased in quantity, their value being maintained. It appears that the new plant is to be of the "all-sliming" variety, and should be completed by the end of 1925. Until it starts, the shareholders must make up their minds for a reduction in the earnings.

A Free Trade Conference.—Under the auspices of the International Committee to Promote Universal Free Trade, an International Conference will be held at the Caxton Hall, on September 29th, and the two following days. The proceedings will be opened by an introductory paper by Sir George Paish, in support of the following resolution:—"That the removal of the existing high tariff barriers is essential to that great expansion of international trade needed to maintain the solvency of the greater part of the world, and to permit of the liquidation

of the vast international debts existing between all nations, and specially between the nations of Europe." Among the papers to be read and discussed are, "The Influence of Restrictions on Trade in Rendering Difficult the Payment of International Debts," by M. Yves-Guyot; "International Indebtedness in the American Tariff," by Mr F. W. Hirst; and "Steps Towards International Free Trade," by Dr Edoardo Giretti.

THE annual dinner of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution will be held at the Hotel Cecil, London, on November 4th.

THE London School of Economics announces public lectures on "The Study of International Politics," by Philip Noel Baker, M.A., on October 7th; on "The Place of Industrial Law in English Jurisprudence," by the Right Hon. Sir Henry Slessor, K.C., H.M. Solicitor-General, on October 10th; and on "Sources of the Law," by Edward Jenks, M.A., D.C.L., on October 15th. The lectures are at 5.30 p.m. Admission free and without ticket.

Oversea Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS—THE DRAFT PROTOCOL AND THE DISCUSSIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, September 23.

THE completed proposals in the form of a Protocol drawn up by a sub-committee are now before the Armaments Committee of the Assembly, and the public discussion began yesterday afternoon. The straightforward explanation given by Mr Henderson puts to rest the many misunderstandings which have been spread abroad during the private discussions of the Sub-Committee, and the position is now clear.

What is first of all important to emphasise is that this Protocol is now subject to detailed discussion in the Armaments Committee, which has to present its final report to the full Assembly. After the Assembly has taken its decision, the Protocol is then subject to the consideration of the Governments of States, members and non-members of the League, and to ratification by the Parliaments. The International Conference on the Reduction of Armaments, provisionally fixed for June 15th next year, is not to take place (at any rate on that date), unless three of the permanent members of the Council and 12 other States have ratified, and even so, the Protocol is not to come into force until a scheme for the reduction of armaments has been agreed upon by the Conference. If the reduction plan agreed upon is not subsequently executed, the Protocol lapses, the conditions of non-execution to be settled by the Conference itself. This surely provides sufficient safeguards to prevent any country from being rushed into exaggerated commitments; the British Delegation have made it clear beyond cavil that they regard the proposals as absolutely indivisible, and that such undertakings as they have given depend entirely upon an agreed plan for reduction of armaments. It is thus obvious, as Mr Henderson showed, that even when approved and ratified, the Protocol will be no more than a beginning. Disarmament is incomparably the most difficult task to which any assembly of nations can set its hand, and if and when the Protocol comes into force there will still be difficulties of every kind to overcome. At the same time, its adoption will have opened a new vista of social progress unequalled in history.

The Protocol is a remarkable document, and whatever the ultimate consequences may be, it will be hard for the members of the League to go back on it. The first stage is an attempt to provide satisfactory means by which international disputes of every kind can be peacefully settled. It includes adhesion to the compulsory jurisdiction clause of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, with or without reservations, and all that is implied by the British reservation is that in fighting for the maintenance of the Covenant Britain will

not lay herself open during such operations to compulsory jurisdiction on her maritime methods. In this respect Britain changes nothing; she simply declines to go further in the way of compulsory jurisdiction.

This clause of the Court Statute applies to justiciable questions only. There are further provisions by which every dispute not taken, under this clause or by agreement of the parties, before the Court, is to be settled by arbitration. These provisions are intended to complete the Covenant by removing cases in which resort to war is permitted. As hitherto, disputes which do not go to the Court will in the first case be dealt with by the Council. If the Council fails to secure settlement, an effort is made to persuade the parties to agree on an arbitral tribunal. If this effort fails, and one party is willing, an arbitral tribunal is nevertheless to be set up either by eventual agreement between the parties or by the Council itself. If neither of the parties desires arbitration the Council is to continue to deal with the matter itself, and if its decisions are unanimous they are to be accepted and carried out. If the Council fails to reach unanimity it is then obliged to submit the matter to an arbitral tribunal nominated by itself and the members of the League undertake to accept and to execute the award given.

What follows if any State fails to execute the award, or resorts to war? It is not proposed that the carrying out of an award shall be imposed upon a recalcitrant State by force. What happens is that the Council, as at present, will propose (according to the provisions of Article 13 of the Covenant), the means by which the execution of the decision may be obtained. The belief is that the immense moral pressure of the League as a whole will be sufficient. If the second case arises, namely, if a State resorts to war against an award, the Protocol does not go beyond what is already stated or implied in the Covenant. Financial and economic sanctions remain obligatory upon members of the League, and for the rest the States undertake to give "loyal and effective co-operation" in support of the Covenant. As Mr Henderson put it: "We are determined to join hands and assist each other loyally and effectively in punishing an aggressor. It is obviously altogether impossible to foresee the exact contingency which may arise. The extent of the co-operation must depend upon the actual circumstances. . . . But it would be no use to bind ourselves to do a variety of things which may not be required. We must and can rely on the good faith of the members of the League to decide themselves how their effective co-operation can best be given if and when the necessity arises." That is to say, the economic and financial blockade, coupled with an undertaking to take measures to ensure the safety of communications for a victim of properly defined aggression, and to enable it to receive raw materials and supplies, are definite, and detailed proposals are to be worked out by the League organisations as to how such measures are to be co-ordinated and carried out. The armed forces to be employed if recommended by the Council are still to be left to the discretion of the States' members themselves, who may, if they choose, inform the Council beforehand of the forces they would be prepared to subscribe in such an event. There is no idea, and never has been any idea, of placing troops or ships at the disposal of the Council to use as they think fit. "There is no intention whatever," as Mr Henderson put it, "of converting the Council of the League into a council of war, and imposing upon it the burden of conducting military campaigns or naval operations." In this connection partial treaties may be accepted by the Council as falling within the general scheme. They are to be registered and published by the League; they are to be open for signature to any State, and their coming into operation is to be absolutely dependent upon the declaration by the League that such and such a State is the aggressor. This arrangement is frankly regarded by the French as a transitory one, and in any event the arrangement does seem to remove the essential objections to partial treaties. Encouragement is given to the establishment of demilitarised zones, and provisions are made for some kind of investigation and control, if necessary, during the period of arbitration.

These are the main outlines of the scheme. Assuming

that all goes well, the ultimate consideration is whether these provisions as they stand will secure the reduction of armaments upon which their coming into force depends. It also raises the other problem as to whether they consolidate unreasonable treaty conditions now in existence. Both are difficult questions to answer, but there are some who consider that the arbitration proposals themselves, with the sanctions, which do not, strictly speaking, go beyond the Covenant, are well worth putting into force, even if they do not immediately result in reduction of armaments. The experiment in trial might be counted upon to increase the sense of security of the States of Europe, and gradually and naturally lead to progressive reduction of armaments. To many, the tightening up of the peaceful procedure methods of the Covenant is a far greater step towards peace than any of the other provisions, for it is fundamentally the peaceful settlement of outstanding political questions and the development of a new political outlook which govern armaments.

Would the proposals consolidate the unreasonable features of the Peace Treaties? It is natural to suppose that Court or arbitration tribunal consideration of any such questions would have as their basis the properly ratified treaties, but that does not necessarily mean consolidation. What it means is what is already implied in the Covenant by the famous Article 10, namely, that no State is entitled to satisfy its aspirations by warlike action. The Covenant provides for the possible reconsideration of inapplicable treaties, and it is obvious that such adjustments must be done gradually as the States of Europe approach more reasonable relations and a saner political outlook. In any case, would it not be utterly impossible in these days to come to any international arrangement involving the possibility of a general reconsideration of all the Peace Treaties? Not only would it be unacceptable, but it would probably be a very great danger to the peace of the world. Such things must be dealt with as and when opportunity arises, and step by step with the development of a truer realisation of the necessities of international life. It is a curious thing that those who express anxieties, not always friendly, lest too great a burden may be placed upon the shoulders of the League, should so frequently be those who also suggest that the League should undertake the tremendous task of revising the Peace Treaties. It would be the surest way of killing it with one fell blow, and of creating chaos.

However, it is no use being blind to the fact that momentous considerations are raised by the discussions now going on, and not the least useful result should be to turn people's minds to a closer appreciation of the problems at issue. It has already brought some exalted minds at least to read the Covenant, and to find in it problems they had never before envisaged. We are getting down to business.

UNITED STATES.—MORE FOREIGN LOANS—CROP YIELDS—AUGUST FOREIGN TRADE—U.S. STEEL'S ORDERS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 16.

DURING the past fortnight additional foreign loans have been floated in this market. The proceeds from three of the new offerings will be used for European railroad construction or improvements. The largest of these issues consisted of \$10,000,000 Paris-Orleans Railroad Company 7 per cent. external sinking fund gold bonds, due 1954—with one exception the biggest dollar issue of French railroad bonds ever placed in the American market. The bonds were priced to investors at 92½ to yield over 7.60 per cent. According to advices received by the bankers, the railroad company is electrifying 430 miles of track, this work to be completed in 1927. The company's entire electrification project, it is understood, will cover some 2,450 miles of track, and is said to be the largest ever undertaken. The French Government guarantees to provide, if necessary, funds sufficient to enable the railroad company to pay interest on these bonds, and to set aside sinking funds to retire the whole issue by maturity. Another flotation consisted of \$3,000,000 seven-months' 6 per cent. Treasury gold notes of Yugoslavia, maturing

March 31, 1925, which were offered at par and accrued interest. The third foreign loan mentioned was secured by the Paris-Orleans and Mediterranean Railroad Company of France, which borrowed \$2,200,000 from a group of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston banks. The advance was made by these institutions through the purchase of the railroad's six-months' 5½ per cent. collateral notes, secured by deposit of its 10-year notes. As in the case of the Paris-Orleans bonds, interest and sinking fund payments on these notes are guaranteed by the French Government. Among other foreign loans recently marketed here was an issue of \$5,000,000 Government of Argentina six-months' 4 per cent. Treasury gold notes, due March 1, 1925, offered at par. Further flotations for the account of various foreign interests are likely to be announced in the near future, but interest here centres largely in the prospective German loan. In banking quarters, it is hoped that the German loan will be brought out before long, in order to take advantage of the highly favourable conditions now existing in the American investment market, which may possibly become somewhat less favourable when domestic business and other requirements assume larger proportions than at present.

During August most crops in this country showed further improvement, with the result that the September 1st report of the Department of Agriculture gave increased estimates of prospective yields. Corn was a conspicuous exception. The indicated loss in that crop was 63,000,000 bushels, bringing the promised yield down to 541,000,000 bushels, or 17 per cent. below that of 1923 from a somewhat larger acreage. The indicated spring-wheat yield, which was generally supposed to have increased considerably, gained only 22,000,000 bushels, according to the Government's estimate, although the total wheat crop now appears to be 837,000,000 bushels. This would be 144,000,000 bushels, or 20 per cent. more than was forecast on June 1st, and 51,000,000 bushels greater than a year ago on an 8 per cent. decrease in acreage. Oats gained 10,000,000 bushels, potatoes 14,000,000 bushels, and cotton 400,000 bales last month. The following summary of the Agricultural Department's September 1st report gives the indicated harvests in bushels this year and last, together with the size and date of record crops (000,000 being omitted):—

	Forecast 1924.	Crop 1923.	Past Records..	Year.
Winter wheat	589	572	760	1919
Spring wheat.....	247	213	356	1918
All wheat.....	837	786	1,025	1915
Oats.....	1,486	1,300	1,592	1917
Barley.....	194	198	256	1918
Rye.....	66	63	103	1922
Rice.....	32	33	52	1920
Corn.....	2,513	3,054	3,208	1920

Foreign trade returns for August, issued by the Department of Commerce, show that merchandise imports in that month were valued at \$270,000,000, as compared with \$275,437,993 for the same month of 1923, while exports had a total value of \$331,000,000, against \$310,900,000 approximately in August a year ago. Last month's increase in exports over July was apparently due mainly to the larger outward grain movement. While the excess of exports in August was not heavy, amounting to only \$61,000,000, it nevertheless exceeded the export surplus in that month of 1923 and 1922, and also in any year before the war. For the first eight months of this year exports have exceeded imports in value by nearly \$240,000,000, as against an import excess of some \$127,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1923. Last month's gold imports, \$18,100,000, were about one-half the average for the seven preceding months, and, in fact, the smallest for that month since 1920.

On August 31st unfilled orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation totalled 3,289,577 tons, as compared with 3,187,072 on July 31st, and 5,415,000 approximately at the end of August, 1923. The showing for August of this year is interesting and significant, because the gain of 102,505 tons over July 31st is the first increase in the total of unfinished business reported by the corporation at the close of any month since last February, when the aggregate of forward orders amounted to about 4,913,000 tons; from that total there

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

was a steady shrinkage each month until August, owing to the fact that the corporation's mills in that period operated largely on old orders, and shipments exceeded incoming business. The exhibit for the past month was far better than the trade and financial district had expected, and indicated that the volume of new business booked, particularly in the last half of August, was much larger than had been supposed. It is calculated that United States Steel operated last month on the average at about 56 per cent. of capacity, shipments approximating 750,000 tons for the month, and incoming business 850,000 tons. The corporation's plants are now said to be running at about 58 per cent. of capacity, and it is understood that new orders received since Labour Day (September 1st) have equalled, or slightly exceeded, production.

FRANCE.—BUDGET ESTIMATES—TAX EVASION MEASURES—COST OF LIVING PROPOSALS—PRICES—COAL OUTPUT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, September 24.

THE preparation of the Budget Estimates is now well advanced, and on Tuesday next the Finance Minister, M. Clementel, will appear before the Finance Commission of the Chamber for the purpose of explaining the main lines on which the Budget for 1925 will be based. It is now practically certain that the new Budget, for the first time for several years, will embody the whole of the permanent expenditure of the State, which for the coming year will be met solely by taxation and the normal Budget resources. The total amount of expenditure will be in the neighbourhood of 30,000,000,000, as compared with 29,659 millions (including both the "Ordinary" and "Recoverable" Budgets) in 1924, which involved an estimated deficit, it will be remembered, of 2,000 millions; 24,000 millions in 1923, 26,450 millions in 1922, 27,518 millions in 1921, and, in round figures, 5,000 millions in 1913. The Finance Minister has already pledged himself that the new Budget shall be balanced, if possible, independent of all payments that may be received during the year from Germany on Reparations account, and that any money that may be received under the operation of the Dawes plan shall be devoted exclusively to the reduction of the public debt.

The decree setting forth the regulations under which will operate the system known as the *bordereau de coupons*, which was designed by M de Lasteyrie for the purpose of preventing fiscal evasion, has just been published in the *Journal Officiel*, and is meeting with a good deal of fearful but hopeless criticism on the part of the large section of the public who object to any form of fiscal inquisition. The necessity for additional means to repress evasion of taxation in France, where practically every member of the body politic derives part of his income from investment, has long been obvious. It is notorious that a very large proportion of the income-tax declarations are grossly understated, and the new *bordereau de coupons* may be regarded as merely a first step in the direction of bringing about a stricter distribution of the nation's burden of taxation. The new system, to describe it as briefly as possible, institutes the provision of a personal and individual register, which must be produced by each person before he can be paid any interest that may have accrued in respect of any securities owned by him. This register must contain a list of the whole of the securities possessed by him, and a copy of the entries

therein must be inscribed in the books of the bank through which his interest is paid to him. The income-tax authorities have the right to call for the production of this register, for the purpose of comparing it with the holder's income-tax declarations. In principle, the *bordereau* must be produced before any interest coupon can be cashed.

The effort which the Government is now making to devise means to bring down the high cost of living—which so far as retail prices in France are concerned is expressed by an index figure of 366, as compared with 164 in Great Britain—has been received by the public in general almost with a feeling of apathy. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that, owing to the high wages and general prosperity at present prevailing, the high prices of commodities are not proving really onerous to the poorer classes. The crux of the situation is the high price of bread, which is now fixed, as stated recently, at the highest figure ever recorded in France. In this direction the Government has attempted to cope with the difficulty by fixing in each district the maximum price at which flour for breadmaking purposes may be sold. The weak spot in the proposal is that the price of flour obviously depends on the price of wheat, in regard to the fixing of which nothing has so far been done. Hence the net result of the new step has been that, whereas the bakers alone have hitherto been under the discipline of fixed prices, they have now been joined by the millers, and the wheat merchants, on whom both depend, are still, for all practical purposes, free to charge an excessive price. Owing to the advantage that has been taken of the circumstances attending the present shortage in the world's wheat crop, the reduction of the French import duty on wheat by 50 per cent. has had no appreciable effect on the situation of the miller, the baker, or the consumer. The thorniest portion of the problem lies in the disappointing prospects for this year's French wheat harvest. In view of the fact that the shortage is certain to be much more serious between now and the 1925 harvest, it is obvious that any question of fixing wheat prices is at present impossible.

The dominant principle of the Government's "cheaper food" policy, therefore, consists in taking steps to reduce consumption as much as possible. To this end it has been decreed that bakers shall close their shops one whole day every week, in the hope that the public will find stale bread less palatable, and eat less. In view of the high price of butcher's meat, the experiment of fostering the use of frozen beef and mutton (which has already proved more or less a failure here) is again to be attempted, and the suggestion is made that the Government shall itself import large quantities direct from the producing countries. The question of reducing transport rates, in order to furnish the public with cheaper fish, is also being studied. The import duties on cheese, hams, bacon, fresh pork, condensed milk, fresh and salt butter, oatmeal, and preserved vegetables are to be reduced to their pre-war rates, by the suppression of the co-efficients (varying from 2 to 2.5) that were applied to them after the war to render them consistent with post-war commodity prices. The high prices which the public is now prepared to pay for meat, and the increased consumption of this form of nourishment that has been registered since the war, are advanced as explanations of the fact that in many parts of the country land which was formerly devoted to wheat-growing is now being utilised for grazing purposes.

The index figure for wholesale prices for August, which has now been published by the *Statistique Générale*, is returned as 487, as compared with 491 at the end of July, and 475 at the end of June (the base being 100, representing wholesale prices in July, 1914). The detailed figures are as follows:—

Classification.	No. of Categories.	August.	July.	June.
General index number	45	487	491	475
Foodstuffs, general figure	20	431	436	428
Vegetable foods	8	408	416	421
Animal foods	8	427	423	406
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	4	492	514	492
Raw materials, general figure	25	536	539	517
Minerals and metals	7	474	479	456
Textiles	6	672	677	650
Various	12	491	493	474

The retail prices index figure for Paris for August, covering 13 categories of common necessity (all of which, with the exception of petroleum, are of French origin), is returned as 366 (on the base of 100 in 1914), as compared with 360 in July and 370 in June. The drop in July was due for the most part to the fall in the price of potatoes. These Paris figures do not cover rent, clothing, or heating and lighting. The index figures representing the expenditure of a workman's family of four persons (as drawn up by the regional committees which are outside the control of the administration, and given under all reserve by the Statistical Department), including food, lighting, heating, rent, clothing, and sundries, are returned for Paris (for the second quarter of 1924) at 366.

The returns indicating the output of the French collieries during July, which are now available, show that the total amount of coal produced during the 26 working days in the month was 3,784,079 tons, as compared with 3,496,496 tons for the 24 working days of June. The total daily output in July averaged 145,541 tons, as compared with 144,680 tons in January, 1924; 128,592 tons in January, 1923; and a monthly average of 136,147 tons in 1913. These figures do not include the output of the Lorraine collieries, which during July furnished an additional output of 17,356 tons per working day, bringing the daily average for the whole country up to 162,899 tons.

GERMANY.—LEAGUE OF NATIONS—FINANCES—CREDIT—PRICE MEASURES—NEW TARIFF—INDUSTRY—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 23.

THE Cabinet to-day issued a communication on the League of Nations question which brings matters little forward, inasmuch as it declares only in principle for joining. A declaration in principle against joining was, of course, not to be expected. It is understood that the feelers put out in London as to the granting of Germany's conditions did not result fully satisfactorily—or definitely. The communication merely says that Germany "aspires" (*erstrebt*) to join the League, and that in this she starts from the assumption that the questions handled by the League—the protection of minorities, regulation of Saar district conditions, and general disarmament in connection with the execution of the military control—will be dealt with under German collaboration, Germany's collaboration to be that of a Great Power with equal rights. The communication does not specifically say that Germany must be a member of the Council, and the wording seems to be purposely vague. The Foreign Ministry is to inquire from the members in the League whether "the necessary guarantees" for a German application for membership will be given.

The French adoption of the Reparations Recovery Act provokes much opposition, and newspapers state that it will be the subject of a protest. The position of England in this matter is quite different, though the British reversion to 26 per cent. was also not liked here. It is not possible to say how far the Ultimatum Settlement of May, 1921, with which the plan started, is still valid; but it cannot be held to be valid where it conflicts with the Dawes Settlement; and this settlement provides a method of Reparations collection which is inconsistent with the 26 per cent. deduction by France. The transfer system, a particular and vital feature of the settlement, is prejudiced; and there is nothing to prevent all Reparations-claiming countries imitating France, and wrecking the transfer system altogether. The Hansa Bund declares that the extension of the 26 per cent. system to France means a reduction in Germany's exchange incomings from the first of 300-350 million gold marks a year, and holds that the Transfer Commission should itself intervene in defence of its functions.

The Cabinet announces an abatement of taxes for such

farmers as suffered a loss of more than 50 per cent. of their crops. All the chief industrial, trading, and banking associations have petitioned the Government to reduce the tax on capital issues beyond the reduction reported last week, also the transfer stamp duty on dividend securities, and to abolish altogether the tax on sales and purchases of exchange. The first of these reductions is championed with the argument that the coming increases of company capital will be necessary in order to replenish the gold capital of industrial concerns as soon as the real position of these is divulged by the gold-mark balance-sheets now under preparation. Even after the conceded reductions, German Bourse taxes are much higher than foreign. It is reported that the Government intends to institute a Post-Office Savings Bank system.

Credit conditions continue to improve. The Gold Discount Bank has reduced its rate from 10 to 8 per cent. In announcing this, the Reichsbank president expressed doubt whether the Reichsbank's rate can be reduced within visible time. The increase of Gold Discount Bank credits, however, does not threaten the mark currency, and the demand, measured by the resources of the bank, is small. In London there have been, so far, no rediscounts, and in New York and Switzerland only small sums, totalling not more than 10 million gold marks. The Reichsbank has a very large holding (amount, however, unstated) of exchange, and has taken over 100 million gold marks of Gold Discount Bank bills. The "Other Assets" of the Reichsbank, which contain exchange holdings, increased from 212 million gold marks on April 7th to 937 millions on September 15th, and on August 7th reached a high point of 993 millions. The Reichsbank announces that in buying foreign bills it will no longer charge 2 per cent. over the bank rate of the foreign country in which the bills are payable, but only the foreign country's rate, in so far as that is 5 per cent. or higher.

The official wholesale index number rose in the week Sept. 9th-16th from 124.7 to 128.6. The "Frankfurter Zeitung's" wholesale index for the 18th shows 134.27, and the "Berliner Tageblatt's" for the 17th 132.6. The former journal's index number for food is 131.11, textiles and leather 169.36, minerals 123.89, miscellaneous 118.48, manufactured articles 138.76. Breadstuff prices have continued to rise. The official policy of facilitating credit is criticised in some quarters as unlikely (in view of its possible effect on circulation) to attain the announced aim of bringing down prices, though it has been proved that the enormously high interest rates of the summer kept prices up. The Minister of Industry announces that the policy of lowering prices must be continued. The Association of Employers states that social burdens on industry (insurance, &c.) now amount to 8.7 per cent. of wages, against 4.3 per cent. before the war. Wages themselves are a proportionately smaller factor in production cost. The Reichswirtschaftsrat's enquiry shows that in cotton-spinning they are 42.7 per cent., against 63 per cent. in 1914, in wool-weaving 8.8 per cent., against 15.5 per cent., shirt-making 19 per cent., against 29 per cent., men's clothing 15 per cent., against 18.3 per cent.

The new tariff in connection with the negotiations for Commercial Treaties with Ally questions is being discussed. Manufacturers as a whole have no very clear policy. As the 1902-6 autonomous tariff is based on weight, the rise in gold prices is naturally adduced as a reason for an all-round increase, apart from changes necessary for particular classes of goods. Some of the High-Protectionists make extravagant demands, citing the rise in gold prices, the higher production cost, the higher interest rates, the higher transport rates, and the innovation of the Sales Tax as separate good reasons, though all are properly included in the first. The tariff now under consideration is sharply criticised by all except High-Protectionists. The project submitted by the Government to the Reichswirtschaftsrat in June provided for summary increases of the pre-war duties by between 30 and 80 per cent., but this was unanimously rejected on the ground that a specialised, not a summary, reform of the tariff was necessary. The new plan, this week before the

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

ENQUIRIES INVITED ON ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS IN

RESPECT OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS.

ADVANCES MADE ON APPROVED SECURITY.

SECURITIES PURCHASED OR UNDERWRITTEN.

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

Reichswirtschaftsrat, imposes very high duties, also more or less schematically. Rates for luxuries are enormously, sometimes seven-fold increased; certain fish, now duty free, have duties of 50 gold marks a double-centner. But also the rates for many necessities are greatly increased, and some at present duty-free chemicals have rates of 100 gold marks per double-centner; for certain alkaloids also now duty-free, even 1,000 gold marks. For textiles the proposed duties are about 100 to 200 per cent. above the present. Heavy rates are imposed on internal-combustion motors. For a net weight of 25 kilogs or under is a duty of 400 gold marks per double-centner; net weight, 25 kilogs to 3 double-centners, 350 gold marks per double-centner; over 3 double-centners, 250 gold marks per double-centner. For motor-cars with a net weight of 22 double-centners or under, the duty is 300 gold marks per double-centner; weight 22 to 32 double-centners, 200 gold marks per double-centner; over 32 double-centners, 150 gold marks per double-centner. The rate for motor-cycles is 350 gold marks per double-centner. The avowed aim of the new tariff is, of course, to supply means of pressure upon foreign countries; but it seems that the proposals have frightened some foreigners—the *Vossische Zeitung* states that as a result of it Belgium proposes to postpone the putting into force of her relatively favourable tariff for Germany. The Reichswirtschaftsrat passed a resolution to-day in a sense contrary to the above proposals. "International trade," runs the resolution, "has in many countries taken a High-Protectionist character since the war. This system is contrary to the exigencies of the international exchange of commodities. It has diminished the consuming power of the world-market and increased unemployment in all countries. For the restoration of international economic relations it is necessary that this High-Protection system be replaced by a trade policy in the sense of the unanimous resolution of the Genoa Conference, facilitating international trade. The Reichswirtschaftsrat, therefore, demands that in the coming Commercial Treaty negotiations the Government shall proceed on basis of moderate Protection. . . . As before the war the Commercial Treaties must be on the basis of general and unqualified Most-Favoured National treatment."

The foreign trade balance in August was again active, by an amount provisionally stated at between 120 and 140 million gold marks, as against an active balance—the first of the year—of 17 million gold marks in July. Details have not yet been published.

Stocks last week about maintained their level, and were yesterday a little higher, but to-day again weak. Discussion on, and agitation in favour of, partial restoration of municipal loans proceeds actively, and it seems likely that something will be done. Advocates, however, all submit schemes carefully devised to prevent foreign buyers making profits. The City Treasurer of Berlin recommends that only persons who held bonds at the close of 1919 should be compensated, they being easy to trace owing to the Capital Flight Law provision that interest on bonds should be paid only if the bonds were deposited in a bank. At the same time, the need for borrowing abroad is urged as a reason why the municipalities should restore their reputations for honesty. German municipal bonds were mostly bought by foreigners in 1920, and the plan is to prevent these foreigners getting any compensation, while Germans will get some. This is inexcusable, because, as the *Frankfurter Zeitung* points out, the cities have enormous income-earning properties, including not only the ordinary public utilities, but also lands and industries from which their taxpayers enjoy the benefits. Practically all these properties were acquired at the cost of outside lenders. At present municipal bonds sell as high as 6 per cent. of their nominal gold value; those of South German cities at 8 to 10 per cent.

HOLLAND.—OPENING OF PARLIAMENT—BUDGET OF 1925—THE NEED FOR ECONOMY—NEW TAXES—DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, September 20.

THE third Tuesday in September is always an important day for the Netherlands. On that day the new session of Parliament is opened, when the policy for the coming year is outlined. At the same time the Budget estimates for the coming year are submitted. Both events this year were of particular interest, primarily because the present Government will be exposed to a general election during the coming year; secondly, because there was an eagerness to know how far the policy of economy and new taxes had influenced the new Budget.

As to the general situation, the Government gave as their opinion that the economic crisis has reached its worst point, and that a slight improvement in trade, agriculture, and industry is noticeable. New bills were announced in the domain of finance, to which reference is made below, also in that of social insurance and of the navy. As to the financial situation, the Government hold out the prospect that, if the new financial bills become operative, the ordinary expenditures and receipts for the year 1925 will balance.

The deficits or surpluses of the ordinary service for the preceding years have been as follows (in million guilders):—

	(Deficit —, surplus +.)
1914	10.1
1915	15.5
1916	20.2
1917	36.3
1918	4.3
1919	22.2
1920	0.7
1921	12.8
1922	33.2
1923	49.1
1924	(Preliminary figures.)

For 1924 the deficit was originally estimated at 64.3 million florins. In the meantime various measures have been taken for reducing the deficit, among others the increase of the excise on beer, the introduction of an import duty on beer and tea, and a tax on bicycles.

On the expenditure side the reduction of salaries of civil servants has reduced the original figures. It is expected that as a result of these measures the deficit will be decreased by 20 million florins. There then still remains a deficit of about 44 million florins. The Minister of Finance expects the receipts from taxes to exceed the estimate by 20 millions. Thus the entire deficit for 1924 will decrease to about 24 million florins. Very probably the estimate of the Minister, however, has been made with great caution. The receipts from taxation, expected by the Minister to be for the entire year 1924 20 million florins more than the estimate, have for the first eight months already surpassed the estimate by 23 million florins (there has been received 287.6 million florins, as against an estimate of 264.6 million florins), so that the total deficit for 1924 will in all probability shrink still more.

The estimate for 1925 shows the following expenditures. At the same time the increase or the decrease for the various headings is shown, in comparison with the estimate for 1924:—

Accounts.	Ordinary Service.		
	In Guilders.	More.	Less.
1. The Royal House	1,625,000	..	75,000
2. General Directorate	1,929,201.96	..	111,100.53
3. Foreign Affairs	4,101,118	..	179,981
4. Justice	27,278,833.50	..	1,048,023.50
5. Interior Affairs and Agriculture	20,227,478	4,180,823	..
5A. Instruction, Art, and Sciences	143,999,074	..	11,017,890
6. Navy	42,574,617	..	2,033,609
7. Netherlands Debt	107,370,340.05	14,058,205.50	..
7A. Finance	63,081,768.37	342,877.18	..
8. War	58,902,579	..	2,795,567
9. Public Works	88,189,680	..	15,003,176
10. Labour, Commerce, and Industry	40,294,239	..	1,308,148
11. Colonies	5,636,099	..	467,750
12. Sundries	50,000	..	..
Less	605,260,027.88	18,581,905.68	34,040,245.03
	..	..	15,458,339.35

Against this total of 605.2 million florins, the receipts are estimated at 590.0 million florins, which is 31.3 million florins more than the estimate for 1924.

From this consequently a deficit of about 15 million florins is to be figured. It must, however, be noted that from January 1st next a further reduction of salaries of civil servants will become operative, of which no account has as yet been taken. Further, the postal service will in all probability supply an increased income, so that the total deficit drops to about 8 million florins. On the other hand, the Government subsidy for old age insurance amounting to about 12 million florins must be added, so that the final deficit will amount to 20 million florins. To cover this deficit two financial bills have been attached, namely, the Tariff law, and the increased excise on tobacco; from both measures together the Government expects to obtain the entire amount of 20 million florins.

If everything goes off as expected the Budget for 1925 will balance. This, however, does not mean that conditions are now in a perfect and healthy state. The Minister himself points out the normal and unavoidable increase in various expenditures. The pension burden for 1924, e.g., has been 4 million florins higher than in 1923, and this will again be 5 million florins higher in 1925 than in 1924. Furthermore, the sharp increase in the service of the Netherlands debt is attracting attention. More serious, however, is the fact that the balancing of the Budget has been obtained on a much too high level of expenditure. In 1913 the expenditures amounted to 197.5 million florins, in 1920 they had risen to 613 million florins, in 1922 to 630.8 million florins (the top), and since then have been reduced only very gradually to the present amount of 605.2 million florins. That means that the Budget now stands on a level only slightly under that of the "boom" period. First and foremost, therefore, it is necessary to strive to reduce the expenditures, the more so because the burden of taxation has become much too heavy a drain on new capital resources. Exact comparative figures for taxation are so far only known for 1921. They then, however, already amounted to 139.20 florins per head of population, as against 33.24 florins in 1910. In that period, therefore, they increased more than four-fold, and since then the increase has continued. The Minister is, however, seeking the remedy only in changing the burden of direct taxation to indirect taxation. In this connection the above-mentioned tariff bill and the bill for the excise-increase on tobacco are deserving of note. Moreover, a tax on luxuries is to be proposed. The proportion between indirect and direct taxes will therefore be altered in favour of the latter.

According to the "Memorandum on Public Finance," issued by the League of Nations in July, 1923, the relation of direct and indirect taxation in Holland and Great Britain is as follows:—

Country.	Percentages.	
	Direct Taxes.	Indirect Taxes.
The Netherlands	52	48
Great Britain	58	42

These figures show the situation as it was before it was decided to increase the taxes on tea and on beer in the Netherlands, and to reduce the taxes on sugar, tea, and dried fruits in Great Britain. The percentage of indirect taxation must, therefore, be increased considerably for the Netherlands, and decreased for England. After the adoption of the new tariff bill, and the increase of the excise duty on tobacco, the comparison will show a still stronger divergency.

ARGENTINA.—NATIONAL FINANCE—RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT—LAND LEGISLATION—GENERAL CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, August 25.

HIGHLY satisfactory though the current year has proved for every form of Argentine production, yields being heavy and prices high, there is, nevertheless, a widespread feeling of uncertainty, which, if traced to its original source, would appear to arise from the growing realisation that until the national finances are set in good order on a permanent foundation, business cannot be considered safe from disagreeable surprises. The fault lies with

Congress rather than with the Executive Power, which has done much in the shape of introducing new measures still awaiting discussion by the legislators. A quorum is rarely obtainable in either the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies, and the same studied indifference to the affairs of the nation is shown by the Parliamentary committees appointed to report on the respective measures coming within their particular province. Thus the committee on legislation, though 14 times convened during the actual session, has never met as yet, while considerable doubt is expressed as to whether the Budget Committee have so much as considered the 1924 figures, presumably because the 1923 Budget was prorogued until such time as the 1924 Committee Report was passed by the Deputies, or, failing that, until the end of the current financial year. The Minister of Finance has just published the Budget estimates for 1925 as covering the outlay of the various Ministries. Ordinary expenditure is put at \$588,316,787 paper, with a further amount to be met by bonds, &c., for \$76,865,181 paper. A total of 665 millions rather belies the much-announced intention of the Government to insist on economy, but, indeed, one cannot well see where, outside the horde of bureaucratic appointments, real economy can be effected. The Republic is progressing in so many directions, and the duties that fall upon the national authorities have increased so much, in complexity as in extent, of recent years that they cannot go back on anything they have undertaken. Public works, education, transport and roads, port and harbour facilities, the administration of justice and the correction of crime, immigration and intensive development of the natural wealth of their immense territory; these, and a hundred other worthy objects must go forward, as every Argentine and every foreign resident of experience knows and admits. It is not sufficiently recognised abroad that the Argentina of to-day is a highly civilised, highly complex, social State, wherein the advantages of civilised, orderly government may be considered to be available throughout the length and breadth of the land. And to carry on the work of government on the scale this implies, funds must be forthcoming. The 1923 Budget was the heaviest hitherto known, being actually \$635,000,000 paper, and closed with a deficit of \$35,000,000. That for 1925 is \$30,000,000 higher, and the 1923 allocation for meeting the service of the Public Debt is brought up by a further \$23,500,000 paper to the enormous total of \$148,763,250 paper. Figures such as these surely show that very grave danger is incurred by the *laissez-faire*, *laissez-aller* of the legislators, which forces the Government to continue the hand-to-mouth system of renewals and arrangements that still marks the management of the constantly-recurring floating debt.

National Treasury bills to a total of some \$120,000,000 paper have been recently renewed at 4 to 4½ per cent., and a New York loan of \$20,000,000 U.S., which fell due on August 25, has been met by a further issue of bills for a similar amount, the term being six months and the rate 5 per cent. per annum, plus ½ per cent. commission. As regards the first-mentioned rates, these are lower than the market, which may be called anything from 6 to 7 per cent., and even higher, with a firmer tendency. Apparently no new National Treasury bills are being negotiated, the few cases in which payment is insisted on being met out of Treasury funds, which for some months past have benefited by the influx of the payments accruing under the various pension laws, of which more anon.

Last month mention was made of the authority granted by the National Government to the State Railway Department for the borrowing of ten million dollars paper to meet urgent claims, and the fact that five million had been found by the local branch of an American bank at 5½ per cent. per annum was stated. Down to the moment of writing no one has been found to advance the other five million save at exorbitant rates, while private discounters are making hay for themselves by charging 8 and 9 per cent. for advances on small debts of the department. The latest step has been taken by the Minister of Public Works in the shape of a note to the Transport Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, asking that an amount of \$82,000,000 paper be added to the Budget estimates for the State Railways, and that facilities be granted for consolidating the floating debt of the Department. According to *La Prensa*, wherein these particu-

lars are published, this addition would bring the amount of the general railway plan to \$477,000,000 paper, while the \$82,000,000 paper would be applied as follows:—\$18,000,000 to meet deficits in exploitation, \$22,000,000 for past due debts and purchase of material for lines actually built, and the balance to meet pending credits called for by new construction now in hand.

A further measure of importance has been introduced during the month which affects the owners of large tracts of Argentine land. It is designed to stimulate colonisation by the parcelling out of the great spaces at present unoccupied; the Government to be empowered to expropriate 50 per cent. of the land owned by a single individual if such land is sought after by colonists, though such expropriation will not take place if the actual owner has already so disposed of a similar proportion of his property. The rentable value, the last previous sale price, and the taxable value of the land will all be taken into account when estimating the price at which such expropriation will take place, and the Government will be empowered to give notice of a year in the case of those lands for which, owing to their position, soil, means of communication, and other advantages, there is shown to be a real demand for the purposes of colonisation. This is but the barest outline of what may become a step of far-reaching importance. It is true that to-day the parcelling out of the land is the greatest stumbling block to intensive colonisation, as well as to intensive cultivation in general, and there is even reason to hope that the mere passing of the measure would in itself be effective towards bringing about a voluntary subdivision of estates that, in a sense, have for far too long lain fallow. For the greatest need of present-day Argentina is a steady influx of settlers; with wage-paid workers and parasitic small traders, resident in Buenos Aires and the other cities, she is already too liberally supplied.

Exceptionally high quotations for all cereals were registered during the second week of August, following the sharp rise in U.S. quotations, but though \$16 wheat and \$24 linseed have not been maintained for very long, prices are still satisfactory with wheat at \$15 paper per 100 kilos, spot, export type; linseed, \$23.45 spot and \$23.90 for October delivery; maize, \$10.10 spot. At mid-August it was estimated that there were still 1,000,000 tons wheat to ship, 2,500,000 tons maize, and 250,000 tons linseed, which will keep the export business moving well on to the time of the new harvest. What that will be like it is yet too early to say. One can but recommend that all extreme reports be set aside as improbable. There has been hard frost, and there is need of rain, but neither the one nor the other has as yet done much damage; indeed, in the case of wheat the cold weather is by some reported to have exercised a slowing strengthening effect which promises well for the harvest. Freights are steady at 23s up-river loading for September to U.K.-Cont. Bahia Blanca prompt U.K.-Cont. was done at 26s. for a small steamer, but the average rate has been round about 23s to 24s from the Southern port. Maize shipments to New York from Rosario have been booked at \$4.50 gold for parcels. The future tendency depends wholly on the amount of unfixed tonnage coming to the Plate.

HUNGARY.—GENERAL CONDITIONS—FINANCE AND CURRENCY—UNEMPLOYMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, September 21.

BUDAPEST is in many ways an uncommonly pleasant city during the early autumn, and the League of Nations' plan for Hungary is attracting the attention it deserves. To these two facts we owe a succession of distinguished visitors, who, sometimes combining business with pleasure, have chosen this year to endure the extra six hours in the

Gentleman who has very successfully represented leading British Banks abroad and is familiar with local conditions on the Continent and in North and South America, and well acquainted with leading bankers in various countries and in London, is open to undertake the REPRESENTATION ABROAD of a British firm of Bankers or Financial Group, an American Bank in Europe, or Foreign Banks in London. Highest Credentials and references to prominent London Bankers. Replies, which will be treated as confidential, to—
Box 23, THE ECONOMIST, 3, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.2

train from Vienna, in order to gather some impression of the progress of reconstruction. Most of them seem to have found conditions a good deal better than they expected. The outward evidences of poverty and distress are few, and the general temper of the people is quiet and fairly hopeful. Of course, there are complaints. The wheat harvest, after promising uncommonly well, was disappointing, and in some districts disastrous. The Bourse is stagnant, and seems likely to remain so, and the numerous amateurs and professionals, who for a long time past have relied upon it for a living, are naturally chagrined. There is a great deal of talk about unemployment, which might develop in the course of the winter into unrest. Prices are undoubtedly high, and though the general index has taken a downward turn, there is great resentment because local products, such as sugar, are often cheaper in neighbouring countries than here in their country of origin.

But there is a lining to all these clouds. Though wheat may be poor compared to what was hoped, it is not likely to fall far below the average crop of post-war years. Sugar beet is being grown over an immensely increased acreage, and two-thirds of the crop should be available for export—a comfortable item of some two million pounds in the balance of payments. The potato crop is unusually good, and maize, which means hogs, is more than satisfactory. As for unemployment, though the statistics are deficient, it is safe to say that the correct figure would be nothing even approaching to 50,000. The Socialist statistics account for rather more than 30,000, and if the 5 per cent. which is "normal" in England were normal here, we should not be entitled to complain even of 100,000. Prices may be high, but food prices relatively to other articles are low, and if retail business is generally slack, this is largely due to the persistence of bad habits among traders themselves, who will not recognise that the race against inflation is over. On the whole, Hungary has very little to grumble about economically. The main trouble is, and always was, financial.

The fact that the currency is now stabilised, and stabilised on sterling, seems already to have penetrated the popular understanding, and though stabilisation has perhaps not yet had time to produce its full effects, there is growing confidence. Shopkeepers are beginning once again to give credit, and deposits are said to be dribbling back into the banks. It is a pity that no satisfactory figures of bank deposits are published. The rate of interest for weekly money (which was once at the fantastic level of 16 per cent. a week) has now fallen to something between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and it is difficult to see why it does not fall still further now that the speculative uses to which it was formerly put have lost all interest. There is really no lack of short money, and if there were, the local supply could be supplemented with foreign credits, which are now so plentiful that they often go a-begging. On the other hand, if money from abroad were offered for a few years instead of for a few months it would meet with an overwhelming demand.

On September 17th the National Bank raised its rate of discount from 10 to 12½ per cent. This step came as a surprise, and was a good deal criticised in the Press, where a rise in Bank rate is regarded as tending to raise commodity prices. In competent circles the surprise was due not so much to the rise taking place now, as to its not having taken place a month before, when rates in Vienna were advanced to 15-17 per cent. A wide divergence between the two centres, which are still held together by many financial and some sentimental links, was regarded as being somehow anomalous; but the difference of 5 or more per cent. was allowed to persist, and produced, apparently, no evil consequences. Eventually, the advance in rates seems to have been brought about by the increasing discounts of the Central Bank, accompanied by a fall in the proportion of cover, in spite of a shrinkage of the note issue. The Bank return for September 15th shows that the metal reserve amounted to 56.2 per cent. of the combined note issue, and sight liabilities less, as permitted by the statutes, the State debt.

Whether the rise in Bank rate will have anything but a psychological effect seems questionable, for Bank rate is now altogether out of relation with the effective rates of interest. On deposits for six months the banks pay 15

per cent. (plus $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tax), and the cost of bank money to trade and industry, though rather less than it was until recently, is still decidedly over 20 per cent. It is quite evident that no competitive business can afford to pay such rates in the long run. At present the National Bank is, to all intents and purposes, the only internal source of credit in the country, and the printing press is used to supply the needs of trade, just as it was used to supply the needs of the Government. The amount of currency in circulation is probably not excessive. For a population of eight millions it still amounts to not much more than ten million pounds. But in Hungary the seasonal fluctuation is powerful, and we are at the beginning of the period during which expansion has to be expected. It will be interesting to see whether in the New Year there is a corresponding contraction, or whether, as in Austria, the movement persists. It is not likely that Hungary will have the opportunity of suffering from a "gold inflation"; she may, therefore, be driven by necessity to find the real solution of her interest rate problem.

The position of the State finances looks to be very satisfactory. Both direct and indirect taxes are coming in unexpectedly well, and the results month by month are proving better than the estimates. The State's main trouble is with its officials, who are certainly underpaid and far too numerous. The railways for several months past have been working without a deficit, but their operating expenses are an absurdly high proportion of their gross receipts. It seems to be universally agreed, however, that all the problems of State finance may safely be left for solution to the Commissioner-General.

Letters to the Editor.

THE PAPER TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—May I draw your attention to the article in your valuable journal of September 13th, dealing with "The Position of the Paper Trade"? In this comprehensive article you have undoubtedly, I think, made a slight error in the output of mills of British ownership. The writer is well acquainted with Scandinavian paper mills, especially Norwegian, and can say without fear of contradiction that your article must be considered inaccurate in asserting that any proportion worth mentioning of the imports of paper from Norway and Sweden can be considered the product of British-owned mills.

In Norway there is perhaps only one mill of British ownership, and this mill specialises in export to China and South America. In Sweden it is doubtful if there are any mills of British ownership.

Norway is a very young country, and only since 1910 has appeared as an independent country in international diplomacy. Since that time, however, she has also concentrated on making herself economically independent, with so much success that at the present moment there is in the paper industry, practically speaking, no foreign ownership of mills whatever. This movement culminated in 1918-9 with the purchase by a Norwegian company of the last and greatest of foreign-owned paper mills. A series of concession laws have made it difficult, if not impossible, for foreign capital to own mills, or even to control them.

Your journal is widely read in Norway and Sweden, and your articles are accepted as reliable, and your reports subjected to little or no criticism. I have, therefore, thought it best to draw your attention to what appears to be an erroneous statement with regard to the ownership of paper mills in Norway and Sweden.—Yours faithfully (for and on behalf of the Union Paper Agency Limited),

EDGAR L. FIFOOT, Managing Director.
London, September 24th, 1924.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Memorandum on Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Balances, 1910-1923.* Vol. II.—*Trade Statistics of Forty-two Countries.* (Geneva) League of Nations. 12s 6d.
- The Law Relating to the Reduction of the Share Capital of Joint Stock Companies.* By P. F. Simonson. Second Edition. (London) Effingham Wilson. 10s 6d net.
- The Problem of Business Forecasting.* Edited by Warren M. Persons, William Trufoot Foster, and Albert J. Hettinger, Jun. Pollak Foundation, Newton 58, Massachusetts. \$4.00.
- White Clover.* By Adela Gwendolyn Erith, B.Sc. (London) Duckworth and Co. 18s net.
- Pour Conserver son Argent.* By Georges Broyard. (Paris) Librairie Félix Alcan. 9f.
- Changes Dépréciés et Assainissement Monétaire.* By Dr. Jean Lupold. (Zurich) L'Union de Banques Suisses.
- German White Book.* Translated by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (New York) Oxford University Press. \$2.00.
- Foreign Affairs.* September, 1924. (New York) Council on Foreign Relations, Inc. \$1.25
- Enquête sur les Livres Scolaires d'après Guerre.* (Paris) Centre Européen de la Dotation Carnegie.
- Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom.* Vol II., 1923. (London) H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. 1s.
- A detailed and systematic survey of the statistics contained in all current official publications. Contains a Subject Index, and also a survey of publications issued since 1900 which are considered of permanent statistical interest.
- The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.* September, 1924. (Concord, N.H.) The Rumford Press Building. \$2.00.
- Year Book of Bank of Finland, 1923.* (Helsingfors) Bank of Finland.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

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

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, October 8.	ACCOUNT, October 9.
-----------------------	------------------------

THE end of the first half of the Stock Exchange financial year finds markets tolerably active, with public interest increasing every day in, particularly, the industrial sections. The boom in tea shares has been one outstanding feature; another, an all-round rise in Mexicans. A general recovery amongst iron and steel shares has occurred, and the rubber market shows signs of awakening vitality. The political situation is regarded with composure, nor does the prospect of a General Election in the early winter serve to check the readiness of the buyers to accumulate stock. Only in the mining markets is there but little doing.

The strength of the War Loan is due to the consideration of the current price carrying four months' interest, and the pressure to buy Conversion 3½ per cents. is attributed to an idea that the Government have in preparation a scheme for further conversion of the 5 per cent. War Loan upon an extensive scale. The last offer of Conversion was made, of course, through the medium of the 4½ per cent. stock, and doubtless the same security will be offered in whatever may be the next form of Government arrangement. The gilt-edged market keeps good, although the animation amongst indus-

trial shares tempts some of the holders of the best-class stocks to realise these, and to embark upon the more venturesome policy of buying the popular shares of the moment.

The advent of the new German loan is thought to be not far away, and this revived a certain amount of attention in German bonds, though prices gave way abruptly upon the latest phase of German politics. Recent big buyers are doing very little. Movements in French issues have been narrow. Brazilian bonds are again higher. Mexican Government bonds spurted strongly, taking with them the prices of Mexican Railway, Utility and mining issues.

Home railway stocks have few friends, and the tendency of the market is downward. The death of Mr Lionel L. Roberts, a prominent jobber in the home railway market, gave rise to a unique tribute of respect to his memory on Thursday, when the home railway market adjourned for half-an-hour during the time of his funeral.

Grand Trunk Pacific debentures have fallen back a little after their recent big rise. Brazilian railways are better; Argentine Railway stocks mildly buoyant, on the improvement in exchange and the excellence of the traffics. Nitrates arouse no particular interest.

Rubber shares have strengthened, although the check imposed upon the rise in the raw material serves to subdue optimism. The tea boom continues its course, and prices all along the line have risen materially during the current week. The advances cover the differing classes of shares, from the giant Consolidated Tea and Lands to recent issues such as Assam Consolidated, where the price fell at one time to 5s discount before it started to rise to a guinea. There is a large turnover in tea shares every day, but the account settled on Thursday may have been rather less than that of the previous fortnight. A reaction in prices on Thursday afternoon was regarded as a healthy sign that some people were taking good profits.

In the oil market a dramatic jump in Mexican Eagles arrested attention and stimulated imagination. A sheaf of rumours promptly arose to account for the violence of the rise, which added three million pounds to the share value of the ordinary capital within the course of a few days. Other oil shares are better, as a consequence of the advertisement which the market has received. Courtaulds spurted again, together with Bradford Dyers, on an interesting (and wholly unconfirmed) rumour to the effect that some kind of agreement might be reached between the two companies. Other textiles have advanced, and Celanese issues have emerged from the depression which overtook them upon publication of the report showing a loss for the past year. The meeting this week was considered satisfactory.

The iron and steel market exhibits a long catalogue of improvements, maintenance of the Armstrong interim dividend being regarded as an indication of hopefulness. The rise in shipping shares has made a little further headway. Brewery stocks are better, and John Walker ordinary shares, introduced a few days ago at 50s, quickly rose to 55s. A string of rises amongst industrial shares of other sections testifies to the growing interest of the public in Stock Exchange markets. Trust companies' stocks are again higher, and amongst insurance shares, another rise in Prudential "B" stands out prominently. Bank of New Zealand shares display marked strength in the banking group, where others, however, are disposed to ease off a trifle here and there. Gas stocks are better, Brentford Gas gaining several points upon the absorption of the company by the Gas Light and Coke Company, whose stock has also risen. In the land market, Hudson's Bays received support, though Egyptians, owing to the uncertain political outlook, have been a dull market. Rises in tobacco shares were resumed, while the stores group remains quiescent.

Mining markets, apart from Mexican shares, are out of popular favour. The slump in the price of tin, the metal, followed as it has been this week by a substantial recovery, has rendered the public cautious in dealing with tin companies' shares, but the Middle East descriptions are mostly better, and there has also been a little buying of West Africans. In the Kaffir Circus, the movements on the week are insignificant; in the Rhodesian market, Cam and Motors provided the professionals with plenty of excitement, as the price fell heavily and then recovered the loss. Mexicans are decidedly better, upon excellent developments reported by the Mexican Corporation. Canada is abstaining from speculation in her own mining shares, with the result that business in these has fallen away to a minimum. The attractions of industrials are leading speculation into their markets to the exclusion of interest in most of the mining shares.

We are informed that Mr Arnold Hirwain Wethered has ceased to be a member of the Stock Exchange.

NEW ISSUES.

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

Amount previously recorded.....	Nominal Capital. £	Cash Sub- scription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
..	..	132,758,151	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 20, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Sept. 20, 1924, Dr £2,400,000 .. Dr £150,000 .. Dr £150,000

To the Public—				
City of Auckland £400,000 5% Debts, to Bearer (rep. at par 1957, issued at 97½).....	400,000	..	390,000	.. 20,000 .. 370,000
Belvoir Estates Ltd., 10,000 Cum. Pref. Shares, £1 at par ..	10,000	..	10,000	.. 2,500 .. 7,500
Beverley Tea and Rubber Estates, Ltd., £25,000 7% Conv. Deb. Stock, at par ..	25,000	..	25,000	.. 2,500 .. 22,500
National Cotton Printing Works Co., £300,000 8% First Mort. Reg. Debts (red. at 103% 1936-47), issued at 98% ..	300,000	..	294,000	.. 5,000 .. 279,000
Total offered to the public ..	..	..	719,000	.. 40,000 .. 679,000

To Shareholders only—				
Sapong Rubber and Tobacco Estates, 16,206 Shares, £1, at 25s ..	16,206	..	20,258	.. 2,025 .. 18,233
Automatic Telephone Manufacturing, Ltd., £1, at 25s 6d per share ..	140,000	..	150,500	.. 28,000 .. 122,500
Buenos Ayres Western Railway, £1,000,000 5% 10-Year Bearer Notes, at 95½% ..	1,000,000	..	955,000	.. 50,000 .. 905,000
Northern Exploration, 521,092 Shares, 2s 6d, at par ..	65,136	..	65,136	.. 13,027 .. 52,109
Total offered to shareholders only ..	..	..	1,190,894	.. 93,052 .. 1,097,842

Total offered for subscription to date in—	Total offered for subscription to date in—
1924..... 134,518,045	1923..... 271,393,173
1923..... 206,682,637	1922..... 573,675,650
1922..... 510,694,450	1921..... 388,978,203
1921..... 186,465,047	1920..... 367,549,656
1920..... 294,301,839	1919..... 1,036,059,951
1919..... 903,538,300	1918..... 1,393,381,441

City of Auckland 5 per Cent. 1924 Consolidated Loan.—This is an issue of £400,000 in debentures to bearer at £97 10s per cent. The principal is repayable at par on October 1, 1957, the average yield, including bonus on redemption, works out at £5 3s per cent., the flat yield being £5 2s 6d per cent. The proceeds of the loan will be used to repay maturing loans of £46,000 and to provide further funds for street improvements, waterworks extensions, tramway extensions, drainage, and other purposes. A sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum will be provided. In the last 13 years the annual rateable value of Auckland has risen from £623,313 to £1,840,131, and its revenues from £182,533 to £1,319,214, the population having increased from about 102,000 to about 170,000. The public debt of the city is £5,207,797, the interest charge on which amounts to £257,140 and the sinking fund charge to £66,623. Against its indebtedness the city has an accumulated sinking fund of £783,398. In the prospectus figures are given showing the excellent progress made by the port in the last three years. A fair offer in its class, but we should like to see some comparative figures of municipal debt per head of inhabitants in Australasian cities.

The National Cotton Printing Works Company.—Incorporated under the laws of Brazil. Authorised and issued share capital consists of 60,000 shares of Rs.200\$000. At the exchange rate of 6d to the milreis, this is equal to £300,000. This is an offer for sale of £300,000 of 8 per cent. first mortgage registered debentures of £100 each at 98 per cent. It is stated that firm offers have already been received and accepted for £121,000 of these debentures. The flotation is a Brazilian undertaking, with cotton spinning, weaving, dyeing, and printing mills at Sorocaba. It also owns about 90 per cent. of the capital of a subsidiary undertaking, which has a mill at Sorocaba. It is stated that the profits of the affiliated companies for the last three years have averaged over £113,000 per annum. The proceeds of the present issue, after redeeming a small amount of outstanding debentures of the company and its subsidiary, and paying the balance of the purchase money for the shares of the latter undertaking, will be used for the provision of additional machinery. The debentures now offered are to be redeemed by 1947 at 103 per cent., the company reserving the right to redeem at 103 any outstanding debentures on or after March 15, 1936, subject to six months' notice. Surplus assets are sufficient to cover the loan, while profits are ample for meeting services. But it is well to consider the whole position of sterling mortgages in relation to Brazilian undertakings. Moreover, political considerations must not be overlooked.

Belvoir Estates, Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, divided into 200,000 cumulative preference shares of £1 each (45,000 of which have been issued and are credited as fully

paid up) and 300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, all fully paid. This is an offer for public subscription of 10,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, presumably at par. The company has been formed to acquire from the Duke of Rutland and the Marquess of Granby freehold lands in Leicester, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby, "having an area of upwards of 19,000 acres, and certain investments of a market value exceeding £600,000, and chattels, in consideration of fully-paid shares in the company, and a cash consideration, payable by instalments." A consideration sum is given of £496,163, to be paid in 40 instalments of £12,404, and £646,397 is to be satisfied by the issue of 40,000 preference and 299,993 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The prospectus states that "the revenues of the company are amply sufficient to meet the dividends on the cumulative preference shares." Although we do not doubt the truth of this assertion, it is customary when an attempt is made to attract attention in the investment world to be a little more explicit about details of past earnings or revenue. In the articles of association provision is made to compel shareholders holding less than "5 per cent. of the issued capital" to transfer such holdings at "their fair value." In this case it is fixed at 25s per share. There are two directors—namely, the Duke of Rutland and the Marquess of Granby. If we remember aright, the Duke of Plaza Toro had no assets beyond his goodwill and title; but here we have very substantial assets.

Southend Waterworks Company.—Total capital already issued £1,345,191, consisting of £584,447 ordinary stock, £484,521 preference stock, and £276,223 debenture stock. This is an offer for sale by tender of £41,666 13s 4d 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock and £125,000 5 per cent. irredeemable preference stock, the minimum price for the former being 77 per cent. and for the latter 92 per cent. The proceeds are required for the general capital purposes of the undertaking. After January 1, 1925, the present issue will rank *pari passu* with the £184,423 8d 4 per cent. debenture stock already issued. After April 1, 1925, the new stock will rank *pari passu* with the £384,321 similar stock already issued. The prospectus shows that the net profit for the year 1923 amounted to £61,408, after providing for interest charges on loans and debenture stock. At minimum prices these offers are not without attraction.

Folkestone Waterworks Company.—This is an offer for sale by tender of £50,000 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock of the above company; the minimum price of issue is 97 per cent. The proceeds will be utilised principally for a repayment of a banker's loan incurred for extensions of the works, plant, mains, &c., rendered necessary by increasing demands for water. The net revenue of the company for the year ended June 30th last was £17,061, and as the interest on the debenture stock (including that now being issued) only requires £3,459, it is well covered. The two classes of ordinary shares are receiving the maximum dividends of 10 and 7 per cent., and the undivided profit carried forward after payment of the last dividends was £9,405. A fair offer of its class, but the rate is not attractive in view of the narrow market.

The Beverley Tea and Rubber Estates, Limited.—Authorised share capital £100,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of 2s each, of which 500,000 are issued and fully paid. This is an issue of £25,000 7 per cent. convertible debenture stock at par. The company owns 2,300 acres in the Morawate district of Ceylon, of which about 500 are already under all the properties, and will be "redeemable" at 103 after end of 1930, however, holders will have the option of converting into shares at par. The tea crop last year was 158,600 lbs, unrestricted, the estate is estimated to be capable of an output of from 150,000 lbs to 175,000 lbs. The trading profit last year was £4,900. The proceeds of the issue are required to plant another 500 acres with tea and to erect a tea factory, &c. No are a speculative risk, but support will probably be forthcoming from those already interested in the concern.

The Foundation Company, Limited.—Authorised and cumulative participating preference and 100,000 ordinary shares, details are advertised of a concern which carries on the business of general engineers and contractors. The undertaking is of American origin, the company having purchased the goodwill incorporation took place early in 1922 as a private company. It was subsequently converted into a public company. The preference dividend has been paid, half the remaining profits goes to a reserve fund until £100,000 has been accumulated. The shares, and what is left is to be distributed on the ordinary and ordinary shares as if they were one class of capital. The preference shares have priority as to capital, and any assets

over after the ordinary shares have been refunded are divided between the preference and ordinary on the same basis as the residue of the profits. It would be difficult to discover an announcement of a public company which could convey less information as to past trading results.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War (3½% 1925-28) ..	96	96	..	Aust. 5% 1931-41 ..	105	105	..
Loans (4½% 1925-45) ..	97½	97½	..	Canada 4½% 1920-25 ..	101½	101½	..
Do (4½% 1925-47) ..	102½	102½	..	India 3½% 1924-25 ..	65	64½	..
Do (4½% 1925-48) ..	101	101	..	Do 7½% 1926-31 ..	108½	108½	..
Funding Loan 4½% ..	90½	89½	..	Do 5½% 1932 ..	100½	101½	..
Victory Bonds 4½% ..	92½	92	..	Do 4½% ..	86½	86½	..
Conversion Loan 3½% ..	78	77½	..	N.S.W. 5½% 1922-33 ..	102	102	..
Consols 2½% ..	578	577½	..	Nigeria 5½% 1949-79 ..	115	115	..
Irish Land Stock 2½% ..	594	594	..	U of S.A. 6½% 1920-40 ..	106	106	..
Local Loans 3½% ..	659	659	..	Victoria 5½% 1924-34 ..	102	102	..
				W. Aust. 6½% 1930-40 ..	104	104	..

British Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Great Western, Ord.	107	106½	..	Southern, Ord. "A" ..	38½	38½	..
London & North-Eastern ..	79	78½	..	Do Ord. "B" ..	82	81½	..
5% Pref. Ord.	79½	78½	..	Do Pref. Ord.	82½	81½	..
Do Def. Ord.	28½	28½	..	Do Def. Ord.	40½	40½	..
London, Mid. and ..	97½	97	..	Underground Electric ..	21½	21½	..
Scottish, Ord.	97½	97	..	Do "A" (1) ..	39½	39½	..
Metropolitan ..	77	76½	..	Do "A" (2) ..	95½	95½	..
Metropolitan District ..	502	502	..	Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	95½	95½	..

Banks.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) ..	2½	2½	..	Nat. Bank of S. Africa ..	6½	6½	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	192½	192½	..	National Provincial ..	10½	10½	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) ..	23½	23½	..	Standard of S. Africa ..	11	11	..
Midland (£12 with £2 paid) ..	8½	8½	..	Westminster Bank ..	17½	17½	..
Nat. Bank of Egypt ..	24½	24½	..				

American Railroads.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	96	96	..	Southern ..	75	77½	..
Erie ..	31	31	..	Do Non-cum Pref. ..	86	84½	..
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	43	43	..				

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons.	87½	88	..	Leopoldina ..	253	273	..
B.A. and Pacific ..	83½	84½	..	Mexican Railway ..	6	8½	..
B.A. & Gt. Southern ..	88	88½	..	Do 1st Pref.	22	28	..
Buenos Ayres West.	78½	78½	..	Do 2nd Pref.	10	12	..
Canadian Pacific ..	165	165	..	San Paulo ..	159	159	..
Central Argentine ..	75½	74½	..	United Havana ..	87½	88½	..

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Argentina 5% 1886-7-100 ..	120	120	..	Japanese 4% 1910 ..	62	62	..
Austrian 6% Guar. 32½ ..	92½	92½	..	Do 6% 1924 ..	90½	90½	..
Belgian 3% ..	72	72	..	Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	32	32	..
Brazil 5% Fund. 1914 ..	72	72	..	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	32½	33½	..
Chilian 4½% 1886 ..	87	87	..	P.L.M. 6% ..	91½	91½	..
Do 7½% ..	103	102½	..	Portuguese (New) ..	28	27	..
Chinese 5% 1912 ..	69	68	..	Russian 5% 1906 ..	7	7	..
Egyptian 4% ..	75	75½	..	Spanish 4% ..	66	66	..
French 5% ..	24½	24	..	Seine (Dept.) 7% ..	103½	103½	..
Do 4% ..	194	194	..	Siam 7% ..	107	107	..
Greek 5% 1884 ..	59½	59½	..				

Telegraphs.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" ..	233	233	..	Marconi Canada ..	1½	1½	..
Marconi Wireless ..	1½	1½	..	Marconi Marine ..	1½	1½	..

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (1) ..	1½	1½	..	Lingit Planting (1) ..	1½	1½	..
Amal. Cottons (1) ..	28	28	..	Lipson (1) ..	18½	18½	..
Anglo Persian Oil (1) ..	28	28	..	Liverpool & Lancashire ..	18½	18½	..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) ..	28	28	..	Do 5% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	1½	1½	..
and Co. (1) ..	28	28	..	Do 5% Cum. Pref. (2) ..	1½	1½	..
Ass. Flnd. Cement (1) ..	28	28	..	Lister (1) ..	18½	18½	..
Barker, John (1) ..	28	28	..	Lobitos Oilfields (1) ..	10½	10½	..
B'ham Small Arms (1) ..	28	28	..	Lyons (J.) & Co. (1) ..	42½	42½	..
Brazil Traction (\$100) ..	54	55	..	Mexican Eagle (\$10) ..	18	18	..
British-American ..	54	55	..	Nobel Industries (1) ..	18	18	..
Tobacco (1) ..	54	55	..	Pekin (2) ..	18	18	..
Burmah Oil (1) ..	54	55	..	Rubber Plantations ..	18	18	..
Coats (J. and P.) (1) ..	54	55	..	Investment (1) ..	18	18	..
Courtauld (1) ..	54	55	..	Shell Transport (1) ..	38½	38½	..
Cunard (1) ..	54	55	..	Smithfield-Argetine ..	18	18	..
Dorman, Long (1) ..	54	55	..	Meat (1) ..	18	18	..
Dunlop Rubber (1) ..	54	55	..	Union Cold Storage ..	18	18	..
Fine Cotton Spinning ..	54	55	..	Do 5% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	..
(1) ..	54	55	..	Do 5% Cum. Pref. (2) ..	18	18	..
Forestral Land (1) ..	54	55	..	United Dairies (1) ..	18	18	..
Furness, Withy (1) ..	54	55	..	United Serdang (2) ..	18	18	..
Highlands and Low ..	54	55	..	United Tobacco (1) ..	18	18	..
Lands Rubber (1) ..	54	55	..	Vallambrosa (2) ..	18	18	..
Hudson's Bay (1) ..	54	55	..	Vickers (1) ..	18	18	..
Imperial Tobacco (1) ..	54	55	..	Watney Def. Suk. ..	249½	251½	..

Minas.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Brakpan (1) ..	3½	3½	..	Knight ..	18	18	..
Broken Hill Prop. (1) ..	1½	1½	..	Modderfontein (10) ..	3½	3½	..
Chartered (1) ..	1½	1½	..	Modderfontein "B" (5) ..	1½	1½	..
Cons. Gold Fields (1) ..	1½	1½	..	Modderfontein, Deep (5) ..	2½	2½	..
Crown Mines (10) ..	2½	2½	..	Premier Def. (2/6) ..	5½	6	..
De Beers Def. (24) ..	11½	11½	..	Rand Mines (5) ..	2½	2½	..
East Rand Prop. (1) ..	54	55	..	Sekukwe ..	3½	3½	..
Geduld (1) ..	54	55	..	Spring Mines (1) ..	2½	2½	..
Gov. Gold Areas (1) ..	62	62	..				

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.		Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.		Lat. Year.	Pro-visions.
Railways.					
Bilbao and Cantabrian.....	3 %	Sept. 25	Less tax	%	%
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	4½†	..	..	7	7
Dublin and Kingstown.....	8	..	Less tax	..	..
Banks.					
Commercial of the Near East	8*	..	Less tax	..	..
National of Commerce.....	4 %	Oct. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Royal of Ireland	12	..	Less tax	10	10
Insurance.					
British and European	5%*	Oct. 1	Subject to tax	..	..
Licenses and General	5%*	Oct. 25	Tax free	..	..
Phoenix	6/ p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Yorkshire, 10s paid	2½ p.s.	Oct. 20	Tax free	..	..
Do, £, s. and	5½ p.s.*	Oct. 20	Tax free	..	..
T. and Rubber.					
Bajo Kidool Rubber	10%†	..	Less tax	15	12½
Bandarapola Ceylon	10%*	..	..	..	..
Banteng (Selangor)	5%†	..	..	10	10
Devitural	3 %	..	Less tax	..	..
Doloswella.....	4%*	Oct. 24	Less tax	..	..
Nagolle	3%*	..	Less tax	..	..
North Labis Rubber	..	..	Less tax	6	10
Poonmudi	6%*	Oct. 4	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Mining.					
Broken Hill South	1/6 p.s.	(£bonus) 1/ p.s.	..	..	..
Gold Coast Amalgamated	24%†	Oct. 23	Less tax 2/11 6 in £	..	..
Kaduna Prospectors	10%*	Oct. 16	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Kaduna Syndicate	10%*	Oct. 16	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
New Jagersfontein.....	2½ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Osprey Gold, Pref.	1/ p.s.*	Oct. 22	Less tax 4/6 in £	10	7½
Renong Tin	..	..	..	..	..
South Crofty	1/3 p.s.*	..	..	..	..
Transvaal Gold	32%*	Nov. 1	Subject to tax	..	..
Waihi Gold	1/ p.s.*	..	Tax free	..	..
Other Companies.					
Albion Motor Car, Cum. Pref.	6	..	Less tax	..	..
Anglo-Siam Corporation	12½%†	(£bonus) 10 %	Less tax	30	25
Anglo-Leasing and Invest.	7½%*	..	..	10	10
Bell's United Asbestos	16 p.s.*	Oct. 20	Less tax	..	..
Ben. Evans and Co.	5	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Bombay Gas	8*	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Borneo Company	2½%†	..	..	5	5
Brown, Hopwood, and Gilbert	3/ p.s.	..	..	..	..
City of Santos Improvements	2 %*	Oct. 15	Tax free	..	..
Court Line	5*	..	Less tax	..	..
Cuba Submarine Telegraph	8*	Oct. 9	Tax free	..	..
Denaby and Cadeby Collieries	5*	Oct. 16	Less tax	8	..
Direct Spanish Telegraph	4%*	Oct. 1	Tax free	..	..
Doebson and Barlow	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Dundak Steam Packet	5†	..	Less tax	5	3½
Edinburgh Investment, Def.	10*	..	Less tax	..	..
Empress Brewery	..	..	..	7	6
Fleming and Ferguson	..	..	Tax free	10	10
Folkestone Electricity	8	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Freehold Assets	12½*	Oct. 24	Less tax	..	..
Fullers	10*	..	Less tax	..	..
Gandy Belt Manufacturing	10%*	..	Less tax	15	20
Glenbong Union Fire Clay	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Grain Elevator and Estate	2½%†	..	..	14	..
Hamstead Colliery, Prefd.	2½%†	..	..	(a) 7½	12½
Hardy Patent Pick	..	..	..	12½	12½
Hendon Electric Supply	5%*	Sept. 26	Tax free	..	..
Home and Colonial, Cum. Ord.	15	Oct. 1	Quarterly	..	..
House Property and Investment	6*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Jabez Johnson, & Co., Defd.	2/ p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..
James W. Cook	8*	..	Less tax	..	..
Johnsbury Consol. Invest.	7%*	Oct. 1	Tax free	15	12½
John Dickinson and Co.	8	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Kingsley and Thackeray Hotels	10*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Linkwood-Glenlivet Distillery	..	..	Less tax	25	20
Montana Power	1%*	Oct. 1	..	..	..
Municipal Trust, Def.	3 %*	Oct. 1	..	..	..
N. Z. and Australian Land	5%†	..	Tax free	..	..
Ogiltie Flour Mills	16%†	..	..	25	22
Page and Overkote's Brewery	..	Oct. 1	Less tax	7	6
Price Bros. and Co.	3%*	Oct. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Radnorshire Coal, &c.	..	..	..	8	..
Rio Negro Land	..	..	Less tax	10	8
River Plate Trust, "A"	9%*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Do, "B"	3%*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Robert Allen and Co.	..	..	Less tax	7½	7½
Royal Brewery, Brentford	..	..	Less tax	7½	7½
Scottish Malt Distillers	6%*	Nov. 1	Tax free	10	10
Schill Brothers, Prefd.	6½	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Shanghai Elec. Con.	8 %*	Oct. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £	7½	7½
Sheephead Colliery	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Sir Wm. Arrol, Cum. Pref.	6/6 p.s.	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..
Southdown Motor Service	1/6 p.s.	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Staffs and Worcestershire Canal	2	..	Less tax	..	..
Stagg and Manlie	8*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Thorncliffe Cook Distillation	1/4 p.s.†	..	Tax free	8 p.s.	b) 6 p.s.
Thos. W. Ward, Old	62½†	..	Tax free	10	7½
Do New	..	..	Tax free	10	..
Trafford Park Estates	..	..	..	6	6
United Fruit	2½%*	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..
Do	2½%*	Jan. 2	Less tax	..	..
Virol, Prefd.	..	Oct. 1	..	..	..
Workington Brewery	3%*	..	..	..	..

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BRITISH CELANESE, LIMITED.

PAST YEAR'S DIFFICULTIES.
WORKING COSTS LOWERED.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN CURRENT YEAR.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the British Celanese, Limited, was held, on the 25th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London. The chair was occupied by Sir Harry McGowan, K.B.E. (chairman of directors).

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

When I last had the pleasure of addressing you, I was able to refer in encouraging terms to the progress then being made and to the general outlook. The period referred to was the first few months of the financial year under review. Shortly after my speech, however, several factors began to operate against this company. We had not at that time established our position in the yarn trade, nor had we put our knitted or woven fabric on the market—in fact, we were very largely dependent on our sales of cord. Our factory costs were, on the smaller output, relatively high, and were affected by the changes and extensions we were making in our factory capacity. Shortly after the date of my speech there was a general stagnation in the textile trades, during which the English markets were flooded with cheap and inferior cord from the Continent. This led to the cutting of prices, which, situated as we were, largely dependent on our cord product, was a serious matter. For the second half of the financial year, therefore, our entry into the profit-making stage was retarded by market conditions, and you may be sure that, with our growing potentialities for larger business, our disappointment at the delay in making that capacity effective was very great. Convinced as we were of the inherent qualities of our product, we knew that its superiority was bound to tell with the trade and the public in due course. But a period of depression and reluctance to buy is not favourable to a product proving its own superiority, and we were confronted with the necessity of making the merits of our materials known to the public, and particularly of establishing our yarn trade with the fabric makers. As we firmly believed in the material ourselves, we had every confidence in the result of the propaganda we then embarked upon. In the year under review we spent £37,000 in advertising, which has been charged to revenue. The results have been satisfactory. Our sales of yarn, which we regard as our basic product, have steadily developed, so that for September of the present year they are five times what they were in September of the year under review. The expansion of our business has led to the lowering of costs, and the profits so far made in the present year are substantially greater than the total losses made in the year we are now considering.

I am glad to say that in completed productive capacity and actual output, in variety of product and ranges of uses, in reduction of costs, in actual sales and market demands and in financial position, substantial progress since we last met can be recorded.

May I take these aspects in order?

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AND VARIETY OF PRODUCTS.

I told you last year that the extensions then being carried out would enable us to produce from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 tons of yarn per day

according to denier. Low denier means a fine yarn which yields a higher price, but which takes a longer time to make a given weight. Since that time we have carried out such improvements in our factory that we now have a capacity for 50 per cent. more of the low denier, which is the more profitable.

I referred above to yarn as our basic product. By that statement I meant that our chief business was to make and sell yarn to the fabric trade, but we long ago decided the best method of doing this was to demonstrate to the world the fine quality of the knitted and woven fabric made from it. With this purpose in view we installed a circular knitted fabric plant, which has now been running successfully for some months. The goods made are appreciated by the public, and the orders are now in excess of capacity. This plant is being increased by 50 per cent., and the machinery for this extension is being installed as rapidly as possible. We believe that the enhanced demand for our yarn is in a considerable measure due to the high appreciation in the trade of this circular knitted fabric, which is known as Celanese Tricot.

With the same object of demonstration we installed a woven fabric plant with a capacity of 1,000 to 2,000 lbs per day, according to the character of the fabric. About two-thirds of this plant is now running, and the remainder will gradually be brought into commission. As soon as the finishing plant now being installed is at work, the plant will be pushed to its full capacity, and this woven fabric will be offered to the trade. From the success of the small quantities we have had finished in outside factories, we are confident of the result of the woven fabric branch of our enterprise.

If you carry your minds back a year ago to the time when our chief product was knitting cord, you will begin to realise that your enterprise has made vast strides in the interval. At the same time, a steady demand continues for our cord. A very interesting development in the use of our yarn is its combination with cotton and wool by independent fabric makers. "Celfect," consisting of twisted threads of cotton and Celanese, has already established a very important sale, chiefly in the stocking trade.

FACTORY PROCESSES AND COSTS.

We are glad to tell you that during the last few months our working costs have shown substantial improvement, due partly to increased output, but also to our workpeople becoming more familiar with the various processes, and to improvements suggested by experience. So far as one can see at the moment, it will be the end of the present year before the bulk of these improvements and alterations are completed, which, while they are being carried out, prevent the maximum capacity being reached. The difficulties formerly experienced in dyeing our material have largely disappeared. We have extended our dye-house, and produce 80 per cent. of our own dyes. Our dye-house is open to the trade, and we invite their experts to come and learn our methods. We do not wish to compete with the makers of dyestuffs, but, on the contrary, we encourage them to study our methods and produce their own dyes. These developments on our part have given

us a good control of the dyeing question, and have largely removed the former dyeing difficulties. Our dyes are fast, and we have covered successfully all the shades.

SALES.

Our sales organisation was faced with all the difficulties incident to placing a new material on the market, but confidence, patience, and courtesy have carried us a long way, and a vigorous advertising propaganda has made Celanese widely and favourably known. The cost of this publicity, which in itself exceeds the trading loss of the year under review, has been charged to revenue.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

You will have seen from the balance-sheet that our outstanding debentures have increased from £300,000 at February, 1923, to £700,000 at February, 1924. As you know, the proceeds of these debentures have been expended in increasing our spinning capacity and in the installation of our knitted and woven fabric plants. We have reduced our loans from £85,000 at February, 1923, so that at the present time our only outstanding loan is one of £50,000 to H.M. Government, which is not due until December, 1925.

On the assets side you will notice that cash is £78,000 as against £102,000, and it will be gratifying to you to know that the position to-day is better than either of these figures indicates, as we are financing a much larger turnover than was the case at the earlier periods, and have paid every account due and have no bills outstanding, so that the position is much stronger than in previous years.

OUTLOOK.

In my last report I stated—"Of our ability to make profits under reasonable trade conditions I have no doubt whatever, and all our statistical records bear out this opinion, shared as it is by the entire board." This opinion as to our ability to make substantial profits has been confirmed by the results of the past few months. We fully realise that the building up of a great business calls for our untiring effort, and that new conditions constantly arise to be faced and overcome in all business enterprises. We have every confidence that we will achieve it, and that this company will soon take its place among the great enterprises of this country.

If the British consumer would confine himself to British proprietary articles of known quality—such as Celanese, Celfect, &c.—we should have all the advantages in our costs of production which increased and steady volume of manufacture confers, and it would help us to reduce our costs to the benefit of the public and of our shareholders alike. The British consumer need have no hesitation in acting thus patriotically. In buying "Celanese" I beg of you to distinguish it from artificial silk as generally understood hitherto. In "Celanese" one gets an article which has all the charm of feel and softness which appertains to real silk, with the addition of certain advantages, such as regularity and far higher insulating properties. It is not affected by extremes of climatic heat or cold, and all these qualities combine to make "Celanese" garments the most comfortable wear for all seasons, safeguarding the wearer, as they do, from discomforts in consequence of sudden chills or extreme heat. From the manufacturer's point of view "Celanese" has very important advantages—it has a high elasticity factor, enabling it to be worked perfectly in textile machinery, and, what is most important, it has absolute regularity of strength and uniformity.

We have not shown our fabrics here to-day, as we did last year, because we have a very good display of them at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Our stand is to be found in the Palace of Industries by passing through the Nobel Industries Stand, out of which it leads, and I hope all shareholders who have the opportunity will visit our display there.

THE DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

CAPITAL REDUCTION SCHEME APPROVED.

A series of meetings of the holders of the different classes of shares in the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, London, W.C., for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit approving, resolutions authorising the revised scheme of capital reorganisation, particulars of which have already been published. The Right Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, G.C.B., G.B.E., chairman of the company, presided.

The Chairman said:

The object of our meeting to-day is to pass the revised scheme of capital reorganisation, which carries the unanimous approval of the committee appointed at my suggestion, and composed of representatives of the various classes of shareholders with whom we have been in consultation.

We had several conferences with the committee, and have endeavoured to meet as far as we could the divergent interests which they represented, but in the end we found it possible to submit to

PERSONAL
ACCIDENT and SICKNESS

Policies providing
CAPITAL SUMS
in case of Death or Loss of Limbs or Eyes by Accident,

ANNUITIES
for Permanent Total Disablement,

WEEKLY COMPENSATION
during Disablement through Accident or Illness and during
Convalescence, are issued by The

**LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE CO., LTD.**

Prospectus free on request.

Head Office:—
1 Dale St., Liverpool. Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.3.

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

you a revised scheme acceptable to all, details of which are before you in the circular and notice convening this meeting.

The scheme to which you are now asked to give your consent is a fairly simple one. The basic principles of the previous scheme are retained in the new proposals, but there is a certain alteration in detail which I shall endeavour to explain. The net arrears of preference dividends accrued up to December 31, 1923, which will now be paid, is £760,000, thus discharging 95.13 per cent. of the arrears in the case of the "A" preference shares, 88.2 per cent. in the case of the "B" preference shares, and 84.5 per cent. in the case of the "C" preference shares.

Originally, £780,000 ordinary shares were provided for these arrears, but now we are proposing to pay £760,000 in cash instead.

RIGHTS OF PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDERS.

The rights of the preference shareholders are hardly interfered with, except that all three classes are asked to forgo their contingent rights to additional dividends, but the "C" preference shares, being the junior security, are asked to contribute something towards the deficiency in capital account by being written down to 16s per share (instead of 15s as originally proposed); the rate of dividend they receive will be raised from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent., which, in effect, leaves their present income unimpaired. As the "C" preference shares are still entitled to rank for £1 in the event of winding up, I think I can say that the only tangible concession asked for from the "C" preference shareholder is the forgoing of their contingent rights in the same way as we are asking the "A" and "B" shareholders.

I think the present scheme fully meets the views of those ordinary shareholders who desired to retain in its entirety their equity in the company, but this could only be done in one of two ways, either by taking the sum required to pay the preference arrears out of the existing cash resources of the company, or by raising fresh funds for the purpose. It is necessary to ask your authority, therefore, to increase the borrowing powers of the company to the extent of £1,000,000, so that we may be able to rely on having ample funds available, as and when required, to meet the demands of the developing and growing business of the company, but the cash position of the company as we find it to-day is sufficiently good to enable us for the moment to pay the £760,000 arrears of preference dividend out of our own resources, so that an immediate issue of further stock for this particular purpose will not be necessary.

Although it does not arise on this particular point, I may mention that your board have well in mind the possibilities of further increase to the equity coming to the ordinary shareholders by a financial operation whereby our existing 8 per cent. debentures may be converted into some stock bearing a lower rate of interest. The exact time for such an operation is impossible to forecast at the moment, and therefore I need not further labour this subject.

POSITION OF ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS.

The two members of the committee representing the ordinary shareholders, though endorsing our proposals, express the view in their circular that the ordinary shares need not have been written down to the extent proposed, but I can assure you that in arriving at this much debated figure of 6s 8d, your board has very carefully considered the question from every angle. The various properties you possess were subjected to minute examination item by item, and acting on the best advice we could obtain in each case, we have formed the opinion that the balance-sheet as now submitted is a true statement of the value of your tangible assets, and we



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.
Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital -	£10,000,000	Issued Capital -	£8,734,660
Reserve Fund -	£4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital -	£4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

**THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.**
54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

could not, consistently with our duty to you and to ourselves, recommend them being shown in your balance-sheet at a higher figure, and not because having once committed ourselves to these figures we do not wish to depart from them, but because we have heard no arguments convincing enough to justify the adoption of such a course.

In a company of this magnitude there is, of course, always one item open to considerable discussion, and that item is goodwill. In the consolidated balance-sheet which was circulated with my speech of the last meeting, this figure was shown as £351,416. No one would argue that this amount formed any basis for measuring the actual goodwill of the Dunlop Company in the various markets of the world. Owing to the fact that the "C" preference shares are now only written down to 16s per share instead of 15s as originally proposed, and in order to retain the ordinary shares at the 6s 8d level, it has been necessary to increase this item—i.e., goodwill, by £130,000, so that in the consolidated balance-sheet set out in the circular dated September 15, 1924, you will find that this item of the assets has been increased from £351,416 to £481,416, representing a figure which stands there more as a balancing item than as an indication of the value of "Dunlop goodwill."

With regard to the increased borrowing powers which you are asked to approve in resolution No. 6 (b). It is not the intention of the board to raise this money until it is actually required, and that may not be for some time, and obviously the precise amount and form which such an issue would take cannot be definitely determined until the date of the appeal is nearer, but you may rest assured that the issue will be made on the most favourable terms possible and with the least expense, and that our shareholders will be duly considered.

There is no present intention of issuing for cash any new ordinary shares, but if at any future date such an issue should take place, we shall follow the usual custom of making the offer first to our ordinary shareholders.

GROWING SALES.

I am not going to prophesy, as the rôle of a prophet is always a ball in the world, and British made, so far as this country is concerned remain as at present—viz., the volume of sales and prices—the rate of profit revealed in the last accounts submitted to you will not only be maintained, but improved upon in spite of keener competition.

The increases in the sales of the company's products are being more than maintained, and the volume of business this year is again substantially higher than it was last year, which was a record year.

The increased volume of business is being done with a very much reduced inventory, and without any additional selling expense, and the spread of overhead generally is reflected in our trading results. But we want still further increased sales to get even better results. I wonder if all the 50,000 Dunlop shareholders could not help us a little. If our Sales Department could count on 50,000 shareholders advocating and buying the best tyre and golf ball in the world, and British made, so far as this country is concerned, I am sure we would be taking on thousands of extra hands at Fort Dunlop, and making more profit.

But the development of business is not confined to this country. The sales in France are higher than they were last year, and we have every reason to look for further increases as our quality in France is equal to Dunlop standard quality, and is being more and more appreciated.

The output and sales of the German factory are increasing, and satisfactory prices are being obtained.

REMARKABLE EXPANSION.

Our general export business shows a most remarkable expansion, and I am glad to say that this is fairly well spread over all our markets. In some markets prices are undoubtedly too low, but your board has adopted as a policy the maintenance of its position in these markets on competitive terms.

Since we last met, I have had an opportunity of again visiting the large and important Dunlop factory at Buffalo, in which you have such a big investment, and I can at once say how gratified I was to find such a splendid spirit of enthusiasm and enterprise there. The quality of the product made in Buffalo is equal to the quality made in Birmingham, and you know what that signifies. The sales in America are increasing, and I came away full of hope for the ultimate success of this venture.

There are no accounts before you to-day, but I feel sure you would like to have some information as to the cash position of the company. You will remember that at June 30, 1922, bank loans amounted to £2,019,000, with cash and bills of £217,000. By December, 1923, the position showed great improvement, but to-day our investments in War Loan, deposits, and bills amount to a total of nearly two and a quarter million pounds—a result which I am confident will give you considerable satisfaction.

The scheme was approved by the requisite majority at the extraordinary general meeting, and also at the class meetings which were subsequently held.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Sept. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Sept. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Sept. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Sept. 22, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England.....	5,069,513	5,442,665			
Bank of Ireland.....	1,562,001	1,375,502			
REVENUE.		6,818,167			
Customs.....	101,800,000	47,103,000	60,727,000	1,585,000	2,775,000
Excise.....	135,500,000	61,613,000	67,834,000	7,138,000	6,516,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,106,000	3,629,000		
Stamps, &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	23,810,000	25,270,000	1,140,000	700,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty.....	21,000,000	8,120,000	8,750,000	1,000,000	120,000
Property & Income Tax.....	1,250,000	620,000	500,000		
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	265,000,000	99,315,000	100,411,000	2,309,000	10,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	24,130,000	20,280,000	380,000	2,626,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	20,000,000	8,280,000	9,850,000		330,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	25,100,000	23,850,000	200,000	540,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	440,000	410,000		750,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	5,788,637	6,022,162		18,706
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	5,800,881	6,675,784	252,847	225,760
Ordinary Receipts.....	30,000,000	14,574,885	19,987,809	500,353	509,264
Special Receipts.....	794,050,000	334,801,403	354,196,756	15,306,200	15,120,730
Total, Inc. Balance.....		341,433,017	361,014,922		
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....			65,000		
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....		5,780,000	3,690,000		100,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922.....		2,200,000	1,750,000		
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		1,000			
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....			270,000		
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills.....		1,125,599,000	1,178,069,000	44,715,000	44,742,000
By National Savings Certificates.....		12,900,000	24,650,000	450,000	2,650,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33.....		13,521,620	29,208,627		
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....		313,391,500	335,853,500	600,000	9,250,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....					
Repayments—					
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1913 and 1921.....		23,109	50,081		
Total.....		1,815,398,644	1,834,798,580	61,070,200	71,762,730

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Sept. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Sept. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Sept. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Sept. 22, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	152,700,256	149,508,737	690,339	688,020
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	13,940,353	19,507,039	350,000	486,195
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	3,505,044	3,028,044		258,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	13,150,000	3,776,891	3,361,316		700,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,086,832	1,575,850		44,742
Land Settlement.....	750,000	311,444	308,517	6,495	5,154
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	1,058,945	1,205,305	54,150	53,750
Supply Services.....	408,919,000	169,029,489	173,298,427	7,475,000	7,800,000
EXPENDITURE.....	795,759,000	346,409,254	351,794,235	8,833,984	9,777,861
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....			5,000		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....		36,891	36,891		
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....		70,000	270,000		
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1922 and 1924.....		3,950,000	3,370,000		320,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....		4,000	12,000		
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....		260,719			
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—Repayment of amounts borrowed.....		5,750,000	3,440,000		
Treasury Bills.....		1,117,025,000	1,164,935,000	44,765,000	39,955,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates.....		15,300,000	16,850,000	600,000	600,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....			31,636,910		550,000
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....		50	6,981,184		6,712,148
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....		323,729,500	351,389,500	6,500,000	13,700,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners.....		23,109	50,081		
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....			55,214		
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	5,069,513	5,442,665	60,768,584	71,815,009	
Bank of Ireland.....	1,562,001	1,375,502	2,078,112	138,316	52,464
Total.....		749,728	1,834,553	165,000	95,267
Total.....		2,840,121	3,972,665	301,216	147,731

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 60 of 1924.
Treasury, September 22, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1915.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	515	315	315	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan.....					266	684	683	666	666
3½% War Stock.....		63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock.....		13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....		2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,058	2,058	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds.....		1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	820
4% Funding Loan.....		409	408	347	335	325	314	314	314
4% Victory Bonds.....		360	357	453	411	444	457	470	470
Treasury Bonds.....		30	323	319	289	185	150	150	150
Exchequer Bonds.....		409	408	347	335	325	314	314	314
National Savings Certs.....		267	274	285	342	354	367	368	363
Other Debt*.....		1,306	1,181	1,133	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
American Loan (Anglo-French).....		51	51	121	878	616	652	588	597
Treasury Bills.....		15	1,107	1,107	154	147	70	70	70
Temporary Advances.....		1	243	205					
Other Capital Liabilities.....		654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,650
Total Liabilities.....		711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,871	7,707	7,714

* Includes debt to American Government.

† Corrected figures from Finance Accounts, 1923-24.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Sept. 22, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Sept. 20, '24.	Week Ended Sept. 20, '24.
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England.....	178,361,500	186,155,500	175,817,500	5,900,000
Advances by Public Deposits.....	178,361,500	186,155,500	175,817,500	5,900,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding.....	629,150,000	588,320,000	596,920,000	75,000
Total Floating Debt.....	807,511,000	774,475,500	772,737,500	5,975,000

* Includes £26,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Sept. 29—Oct. 4 were opened on Sept. 26, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £63,960,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Tuesday at £99 1s 10d, about 26 per cent., and above in full; Wednesday to Friday £99 1s 8d, and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 10d, about 26 per cent., above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £40,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Aug. 22, 1924.	£	£	£ s d	£ s d
Aug. 22.....	30,000,000	37,225,000	3 15 1/8	nil
Aug. 29.....	40,000,000	52,540,000	3 15 1/8	nil
Sept. 5.....	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6/8	nil
Sept. 12.....	35,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3/4	nil
Sept. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1/2	nil
Sept. 26.....	40,000,000	63,960,000	3 12 4/7	nil

Tenders will be received on Oct. 3, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Coins in Circulation.	Redemption Account.					
		Investments Reserve Account.	Silver Coin.	Gold and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
Mar. 29, 1923.	300,351	14,255	8,000	26,500	19,450	16/9	261,479
June 28, 1923.	296,374	13,338	8,000	26,500	19,650	16/2	254,312
Sept. 27, 1923.	299,127	12,848	7,000	27,000	21,150	16/6	246,466
Dec. 27, 1923.	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	16/9	258,922
Mar. 22, 1924.	285,516	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/3	241,294
June 27, 1924.	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/3	242,446
Sept. 27, 1924.	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/3	238,596
Dec. 26, 1924.	289,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16/6	256,032
Mar. 26, 1924.	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/6	236,987
June 25, 1924.	280,319	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/0	246,199
Sept. 10, 1924.	289,435	12,309	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/1	245,173
Sept. 17, 1924.	288,761	12,356	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/2	244,517
Sept. 24, 1924.	287,452	12,281	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/2	243,141
Sept. 24, 1924.	285,592	12,227	7,000	27,000	22,450	17/3	241,185

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum statutory issue for 1920 fixed at £320,000,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,885,400, for 1923 at £370,163,600, and for 1924 at £248,190,500.

The Bankers' Gazette.

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1924.
old coin and bullion.....	549	549	549	549	549	533
old certificates.....	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,032
old bullion.....	50	50	50	50	50	125
old coins.....	4,589	3,956	3,973	4,109	4,555	3,129
cash and advances to Govt.	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,950	2,250
investments.....	423	423	223	223	223	17
LIABILITIES.						
capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
reserve.....	153	153	153	153	153	40
notes in circulation.....	10,587	10,104	10,165	10,434	10,704	10,740
bankers' deposits.....	5,033	4,982	4,937	4,790	5,217	5,625
ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.....	67.5%	69.8%	69.7%	69.1%	66.2%	65.6%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 25, 1924.	Aug. 18, 1924.	Aug. 11, 1924.	Aug. 4, 1924.	Aug. 1, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1924.
total securities.....	16,574	16,137	16,457	17,113	18,070	12,683
cash.....	18,620	18,939	19,746	18,747	18,650	16,213
advances.....	41,222	41,244	41,438	41,210	41,296	30,770
land bills.....	6,009	6,081	5,214	4,582	4,345	4,180
other bills.....	24,06	24,60	27,41	26,67	23,82	24,41
end stock.....	2,592	2,592	2,592	2,592	2,592	2,466
with other banks.....	1,269	1,368	1,341	1,375	1,342	1,455
cash.....	30,288	28,770	27,349	28,160	30,244	39,582
LIABILITIES.						
capital paid up.....	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625
reserve.....	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570
total deposits.....	1,06,183	1,04,774	1,03,894	1,03,714	1,06,352	95,762
headquarters.....	1,276	1,325	1,327	1,277	1,265	223
Advances in London.....	473	468	460	467	466	308
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London.....	849	913	892	918	924	91

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Aug. 2, 1924.	Aug. 25, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
cash and bullion.....	1,110,407	1,111,005	1,112,009	1,114,016	1,103,674	221,320
discounts.....	247,672	282,125	260,934	304,424	243,711	41,740
advances.....	318,172	325,000	314,381	302,752	176,388	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
notes.....	1,177,994	1,309,259	1,180,667	1,235,442	1,228,403	362,270
Govt. deposits.....	198,255	969,041	984,665	937,836	874,957	87,340
other deposits.....	83,777	78,812	66,046	76,136	38,247	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
old coin and bullion.....	5,544,063	5,544,063	5,544,063	5,544,063	5,539,337	3,730,625
Of which held abroad.....	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
silver coin and bullion.....	301,284	301,284	301,284	301,284	294,823	632,650
discounts and advances.....	6,753,448	6,753,448	6,753,448	6,753,448	6,753,448	2,327,775
advances to the State.....	23,000,000	23,000,000	23,000,000	23,000,000	23,000,000	23,000,000
LIABILITIES.						
notes.....	40,338,741	40,338,741	40,338,741	40,338,741	37,625,549	5,811,875
Government deposits.....	14,223	14,223	14,223	14,223	17,884	183,700
Private deposits.....	1,727,181	1,746,085	1,775,289	1,974,325	845,950	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 4, 1924.	Aug. 28, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
old coin and silver.....	354,233	354,260	353,992	353,821	347,136	322,650
Securities.....	1,284,398	1,314,816	1,291,914	1,306,077	1,014,619	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	7,526,374	7,614,518	7,628,010	7,640,931	7,097,703	934,150
Current accounts.....	347,238	327,869	344,037	313,046	433,356	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1924.	Sept. 24, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold.....	531,511	531,511	531,511	531,511	581,775	165,092
Silver.....	11,806	11,810	11,642	11,739	10,305	8,436
Notes and advances.....	360,864	378,361	384,267	408,809	349,952	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	949,805	969,467	978,393	1,000,596	967,417	316,632
Deposits.....	21,737	30,751	38,329	44,318	42,674	5,016

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.—In billions of marks.

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.
Silver coin reserve.....	(a) 20	(a) 21	(a) 20	(a) 26
Gold and bullion.....	(a) 544	(a) 528	(a) 516	(a) 507
Treasury notes.....	385,000	388,000	415,000	428,000
Reisenbank notes.....	338,347,888	275,260,690	237,469,880	390,556,187
Bills of exchange and cheques.....	842,201,593	816,893,472	808,707,494	784,537,716
Reisenbank bills and cheques.....	1082,930,951	1080,939,586	1059,136,124	953,424,906
Advances.....	8,991,460	11,407,260	14,890,160	10,611,967
Reisenbank discounts, &c.....	13,486,200	32,878,800	45,093,100	24,775,100
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation.....	1305,717,145	1375,640,791	1391,895,246	1129,222,771
Total deposits.....	749,704,015	655,769,775	561,855,027	824,158,469
Loan from Reisenbank.....	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Position May 24, 1924.
Gold.....	46,560	48,519	49,783	50,858	47,615	104,818
Balance abroad and foreign bills.....	46,923	43,021	50,760	52,022	47,443	112,172
Swedish and for. Govt. securities.....	56,114	56,114	56,114	56,114	130,115	34,465
Discounts and loans.....	373,726	391,989	395,388	393,716	257,902	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	502,177	513,717	518,328	528,184	528,297	226,555
Deposits at notice.....	145,934	159,314	159,757	166,923	125,076	369,660

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold.....	42,965	42,965	42,965	42,704	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills.....	435,206	487,792	473,901	396,432	80,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities.....	498,642	498,642	498,642	571,407	81,226
Discounts and loans.....	847,541	843,835	814,583	879,123	105,161
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	1,265,320	1,278,953	1,273,346	1,370,528	123,941
Deposits at notice.....	274,803	313,461	277,486	296,103	21,225

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold.....	147,286	147,286	147,286	147,287	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills.....	33,991	35,217	38,833	18,640	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities.....	8,999	8,999	8,999	9,052	8,816
Discounts and loans.....	427,354	429,939	433,970	454,992	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	382,909	385,041	389,617	394,250	113,484
Deposits at notice.....	128,829	132,627	133,212	102,656	7,188

Through Royal resolution of February 3, 1922, it has been resolved that the extraordinary right of issuing bank notes has been reduced from 50 millions to 25 millions from February 4, 1922 (this day included).

BANK OF LATVIA.—In late (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 17, 1924.	Sept. 10, 1924.	Sept. 3, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.
Total cash.....	19,782	20,976	21,021	14,728	3,085
Gold coin and bullion.....	23,580	23,578	23,575	15,799	14,993
Of which held abroad.....	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,507	2,466
Foreign bills.....	40,361	40,431	39,339	61,181	24,466
Discounts and loans.....	80,223	79,164	78,519	24,239	9,553
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation.....	25,800	25,800	25,800	23,000	4,005
Capital paid up.....	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,000	8,000
Government deposits.....	77,757	77,752	76,481	37,762	16,697
Other deposits.....	46,613	46,273	46,028	40,665	16,995

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	July 15, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
Gold.....	25,213	25,111	25,037	24,726	24,596	18,388
Silver.....	25	18	10	95	92	94
Dollars, & sterling &c.....	49,392	49,250	49,306	49,481	52,804	37,428
Discount and credit.....	32,010	31,642	30,404	30,128	30,132	13,740
LIABILITIES.						
Capital.....	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Banknotes in circulation.....	71,098	69,207	67,694	67,805	66,809	53,640
Deposits.....	37,078	37,800	39,700	39,823	43,199	6,208

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 10, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 10, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
Gold.....	99,446	98,288	97,548	95,930	95,683	95,683
Foreign coin and balance with foreign banks.....	256,418	266,791	278,398	280,515	272,138	272,138
Private loans and discounts.....	221,647	207,935	189,122	183,748	174,950	174,950
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation.....	419,485	430,263	377,833	390,339	394,263	394,263
Deposits.....	138,391	121,962	172,690	147,074	112,306	112,306

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 15, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
LIABILITIES of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Bank in Office.....	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	11,096,931	10,096,931	10,096,931
Discounts and advances.....	1,775,505	1,861,411	1,940,874	1,909,048	1,900,907	1,512,143
Gold and silver held.....	1,051,288	1,051,189	1,051,008	1,051,008	1,050,824	1,050,763
Foreign bills and balances abroad.....	657,421	657,296	657,572	654,594	631,962	2,444,593
Other assets.....	219,718	216,610	214,387	213,384	225,472	469,586
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circulat'g.....	7,252,766	8,002,211	8,139,792	7,533,456	7,701,058	8,925,099
Deposits.....	4,540,329	4,482,623	4,407,931	4,952,183	4,757,605	5,665,832
Other liabilities.....	1,409,357	1,401,192	1,415,638	1,439,382	1,447,493	993,077

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

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

ASSETS.		Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
Gold.....		108,453,053	108,390,488	108,256,454	73,390,999
Foreign bills.....		3,531,397,760	3,554,155,736	3,453,177,442	3,027,740,845
Bills discounted.....		3,052,902,589	3,129,783,721	3,225,260,260	706,175,094
Treasury bills.....		2,418,534,282	2,418,534,282	2,219,459,056	2,537,661,138
LIABILITIES.					
Reserve fund.....		4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	
Notes in circulation.....		7,603,734,861	7,738,593,860	8,002,149,235	5,650,597,972
Deposits.....		1,301,825,789	1,203,968,899	997,677,154	577,633,821

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended September 24, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Sweden	10,500	Netherlands	11,520
Netherlands	1,160	Belgium	6,800
France	757	France	5,560
U.S.A.	1,637	British India	135,965
British South Africa	30,970	Other countries	152
British West Africa	756		
Total declared value of imports	45,880	Total declared value of exports	159,997

SALE OF BILLS AND TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS ON INDIA.

The Secretary of State for India in Council offers for sale on Tuesday, September 30, 1924, bills of exchange and telegraphic transfers (immediate and deferred) on the Government of India, to the amount of 50 lakhs of rupees, payable at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Karachi. This and any subsequent sales will, until further notice, be regulated by the following conditions:—

1. Dates of sales and the aggregate amount to be offered on each occasion will be announced in a notice exhibited at the Bank of England.

2. Tenders will be opened at the Bank of England on Tuesdays at 1 o'clock. They must be made on forms which can be obtained on application at the Chief Cashier's Office at the Bank of England.

3. Any tender may be for the whole of the amount shown in the announcement, or for any portion thereof which in the case of a bill is not less than Rs. 10,000, and in the case of a transfer (immediate or deferred) is a multiple of Rs. 1,000 and not less than Rs. 1 lakh. The amount of the tender or tenders submitted by or on behalf of any one person, firm, or company must not in the aggregate exceed the amount shown in the announcement. Tenders which appear to the Secretary of State in Council to be submitted in direct or indirect infringement of this rule will be rejected.

4. Each tender must state the rate of exchange at which the applicant is prepared to purchase the amount for which he tenders therein or any less amount that may be allotted. The rate of exchange must be expressed in pence, or in pence and a fraction of a penny, per rupee; any fraction must be either one thirty-second of a penny or a multiple thereof. No announcement will be made of the minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted.

5. Tenders for immediate telegraphic transfers will rank for allotment with tenders at 1-32d lower for bills and deferred telegraphic transfers. When a *pro rata* allotment is made, no bill will ordinarily be granted for a less amount than Rs. 5,000, and no telegraphic transfer for a less amount than Rs. 1 lakh. Applicants tendering both for bills and transfers may, if they wish, insert in their tender for transfers a request that if that tender be not sufficiently large to secure an allotment of one lakh of rupees it may be increased to the necessary extent by reduction of their tender for bills.

6. On Tuesday afternoon tenderers will, on application at the Chief Cashier's Office, be informed whether any allotment has been made to them.

7. Payment for bills and transfers must be made before the Tuesday next after the day of allotment.

8. Applicants to whom an allotment of bills has been made will be furnished with a form to be filled up with the particulars of the bills desired, which must be left at the Chief Cashier's Office before 12 o'clock on the day preceding that on which the bills are required; the bills will be delivered next day on payment in cash not later than 2 o'clock.

9. When a telegraphic transfer has been allotted the necessary telegram authorising payment in India on demand will be sent on the day on which payment for the transfer is made at the Bank of England. Immediate transfers will be payable in India on the day following the issue of the telegram; deferred transfers will be payable 16 days after the issue of the telegram.

10. Subject to further notice no "intermediate" bills or telegraphic transfers will be offered for sale by the Secretary of State in Council.

11. The Secretary of State in Council reserves the right of rejecting the whole or any part of any tender, and of departing in any respect without previous notice from the foregoing terms should circumstances render it expedient.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on September 24th, as follows:—

GOLD.

Owing to the large amounts of gold shipped direct from Durban to India, the supplies in London this week were exceptionally small, and practically none was available for the Eastern markets. Exceptionally large gold movements are taking place just now in London and New York, though the movement in each case is within a mile. The transfer is

owing to the central banking institutions changing their quarters. The Bank of England is temporarily moving its gold reserve from Threadneedle street to Finsbury circus, and the Federal Reserve Bank in New York from Nassau street to a new permanent home in Maiden lane. The Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta, announces that India's foreign trade during August last was as follows:—

Imports, private merchandise	Lacs of Rupees.
Exports, private merchandise, including re-exports	20.65
Net imports of private treasure	25.15
	5.55

The balance of trade, including enfaced rupee paper, &c., is Rs. 83 lacs against India, as compared with Rs. 3.20 lacs in favour of India in July. The following figures relate to the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of August, 1924:—Imports, £1,794,529; exports, £3,272,548.

SILVER.

The tone of the market has been good, and prices during the last few days have moved steadily upward. Quotations for both deliveries touched 35½d yesterday. This price is only 1½d below the record for the year for cash delivery—35½d on May 31st. As a quotation for forward delivery, it is the highest since October 9, 1922. Bear covering from China and India has been the principal cause of the good tendency. America has been a sluggish seller, but China has put some silver on the market. The underlying reason for recent bear covering has been the civil war in China, which has restricted the movement of goods and the fulfilment of contracts. The Continent has not figured as a substantial factor.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Aug. 31.	Sept. 7.	Sept. 15.
Notes in circulation	17,813	17,781	17,837
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,448	8,417	8,472
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	5,733	5,733	5,733
Securities (Indian Government) ..	1,400	1,399	1,400
Securities (British Government) ..			

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 20th inst. consisted of about 42,800,000 ounces in sycee, 45,500,000 dollars, and 1,910 silver bars, as compared with about 43,300,000 ounces in sycee, 46,500,000 dollars, and 1,240 silver bars on the 15th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.		Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver.
	s	d	Cash.	Forward.		
Sept. 20....	92	9	34½	34½	Oct. 5, 1918..	49½
22....	92	7	35	35	3, 1919..	63
23....	92	9	35½	35½	1, 1920..	59
24....	92	7	35	35	Sept. 30, 1921..	42½
25....	92	5	35	35	29, 1922..	35½
26....	92	6	35½	35½	28, 1923..	31½

NOTICES.

On and after Monday, September 29th, the business of the Bank of England stock office will be conducted at No. 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that a new branch has been opened at 2 Bristol street, Horse Fair, Birmingham, under the management of Mr T. H. Rose.

A branch of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, under the management of Mr Frederick Boreham, will be opened at 33 Station road, Harlesden, London, on October 1st.

The National Bank of South Africa have received a cable mating that Sir Francis Drumond Percy Chaplin, G.B.E., Mr Leonard Line, J.P., of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, have joined the Board of Directors of the Bank.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Hughes, M.L.C., has been elected Deputy-Chairman of the chief Board of the Commercial Bank-H. E. Kater, M.L.C., who has retired from the Board after having been a director for 35 years. Sir William Vickers, through the resignation of the Hon. H. E. Kater. Mr John Neville Buchanan, D.S.O., M.C., has been appointed a director on the London Board of the Bank.

Bank of Australasia has opened a branch at 84 Mount street, North Sydney.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Sept. 19, 1924.	(c) Week ended Sept. 20, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Sept. 21, 1924.			Aggregate 38 Weeks, 1924.		
			Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	330,000	352,000	682,000	1,034,000	1,272,700	25,181,000	26,453,700
Do for 1923	3,747	294,000	350,000	644,000	1,038,000	1,334,000	25,705,000	27,043,000
London & North-Eastern	6,702	509,000	705,000	1,214,000	1,745,000	2,569,000	43,101,000	46,670,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	475,000	681,000	1,156,000	1,766,000	2,569,000	43,101,000	46,670,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,941	691,000	861,000	1,552,000	2,486,000	3,403,000	58,896,000	62,301,000
Do for 1923	6,941	691,000	861,000	1,552,000	2,486,000	3,403,000	58,896,000	62,301,000
Southern	2,146	389,000	128,100	517,100	1,302,800	1,483,800	17,335,900	18,819,700
Do for 1923	2,146	373,000	123,800	496,800	1,315,800	1,483,800	17,335,900	18,819,700
Metropolitan (a)	793	47,510	4,044	51,554	1,476,774	1,477,777	1,624,551	1,624,551
Do for 1923	793	31,482	3,769	35,251	1,206,906	1,424,410	1,349,516	1,349,516
Underground E.R. (a) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (a) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belmont & Co. Down (b) ..	80	4,778	1,054	5,832	182,518	46,894	229,412	229,412
Dublin and S.-East (b) ..	160	7,402	2,585	9,987	244,492	131,594	376,086	376,086
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	20,300	21,500	41,800	742,300	768,700	1,511,000	1,511,000
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	30,225	34,227	64,452	931,233	1,167,353	2,098,586	2,098,586
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	10,689	13,860	24,549	360,806	538,652	899,458	899,458

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	21 weeks	Aug. 23	1,072	Rs. 3,07,000	+ 62,355	Rs. 54,63,015	+ 8,37,497
Barai Lt. Ry.	22 weeks	..	118	15,000	+ 1,200	8,32,200	+ 65,200
Bengal & N. Western ..	22 weeks	..	30,263	5,09,800	+ 1,24,508	1,43,05,591	+ 9,80,094
Bombay Nagpur	22 weeks	..	20,800	14,10,000	+ 1,83,000	3,39,44,723	+ 32,40,451
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	25 weeks	Sept. 20	1,342	18,31,000	+ 57,000	5,60,96,000	+ 54,24,000
Burma	21 weeks	Aug. 23	1,342	4,69,429	+ 39,367	1,41,38,314	+ 1,47,161
Delhi, Umballa, Kalka ..	23 weeks	Sept. 13	239	92,000	+ 26,472	24,61,125	+ 1,64,254
East Indian	26 weeks	Sept. 21	2,873	34,63,000	+ 6,94,000	8,32,41,000	+ 78,74,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	23 weeks	Aug. 23	1,375	21,08,300	+ 2,32,000	6,50,69,065	+ 76,25,839
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	22 weeks	..	302	13,25,000	+ 24,639	5,43,35,270	+ 24,58,297
Madras & S. Mahr	22 weeks	..	259	43,753	+ 4,892	13,00,528	+ 1,54,784
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	22 weeks	..	314	44,414	+ 1,704	15,38,666	+ 1,49,915
South Indian	21 weeks	..	2,177	7,38,000	+ 1,51,056	1,98,78,744	+ 8,20,146
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	12 weeks	Sept. 20	754	13,700	+ 2,900	145,600	+ 12,700
Argentine Trans.	12 weeks	..	20	2,990	+ 1,200	30,253	+ 19,051
B. A. and Pacific	11 weeks	..	13	5,362	+ 10,000	1,879,000	+ 330,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	12 weeks	..	20	5,948	+ 7,000	2,26,000	+ 46,000
B. A. Western	12 weeks	..	20	1,882	+ 95,000	1,000,000	+ 288,000
Central Argentine	12 weeks	..	20	3,305	+ 213,000	10,000	+ 227,000
Cordoba Central	12 weeks	..	20	1,205	+ 60,000	1,200	+ 77,000
Entre Rios	12 weeks	..	20	729	+ 21,900	1,900	+ 39,600
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	37 weeks	Sept. 14	22,680	4,099,773	+ 59,770	161,315,648	+ 6,502,862
Canadian Pacific	38 weeks	..	13,814	3,511,000	+ 510,000	124,785,000	+ 915,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil	38 weeks	Sept. 20	1,011	8,400	+ 700	326,300	+ 20,600
Leopoldina	38 weeks	..	1,311	34,932	+ 6,468	1,112,757	+ 133,434
San Paulo	38 weeks	..	1,534	37,129	+ 1,389	1,366,423	+ 254,099
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta	37 weeks	Sept. 21	838	30,005	+ 9,630	1,423,330	+ 87,915
Nitrato (4-monthly)	36 weeks	..	15	366	+ 42,083	6,052	+ 684,526
CUBAN.							
Havana Central	11 weeks	Sept. 13	..	11,933	+ 331	128,955	+ 3,348
United of Havana	12 weeks	..	20	1,249	+ 64,409	8,543	+ 800,205
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay	12 weeks	Sept. 20	273	19,077	+ 922	253,469	+ 13,928
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	12 weeks	..	20	3,389	+ 266	45,634	+ 2,447
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	12 weeks	..	20	1,912	+ 517	25,597	+ 1,746
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	12 weeks	..	20	2,024	+ 90	27,629	+ 5,610
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Alcoy and Gandia	36 weeks	Sept. 20	33	20,000	+ 4,000	874,500	+ 81,700
Egyptian Delta	31 weeks	..	10	9,481	+ 2,662	122,692	+ 13,108
Gt. Southern of Spain	37 weeks	..	13	104	+ 111,796	7,497	+ 3,783,662
Mexican Railway	12 weeks	..	21	432	+ 235,400	9,500	+ 2,992,600
New Cape Central	35 weeks	Aug. 30	205	2,496	+ 243	93,536	+ 1,174
Paraguay Central	12 weeks	Sept. 20	274	4,300	+ 470	51,210	+ 5,370
Salvador	12 weeks	..	20	5,073	+ 1,543	30,951	+ 2,468

(a) Converted as per. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Argentina N.E.	12weeks	Sept.20	754	13,700	+	2,900	145,600	+	12,700
Argentina Trans.	12weeks	20	..	2,990	-	1,200	30,253	-	72,031
B.A. and Pacific	11weeks	13	5,362	140,000	+	10,000	1,879,000	+	330,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	12weeks	20	5,948	171,000	+	7,000	2,625,000	+	390,000
			Net	44,000	-	6,000	755,000	-	258,000
B. A. Western	12weeks	20	1,482	95,000	+	10,000	1,156,000	+	288,000
			Net	53,000	-	5,000	429,000	-	280,000
Central Argentine	12weeks	20	3,305	120,000	+	10,000	2,637,000	+	227,000
Cordoba Central	12weeks	20	1,205	60,000	+	1,200	855,600	+	77,000
Entre Rios	12weeks	20	729	21,900	+	1,900	240,900	+	39,600

CANADIAN.									
					\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canadian National....	37weeks	Sept.14	22,680	4,093,773	-	850,770	161,315,848	-	6,560,862
Canadian Pacific....	38weeks	21	13,814	3,511,000	-	510,000	172,785,000	-	915,000

BRAZILIAN (b.)									
Gt. West. of Brazil....	38weeks	Sept.20	1,011	..	+	700	326,300	+	20,600
Leopoldina	38weeks	20	1,831	34,932	+	6,468	1,121,757	+	139,494
San Paulo	38weeks	21	1,553	37,123	+	1,389	1,566,423	+	254,095

CHILEAN.									
Antofagasta	37weeks	Sept.21	838	30,005	+	9,630	1,433,330	+	87,915
Nitrato (+monthly)	36weeks	15	358	42,083	+	6,052	684,526	+	101,738

CUBAN.									
Havana Central	11weeks	Sept.13	..	11,933	+	331	128,965	+	3,348
United of Havana ..	12weeks	20	1,249	64,409	+	8,543	800,805	+	95,010

URUGUAYAN.									
Central Uruguay	12weeks	Sept.20	973	19,077	-	922	251,469	-	13,928
C. Urug. (East. Ext.) ..	12weeks	20	..	5,383	-	268	45,438	-	2,400
C. Urug. (North. Ext.) ..	12weeks	20	185	3,942	-	517	25,597	-	1,746
C. Urug. (West. Ext.) ..	12weeks	20	211	2,002	+	90	27,623	+	5,610

OTHER OVERSEAS.									
Alcoy and Gandia	36weeks	Sept.20	33	Pz. 20,000	+	4,000	874,500	+	81,700
Egyptian Delta	21weeks	10	675	9,481	+	2,662	122,692	+	13,108
Gt. Southn. of Spain ..	37weeks	13	104	111,796	+	7,497	7,783,662	+	501,330
Mexican Railway	12weeks	21	432	\$235,400	-	9,500	2,392,600	-	166,200
New Cape Central	35weeks	Aug. 30	205	2,496	+	243	93,536	+	1,174
Paraguay Central	12weeks	Sept. 20	274	4,300	-	470	51,210	-	5,370
Salvador	12weeks	20	100	5,073	+	1,525	30,951	+	2,468

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.									
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.			
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -		
Anglo-Argentine....	38weeks	Sept.23	329	\$88,345	+ 3,224	3,296,088	+ 118,621		
Burnley Corporation ..	1 week	..	20	12	+ 136	..	..		
Calcutta Tramways ..	38weeks	..	20	354	+ 8,133,470	5,507	+ 6,72,035		
Chatham & District ..	37weeks	..	18	15	+ 21	24,093	+ 5,947		
Egyptian Markets	37 weeks	..	18	..	+ 81,803	221	+ 75,707		
Glasgow Corporation ..	16 weeks	..	20	106	+ 46,956	591	+ 703,885		
Tramways	16 weeks	..	10	..	+	114,230	+ 4,748		
Isle of Thanet Trams ..	30weeks	..	228	1,614	-	65	47,599	- 5,633	
Leamshshire Trams ..	33weeks	Aug. 27	..	..	-	..	..	..	
Liverpool Corporation ..	16 weeks	..	20	106	+ 46,956	591	+ 703,885		
Tramways	16 weeks	..	10	..	+	114,230	+ 4,748		
Isle of Thanet Trams ..	30weeks	..	228	1,614	-	65	47,599	- 5,633	
Leamshshire Trams ..	33weeks	Aug. 27	..	..	-	..	..	..	
Liverpool Corporation ..	16 weeks	..	20	106	+ 46,956	591	+ 703,885		
Tramways	16 weeks	..	10	..	+	114,230	+ 4,748		
L.C.C. Tramways	34 weeks	..	15	..	+ 353	8,72,214	+ 27,349		
Madras Elec. (2 wk) ..	39weeks	21	..	..	+ 456	164,484	+ 25,594		
Pernambuco Trams	38weeks	20	..	..	+ 1,588	475,098	+ 116,681		
Singapore Tram	33weeks	..	..	..	-	..	..	..	

Combined revenue.

rities. The exact figures have not yet been agreed, but full provision is made in the accounts, leaving a small balance to be carried forward, in addition to the net profit for the year of £6,293, making a total carry forward of £8,762. The sum of £31,314 has been allowed for depreciation. The depreciation reserve account now stands at £130,206. No dividends are being paid on the preference and ordinary shares.

HENRY BRIGGS, SON AND CO.—This well-known colliery concern of Normanton, Yorkshire, made a net profit of £168,274 for year ended June 30, 1924, against £184,769 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is again 15 per cent., free of income-tax. The sum of £65,000 is transferred to reserves, and £39,974 is carried forward, against £35,062 brought in. The ordinary capital is £655,750 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares or debentures.

LEACH'S ARGENTINE ESTATES, LIMITED.—The profit on trading for year ended March 31, 1924, amounted to £257,136, as compared with a loss on trading of £130,867 in preceding year. The directors do not feel justified at the present time in recommending a larger distribution on account of the arrears of the cumulative dividend on the preference shares than 12 per cent., they have divided on the preference shares (leaving 6 per cent. outstanding as at March 31, 1924), and have allocated the balance to reserve. An interim payment of 3 per cent. was made in March last, and it is proposed that the balance of 9 per cent. be paid after the forthcoming general meeting. Climatic conditions were more favourable than for the previous year, and the total sugar production of Argentina for 1923 amounted to 257,000 tons, compared with 209,100 tons yielded by the 1922 crop. The company manufactured 18,245 tons of sugar, compared with 8,577 tons in 1922 and 11,616 tons in 1921. The company's average cost of production was considerably less than for the previous year, and the average selling price was higher. In pursuance of the provisions of the trust deed, debentures to the amount of £44,900 were drawn for redemption in March last.

LONDON, MIDLAND, AND SCOTTISH STOCK CONVERSION TRUST.—In accordance with the terms of the trust deed (Section 41), a meeting of all stockholders of the above trust will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2, on Monday, September 29, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive the report of the trustees.

PARTINGTON STEEL.—In their report for the year ended June 30, 1924, the directors of the Partington Steel and Iron Company, Limited, state that the profit for the year, after making all necessary provision, amounts to £4,802, which, with the amount brought forward, £261,685, makes £266,487 available. Dividends on the 6 per cent. preference shares were paid on December 31, 1923, and June 30, 1924, amounting to £21,000. The directors recommend that no dividend be paid for the past year on the ordinary shares and the 6½ per cent. preference shares, and that the balance of £245,487 be carried forward. The last dividend on the ordinary shares was 10 per cent. for year ended June 30, 1921.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.—The net profit of this important coal and iron concern, after payment of debenture interest, amounted to £29,681 for year ended June 30, 1924, as compared with £89,819 for the preceding year. The ordinary shareholders receive no dividend, against 5 per cent. for preceding year, while holders of the preference shares receive no final dividend for the year. The directors explain that, in view of the great uncertainty surrounding the immediate future of the steel trade, they have decided to conserve the resources of the company. They are carrying forward £101,754, against £84,183 brought into the accounts.

RIO NEGRO (ARGENTINA) LAND COMPANY, LIMITED.—The accounts for the year ended June 30, 1924, show a profit of £57,856, to which has to be added £26,940, balance at June 30, 1923, making a credit to revenue account of £84,796. Out of the balance of £84,796 the directors have transferred £25,000 to general reserve, and recommend a dividend for the year to June 30, 1924, of 10 per cent., less income-tax, absorbing £30,000, carrying forward a balance of £29,796. The company has not paid a 10 per cent. dividend on its ordinary shares since the year ended June 30, 1920. For year 1920-21 it paid 7 per cent., for 1921-22 5 per cent., and for 1922-23 8 per cent.

ROYAL BREWERY, BRENTFORD, LIMITED.—The trading profit for year ended June 30, 1924, amounts to £108,082, against £117,447 for preceding year. The net profit, after payment of debenture interest, is £51,056, against £61,164. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again 7½ per cent., less tax. The amount carried forward is £40,604, against £48,275 brought in. It is interesting to note that the £45,000 6 per cent. "B" mortgage debenture stock was redeemed on September 30, 1923, and the amount reserved in the accounts for redemption of it has been added to general reserve, which now stands at £85,000.

SALAR DEL CARMEN NITRATE SYNDICATE, LIMITED.—We are informed that the syndicate has been successful in purchasing, at the recent Government sales, two additional plots of nitrate bearing lands adjoining the existing properties. The purchase price, including incidental expenses, will amount to approximately £62,000, and this sum is being provided out of accumulated funds of the syndicate. The contents of the new area are estimated by the Chilean Government experts to be 1,756,200 metric quintals (3,817,826 Spanish quintals), and the board are satisfied that the purchase is a most advantageous one in every respect.

SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.—The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £120,738, against £123,300 for preceding year. The ordinary dividend is unchanged at 7½ per cent. The reserve fund is strengthened by £25,000, and £48,891 is carried forward, against £44,542 brought in.

TARAPACA AND TOCOPILLA NITRATE.—We are informed that at the Chilean Government's sale of nitrate grounds, held in Santiago on the 15th instant, this company acquired a plot adjoining its oficina "Santa Fe," at 71 cents Chilean gold per metric quintal. This plot, according to the Chilean Government reports, verified by the company's experts, contains 3,755,020 metric quintals of nitrate, the purchase consideration for which amounts to some £200,000.

TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES, LIMITED.—This well-known Manchester concern secured a net profit, after payment of debenture interest, of £35,881 for year ended June 30, 1924, against £45,992 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is maintained at 6 per cent. The sum of £19,807 is put to reserve, and £67,208 is carried forward, against £90,134 brought in.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

UNION COLD STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1923.			
LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1922.
6% cum. p.f. shrs. 4,780,000 ..	+ 3,300,000	Property	14,065,528 .. + 4,506,061
7% cum. p.f. shrs. 2,000,000 ..	..	Discount on	..
10% "A" cum. p.f. 1,000,000 ..	..	Deb. stock ..	45,624 .. — 3,796
Ord. shares ..	+ 700,000	Debts due to ..	..
44% deb. stock. 885,132 ..	— 63,797	company ..	..
Mortgages ..	— 153,150	Cash	7,845,281 .. + 2,479,127
Bills payable & loans	2,416,146 .. + 2,176,146		
Deb. int. accrued 13,765 ..	— 1,689		
Prof. int. accrued 136,700 ..	+ 49,500		
Div. on ord. shrs. 100,000 ..	+ 70,000		
Sundry credit'rs 6,562,935 ..	+ 299,391		
D'pr'ctn res'rve 2,570,016 ..	+ 494,399		
General reserve 75,000 ..	+ 75,000		
Reserve for equalisation of dividends 125,000 ..	+ 125,000		
Profit and loss 127,840 ..	+ 17,918		
Total	22,314,308 .. + 7,088,718	Total	22,314,308 .. + 7,088,718

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR AUGUST, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
British Platinum	..	..	201 (platinum) 48	..	..	..
Esperanza	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mexican Corporation	116,058	..	..	..	..	*\$18,596
Ororiville Dredging—	..	..	..	..	..	\$90,109
Pato (12 days, Sept. 17th)	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ouro Preto ..	7,200	..	..	..	1,986	\$18,227
Pilbarra (W.A.) Gold Leases	144	..	..	..	9,217	..
					212	..

* Loss.

	Output.	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
Copper.			
New Guinea	40		Copper, 65 ozs gold.
Tin.			
North Borneo	20		
Renong	21½		First half September.
Coal.			
Chinese Engineering	32,878		Week ended Sept. 20th.
East Kent	4,602		Week ended Sept. 20th.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—Four weeks ended September 10th.—Iron and Steel Works, Newcastle: Coke ovens produced 27,597 tons of coke, 312,931 gallons of tar, and 388 tons of sulphate of ammonia. Nos. 1 and 3 blast furnaces and 416 tons ferro-manganese. Open hearth furnaces produced 25,474 tons. Blooming mill produced 24,748 tons. 28-in mill produced 14,588 tons. 18-in mill produced 6,353 tons. 12-in mill produced 3,018 tons. 8-in mill produced 1,466 tons. Rod mill produced 42,863 tons. Steel foundry produced 697 tons of castings. Iron Knob treated 8,053 tons of crude ore, producing 650 tons of lead concentrates. Silmes flotation plant produced 1,197 tons lead concentrates and 1,140 tons of siliceous concentrates.

MOUNT LYELL.—During the four-weekly period ended September 17th there were smelted:—Mount Lyell ore, 621 tons; North Lyell ore (direct to smelters), 198 tons; concentrates, 1,985 tons. The converters produced 396 tons of blister copper, containing:—Copper, 393 tons; silver, 8,426 ozs; gold, 105 ozs. The mill 13 days, and produced 2,266 tons of concentrates. Furnace ran.

MOUNT MORGAN.—For the four weeks ended September 16th treated 5,761 tons secondary products. Produced 551 tons blister copper, containing 595 tons copper tons concentrates, containing 314 tons copper, and 3,859 ozs gold. In addition to above production have made on hand 70 tons copper and 1,044 ozs gold. Intermediate smelter products and temporary higher percentage of copper in the ore.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—We are informed that the total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of August, 1924, amounted to £1,185,208 for the Witwatersrand district, £12,356 for the outside districts; total, £1,197,564. The estimated working profit in July, 1924, was £1,258,115 for the Witwatersrand district, £10,370 for the outside districts; total, £1,268,485.

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE CALTEX OIL COMPANY advises having received the following cable from Mexico:—"August production, 6,582 barrels, or 1,041 tons."

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce. Amount.	Ordinary. Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
Australian Bank of Commerce ..	June 30	40,265	143,253	183,518	..	84,000	7	50,000	49,518	1.1,678
Breweries and Distilleries.										
Royal Brewery, Brentford	June 30	48,275	51,056	99,331	6,200	17,437	7½	35,000	40,694	61,164
Scottish Malt Distillers	July 31	18,369	49,971	68,340	8,464	7,914	10½	40,000	11,962	49,101
Financial, Land, &c.										
Argentine Land and Investment ..	June 30	10,935	100,300	111,235	..	62,740	10	36,500	11,995	73,171
Leach's Argentine Estates	Mar. 31	117,267	117,267	60,000	..	..	..	57,267	..	Dr 238,867
Trafford Park Estates	June 30	90,134	35,881	126,015	..	39,000	6	19,807	67,208	45,992
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Henry Briggs, Son, and Co.	June 30	35,062	168,274	203,336	..	98,362	15½	65,000	39,974	184,769
Partington Steel and Iron	June 30	261,685	4,802	266,487	21,000	..	..	..	245,487	258,579
Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron	June 30	84,183	29,681	113,864	12,109	..	..	..	101,755	89,819
Sheepbridge Coal and Iron	June 30	44,542	129,738	174,280	..	100,389	7½	25,000	48,891	123,300
Oil.										
Tankers, Limited	Mar. 31	62,787	3,823	66,610	..	..	..	..	66,610	Dr 37,354
Rubber, &c.										
Marudra Rubber	Dec. 31	Dr 2,388	947	Dr 1,441	..	..	..	..	Dr 1,441	..
North Latis (Johore)	June 30	17,841	6,827	24,668	..	6,562	6	750	17,356	11,432
Trust.										
British and Foreign	Jan. 15	57,027	29,151	86,178	1,050	..	..	50,000	35,128	..
Other Companies.										
Anglo-Siam Corporation	Mar. 31	32,303	78,139	110,442	4,550	60,000	30	11,500	34,392	76,346
British Glues and Chemicals	May 31	2,469	6,293	8,762	..	..	..	..	8,762	13,773
Evans, Sons, Lescher, and Webb ..	Dec. 31	Dr 401,720	Dr 47,120	Dr 448,840	..	..	..	..	Dr 448,840	Dr 115,900
Union Cold Storage	Dec. 31	109,922	652,573	762,495	395,830	100,000	10	138,825	127,840	498,166
Valparaiso Drainage	Mar. 31	8,634	Dr 5,701	2,931	..	..	..	1,979	952	2,718

† Free of tax.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Sept. 20	Cwts. 176,726	Cwts. 486,691	Cwts. 353,278	Cwts. 449,295
3 weeks to Sept. 20	390,322	1,199,974	808,513	1,280,711
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 0	s d 8 10	s d 8 2	s d 13 4

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.	Cwts. 123,452	Cwts. 333,164	Cwts. 60,962	s d 12 1	s d 17 6	s d 9 3
Sept. 13	176,726	404,737	63,641	12 0	17 7	9 5
Sept. 20						
1920	392,443	228,271	102,974	21 1	22 5	19 10
1921	449,93	419,814	65,587	13 3	17 8	10 7
1922	353,276	94,568	56,366	8 8	10 4	8 7
1923	486,691	398,844	97,186	8 10	11 5	8 8

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

The weather has remained unsettled, with further rains, but farmers were able to make fair progress with harvesting and threshing operations, while also preparing the ground for autumn sowings. Large quantities of native wheat are now coming forward, and prices firm in sympathy with the position of imported. Prices range from 11s 6d to 12s 8d per 112 lbs, free on rail, as to quality. Imported varieties have further advanced in value owing to higher forward offers and reserved sellers, consequently business was on a restricted scale. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 6s 6d, No. 2 ditto 6s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 6s, Australian 6s 6d, all ex ship, and choice white Karachi 6s 6d landed terms, all per 496 lbs. In the floating and forward cargo section prices further hardened in view of stimulating cable advices from the United States, and improved inquiries both by home millers and Continental operators. Sales include: Barusso 63½ lbs new crop January-February to at 55s 4½d to 55s 6d, No. 2 hard winter early October 56s 3d to at 55s 4½d, No. 2 also No. 3 Northern Manitoba October-November 58s 9d 57s, No. 2 also No. 3 63½ lbs loading 58s 7½d, saifer, and 57s 6d respectively, and ditto January 60s to 61s 3d, and Australian December 60s 3d, and ditto January 60s to 61s 3d, and steamers January 60s 6d per 480 lbs c.i.f. Maize cargoes, after a quiet interval, experienced a better demand, and prices tend firmer. Plate steamers afloat sold at 43s, October also November-December Plate steamers afloat sold at 45s 3d per 480 lbs. Flour in moderate request, but prices ruled firm, with a hardening tendency. London standard straight run quoted at 49s, patents 51s to 52s, town whites

49s per sack delivered in Metropolitan area. Imported steady. Canadian patents range from 45s 6d to 48s as to quality, and Australian 44s per 280 lbs ex store. Barley maintained. Canadian 65s-66s, and Chilean brewing 64s, both ex ship per 448 lbs. Karachi ex-ship 45s 6d, Danubian ex-ship 45s, Russian landed 47s 6d, American malting (48 lbs) 44s 3d to 44s 6d ex-ship to arrive all per 400 lbs. English quoted at 14s-24s 6d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize steady. Plate ex-ship 42s 9d to 43s, landed 44s 6d, Bessarabian landed 45s 3d per 480 lbs. Oats quiet. Plate ex-ship 28s 9d, landed 30s, No. 2 Canadian Western ex-ship 33s 9d per 320 lbs. English quoted at 9s 4d to 10s per 112 lbs free on rail. Millers' offers generally firmer. Broad bran quoted at 9s 6d, middlings 9s 9d, fine ditto 11s 6d, bags included, ex-mill. Light oats 7s, powdered oat husks 9s 3d, feed oatmeal 12s 3d, ground oats 14s 9d per cwt free on rail. Oatmeal firm, with a good spot demand. London-made flaked 20s 6d, rolled oats 20s, medium and fine cut 20s, coarse and medium pinhead 20s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s per cwt.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated September 25th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Unfortunately the expected improvement in pig-iron has not materialised during the past week. In fact, the depression has got worse. More blast furnaces have been stopped, and others are only being kept going temporarily. Ironmasters will decide periodically whether they can keep their works in operation or stop. Prices are easier. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. pig-iron is quoted 81s 6d per ton, and mixed numbers East Coast hematite at 90s per ton, but business is quite possible at lower prices. Manufactured iron and steel: Works are doing their utmost to keep going, but orders are coming forward very slowly, and the foreign competition makes business very difficult. Still, however, the quotations are unchanged, as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s.; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Sellers still try to maintain 22s as the price of best Bilbao rubio c.i.f. Tees, but odd cargoes have been sold at 21s 6d.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The trend of business in crude iron and steel continues in a downward direction, as buying has backed off further and the absence of confidence is widespread. While nominally unchanged, prices are easier, and anyone having an actual order to place has no difficulty in squeezing a bargain out of the seller. Agricultural engineers have experienced their worst season as regards both the home and export markets. Most of the firms engaged in this industry have taken up other branches of engineering work. There is a fair demand for oil engines, and the Staveley Coal and Iron Company is installing the largest gas engine in the world. It will be driven entirely by waste gases from blast furnaces, and employed to develop electric alternating current. The local finished trades,

particularly hand tools, are generally well employed. Overseas requirements have been increasing for several months, but the home demand has quietened somewhat just lately. The cutlery trade generally is unremunerative, with firms here and there earning a profit. Matters would have been much worse but for a substantial increase in buying from the Colonies. The export of cutlery, so far, this year has nearly doubled the record of the corresponding period of 1923. Depression is widespread in the coal market, despite a rather better inquiry for steam fuels. There has been a sharp drop in exports to Belgium, France, and Germany as the result of the altered situation in the Ruhr. High-class house coal continues scarce and dear. There are prospects of a further reduction in coke prices. Current quotations per ton at pits are:—Yorkshire steams, 20s 6d; Derbyshire ditto, 19s 6d to 20s; Blyths, 19s 6d; Durhams, 23s.; rough slacks, 12s 6d to 13s 6d; smalls, 6s to 8s; coke, 24s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—There is little of an encouraging nature to report regarding iron and steel markets this week. Shipbuilding orders have fallen off, and engineering and other industries are only covering immediate requirements. Continental competition is again becoming very pronounced, and unless steel makers can shortly see their way to modify their prices to home consumers, which they have maintained for so long, still more will be heard of German and Belgian plates and sections coming in. Semi-finished steel from Belgium is now freely offered in this district at £6 per ton delivered, and transactions at even slightly below this figure have taken place within the last few days. Pig-iron output continues at a very low level, with prices somewhat weaker. Bar iron is not being ordered in quantities sufficient to keep works going, but re-rollers are slightly better off. Inquiries from the Far East are coming forward, and with good crop prospects reported from India an improvement in demand from that quarter is hoped for during the next few months. Sheet makers are booked well ahead, but export specifications are being keenly competed for by British and Belgian works, and orders now being booked are at less profitable prices than was the case recently. Galvanised sheets still hold firm in price, with steady demand both for home structural jobs and for foreign markets. The North British Locomotive Company have just secured a contract for 15 locomotives for the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company.

METALS.

Tin ruled easier during the early part of the week, due to selling pressure and lower cables from the East, but later on, buyers becoming more prominent, the decline was fully recovered and a firmer tone ensued. Cash sold at £228 to £224 to £232 10s, and three months £233 to £223 to £235 10s to £234 15s to £235 5s. Eastern advices reported sales on the basis of £230 10s c.i.f. At Thursday's market tendency was again firmer, with business on a liberal scale. Standard cash sold at £232 10s to £234, and three months £232 to £235 10s to £237 5s to £236 15s to £237. Further sales occurred in the East at £231 5s, c.i.f. Tin continued in good demand at easier rates on Friday, with some irregularity forward. Cash sold at £234, and three months £236 to £237 to £235 10s to £236 10s to £235 15s. English ingots quoted at £234 15s to £235. Copper: Market generally displayed quiet features. With sellers more in evidence, and some reserve on the part of consumers in view of lower American advices, prices tended in a downward direction. Standard cash was dealt in at £62 2s 6d to £62 3s 9d to £62 2s 6d, and three months £63 5s to £63 to £63 2s 6d. Active trading took place on Thursday at firmer prices. Standard cash done at £62 5s, and three months at £63 3s 9d to £63 5s to £63 3s 9d. Copper closed steady. Standard cash quoted at £62 5s to £62 7s 6d, with business in early October at £62 7s 6d, and three months at £63 10s to £63 6s 3d. Electro's £66 10s to £66 12s 6d, strong sheets £93, wire bars £66 12s 6d, best selected £65 10s to £65 15s per ton. Lead firm at £32 15s to £32 10s as to position. Spelter maintained, and quoted at £32 13s 9d to £32 16s 3d, according to position. Aluminium, home quoted at £125, export £130. Antimony, English, £54 10s to £55.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The raw material continues to dominate the position, and both in the primary markets and in London demand is keen and prices are well maintained under the influence of strong home trade and Continental competition. In Bradford, also, wool is the chief centre of interest, and a fair amount of business is being done, though it is frequently difficult to negotiate on account of the high prices ruling.

Merino tops have reached a level to which users have to think twice before committing themselves, but although in many cases top-makers' quotations are frankly protective, that seems to be the only way in which they can gain time to safeguard themselves. It is doubtful if the extreme prices now quoted for merinos can be made, but there is a general impression among topmakers that users will be compelled to follow the market, and that cheaper wool will not be available for some time to come. Warp 64's tops are now quoted at from 82d to 83d, and super 60's are again 1d dearer on the week at 75d. There is a firmer tendency in crossbreds, and 56's average are harder at 51d. A rise of 1d in 46's carded brings the quotation up to 31d, and 40's prepared are 1d dearer at 29d per lb. There is not so much change in spinners' quotations, but new business is rather more plentiful, and prices are all very firm and against the buyer. It is still impossible, however, to sell yarns at prices based on the current cost of wool and tops. Crossbred yarns are again receiving more attention, and some fair weights have been booked for export to Germany. There is not much change in the piece goods trade, but orders are coming to hand rather better, though manufacturers are experiencing the greatest difficulty in making higher prices.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The London sales are making excellent progress, and no complaint whatever can be made regarding the movement of values. Some thought that the opening advance had been a little overdone, but succeeding sales have fully confirmed it, selling brokers apparently being well satisfied with what is taking place daily. It is no uncommon thing for selling brokers to state that prices, if anything, are in sellers' favour, a clear indication that values are fully up to expectations. Among second-hand parcels of merinos there are still some withdrawals, but we certainly think there is no need for it. Unless the wool has been badly bought in the colonies it should show a profit, and surely to-day's values suggest that they should be accepted for both imports and growers' clips. Some very handsome profits are now seen on most of the second-hand lots, and the optimism of the majority during the time they have held, and for which there seemed to be little justification, has been well rewarded. Everybody is glad to see a nice sprinkling of new clip wools from Queensland, and we do not remember the Carandotta clip being offered in Coleman street for some considerable time.

The 600 bales of this mark offered last Tuesday met with a splendid reception, the major portion of the lots falling to Continental bids. The top line of grease combing touched 40d. It was a little dusty, but showed excellent quality, and sold splendidly, the combing selling at prices ranging from 40d down to 30d, broken 35d, pieces up to 29d, bellies 28d, and locks 15d, with the weaners touching up to 33d. The clip had been splendidly classed. It was of good 70's, Continental style, and the prices realised cannot but please the owners. We think the reception that is being given to pieces, bellies, and locks could hardly be better. The advance in this description is often 10 to 15 per cent., prices being paid to-day which seemed impossible in July. Some very good figures are forthcoming for high-class New Zealand and West Victorian merinos, and there can be nothing wrong with a market when 68d is paid for somewhat fatty New Zealand scoured merino. Of course, wool at this price is of good quality, soft handle, and free from fault, but the prices being paid this series for really good scoured merinos are phenomenal. There is no question at all about London to-day being sensibly in advance of Colonial selling markets. The opinion is unanimous that 64's tops out of Coleman street wool this week will cost fully 7s. We hope that the confidence shown in merinos will not prove to be misplaced.

Large daily offerings of crossbreds are being made. The Continent is giving good support, chiefly to Australian classes, while the home trade is purchasing most readily of New Zealand wools. We still cannot see much more than 7½ per cent. advance for the bulk of the slipe crossbreds, but most greasy classes are now fetching anywhere from 10 to 15 per cent. more compared with July. It has to be a very superior line of slipe halfbred lambs to fetch more than 38d, an average price being about 1d less. Among New Zealand fine crossbreds, chiefly good 56's, the top side of 30d is now readily forthcoming; in fact, most crossbred lots can be called a full 2d more than last series.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—September 19, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.			Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.			Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
		Good	Ord.	Low			Good	Ord.	Low		Good	Ord.	Low	Good	Ord.	Low	Good	Ord.
American	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Brazilian :	Md	1149	1274	1354	1419	1519	1680	1730	1865	1158	1243	1313	1400	1400	1400	1500
Parana, Macao, &c.,	Md	1304	1454	1554	1665	1765	1865	1965	2065	1108	1258	1358	1458	1558	1658	1758
Pernambuco, Rio Grande, &c.,	Md	1304	1454	1554	1665	1765	1865	1965	2065	1108	1258	1358	1458	1558	1658	1758
Oceara, &c.,	Md	1304	1454	1554	1665	1765	1865	1965	2065	1108	1258	1358	1458	1558	1658	1758
São Paulo	Md	1329	1379	1429	1479	1529	1655	1705	1840	1158	1238	1308	1393	1463	1533	1603
Egyptian :	Md	1329	1379	1429	1479	1529	1655	1705	1840	1158	1238	1308	1393	1463	1533	1603
Upper	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Suez Canals	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Brown	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Rough	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Moderately Rough	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Smooth	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Tangals	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Milds	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
West Indian,	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
African, East, &c.,	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do	Md	1700	1900	1955	2005	2055	1715	1775	1815	1300	1400	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
Do																

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS.		INDIA RUBBER —lb. s. d.		PROVISIONS.		SPICES —Pepper, lb. s. d.	
COCAO—Duty, British grown	9 1/2	Albani, fine E.L., per cwtd	4 1/2	Para, all India spot	1 3/8	Butter—per cwt.	288	Munkat, fair white	9 1/2
Do 1/2, foreign 14a, cwt.	129 9	Albani, 1st to fine	40 42 6	Plantation crop	1 28 6	Irish creamery	220 0	Black Singapore	8 5/8
Do good to fine	130 6	Balapan Perak, per lb	6 6 9			Do factory	168 0	Andalusian Siam	8 4/8
Grenada	50 55 6	Copivi	1 4 6			Australian	184 0	Pimento	8 4/8
Ceylon	100 110 8	Camphor				Argentine	192 0	Onimann—1st sort.	1 5 8
Guaymas	46 46 8	Camphor refined	2 10 11			Dutch	232 0	Do 2nd	1 4 8
Saba, finest	46 46 8	Quandamoo, Ceylon	4 8 8			New Zealand	274 0	Do 3rd	1 4 8
COFFEE —British grown		Quandamoo, China prb	4 8 8			Bacon, smd.—Irish	106 0	Gloves—Zanzibar	1 0 1 1
Do 1/2, foreign 14a, cwt.	129 9	Quandamoo, Java	4 8 8			Danish	90 106 8	Penang	2 4 2 8
Do good to fine	130 6	Gunmadu, Sumatra	6 0 10 10/8			Canadian	93 94 8	Do 2nd	1 5 1 1
Do to do to fine	130 6	Oilbanyum, drops				Hams—Irish	93 94 8	Cochin, small rough	92 6 8
Central	95 130 8	Do fair to good	68 9 108 8			Canadian	80 108 0	Do wormy	6 8 8
Mid. to fine	126 135 8	Ipessanahra	8 8 8 8			Long	78 85 0	Jamaica, or good	160 0 185 8
Columbian, ordinary	95 130 8	Munk pot, Olo	100 105 8			American boxes, 50lb	83 84 0	Mace	3 0 1 3 4
Do to do to fine	130 6	Oil, Oania	2 6 2 7			Port—per 3 lb	6 4 7 4	Nutmegs, 65's	8 0 8 0
Do to do to fine	130 6	Aniseed	2 6 2 7			Best—Brosen per lb	2 4 7 4	110 a and 60's	1 11 0
Do to do to fine	130 6	Peppermint, Country	9 6 20 8			Chutney—per cwt.	92 96 0	Onions—per cwt.	40 8 80 8
Do to do to fine	130 6	Rubbr, China, to fine	3 5 6 8			Cheese—cwt—Canadian	92 96 0	TALLOW—per cwt.	
CHEMICALS.		DYE STUFFS, &c.				New Zealand	92 96 0	Good mutton	48 6 8
Acid, citric	1 3/4 1 1/4	Galls, China, per cwt	6 62 6			Eng, Cheddars	95 116 8	Beef	48 3 0 8
Nitric	8 8 8	Garments, Bengali	nom			Chutney	92 96 0		
Oxalic, net	8 8 8	Guaiacum	72 0 0			Dutch	80 127 0		
Quartz, English	14 0 6 4	Gambler, block	76 0 0			Kags, pr 150—English	24 35 0		
Foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Outch, ord, to fair	68 0 0			Irish	19 0 20 0		
Alum lump per ton 10/19/8	11 1/2 1/2	DEYWOODS—							
Do ground	61/19/8	Do 10/19/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Ammonia, white, per ton	25 15 15	Do 12/18/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Sulphate	214 15 15	Do 14/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
arsenic, lump, per ton	80 85 8	Do 16/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Powder	80 85 8	Do 18/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Acetic, acid, per cwt	78 80 8	Do 20/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Pearl do do	80 85 8	Do 22/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Bleaching pwdr, per ton	90/8 91/8/8	Do 24/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Borax, gran., cwt	80 85 8	Do 26/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Soda ash, per ton	80 85 8	Do 28/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Do powder	80 85 8	Do 30/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Ocean Tartar	80 85 8	Do 32/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Sulphur powder	80 85 8	Do 34/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, English	14 0 6 4	Do 36/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Do 38/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Do 40/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Do 42/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Do 44/16/8	1 1 3 2 8						
Quartz, foreign	0 11 1/2 1/2	Do 46/16/8	1 1 3						

(Continued from page 514.)

sold, 21s, c.f. and i., London. Japanese peas, September-October, sold, 22s. Madagascar butter beans, good quality, spot, 42s per cwt. Bran firm.

JUTE.—After recent marked animation, affairs were more subdued. Firsts, August, Continent, sold, £38 15s; August-September, £38 to £37 10s; September-October, £37 10s; November, and December, £37 15s, £36 10s to £37. Hessians steady. 10-oz. January-March, 34s 9d; 8 ditto, 28s 3d 100 yards. B twills, spot, sold, 100s; September at 98s per 100 bags.

HEMP.—Manila grades advanced sharply again, due to persistent buying orders from all quarters, coinciding with a lack of sufficient selling offers. J grade, October-December, sold, £53 10s to £55 10s; K, £53 to £55; L, £51 to £52; M quoted £52 10s; G, £59; streaky 3, done, £64; Cebu, No. 2, quoted £40 10s; ditto 3, at £36; Daet L, £49; ditto, M, £46. New Zealand, H.P.F., October-December, quoted £42 15s; fair, £40 10s. Mexican sisal withheld from sale. African stronger, and No. 1 Tanganyika, October-December, quoted £47. Kenya, £46 10s; Italian P.C., October-December, quoted £88. Among soft fibres, Indian meet an active demand. Sewnee, January-March, sold, £47 15s; No. 2, Benares, November-January, £37 10s; Itarsi, January-March, £48 15s; Philibit, ditto, £44 10s. Bristle fibre quieter. Ceylon, October-December, quoted £26 per ton.

SPICE.—Pepper steady, quiet. Black Singapore, L.S., October-December, quoted 4½d; Lampung, October-December, 4½d; Muntok, ditto, 4d. Zanzibar cloves, 9½d, October-December. Pimento, spot, 4d lb. Tapioca quiet. Penang seed, September-October, Continent, sold, 22s; Singapore flake, ditto, to Havre, sellers, 28s 3d. Ginger very firm. C.F.W.R., Ceylon, spot, quoted 95s; Japanese, limes, sold, 95s to 97s 6d; African quoted 82s 6d cwt. Desiccated coconut quiet. Fine cut, spot, 41s; medium, 40s 6d. Sago flour, August, sold, 14s 10½d to 15s; September-November value, 15s 3d cwt.

SHELLAC.—Market steady. T.N., spot, 320s to 325s; December value, 297s 6d cwt.

GAMBIER quiet. Block, September-October, sellers, 68s cwt, c.f. and i., U.K.

COPRA met with moderate support. F.M.S., Straits, June-August, Rotterdam, seller, £30 10s; August-October, £30 7s 6d; September-November, sold, £30 2s 6d to £30 3s 9d; October-December, at £30 3s 9d; Dutch East Indies, August-October, done £30 1s 3d; September-November, £30 1s 3d. Ceylon, September-October, sold, £31 1s 3d; October-November, £31. Others unaltered. Palm kernels, October-December, Liverpool, quoted £21 12s 6d ton.

RUBBER steady, with moderate inquiries. Standard plantation, crepe and sheet, spot, also October, sold, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d, 1s 2½d; November, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d; October-December, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d, 1s 2½d; December, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d; January-March, 1s 2½d to 1s 2½d, 1s 3½d; April-June, 1s 3d. To New York, standard estate sheet, October-November, done 1s 2½d to 1s 3½d; crepe ditto, 1s 3d to 1s 3½d per lb. Wild sorts quiet on former terms.

FRUIT (Dried).—The market for currants presents quiet features. New crop parcels begin to work in but only in small quantities. Old crop, ½ cases Pyrgos, cleared at 43s for good; ½ cases Gulph, 52s; ½ cases Vostizza, 50s to 60s. New crop, ½ cases Zante, 53s to 54s; fine colour Gulph, 58s. As usual at this early period of the season, no interest is evinced in Valencia raisins, despite reasonable price levels, while other growths, such as Australian and Cape, go to fill the gap for the present. Valencia, ½ cases, 80s to 127s 6d; Australian, ½ cases, 42s to 48s; Cape, 41s to 47s. Sultanates steady, but quiet. Old, Smyrna, quoted 56s to 59s; fine, 62s; new, fair quality, 51s to 53s; finer, up to 63s; Australian, ½ cases, 48s to 53s; old crop, Greek, 41s. Figs: General run of quality very satisfactory, with comparatively high prices quoted, and which packers contend are not remunerative. Dates remain very quiet, with quotations for shipment somewhat nominal. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots quoted 75s to 78s; choice, 87s; extra ditto, 96s; peaches, extra choice, 57s; new crop, fancy, 65s; plums, Oregon, size 30/40, quoted 67s; 45/50, at 54s; Californian, 80/90, 36s.

CANNED GOODS.—Reports of "catch" unsatisfactory and very small consignments being shipped, while spot stocks are getting cleared. Portuguese ½-flats quoted 3s 7½d to 3s 9d; clubs, 3s 10½d to 4s; 12 oz, 6s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 9s 6d to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Lobster stocks cleared, and very high prices now current for future contracts. Salmon: Forward prices are much higher, with little offering. Spot parcels also dearer. 1 lb flat red, labelled, 58s to 60s; ditto, tall, 47s to 48s; 1 lb tall pink, 26s to 26s 6d; cases of 96 ½ lbs, 28s to 30s per case. Canned Fruits: Prices firm, owing

principally to continental demands, home trade meantime being very slow. Singapore pines, 48 1½s, best quality, 5s 4½d to 5s 6d; cubes, 24 2½s, 10s 6d to 10s 9d; slices, 48 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Californian apricots, 2½s, 8s to 11s; ditto, 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Peaches, 2½s, 13s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2½s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; 1½s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad, 2½s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1½s, 10s 6d per dozen tins. Canned meats met a generally quiet demand at about late rates.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 20s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £21 to £37; Cochin, £24 10s to £44. Ceylon bristle, £23 to £30; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 0½d; Java, 5s 7d.

OILS.—Linseed irregular. Spot, net, naked, 43s 3d; September, 42s; October-December, 42s; January-April, 41s 3d. Rape steady. Crude, spot, 48s 6d, refined, 51s 6d. Castor-oil firmer. First pressure, spot, quoted 73s; second pressure, 71s; and pharmaceutical, 78s per cwt, Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 43s; Bombay, 41s; common edible, 49s; deodorised, 51s. Chinawood firmer. Hankow, spot (barrels), 85s; October-November, 80s 6d. Coconut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 48s; September-October, 46s 6d; Cochin ditto, nominally 58s. Soya quiet. Oriental, barrels, August-September, 46s 3d; bulk, 42s 6d. Cod steady. English, spot, 34s to 35s. Groundnuts firmer. English, crushed, naked, spot, 53s; deodorised, barrels, 60s. Turpentine easier. American, spot, 65s 9d; September-December, 66s 3d; January-April, 68s 3d. Rosin firm. American, grade B, 14s 3d; G, 14s 9d; WG, 17s 9d; WW, 19s per cwt. French WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed generally steady. Calcutta, afloat, £22 17s 6d; September-October, sold, £22 12s 6d to £22 15s; October-November, £22 12s 6d to £22 17s 6d. Plate, afloat, £20 17s 6d; September-October, sold, £20 12s 6d to £20 17s 6d; October-November, £20 17s 6d; and January-February, £19 2s 6d to £19 15s. Rapeseed firm. Toria, September-October, £23 5s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £22 10s. Cottonseed firmer, with a fair demand owing to "bullish" American Bureau report. Egyptian, black, new, October, sold, £12 18s 9d to £13 5s; November-January, £13 1s 3d. Sakellaris, November-January, at £12 5s. Bombay, December-January, £10 7s 6d. Gingly seed quiet. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £28 2s 6d. Groundnuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, September-October, £27 5s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £24 15s; East African, September-October, £27 15s. Soya beans firmer. Manchurian, October-November, £14 2s 6d; December-January, £12 10s. Castor seed firm, but quiet. Bombay, September-October, £31 5s; Calcutta, ditto, £29 15s per ton.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on September 24th as follows:—The tallow market was firm during the week, but prices were barely maintained to-day. Parcels available for immediate shipment were more sought after than supplies coming along for later delivery. At auction to-day 1,452 casks tallow were offered, and 1,025 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 48s; good to fair, 47s to 45s; dull to dark, 44s to 42s; hard, 47s 9d. Australian beef: Fine, 48s; good to fair, 47s 6d to 45s; dull to dark, 43s 9d to 41s 6d; sweet, 48s. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 45s 6d. Present shipment from South America, 46s 6d to 45s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 43s per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 5d; melted stuff, 33s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 42s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 43s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 45s 6d; fair to dull, 44s to 43s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 38s; melted stuff, 38s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—SEPTEMBER 25.			
British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the otal. Sheep, per stone.			
Beasts—Herefords	7 4 to 7 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	10 8 to 11 6
Shortboms	6 8 to 7 4	Canadian	nominal
Devons	.. ..	Sheep—Downs	10 8 to 11 6
Norfolks	.. ..	Ewes	6 4 to 6 8
Scottish	nominal	Crossbred	.. ..
Irish	.. ..	Scottish	.. ..
Fat Cows	.. ..	Lamb—Downs	11 10 to 12 2

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—SEPTEMBER 25.			
Per Cwt.			
English—King Edwards	7 6 to 8 6	Blackland—	Per Cwt.
British Queens	7 0 to 8 0	King Edwards	7 6 to 8 0
Majestic	7 0 to 7 6	Evergoods	6 6 to 7 0

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LTD.—Continued.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.		£ s. d.	
To Dividend No. 27 of 15 per cent. free of Income Tax, declared 17th June, 1924	592,500	0	0
To Transfer to Reserve Fund	150,000	0	0
To Balance carried to Balance Sheet	175,990	5	5
	2918,490	5	5

We report to the Shareholders that we have audited the accounts of the Johannesburg Office of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, dated 30th June, 1924, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The balance sheet of the Johannesburg Office of the Company is in our opinion properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs in Johannesburg according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Company in Johannesburg. We have also verified the securities in South Africa.

SAML. THOMSON,
Chartered Accountant } Auditors.
W. FERGUSON,
Registered Public Accountant }

Johannesburg, 5th July, 1924.

We report to the Shareholders that we have audited the Accounts of the London Office of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, and explanations we have required. The Audited Accounts of the Johannesburg Office have been properly incorporated in the above Balance Sheet per drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company. We have also verified the securities in London.

KEMP, CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, SENDELL, AND CO. } Auditors.
Chartered Accountants.
London, 1st August, 1924.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1924.

No. 4,232.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

UNDER ITS
DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM
OF MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

THE BEST POLICY
FOR A
BUSINESS MAN

FUNDS : : : £17,500,000

HEAD OFFICE : : : EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1884.

Capital paid up:
Esc. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:
Esc. 34,000,000



Branches as Under.

34 offices in Portugal,
24 " " East and West Africa.
5 " " Brazil.
5 " " India and China.
Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
New York—Trust Company of North America—98, Liberty Street.
Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—9, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up " 248,788,000
Reserve " 200,000,000
Deposits " 6,071,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.
BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY
Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.
Auxiliary:
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (Trieste), Marcellina, Nice, &c.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.
BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

London Office - 10, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. CONSOLO.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	517	Letters to the Editor—	
Leading Articles—		The Private Sale of New	
The Political Storm	519	Securities	539
National Income and Taxa-		Stock Exchange News—	
tion	520	The Stock Markets	541
The Reconstruction Plan in		New Issues	541
Hungary	520	Active Securities	542
Our Index Number	522	Company Meetings	542
Cement Production in India	522	Government Returns—	
The Quarter's New Capital	523	THE REVENUE	530
The New Protocol	524	Currency Notes Account	544
Notes of the Week—		Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Japan and the New Protocol	525	by Public Tender	544
Mr Baldwin and Tariffs	526	National Debt	544
Labour Party Conference	526	Bankers' Gazette—	
Britain, Turkey, and Iraq	526	Bank of England	544
The Half-Year's Accounts	527	Clearing Returns	545
Railway Wages	527	Overseas Bank Returns	545
Capital for the Russian Oil	528	Loan and Discount Rates	546
Industry	528	Overseas Bank Rates	546
International Cotton Sta-		Rates of Exchange	546
tistics	528	Imports and Exports of	
Index of "Free" Shipping		Gold	547
Freights	528	Gold and Silver Prices	547
The Swiss Hotel Industry	529	Company News—	
International Trade in the		Dividend Announcements	548
First Half-Year	530	Analysis of Balance-sheets	548
William Beardmore and Co.	531	Weekly Traffic Returns	549
New Modder and Others	531	Mining Outputs	549
Statistical Position of Tin	532	Oil Outputs	549
Overseas Correspondence—		Rhodesian Gold Output	549
United States	532	Reports and Notices	550
France	533	Profit and Loss Accounts	551
Germany	534	Commercial Reports—	
Canada	536	Corn Trade	550
Union of South Africa	537	Iron and Coal Trade	551
Sweden	538	Metals	552
Norway	538	Wool Trade	552
Spain	538	Cotton Trade	553
Books and Publications—		Vegetable Oils	554
The Consumers' Co-opera-		Hide and Leather Trades	554
tive Movement in France	540	Overseas Produce Markets	554
Reduction of Share Capital	540	Price Current	555
The A B C's of Business	540		
Books Received	541		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 12s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 0d; Yearly, £2 18s 0d.
Colonies and Abroad, £3 1s 0d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,

37 Avenue de L'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was in very strong demand during the first two days of the week, owing to the usual quarter-day requirements and the large number of Treasury bills to be paid for. The amount borrowed from the Bank of England on the last day of September, however, was no as large as had been expected. Perhaps owing to this circumstance relief on Wednesday through Government interest payments did not produce much effect, and though a small amount due to the Bank was repaid, money was

uneven and difficult to find, owing to the many cross-currents in the market, among which bank balance-sheet arrangements were prominent. Since then the supply of credit has become plentiful, and the demand for bills was rather keener, at $3\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for January paper and $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for December.

	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 16, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase of £1,621,000 in the Reserve, almost entirely due to the return of notes from circulation. Other securities reflected the market's very moderate borrowings, with an increase of four millions, and the Public deposits were nearly four millions higher, showing that the dividend payments had not, at the close of business on Wednesday, exercised their full effect. Government securities were nearly two millions lower, and there was no appreciable movement in Other deposits. Currency notes outstanding increased this week by £1,906,800 to £287,499,200, which includes £1,368,900 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £236,680,300, or £11,510,600 below the maximum.

We are informed that Mr Dudley Ward, of the British Overseas Bank, Limited, has been nominated as the British director on the board of the "German Industrial Debenture Bank," constituted for the administration of the five milliards of gold mark debentures to be placed on German industrial enterprises in accordance with the Dawes scheme, a post for which he is admirably fitted by his previous experience not only in this country, but also in Germany.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Gilt-edged stocks have for the greater part of the week been firm, but towards the close there were signs of weakening in view of the possibility of a General Election before the close of the year. The underwriting of a new Queensland $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan at $97\frac{1}{2}$ also acted as a slightly depressing influence. There has been some revival in German and Prussian bonds after the heavy fall, and Brazilians show an all-round rally. Home rails are listless, but foreign rails, as a whole, are better on balance. Rubber shares are quiet, though prices keep firm, and the same remark applies to tea shares, while oils are fairly good, but without support from the general public. In the miscellaneous section shipping shares have moved but little, but hotels are better, and Harrods have been active in the stores list. The approach of the Motor Show, which is to be held at an earlier date than usual, and further cuts in prices, have drawn attention to motor shares. Mines are still neglected.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Reports from the majority of our trade correspondents, which appear on later pages, are not very favourable in tone. The cotton trade, however, has been booking orders at higher rates, but the advance in prices at the London auctions has disturbed the wool trade, and operations are being carried on within narrow limits. Iron and steel are very quiet, while no improvement has been registered in the coal trade. A slightly better demand is reported in certain sections of the leather trade, while normal conditions prevail in oils and oilseeds. Tin prices have moved up, and copper and lead are steady.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

On the foreign exchange market business has again been very quiet, and rates, on the whole, have been dull. There was some recovery in the middle of the week, but this was followed at once by a slight reaction to somewhere about earlier levels. The dollar rate has dropped from $\$4.47\frac{1}{8}$ to $\$4.45\frac{1}{8}$ on the week, after being up again to $\$4.46\frac{1}{8}$ at one time on Thursday. There is a general feeling that the rate would have been lower apart from the continuance of transfers from New York to London on French account. Forward quotations are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ cent per month above spot. The franc also has shown a slight upward movement, from 84.05 to 84.77 $\frac{1}{2}$, any tendency towards improvement being at once utilised for the accumulation of dollars and sterling. Brussels has remained high, moving from 91.95 to 92.42 $\frac{1}{2}$. In Paris, forward rates are about 6 centimes per month below par; in Brussels, 3 to 6 centimes per month below. The intention to press on financial reforms in France is a satisfactory feature, but in the meantime the Bank of France return shows an increase, both in note circulation and in advances to the State. The lira has been very steady, moving only from 101.80 to 101.85. Among neutral centres, Amsterdam shows a sharp drop from 11.57 to 11.52 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Switzerland from 23.49 to 23.30. Madrid, in spite of the recent Spanish successes in Morocco, stands at 33.64 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 33.19 a week ago. In Northern Europe, Stockholm has moved from 16.78 to 16.74 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Christiania and Copenhagen have both appreciated, the one from 31.85 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 31.52 $\frac{1}{2}$, the other from 25.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25.67 $\frac{1}{2}$. Helsingfors at 178 has also moved $\frac{1}{2}$ mark against us. In Central Europe, Berlin at 18 $\frac{3}{8}$ shows little change. Vienna has moved with the dollar from 317,500 to 316,500, while Budapest remains stabilised on sterling at 345,000. In Poland the zloty shows little movement at 23.30, but Bucharest has again improved somewhat from 875 to 865. In the East, the rupee has appreciated from 15 $5\frac{1}{4}$ d to 15 $5\frac{1}{8}$ d, while the yen is slightly cheaper at 15 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 15 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. The silver market shows very little movement, but there are slight indications that America is beginning to sell a little more freely. The silver "schilling" has now been introduced in Austria, but those issued are said to have already disappeared from circulation. It is clear that the habit of hoarding, once acquired, will die hard. Of the silver exchanges, Hong Kong has fallen from 2s 5d to 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Shanghai from 3s 5d to 3s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In South America, Buenos Aires has shown decided firmness, moving up from 43 21-32d to 44 $\frac{1}{8}$ d, while Monte Video has also risen from 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Rio, to some extent, has also shared in this improvement, standing yesterday at 5 29-32d, as compared with 5 35-64d a week ago; while Valparaiso has appreciated from 41.60 to 39.90.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the ten days ended September 30th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	9,519	From Revenue	13,708
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,192	Amount borrowed	3,071
Sinking Fund	350		
Sundries	1,022		
Increase in Exchequer balances	269		
	16,779		16,779

Revenue during the ten days ended September 30, 1924, amounted to £13,708,000, against £11,633,200 for the eight days ended September 30, 1923. Customs yielded £2,490,000, and Excise £1,269,000. Estate, &c., duties brought in £1,710,000. Property and Income-tax yielded £4,757,000. Special Receipts amounted to £1,001,700. The ten days' operations increased the National Debt by £3,071,000, and caused the following changes:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	21,735	National War Bonds repaid	46
Sundries	2,053	National Savings Certificates	150
		Public Department Advances	20,571
	23,788		20,717

The floating debt was increased by £1,439,000 to £774,176,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to September 30).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	360,491,995	Raised by Revenue ..	348,509,395
		Decrease in Balances ..	1,095,194
		Amount borrowed ..	10,887,406
Total	360,491,995	Total	360,491,995

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE POLITICAL STORM.

THE special session of Parliament, summoned solely for the purpose of dealing with the Irish Boundary problem, has produced a first-rate political crisis entirely unconnected with Irish affairs. Before the session was thirty-six hours old each of the Opposition Parties had framed direct votes of censure upon the Government, either of which, if passed by the House of Commons, might bring Mr MacDonald's Government down. Of the two threats to the life of the first Labour Government the more immediate, but possibly less menacing, arises out of the prosecution, begun but dropped, of the Editor of the *Workers' Weekly*. This Communist organ printed an article on July 25th which was deemed capable of interpretation as an incitement to mutiny, and, at the instigation of the Attorney-General, proceedings were instituted. In the absence of the editor of the paper, a charge was preferred against a man called James Campbell, who was acting in his place, and subsequently withdrawn, as the Attorney-General explained, because Mr Campbell's "responsibility appeared to be very limited," and his character and war record excellent. The allegation made in Conservative quarters is that Sir Patrick Hastings allowed political pressure to interfere with his administration of justice. Whether any ground exists for such allegations we cannot judge until Sir Patrick has delivered his defence in the debate next Wednesday, when Sir Robert Horne will move a vote of censure on the Government. But even if we assume that Sir Patrick is entirely guiltless of so heinous a dereliction of duty, it is quite obvious that he has blundered, and blundered seriously. To initiate a prosecution and then to drop it is not only damaging to the prestige of the Government, but also opens the floodgates of suspicion. If there was no case against the obscure organ in question, the facts should have been properly sifted in advance, and no action taken. If an offence was committed meriting prosecution, then the charge should have been pressed home. For if an offence was committed, someone is responsible, and the fact that its editor is indisposed and absent from his post does not absolve any newspaper from responsibility for its utterances. Nevertheless, unless it can be proved that the Cabinet is definitely implicated, we should regard the resignation of the Law Officers (for the Solicitor-General was, by Sir Patrick's admission, consulted in the matter) as the appropriate penalty for the blunder. This view is apparently shared to some extent by the Liberal leaders, who will not support the Conservative vote of censure, but will move an amendment demanding an inquiry by a Select Committee into the whole affair. For this amendment, it appears, the Conservative Party might vote, if the chances of carrying their own vote of censure were hopeless. We have here a situation in which two courses are open to Mr MacDonald. He may placate Liberal opinion by agreeing to inquiry, or by offering the Attorney-General's head on a charger; or he may take the Liberal amendment as being tantamount

to a vote of censure, resist it, meet defeat, and precipitate a general election.

Under ordinary circumstances we should have expected a Prime Minister, with so short a tenure of office behind him, with a general election so recent, and with so many important and unfinished tasks in his hands, to throw a blundering law officer to the wolves rather than to commit hari-kari and plunge the country into the disturbance of an election. The Campbell case does not appear to justify the latter course, and the Prime Minister may decide in this sense. But circumstances are far from ordinary. If the Government chooses to save its own life on Wednesday, the reprieve is likely to be a short one. When the House re-assembles, if it does re-assemble, on October 28th, the Government will be faced by a motion in the name of Mr Asquith for the rejection of the financial chapter of the Russian Treaty. This motion crystallises the objections of the financial world to the loan guarantee and is so framed as to be certain of the combined support of the Opposition Parties, and, unless the Government performs a somewhat remarkable *volte face*, the end of the present month would see an overwhelming defeat on a fundamental question of policy, to which resignation or dissolution would be the only reply. All the present indications therefore point to an early election. But, as Mr Baldwin remarked, "in politics one can never tell," and if Mr MacDonald plays for safety in the Campbell affair, it is possible that he might employ the four weeks of recess in erecting a bridge over what looks at the moment an almost unbridgeable chasm. That is the sole, and very slender, hope that the country will be spared an autumn election which nobody wants, and which may easily hamper the recovery of trade for which we were beginning to look. If Mr MacDonald's choice lies between next Wednesday or the end of the month as the hour of decisive defeat, there are various tactical considerations that come into play. Defeat on the Campbell affair might not be regarded by the Crown as adequate grounds for dissolution, and the reins of Government, together with some tactical advantage in the general election—which could not, in any case, be long delayed—might pass into the hands either of Mr Baldwin or Mr Asquith. To such circumstances, we imagine, Mr MacDonald would prefer a defeat on the Russian Treaty and a straight appeal to the country.

The measure of the political crisis that has so suddenly arisen is that the Irish Boundary question, the *raison d'être* of this fateful little session, has taken a back seat in the public mind. But the purpose of the session has been fulfilled. The Irish Bill has passed all its stages in the House of Commons, and the Lords are unlikely to take the responsibility of obstruction. The debates, which on the whole have been maintained on a high level, have made it more abundantly clear than ever that the Government were bound to pass this legislation in order to set up the Boundary Commission, to implement in good faith the obligations which Great Britain undertook in signing the Treaty of 1921. The activities of the enemies of the Free State—notably of Mr de Valera—have revealed the necessity that British good faith should be vindicated beyond question and without delay. Fortunately, whatever course the new crisis at Westminster may take, the passage of the Irish Bill to the Statute Book is assured. Even if the Labour Government meets with decisive defeat on Wednesday, the Opposition parties are apparently willing that it should retain office long enough to see that passage actually effected. Whether the debates have contributed anything material towards the ultimate solution of Ireland's problem, it is difficult to say. They have at least cleared the air of some misconceptions and misunderstandings. The speeches of the Prime Minister, Mr Lloyd George and Mr Thomas have removed from most impartial minds the suspicion that in keeping faith with Dublin we were breaking faith with Belfast, and have, we think, weakened public sympathy in this country with Ulster's refusal to appoint a member of the Boundary Commission. No one, either abroad or at home, can, we believe, read the eloquent and appealing speech of the Colonial Secretary without feeling conviction that the sole aim and desire of the British Government and people is to keep faith in spirit and letter with all sections in Ireland, and to do all that in them lies to help Irishmen to solve the problems

which they alone can solve. The creation of such an impression is a service to British prestige, and we may even hope that it will assist in the production in Ireland herself of an atmosphere more conducive to that spirit of conciliation, which alone can fulfil Mr Thomas's hope "that Ireland will in the future be a united Ireland and an asset to the great Commonwealth of Nations."

NATIONAL INCOME AND TAXATION.

In an article last week on the Future of the Coal Industry, we gave some comparative figures of home production and consumption of coal, the coal trade being one of the few cases in which reliable statistics of output are available. In the absence of a Census of Production, these figures can be used as one of the bases upon which an estimate of the total volume of the nation's production can be estimated. They show that the total consumption of coal at home in 1923 was 180 million tons, as compared with 187 million tons in 1913, a reduction of just under 4 per cent. Allowance has to be made, however, for the development, during the ten years, of economy in fuel consumption in various directions, such, for example, as the growth in the use of electricity—the London electricity supply companies alone supplied 298 million Board of Trade units in 1922, as compared with 188 millions in 1913. Then, again, modernised equipment has enabled a reduction to be made in the consumption of coal per ton of product in the iron and steel trade. Other indices may be produced, including coal consumption in the iron and steel trades, which is put at 90 per cent. of the 1913 figure. Another index is the general merchandise carried on British railways, excluding coal and ore, the weight of which upsets the figures in a combined total. The figures for Great Britain were 67½ million tons in 1913 and 62½ million tons in 1923, a decrease of some 7½ per cent. Some of this decline is, of course, due to the development since 1913 of road transport for certain classes of goods. For the purpose of estimating the volume of production, the carriage of general merchandise on the railways in 1923 may be put at 93 per cent. of the 1913 figure, which compares with 88 per cent. for 1922. The production of cereals—wheat, barley, and oats—was up to the pre-war figure in 1922, but 4 per cent. below in 1923. The volume of foreign trade, especially of exports, shows a substantial decrease as compared with 1913, exports being 74.5 per cent. and imports 93 per cent. of the 1913 figure. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the 1913 figures represent the highest point of a trade cycle, the volume of exports having expanded steadily from 1910 to 1913.

From these and similar figures for previous years an index of national production has been calculated as follows, on the basis of 100 in 1913:—95 for 1920, 80 for 1921, 86 for 1922, and 95 for 1923. It may be thought at first sight that the figure of 95 per cent. for 1923 looks too high, even allowing for the increase of population in the ten years, because of the substantial reductions in working hours. It is true that hours of work have been reduced in many occupations, but it can be safely asserted that in the majority of cases this has not been followed by a corresponding reduction in output. To some extent an improvement in output per hour may result from the ability of the worker to produce more in a shorter working day, but a still more potent influence is the great mechanical development and improvement during and since the war. The output per man-hour in all the metallurgical groups of trades is better than it was ten years ago, and in many other industries we learn from inquiries that reduction of hours has not produced anything like a corresponding reduction in output—in some cases there has been no reduction at all. Whether the aggregate result of the reduction of hours has been to lower output, or whether there has been no change, it is impossible to ascertain without very exhaustive investigation, but it seems fairly safe to assume that while production per head per hour is better than before the war, this improvement has not been quite sufficient to make good the loss of working time. A further factor which has to be taken into considera-

tion is that of the number employed. The employable population may be estimated to have increased since 1913 by 6½ per cent.; the percentage unemployed a year ago was 11.3 per cent., which gives 94½ per cent. in employment—i.e., 88.7 per cent. of 106½. In 1913 the unemployment percentage was 2 per cent., so that the numbers in employment in the two years were in the ratio of 94½ to 98, which gives a percentage of numbers employed in 1923 equal to 96 per cent. of those in 1913, disregarding, of course, reduction in hours of labour. These figures, we think, substantiate the estimate of a figure of 95 per cent. of 1913 for the volume of national production in 1923.

From this figure it is possible to make an estimate of the national income in recent years, correcting the figures to allow for the change in prices. The average of all prices in the national income probably follows the index number for retail prices more closely than that for wholesale prices, but a figure midway between retail and wholesale will give a reasonably accurate index for this purpose. We thus arrive at the following results:—

	Production Index.	Price Index.	Net National Income, Mln. £.	Total National Income, including Interest on Internal Debt and War Pensions, Mln. £.
1913	100	100	2,200*	2,200
1920	95	250	5,225	5,600
1921	80	200	3,510	3,900
1922	86	166	3,140	3,500
1923	95	166	3,470	3,800

* Excluding Southern Ireland.

In order to estimate the total national income available for taxation, interest on the internal debt and war pensions has been added, these items, though not, of course, an addition to production, being a claim upon a share of the total of the nation's production, which is taken by taxation from the producers of income and paid either to holders of the debt or to pensioners. The ratio of tax revenue collected in the various years to the above estimate of total national income is shown in the table below, in which we also set out some similar figures for the United States:—

	RATIO OF TAXATION TO NATIONAL INCOME.	
	Great Britain.	United States.*
1913	7.1	6.4
1920	18.4	12.1 (1919)
1921	22.0	16.7
1922	22.2	12.1
1923	18.8	11.6

* Including Federal, State, and local taxes.

The British figures relate only to Imperial taxation, but the American statistics, which have been produced by the National Industrial Conference Board of New York, cover all taxes. The ratio of taxes to national income in the United States has fallen more rapidly from the high point of 1921 than it has in this country. But where-in 1922 to £718 millions in 1923, that of the United States rose from \$6,961 millions to \$7,716 millions, so that there must have been a considerable expansion in the national income of America in 1923. It may be of interest to respondent estimated the French national income at 140 milliard francs. Taxation in France last year amounted to 22.6 milliards, giving a ratio of 16 per cent., which will rise substantially in the current year if the recently introduced tax reforms are carried through.

THE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN IN HUNGARY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

In its essentials, the reconstruction plan in Hungary is drawn up on the Austrian model: a foreign loan to enable the Budget to be balanced and inflation to be stopped; a bank of issue, independent of the Government, to maintain the currency at a stable value in exchange; fiscal reforms, commercial agreements, and political protocols. Experience in Austria confirmed these outlines and suggested only modifications in detail.

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

One such modification has proved to be of considerable importance. As in Austria, the control of the Commissioner-General is exercised by way of monthly budget estimates and closed accounts. But closed accounts can only be furnished after the lapse of some considerable time, and this fact enabled the Austrian Government, when receipts proved to have been better than the estimates, to build up important reserves whose existence, so far as the Commissioner-General was concerned, never came to light until the closed accounts were rendered. It therefore happened that the Commissioner-General was releasing funds from the international loan for the purpose of covering current monthly deficits which could and should have been covered by the surplus receipts of previous months. The efficacy of his control was thereby reduced, since the supplies which he could cut off were not, so to speak, marginal supplies at all, but could be replaced from other sources.

The solution found for this difficulty in Hungary has been to establish a system of Central Exchequer—a measure which on other grounds was desirable in itself. Until recently in Hungary, as in many other countries, the responsibility for distributing and collecting public funds devolved upon a vast number of separate financial authorities who rendered their accounts to the Central Treasury at considerable intervals of time. The Central Treasury was consequently, as a rule, in complete ignorance of its own position on balance, and quite unable to exercise any effective supervision of budgetary receipts and expenses.

The first two months of the control period, which began on May 1st, were devoted to making a complete settlement of the past, so that the new financial year might be begun on January 1st with a clean slate. The State was heavily in arrear, and one last bout of inflation, amounting in all to 110 millions of gold crowns (rather less than five millions sterling) was permitted before, with the foundation of the National Bank, the Government was refused further access to the printing press. As from July 1st the Exchequer system also came into operation. All offices engaged in the collection of revenue were required, from that date onwards, to pay their receipts immediately into a special account opened at the National Bank, without any deduction whatsoever. Expenses are met by crediting, at the beginning of each month, all authorities entrusted with the disbursement of public funds with the amounts which, in the Budget approved by the Commissioner-General, they are expected to require in the course of that month. The Commissioner-General, who receives a daily return of exchequer receipts, is thus in a position to know, at the end of each month, approximately how the actual receipts

compare with the expenses; and closed accounts, though still of some interest, have lost a great deal of their importance from the point of view of control.

One other respect in which the execution of the Reconstruction programme differs in Hungary and in Austria is that Hungarian currency is stabilised, not on gold, but on sterling. The rate chosen for stabilisation (346,000 crowns to the £) is such that when sterling reaches parity in New York, Hungarian crowns will automatically reach parity in Vienna. In the meantime, the share capital of the National Bank and the Hungarian tranche of the Reconstruction Loan, both of which were issued in terms of gold, will have lost about 10 per cent. of their nominal value in Hungarian currency. But the prospect of a relative fall of 10 per cent. in Hungarian commodity prices as compared with countries on a gold basis is not unwelcome, and the knowledge that a fall of this kind is in prospect exercises a restraining influence on those who might otherwise be inclined to borrow crowns.

Austrian experience during the reconstruction period will perhaps differ considerably from the experiences of Hungary, if only because Hungary is, and must remain, predominantly an agricultural State. Pledged revenues, in the one case as in the other, are yielding very considerable surpluses in excess of the estimates, but—in Hungary, at any rate—this is more due to cautious estimating than to an increasing capacity to pay. Up to the present Hungary has been spared that influx of foreign capital which led in Austria to an inflation of security values for which Austria, and not the foreigner, had in the end to pay. The Bourse in Budapest remains lifeless, and it certainly is not the Stock Exchange demand which prevents the cost of weekly money from falling even below the rate of ¼ per cent. a week which is now ruling. The interest rate problem is common to both countries alike, and the discounts of the National Bank of Hungary at present show an ominous tendency to rise continuously because the National Bank is the cheapest, if not the only, source of bank credit. But it is too early yet to say whether it will be necessary in Hungary, as in Austria, to remind the National Bank that its first duty is to ensure the maintenance of the value of the currency.

One last difference between the two reconstruction plans may be mentioned. Hungary still has to pay a certain fixed and limited amount annually in respect of Treaty charges. Her obligation is to pay this sum, and she is absolved when it has been paid in any given year. Its distribution among those entitled to receive payments from Hungary under the Treaty is no concern of hers. But the question of priority between the different claimants has not been settled, and claims are met as they fall due. The difficulties to which this system promises to give rise suggest that perhaps the one respect in which the Hungarian reconstruction plan falls short of the Austrian, is the failure definitely to postpone reparations till reconstruction has been accomplished.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

A SHARP rise in many commodity wholesale prices during September has raised our Index Number to the highest point recorded since the end of September, 1921, the actual advance on the month being 103 points, which brings the total up to 4729. The bulk of this increase is accounted for by the foodstuffs groups, most items in which are higher on balance. In other directions, apart from American cotton and small movements in the minerals section, changes have mostly been in an upward direction. In the table below we show the latest figures for each of the five groups:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Oil, &c.).	Total.	%
Basis (avg. 1901-5) ..	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914	879	382	616	464	553	2868	116.6
Dec., 1915	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.1
Dec., 1917	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5893	268.2
Nov., 1918	1289	782	1848	903	1389	6212	282.6
Mar., 1920	1508	914	2974	1246	1709	8352	379.6
Dec., 1921	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
Dec., 1921	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
Dec., 1922	861	706	1184	705	807	4264	193.8
June 1923	815	773	1177	773	761	4301	195.5
Dec., 1923	853	815	1382	774	755	4580	208.2
Mar. 1924	897	843	1313	805	780	4640	210.9
June "	914	736	1347	764	769	4531	205.9
July "	951	732	1423	777	773	4657	211.7
Aug. "	941	744	1385	781	774	4626	210.8
Sept. "	1003	777	1395	762	790	4729	214.9

In primary foodstuffs, home-grown wheat, rice, and beef show trifling declines, but all other items moved upwards, the largest increase being recorded by barley, supplies of which fell short of the demand for malting purposes. Further increases in flour have taken place during the month, while potatoes, though in good supply, have also fetched higher prices. In other foodstuffs there is an all-round increase, a seasonal advance in butter being the principal feature. In the textiles section, American cotton fell substantially, and there was a small sympathetic decline in yarn and cloth, but Egyptian cotton rose a little, and with the exception of a slight drop in flax, other textiles were all higher. American cotton prices fell steadily until the publication in the third week of September of the official crop forecast, and although the latter produced advances both in New York and Liverpool, the upward movement proved to be only temporary, and the general expectation of a 13 million bale crop has not been seriously shaken. With regard to the manufacturing side Messrs Robt. Barbour and Brothers write in their monthly report: "Of the various sources from which support has been supplied throughout the month, India has been by far the most active. Inquiry has covered a wide range of fabrics, and Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Karachi have all shared in it. The smaller markets of the Far East have provided a miscellaneous business, and a considerable demand has been forthcoming from Egypt and the Near East. Transactions for South America have been on the cautious side, and China's contribution has naturally been below normal and will most probably remain so as long as the fighting continues." Strong demand, both on home and continental account, pushed up prices at the fifth series of colonial wool sales, competition being keen.

Depression in the iron and steel trade is reflected in a further weakening in the price of pig-iron and steel rails, while a reaction in tin has also contributed to the drop of 18 points in the minerals section. In the miscellaneous section oils, oil seeds, tallow, and indigo have moved up. In the next table we show the changes in the index number of each separate commodity in comparison with the figure for the end of August, the figure 50 representing

in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	109	+ 14	Cotton, A	123	+ 20	Copper	52	- 4
English	91	- 2	Cotton, E	170	+ 4	Minerals	762	- 18
Flour	38	+ 10	Yarn	142	+ 7			
Barley	140	+ 26	Cloth	133	- 1			
Oats	77	+ 5	Wool, Eng.	157	+ 5	Baltic timber	103	
Potatoes	100	+ 6	Do Aust.	185	+ 9	Amer. timber	89	
Rice	125	- 2	Silk	107	+ 1	Leather	60	
Beef	79	- 4	Flax	173	- 4	Petroleum	108	
Mutton	92	+ 7	Hemp	79	+ 15	Oils	76	+ 4
Pork	91	+ 6	Jute	125	+ 12	Oilseed	88	+ 2
						Tallow	77	+ 6
Cereals & meat	1,003	+ 62	Textiles	1,395	+ 10	Indigo	87	+ 3
						Crystals	85	
Tea	166	+ 8	Pig-iron	87	- 1	Rubber	15	
Coffee	123	+ 5	Steel rails	75	- 4	Miscellaneous	790	+ 16
Sugar, cane	127	+ 4	Iron bars	95	- 4			
Sugar, beet	135	+ 5	Coal, steam	136	- 4	Total	4,729	+ 103
Butter	109	+ 10	House coal	88	- 1			
Tobacco	116	+ 10	Lead	136	- 1			
			Tin	91	- 7			
Other foods	777	+ 33						

These changes raise the percentage increase over July, 1914, from 80.4 to 84.4 per cent. Recent movements in this figure and in similar percentages for the individual groups are shown in the final table, in which the indices for July, 1914, are taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	237.6
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1921	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
Dec., 1922	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
Dec., 1923	148	231	225	167	136	178.6
Mar., 1924	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
June "	158	210	219	164	139	176.6
July "	164	208	231	167	140	181.6
Aug. "	162	211	225	168	140	180.4
Sept. "	173	221	226	164	143	184.4

At the end of September last the increase in the total over 1914 was 67.6 per cent. Cereals and meat then stood at 142, other food at 222, textiles at 197, minerals at 158, and miscellaneous commodities at 134. It will thus be seen that during the past twelve months there has been a considerable "levelling up" as between the various groups.

CEMENT PRODUCTION IN INDIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

AN application is now before the Indian Tariff Board which, if accepted, will deprive British exporters of cement of their largest market. It can hardly be contended that in this case coming events have not cast their shadow before, inasmuch as in 1919, in the course of a voluminous report, the British Trade Commissioner took pains to point out that "the prospects for cement manufacturers in India are particularly good, and the effect of local production in reducing the quantities imported is likely to be very marked." His advice was that "British makers, however, should protect their interests by manufacturing in India, and so contributing to the development of Imperial resources." Meanwhile, the multiplication of Indian cement factories has proceeded so rapidly that their full capacity for output is about double India's present consumption. Hence bitter tears and lamentations, and the joint and individual pleas of the Indian cement producers, now under official consideration, that the only patriotic and businesslike course is to protect this over-developed industry by shutting out foreign competitors. The consumer, in other words, is to pay for the short-sightedness of the producer. Cement was being produced at a reasonable profit prior to the establishment of the flock of new companies which arrived on the scene during the post-war boom, and, had not over-production occurred, the industry would have remained profitable in present conditions, notwithstanding the drop in prices. In the industrial field in India, where one sheep leads others will follow, even though it be over a cliff. One cement concern having been detected earning large profits, half a

dozen new companies were floated within a twelvemonth. Machinery was costly, but what of that? Capital was easy to secure, shares in new companies soared to high levels immediately after issue, and there was a general assumption that the purchasing power of post-war India was virtually without limit.

We know the sequel. In the case of piece-goods, the burden was left to Lancashire and the banks. In the case of cement, recourse is to be had to the unfortunate consumer, who is to be deprived of the standard British product in order to secure the doubtful privilege of paying a higher price for Indian cement than it can obtain in open competition with the imported product—notwithstanding the charges the latter has to face in the way of freight, plus an import duty equivalent to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. One cannot help thinking that if the Indian cement industry obtains a higher tariff, the Government of India, notwithstanding its protectionist principles, will be establishing a very dangerous and unsound precedent. The real remedy for Indian cement companies is financial reconstruction. If a higher tariff is conceded, caution in floating new industrial enterprises in India—never a marked characteristic among company promoters in that country—will completely disappear. If over-capitalisation occurs, or over-production—or working costs are too high—financial and technical reforms, however urgent or essential, will be neglected in favour of the specious plea that a great "national" industry is in danger, and that a public subsidy, in one form or another, offers the only method of salvation.

Certain facts are fairly clear, and are admitted in the evidence tendered by the cement companies' representatives to the Tariff Board, which that body has published in pamphlet form for the consideration and criticisms of consumers, and others interested. Some of these facts may be briefly indicated. It is admitted that the full capacity of the Indian factories is very largely in excess of the demand, not only to-day, but, as far as can be calculated, for many years ahead. In 1912 Indian consumption of cement was 100,000 tons. In 1923 it was 340,000 tons, of which importers supplied 113,000 tons, and Indian producers 227,000 tons, the full capacity of Indian factories, however, being approximately 600,000 tons. How this latter figure is to be worked up to, so as to reduce their costs of production to a reasonable level, the Indian factories have not been very successful in demonstrating. They have, indeed, quoted alluring figures concerning the rapid growth of cement consumption in the United States, Canada, Japan, &c., but without convincing disinterested observers who know India that a corresponding expansion is likely to occur in Indian conditions. Indeed, recent figures of Indian consumption, as a guide to normal consumption, are rather misleading, being influenced largely by abnormal demands, by public and private undertakings, arising out of the large arrears of construction work traceable to the war-time period. We are also not likely to see any further enterprises in the near future demanding such large quantities of cement, as, for instance, the Bombay development scheme or the Calcutta docks extensions, the supplies for which have already been contracted for. On irrigation works, cement is, even at present prices, too expensive in many cases, and has been rejected in favour of hydraulic lime. Doubtless, on present prices, the Indian demand will continue to expand; but will it expand if a higher tariff forces prices to a higher level? To that suggestion Indian factories tender a somewhat ingenious reply. They say, in effect: "Owing to the established reputation of British cement in the Indian market, we are compelled, despite the equally high standard of the Indian product, to sell at 10 to 15 rupees per ton lower than the British companies in order to secure orders. Consequently a tariff which shut out the foreign product, and enabled us to obtain this extra 15 rupees per ton, would benefit us without involving any rise in price to the consumer. He would get Indian cement instead of British, but he would pay no higher price, and would get quite as good value for his money." It is further maintained that, with larger outputs, costs of production would fall, and that this factor, combined with the levelling-up of price to the figure now paid for British cement, would facilitate, if it would not exactly guarantee, the earning of profits. It is not, however,

LEGAL & GENERAL
ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE

EXCEPT MARINE

Head Office

10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1836 General Manager H. A. WORMAN, F.I.A.

suggested, even by the cement companies, that a higher tariff, though essential, would solve the entire problem. Propaganda throughout the country to promote a larger utilisation of cement is one of the supplementary measures strongly advocated, while there are also proposals involving, on the one hand, in some cases, the writing-down of capital, and on the other, the establishment, behind the projected tariff wall, of a "combine," the objects of which would be to induce the companies to demarcate areas of operation, fix maximum outputs for each, introduce uniform prices, and reduce the costs of working. An export programme is also suggested, but as freight rates are not under Indian control, that programme would be much harder to carry into effect than to outline.

There is not space in this article to allude to all the points involved, but the main issues, it is hoped, have been made fairly plain. The Tariff Board, in a Press *communiqué* which serves as a preface to the evidence already tendered, observes significantly: "The present duty on imported cement is Rs9 a ton, being 15 per cent. on a tariff valuation of Rs60 a ton. The manufacturing firms have asked that a specific duty of Rs25 a ton should now be imposed. If imported cement were imported duty free, the price at the ports would not, apparently, exceed Rs50 a ton, and the proposed duty is therefore approximately equivalent to an *ad valorem* duty of 50 per cent. The applicants have informed the Board that the principal market for cement in India is at the great ports, that is, primarily at Calcutta and Bombay, and also at Madras, Rangoon, and Karachi. The consumption of cement up-country is smaller than in the ports, but, except in Burma, where cement is not manufactured at present, the Indian manufacturer is in a better position to hold his own, the advantage he possesses varying according to the distance from the port. The manufacturers anticipate that the proposed duty of Rs25 a ton will suffice to retain the whole of the Indian market for Indian cement. It is intended, therefore, to be practically prohibitive."

It may be worth while adding, concerning the proposed "combine," that one witness, in his evidence before the Tariff Board, remarked: "We were all agreed except one company. But I think they are short-sighted, and I think it would be to the advantage of all. There are schemes like that worked out."

If a prohibitive tariff is imposed, an Indian cement combine will be established as the immediate sequel.

THE QUARTER'S NEW CAPITAL.

THE normal slump in new capital flotations is exhibited in our figures of new issues during the quarter just ended, the total for the period amounting to £29 millions, which compares with £69.6 millions in the preceding quarter. It is, however, slightly larger than in the corresponding three months of 1923, when a total of £25.4 millions, including £4.9 millions raised by the British Government, was recorded. In the past quarter, loan operations by the Government, apart from Temporary Advances on Ways and Means and Treasury Bill sales, have not only not added to the total, but are responsible for a debit item of £871,000, the net repayments of National Savings Certificates exceeding sales of 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds

by that amount. In the table below we classify the quarterly figures since the beginning of 1919:—

(In Million £'s.)

	Total	British Govt. and Colon.	Foreign Govt. and Colon.	British and Foreign Govt. and Colon.	Foreign Railways.	Mines & Finance, Exploration.	Rubber.	Oil.	Balance (Mainly Home Industry).
1919—1st quarter	291.9	262.6	30	..	..	1.0	..	..	25.2
2nd "	339	315.5	23.5	..	..	2.3	..	..	26.9
3rd "	517.8	473.4	44.4	..	..	2.3	..	..	38.8
4th "	113.8	83	30.8	..	..	7.3	..	..	69.4
1920—1st quarter	135.1	7.5	5.5	4.7	1.2	2.2	6.5	10.6	10.6
2nd "	98.0	9.7	2.5	20.6	..	..	2.4	31.0	..
3rd "	61.2	4.9	..	14.2	..	..	3.3	39.9	..
4th "	73.2	15.5	4.0	7.0	..	..	4.6	15.9	..
1921—1st quarter	63.4	17.0	9.3	9.9	..	..	1.4	24.1	..
2nd "	55.3	31.1	2.7	8.2	..	..	1.4	7.1	..
3rd "	57.9	39.1	5.3	3.0	..	..	1.1	13.7	..
4th "	202.4	143.6	41.2	2.8	..	..	1.1	9.1	..
1922—1st quarter	286.2	211.9	20.1	8.4	14.7	..	5.4	7.5	21.9
2nd "	162.6	92.4	34.6	3.3	..	..	1.6	17.5	..
3rd "	61.9	42.5	..	1.2	..	..	2.3	17.8	..
4th "	63.0	22.9	18.2	..	..	..	3.2	15.4	..
1923—1st quarter	86.2	43.8	18.1	..	..	..	3.7	1.1	21.6
2nd "	95.1	28.0	47.3	..	..	..	1.5	..	14.2
3rd "	25.4	4.9	1.1	..	..	..	1.2	18.1	..
4th "	64.7	9.0	29.3	..	..	..	3.4	..	11.3
1924—1st quarter	36.0	11.9	19.1	..	..	..	1.4	..	2.9
2nd "	69.6	11.8	22.1	2.4	..	..	..	..	..
3rd "	29.0	Dr 9.1	6.9	..	..	..	1.4	1.4	16.0

* In 15 months after April, 1920, £60,000,000, mostly Housing bonds.

In only one week of the quarter did sales of Savings Certificates exceed repayments, the net sum repaid being £1,250,000. Treasury Bonds sold in the first three weeks of July amounted to £378,600. Of other issues, four-fifths of the quarter's total were raised in the month of July. In the comparative table below, the issues of the quarter and of the past nine months are sub-divided under several heads:—

Description.	Total, First Half-year, 1924.	Third Quarter, 1924.	Total Nine Months to September 30.
	£	£	£
British Government Loans	10,542,900	Dr 871,400	68,577,000
Colonial Government Loans	25,231,000	nil	25,231,000
Foreign Government Loans	16,025,200	6,954,700	25,561,900
British Municipal and County Loans	3,165,000	477,500	4,775,500
Colonial corporations	3,574,800	1,076,000	4,650,800
Foreign corporations	2,412,500	nil	2,412,500
British railways	nil	nil	1,193,700
Colonial railways	nil	955,000	5,483,000
Foreign railways	171,000	nil	560,900
Australian mines	400,000	951,100	1,919,300
South African mines	1,962,000	207,500	778,000
Other mines	2,354,400	3,032,900	5,173,400
Exploration, financial, & investment trust	81,000	400,000	3,975,000
Breweries and distilleries	nil	232,500	nil
Merchants, importers, &c.	9,491,200	150,000	10,899,000
Manufacturing	nil	625,000	2,027,000
Stores and trading	2,424,500	310,000	755,800
Estate and land	175,500	35,200	2,067,200
Rubber	149,800	1,350,000	4,381,700
Oil	3,388,600	833,900	7,897,100
Iron, coal, steel, and engineering	6,577,200	2,096,200	8,020,400
Electric lighting and power	805,000	32,500	837,500
Tramways, omnibus, &c.	784,900	271,300	393,500
Motor traction and manufacturing	nil	nil	728,300
Gas and water	431,500	nil	74,000
Hotels, theatres, and entertainments	nil	nil	137,800
Patents and proprietary articles	1,775,000	4,250,000	550,000
Docks, harbours, and shipping	1,750,000	612,300	1,635,100
Banks and insurance	11,850,000	4,990,500	9,313,400
Miscellaneous	105,584,000	29,032,000	206,682,600
			134,616,000

Foreign Government loans account for nearly £7 millions, this being the amount subscribed through the London market to the Hungarian 7½ per cent. loan issued at 88 in July. Colonial municipalities are responsible for just over a million, Melbourne Tramways Board and the City of Auckland having issued 5 per cent. stock in September, the former for £686,000 and the latter for £390,000. Foreign railways again appear in the list, after an interval of twelve months, with an issue last week of ten-year 5 per cent. notes for £955,000 by the Buenos Aires Western Railway. De Beers Mines and Modderfontein East account for the total of nearly a million under the heading of South African Mines, while in the Exploration, Financial, and Investment Trust group there have been ten issues, nine of which were made by investment trust companies, the tenth being made by the Northern Exploration Company, a Rhodesian concern, for £65,100. In the Oil section, an issue of £1,350,000 was made by the V.O.C. Holding Company to shareholders only, in the form of ordinary £1 shares at 45s. Issues by two colliery concerns make up the total in the iron, coal, and steel group, and there were four issues in the electricity section, the largest being for £1,496,250 by the County of London company in the form of 5½ per cent. one-year notes at 90½. In the shipping group an issue of £4 millions in 6 per cent. preference shares by Harland and

Wolff, and of £250,000 in 7½ per cent. preference shares by the Town Line, make up the total. In the bank and insurance section, the Union Discount Company and the National Bank of Australasia made issues to shareholders only of £300,000 and £162,000 respectively. The main items in the miscellaneous group are issues of £1½ million in 6½ per cent. debentures at par by the Lautaro Nitrate Company, and £1,584,000 in 6½ per cent. debenture stock at 99 by the *Daily Sketch* and *Sunday Herald*.

From the final table, which gives the destination of new capital raised in London for the first nine months of a number of years, it will be seen that this year's figure is not only substantially below that of the corresponding period of last year, but is also less than in 1912 or 1913:—

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	1912.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
United Kingdom—Government.....	£ nil	£ nil	£ 59,159,300	£ 346,752,200	£ 68,577,000	£ 9,671,500
Other.....	36,533,400	25,595,200	58,942,100	58,259,800	35,171,700	49,306,700
British Possessions—Government.....	7,714,900	20,003,800	32,409,600	41,582,300	41,021,600	25,231,000
Other.....	27,786,900	36,944,200	14,069,200	13,528,500	18,547,700	15,857,000
Foreign countries—Government.....	35,501,800	56,948,000	46,478,800	55,110,800	59,569,300	41,088,000
Other.....	9,584,500	24,021,500	5,905,000	13,066,600	25,561,900	22,979,900
	69,411,000	43,756,700	15,973,900	37,505,000	17,802,700	11,569,900
Grand total.....	151,030,700	150,321,400	186,465,100	510,694,400	206,682,600	134,616,000

The bulk of the decline as compared with last year is accounted for by British Government loans, which are less by £59 millions, issues for other purposes at home being £14 millions higher than in 1923 and nearly double the total for 1913. The Dominions have taken substantially less than last year, Government loans in this category having dropped by nearly £16 millions. Foreign Governments, however, have raised nearly as much as in the first nine months of last year, which included over £11 millions for the Austrian Government loan. The amount raised by other foreign borrowers, however, is substantially less than last year, and compares in a striking manner with the pre-war figures. The recent criticism that Britain is overdoing her lending to countries outside the Empire is, in fact, substantially refuted by these statistics.

THE NEW PROTOCOL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, September 30.

By the time these lines appear in print the Assembly will have concluded its final consideration of the Protocol which will probably be placed before it in final shape tomorrow. It would have reached this stage earlier had it not been for a serious development due to the action of the Japanese Delegation wishing to extend the basis of the Covenant and of the Protocol somewhat beyond the principle that when any dispute is declared by the Court to be a matter of domestic jurisdiction for one of the parties involved, the matter then drops out of the sphere of international action through the League. This covers the principle of State sovereignty which has been very jealously guarded all along by the States' members, but the attitude of the Japanese Delegation has been that as the aim of the Protocol is to put an end to private wars, at any rate some elasticity must be given to the provisions regarding matters of domestic jurisdiction. Quite clearly the Japanese have in mind the subject of emigration. While it is clear that States like Australia and America are entitled to develop their legislation in their own way, it is in this sense, may also be a matter of international concern in the sense that it may lead to a serious international situation. There has, therefore, been some sympathy for the Japanese attitude, but at the same time a realisation of the extreme danger of extending the matter too far.

The problem has been of considerable gravity and really came down to either satisfying the Japanese, or leaving

them as non-signatories of the Protocol, with liberty of action in case of necessity. What the Japanese said was that if the League really wishes to end war, it must retain the right to exercise conciliatory influence when a conflict arises between two States on a subject which concerns the sovereignty of one of them. That is to say, if the Court decides that a certain question is a matter of domestic jurisdiction, it would still be the duty of the Council to endeavour to secure a settlement by conciliatory means. This is covered in more general terms by Article XI. of the Covenant which permits any State to bring to the attention of the League "any circumstance whatever affecting international relations which threatens to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends."

It is on this basis that, after some days of intensive negotiation which have caused much agitation in various quarters, a solution has been reached this evening. It is agreed that a Court pronouncement that a dispute is one of domestic concern for one of the parties shall not prevent consideration of the situation by the League under Article XI. of the Covenant, i.e., if peace is threatened. It is also agreed that a state refusing to accept a Court decision that a dispute is a matter of domestic concern shall not be presumed to be the aggressor if war breaks out—as it would ordinarily be according to the Protocol—if it has submitted the question to the League under Article XI. after the decision has been delivered. That is to say, if war breaks out after a Court decision, and after further reference to the League under Article XI. by the plaintiff State, the League will have to discover which is the aggressor. Both States would be in the same position with no presumption for or against either. This seems a fair arrangement at first sight, and without time for thinking through it.

The Dominions have been taking part in the discussions, and some of them have made their position clear; others will have the opportunity of doing so if they so desire. It may be a reasonable condition that such obligations will not be accepted by Great Britain unless other great nations join in, but the discussions in some British quarters in relation to the United States rather lose sight of the fact that Article XVI. of the Covenant obviously means something. In the first place it is perfectly clear that it means the automatic institution of financial and economic boycott against a Covenant-breaking State, itself an unsatisfactory provision in this form, and certainly made more satisfactory by the provision of the Protocol that before the boycott comes into operation a State must be properly declared an aggressor by refusal to arbitrate or by the various other criteria laid down in the Protocol. The point is that under Article XVI. as it stands, as well as in the Protocol, Great Britain is under an obligation to institute a boycott against a Covenant-breaking State. It is rather late in the day to say that America's non-membership of the League has changed the situation, and though quite obviously it is a very serious practical question to be considered by British people, there it stands at present unless and until some action is taken to displace it. To many it would seem difficult in such circumstances as would involve drastic action against a State, for an American Government in the face of the world to insist upon carrying on single-handed its relations with a defaulting State. It is, of course, possible.

British opinion in some quarters is also disposed to be a little too pessimistic about the prospect of America attending a Disarmament Conference summoned by the League. She has already attended many League Conferences; she has assisted, through her Minister at Berne, in the preparation of a Convention for the control of the traffic in arms; and she has officially intimated her willingness favourably to consider an invitation to attend a Conference to be summoned by the League on this subject. American observers consider it would be extremely difficult for an American Administration to decline to participate in a general conference on disarmament merely because it has been summoned by the League of Nations. What is absolutely certain is that the great majority of European States have not the slightest intention of disarming unless they have some equivalent

security, either in the form of the sanctions outlined in the Protocol, or in some other form, and if America is not prepared to contribute to this (as it is fairly evident that she is not), her influence on any possible scheme of reduction would be a purely moral one. Moral persuasion is no substitute for States determined to do their utmost to maintain their security.

The coming months provide an absolutely essential opportunity for full exploration of this and many other aspects of the discussion, into which it is impossible to enter fully. It is an enormous subject, to be analysed with great care, and it is my personal opinion that it is the height of optimism to imagine that the Disarmament Conference will take place in June next year. It would be deplorable, however, if some of the progress made on several headings were not crystallised into the European system, obviously with such additional safeguards as may ultimately prove necessary. One of the most urgent safeguards seems to be the inclusion of Germany, if not in the League, at least amongst the signatory States of the Protocol.

The Council has settled its plan of organisation for the right of investigation into the armaments of ex-enemy countries as soon as inter-Allied control ceases. A panel of experts is to be drawn up from States represented on the Council, and on each particular occasion when the right of investigation is to be exercised a selection will be made containing a representative at least of all the States represented on the Council at the time, provision being made that a neutral and a neighbouring State signatory of the Treaty shall in any case be represented. The investigation may be made on a surprise basis, and States subject to such investigation under Peace Treaties are not to be represented on any of the commissions set up to carry out the work. This, of course, is an immense step forward on the system of inter-Allied control, but it cannot be finally considered to be satisfactorily within the League spirit until similar conditions are applied to all States members of the League, an eventuality which must be looked forward to as one of the results of the Disarmament Conference when it takes place. Ex-enemy States might then justifiably claim that one or other of them should be eligible for representation for investigation in other countries, and the distinction within the League between one set of Powers and another would finally disappear.

Notes of the Week.

Japan and the New Protocol.—The new Arbitration Protocol, which is discussed above by our Geneva correspondent, was unanimously passed by the Assembly on Thursday. The overcoming of the last minute Japanese objections by certain modifications in the text, may be regarded with unmixed satisfaction from the European point of view. Immediate practical measures for the prevention of war are a matter of life and death to Europe; these measures might have been arrested, or at least very seriously embarrassed, by the opposition of Japan, who is one of the four Great Powers represented on the Council of the League, and the concessions given to Japan in order to secure her adherence are not calculated to make the mutual relations of European countries more difficult. In Europe, where there are no colour lines and no empty spaces, it is through the external, and not through the internal, policies of States that disturbances of the peace are likely to arise, and these external possibilities of conflict are grave enough in all conscience to tax the resourcefulness of European statesmanship. To the good European, the price demanded by Japan is not too heavy to pay, but for Great Britain, with only one foot in Europe and the other overseas, good Europeanism is not enough, and the comments on the concessions to Japan which have been made in the Australian and the American Press indicate already the trouble which these concessions may cause us in regions outside Europe where we are also vitally concerned. The opposition of the Japanese delegate to the previous draft of the Protocol was perfectly legitimate from the Japanese point of view. Had the Protocol gone through in that form with Japan's adhe-

sion, the Japanese Government would have declared itself, by its own act and by anticipation, to be the aggressor in any conflict which might arise between Japan and some other State of the Pacific Basin on the subject of immigration, and in the Pacific this subject, while juridically a domestic question, is also a vital international issue, involving both the strongest racial sentiments and the most important economic issues. The civilised and congested Oriental peoples of the Pacific can never willingly agree that under-populated "White-Men's Countries" should be closed to Oriental immigrants, especially on the ground of their racial inferiority; and, on the other side, the Americans and the peoples of the British Dominions can never willingly admit that the composition of their population, which will determine their national destiny, is not exclusively a matter for internal control. On this occasion at Geneva a diplomatic bridge has been thrown across the gulf between the Australian and Japanese points of view, but the incident has not helped the cause of the League, either in Australia or the United States, and it is incumbent on British statesmanship to avoid situations in which the Dominions and America are ranged on one side and India and the Far Eastern countries on the other, with Great Britain in the uneasy rôle of mediator. This is just one of the aspects of the Protocol which call for the exhaustive consideration of this country and the Dominions. But, in spite of all the difficulties that still lie ahead, we may hail this work of the 1924 Assembly as an unexpectedly large achievement, and a decided step on the road towards international co-operation for peace.

Mr Baldwin and Tariffs.—With the threat of a general election staring us in the face, it is important that the country should know precisely the position which the Conservative Party has reached on the fiscal question. Last week, at Glasgow, Mr Winston Churchill, who, we presume, is just now as studious in his pursuit of orthodox opinion as a new boy at a public school, told us that a general tariff had been dropped out of the Conservative platform, but having said this he went on to advocate an extension of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, to which he apparently set no limits but those of expediency. His new headmaster, Mr Baldwin, followed, in his Newcastle speech on Thursday, on very similar lines. He said:—"I want to repeat what I have said on several occasions, that at this forthcoming election the general tariff is no part of our programme. We do not stand for it, but we hold ourselves at liberty to safeguard any efficient industry in which unemployment may be caused by unfair competition of any kind, to safeguard that industry by such a measure of safeguarding as, after careful study and consideration, may seem to us the most effective instrument for that purpose. That has all along been our policy since I declared it last January." Mr Baldwin is a little more careful than his new pupil. An industry, if it is to be safeguarded, must be "efficient" and threatened by "unfair competition," and the measures of "safeguarding" must be the subject of "careful study and consideration." To such a policy, Mr Baldwin thinks, most people in this country, irrespective of party, would give their assent. If Mr Baldwin wishes to obtain the assent of those who suspect and condemn all attempts to undermine the fiscal system of this country, he must be very much more explicit. As it stands, the passage quoted is liable to a wide variety of interpretations. Does he merely contemplate State action to tide over a difficult time for a great industry suddenly faced with a great and unforeseen emergency? Or will he support a wide extension of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, with all its faulty machinery, and give hosts of industries the hope, if he is returned to power, of artificial assistance from a Government sympathetically disposed towards the tariff remedy? In other words, has he dropped the idea of a general tariff for the idea of a piecemeal tariff? Finally, in dropping the general tariff for this election (the italics are ours), does he carry all the Conservative leaders with him, including Mr Amery? If the country is really to be thrown into a general election, we trust that Mr Baldwin will take an early oppor-

tunity to make himself clear beyond a peradventure on all these points.

The Labour Party Conference.—A Labour correspondent writes:—"When the date of the Annual Conference of the Labour Party was shifted from the normal June to October, the intention was that it should occur at a time when, Parliament being in recess, Labour M.P.s could attend without trouble. Now, however, it looks as though the meetings, which open on Tuesday morning, will take on the character of an election conference. Anyhow, there will be exceptional interest in the fact that the Prime Minister, who is chairman of the Labour Party, and therefore of the Conference, has, in his presidential address, delivered on the Tuesday, an opportunity of making a party pronouncement, and of setting the issues of the Election, if there is to be an Election. Obviously the Prime Minister's speech and the possibility of a near election will dwarf all other matters down on the Conference agenda. Too many of the actual resolutions partake of that character, so beloved at party gatherings, of the washing, in public, of dirty linen. Few of them are serious, either in themselves, or in what they seem to imply; the Labour Party has always been a body of critics, which sharpens the axe it wields against the enemy on the body of its friends; no discussion, however acrimonious at the time, on any of them ought to be taken as implying that there is, in the Party, any such serious division as would count at all in the event of an Election, or even to weaken the support which the Party as a whole gives to the Government. The most important substantive resolution is that excluding Communists from candidatures. There will be noise about this; one can foretell, accurately enough, where it is coming from, but it will be noise only. The resignation of such prominent Communists as Mr Walton Newbold and Miss Ellen Wilkinson from the Communist Party shows what is likely to happen.

Britain, Turkey, and Iraq.—While the news from Geneva in regard to this question is distinctly encouraging, the local situation in the disputed area remains serious. At Geneva, the Council of the League has decided this week to appoint a commission of three representatives from countries not even remotely concerned in the dispute, who are to make a recommendation to the Council after a thorough investigation, including, if necessary, any inquiry on the spot. The British delegate agreed at once to accept in advance whatever award the Council might make on the basis of their commissioner's report; and Fethi Bey, the Turkish delegate, has now given a pledge to the same effect, as well as an undertaking that the provision contained in the Treaty of Lausanne—that both parties should abstain from violating the existing *status quo* pending a settlement of the question by direct agreement, or else by the League procedure—will be observed by Turkey as well as by Great Britain. These are conciliatory gestures on the Turkish side, for the programme with which Fethi Bey came to Geneva was that a plebiscite should be taken to decide the attribution of the entire Mosul Vilayet, and not merely that an inquiry should be instituted by the League to determine the line along which the frontier between Turkey and Iraq shall run. Moreover, as regards the maintenance of the *status quo*, it costs us comparatively little to observe her pledge, since we claim no territory (for Iraq that is) in Turkish occupation, whereas all the territory claimed by Turkey was in British and Iraqi occupation at the moment when the Lausanne agreement was negotiated. Still, the fact that the mutual pledge of provisional non-aggression in this area, which both parties gave at Lausanne, bears more hardly upon Turkey than upon Great Britain, gives Turkey no excuse whatever for violating her engagement, and this principle has been recognised by Fethi Bey in the rational and conciliatory atmosphere of Geneva. It remains to be seen whether his assurances will be endorsed by Angora, and acted upon by the Turkish officials and troops along this wild Kurdish frontier. Undoubtedly, the *de facto* line of demarcation between Iraq and Turkey (that is, the northern boundary of the terri-

tory under British and Iraqi control at the date of the Lausanne Agreement) has been violated by Turkish regular troops during the last few days. The Christian population of the mountainous zone, just within this line, has been driven from its villages, and casualties have been inflicted on the Turkish invaders by British aeroplanes. Though the fighting seems to have ceased, the Turkish troops remain on the wrong side of the line, and their recall is a necessary preliminary (as Fethi Bey has realised) to any satisfactory solution. At the same time, it is important for us to realise, on our side, that this *de facto* line possesses only a provisional validity (conferred upon it by the Anglo-Turkish agreement at Lausanne that it should be maintained pending a settlement), and that neither the commissioners of the League Council nor the Council itself are under any obligation to take it as the basis of their award. In this area, no line of demarcation at present exists which possesses any permanent international sanction. The armistice of October 30, 1918, between Turkey and the Allies empowered the Allies to occupy, until the conclusion of peace, the ex-Ottoman territories which they occupied already; but the Turks claim that the greater part of the Mosul Vilayet, including the city of Mosul itself, was occupied by the British forces after the armistice, and it is this contention which partly accounts for their determination to get this province back. It is true that almost all the Mosul Vilayet was assigned to Iraq by the Sèvres Treaty, but that Treaty has admittedly lapsed. The Vilayet was also included in the territory over which a mandate was conferred on Great Britain by the principal Allied Powers, but the boundaries of the mandated area in this quarter were designated by Great Britain herself, and their validity is impaired by the precedent of the boundary between Turkey and the French mandated area in Syria, where the line originally designated by France was afterwards modified—first in the Franklin-Bouillon Agreement, and finally in the Lausanne Treaty itself. Theoretically, the Council of the League is free to draw the frontier between Turkey and Iraq along any line it chooses between the Persian frontier on the east and the French mandated area on the west, and it can hardly be expected to draw it wholly in our favour.

The Half-year's Accounts.—The figures of public income and expenditure for the first six months of the current financial year are on the whole satisfactory, and so far as it is possible to judge at this distant date, bear out the Chancellor's estimates of revenue and expenditure for the full year. Revenue for the half-year amounts to £348,509,400, which compares with £365,829,900 in the corresponding period of 1923-24, a decrease of £17,320,500. The decline for the full year was estimated in the budget at £42,860,000, of which £30 millions were accounted for by customs and excise. Up to date these two items show decreases of £13,450,000 and £6,127,000 respectively. Income-tax receipts for the full year were expected to decline by £4,331,000, but for the six months the decrease is only £235,000, while super tax receipts, for which an increase of £360,000 was estimated, have already expanded by £3,910,000. Death duties also show an increase of £4,790,000 for the half-year, against a budget estimate of a decline of £1,800,000 for the twelve months. Revenue from stamps has declined by £550,000, the year's allowance being £570,000, while the drop of £1,690,000 in Corporation Profits Tax is almost exactly half the year's estimate. Miscellaneous special receipts, for which a decrease of £6,800,000 was estimated, have declined by £4,412,100. Receipts from Post Office operations have produced £1,300,000 more than last year, the year's estimate being for an expansion of £700,000. Total expenditure for the six months was £360,492,000, which compares with £362,832,800, a decrease of £2,340,800, Mr Snowden's estimate for the full year being for an increase of £1,186,000. There has been a saving of £1,006,500 on the Supply Services, which is more than accounted for by the Civil Services, while Consolidated Fund Services are down by £1,334,300. Interest, &c., on the National Debt has taken £2,667,200 more, but sinking fund payments are £5,316,700 less at £14,290,400, and Road Fund, payments to Local Taxation Accounts, and pay-

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits - £1,606,457

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

Over 180 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. J. E. FANSHAW, Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted

ments to Northern Ireland Exchequer have each taken about half a million more. The deficit at June 30th last was £38,859,000, but this has now been reduced to £11,982,600. The first quarter, of course, included payment of a half-year's interest on 5 per cent. War Loan and an instalment of the service on the American Debt, items which will appear again in the third quarter. The floating debt is practically unchanged as compared with March 31st last, and the excess of expenditure has been met from the half-year's issue of £13½ millions of 4 per cent. Treasury Bonds. National Savings Certificates to the extent of £2½ millions have been repaid, and just over a million has been taken from Exchequer balances. The budget estimate was for a surplus of £4 millions, but Supplementary Estimates already voted bid fair to absorb this, and there seems every probability that further estimates will be asked for before the close of the financial year. While it is just possible, therefore, that revenue estimates may be slightly exceeded, there is no prospect that the Chancellor will find himself next April with one of the large "unexpected" surpluses which have been the order of the day in recent years.

Railway Wages.—The question of wages in the railway service has again come to the forefront through the demand for an all-round increase for the traffic grades of 10s a week. Under the Agreement of March, 1920, two sets of rates of wages were fixed, one being current rates, which have since been varied under the cost of living sliding scale arrangement, and the other consisting of minimum basic rates, below which there was to be no reduction, irrespective of the fall in the cost of living. The latter rates are approximately 100 per cent. above the pre-war average rates for each grade. The operation of the sliding scale has resulted in reductions in the wages of the majority of the workers to the level of the agreed minima, and, owing to the fact that in many cases the minimum was reached when the cost of living index number was appreciably higher than it is at present, increases in wages would only be justified by a sharp rise in future index numbers. There are, however, some grades, including porters and permanent-way men, who are now in receipt of wages 3s to 7s in excess of their appropriate minimum rates. The following table shows a comparison between the present rates of wages and the averages for 1914 for certain important grades:—

	Rates in 1914.	Rates at Oct., 1924.	Percentage Increase.
Passenger porters—			
London	20s ..	47s ..	135
Provinces	18s ..	45s ..	150
Ticket collectors	23s to 37s ..	54s to 58s ..	115 to 135
Guards	22s to 31s ..	50s to 65s ..	110 to 127
Goods porters—London ..	23s ..	50s ..	117
Industrial	22s ..	49s ..	123
Rural	19s ..	46s ..	142
Permanent way labourers			
London	24s and 25s ..	51s and 53s ..	112 and 113
Industrial	22s ..	49s ..	123
Rural	20s ..	47s ..	135

In the case of engine-drivers, a precise comparison is not practicable owing to the system of mileage payments, but is probably that the percentage increase is somewhat less than those relating to lower-paid workers. It will be seen that the railwaymen have already succeeded to an appreciable extent in improving upon their relatively poor position of 1914. The present demand for a further increase in wages is a matter for serious concern, not only on account of the resulting burden of increased charges on industry generally, but also because of its bearing on the

problem of wage disparities. An increase in wages such as that proposed, following increases in the building and certain other sheltered industries, would still further widen the serious gap which exists at present between wages in such industries and those in the exposed trades.

Capital for the Russian Oil Industry.—The Russian oil industry provides a fitting test of the arguments we advanced in our issue of September 13th against a Russian loan. M. Serebrowski, the President of Azneft, which is the administration in charge of the Baku oilfields, has just concluded a visit to the oilfields of the United States. The object of his visit was to study American operating methods, and to make additional purchases of drilling and refinery equipment. Asked whether or no American capital would be an asset in solving the oil problems of Russia, M. Serebrowski, it was stated, "was emphatic in his reply that outside capital was no longer needed." He expressed "confidence in the ultimate success of the nationalisation of oil resources by the Soviet Government," and he was "very enthusiastic as to the future of Russian production." Nevertheless, he was in America partly to buy oil machinery. What, then, does the Russian oil industry really want? How would the question be affected by the ratification of the Anglo-Russian Treaties? It seems pretty clear what M. Serebrowski wants. M. Serebrowski is head of one of the local administrations which are responsible for the actual operations—for producing and refining the crude oil—but are subject to the All-Russian Naphtha Syndicate on matters of policy. Clearly, M. Serebrowski and the other local directors do not want to have operations taken out of their hands and given back to the former owners on any terms. They have succeeded in raising the production of the Russian oilfields since the Revolution until it is now 66 per cent. of the 1913 production. For the operating year which ended on September 30th, the local administrations estimated an increase in output of 17 per cent. over that of the previous year. The following table shows the steady improvement that has been made in the last three years:—

TOTAL PRODUCTION OF CRUDE OIL IN RUSSIA.

	Poods.
1922.....	287,804,000
1923.....	320,602,000 (increase of 11%)
1924 (estimated).....	375,000,000 (17%)

(60 poods = 1 long ton).

But what the Russian oil industry lacks is transportation facilities—pipe-lines, tank cars, tank steamships—as well as more modern drilling and refining machinery. No great increase in production can be expected without the means to bring the oil from the fields to the export terminals. Stocks of both crude and refined oil have recently accumulated because neither pipe-lines could deliver nor refineries handle the greatly increased output. Grozny is still without a pipe-line connection to the Black Sea. According to M. Serebrowski, an additional pipe-line will be constructed next year from the Baku fields to Batum, and the refineries will be enlarged to deal with an additional 8,400,000 poods per month. Further, the tanker fleet is in urgent need of reconstruction, and drilling outfits of the latest type, particularly rotary machines, must be purchased to replace the antiquated and worn-out machinery now employed. The Russian oil industry needs, therefore, long-term credits for the purchase of oilfield and refinery equipment, of tank steamers, pipe-lines, and railway tank cars. What security can it offer which would command confidence? The oil properties have been nationalised without payment of compensation to the former owners. The workmen receive about half their pre-war wages, while the local selling prices of kerosene are higher than pre-war prices. Yet for 1923 the official balance-sheet of the Azneft administration showed a deficit of 11 million roubles, without allowing anything for depreciation of the producing properties. This sort of thing would not give security for a loan by the ordinary commercial tests. It is significant to hear of the experience of the Barnsdall Corporation, an American oil concern. This corporation had a drilling contract with the Azneft administration for the drilling of certain wells at Baku, 20 per cent. of the production from these wells to go to the Barn-

dall Corporation, and the remainder to Azneft. The corporation claims that after drilling 2,300 feet to within 10 feet of the oil, the work was stopped and the Azneft administration has refused to allow the operations to be resumed. This was after 12 months' work and a considerable expenditure of money. Does this sort of thing command confidence for a loan? In the oil fields, as in other branches of industry in Russia, there has been a conflict in the last few years between those desiring to restore freedom of contract and trade and those desiring to retain the Soviet system. If the British Government guarantees a loan to Russia, it will assist the latter side and postpone, as we have said, the date when the change is to be made. This applies peculiarly to the oil industry. It is obvious that a British loan would diminish what chances the former owners ever held of having their oil properties returned to them for exploitation on any terms.

International Cotton Statistics.—The half-yearly returns, published by the International Cotton Federation, relating to cotton consumption and mill stocks, show that the world used 469,000 bales less of American cotton during the half year ended July 31st than in the previous six months. For the season of 1924 the world consumption of American cotton was 10,955,000 bales, against 12,666,000 bales in 1923. It may be mentioned that Mr. Hester, of New Orleans, a well-known authority, estimated the consumption last year at 11,241,000 bales. Indian cotton consumption has declined, but Egyptian has increased slightly. The countries showing increases in consumption are Russia, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Austria, Poland and China. Of the other countries, the United States shows the greatest reduction of 526,000 bales. The table relating to mill stocks of cotton discloses considerable reductions in all cottons with the exception of Indian. Supplies of American cotton held at the mills of the world on July 31st were 1,043,000 bales less than on February 1, 1924, and 667,000 bales less than on July 31, 1923. The total world mill stocks of all cottons on July 31st last were 3,545,000 bales, against 4,088,000 bales on February 1, 1924, and 3,932,000 bales on July 31, 1923. The number of spindles under construction in Europe is only 274,000, but India alone is adding 191,000 and Japan 183,000. China has decreased her spindleage from 3,380,000 to 3,300,000. The Federation has issued interesting statistics relating to the amount of short time worked during the past six months in the leading countries of the world. It is recorded that Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Japan, and China worked longer hours during the half-year than in the previous six months. Great Britain increased the short-time run by just over half a week. Spain, Holland (owing to the lock-out), Poland, Finland, Denmark, and Norway also show increased short-time working. No figures are available for the United States, but it is pointed out that of the 37,786,000 spindles in America, only 28,710,359 were active last July. The spinning spindles in Great Britain are given as 56,750,000, and of these just over 20,000,000 are engaged on Egyptian cotton. From another source some particulars have been available this week of the Egyptian cotton season for 1923-24, which ended on August 31st. During the twelve months Great Britain increased her imports from 403,045 bales of 750 lb to 450,012 bales. On the other hand, shipments from Egypt to the United States declined from 211,417 bales to 106,795 bales. Germany increased her takings from 19,092 bales to 41,564 bales. The total exports from Egypt last season were 927,328 bales, against 945,328 bales in the previous twelve months.

Index of "Free" Shipping Freights.—The marked recovery in the shipping industry during September finds expression in our index of "tramp" freights which, following the slight rise recorded in August, showed a substantial advance. Compared with August, the figure for September, namely, 128.56, represented an increase of 5.8 per cent. The movements of the various groups in the index are indicated in the following table:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	529.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December ".....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.57
December, 1923.....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February ".....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March ".....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April ".....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May ".....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June ".....	128.56	133.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37
July ".....	123.66	121.87	121.91	120.13	114.69	121.96	120.70
August ".....	120.45	128.10	119.94	118.97	113.31	128.19	121.49
September ".....	117.90	138.94	123.20	124.93	122.19	144.22	128.56

The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

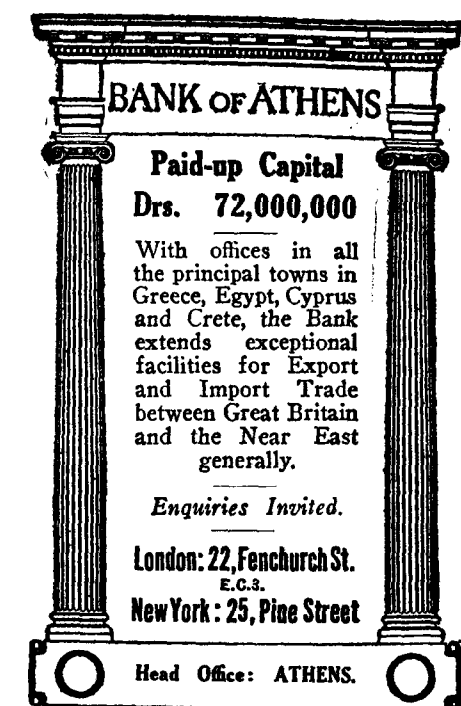
	Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	108.62	+ 1.88	S. America—outwards.....	94.75	+ 5.02
Bay—outwards.....	130.27	+ 3.67	" homewards.....	152.16	+ 1.50
" homewards.....	119.35	- 12.91	India—outwards.....	122.10	- 5.62
Mediterranean—outwards.....	136.39	+ 5.11	" homewards.....	127.77	+ 17.54
" homewards.....	104.13	- 7.61	Far East, &c.....	122.19	+ 8.88
North America.....	138.94	+ 10.84	Australia.....	144.22	+ 16.03

Exceptional liveliness in the homeward markets, due chiefly to seasonal movements, was a characteristic feature of the month. European grain requirements, to replenish depleted stocks, were on an almost unprecedented scale, and produced remarkable activity in the North American department, with the result that an enormous amount of tonnage was absorbed, and rates steadily advanced. The River Plate also continued to transact a considerable amount of business at well-sustained values; chartering for the new season's crop at Australia proceeded briskly, with freights showing a very material improvement; while tonnage was again in strong demand in the Far East and North Pacific. Outward coal freights to the Plate and Mediterranean also displayed an upward tendency, and with a little better inquiry, rates for ore carriers from the Bay and Mediterranean, though lower on the average, were inclined to harden towards the end of the month. The relation of the index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

Month.	(1913 = 100.)	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January.....	194.59	..	131.60	..	114.05
February.....	164.54	..	135.76	..	112.73
March.....	162.17	..	135.53	..	115.23
April.....	147.48	..	129.46	..	115.45
May.....	158.42	..	125.12	..	114.55
June.....	165.73	..	117.45	..	106.82
July.....	169.87	..	114.52	..	103.39
August.....	170.60	..	113.16	..	100.16
September.....	154.47	..	110.37	..	103.04
October.....	141.85	..	114.42	..	107.86
November.....	136.47	..	119.43	..	111.21
December.....	134.66	..	117.39	..	111.81
Mean for year.....	158.40	..	122.02	..	109.69

On the whole, the outlook for the shipping industry appears to be distinctly reassuring, and unless unforeseen circumstances arise to check the remarkable activity displayed in the homeward markets, owners should be able to find remunerative employment for their vessels for some time to come.

The Swiss Hotel Industry.—A Swiss correspondent writes:—The beauty of Swiss scenery has, since the beginning of the XIXth century, attracted millions of foreigners whose ever-increasing number caused the so-called hotel industry to be created and developed. Its growth was rapid after 1850, that is, after the railways began to run in all directions, even in the remote valleys of the Alps. Regular hotels for the accommodation of foreigners did not widely appear before 1840. There was an hotel on the Righi as early as 1814, but the first hotels were opened at Vevey and Montreux in 1820, at Zermatt in 1839, at Lucerne in 1845, at St. Moritz in 1870. After 1870 the hotel industry rapidly developed into one of the



BANK OF ATHENS

Paid-up Capital
Drs. 72,000,000

With offices in all the principal towns in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and Crete, the Bank extends exceptional facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally.

Enquiries Invited.

London: 22, Fenchurch St.
E.C.3.
New York: 25, Pine Street

Head Office: ATHENS.

most important in Switzerland. In 1880 there were 1,002 hotels, with 58,137 beds, and occupying nearly 10,000 employees; in 1894 there were 1,708 hotels, with 88,634 beds, and a staff of nearly 20,000 persons; 18 years later, in 1912, the number of hotels had increased to 3,585, with a total of 168,625 beds, and a staff of over 43,000 persons. The hotel industry was very hard hit by the war and the subsequent economic crisis; many hotels were compelled to close down, and their number may be now estimated at 3,500, with some 40,000 employees. Considering the number of persons employed, the hotel industry came third before the war, after the machine industry, which occupied 65,000 persons, and the watchmaking industry, which occupied 46,500 hands, and the capital invested in Swiss hotels reached 1,500 million francs (£60 millions), or 1-30th of the national fortune. The hotel industry is, of course, not the only one to profit by the influx of foreign visitors, which indirectly benefits the transport undertakings, mountain railways, shops of all sorts, the food trade, kursaals, &c. Altogether, perhaps, 300,000 persons get part of their living from the tourists. The good seasons in the years 1900 to 1914 encouraged the Swiss capitalists and banks to invest important sums in the hotels, so that the crisis which began when the war broke out was very deeply felt in many quarters. Swiss hotels passed through hard times during the war, and their troubles were aggravated during the years which followed the armistice. The Federal Government was then requested to grant a subsidy in order to keep the hotels running, and to save the whole industry from impending ruin. The "Société fiduciaire suisse pour l'hôtellerie" was then formed, and the Federal Council put at its disposal a sum of 5 million francs (£200,000) with the object of financially helping the most hard-hit hotels. Up to the end of 1923 the "Société fiduciaire" had succeeded in saving 124 hotels, with a total of 11,864 beds, by reducing their debts by 35 per cent., and enabling them to carry on; it also lent money to 98 hotels, which it is now controlling, but it closed down about 20 others, the position of which was really hopeless. It transformed some of them so as to let them to industrialists and turned others into flats. Thanks to the efforts of the "Société fiduciaire," and also to the fact that the two last winter and summer seasons were exceedingly good, the Swiss hotel industry has been saved from complete disaster. In 1922 two-thirds of its 3,500 hotels were on the point of closing down. The Federal Council had, as early as 1914, prohibited until the end of 1925 the building of new hotels. The time has now come to reconsider that measure, and while some people are of opinion that the prohibition should be extended for another period of five years, some others, who are opposed to any State control, ask that it should be abrogated. The Government proposes the maintaining of the prohibition,

but to modify it so as to authorise the building of new hotels when it is found they are needed, and when the Cantonal Governments concerned approve of it. This question will be discussed by Parliament in a few weeks, as well as a proposal for granting a new subsidy of 3 million francs (£120,000) for the "Société fiduciaire." The latest information shows that this year will be a record year for the Swiss hotels. The long-expected influx of tourists has restored hope and confidence among those connected with the hotel industry, and it has also given a new and encouraging impetus to home trade which needed it very badly.

International Trade in the First Half-Year.—The data employed in the following analysis have been taken chiefly from the figures given in the monthly report on the state of trade issued by the *Economist*, but they have been supplemented from other sources where necessary. The countries for which figures are available have been grouped into British and non-British, and the monthly values of the exports and imports have been reduced to sterling with the help of the rate of exchange for each month. The countries are the following:—British group: United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa. Non-British group: Belgium, Bul-

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Foreign exchange orders executed in the New York market for banking correspondents abroad. Commercial banking business of all descriptions transacted.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

£1,502,300. The 4½ per cent. debentures have been reduced by £48,900 to £388,500, while the ordinary and preference capital remains at £3,490,000. An analysis of the balance-sheet appears in another column.

New Modder and Others.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The annual statements are now available of the three other companies of the Central Mining group whose accounts are made up to June 30th—that of the Modder East appeared and was commented upon last week. Of the present trio by far the most important, of course, is the New Modderfontein. The showing made by this company is so persistently good that one is almost tempted to wonder whether such results can continue indefinitely. Fresh records were again set up in the tonnage crushed, the gold recovered and the profit earned. It is noteworthy, in regard to the latter point, that the price of gold last year averaged only 92s 7d per ton, as against the maximum of 112s 7d in 1920-21, when the working surplus came out at slightly under £1,700,000. Some increase could have been made in the dividend, but the directors were content to leave the rate at the enhanced level paid in respect of 1922-23. The quantity of ore opened up, although not quite so high in value as before, was more than equivalent to that extracted; the present total represents fully six years' supply for the mill, allowance made for sorting. Assuming that the remainder of the ground gives corresponding results, the life of the mine may be calculated at not less than 15 years, and the "profit in sight" as more than equivalent to the market valuation of the undertaking. We summarise the results of the three companies for the past three years:—

	Year ended June 30th		
	1922.	1923.	1924.
NEW MODDER.			
Ore crushed	947,000	1,340,000	1,348,000
Costs per ton	22/10	16/8	17/1
Total working profit £	1,167,270	1,653,480	1,825,890
Profit per ton	24/8	24/8	26/5
Dividends	980,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Rate per cent.	70	100	100
Carried forward.....£	245,540	216,380	313,810
Ore reserves	8,577,600	9,060,800	9,064,400
Value per ton ..dwts	8-6	8-8	8-5

	1922.	1923.	1924.
CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.			
Tons milled	465,870	621,700	637,200
Costs per ton	33/4	26/4	24/4
Profit per ton	3/1	5/5	6/
Total working profit £	70,600	167,480	189,390
Dividends	62,400	75,770	151,540
Rate per cent.	5	64	124
Carried forward.....£	157,150	183,830	207,220
Ore reserves	1,141,900	1,070,600	1,073,300
Value	7-3	7-3	7-1

	1922.	1923.	1924.
NOURSE MINES.			
Tons milled	429,650	568,800	572,800
Costs per ton	31/6	23/9	23/6
Profit per ton	1/1	3/6	3/5
Total working profit £	22,400	100,440	98,050
Dividends	50,640	68,570	68,570
Rate per cent.	61	83	83
Carried forward.....£	61,100	65,910	72,220
Ore reserves	1,650,260	1,651,600	1,006,400
Value	6-9	6-5	5-9

The other two companies have, on the whole, a less satisfactory story to tell. The Main Reef crushed a somewhat increased tonnage at a reduced cost, thus rather more than

garia, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, Egypt, Japan. Amongst them they accounted for the following percentages of the international trade of the world in 1920 and 1921:—

	1920.	1921.
British group	27.6	26.1
Non-British group	52.0	47.4
In all	79.6	73.5

Their combined trade may therefore be taken as representative of that of the whole world. The results of this survey are condensed in the following table:—

Month, 1924.	British Group.		Non-British Group.		Combined.	
	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.
January	128	141	209	224	337	365
February	133	130	218	258	351	388
March	132	142	225	259	357	401
April	111	121	233	264	344	385
May	127	160	227	264	354	424
June	113	124	198	242	311	366
Half-year ..	744	818	1,310	1,511	2,054	2,329

As compared with the same period in 1923, these figures show rises of 18.9 and 14.3 per cent. in exports and imports respectively, but some of this rise must be attributed to the fall in the value of sterling as compared with commodities. The average of the index numbers of the *Economist* and the Board of Trade was 161 for the first half of 1923 and 168 in 1924, an increase of 4.3 per cent. Applying this correction to the relative figures for exports and imports, we obtain 14 and 10 per cent. as the real increase in exports and imports respectively from 1923 to 1924. This is encouraging, but optimism must be tempered when we regard the monthly figures; the sustained and gradually increasing briskness of the first five months was followed by a slump, especially in exports, in June, which is the more significant that it is not confined to a few countries, but is nearly general. It may be hoped that the agreement over the Dawes scheme and better agricultural conditions in the United States will lead to an improvement over the second half of the year.

William Beardmore and Co.—Depression in the iron and steel and shipbuilding industries, "coupled with the serious dislocation of work in the shipyards owing to the prolonged dispute with the boilermakers," are mainly responsible for a net loss of £68,100 disclosed in the report of Wm. Beardmore and Co., Limited, for the year 1923. This figure is arrived at after adjustment of reserves not now required. No definite settlement has yet been arrived at with Inland Revenue authorities as to the company's liability for Imperial taxation, but the directors state that they are satisfied that the reserves against such liability are ample. The dismal financial history of the company for the past three years is shown below:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
Brought forward ..	711,909	752,797	762,564
Net profit	127,288	96,167	Dr 68,071
Pref. dividend	839,197	848,964	694,493
Ord. dividend	nil	86,400	86,400
Carried forward	752,797	762,564	608,093

No depreciation has this year been written off the value of buildings, plant, and machinery, as the value placed upon them "is substantially below their present-day value." They stand at £5,503,100, an addition of £23,900 having been made during the year. Loose plant and tools show an increase of £121,200 at £498,200. Stocks also show an increase of £185,800 to £1,326,400, but debtors have been reduced by £123,800. On the liabilities side there is an increase of £427,100 in loans, which now stand at

THE REVENUE.

I.—An ACCOUNT of the TOTAL REVENUE of the UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1925, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding Year.

Quarter from July 1 to September 30, 1924, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.				Period from April 1 to September 30, 1924, compared with the corresponding Period of the preceding Year.			
Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1924.	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1923.	Increase.	Decrease.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1924.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1923.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
24,733,000	30,754,000	71,000	6,021,000	49,533,000	63,043,000	..	13,450,000
32,592,000	32,521,000	71,000	..	62,672,000	68,999,000	..	6,127,000
1,710,000	1,488,000	222,000	..	4,106,000	3,623,000	477,000	..
14,620,000	12,940,000	1,680,000	..	31,520,000	26,730,000	4,790,000	..
4,830,000	4,520,000	310,000	..	8,810,000	9,360,000	..	550,000
90,000	90,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
59,532,000	61,253,000	940,000	1,727,000	104,072,000	104,307,000	130,000	235,000
7,360,000	6,420,000	940,000	..	24,530,000	20,620,000	3,910,000	..
3,950,000	4,950,000	..	1,000,000	8,630,000	10,320,000	..	..
8,500,000	8,400,000	100,000	..	15,500,000	15,000,000	500,000	1,690,000
1,350,000	1,250,000	100,000	..	2,700,000	2,500,000	200,000	..
3,850,000	3,600,000	250,000	..	7,700,000	7,100,000	600,000	..
210,000	200,000	10,000	..	480,000	460,000	20,000	..
1,798,316	1,596,651	201,665	..	5,809,061	6,022,162	..	213,101
2,713,996	2,664,365	49,631	..	5,970,650	7,240,978	..	1,270,328
4,438,686	6,175,188	..	1,736,502	15,576,684	19,988,809	..	4,412,125
172,277,998	178,828,204	3,934,296	10,484,502	348,509,395	365,829,949	10,627,000	27,947,564
Net Decrease, £6,550,206				Net Decrease, £17,320,554			

II.—An ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Period ending September 30, 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1924.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1923.	ISSUES.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1924.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	Expenditure—	£	£
Bank of England	5,069,613	5,442,665	National Debt Services—	195,892,594	153,225,426
Bank of Ireland	1,562,021	1,375,502	Interest, &c.	14,230,352	19,507,039
Revenue, as shown in Account I.	348,509,395	365,829,949	Sinking Fund	3,506,044	3,028,044
Temporary Advances Repaid—	..	65,000	Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	4,487,891	4,068,012
Bullion	..	..	Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	2,308,737	1,791,791
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	5,780,000	4,010,000	Land Settlement	324,484	145,930
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—	..	..	Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,133,704	1,230,840
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—	..	..	Total Consolidated Fund Services	181,942,806	183,277,082
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 & 1924 ..	4,500,000	3,370,000	Supply Services—	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	4,000	12,000	Army, Navy, and Air Force	47,100,000	46,350,000
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	260,719	..	Civil Services	105,164,863	106,897,972
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	140,000	270,000	Revenue Departments and Post Office ..	26,284,326	26,308,008
(c) For other Issues—	..	..	Total Supply Services	178,549,189	179,565,680
By Treasury Bills	1,198,714,000	1,230,136,000	Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	360,491,995	362,832,762
By National Savings Certificates	13,350,000	27,850,000	Temporary Advances—	..	..
By 4 per Cent. Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,521,620	29,208,627	Bullion	..	5,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	454,209,000	469,955,000	Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	36,891	36,891
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..	Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	140,000	270,000
Dividends on Shares Acquired	23,109	50,081	Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—	..	..
Repayments—	..	..	Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 & 1924 ..	4,500,000	3,370,000
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	549,398	177,550	Under the Housing Act, 1914	4,000	12,000
	2,046,192,855	2,137,752,374	Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	260,719	..
			Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—	..	..
			Repayment of Amounts borrowed	5,780,000	4,010,000
			Redemption of Debt—	..	..
			Treasury Bills	1,168,405,000	1,220,370,000
			Principal of National Savings Certificates ..	15,850,000	17,350,000
			Principal of National War Bonds paid off ..	46,671	31,886,910
			Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	50	6,981,184
			Ways and Means Advances Repaid	485,118,000	486,091,000
			Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..
			Issued to the National Debt Commissioners ..	23,109	50,081
			Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11	..	55,214
			Issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..
			Balances in Exchequer—	2,040,656,435	2,133,321,042
			Bank of England	4,882,597	3,158,720
			Bank of Ireland	653,823	1,272,612
				5,536,420	4,431,332
				2,046,192,855	2,137,752,374

Mem.—

Floating Debt outstanding March 31, 1924	£ 774,475,500	
Ways and Means Advances outstanding—	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1923.
Advances by Bank of England	155,246,500	177,761,500
Advances by Public Departments	618,930,000	625,785,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	774,176,500	803,546,500
Total Floating Debt outstanding	299,000	..
Net Decrease	299,000	..

* Includes £301,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

offsetting a fairly appreciable decline in the average yield. A special clean-up in connection with a change in the treatment method brought the working profit up to £226,800. Despite the doubling of the previous year's dividend, an increased balance remained to go forward. It is the mining position which leaves much to be desired. Of last year's development footage, only 40 per cent. could be classed as payable, and the ore reserve position was only maintained by the lowering of the pay limit in accordance with the reduced costs, and taking as much as 33 per cent. of the ore milled from reclamation, &c. As they stand, the ore reserves represent little more than 1½ years' supply. Those interested will, however, note that recent results have been more encouraging. In the case of the Nourse, the profit last year fell off somewhat, due to additional expenditure upon development. So far, however, from the position being improved in this respect, the quantity of ore opened up fell considerably short of that extracted, and values further declined. The shrinkage of well over half a million tons indicated by the latest ore reserve statement is due partly to this and partly to the circumstance that blocks of ore included in the preceding estimate proved not to carry the values placed upon them. A slight reduction in yield during the current year is forecasted by the consulting engineers. The margin of profit being small, it is to be hoped that compensation may be found in reduced costs or an improved supply of native labour.

The Statistical Position of Tin—The standard tin market moved up to over £240 for three months' delivery at the opening of the month, thus taking the price of the commodity back again to the level reached about the middle of last month. The monthly visible supply figures have turned out better than operators had looked for, and this with the fact that the German loan arrangements are well advanced should impart a much stronger tone to the market. The supplies for all September amounted to 7,117 tons, against 8,710 tons in the previous month, the shipments from the Straits having been only 4,710 tons. This makes world supplies for the twelve months ended September 30th last 105,699 tons, out of which the Straits furnished 72,182 tons, and 15,258 tons was Banka. The deliveries for last month came to 8,119 tons, against 7,782 tons in August. The United Kingdom users took a little more, and so did the American consumers, but the Continent still kept back. The total deliveries for the year ended September 30th were 103,761 tons, out of which the United States took 66,330 tons, the United Kingdom 18,165 tons, and the Continent 12,123 tons. The world's visible supply of tin now stands at 19,388 tons, against 20,390 tons in the previous month, and 17,450 tons a year ago. There has thus been a decline of 1,002 tons on the month, and the statistical position of the commodity must be regarded as very sound. There is, it is true, 1,938 tons more tin in sight than there was a year ago, but the Eastern "pooled" stocks have this year been largely dispersed and marketed, and there is very little left to be sold at the present time. Standard tin last March rose to close on £300, and dropped to £201 in May. Since then it has been up to over £260, and the outlook over the next few months is regarded as very favourable for producers. The stocks in the United States are estimated at about 4,000 tons, and there is 5,250 tons in the United Kingdom at the present time. These supplies are on the full side; thus the buying movement may not start for a few weeks yet. A great deal depends on the attitude of the Continent later in the month, and how far the buying for that account develops.

The Administrator of Austrian Property (Cornwall House, Stamford street, London, S.E. 1) announces that a fourth dividend of 4s 4d in the £ will be paid to all creditors who are entitled to participate. The first distribution of the dividend will be made on October 15, 1924. An individual notice will be sent to each creditor as and when he becomes entitled to participate.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—INVESTMENT DEMAND—EASY MONEY—CANADIAN NOTES OVERSUBSCRIBED—TRADE BETTER, BUT IRREGULAR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, September 23, 1924.

New financing through bond and stock issues by railroad, industrial, and public utility corporations continues on a big scale, and has been augmented recently by flotations for foreign account, United States Government, and to some extent municipal requirements. Despite the enormous sum in the aggregate absorbed by such offerings, there is no noticeable reduction in the vast amount of surplus funds in this country seeking investment; nothing, in fact, to indicate that the market for new securities is nearing the saturation point. Conditions unusually favourable for the raising of new capital, for both domestic and foreign account, seem likely to prevail here for some time, at least until money rates show a definite tendency to recover from abnormally low levels. There is no sign, at present, of such a development. On the contrary, the money market generally, notwithstanding some increase in stock and bond dealings, crop-moving demands, and the gradual expansion of business in various lines of trade and industry, has shown further ease in the past week. While the volume of business and production in numerous directions is growing (more slowly than had generally been expected), there is still a very noticeable lack of demand for funds for commercial purposes. Apparently a good deal of liquidation is taking place in all sections of the country, reflecting largely the thawing out of accounts long frozen, particularly in agricultural districts, and this process is apparently offsetting to a considerable degree the call for fresh accommodation. The dominant influence, however, responsible for the further easiness of money is the great supply of credit created by gold imports. Statistics published this week show that the stock of gold coin and bullion in the United States has been increasing steadily for the past four years at the average rate of about \$40,500,000 a month. The total stock, which amounted to \$2,688,744,140 on September 1, 1920, now stands at \$4,531,150,497, according to the latest compilation. As one authority points out, this great increase of nearly \$2,000,000,000 in the gold stock is the major influence in causing the present ease in money rates and in the surplus credit supply, especially at New York, which had received by far the greater portion of gold imports during the past four years.

Further evidence of the remarkable absorptive power of the American investment market is found in the quick placing here last week of the \$90,000,000 one-year 4 per cent. gold notes of the Canadian Government, due September 15, 1925, which the Dominion sold to a banking group headed by the Chase Securities Corporation and Blair and Company, Inc. There was apparently keen competition among American banking groups to underwrite this exceptionally large offering—a fact which in itself testifies to the extreme easiness and abundance of money in this country. Advance applications for these notes reached an aggregate about double the amount offered, with the result that subscription books were closed immediately after the formal opening.

An idea of the enormous amount of new securities floated in this country in recent years and now being placed here may be obtained from data presented to the Investment Bankers' Association by President John W. Prentis at the convention of that association in Cleveland this week. Approximately \$4,000,000,000 of securities were sold by the members in 1921; \$5,000,000,000 in 1922 and 1923, and \$3,000,000,000 in the first six months of the current year. More than \$17,000,000,000 of securities have been placed in this period by members of the organisation (which includes States), and sales are now running at the rate of \$6,000,000,000 a year, so that 1924 promises to be the highest year in this respect ever experienced. Detailing

the classes of securities sold since 1921, Mr. Prentis said that about \$1,200,000,000 were those of foreign Governments; more than \$900,000,000 were farm loan securities floated for the benefit of American farmers; \$4,000,000,000 were municipal, State and county bonds for building roads, hospitals, schools, public improvements, paying soldier bonus, and for other like purposes. The remainder, approximately \$11,000,000,000 were securities of railroads, public utilities, and industrial corporations. The following table shows at a glance the totals of new capital issues placed by members of the association during the past 3½ years (000 omitted):—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	6 Mths., 1924.
Foreign government securities ..	\$ 379,270	\$ 431,305	\$ 242,845	\$ 320,940
Foreign industrial	15,150	81,695	24,100	19,180
Farm loan	121,940	386,415	392,505	129,500
Domestic, state, county, and municipal	1,235,693	1,147,740	1,040,576	811,889
Domestic rails	655,288	651,531	518,249	236,307
Domestic public utilities	671,085	980,433	1,138,396	431,756
Domestic industry	1,049,384	1,989,622	1,580,394	1,236,890
Canadian municipal	75,982	206,119	49,408	28,967
Total stocks and bonds	4,203,793	5,244,862	4,986,474	3,215,430

Trade and industry generally continue to expand moderately, but irregularity prevails in various lines. Perhaps the most noticeable increase in the volume of business is found in retail distribution of seasonal merchandise, which has been stimulated by the advent of cooler weather, notably trade in fall wearing apparel and heavyweight knitted goods. Jobbers and wholesalers, as a rule, are also enjoying better trade, but the improvement has not yet been reflected in all primary markets. In the iron and steel industries, buying of cars, rails, and other steel products is more active in the West than in eastern markets, which have been comparatively slow lately. Price movements have been very irregular in the past week or so. Corn, for instance, has declined sharply. Cotton has fluctuated widely, severe breaks being followed by violent rallies. Steel has dropped in price, while pig-iron has ruled fairly steady. Building throughout the country is becoming more active; the returns for August from most cities show expenditures for which permits were issued reached \$242,423,965, according to *Bradstreet's* compilation, as against \$229,244,346 in July of this year and \$240,508,554 in August a year ago. Of all the leading industries, textiles—particularly cotton goods—are the slowest to improve. Conditions in New England textile manufacturing centres are decidedly unsatisfactory, so much so that wages are being reduced in some cotton goods mills. Thus far no labour trouble has resulted in that section, but there is considerable talk of a strike being declared by union workers should the lowering of wages become general.

FRANCE.—BUDGET PROPOSALS—NEW TAXES—FURTHER BORROWING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 1.

THE methods by which M. Clementel, the new Finance Minister, proposes to raise the record sum of practically 32½ milliards to enable the Budget for 1925 to be brought to a balance were disclosed yesterday, when he explained the main proposals of his scheme in a speech of three hours' duration before the Finance Commission of the Chamber. His proposals, of course, have yet to stand the fire of criticism by the Commission before receiving consideration by the Senate and the chamber; therefore, it is possible that, as in previous years, the Minister's plans may undergo considerable modification before the coming Finance Bill becomes law.

Speaking generally, M. Clementel proposes to introduce no new taxation that will affect the taxpayers as a whole, but aims at securing the additional money required this year from certain sections of the community alone; the working classes, as might be expected from a Radical Socialist Ministry, if they are not given the benefit of the

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



reduction of any of the old burdens, are exempted from new ones. The principal characteristic of the new Budget, apparently, will be that it will put an end to the system of two distinct Budgets which has been in operation for the past five years, by incorporating the old "Special Budget of Recoverable Expenditure" in the ordinary Budget. The whole of the expenditure for the year is to be met from normal sources of revenue, and an end is thus to be put to the vicious system of borrowing. The Budget proposals for 1925, reduced to their simplest expression, may be set forth as follows:—

	Francs.
Estimated revenue	32,456,000,000
" expenditure	32,481,000,000
" surplus	25,000,000

The total estimated expenditure is composed of 24,779,000,000 of ordinary expenditure and 7,677,000,000 of expenditure of kinds which have hitherto been regarded as recoverable from Germany, but which the present Finance Minister has decided to regard henceforth as having to be met, for the time being, from ordinary taxation. In comparison with that for 1924, the coming Budget shows an increase of 1,183 millions in ordinary expenditure, and of 1,614 millions in what has hitherto been regarded as "recoverable" expenditure, or a total increase of 2,797 millions. To meet the total estimated expenditure of 32,456 millions, the Finance Minister estimates that the revenue from present taxation during 1925 will amount to 29,854 millions, leaving a deficit of 2,602 millions to be found from other sources. This amount he proposes to secure by:—

	Francs.
New taxation	1,777,000,000
Recettes d'ordre	50,000,000
Reparation payments by Germany	800,000,000
	2,602,000,000

The appearance in the Budget for 1925 of the amount that should be received from Germany during the year must be regarded, M. Clementel points out, as exceptional,

so far as the utilisation of money from this source for the purpose of meeting general expenditure is concerned. In future, in his opinion, the increasingly large amounts which France is expected to receive from the operation of the Dawes plan should be devoted to reducing the outstanding war debt, in order to inaugurate a policy of systematic financial restoration.

The proposed new taxation takes many and varied forms. The tax on turnover is to be extended to include all export sales, which have hitherto been exonerated from this impost. To the argument that this step will prove detrimental to French foreign trade, the Finance Minister replies that the exemption from this tax which French exports have hitherto enjoyed has been regarded abroad as a form of dumping, and has caused certain countries to impose extra import duties on French goods. Part of the yield from this tax is to be utilised to constitute a fund for insuring and re-insuring exportation credits. Slight fractional increases are proposed in the duties on Bourse operations, while new taxes of five centimes per 1,000 are proposed on exchange operations, and one centime per 1,000 on insurance premiums.

A much more important new tax proposed is one on the increased capital values of real estate and buildings acquired since January 1, 1919. This will be of a progressive character, starting with increased values of over 10 per cent., below which figure they will be exempt. A similar progressive tax is proposed in regard to increases in the sale price of business undertakings. Businesses which have been resold at enormous profits within a year or so after purchase—of which thousands of instances have been recorded during the past three or four years—M. Clementel considers should be severely dealt with for fiscal purposes. The official fees paid to company directors for their attendance at meetings are also, it is proposed, to be more heavily taxed.

Two of M. Clementel's proposals are certain to be bitterly fought by the classes aimed at. One consists of the members of the liberal professions, who it is suggested do not at present meet their fiscal obligations to an extent which might be expected from them. One reason for this is that doctors, barristers, &c., either keep no books at all, or else keep them so irregularly that their records do not afford the revenue authorities means to check the accuracy of the income-tax declarations filed by them. The Minister proposes that in future the revenue officers shall have the right to assess members of this class on the basis of the visible evidence which they give of their financial situation (such as their scale of living, the amount of rent and other expenditure), and that this class of taxpayers should be compelled to keep at least a record of all receipts and disbursements.

The second class attacked is an even more important one, from the political point of view. M. Clementel proposes that in future the agricultural classes, who at present are assessed for income-tax on a ridiculously low basis, shall pay at approximately the same rate as those who derive their incomes from commercial undertakings, with the proviso that all incomes of less than say 20,000 francs a year which are derived from agricultural undertakings shall remain assessed at the present nominal figure. The Minister also proposes certain further measures for the prevention of "tax dodging," and that, with the same object in view, agreements shall be come to with various foreign countries, notably Belgium and Switzerland, in order to enable the revenue authorities to reach capital concealed abroad.

As a means of rendering the tobacco and match monopolies more productive, it is proposed that these shall be placed on a better industrial footing by the adoption of modern methods of exploitation. In order to assist in reducing the cost of living, which is being seriously considered by the Government, it is proposed by the Finance Minister that the turnover tax in respect of transactions connected with wheat and flour and salt tax shall be abolished.

The Minister was exceptionally firm in his insistence that for the future there must be no more borrowing to avoid the imposition of new taxation, but rather spoiled his argument by informing the Commission that, after all, the Government are of opinion that it will be necessary to issue just one more loan, a "liquidation loan," as he

termed it, which will be utilised for the purpose of raising money to wipe out the deficits that have arisen from former budgets. With that exception, he said, borrowing in future will be confined to loans for the consolidation of the floating debt and for the completion of the restoration of the devastated regions.

The experts at the Ministry of Finance now estimate that the amounts still remaining to be paid in respect of war damages are much less than have previously been reported, as the revision of some of the claims that has recently been carried out has resulted in substantial reductions. Measures are to be introduced into the Finance Bill which will give *sinistrés* the choice between various methods of settlement, which it is expected will reduce still further the amount still unpaid. Taking everything into account, it may be estimated that the annual charge for interest on the capital that has still to be raised to complete the payment of war damages will not be more than 1,500,000,000 francs. When it is realised that the Budget for 1925 includes provision to meet part of this sum, which will become due for payment before the end of next year, it will be seen that future budgets will not be seriously swollen progressively for this cause. Other things being equal, it is now becoming clear that, so far as the devastated regions are concerned, the worst is over.

GERMANY.—LOAN COLLAPSE—POLITICS—FINANCES—PRICES—FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST—INDUSTRY AND CREDIT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, September 30.

THE collapse of the speculation in loans overshadows other events of last week. Very heavy losses—which it is believed, however, will not cause any serious payment difficulties—have been suffered, and very large profits have been made by speculators who got out in time. The rise this year in loan quotations far exceeded the records of speculative stocks; Forced Loan, the most extreme case, rose actually 10,000 per cent. between January and August. Apart from home losses, the matter is important, because a great many foreigners, in spite of warnings, bought considerably, and it is feared that the collapse may injure Germany's credit, prejudice the Reparations Loan, and frighten off intending givers of credit to industry. The German Government is not responsible. It declared repeatedly, and enacted in law, that no "Aufwertung," or restoration, would be even considered until "Reparations are fully paid," and it gave no promises even for that remote date. Probably its weakness in granting partial "Aufwertung" of long-term private debts after it had been declared that it would do no such thing, encouraged speculators to hope for an amendment of the law regarding Loans; and certain Reichstag parties, by making reckless promises to public creditors during the May elections, and by keeping up the comedy in the "Restoration Committee" of the Reichstag, encouraged speculators' unrealisable hopes. The collapse took place last week, not because the Government's announcement in any way aggravated the position of loan-holders, but because, by promising a very limited relief, on a pure charity basis, to certain victims of the loan depreciation, it put a seal on its often-repeated decision against general "Aufwertung." The promise is that loan-holders who were original subscribers, and who are destitute, will get pensions at the rate of 2 per cent. a year on the subscribed sums, but not in any case exceeding 1,000 gold marks a year. These pensions are not transferable, and, except within narrow limits, not inheritable, and then only by destitute heirs. The necessary funds will come from the yield of inflation-gains taxation. Had this concession, now made under strong pressure, been announced a year ago, it would probably have sent loan quotations up, because it would have been taken as a first sign of liberality towards bondholders; but, coming at a time when exaggerated hopes had already been discounted in

the Bourse quotations, it inevitably brought a crash. Comparative quotations at the beginning of the year, and at the close of the last two weeks, were:—

(In Billions of Paper Marks per 1,000 Marks nom.)

	Dec. 31, 1923.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.
War Loan	0.050	1.148	0.485
Fours	0.409	1.500	0.725
3½ per cents.	0.250	1.490	0.660
Threes	1.250	2.025	1.285
Colonial Fours	1.550	10.600	4.500
Forced loan	0.0006	0.025	0.011
Prussian Threes	0.300	1.760	0.900

At the end of last week practically no buyers were to be found, and much lower rates than the above were quoted in unofficial dealings after Bourse hours. Yesterday there was a slight recovery. The question of municipal loans is still open, but the Finance Minister expresses doubt whether the municipalities are in a position to concede general "Aufwertung." While the cities have valuable profit-earning properties, created out of borrowings, their revenues as a whole depend upon subventions from the Republic, and are at present based on the assumption that their debts are practically repudiated; partial recognition would, therefore, reopen the question of the financial relations between the Republic and the local governments. Other developments make it doubtful whether the Government would not have done better to adhere to its first decision of 1923, that no debts, private or public, should be restored. Fairness was not attained by the 15 per cent. grant to private debenture and mortgage creditors, because other classes of losers from the depreciation got nothing, and now all classes with grievances are demanding redress. The savings bank depositors are unsatisfied with their treatment, and the insurance companies, mortgagees for large sums, demand that they be compensated where mortgages, before the limitary date, were paid off for a fraction of their original gold values, whereas the present law, in principle, grants the 15 per cent. only when they were paid off for practically nothing or not paid off at all. The controversy has brought new unsettlement into business, which had begun to adjust itself to the supposedly final conditions of the Third Taxation Decree of February.

The German Nationals still desire to enter the Cabinet, but reject Dr Stresemann's declaration that, if they do, the present policy of the middle parties must continue to dominate. The prospect that the League of Nations may prolong the operation of Art. 276 of the Peace Treaty is badly taken, in particular because of the vague wording "with or without alteration," which seems to give power to make the conditions severer than they are. The Article has been, and still is, being violated by German laws and administrative actions, and there is no use prolonging it unless it is to be enforced. The Ministry of Finance's return for the second ten-day term of September shows revenue 230,387,700 gold marks, expenditure 160,530,500 gold marks. Revenue from April 1st to September 20th totalled 3,266,636,527 gold marks, expenditure 3,107,887,727 gold marks, whereof 230,844,179 gold marks went on Gold Loan redemption. The Minister of Finances warns against the belief that the finances are wholly satisfactory, pointing out that the redemption of the Loan was made possible only by receipts from certain non-recurring taxes. The Ministry has declared in principle against the Sales Tax as being injurious to business, and foreshadowed a further reduction, and ultimately abolition.

The Cabinet has promised a continuation of the price-cutting policy. So far this has had no effect on the indexes. The official wholesale index number on September 23rd was 130, against 128.6 a week before, and a low point of 115 in July; the cost of living index number for the 24th is 117, against a low point of 104 in February. Prices of important commodities have, however, fallen very much. The Pig-iron Syndicate has reduced rates (except for Luxemburg foundry iron) by 6 to 8 gold marks per metric ton, according to district. Coal prices are below half their maximum rates of 1923, which, however, was attained during the inflation time, when there was a coal tax, and when to gold marks prices payable in paper marks was always added a big "depreciation risk premium":—

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF PLANTATIONS FINANCE
AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN.

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

	Gold Marks. Sept. 24, 1923.	Gold Marks. Dec. 18, 1923.	Gold Marks. Oct. 1, 1924.
Standard Ruhr (Foerderkohle) ..	38.46	24.44	15.00
Foundry coke	58.49	37.90	25.00

The "Foerderkohle" price in January, 1914, was 12 to 12.75 marks. Metal products formerly price-fixed by the Steel Syndicate have also fallen, being, in gold marks:—

	Mar., 1924.	Oct., 1924.
Ingots	116	90
Blooms	124	96.97
Billets	130	105
Bars	150	112
Thick sheets (5 millions and over) ..	160	132
Thin sheets (under 1 million)	190	157

These are approximate prices; in actual trading there are great disparities. The Foundries Association has reduced the prices of construction and machinery castings by 1.50 gold marks per 100 kilos.

Foreign trade in August shows a large export surplus. Against an export surplus, the first of the year, in July of 17 million gold marks, the August surplus was 140 millions, the main cause being a heavy drop in imports, although exports also slightly increased:—

(In 1,000 Gold Marks.)

Imports—	August.	January-August.
Livestock	4,945	52,606
Food and drinks	152,426	1,337,545
Raw materials	148,317	2,351,892
Half-finished ditto	42,371	529,277
Manufactures	89,141	1,154,171
Gold and silver	11,023	60,906
Totals	448,223	5,486,397
Exports—	August.	January-August.
Livestock	1,957	5,378
Food and drinks	50,398	249,922
Raw materials	43,855	254,674
Half-finished ditto	37,054	254,647
Manufactures	454,718	3,215,224
Gold and silver	1,430	10,135
Totals	589,392	3,989,980

The main declines in imported raw materials were in textiles (flax excepted), hides, and coal, which was only 520,000 metric tons. Iron imports declined from 36,731 tons to 10,960 tons, and half-finished iron and steel from 9,690 to 1,067 tons. The decline of 56,000 tons in imports of manufactures was in almost all branches. Imports of rolled iron and steel and of iron and steel wares (other than machinery) fell from 57,914 tons in July to 30,918 tons. The export figures, according to groups, show little change. Textile finished goods increased by 10,440,000 gold marks; dyes exports declined by 8,900,000 gold marks. Exports of leather goods, furniture, furs, musical instruments, and toys increased. Exports of rolled iron and steel and iron and steel goods (machinery excepted) increased by 7,100,000 gold marks. Machinery exports were 24,224 tons, against 25,442 tons in July. Machinery exports have increased considerably as compared with the first months of the year, but remain far behind the 39,895 tons which was the monthly average of 1922. The trade figures, despite the export surplus, supply no cause for optimism, in view of the need for payment balance purposes of a large increase of exports of finished goods of high value, involving also an increase in raw material imports.

The condition of industry is only slowly improving. There is new dullness in the heavy iron and steel branches, and the coal superfluity continues. The number of publicly supported unemployed, now given for the whole Republic, was 588,000 on September 1st, and 577,000 on the 15th. In Berlin industry there is a marked improvement. Considerable orders are being received from Russia, where the Aniline concern is establishing large consignment depots, the deliveries not to be under 2,000,000 kilos of coal tar dyes in the first year. The movement against

high import duties is increasing. At a recent meeting last week of the Union for Social Policy, a number of representatives of business and social science declared that Germany depends, even more than before the war, upon the international division of labour, and that to increase the cost of living by State measures is undesirable. The bankruptcies report shows that 90 per cent. of recent failures were of concerns founded since 1918. The rate of interest is still falling. An attempt is being made to reduce the great disparity between rates charged by different classes of credit-givers and in different districts. Dissatisfaction is felt with the results of the autumn fairs; it is considered that the fair movement has been somewhat overdone.

CANADA. — HARVESTS — UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION — THE FEDERAL REVENUES — RISING PRICES — FACTORS IN THE GENERAL POSITION — EFFECTS OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, September 15.

HARVESTING operations are now in full swing throughout the prairie provinces, and wheat from the earliest fields is already moving towards the seaboard. In Manitoba, where the harvest is more than half completed, the yield promises to be well above the average, and the samples are reported to be good. Rain has retarded harvest work in some districts, but only the very late fields will now be exposed to any danger from rust or frost. From Saskatchewan during the early days of September came ominously numerous reports of damage from frost and high winds; in some areas the latter shelled out a large part of the oat crop, and did substantial harm to wheat. Cutting is now fairly general in Saskatchewan, and while the crop has shown a great improvement in the past month, it falls far short of the hopes of the farmers, many of whom, especially in the more northerly districts, will be faced with a difficult winter. In Alberta ripening of grain has proceeded very rapidly, and except in the districts north of Edmonton, where there has been too much rain, the binders are everywhere busy. There will be no bumper crop, but it will be larger than the average for the five years preceding 1923. British Columbia has enjoyed a spell of very warm weather, which has ripened her fruit crop and good yields of apples, plums, peaches, and pears are now being garnered. In the Eastern provinces the grain crops have, save in very backward districts, been already harvested and threshed, and on the whole the yield is rated satisfactory. Prices both for grain and livestock are better than last year, and the farmers will therefore have more purchasing power.

But, despite this fact, the business outlook for the winter is far from satisfactory. Merchants at the various summer resorts have done well out of the seasonal influx of visitors, many of them being Americans with ample purses, but there is general complaint about the stagnation of business in the cities. Harvest operations have absorbed much less labour than usual, and neither the railways nor the lumber camps are prepared to undertake much work this autumn and winter, with the result that unemployment at this early date is already serious in many urban centres. Indeed, so serious is the situation that the Government convened last week in Ottawa a special conference of representatives of various bodies to discuss the problem and explore solutions. The conference recommended that all governments should advance as much as possible their programmes of new public works; it was also agreed that emergency public works would probably have to be started, and it was urged that municipalities should pay 50 per cent. of their cost, and the Federal and provincial Governments 25 per cent. each. A resolution demanding very stern restrictions upon immigration was also carried.

But it is plain that the Federal Government cannot afford any large expenditure upon public works, in view of the revenue situation. There has been a slight increase in the income-tax returns, but the Customs and Excise revenue for the five months ending August 31st was only \$99,855,414, which is a decrease of 26 million dollars from the \$125,967,740 collected during the parallel period

of 1923. Already in five months the revenue shows more reduction than Mr Robb allowed for during the whole fiscal year, and in August alone the decrease in the Customs and Excise items exceeded 6 million dollars. Nor are the prospects good for a recovery during the winter months.

Another disturbing feature is the rise in the cost of living lately visible. The index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and covering 236 commodities, shows a rise of 4.8 points in August, the figure being 158 as compared with 153.2 in July. Sixty-six price quotations were higher, 32 were lower, and 138 were unchanged.

If this trend continues, and the unemployment situation becomes serious, it can be prophesied with certainty that, as soon as the turn towards fresh prosperity in the United States, which is now visible, gathers momentum, there will be a revival on a large scale of the southward exodus which has been checked for the last three months. Altogether, the economic condition of Canada presents some baffling features. The Canadian dollar is now slightly over par in New York, and last week \$26,000,000 of Canadian National Railway 30-year 4½ per cent. bonds, which were offered in the New York market at 96, and therefore would yield 4.75 per cent., were snapped up so speedily that the books were closed by the underwriters at 11.30 a.m. on the morning of the issue. Accordingly, the national credit seems to stand good in the eyes of the nearest independent observers, and the presumption would be that Canada's prosperity could bear favourable comparison with that of the adjacent Republic. But anyone who has had the opportunity of the writer of visiting within the same fortnight leading cities on both sides of the international boundary cannot fail to be struck with the difference of temper and atmosphere visible. South of the forty-ninth parallel there has been a serious business depression during the summer months, but it is rated a temporary episode, and there is a general note of optimism and confidence about the future. North of the boundary pessimism about the economic and financial outlook and general misgivings about the future of the Dominion are rampant. Taxes are much lighter south of the boundary than north of it, and while prices are lower, wages are higher. How, it is asked, can Canada hope to hold her population as soon as a demand for labour revives in the United States, as it will, and how if she cannot hold her present population, can she hope to make profitable and efficient use of the huge physical plant which she has accumulated, and secure enough returns from production to meet her fixed charges of different kinds? It is customary in some quarters to fix a large part of the responsibility upon Canada's heavier war debt in proportion to her population, but the explanation will not suffice. There are two more serious factors, the more important being the excess of physical equipment referred to above. About the year 1908 development plans were being sponsored by politicians and entrepreneurs of various kinds on the basis that Canada by the year 1925 would have a population of 15 million people. 1925 is reasonably near, but the population does not exceed 9 millions. The result is excessively heavy costs for a number of services; few countries have to face such a heavy aggregate transportation bill, and it is reflected in the high price of commodities of all kinds. Secondly, the country is overburdened with government, and afflicted with an army of officials far beyond its needs. Most of the elements of great potential prosperity are available, huge and varied natural resources, a hardy and industrious population, and good markets, but still it seems to delay its advent. The sight, will be beneficial, but Canadians themselves must undertake some economic and administrative surgery to remove some of their present disabilities, or they will continue to bewail recurring deficits at Ottawa, and a perennial southward exodus.

Canada expects to get some share of the orders which it hoped will flow from Europe to America as the result of the acceptance of the Dawes plan. Germany is known to be in the market for large quantities of silver for coinage purposes, and some percentage of her requirements will be drawn from the mines of northern Ontario.

Her importations of iron ore from the mines of the British Empire Steel Corporation at Wabana, Newfoundland, are also likely to be resumed. But in milling circles there is considerable alarm at the news that the German Government, to pacify its agrarians, may impose a heavy duty on imports of both wheat and flour. During the last fiscal year Germany imported Canadian flour to the value of \$10,313,280, and after Britain, proved herself Canada's most valuable customer. Indeed, Canadian flour was well on its way to oust American flour from its hold on the German market.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—CAPITAL IN THE MINING INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT'S PROTECTIVE POLICY—DIAMOND PRODUCTION AND SALES—MONEY-COST OF MINERS' PHTHISIS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, September 3.

THE Union Mines Department issued a formidable array of capital statistics as at the end of last year. Of gold mines, the issued capital is £58,152,200. The Rand area is responsible for £52,815,000; producing gold mines have a capital of £44,000,000, of which £24,400,000 is in receipt of dividend, last year's total being £8,460,000, besides £331,200 in liquidation dividends paid by five companies. Some 6½ millions have been embarked on gold mines which are not working, and just over two millions on developing mines. Gold mines in the so-called "outside districts" have an issued capital of £5,337,000, of which two and three-quarter millions have been embarked in dormant mines, and £350,000 in developing concerns. Rather less than a million is in receipt of dividends. Taking the Rand figures so as to avoid undue complexity, the total issued capital, £33,200,000, was in respect of property equipment, &c., and £19,600,000 for cash. Debentures figure at £11½ millions issued, but the net amount redeemable has been reduced to less than four and three-quarter millions. It is a little disconcerting to see that £3,320,000 is in respect of mines, which, though producing, are not dividend-paying. These issues have been made by some six companies, of which three are new producers in the Far-East Rand. Randfontein (£1,165,660 in debentures) has since re-entered the dividend list. Rand companies have received over 17 millions in premiums, of which about nine and a-half have been written off. Temporary advances amount to rather over three millions. Just 16½ millions have been transferred from appropriation account. The book value of mining property is £29½ millions, and that of shafts and mine development just over £22 millions. On equipment £1,500,000 was spent during the year, making the net value £31½ millions, thus constituting it the major item in the industrial balance-sheet. The mines have about a million of investments, while cash and other assets total £9 millions. The total balance-sheet figure is £102½ millions. Coal mines of the Transvaal have an issued capital of just upon £5 millions, and base mineral mines of rather more than half that sum. The nominal capital of the Transvaal mines of all classes is £71 millions, of which £5 millions are uncalled, while the outstanding debentures are £5½ millions.

Diamond mines in the Cape Colony represent nearly £6 millions, and other concerns about a million, they are also the principal factor (at just under two millions) in the £3,600,000 of the Orange Free State. Natal's four millions is almost exclusively in respect of coal mines. The issued capital of all mines in the Union is £80,646,500, and the outstanding debentures £7,500,000. The specification of the former shows that £28,707,000 was for cash, and £51,940,000 for property, equipment, shafts, &c. The net premium on shares is just under £8 millions, while temporary advances approach £6 millions. Funds transferred from appropriation account are slightly over £21 millions; in addition to the figure shown above for the Rand, the diamond mines have so treated £3,350,000. The net value of mine equipment is £39 millions.

The Government has just reconstituted the Board of Trade and Industries, which is to consist of three mem-

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

WITH BRANCHES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE FAR EAST AND IN NORTH AMERICA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.
THE COMPANY ACTS AS AGENTS FOR MANUFACTURERS AND OTHERS, AND INVITES CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE VIEW OF DEVELOPING FOREIGN TRADE.

bers and a chairman. It is impossible to have every interest represented, as there are hundreds of interests all asking for representation. In the course of debate in the House of Assembly, the Minister of Mines and Industries said that existing tariffs were "meant to be revenue-raising machinery; the object [of Clause 2] was that the tariff should be based on scientific lines, so as to answer the needs of industry and be in accordance with the policy for which the Government stood." The Board would go into the whole question of dumping, and make the law so clear that questions of interpretation would not arise. Mr Beyers, as a lawyer, is surely an optimist if he thinks so! Mr J. W. Jagger (formerly Minister of Railways) declared that the Minister was creating a Board of one particular way of thinking. "As for the idea of a scientific tariff, the Minister was a child in these matters, and nobody had yet succeeded in framing a scientific tariff free from anomalies." The Minister, in winding up the debate, declared that reasonable protection was not inconsistent with the interests of the farming industry. The Government was not out for the spoliation of our primary or mining industries. "There was no doubt that the time had arrived for real protection in order industrially to develop South Africa. Germany and other countries had been built up on protection. We don't want to run protection mad, but must have a certain meed of protection. Local patriotism was needed to abolish the feeling that everything imported from abroad was superior to the local product." I would add that equal or better quality of the local article is every whit as necessary, many "lines" are deficient both in "get up" and quality.

During the first six months of the year the production and sales of diamonds were as under:—

	Production.		Sales.		Value Realised per Carat.
	Carats.	Value.	Carats.	Value.	
Transvaal	437,169	£1,127,538	403,751	£1,069,938	53/
Cape	639,493	£2,361,142	471,807	£1,756,513	74/5
Orange Free State	138,755	£437,386	143,819	£457,014	63/7
Union S.A.	1,215,416	£3,926,066	1,019,378	£2,833,465	64/5
Whole year 1923	2,053,096	£6,038,207	2,584,270	£7,733,368	59/10

It will be seen that production in carats was about 20 per cent. in advance of the sales, whereas sales last year, as well as in 1922, were considerably in excess of production. Of the total production, 147,877 carats valued at £1,078,425 came from alluvial sources, the Bloemhof, Christiana diggings in the banks of the Vaal River, yielding 81,405 carats, valued at £583,877. The average value of alluvial stones was 145s 10d per carat, compared with 53s 6d for the mines' production. The Kimberley mines produced 556,163 carats, valued at £1,820,656, or about 65s 6d per carat; and the Premier Diamond Mine 348,359 carats, valued at £525,435, or just over 30s per carat.

Some non-contentious amendments have been made to the Miners' Phthisis Act. From the inception of this legislation £6,600,000 has been paid, while there is a further gross liability of £9,000,000 (the present value of which is about £5,000,000). The contribution of the mines is £200,000 a quarter, the method of assessment by raising the factor of silicosis rate from 35 to 50 per cent., the factor of earnings being reduced accordingly from 45 to 30 per cent., the remaining 20 per cent. being raised as now on the basis of normal income-tax. This should reduce the levy on modern mines, which usually have low silicotic rates. Widows who remarry are to receive a lump sum of £120, instead of losing all benefits. Ultimately there will be a saving of £1,500. A consolidating measure is to be brought in next year.

SWEDEN.—THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK—TRADE BALANCE—LABOUR AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, September 16.

As a rule, the holiday season is followed by a very busy time. At present, however, quietude is maintained, the reason for which is rather difficult to explain. At first, when the European agreement was signed, hopes were stimulated for a short time. But fears of results from the Dawes plan subsequently produced their effect on Swedish trade. It does not look, however, as if the fear of future German competition, &c., is as important for us as it is for other neutral countries. We have always had German competition here in certain branches, and expect we always shall have, but anything similar to the dumping period we had some years ago, when the German exchange was so exceedingly low and the Swedish crown above par, we do not expect to see again. The labour problem here is difficult, the worst aspect at present being the growing tendency to break agreements. Every now and then various sections, although their agreements are still in force, go on strike when they find the moment most convenient. Should this continue, it will be most alarming. The Swedish workman as a rule is a well-paid man, in most branches his wages have risen more than the cost of living. Unemployment, now practically non-existent for labourers, normally increases towards winter-time, and may be greater than expected, owing to the dull outlook at the ironworks and in the timber trade. Frequently of late it has been reported that ironworks and saw-mills are closing down or dismissing workmen, because the prices obtained are so bad, and the outlook so poor. The timber shipping, which usually is very lively at this time of the year, is much less than normal. The pulp market, on the other hand, is better off, and sales are frequently made at firm prices. Owing to the reduced timber export, freights are low, but up to the present the amount of laid-up tonnage is practically nil, which shows that Sweden in this respect is more favourably situated than some countries.

Reports concerning the crops are on the whole not very favourable. The results are expected to be below average. The good weather during the summer has not been able to restore the damage caused by the long winter and rough weather during the spring. The quality of the crops is, however, expected to be good. July seems to have been the turning point of prices in general, and the upward movement of a good many commodities is notable. Whether this is only a temporary movement, whether prices will stabilise or fall again, is difficult to say, but it is not impossible that costs in general will remain steady, or slightly increase. The monthly index issued by the Board of Social Welfare (including foodstuffs, light and fuel) shows an increase from 159 for July to 163 for August.

The trade balance for August, of which preliminary figures now are available, shows an export surplus, which is estimated at five or six million crowns. However, the final trade figures for the whole year cannot possibly show an export surplus, as the import surplus at the present moment is round about 150 million crowns. The import of corn is still considerable, and the import of textiles is greater than during July, although considerably less than in August, 1923. The import of mineral oils shows a reduction both compared with July this year and August last year, while the total import for this year is bigger than it was for same period last. Imports of coal and coke are higher. On the export side, timber exports of this year are considerably below the quantities for same period last year. The contrary is the case with pulp and paper. Iron ore exports show about the same figures as they were at this time last year.

NORWAY.—WAGE SETTLEMENT—THE PUBLIC DEBT—OCTOBER ELECTIONS—TRADE POSITION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, September 10.

The salient point in the economic life of this country during the last few weeks is the settlement of the workers' wage question. The agreement came off rather smoothly

as a compromise, in which, however, the workers were the chief gainers. Everybody saw clearly that concessions on the part of the employers were necessary, because the cost of living had been rising considerably, but the concessions exceeded what most people had thought feasible for the industries to concede.

The Industries' Fair in this city has just been closed for this year, and perhaps for ever. The interest taken in it both by the commercial world and by the public has been dwindling, and the feeling seems to be gaining ground that there is little advantage in it, and that it will never serve any purpose like the fairs at Leipzig or Lyons. While in 1921 there were 406 exhibitors, 11,000 buyers and 80,000 visitors, the numbers this year were 204, 7,000 and 60,000 respectively.

According to a recent publication of the Finance Department, the Norwegian State debt at present amounts to about 2,008 million kroner. Of this about 1,718 millions form the funded debt, and about 290 millions the floating debt. Somewhat less than half of the funded debt is borrowed in the home market, while the rest consists of foreign loans. Practically the whole of the floating debt consists of inland loans, a great part of which will now be funded. The increase of the Public Debt since 1914 is indeed considerable, and it is undeniably a heavy one for a small nation of little more than 2½ million people. But it must be remembered that, calculated as it is, according to the present exchange values of the £ and the money value as compared with pre-war times, it is hardly more than 750,000,000 kroner, and given normal development of the country's resources, and careful management, the debt will be promptly discharged both as to capital and interest. It must also be borne in mind that the country has acquired important assets for this money, such as railways, water power, &c.

Parliamentary elections take place every three years in this country. This coming October being an electoral month, the campaign is now in full swing, and it is quite evident that the contest will be a very fierce one. At the suggestion of the famous ex-Premier, Chr. Michelsen, of Bergen, the late Premier, Mr Berge, has been nominated by the Conservative-Liberals as the first representative from that important town, which is also the domicile of the present Premier, who has been nominated by the Radicals as their first representative. Another ex-Premier, Mr Knudsen, who was at the head of the Government during the greater part of the world-war, is, though a man of 76, canvassing the extreme north of the country. That four Premiers or ex-Premiers are already in the field shows the importance of this year's elections.

Meanwhile, business generally is quite satisfactory, and foreign trade not below the mark. The wood trade, though, is slack, and the forest-proprietors will hardly find it possible to increase their prices for timber, and will even, perhaps, have to make concessions to the manufacturers of wood pulp, cellulose, and paper. The exchanges keep very steady, with a slight tendency in favour of this country.

SPAIN.—FOREIGN TRADE—RECONSTRUCTION—MOROCCO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, September 20.

The following statistics are now available, and afford an opportunity of comparing Spanish foreign trade in 1923 and 1922:—

Imports.	(In Thousand Pesetas.)		Increase (+) or Decrease (—)	
	1922.	1923.	in 1923.	
Live animals.....	18,572 ..	29,204 ..	+ 10,632	
Raw materials	971,815 ..	966,909 ..	— 4,906	
Manufactures	1,399,954 ..	1,621,712 ..	+ 221,758	
Food	648,750 ..	441,715 ..	— 207,035	
	3,039,091 ..	3,059,540 ..	+ 20,449	
Exports.	(In Thousand Pesetas.)		Increase (+) or Decrease (—)	
	1922.	1923.	in 1923.	
Live animals.....	3,630 ..	885 ..	— 2,745	
Raw materials	329,404 ..	369,883 ..	+ 40,479	
Manufactures	281,022 ..	343,034 ..	+ 62,012	
Food	781,456 ..	877,917 ..	+ 96,461	
	1,395,512 ..	1,591,719 ..	+ 196,207	
Adverse balance	1,643,579 ..	1,467,821 ..	— 175,758	

Foreign business has been a little more active in 1923, and the adverse balance has decreased by 175 million pesetas, but the gap between exports and imports is still enormous at 1,468 millions. The demand for foreign money to pay for imported goods is nearly double the demand for pesetas to pay for our exports. Although this position is considerably modified by invisible exports, such as the remittances from emigrants in America, tourists, &c., there remains undoubtedly a large economic balance against Spain, which is one of the permanent influences acting against the peseta.

The Government, following the report of the Commission appointed to study it, have dismissed the proposal submitted by the Seite (Sociedad Española de Industrias y Traccion Electrica) for reconstruction plans involving capital expenditure of 3,000 million pesetas. The Spanish Federation of National Industries, which had strongly opposed the plans of the Seite, has submitted to the Government an alternative proposal for the development of railway construction and public works. They propose that the Government should capitalise the annual grants in the Budget under the head of "Promotion of Industries." A sum of 5,000 million pesetas could be obtained in that manner, and would be devoted to the execution of an extensive system of railways and public works, according to the plans already studied by the official departments. The issue of capital might be effected in Treasury bonds by the increase of the funding debt, or by the creation of a special debt devoted to public works. The difficulty here is whether the market would be able to provide the 625 millions per year necessary to complete the work within eight years, as proposed. The national savings would not be sufficient to cover that amount besides meeting the immediate Government requirements for expenses in Morocco, the Budget deficit, and current industrial issues. It would be necessary, therefore, to have recourse to foreign capital, but that is precisely what the Spanish industrialists want to avoid. The new proposals have therefore very little chance until the economic position is straightened by a definite solution of the Morocco muddle, which might allow a permanently balanced Budget.

As a practical outcome of the new railway organisation, the Government have approved (and the concession is already granted) the construction of a narrow-gauge railway from Ontaneda-Burgos-Soria-Calatayud to establish direct communication between the Cantabric Sea (at Santander) and the Mediterranean (at Valencia). The length is 415½ km, with a maximum cost of 348½ million pesetas, on which the Government guarantees a minimum interest of 5 per cent. Other railways whose construction is contemplated are the line Avila-Peñaranda, to shorten the distance from Madrid to Salamanca and Portugal, and the line Puertollano-Cordoba, still more necessary, as it will shorten the distance between Madrid and the largest towns in the South—Cordoba, Seville, Cadiz, Malaga, and Algeciras. The concession of all the telephone services in Spain has been granted to the Compañia Telefonica Nacional de España, organised by the Banco Urquijo and the Banco Hispano Americano, in connection with the National City Bank of New York and with a telephone company of the U.S. of America. There were only two other competitors—Siemens and the Ericsson Company, Limited, of Sweden, whose proposals were disregarded.

But all the movements towards the economic reorganisation of Spain are always thwarted by periodical outbursts in Morocco. The present rising in the West of the zone has been more extensive and sudden than the previous ones, and the situation was very grave at the end of August and in the first fortnight in September. But the mobile columns were able to extricate themselves by falling back to Tetuan. The Tetuan-Tangiers road has been cleared, and operations on a large scale are being initiated to the south in the direction of Shesuan. It may be that there is some hard fighting ahead, but the rising may very likely vanish as rapidly as it started. Then it is expected that the directory will adopt the policy already announced of reducing the military occupation to lines nearer the coast. The position in Morocco has naturally acted as a very depressing influence on the peseta since the middle of August.

Letters to the Editor.

THE PRIVATE SALE OF NEW SECURITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—It would be interesting to have an authoritative expression of City opinion on the practice, now becoming increasingly common, of privately placing new securities which otherwise would be the subject of an offer to existing security holders or to the public at large. Up to the present none of the recognised authorities on the mechanism of long-term financing have made known their views, but the subject is well worthy of careful consideration.

The procedure has been made possible by the Stock Exchange rule, under which an official quotation can be applied for after the private negotiation of the sale of the securities in question has been advertised in at least two papers with that object in view. It involves the disclosure of a minimum of information—a concession which is sometimes extremely useful—usually including, among other things, the price at which the securities in question have been disposed of. But the chief advantage to the issuing concern, whether a company or public body, lies in the inexpensiveness of the issue. Quite apart from the avoidance of underwriting commissions, which may be taken as balanced by a lower price received for the security, comparatively little advertising cost is involved, while the trouble and expense of allotment are replaced by a mere matter of registration and subsequent transfer, in the case of registered stocks and shares, to the ultimate bona-fide investor.

On the other hand, this method of raising new money carries with it certain disadvantages, which must not be overlooked, to the existing security holders. In the first place, the issue may well escape their notice altogether, or be made entirely without their knowledge and consent, even though it may substantially affect their equity. In the case, for example, of a company issuing new debenture stock, the ratio between the share capital and bonded debt of the concern may be altered to such an extent as considerably to impair the security of the accustomed return on the capital invested, as well as the value of the rights in the event of a winding-up. Then, again, this form of issue gives existing holders no opportunity to obtain the new securities at an advantage over the general public—a privilege which many shareholders, rightly or wrongly, hold to be one of the incidental perquisites of their status as interested parties in the success or failure of the concern. This consideration is rendered more important by the possibility that a new issue, whether of the same or a senior class to those already outstanding, may in certain circumstances materially reduce the market value of existing securities. The effect on the latter may be all the more pronounced in that the private sale of the securities may not be followed by their rapid and widespread disposal among individual purchasers, while concentration in a few hands may lead ultimately to a marked slump, not only in their own value, but in that of all the other securities issued by the same company or body. Such an outcome, be it noted, would exert a reflex effect in placing the issuing concern at a disadvantage in any future financing it might find necessary to undertake.

As to the public, not already holders of securities of the issuing authority, certain disabilities are suffered, quite apart from those already indicated. In the first place, it is directly opposed to the economical utilisation of the savings of the community that the knowledge of any issue should not be as widely and rapidly spread as is the case when the ordinary procedure of a public offer is adopted. It is a further disadvantage that the private sale tends to the concentration of holdings in a few hands, and so to defeat the ends to be attained by a wide dispersal of capital and debt. And, finally, in unscrupulous hands, the method of private placing might lead to the disposal of the securities to individual investors at prices considerably in excess of those dictated by the judgment of the public, aided by full knowledge of the financial position of the issuing concern, regarding the adequacy or insufficiency of the yield and security offered.

On the other hand, disposal of securities by private negotiation and subsequent resale to investors through stock market channels avoids the disappointment and irritation so frequently associated with partial allotments in connection with attractive public issues, the relative desirability of the securities being immediately expressed in their market quotations. Furthermore, the procedure gives the investor the protection, such as it is, of Stock Exchange rules in making his purchase of the security—a safeguard which may be superior in some respects to that comprised in the prospectus rules of English company law, and in still more cases to that involved in the customary disclosures contained in an "offer for sale."

The investing public would be greatly assisted in their choice of suitable outlets for their capital by expert discussion of these and other aspects of a comparatively new development in high-grade company and public financing.—Yours faithfully,
W. F. CRICK, B. Com.
26 Grove Hill, South Woodford, E. 18.

Books and Publications.

THE CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.*

THIS volume contains an excellent account in short compass of the growth and present position of the consumers' co-operative movement in France, and affords interesting comparisons with the corresponding movement in this country. The first French co-operative stores were founded in 1865, some 21 years after the Rochdale experiment, but they collapsed in 1870, and had no successors until 1880, and it is from that year that the starting point of the movement virtually dates. In 1885 the first French co-operative congress was held under the joint presidency of that redoubtable co-operator and economist M. Charles Gide and of M. de Boyve, and the movement seemed to be making some progress. But unfortunately in 1890 a split occurred between the Socialist co-operators and the bourgeois co-operators, a split which greatly weakened the whole movement until 1912, when the two groups of societies came together again on the basis of political neutrality. At that time, therefore, the French co-operative movement was far behind the British co-operative movement. Many of the societies were still in or little beyond the "heroic" stage, in which all the work of the store was done gratuitously in their spare time by members of the council of administration officiating in turn. Many had a capital of less than 500 francs, and only 32 societies had sales exceeding 1,000,000 francs. The M.D.G. (Magasin de Gros, or Co-operative Wholesale Society) had only been formed in 1906 by the Socialist societies, and made little progress until 1916.

A tremendous development of the movement set in during the war. Membership of the co-operative societies and sales grew amazingly, the former from 881,000 in 1913 to 2,498,000 in 1920, and the latter from 321 million francs to 1,838 million francs. Organisation was revolutionised by the employment of responsible paid managers, and by the federation of local societies in large regional unions, with regularly elected councils of administration, a managing director, and expert officials.

The French co-operative movement, like that of this country, is organised under two parallel central authorities. The M.D.G., as already stated, corresponds to our C.W.S., and is the commercial centre, while the brain of the movement lies in the Fédération Nationale des Co-opératives de Consommation, which corresponds to the Co-operative Union in this country. The large technical reforms of co-operative organisation since 1914 are said to be largely due to its initiative and propaganda. The M.D.G. has developed greatly since 1916, and has begun to produce in its own factories, but as yet on nothing like the scale of its English counterpart. An interesting development is the formation of a co-operative bank as a separate institution. One wonders whether the banking department of our own C.W.S. might not with advantage be established also as a distinct entity.

* "Les Co-opératives de Consommation en France." By Prof. Bernard Lavergne. (Paris) Armand Colin. 5 fr.

The whole movement has certainly made enormous strides. To some extent this has been owing to causes which applied generally throughout Europe. But there have also been causes peculiar to France, notably the removal of the impediment represented by the split in the movement during 1890-1912, and also the fact that the French Government encouraged the co-operative societies during the war, and made considerable use of them in fixing prices of necessities. In this respect the French Government was wiser than our own Government, which paid no attention to the co-operative societies, and even alienated them by its administrative actions framed largely by or in the interests of ordinary capitalist businesses. Our co-operative societies felt that they were unfairly treated, for example, in the matter of foodstuffs distribution and by military service tribunals. It is mainly the feeling that fair play is only to be secured by looking after themselves that is driving them into the sphere of politics. French experience might, we think, be regarded as a warning against lightly entering into the political arena, at any rate under the wing of any particular party.

REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL.*

THIS is a second edition of Mr Simonson's book, and brings the law on the subject up to date. Applications to the Courts for orders confirming the reduction of the share capital of joint-stock companies are probably more frequently made at present than ever before. Successful companies may find it desirable, and unsuccessful companies often find it necessary, to reduce their capital. It is the unsuccessful companies which are chiefly responsible for the increased number of applications, and this is due, no doubt, to the extraordinary economic conditions following the Great War. The book contains tables of cases and of statutes, followed by chapters on reduction of share capital, and an appendix with forms and precedents. The index is unusually full, and affords a good and useful key to the contents.

* "The Law Relating to the Reduction of the Share Capital of Joint Stock Companies." By Paul F. Simonson, M.A. Oxon. Barrister-at-Law. (London) Sweet and Maxwell, Limited. 10s 6d net.

THE A B C'S OF BUSINESS.*

THIS little treatise is written in an admirably clear and simple manner. It bears throughout the mark of the master mind, and is easy and pleasant to read. The subjects discussed and explained include, amongst others, the misunderstanding of money, wages and wealth, the elements of banking, business consequences of the war, speculators and markets. Things are not always what they seem; thus the man who buys futures seems to be speculating in a commodity, but he is really doing exactly the opposite. He is eliminating from his business all risks due to fluctuations in the commodity with which his business is concerned. On this subject the author says:—"Nothing can prevent fluctuations in the price of commodities, but this highly ingenious method has been found for keeping them out of the manufacturing business and distributive trade, so as to allow these businesses to be conducted with safety, on narrow margins of reasonable profit, and in the enjoyment of good bank credit. These market operations in futures conducted by business men for the purpose of hedging themselves against speculative risks are more or less complicated, are carried on in strange terms of language, are transacted by comparatively few people, and are therefore but little understood by the American public. We are mostly of the belief that dealing in futures has no higher or more laudable purpose than shooting craps, and our statesmen now one takes the trouble to explain to them the truth about are elected." Anyone of average intelligence can understand this book. It should be read and passed from hand to hand by the working man, who should know about the elements of business; and about economic laws which were enacted by no legislature; which cannot be repealed; and which are self-enforcing laws with severe punishments for disobedience.

* "The A B C's of Business." By Henry S. McKee. (New York) The Macmillan Company. 5s net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Federal Trade Commission.* By Gerard C. Henderson. (New Haven) Yale University Press.
National Union of Scientific Workers on the Encouragement of Fundamental Research. (London) 25 Victoria street, S.W. 1. 6d.
The Comitadj Question in Southern Serbia. By R. H. Reiss, D.Sc. (London) Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Limited, 52 Long Acre, W.C. 2.
The Grammar of Power. By G. W. Thomson. (London) The Labour Publishing Company, Limited. 5s.
Topham's Company Law. 6th Edition. (London) Butterworth and Co. 7s 6d net.
The Financial Review of Reviews. October-December, 1924. 6 Grafton street, London, W. 1. 1s net.
The Indemnity. A Centenary Retrospect. 1824-1924. (London) Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Company, Limited.
Empire Cotton Growing Review. October. Published by A. and C. Black, Limited. Price 1s quarterly; 5s annual subscription.
Autobiography of John Stuart Mill. Preface by H. J. Laski. (London) Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press.
The China Year Book, 1924. Published by Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Limited, 4 Stationers' Hall court, E.C. 4. 42s net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS. SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, October 8. ACCOUNT, October 9.

EVIDENCE increases daily of the manner in which the public interest is occupied in stocks and shares. Political affairs at home and abroad make little difference to the volume of business which is flowing into the markets. People are paying very scant attention to mines, but money is going steadily into gilt-edged stocks and into industrials. The hectic buying of tea shares has subsided to some extent, but the dividends now being declared by tea-producing companies serve to keep the market hard, as a whole.

The cheapness of the War Loan, now within three weeks of the price being quoted ex dividend, has found general appreciation, and the quotation has moved up in consequence. Other British Government funds are firm in price. There is a little languid speculation as to whether the present Government will make any effort in the immediate future to convert a further portion of the 5 per cent. War Loan. The City of Auckland placed its recent 5 per cent. loan with ease, and the scrip is at a premium. A new Queensland 5 per cent. issue at 97½ was readily underwritten. It caused a slight reaction from the best amongst gilt-edged stocks.

In the foreign market a revival of gambling in Germans and Prussians is something of a feature. Prices rose sharply after having undergone a severe fall, and the manner in which the bonds are absorbed is mystifying to the Stock Exchange and its clients. French bonds move within uninteresting limits. Mexican Government bonds advanced, on fresh talk of a loan said, this time, to have been arranged by a private firm in the United States to Mexico. Chinese bonds have been weak. Brazilians show an all-round rally.

The Home Railway market is left to itself, hardly a ripple of interest being taken in any of the stocks. Prices have given way, on Election anticipations. Argentine rails hold their improvements. It is notified that the Argentine Government has given its sanction to the transfer of the Bahia Blanca from the Buenos Ayres and Pacific to the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway. Brazilian railway stocks strengthened noticeably. San Paulo has increased its interim dividend. The Great Western of Brazil has obtained permission to increase its rates. Mexican rails, after showing a little strength, fell back again. Foreign railway stocks are, as a rule, better on balance.

The rubber market stands in the position of a good man struggling with indifference. Prices have stiffened here and there, but the scarcity of supply of floating shares renders it difficult for the public to take any active hand at anything like prices which have recently ruled. The tea market keeps good, as a whole, though business has fallen off to a large extent. Shares in companies connected with coffee have advanced, the Agua Santa Coffee Company announcing an unexpectedly good dividend. In the oil market, Mexican Eagles maintained most

of the breathless rise which was started last week, and Shells have been moving fairly rapidly, though not to any great extent. The oil market is still without support from the general body of the public.

Textiles keep firm. No confirmation has been received of the rumour that Courtaulds and Bradford Dyers contemplated some kind of agreement of interests. Scarcely a change has occurred in the shipping list. Amongst insurance shares, Consolidated Assurance, after their long fall, rallied considerably upon a more favourable view being taken of the dividend prospects. The banking market is steady. Several hotel shares are better, the increase in the Carlton dividend serving to emphasise the good impression produced by the Hotel York report. Dunlops went ahead after the cheerful statement of the chairman at last week's meeting. Other motor shares are beginning to show a little activity in view of the approaching Show, an interest which is assisted by the cuts in prices of cars and the talk of a possible further reduction in the price of petrol. Gas stocks improved. Electric lighting shares are dormant. Mexican Utilities added further to their material gains of the past fortnight. The nitrate market is inclined to be better, a few rises occurring in the popular shares. The brewery market, after its continuous rise, suffered something of a check. Accompanied by a crop of rumours, newspaper shares spurted briskly towards the end of the week. The wireless and cable groups are stronger, the feature being the strength of Radio shares upon their being listed this week in New York for the first time. Harrods and Harrods (Buenos Aires) have gone ahead.

There is hardly anything doing in Kafirs, and the list of prices swings aimlessly up and down. Chartered have been a better market, hopes being entertained of another dividend following, early next year, upon the 6d per share net payable this month. Tin shares have been moving with the price of the metal, the fluctuations in which are so meteoric as to puzzle the ordinary operator in mining shares. The mining groups, as a whole, however, are so neglected that some of the jobbers declare their serious intention of moving into other parts of the House where there is more business being done.

The Stock Exchange has declared an interim dividend of £3 per share, less tax, on its own shares. The rate is the same as that of a year ago. House shares, £25 paid, stand at 102.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 134,518,045	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER TEN DAYS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Sept. 30, 1924, Dr £2,500,000 ..	Dr £100,000	Dr £100,000		
To the Public—				
Montego (Tin Dredging Co., 200,000 shares, 5s, at par) ..	50,000	50,000	10,000	40,000
Total offered to the public ..	50,000	50,000	10,000	40,000
To Shareholders only—				
International Automatic Telephone, 144,605 Ord. £1, at 20/5 ..	144,605	148,220	28,921	119,299
Total offered to shareholders only ..	144,605	148,220	28,921	119,299
Total offered for subscription to date ..	194,605	198,220	38,921	159,299
in—				
1924.....	134,616,265	1923.....	271,231,173	
1923.....	216,807,637	1922.....	573,876,860	
1922.....	512,663,137	1921.....	388,976,803	
1921.....	206,136,047	1920.....	367,546,668	
1920.....	301,112,169	1919.....	1,036,059,261	
1919.....	927,088,282	1918.....	1,393,361,441	

South Suburban Gas.—Offer for tender of £100,000 5 per cent. ordinary stock at a minimum price of £101, to rank *pari passu* with the existing ordinary stock, of which there is £1,087,795 paid up. There is also outstanding £368,837 in 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock, and £101,200 in 7 per cent. redeemable debenture stock. Dividend on the new stock will begin to accrue from November 1st next, and the dividend to December 31st will be paid in March next. Dividends are subject to the operation of the sliding scale, payments for the past two half-years being at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum. The prospectus states that the business of the company, which ranks fifth amongst metropolitan and suburban gas undertakings, is increasing year by year, the sales of gas for the half-year ended June 30th last showing an increase of 6.82 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. Tenders must be delivered by or before noon on October 14th next.

Mondego Tin Dredging.—Capital, £150,000, in 600,000 ordinary shares of 5s each, of which 200,000 are now offered for subscription. The company has been formed to acquire eight mining concessions, embracing 1,200 acres, granted to the Mondego Valley Tin Syndicate in 1917 by the Mines Department of Portugal. The purchase price has been fixed at £75,000, payable in ordinary shares, and the cash to be subscribed being intended for the purchase of plant and working capital. The vendors have expended between £7,000 and £8,000 in acquiring and prospecting the properties. It is stated that proved reserves of 15,600,000 cubic yards, with an average content of 1.7 lbs of concentrates (65 per cent. metal), have been proved, which at £200 per ton for metallic tin, represents a value of £1,400,000. Profits are estimated at £52,800 per annum. Preliminary expenses, exclusive of brokerage and commission, are put at £3,500. This is, of course, a purely speculative proposition.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Week	Price	Week	Rise or
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Fall
War 4½% 1925-28 .. 96 .. 96½ .. +					
Loans 4½% 1925-28 .. 97 .. 97½ .. +					
5% 1923-47 .. 102 .. 102½ .. +					
4% 1923-42 .. 100 .. 100½ .. +					
Funding Loan 4% .. 88 .. 88½ .. +					
Victory Bonds 4% .. 92 .. 92½ .. +					
Conversion Loan 3½% .. 77 .. 77½ .. +					
Consols 2½% .. 67½ .. 67½ .. —					
Irish Land Stock 2½% .. 59 .. 59 .. —					
Local Loans 3% .. 66 .. 66 .. —					

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. .. 106½ .. 105½ .. -					
London & North-Eastern .. 78½ .. 77½ .. -					
5% Pref. Ord. .. 78½ .. 77½ .. -					
Do Def. Ord. .. 28½ .. 28½ .. —					
London, Mid., and .. 97 .. 96½ .. -					
Scottish, Ord. .. 74 .. 74 .. —					
Metropolitan .. 508 .. 498 .. -					
Metropolitan District .. 508 .. 498 .. -					

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1 f.p.d.) .. 24½ .. 24½ .. —					
Chartered Bk of India .. 19½ .. 19½ .. —					
Lloyds (£5 with £1 .. 28½ .. 28½ .. —					
Midland (£12, with .. 8½ .. 8½ .. —					
Nat. Bank of Egypt .. 24½ .. 24½ .. —					
(£10) .. 24½ .. 24½ .. —					

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio .. 96 .. 96 .. —					
Erie .. 31 .. 31 .. —					
Do 4% 1st Pref. .. 43 .. 43 .. —					

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons. .. 88 .. 88 .. —					
B.A. and Pacific .. 84½ .. 85 .. +					
B.A. Gt. Southern .. 88½ .. 89 .. +					
Buenos Ayres West. .. 78½ .. 80 .. +					
Canadian Pacific .. 166 .. 166 .. —					
Central Argentine .. 74½ .. 75 .. +					

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7-100 .. 100 .. —					
Austrian 6% Guar. 92½ .. 93½ .. +					
Belgian 3% .. 73 .. 73 .. —					
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914-72 .. 72 .. —					
Chilian 4½%, 1895 .. 85 .. 85 .. —					
Do 7½% .. 102½ .. 103½ .. +					
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 64 .. 64 .. —					
Egyptian 4% .. 24 .. 24 .. —					
French 4% .. 19½ .. 19½ .. —					
Greek 5%, 1884 .. 55½ .. 54½ .. -					

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" .. 23½ .. 23½ .. —					
Marconi Wireless .. 14½ .. 14½ .. —					
Marconi Marine .. 13½ .. 13½ .. —					

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ .. —					
Amal. Cottons (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ .. —					
Anglo-Persian Oil (£1) .. 28 .. 28 .. —					
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) .. 24 .. 24 .. —					
Ass. Fin. Com. (£1) .. 24 .. 24 .. —					
Barker, John (£1) .. 24 .. 24 .. —					
B'ham Small Arms (£1) .. 55 .. 57½ .. +					
Brazil Traction (£100) .. 55 .. 57½ .. +					
British-American .. 55 .. 57½ .. +					
Tobacco (£1) .. 55 .. 57½ .. +					
Burmah Oil (£1) .. 4 .. 4 .. —					
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) .. 3 .. 3 .. —					
Courtauld (£1) .. 2 .. 2 .. —					
Cunard (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Dorman, Long (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Dunlop Rubber (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Fine Cotton Spinners .. 2 .. 2 .. —					
Forestral Land (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Furness, Withy (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Highlands and Low .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
lands Rubber (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Hudson's Bay (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Imperial Tobacco (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					

Mines.

Broken Hill Prop. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Chartered (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Crown Mines (10) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
De Beers Prop. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Gold (£1) .. 1 .. 1 .. —					
Gov. Gold Areas .. 1 .. 1 .. —					

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED. SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR. PRUDENT POLICY JUSTIFIED.

The eighty-eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the Royal Bank of Ireland, Limited, was held, on the 26th ultimo, in the bank's offices, Foster place, Dublin, Mr M. Barrington Jellett, J.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman said: It is with considerable gratification that I preside at this meeting to-day, and that we, the directors, are able to put before you such a satisfactory statement of accounts, which accounts have been in the hands of the shareholders for the usual time, and I think we might take them as being read.

The accounts under review contain a full year's working of the branches taken over from the Belfast Banking Company, Limited, which are situate in the Free State. I am glad to say that the results have fully come up to our anticipation.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

At this stage of the proceedings I desire to take the opportunity to thank the staff of the bank on behalf of myself and co-directors for the wholehearted support and interest shown for the welfare of the bank during the past year. In my opinion good results cannot be obtained without the active co-operation and goodwill of the staff.

Turning to the balance-sheet, it will be seen that there is a decrease of approximately £300,000 in the current and deposit accounts. The decrease in this item has been experienced by all banks in common.

The conservative course which we adopted a few years ago has borne fruit, and we are satisfied that this policy is the prudent and wise one, and is in the best interests of the bank and its shareholders.

If you refer to the directors' report accompanying the balance-sheet, you will see that we rebuilt certain of the branches during the year, which greatly enhances the value of our property, also that two new branches were opened during the period under review.

GENERAL OUTLOOK.

While the conditions of things in the country, we are glad to say, are more settled than they were a year ago, the outlook at the moment is an anxious one. In this connection may I say it is our opinion taxation in this country is excessive, and far too high, and is working against and impeding progress, but it is a source of no little gratification that this fact is realised by the Minister of Finance, as is shown in his recent speech. The country will require all the relief possible in this direction, and I venture to hope before we meet again a forward step will have been taken to bring this about.

I now beg to move the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, and will call upon Major Cusack, our deputy-chairman, to second the resolution.

Before putting the resolution I shall be pleased to hear any shareholder, and to endeavour to the best of my ability to answer any question.

Major Cusack formally seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously without discussion.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Major Cusack, it was resolved that a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent., less income tax, for the half-year ended August 31st last, be declared, and paid on and after October 1st.

Mr M. Barrington Jellett and Mr J. M. Sweetman, K.C., retiring directors, were unanimously re-elected.

It was resolved that Messrs Kevans and Son and Mr P. H. Grierson be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year, and that their remuneration be 250 guineas and 200 guineas respectively, free of income-tax, the increase of 50 guineas each to date from September 1, 1923.

VOTE OF THANKS TO DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

Mr M. K. Roche proposed that the best thanks of the shareholders

be given to the directors and to the staff of the bank, both at the head office and branches, for their excellent conduct of the business during the past twelve months. He said that he was sure that the chairman and his co-directors felt thoroughly proud of the bank being in a position to render such a balance-sheet. He had been for a long time a shareholder, and never expected that such an excellent balance-sheet would be presented. Considering the times that they had passed through, and the times that they were going through, the balance-sheet was more wonderful still.

Mr W. S. Hayes, who seconded the motion, said that in addition to the substantial balance there were also substantial dividends. He could personally testify to the attention that the chairman and the other directors had given to the affairs of the bank, and to the anxiety and willingness of the officials to serve its interests.

The motion having been passed,

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself, his co-directors, and the staff. He did not think he could say too much, he added, of the loyalty of the staff. He had alluded to it in his opening speech, but he wanted to reiterate what he had said. He did not think that the bank could have succeeded so well without that loyal co-operation of the staff. He hoped that next year the directors would be able to put before the shareholders a better balance-sheet. (Hear, hear.)

Mr O'Connor asked had the directors considered a proposal for the bank's own note issue.

The Chairman replied that they were not able to do anything in that direction as they were governed by their charter.

Mr O'Connor: I think the home Government might facilitate you.

The Chairman: You may rest assured that if we can do anything that will make the bank progress we will not be behind in it. The meeting then concluded.

THE ANGLO-SIAM CORPORATION, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION. BONUS INCREASED TO 10 PER CENT.

The twenty-seventh annual ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Siam Corporation, Limited, was held, on 30th ultimo, at the registered office of the corporation, 5 St Helen's place, London, E.C., the chairman, Mr J. M. Ryrie, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the directors' report and the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1924, and after referring to the profit and loss account, the Chairman dealt at some length upon the sources from which the profits had been derived, and remarked that, in the absence of any real revival in trade, the results disclosed were on the whole satisfactory, and so much so that the directors were able to recommend an increased bonus of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares; but at the same time he reminded the shareholders that this was largely the result of the conservative policy adopted in the past.

STRONG POSITION.

After dealing with certain variations in the balance-sheet, the Chairman claimed that this showed a strong position, and informed the shareholders that since the close of the financial year further investments had been made in British Government and other bonds.

Continuing his remarks, the Chairman mentioned that the last section of the forest tramway was now under construction, and that although this undertaking had been costly, it had proved a successful system of extracting timber.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

The outlook for the current year was then dealt with, and the

Chairman remarked that, although the outlook generally was obscure, he thought the shareholders had every reason to feel confident, more particularly as good deliveries of timber at Bangkok were expected again this year, whilst the corporation was ready and in a position to take advantage of any improvement in demand.

In reference to the exchange value of the tical, the Chairman mentioned that although rumours of a further reduction had been current, no change had taken place since last year, and, whilst recognising the difficulties of the Finance Minister, he expressed regret that the Siamese Government do not see their way to dispose of these rumours one way or another, as few factors interfere so much with the course of legitimate business as a want of confidence in exchange.

INDIAN BUSINESS.

In India, in spite of reports of a good monsoon, Mr Ryrie said he did not look for more than moderate results, and in reference to business generally with India, he remarked that in face of keen competition and the speculative lines on which a large part of this trade is carried on, the corporation must, he was afraid, be satisfied with a comparatively small turnover. In referring to the sterling value of the rupee and the agitation in favour of a return to the old fixed rate of 1s 4d gold, the Chairman said he did not expect the Government of India to change their policy until the American dollar has less influence upon the market price of gold.

DIVIDENDS AND BONUS.

The directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended March 31, 1924, were adopted, and final dividends of 3½ per cent. on the preference shares and 12½ per cent., together with a bonus of 10 per cent., on the ordinary shares were declared, making a total distribution of 30 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares for the year. Mr J. M. Ryrie, Sir R. J. Black, Bart., and Mr Henry Bateson were re-elected directors, and Messrs Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were appointed auditors for the current year.

A resolution in regard to certain minor alterations in the articles of association was passed, and an extraordinary general meeting has been convened for 21st instant to consider this resolution, and if approved, to confirm it as a special resolution.

UNION COLD STORAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

GRATIFYING RESULTS.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Union Cold Storage Company, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

The Chairman (Mr Roger P. Sing) said that at last year's meeting he informed the shareholders that they had just completed the most important development in the history of the company by taking into their organisation several large retail distributing businesses. This step had proved most valuable, and the consequent development of the business could only be described as very satisfactory. They had had the benefit of the trading results of the newly acquired businesses only from June 30, 1923. The company to-day had a much larger number of establishments than any other trading company or banking institution in Great Britain. Their constant endeavour was to render more and more efficient service, and during the past year they had probably made more progress in that direction than in any previous period.

COLD STORAGE BUSINESS.

He was unable to report much improvement during the year in connection with the company's cold storage business. During the war far more cold storage accommodation was provided both by themselves and their competitors than was now necessary for the



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000 **Issued Capital - £8,734,660**
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000 **Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330**

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.
54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

efficient handling of the goods requiring cold storage. The result was that there was a considerable surplus of accommodation throughout Great Britain, and they had consequently found it essential to close several of their stores at different periods.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

From the balance-sheet it would be seen that the balance of working accounts amounted to £726,904, which, with the amount brought in from the previous year, gave the record total of £836,826. The directors recommended the payment of the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and there would then remain £127,840 to be carried forward. The depreciation reserve account stood at £2,570,015, which figure showed a substantial increase on last year, and they had purchased and cancelled £63,797 debenture stock out of the reserve fund. The 1923 accounts now submitted were a matter of considerable gratification to the directors, and he took it that the shareholders would be equally pleased with them. He never liked to prophesy, but enough of the year 1924 had already elapsed for him to say with some confidence that the 1924 report would be equally gratifying.

The report was unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.				
			Silver Coin.	Gold Coin.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Balance at Bank of England.
1923.							
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,500	16.3	261,479
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	9,000	28,500	19,500	16.3	254,313
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,456
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922
1924.							
Mar. 28.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.5	238,595
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.5	255,033
1924.							
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,867
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,138
Sept. 27.....	289,761	12,556	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	244,517
Dec. 27.....	287,452	12,281	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.4	243,141
1924.							
Sept. 27.....	285,592	12,227	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,185
Oct. 1.....	287,499	12,618	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	243,578

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £30,500,000, for 1921 at £31,555,200, for 1922 at £30,998,400, for 1923 at £27,183,800, and for 1924 at £24,190,900.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Oct. 6—Oct. 11 were opened on Oct. 3, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £59,345,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 2d, about 71 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 5d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £40,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Aug. 29.....	40,000,000	52,340,000	3 15 1.76	nil
Sept. 5.....	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6.87	nil
Sept. 12.....	35,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3.27	nil
Sept. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1.09	nil
Sept. 26.....	40,000,000	63,960,000	3 12 4.7	nil
Oct. 3.....	40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3.99	nil

Tenders will be received on Oct. 10, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts

(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1915.	Mar. 31, 1916.	Mar. 31, 1917.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	314	314	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan.....	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666	666	666
3% War Stock.....	..	..	..	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock.....	..	..	..	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,166	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds.....	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	820	820	820	820
4% Funding Loan.....	..	..	..	..	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	..	..	..	360	357	347	336	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	319	289	453	411	444	457	470	470	470
National Savings Certs.....	..	..	..	..	267	274	285	150	150	150	150
Other Debt.....	..	..	..	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills.....	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	616	652	588	619	619	619
Temporary Advances.....	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	155	155	155
Other Capital Liabilities.....	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,651	7,651	7,651
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,717	7,717	7,717

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances	Sept. 30, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Sept. 30, '24.	Sept. 30, '24.
Outstanding.....	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	177,761,500	186,155,500	155,246,500	20,571,000
Advances by Public Deposits	177,761,500	186,155,500	155,246,500	20,571,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	625,785,000	588,320,000	618,930,000	22,010,000
Total Floating Debt	803,546,500	774,475,500	774,176,500	1,439,000

* Includes £301,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS..... £28,048,905
CLAIMS PAID..... £23,813,270

Accidents and Illness. Fidelity Guarantees. Burglary, Fire, Motor Cars, Public Liability, Inspection, Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts, Executorships and Trusteeships.

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 1, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued.....	£	Government debt.....	£
146,354,045		11,015,100	
		Other securities.....	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion.....	126,604,045
146,354,045			146,354,045

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	£	Government securities	£
14,553,000		39,733,443	
Reserve.....	3,714,827	Other securities.....	80,740,529
Public deposits.....	17,383,907	Notes.....	24,065,210
Seven-day & other bills	13,065	Gold and silver coin ..	1,822,102
146,361,284			146,361,284

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.
1924.					
Aug. 27.....	128,315,386	125,372,330	122,434,262	117,902,270	22,693,566
Sept. 3.....	128,402,791	125,725,405	122,529,556	121,139,856	22,427,386
10.....	128,423,957	124,731,710	122,338,425	117,078,758	22,442,287
17.....	128,426,787	124,099,235	122,076,356	116,261,708	24,077,562
24.....	128,425,337	121,908,865	124,300,893	118,305,209	24,286,475
Oct. 1.....	128,426,147	122,288,835	128,080,392	120,473,972	25,887,512

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to September 17 ..	24,875,096	1,132,960	2,057,336	28,065,392
Sept. 24.....	573,716	26,352	50,999	651,067
Oct. 1.....	725,652	27,740	50,836	804,228
Total to date 1924.....	26,174,464	1,187,652	2,159,171	29,521,287
Do 1923.....	24,373,060	1,173,514	2,132,855	27,679,429
Increase or decrease in 1924 {	+ 1,801,404	+ 14,138	+ 26,316	+ 1,841,858
	= 7.3 %	= 1.2 %	= 1.2 %	= 6.6 %
Total for year 1923.....	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922.....	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923 {	- 510,262	- 28,096	- 2,489	- 540,847
	= 1.6 %	= 1.8 %	= 0.2 %	= 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Number of Working Days	Month of September.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Sept. 29.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
BIRMINGHAM.....	26	25	£	£
BRISTOL.....	7,992,000	9,292,000	87,655,100	89,248,900
DUBLIN.....	4,515,000	4,971,000	45,087,400	44,283,000
LIVERPOOL.....	3,857,000	4,566,000	41,283,500	40,764,200
LEEDS.....	3,554,000	3,575,000	39,318,800	39,165,200
LIVERPOOL.....	2,801,000	3,067,000	28,040,200	28,880,400
LIVERPOOL.....	32,413,000	37,248,000	337,057,500	348,992,200
MANCHESTER.....	54,639,000	65,167,000	562,907,200	583,152,200
MANCHESTER-ON-TYNE.....	7,449,000	7,015,000	78,186,600	76,177,700
NEWCASTLE.....	2,221,000	2,587,000	23,680,900	23,780,500
NOTTINGHAM.....	4,321,000	4,200,000	43,788,300	40,840,500
SHEFFIELD.....	..	..	..	..
Total.....	123,817,000	141,658,000	..	..

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Gold Discount Bank appeared in the Economist of June 21; Rentenbank in August 16; Bulgaria, and Egypt in August 23; Denmark in September 6; Greece, in September 13; Canada, Denmark in September 20; Finland, Lithuania, Roumania, and Italy in September 27.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

Resources.	Sept. 25, 1924.		Sept. 18, 1924.		Sept. 12, 1924.	
	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.
Total gold reserve.....	3,089,160	3,081,490	3,081,490	3,116,600	3,116,600	3,116,600
Legal tender notes and silver reserve.....	86,850	83,920	86,920	76,090	76,090	76,090
Bills discounted for member banks.....	259,860	257,970	261,230	265,010	265,010	265,010
Bills bought in open market.....	31,600	92,210	92,210	172,120	172,120	172,120
Government obligations owned.....	3,650	618,730	568,190	51,830	51,830	51,830
All other resources.....	86,240	85,140	92,760	68,770	68,770	68,770
LIABILITIES.....						
Government deposits.....	46,920	6,340	23,740	56,280	56,280	56,280
Other deposits.....	2,149,960	2,230,840	2,170,630	1,873,790	1,873,790	1,873,790
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation.....	1,729,860	1,734,670	1,750,670	2,247,830	2,247,830	2,247,830
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation.....	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other liabilities.....	12,580	12,030	12,460	21,310	21,310	21,310
Capital and surplus.....	332,880	332,950	332,900	328,030	328,030	328,030
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....	80.4 %	78.5 %	80.3 %	76.4 %	76.4 %	76.4 %

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Aug. 9, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion....	649	649	649	649	549	533
Gold certificates.....	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,092
Subsidiary coin.....	60	60	60	60	60	126
Bills discounted.....	4,270	4,589	3,956	3,973	4,109	3,077
Loans & advances to Govt	1,100	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,250
Investments.....	423	423	423	223	223	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.....	153	153	153	153	153	40
Notes in circulation.....	10,365	10,587	10,104	10,166	10,434	10,546
Bankers' deposits.....	4,638	5,033	4,982	4,937	4,790	5,865
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public.....	70 7/8 %	67 5/8 %	69 8/9 %	69 7/8 %	69 1/4 %	65 5/8 %

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1923.
Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of Czechoslovakia	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	11,096,991	10,096,926
Gold & silver holdings	1,812,686	1,777,506	1,861,411	1,940,874	1,909,048	1,825,406
Foreign bills and balances abroad	1,051,369	1,051,288	1,051,139	1,051,008	1,051,004	1,061,080
Other assets	648,607	657,421	657,296	657,572	654,594	2,446,755
LIABILITIES.						
State & local taxes	7,730,585	7,859,786	8,002,211	8,139,792	7,533,456	8,813,121
Deposits	4,877,035	4,940,329	4,882,623	4,407,931	4,952,183	5,755,544
Other liabilities	1,424,582	1,409,357	1,401,192	1,415,638	1,439,382	993,225

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

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 7, 1924.	Sept. 3, 1923.
Gold	108,807,606	108,453,053	108,390,488	73,390,999
Foreign bills	3,558,056,416	3,531,397,760	3,552,155,736	3,035,988,430
Bills discounted	2,904,292,797	3,052,902,589	3,129,783,721	694,020,052
Treasury bills	2,218,534,282	2,218,534,282	2,218,534,282	2,537,661,138
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	
Notes in circulation	7,292,837,534	7,603,734,861	7,798,931,960	5,745,412,336
Deposits	1,490,620,232	1,301,822,789	1,203,968,239	594,390,980

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 7, 1924.
Metal reserve—Gold coin and bullion	540,354,818	540,193,637	540,032,673
Drafts and notes	1,319,316,202	1,308,998,798	1,332,455,354
Silver coin and bullion	13,560,318	13,560,188	13,558,119
Share capital not yet paid up	159,555	216,892	1,230,905
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,692,906,907	1,584,853,106	1,515,744,820
Advances to the Treasury	1,977,506,217	1,977,506,217	1,977,506,217
LIABILITIES.			
Share capital (old crowns 30,000,000)	449,673,986	449,673,986	449,673,986
Notes in circulation	3,620,856,194	3,634,126,526	3,694,637,888
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	1,772,884,463	1,652,369,629	1,522,179,758

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 8, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1923.
Gold	72,326	72,326	72,326	72,325	63,078
Other coin and notes	22,520	21,440	20,678	21,115	20,321
Foreign credits	376,757	374,497	371,235	364,316	357,287
Bills	1,303,382	1,301,917	1,291,055	1,275,052	1,379,692
Govt. advances	4,564,524	4,564,521	4,564,521	4,564,520	4,568,637
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,879,706	5,894,835	5,909,684	5,821,938	5,839,170
State credits	389,952	389,949	389,949	389,949	373,136
Deposits	450,264	397,629	353,555	353,834	545,910

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 1, 1924.	Sept. 16, 1924.	Sept. 1, 1924.	Aug. 16, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	13,140	12,940	12,680	12,479	8,486
Silver in bullion	743	743	743	743	73
Platinum	10,017	10,017	9,969	9,954	3,408
Foreign bank notes	353	353	344	343	523
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	21,540	20,640	19,340	16,691	6,995
Bills (less 10% discount)	8,507	7,557	6,875	5,891	4,269
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)					
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	51,887	50,986	46,156	43,950	23,500
Balance to which notes may still be issued	2,413	1,264	3,795	2,150	255

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	2,534,846	2,534,852	2,534,832	2,534,802	2,535,693	531,775
Silver	655,450	654,054	651,773	653,121	650,916	780,525
Loans & discounts	2,233,099	2,227,135	2,230,212	2,226,735	2,050,691	880,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,458,058	4,444,979	4,449,687	4,448,710	4,170,098	601,650
Deposits	901,795	888,753	894,087	896,974	992,013	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In esudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 10, 1924.	Sept. 3, 1924.	Aug. 20, 1924.	Aug. 13, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,744	9,702	9,572	9,575	27,139
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Loans & discounts	186,356	175,851	167,796	163,070	65,090
Balances abroad	180,985	165,395	168,431	171,091	196,608
Discounts	1,498,987	1,488,060	1,476,271	1,471,297	1,049,562
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,581,429	1,664,613	1,644,143	1,648,909	1,310,867
Deposits	39,805	32,647	28,217	28,527	39,642

LONDON RATES.

	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 28, 1924.	Sept. 29, 1924.	Oct. 1, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 months' do	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
5 months' do	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4	4 3/4
Discounts (Treasury Bills)							
3 months'	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Loans Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposits	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Discounts—							
Bankers' bills at call	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1924.							
Sept. 12	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
19	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
26	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Oct. 3	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	%	Changed.	%
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924 .. 5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923 .. 5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923 .. 7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924 .. 6
Belgrade	Sept. 15, 1923 .. 8	Prague	May 27, 1924 .. 6
Berlin	Jan. 22, 1923 .. 5 1/2	Riga	Feb. 15, 1924 .. 8
Brussels	Sept. 4, 1920 .. 6	Rome	July 11, 1923 .. 5 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 17, 1924 .. 12 1/2	Sofia	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 5 1/2
Budapest	Aug. 21, 1924 .. 5	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 5 1/2
Calcutta	Nov. 10, 1923 .. 7	Swiss Bank	
Christiana	Jan. 17, 1924 .. 10	places	July 14, 1923 .. 4
Copenhagen	Sept. 11, 1924 .. 7	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Danzig	Mar. 5, 1924 .. 9	Vienna	Aug. 12, 1924 .. 15
Helsingfors	Sept. 12, 1923 .. 9	Warsaw	(See note below)
Lisbon			
New York Federal Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3	Irish	July 5, 1923 .. 5

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 5 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 15%.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Oct. 5, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	76-10-20	84-95-85-05
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	2-24 1/2 milliard	184-3-4 billion
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	320/325,000	316/319,000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	1532-1542	149-149 1/2
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	..	23-25-45
Riga	latas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	1820-1870	1785-1825
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	970-1,000	23-05-30
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	75/95,000	860-870
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	760-780	340/350,000
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	440-490	605-620
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	385-410	315-320
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-594-604	11-57-57 1/2
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	90-05-15	92-45-50
Christiana	krone to £1	T.T.	18-159	28-92-97	31-85-90
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18-159	17-19-22	16-77-80
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	25-60-65	25-55-60
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	169-170	178-178 1/2
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	505-515	252-257
Switzerland	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	1004-1014	101-75-85
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	25-46-49	23-34-37
Lisbon	pence to £1	T.T.	25-22 1/2	33-58-63	33-69-62
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	3-14	97 1/2	1-2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-56 1/2	4-46-46 1/2
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86 1/2	4-62 1/2	4-46-46 1/2
Buenos Aires	pence to £1	T.T.	47-62 1/2	394-4	43 1/2-44
Rio de Janeiro	pence to £1	T.T.	16	15 1/2	5 1/2
Montevideo	pence to £1	T.T.	51	39 1/2-39 3/4	45 1/2-46
Valparaiso	pence to £1	T.T.	13-33	37-60	39-90
Calcutta	rupees to £1	90 days	10 to 15	10 1/2 prem	8 1/2 prem
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Gold	1s 4 1/2-4 1/2	1s 5 1/2-5 1/2
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Sov. 1s 4 1/2-4 1/2	1s 5 1/2-5 1/2	1s 5 1/2-5 1/2
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 3 1/2-3 1/2	2s 4 1/2-4 1/2
Shanghai	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 3 1/2-3 1/2	2s 4 1/2-4 1/2
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 3 1/2-3 1/2	2s 4 1/2-4 1/2
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24-58d	2s 1 1/2-1 1/2	1s 9 1/2-9 1/2
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24-06d	12s 2d	12s 2d
Mexico	pence to doles.	T.T.	..	24d-26d	27d-32d

† Rate for previous day.

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—
£1,000 sterling equals 863 chervonetz.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.
Call money	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Time money (90 days' mixed coll)	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Bank acceptances—					
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Commercial accept. 90 days	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

Rates of Exchange. New York on—		Par Level.	Oct. 4, 1923.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.
London— 60 days.....						
Cable.....	Dollars for £1	4.8666	4.5437	4.4286	4.4361	4.4274
Cheques.....			4.5587	4.4636	4.4711	4.4624
Paris.....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	4.5562	4.4611	4.4686	4.4586
Brussels.....	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	5.895	5.3224	5.2699	5.2824
Switzerland.....	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	45	9.649	4.7899	4.6399
Italy.....	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	17.9	18.881	19.014	19.121
Vienna.....	Cents for 1 lire	19.30	4.49	4.3889	4.3949	4.3799
Madrid.....	Cents for 1 krona	26.28	.001412	.00141	.00141	.00141
Amsterdam.....	Cents for 1 peseta	19.30	13.69	13.244	13.349	13.279
Copenhagen.....	Cents for 1 gulder	40.195	39.32	38.441	38.629	38.691
Christiania.....			17.63	16.949	17.234	17.394
Stockholm.....	Cents for 1 kronor	26.80	16.77	13.799	13.989	14.181
Athens.....			26.53	26.619	26.614	26.624
Montreal.....	Cents for 1 drachma	19.30	1.51	1.7749	1.7549	1.7399
Yokohama.....	Can. Cents for \$1	100	132.5	99.99	99.99	99.965
Yokohama.....	Cents for 1 yen	49.85	48.8	45.95	40.16	39.875
Hong Kong.....	Cents for H. Kong \$		52.2	43.69	53.875	54.00
Canton.....	Cents for 1 Shing. tal.		70.5	70.5	56.25	56.25
Calcutta.....	Cents for 1 rupee		30.8	28.6	30.68	31.21
Buenos Aires.....	Gold pesos for \$100	103.65	134.0	125	125.25	121.99
Rio de Janeiro.....	Cents for 1 milreis	32.42	9.85	10.30	10.67	10.96
Valparaiso.....	Cents for 1 peso	20.60	12	11.25	11.87	11.85

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new branch at 72 Cheapside, E.C. 2, under the management of Mr H. C. Allaway. It is also announced that their agency at Reepham has now become a full branch, under the control of Norwich local head office, and that Foulsham Agency, which has hitherto been sub to Bank Plain, Norwich, is now sub to Reepham. It is also announced that they have transferred their office from temporary premises in East street to new premises at 54-56 High Street, Littlehampton, under the management of Mr Charles Steedon.

We are asked to state that a circular issued by Lieut.-Col. Sir Brodrick Hartwell, Bart., dated September 24, offering certain shares for sale, has been posted to the public without the consent of Barclays Bank, Limited, whose name appears thereon, and that all moneys sent to them in respect of this offer for sale will be returned.

Mr T. M. Wormald, J.P., chairman of Wormalds and Walker, Limited, Dewsbury, has been appointed a director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited.

A new branch of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, is to be opened in Clifton street, Blackpool, on October 6, under the management of Mr William Waring.

Mr R. B. F. Randolph, manager of the Pall Mall office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, resigned from the company on September 30th to accept the position of vice-president of the Anglo-London and Paris National Bank in San Francisco.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 215 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex, under the management of Mr H. C. Geer. Additional offices have also been opened at Sturry, near Canterbury, Kent, and Llangerniew, near Abergele, Denbighshire.

Mr James Watson Dickinson, who has been manager of the London office of the Queensland National Bank, Limited, for 34 years, retired on 30th ultimo. He has been appointed to a seat on the London board of directors. Mr John William Drury, hitherto accountant, has succeeded Mr Dickinson as manager.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, announce the opening of an agency at White River, near Nelspruit, in the Transvaal.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 72 High Street, Wroughton, under the management of Mr J. E. G. Bowen and Mr C. M. Dron, of the Swindon branches. Attendance will be given at the sub-branch on Fridays from 10 till 3.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Final div.	Method of Payment.	Lat'nt Pre-vious.	Dividend for Whole Years.
Railways.						
Barranquilla	6 %	..	..	Less tax	%	%
Barsi Light	3 1/2 %	& bonus	4 %	..	12	12
Bengal Doars	4 1/2 %	& bonus	3 %	Less tax 2/3	£10	9
Northern Pacific Rail., Cap. Stk.	14 %	Nov. 1	Quarterly	..	..	..
San Paulo	5 %	Oct. 30	Tax free	..	..	..
Taitai	4 1/2 %	18 p.s.	Tax free	..	8	9
Banks.						
Bank of Scotland	16 %	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	..	..
Hambro	6 1/2 %	Oct. 15	Tax free	..	..	..
Queensland National	10 %	Nov. 15	..	..	..	..
Spanish Bank of River Plate, Pref.	7 %	..	..	..	..	..
Mining.						
Bisichi Tin	5 %	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	12 1/2	6 1/2
Consolidated Main Reef	..	..	..	..	..	..
Katfontein	12 %	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..	..
Kinta Tin	19 p.s.	Oct. 16	..	..	100	100
Knight Central (in liquidation)	1/3 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
New Modderfontein Gold	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nyising	£0.30 p.s.	Oct. 20	..	..	..	..
Nourse	..	..	..	..	8 1/2	8 1/2
Ouro Preto Gold, Pref.	10 %	Oct. 22	Less tax	..	..	..
Rio Tinto	10 p.s.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Taquah and Abosso	5 %	Oct. 22	Less tax	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.						
Alliance Tea	15 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Batu Rata Rubber	..	..	Less tax	..	24	10
Bukit Selangor Rubber	..	..	Tax free	..	3 1/2	..
Chembong Malay Rubber	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Imperial Ceylon Tea	7 1/2 %	Oct. 23	Less tax	..	25	25
Kurugana Tea	..	..	Less tax	..	55	50
Namankula Tea	30 %	..	Less tax	..	60	50
New Dimbula Tea	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paboojan Tea	10 %	Oct. 16	Less tax	..	..	..
Rangalia Cons.	7 1/2 %	Oct. 14	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	10	20
Victoria (Malay) Rubber	..	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..	..
Yuladeria Rubber and Tea	24 %	Oct. 17	Less tax	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Agua Santa Coffee	..	..	Less tax	..	7	nil
Alid and Coghill	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Alliance Investment, Def.	5 %	Nov. 1	..	..	..	..
Alliance Co.	20 %	Nov. 4	Less tax	..	..	..
Amsoni Estates	5 1/2 %	..	..	..	10	..
Associated Fire Alarms	..	Oct. 15	Less tax	..	6	5
Associated Newspapers, Def.	2 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 7	Less tax	..	..	..
Bengal Iron	..	..	Less tax 2/3 in £	..	7	7
Benger's Food	19 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..	..

Birmingham Small Arms, Pref.	5	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Do, Pref. "B"	5	..	..	..	5	5
Borneo Company	..	..	..	..	..	..
Britain Steamship	5 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Calcutta Tramways	4 %	..	Tax free	..	10	10
Carlton Hotel	7 %	& bonus	of 2 %	..	..	..
Carlton Main Colliery	1 p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Coleman Syndicate	25	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Cuba Submarine Telegraph	5	Oct. 9	Tax free	..	..	..
Dee Spinning	15 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Direct West India Cable	5 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	10	10
Eastern Produce and Estates	12 1/2 %	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..	..
Egypt Levant S.S. Co. (in liq.)	50 p.s.	..	..	..	10	12 1/2
Elder, Smith, and Co.	10	..	..	..	..	..
Gorse Spinning	1 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Hackney Empire, &c.	10	..	..	..	..	..
Hans Crescent Hotel	5 p.s.	Oct. 22	Less tax	..	..	..
Halifax Cable	3 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	10	6
Harrisons & Crossfield, Def. Ord.	15 %	..	Less tax	..	25	10
Hay and Sons, Pref.	6 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Do "A" Pref.	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Henry Boot and Sons, Pref.	7 1/2 %	Sept. 30	..	..	..	..
Hongkong Gas	10	Oct. 1	Tax free	..	20	20
Hurst, Nelson	1 1/2 %	Oct. 15	..	..	..	..
International Harvester	2 1/2 %	Oct. 31	..	..	..	..
International Linotype	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
J. Hepworth and Son	1 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	10	8
Lambert Brothers	5 1/2 %	& bonus	of 1 1/2 %	Less tax	17 1/2	20 (a)
Laurentide	1 1/2 %	..	Quarterly	..	..	..
Lawsons, Limited	1 p.s.	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..	..
Manchester Palace Theatre	10	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Linkwood-Glenlivet Distillery	10	..	Less tax	..	..	..
London Brick	6 1/2 %	..	..	..	25	..
London United Laundries	6 1/2 %	Oct. 7	Less tax	..	11 1/2	10
Lowfield Spinning	2 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Madras Electric Tramways, Pref.	6	Sept. 30	Less tax	..	..	..
Manchester Hippodrome	5 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	5	7 1/2
Manchester Linters	10 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..
Manvers Main Colliery	2 1/2 p.s.	Oct. 25	Less tax	..	20	20
Mitchell and Mill	10	..	..	..	..	..
National & Foreign Securities Trust	10 1/2 %	..	Less tax	..	8	8
National Match of Venezuela	2 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..
North British Canadian Invest.	1 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Philadelphia Company, Com. Stk.	2 %	Oct. 31	Quarterly	..	..	..
Pleasanton's Brickfields	2 1/2 %	Oct. 10	..	..	..	..
Port of Mancho. ter Warehouses, Pref.	6	..	..	..	..	..
Printing Machinery	9 p.s.	Oct. 1	..	..	..	..
Queen Anne Mansions	10 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..
Reckitts and Sons	9 p.s.	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	15	15
Redditch Gas	5	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Rio Negro Land	1 1/2 %	..	..	..	10	8
Robinson Lomas, &c. Cum. Pref.	1 1/2 %	Oct. 1	Less tax	..	..	..
Robinson and Cleaver	2 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	5	5
Romeo	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	5
Second Scottish Northern Invest.	12	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Sheffield Solvo	..	..	Tax free	..	10	..
Spalding Picture House	..	..	Tax free	..	12 1/2	..
Spanish River Pulp	1 1/2 %	Oct. 15	Quarterly	..	..	..
St Augustine's Parade Hippodrome	10	..	Less tax	..	..	..
Stuttard and Co.	6 1/2 %	Dec. 8	Subject to tax	..	10	10
Sun Mill Spinning	11 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..
Taylor's Drug, Pref.	6	..	..	..	..	..
Thompson and Shackell	..	..	..	..	6	5
Tinsley Rolling Mills	..	..	Less tax	..	4	nil
U.S. & S. American Investment	4 %	Oct. 6	..	..	..	..
Vulcan Foundry	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	15
Walker and Homfrays	3 %	..	Less tax (b)	..	..	..
Ward and Goldstone	7 %	..	..	..	..	..
Woodward, Grosvenor	15 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..

(a) Also special bonus of 3 1/2 %.

(b) Directors state that, owing to requirements of Finance Act regarding companies paying dividends free of tax, they have decided to pay the dividend on ordinary from commencement of current financial year at rate of 20 per cent., less tax, instead of 15 per cent., tax free.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Directors of Canadian Northern Railway Company announce that earnings for half-year ended June 30, 1924, are insufficient to enable them to declare any interest to be payable on 5 per cent. Income Charge Convertible Debenture stock on Nov. 2nd next.

FEDERATED RUBBER GROWERS.—George Spencer Moulton and Co. have again made a profit, but there has been a continuation of the loss in Wood Mine. Limited, owing chiefly to the adverse state of the foreign exchanges and the disposal of the balance of the stock of canvas tires, now completed. As Wood Mine ceased. The former company has not paid a dividend, and consequently, the directors cannot recommend any dividend on the preference or ordinary capital. The preference dividend is in arrears as from March 31, 1921.

KAYE, ELLISON, AND CO.—It is proposed to pay the preference dividend to June 30, 1923—namely, £8,000—immediately after the annual meeting. Directors do not consider it advisable, during present critical time in the steel trade, matter will be dealt with at the earliest favourable opportunity. Meeting, Sheffield, October 14th, 6.30 p.m.

MANN, BYARS, AND CO., warehousemen and manufacturers, announce that the dividend on the preference shares for the six months ending September 30th, proposals for reorganisation of capital, recently approved by the company, have been sanctioned by the Court.

STOCK CONVERSION AND INVESTMENT TRUST announce the following distributions:—The year's annuity of 6d per share on the 450,782 shares (the same as a year ago; payment of 2-1/2d per share to them on account of arrears (the same), on the ordinary shares (the same); payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares (the same).

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

WILLIAM BEARDMORE AND CO., LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Dec. 31, 1923.
6% cum. pref. ..	1,440,000	Properties ..	5,503,126
Ordinary shares ..	2,050,000	Plant ..	498,197
4 1/2 % 1st deb. ..	388,600	Stocks ..	1,326,377
Loans on security ..	1,502,297	Interests in sub-	..
8% notes ..	1,000,000	sidiaries ..	1,548,757
Other loans ..	113,431	Sundry debts ..	795,749
Reserves ..	1,283,711	Bills receivable ..	1,424
Sundry debits and	..	Cash ..	5,702
Special pref. divi-	..		
dend reserve ..	250,000		
General reserve ..	1,000,000		
Profit and loss ..	651,493		
Total ..	9,679,332	Total ..	9,679,332

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Sept. 26, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Sept. 28, 1924.			Aggregate 39 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western ..	3,754	296,000	358,000	654,000	1,075,000	1,308,500	2,383,500
Do for 1923 ..	3,747	295,000	360,000	655,000	1,067,600	1,368,400	2,436,000
London & North-Eastern ..	6,722	495,000	705,000	1,200,000	1,790,000	2,640,000	4,430,000
Do same period 1923 ..	6,702	462,000	735,000	1,197,000	1,782,200	2,228,000	4,010,200
London, Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	677,000	902,000	1,579,000	2,570,000	3,357,000	5,927,000
Do for 1923 ..	6,941	657,000	835,000	1,492,000	2,511,000	3,492,000	5,993,000
Southern ..	2,146	378,900	128,900	507,800	1,340,700	442,000	1,782,700
Do for 1923 ..	2,146	369,800	131,600	501,400	1,352,200	4,615,400	18,138,000
Underground E.R. (a) ..	..	46,137	4,046	50,183	1,522,911	151,823	1,674,734
Do for 1923 ..	..	31,160	3,763	34,923	1,238,066	146,178	1,384,244
Lon. & Sub. Group (a) ..	..	..	..	259,490	..	..	9,283,594
Do for 1923 ..	..	..	..	236,532	..	..	8,829,209
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	..	..	42,013	..	..	1,515,433
Dublin and S. East (b) ..	160	..	..	40,035	..	..	1,574,791
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	4,385	1,217	5,602	186,901	48,111	235,012
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	4,681	3,081	7,762	250,373	134,675	385,048
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	18,000	21,250	39,250	760,300	789,950	1,550,250
Metropolitan (c) ..	79	26,327	33,466	59,793	957,561	1,200,819	2,158,379
Do for 1923 ..	..	9,697	15,966	25,663	370,503	554,618	925,121

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	22 weeks	Aug. 30	1,072	3,033,300	+ 63,980	57,66,315	+ 9,01,477
Barsi Light	23 weeks	Sept. 6	118	12,300	- 5,300	84,540	+ 59,900
Bombay & N. Western ..	23 weeks	Sept. 6	2,063	4,466,690	+ 677	1,47,53,281	+ 9,80,777
Bombay Nagpur	22 weeks	Aug. 30	2,800	14,10,000	+ 1,83,000	39,94,723	+ 32,40,455
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	25 weeks	Sept. 20		18,51,000	+ 57,000	56,50,900	+ 54,24,000
Burma	22 weeks	Aug. 30	1,342	5,31,672	+ 3,644	1,47,19,583	+ 5,94,609
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	25 weeks	Sept. 20	2,873	34,34,000	+ 36,385	25,58,125	+ 1,91,235
East Indian	26 weeks	Aug. 30		34,34,000	+ 3,06,000	6,66,708	+ 81,80,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	26 weeks	Sept. 27	2,754	32,93,500	+ 3,033,000	7,04,82,765	+ 88,71,431
Madras & S. Mahr. ..	23 weeks	Aug. 30	6,502	12,90,000	- 52,607	3,56,25,270	+ 40,05,690
Morli & K. Munson ..	22 weeks	Aug. 31	259	45,756	+ 6,602	13,56,084	+ 1,61,386
Do Lucknow-Brelly ..	22 weeks	Aug. 30	314	48,978	+ 11,177	15,87,644	+ 1,61,09,094
South Indian	22 weeks	Aug. 30	1,877	8,23,332	- 1,16,912	2,06,37,696	+ 2,00,19,193

Reports and Notices.

Captain Bernard Eckstein has been appointed a director of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited.

J. W. Vickers and Co., Limited, general advertising offices, 5 Nicholas Lane, E.C. 4, announce that their telephone numbers are now Royal 6328-30 (three lines).

Owing to rebuilding operations, the Marine and General Mutual Life Assurance Society has taken temporary offices in Mansion House street, London, E.C. 2.

The directors of Tate and Lyle, Limited, regret to announce that Mr Lionel Alfred Martin has decided to retire from the board of directors of the company as from the close of its financial year, September 30, 1924. Mr Martin, who has recently recovered from a severe operation, has been connected with the sugar trade since 1872, and with the firm of Henry Tate and Sons since 1888.

TREASURY BONDS NEW SERIES.—The *London Gazette* states that the issue of 4 per cent. Treasury bonds, 1933, of the current series will terminate on Saturday, October 11th. Bonds issued after that date will be designated Series "D." The first dividend on holdings of these bonds will be due on April 15, 1925, and in the case of each bond will represent interest to that date from the date of the bond. In all other respects Series "D" bonds will rank *pari passu* with bonds of the current series; the series will be consolidated after the close of business on March 16, 1925.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA GOLD BONDS, 1909.—With reference to the above bonds the Council of Foreign Bondholders have received a telegram from the bankers in New York notifying the payment of the September, 1924, instalment of the debt service in accordance with the arrangement of May 25, 1912.

BANKS.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF THE NEAR EAST, LIMITED.—This bank was incorporated on October 17, 1922. The capital authorised is £200,000; capital subscribed and fully paid is £151,545. The net profit for the half-year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £5,896, and, adding £343, the balance brought forward from the year ended December 31, 1923, there is a sum of £6,239 at the credit of profit and loss account. Out of this sum, the directors have decided to pay an interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, which will absorb £4,666. The allocations for preliminary expenses and reserve fund will be left over until the accounts for the whole of the financial year to December 31, 1924, are ready for submission to the shareholders. The dividend will be paid on all shares issued on or before June 30, 1924, and dividend warrants will be posted on September 30, 1924, to shareholders on the register. Coupons No. 2 of the share warrants to bearer should be presented at the bank for payment of the dividends on them.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.—The balance sheet figures of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for the half-year ended June 30, 1924, show that, as compared with the close of the previous half-year, deposits in the general banking department reveal an increase of 2½ millions, and stand at £31,914,902, while the savings bank deposits, at £41,071,099, have increased by about £750,000. Coin and cash balances at £6,316,047, are 1½ millions lower, but Australian notes have increased by 5½ millions, and stand at £8,922,111. Money at short call in London (£9,720,000) shows an increase of nearly three millions in the six months, while British Colonial and Government securities, £30,097,448, have increased by about half-a-million. As regards the Commonwealth note issue managed by the bank, the notes in circulation are £56,890,225 (an increase of about 4½ millions during the six months), against which gold coin and bullion are held to the extent of £24,441,277, with Government securities, &c., £32,448,948. The profits for the six months amount to £127,339, about £4,000 greater than for the previous half-year. Of these profits one-half is applied to the Australian National Debt Sinking Fund, the other half being passed to the reserve fund, making the total accumulated profits held by the bank £4,529,330. In addition to this, the profits of the Note Issue Department, amounting to £552,821, for the half-year, have been paid over direct to the Commonwealth Treasury. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, it may be added, is wholly owned and guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government.

RAILWAYS.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN.—The boards of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, and the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway give notice that the agreement for the transfer of the lease of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway, from the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway to the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, which had been already approved by the Argentine Senate, received the sanction of the Chamber of Deputies on September 30th, and will become effective as soon as the law is promulgated, and the necessary arrangements are completed for the working of the line by the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company.

BARRI LIGHT RAILWAY.—The net earnings for the year ended March 31, 1924, less Indian income-tax and super-tax, amounted to £55,666, or, adding the exchange adjustments of £946, £56,612. After providing the interest on the debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, &c., on the "Latur extension" debentures, £5,655, there is left £45,357, which, with the balance of £10,541 brought forward from the previous year, makes £55,898 at credit of net revenue account. The directors have transferred £9,506 to credit of reserve account for the equalisation

of dividends, &c., which account now stands at £175,000; £3,500 to taxation reserve account as a provision for corporation profits tax and income-tax, and £1,000 to the staff provident fund as a special bonus. The total dividend on the ordinary shares is 12 per cent. for the year, and £10,692 is carried forward.

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL.—The directors of the Great Western of Brazil Railway are advised by cable that the Brazilian Government has authorised an increase in tariffs estimated to increase the gross receipts of the railway by 50 per cent., which increase will be put into force on or about November 1st next. Further negotiations are proceeding with a view to rehabilitate the financial and physical position of the railway.

RUBBER.

BATU RATA (SUMATRA) RUBBER.—This company gives in it report an interesting table of crops and dividends year by year from the season 1912-13 to 1923-24. From this table we gather that the 1912-13 crop was 112,045 lbs. The crop has risen to 556,645 lbs for season 1919-20, but is 415,607 lbs for 1923-24, against 416,503 lbs for 1922-23. The ordinary dividend is 5 per cent., against 10 per cent. for 1922-23. For the year 1916-17 the company paid 22½ per cent. dividend. The net profit of £6,266 compares with £10,163 in preceding year.

WAY-HALIM (SUMATRA) ESTATES.—The report for year ended March 31, 1924, shows a net profit of £2,075, against £2,497 in preceding year. Nothing is paid on the ordinary shares, against 5 per cent. in preceding year. The sum of £1,000 is placed to estates amortisation account, and £3,460 is carried forward, subject to corporation profits tax.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGAL IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.—The net profit, after payment of debenture interest, for year ended March 31, 1924, amounts to £200,459, against £214,228 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is again 7 per cent., payable in equal instalments on October 16th and April 16th next. A balance of £45,074 is carried forward, against £22,468 brought in. It is pointed out that during the year the company's works have been fairly well employed, though market prices for its products have been somewhat low. Total assets are £3,163,412. Cash is at £145,350. The company has an ordinary issued share capital of £1,575,000 in £1 shares, and £500,000 in 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares £1. Seven per cent. debentures issued amount to £600,000. Reserve account is £65,000.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Climatic conditions were generally favourable to agricultural pursuits during the week, and were able to push ahead in preparing the land for autumn sowings. Supplies of native wheat are coming along more freely at the Statute markets, but a good deal lacks condition, while unsuitable for milling purposes. Prices, however, ruled firm in sympathy with the general position, and the better grades range from 12s 6d to 13s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions are sparingly offered, and prices hardened sharply in sympathy with higher forward offers. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 71s, No. 2 ditto 69s 9d, No. 2 hard winter 63s 9d to 64s, all ex ship, with choice white Karachi, landed, held for 65s, and Plate 66s, all per 496 lbs. In the floating and forward section prices marked a further substantial rise, owing to strong buying orders by United Kingdom and Continental millers, while stimulating advices from North America proved a strengthening factor. A liberal business transpired, including steamers of choice white Karachi, November, 62s 9d, Rosafe, 63½ lbs, loading, also October at 61s 6d to 62s, Barusso, 63½ lbs, January-February, 58s 7½d net, No. 2 hard winter, early October-November, 65s 3d, white Pacific, afloat, 61s, October-November 61s 6d, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, October, 66s 6d, Australian, January, 62s 10½d, and Rosafe, 63½ lbs, new crop, January-February, 59s 1½d per 480 lbs, c.i.f. Maize was also accorded better support, and prices moved in sellers' favour. Plate steamers, September-October, sold at 44s 6d, October-November 44s 7½d, November-December, 45s 1½d, December-January 45s 9d to 46s 6d, and No. 2 white flat African, expected late October, loading, at 47s 9d per 480 lbs, c.i.f. terms. Flour ruled firmer in sympathy with the wheat position, but business rather quieter at the higher limits. London standard straight run quoted 50s, patents 52s to 53s, town whites 50s per sack, delivered in Metropolitan area. All English country straights 44s to 45s per sack, delivered at London stations. Imported also tend firmer, with a steady demand for spot parcels. Manitoba patents range from

The NET COST
of an **ANTICIPATED BONUS POLICY**
in the **NATIONAL PROVIDENT**
is considerably less
than that of
any **NON-PROFIT** policy.
Write for particulars to:—
48 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefer. Amount.	Ordinary Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.										
Commercial Bank of the Near East	June 30*	£ 342	£ 5,897	£ 6,239	..	£ 4,666	% 8	£ 1,573	£ ..	% ..
Financial, Land, &c.										
Rio Negro (Argentina) Land	June 30	26,941	57,856	84,797	..	30,000	10	25,000	29,797	39,547 8
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Bengal Iron	Mar. 31	22,465	200,459	222,924	37,500	110,250	7	30,100	45,074	214,228 7
Kayser, Ellison, and Co.	June 30	14,561	14,561	14,561	6,000	..	..	..	8,561	5,853 ..
William Beardmore and Co.	Dec. 31	762,565 Dr	68,072	694,493	86,400	..	..	..	608,093	96,167 ..
Rubber, &c.										
Batu Rata (Sumatra)	June 30	5,285	6,266	11,551	..	6,299	5	..	5,252	10,163 10
Way-Halim (Sumatra)	Mar. 31	2,385	2,075	4,460	..	..	..	1,000	3,460	2,497 5
Shipping.										
Manchester Liners	June 30	62,877	63,160	126,037	22,886	44,520	10½	..	58,631	65,812 10½
Tea.										
Panora Tea and Produce	Mar. 31	Dr 21,322	4,319 Dr	17,003	..	1,625 (t)	5	1,882 Dr	20,510	.. ..
Telegraph, &c.										
Direct West India Cable	June 30	23,574	10,452	34,026	..	6,000	10½	..	28,026	1,183 10½
Halifax and Bermuda Cable	June 30	31,296	17,330	48,626	..	5,000	10½	..	43,626	20,855 6½
Textiles.										
Robinson and Cleaver	July 31	19,407	33,233	52,640	7,748	12,500	5½	9,000	23,392	30,331 5½
Trust.										
Stock Conversion & Investment	Aug. 31	..	41,932	41,932	14,625	20,285 (8-4d Ann. 8Ord.)	..	7,022	..	42,455 8
Other Companies.										
Agua Santa Coffee	Dec. 31	1,941	20,390	22,331	5,250	5,250	7	3,500	8,831	.. ..
British Borneo Timber	Dec. 31	1,839 Dr	9,988 Dr	8,149	..	..	..	..	8,149	.. ..
J. Hepworth and Son	July 31	11,537	65,632	77,169	6,000	40,584	10	12,000	18,585	53,151 8
Roneo	June 30	3,024	60,446	63,470	21,421	22,281	7½	..	19,768	20,968 5

* Half-year.

(t) On profit-sharing certificates.

† Tax free.

46s to 48s, and Australian 44s to 45s per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley firmer. Californian quoted at 69s to 72s, and Chilean brewing 66s, both ex ship, per 448 lbs. Karachi, ex ship, 46s, landed 47s 6d, Danubian, landed, 45s 6d, No. 4 Canadian western 43s 6d, ex ship, American malting, 48 lbs, ex ship, 43s 6d, all per 400 lbs. English quoted 14s to 24s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize dearer. Plate, ex ship, 44s 3d to 45s, as to position, landed 46s, Bessarabian, landed, 46s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats dearer. Plate, ex ship, 31s, landed 32s, No. 2 Canadian western, ex ship, 36s 6d, landed 38s, white American, 38 lbs, ex ship, 32s 6d per 320 lbs. English quoted at 9s 6d to 10s 4d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Millers' offers firmer. Broad bran quoted at 9s 9d, middlings 10s, fine ditto 12s, bags included, ex mill, light oats 8s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 3d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, ground oats 15s 3d per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal firmly held. London-made flake 20s 6d, rolled oats 20s, medium and fine cut 20s, coarse and medium pinhead 20s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Sept. 27	Cwts. 258,678	Cwts. 452,342	Cwts. 351,578	Cwts. 435,314
4 weeks to Sept. 27	650,000	1,652,316	1,160,191	1,716,025
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 1	s d 8 9	s d 8 9½	s d 13 3

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Sept. 20	Cwts. 176,746	Cwts. 404,737	Cwts. 63,641	s d 12 0	s d 17 7	s d 9 5
Sept. 27	259,678	561,480	90,449	12 1	18 0	9 8
1920	395,721	243,368	93,711	21 1	23 1	20 1
1921	436,564	527,696	56,851	13 3	17 3	10 4
1922	351,579	168,536	65,988	8 9	10 5	8 10
1923	452,342	388,291	110,315	8 9	10 11	8 10

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes on October 2nd as follows:—Pig-iron: There has been a little business doing in pig-iron, as some consumers seem to be under the impression that prices have gone as low as they possibly can. There is still, however, a lack of confidence, and transactions are very small. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is quoted 80s 6d, and East Coast mixed numbers hematite 80s per ton, but buyers with firm orders could no doubt get on at less figures. Manufactured iron and steel: There is very little new business doing, and specifications are coming forward very slowly for material already bought. However, works complain that they cannot continue much longer unless there is some improvement in the market. Home prices are unchanged as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel

rails, £9. Iron ore: The price of best Bilbao Rubio remains nominally at 21s 6d, but there are sellers of odd cargoes at something below this figure. Meantime buyers are holding off the market, as they have sufficient stocks in hand to keep their furnaces going for the time being.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The depression of the iron and steel markets continues to spread, and the position and prospects of these industries locally is so bad as to justify the feeling of despair which is affecting those engaged in them. The time for the customary autumn revival has passed, and something like a miracle is required to secure a moderate volume of trade during the coming winter. Four blast furnaces have just been put out of commission in the Lincolnshire district, and if buying does not soon improve one or two others there will have to follow suit. There are stocks of pig-iron at most of the furnaces, and with the object of turning these into money the material is being offered at very low figures. The ordinary market quotations remain the same, and are unremunerative. Costs will be relieved by the reduction of 3s 9d per ton and upwards on the prices of coke, but makers seem determined to retain this advantage as a set-off to their losses, and therefore it will not be passed on to the consumer at present. Buying of pig-iron and billets is limited to small parcels, and consumers cannot be persuaded to place forward contracts. The rolling mills have numerous orders on hand, but these are so small individually that the output of a week's working does not reach half the normal tonnage. Business in cold rolled strip, hoops and sheets continues brisk, and the motor industry is taking a substantial weight of steel and tools. Engineering is looking up in parts. Trade in high-grade steels has fallen flat after some months of expansion, and the booking of orders for tools has declined. In crude iron and steel Belgian

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

And over 1,750 Branches in England and Wales.

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank has Power to act as EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE under Wills and Settlements, and as Trustee for Debenture Holders. Full particulars can be obtained from the Managers, Trustee Department, 54 Lombard Street, E.C.3 (entrance 58 Lombard Street), or from any of the Branch Managers.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH & FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

6th October, 1924.

The boot section is fairly well employed, although the "boom" written so glibly about in one of the London daily papers has not been discovered by sellers of leather in Northampton. The Shoe and Leather Fair opens at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Monday next, when over 500 exhibitors will be in evidence.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 49,500 packages, which aroused active biddings at mostly dearer prices. Common and medium kinds advanced ½d to ¾d per lb, with extreme prices paid for the finer lots. Pekoe sold, 1s 7½d to 2s 7½d; broken orange, 1s 7½d to 2s 10½d; choice, 3s 6d to 4s 6d. Ceylon sales of 18,550 packages soon cleared to a brisk inquiry, common and medium ruling ½d to 1d higher, and fine from 1d to 2d per lb dearer on the week, the attractive quality of the latter being much appreciated. Pekoe sold, 1s 7½d to 2s 5½d; broken orange, 1s 10½d to 2s 9d per lb in bond. China teas are very firm, being mostly dearer, with a good demand. In auction, some 5,830 packages Java and Sumatra were offered and met a strong demand, prices being ½d to ¾d per lb higher for all useful medium teas, while fine parcels were disposed of at extreme rates. Pekoe sold, 1s 4½d to 1s 8d; broken ditto, 1s 4½d to

The full Report and Accounts (with plan of Workings) may be obtained from the London Secretaries, A. MOIR AND CO. No. 1, London Wall-buildings, London, E.C.2.

[illegible]

CANNED GOODS.—Sardines continue to be very firmly held, but business restricted owing to small available supplies. Portuguese $\frac{1}{2}$ -flats quoted 3s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3s 9d; clubs, 3s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4s; 12 oz, 6s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 9s 6d to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Lobsters scarce, and realise high prices. Salmon moves off quietly owing to the high

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

prices ruling, while forward offers are on a limited scale. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, 58s to 60s; ditto, tall, 47s to 48s; 8 lb tall pink, 26s to 26s 6d; cases of 96 ½ lbs, 28s to 30s per case. Canned Fruits: Prices remain firm in view of continental demand, while home trade requirements are on a fair scale. Reports from California indicate smaller supplies owing to lack of moisture. Singapore pines, 48 ½s, best quality, 5s 4½d to 5s 6d; cubes, 24 2½s, 10s 6d to 10s 9d; slices, 48 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Californian apricots, 2½s, 8s to 11s; ditto, 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2½s, 13s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2½s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; 1½s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad 2½s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1½s, 10s 6d per dozen tins. Canned meats: There was a better inquiry with regard to corned beef, and market presented a firm tone. Tongues, lunch and ox, are moving off slowly. Quality of Danish is much appreciated, especially for high-class trade. Condensed milk-market quietly steady. Packers contend that prices are not remunerative, especially for skimmed.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 20s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £21 to £37 10s; Cochin, £20 to £45. Ceylon bristle, £22 to £29; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 0½d; Java, 5s 7d. **OILSEEDS.**—Linseed generally firmer with a better demand. Calcutta, afloat, sold, £22 18s 9d to £23 10s; September-October, sold, £23 5s to £23 12s 6d; October-November, £23 5s to £23 12s 6d. Plate, afloat, £21 2s 6d to £21 12s 6d; September-October, sold, £21 5s to £21 7s 6d to £21 12s 6d; October-November, £21 5s to £21 12s 6d; January-February, £20 to £19 17s 6d and £20 12s 6d. Rapeseed dearer on improved Continental buying. Toria, September-October, sold, £23 15s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £23 2s 6d. Cottonseed firmer, though slightly irregular at times, owing to fluctuating advices from Alexandria. Egyptian, black, new, October, sold, £13 10s; November-January, £13 7s 6d. Sakellaris, November-January, £12 10s. Bombay, December-January, £10 17s 6d. Gingelly seed quiet. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £27 15s. Groundnuts firmer. Coromandel, machine-dried, September-October, £28 10s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.g., December-January, £25; East African, September-October, £28 7s 6d. Soya beans quieter. Manchurian, October-November, £13 16s 3d; December-January, £12 7s 6d. Castor seed firm, but

quiet. Bombay, September-October, £31 5s; Calcutta, ditto, £30-5s per ton.

OILS.—Linseed irregular, but firmer. Spot, net, naked, 44s 6d; October, 43s 6d; October-December, 43s 6d; January-April, 43s. Rape steady. Crude, spot, 48s 6d, refined, 51s 6d. Castor-oil firmly held. First pressure, spot, quoted 73s; second pressure, 71s; and pharmaceutical, 78s per cwt. Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 43s; Bombay, 41s; common edible, 49s; deodorised, 51s. Chinawood firm, with a good demand for spot parcels. Hankow, spot (barrels), 85s; October-November, 80s. Coconut steady. Ceylon, spot, 48s 6d; October-November, 46s 9d; Cochin, ditto, nominally 58s. Soya firm. Oriental, barrels, September-October, 46s 6d; bulk, 43s. Cod steady. English, spot, 34s to 35s. Groundnuts firm. English, crushed, naked, spot, 53s; deodorised, barrels, 62s. Turpentine irregular. American, spot, 65s 3d; October-December, 65s 9d; January-April, 67s 6d. Rosin firm for pale grades. American, grade B, 14s 3d; G, 14s 9d; WG, 17s 9d; WW, 19s per cwt. French WW, 18s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—OCTOBER 2.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d
Shorthorns	6	6	7	0	6	6	7
Devons	6	6	7	0	6	6	7
Norths	6	6	7	0	6	6	7
Scottish	6	6	7	0	6	6	7
Irish	6	6	7	0	6	6	7
Fat Cows	6	6	7	0	6	6	7

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—OCTOBER 2.

English—King Edwards	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.
British Queens	9	6	0	0
Majestic	9	0	0	0
Blackland—	8	6	0	0
King Edwards	8	6	0	0
Evergoods	7	6	0	0

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING

COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

Extracted from the Annual Report for the Year ended 30th June, 1924.

Issued Capital, £1,400,000 in 2,800,000 Shares of 10s. each.

DIRECTORATE.

SIR EVELYN WALLERS, K.B.E. (Chairman).
R. W. FENNELL.
F. R. PHILLIPS.

SIR ABE BAILEY, Bt., K.C.M.G.
S. C. BLACK.
MAJOR C. S. GOLDMAN.

Tonnage Milled, 1,384,000.

	Total Working Revenue	Total Working Costs	Working Profit	Total Profit for the year	Balance unappropriated at 30th June, 1923	Amount received under Bona-fide Plaints Money Application Act, 1917
	£3,009,969	1,184,079	£1,825,890	£1,855,634	216,381	7,789
	5 7	0 4	5 3	11 11	14 2	10 0
				£2,079,805	16 1	
				885,992	11 11	
				£1,713,813	4 2	
				1,400,000	0 0	
				£313,813	4 2	

This amount has been dealt with as follows:—
Expended on New Shaft and General Equipment .. £85,441 15 10
Annuity in respect of Undermining Rights leased from Government .. 17,310 0 0
Government and Provincial Taxes .. 252,654 7 6
Forfeited Dividends—Refunded .. 583 8 7
£1,713,813 4 2
Leaving a balance unappropriated of .. 1,400,000 0 0
£313,813 4 2

The Ore Reserve has been revalued as at 30th June, 1924, and is as follows:—
Tons. Value, Dwt. Slope Width, Inches.
9,064,400 8.5 68.4
The above includes 701,600 tons, valued at 6.3 dwt, contained in shaft and safety pillars at present unavailable.
The full Report and Accounts (with Plan of Workings) may be obtained from the London Secretaries, A. MOIR & CO., No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.2.

ST. JOHN & QUEBEC RAILWAY COMPANY

FIRST MORTGAGE 4% DEBENTURE STOCK, 1962.

For the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants due 1st December, 1924, the BALANCES will be STRUCK on the evening of the 8th November, 1924, after which date the Stock will be transferred ex-dividend.—For Bank of Montreal, G. C. CASSELL, Manager.
11, Threadneedle street, E.C.2.
1st October, 1924.

BELDING, PAUL & CORTICELLI SILK COMPANY, LIMITED.

5% FIRST CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES.

Belding-Corticelli, Limited, announces that the COUPONS falling due 1st November, 1924, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be PRESENTED on or after the 13th inst., between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle street, E.C.2. Three clear days required for examination. Lists may be obtained on application at the Bank.

Third Impression with additional Chapter and Statistics.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PRICES

with special reference to the History of the Nineteenth Century.

By WALTER T. LAYTON, M.A. 7/6 net.

MACMILLAN & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.2.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1924.

No. 4,233

EQUITY & LAW Life Assurance Society

18, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2.

ESTABLISHED 1844.

FUNDS exceed - £5,578,000

Whole Life and Endowment Assurances, without Profits, at exceptionally Low Rates of Premium. Immediate and Deferred Annuities.

For Prospectus apply to—

W. P. PHELPS, Manager & Secretary.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 310,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HONNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italo credit, Cannon, London." Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	557	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		The Mechanism of the	
The End of the Great Experiment	559	Trade Balance	578
Protection.—A Change of Tactics	560	Towards a White Australia	578
Monetary Improvement in Europe	561	Books Received	579
Wages in the Building Industry	562	Stock Exchange News—	
The American Presidential Campaign	563	The Stock Markets	579
The Price of Wheat	564	New Issues	579
Notes of the Week—		Active Securities	580
Ireland and the Political Crisis	565	Company Meetings	582
The Breakdown of the Egyptian Conversations	565	Government Returns—	
The Defeat of the Communists	565	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender	585
The Stock Exchange and the Election	566	Currency Notes Account ..	585
Coal Trade Finances	566	National Debt	585
Home Crops	566	Public Income and Expenditure	586
Free State & Compensation	567	Bankers' Gazette—	
American Cotton Crop	567	Bank of England	586
The Quarter's Shipbuilding	567	Clearing Returns	586
The Civil War in China	567	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks	587
Spain and Morocco	568	Overseas Bank Returns	587
A Proposed Belgian Free Port	568	Loan and Discount Rates ..	588
Port of London Authority ..	568	Overseas Bank Rates	589
Conditions in Hong Kong ..	569	Rates of Exchange	589
The Progress of Jugo-Slavia ..	569	India Council Bills and Transfers	589
Sth. Africa's Foreign Trade ..	570	Imports and Exports of Gold	589
Harrisons and Crossfield	570	Gold and Silver Prices	590
Clerical and Medical Life	570	Company News—	
Assurance Society	570	Analysis of Balance-sheets ..	581
British-American Nickel	570	Transvaal Gold Output	581
Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited	571	Statistics	581
Overseas Correspondence—		Weekly Traffic Returns	581
League of Nations	571	Oil Outputs	590
France	572	Dividend Announcements ..	590
Germany	573	Mining Outputs	591
Austria	574	Reports and Notices	591
Canada	574	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	593
Australia	576	Commercial Reports—	
Poland	576	Corn Trade	592
Denmark	577	Iron and Coal Trade	593
Greece	577	Metals	593
		Cotton Trade	594
		Wool Trade	594
		Vegetable Oils	595
		Hide and Leather Trades ..	595
		Overseas Produce Markets ..	595
		Price Current	596

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was comparatively easy at the beginning of the week, then became more difficult to find, after repayments to the Bank of England had been completed, and yesterday was plentiful again. Discount rates were perhaps a shade easier, with a fair supply of bills and a keen demand on Continental, and especially French, account for

January paper. Banks bought November Treasuries at rates ranging down to $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and Decembers at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Three months' Bank bills were taken at, and a shade under, $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The week's batch of Treasury bills were placed at a slightly lower rate than had been expected.

	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase, which is unseasonal and difficult to explain, of over two millions in the note circulation, and a corresponding decrease in the Reserve. Government securities rose by 5 millions, while Other declined by nearly 7 millions; Government disbursements brought the Public deposits down by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and Other were 3 millions higher on balance. Currency notes outstanding were increased this week by £1,101,700 to £288,600,900, which includes £1,368,000 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,782,900, or £10,408,000 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of the London clearing banks of their average weekly balances for September, which is printed in full on a later page, shows only small changes as compared with the August figures, as may be seen from the following table, which summarises the figures of the nine English banks:—

	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.3	118.7	119.2	119.4	119.4	119.4
Acceptances	96.1	99.2	85.3	79.0	75.7	75.5
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.)	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,651.9	1,642.9	1,616.9	1,612.4
Total Liabilities	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3	1,812.0	1,807.3
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	254.2	230.2	249.1	236.7	234.0	235.3
Money at call	111.3	93.5	108.1	98.3	101.7	107.9
Investments	363.8	361.7	349.3	348.1	346.0	340.1
Discounts	276.3	224.0	245.0	259.3	234.5	225.3
Loans and advances	756.5	785.5	791.7	791.6	792.0	794.8
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	123.4	126.2	113.2	107.3	103.8	103.9
Total assets	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,841.3	1,812.0	1,807.3

The most prominent alteration is a reduction of £9 millions in bills discounted, which is offset by an addition of £6 millions to money at call, and nearly £3 millions to advances. Investments show a decline of nearly £6 millions, and this may partly account for the decline of £4 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions shown in deposits.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Exchange has, naturally, been dominated by political influences this week, a shrinkage in the volume of business having occurred without any marked decline in prices. British Government stocks are easier, on the whole, but business in foreign Government securities has been of a restricted character. Home railway stocks have recovered to some extent after a decline early in the week, while movements in foreign rails have been irregular. Among plantation shares, rubber and coffee remain firm, but tea has declined. Nitrates are still a strong market. Banking shares have been a strong feature, but profit-taking by recent purchasers has been responsible for a reaction in insurance shares. Industrials have been quiet, declines being registered in iron and steel and shipping securities, though the brewery market continues to be firm. Current influences have been unfavourable to activity in South African mining shares, but those of tin companies have registered a further improvement, in spite of a decline in the price of the metal.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

A feature of interest in the markets this week has been the slump in raw cotton rates as a result of the report on the American cotton crop. At the London wool sales prices were fairly well maintained on balance, but there were some withdrawals. Pig-iron prices are weaker. Some orders have been placed in the manufactured iron and steel trade for shipbuilding, but there is no sign of any genuine improvement in the outlook. The rubber market was reasonably firm, and a fair amount of busi-

ness effected. Wheat at Liverpool on the Baltic Exchange received much attention on account of American advices, and prices moved upward. Other details of markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages from our special correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was again characterised by great quietness during the early days of the past weekly period beginning October 3rd, but developed considerable activity during the last two or three days. This coincided largely with the approach and culmination of the political crisis at home, and affected particularly the sterling dollar exchange. There was also a marked break and considerable activity in the franc, but this is merely a coincidence, and is due to other factors. The dollar rate opened on the 3rd at 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$, relapsed slightly to 4.46 on the 4th, at which level it remained on the 6th. After being slightly weaker on the 7th, it recovered to 4.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the 8th, advanced sharply to 4.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4.48 on the 9th, and to-day (10th) stands at 4.48 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4.48 $\frac{1}{2}$. New York has been decidedly bullish of sterling during the political crisis, and is believed to have been a large seller of dollars and Continental currencies lately, whilst buying sterling steadily at the same time. The franc opened the week at 84.65, and remained at about this level, though showing signs of weakness, until the evening of the 6th. On the 7th it started to slide, touching 85.30, and the rate continued its downward course to 86.10 on the 8th, at which time there appears to have been a removal of the official intervention which has hitherto been successful in keeping the rate at about 85 or a little better. On the 9th the bomb cast by the civil servants into the middle of the Budget estimates by demanding a scale of salaries which would have added £20,000,000 to the Budget deficit, shattered the rate still further to 87.10-87.20. This weakness continued to-day (10th), when it opened at 87.50. At the moment of writing it stands at 87.60. The Brussels rate followed Paris in rising from 92.35 to 94.30 yesterday and 94.60 to-day (10th), but here the weakness is not so marked. The lira developed unexpected weakness, the rate rising from 101.05 on the 6th to 103.45 on the 9th, and 103.50 to-day (10th); a reflection, probably, of further internal political uncertainty, of which little or no evidence has as yet reached this country. The peseta has regained firmness and comparative stability with the continued improvement in the military situation in Morocco, and stood at 33.45 or thereabouts, with little fluctuation, during the week. For some time past Switzerland has maintained a rate with a tendency to harden against this country, at a time when the movement is usually in the other direction, and this has been the cause of considerable inquiry and remark. It is now suggested that it is due to official efforts to bring the Swiss franc back to gold parity with the dollar; an interesting suggestion which, however, requires more time before it can be accepted as entirely meeting the case. Lisbon, after a long period of stagnation at about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$, hardened against the £, the rate moving on the 8th to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2, and to-day to 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$, it is said owing to a combination of currency shortage at the end of the harvest and large exports of silver, together with increases and additions to the Government stamp duties. None of the other Continental exchanges call for much remark. Berlin is unchanged at 18.8 billions, Copenhagen rather weak at 25.50, and Christiania also weaker at 31.25. Riga, Reval, and Warsaw remained without movement; the Stockholm rate went a little worse to 16.80-16.85, and Bucharest improved from 850 to 825 during the week. All the South American exchanges improved, with the exception of Valparaiso, which remained unchanged; Rio from 6d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Monte Video from 47d to 48d-48 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Excepting Japan, the Eastern exchanges were all steady to strong, Hong Kong advancing from 2s 5d to 2s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Shanghai from 3s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d-3s 6d. Singapore was 1s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, with the advance in silver and on large sales of Indian cotton to Japan and elsewhere. These latter, it is said, on the other hand, were the cause of the weakness of the yen, which declined from 1s 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d during the week. Silver prices reached the highest levels of the year at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ d on the 7th, which is 2d above the highest quotation in 1923. Not only was there a

shortage of supply, but there was no speculative activity in the direction of selling. In addition to India and China, the Continent has been lately a buyer of silver on a large scale in the aggregate, largely owing to the movement to replace paper with metal currency, and high price levels seem likely to be maintained.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the four days ended October 4th:—

(000's omitted.)		£	
EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	5,600	From Revenue	12,304
Interest, &c., on Debt	21,685	Amount borrowed	12,466
Sinking Fund	150	Decrease in Exchequer balances	2,940
Sundries	275		
	27,710		27,710

Revenue for the four days ending October 4, 1924, was £12,304,000, as compared with £15,893,000 for six days ending October 6, 1923. Customs and Excise receipts were lower, at £1,254,000 and £865,000, against £2,528,000 and £1,294,000 respectively. The yield from Property and Income-tax was well maintained, at £5,050,000, against £5,807,000 for the longer period. Ordinary receipts were £492,000, against £389,000, but special receipts only brought in £81,000, against £954,000. The four days' operations increased the National Debt by £12,466,421, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		£	
	£		£
Public Department Advances	23,450	National War Bonds repaid	5,808
Bank of England Advances	10,500	National Savings Certificates	50
		Treasury Bills	15,559
		Sundries	67
	33,950		21,484

The floating debt was increased by £18,105,000 to £792,281,500.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to October 4).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	388,202,277	Raised by Revenue ..	360,813,154
		Decrease in Balances ..	4,035,296
		Amount borrowed ..	23,353,827
Total	388,202,277	Total	388,202,277

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE END OF THE GREAT EXPERIMENT.

THE first Labour Government has fallen, and Mr MacDonald has chosen an immediate appeal to the country. He could, as we suggested last week, have found a way of surmounting Wednesday's crisis. Had it not been for the looming of defeat on the Russian question so closely ahead, we can hardly believe that he would have put Party so far before Country as to prefer a general election to the institution of an inquiry, whether Parliamentary or judicial, into an affair which has aroused an uneasiness, by no means confined, as Mr MacDonald affects to think, to party politicians or the stunt Press. But, seeing no way out of the deadlock on the Russian question, and therefore assuming an autumn election to be inevitable, the Premier may well have felt the advantages of an immediate election to have outweighed those of postponement. On national grounds, when an election is once seen to be approaching, there is something to be said for getting it over quickly and thereby shortening the period of uncertainty which clogs the wheels of business; Mr MacDonald has decided on the earliest possible date, namely, Wednesday, October 29th, and thereby avoids collision with the Municipal Elections which are due to be held on November 1st. On the lower ground of tactics Mr MacDonald's decision can be

readily understood. A climb down on the withdrawn prosecution issue followed by three weeks of waiting for execution would not have been an inspiring prelude to an appeal to the country; while a firm stand on the prosecution issue was calculated to instil the fighting spirit into the advanced section of his followers. Wednesday's debate and the passing of the Liberal amendment demanding an inquiry by a majority of 166 were really an anti-climax. For the previous day at the Labour Party Conference the Premier had definitely burnt his boats by delivering a defiant and fighting speech, which clearly showed his determination to select the Campbell prosecution issue as the occasion of his defeat. The die was cast, the guns of the section in the Cabinet which favoured accommodation spiked in advance, and the door banged before Mr Asquith's eminently reasonable offer to accept any form of satisfactory inquiry and to forego Liberal representation on the inquiry body.

In his address to the Party Conference on Tuesday the Premier endeavoured to throw upon the opposition parties the responsibility for the coming election. In our view he entirely failed to shift the responsibility from his own shoulders. As regards the actual crisis itself the country may not be disposed to attribute the entire blame to the Government. But to judge the question of responsibility we have to look back over the whole Parliamentary stage of the past eight months. When Mr MacDonald entered upon his "high adventure" last February his initial speeches appeared to reveal a thorough perception of all the implications of the experiment of a Minority Government under the three party system. But the promises of his early speeches were never fulfilled. The experiment could only have succeeded to the full if the Parliamentary machine had been worked with skill, foresight and tact. When Mr MacDonald took office he had before him a wide field of scarcely controversial effort open to him to explore. From the start he received, as he himself admitted, an exceptionally large measure of forbearance and fair play from opponents both in the Press and in the House. There was a general determination to give him and his Government every reasonable chance to make good use of a unique, if restricted, opportunity for service. If those who manage the Party's affairs in the House had chosen to follow the obvious path of consultation and contact with the Liberal Party, they could have built upon this foundation of goodwill a stable position, which would possibly have lasted for several years. But from the early days the task of contact and consultation—unpalatable, perhaps, but essential for any Minority Government—was conspicuously neglected; and the neglect which became more and more conspicuous as the last session advanced, meant clearly that it could only be a matter of months before the Government rushed upon an unnecessary defeat. This is the underlying cause of the present crisis. We do not blame Mr MacDonald, whose dual burden as Premier and Foreign Minister compelled him to leave to his lieutenants the conduct and leadership of the House of Commons. In this his lieutenants, especially Mr Clynes, failed him sadly. Thanks to their failure the new experiment has for months past been heading straight for the rocks. If all the implications of Minority Government had been accepted by those responsible for the handling of the position in the House of Commons, Wednesday's crisis would never have occurred, nor, we believe, would the Government have steered blindly to disaster on the Russian issue.

We shall not know until the ballot boxes are opened whether Mr MacDonald has served his party well by preferring dissolution to resignation. But from the broader viewpoint of national interest there is a great deal to be said against his decision. The three party system, under which no single party has an independent majority, has, we believe, come to stay. We shall in all probability have a series of Minority Governments. This system has its obvious disadvantages, but it is in our view greatly preferable to the alternative of insincere coalition. Moreover, the system is capable of being worked successfully. But it cannot achieve success if the country is to be plunged into a general election at frequent intervals. The present House of Commons is comparatively fresh from the Constituencies, and may be taken roughly to represent their present wishes. For no new issue of first magnitude has

arisen. If, then, one party fails to carry on the Government, there is much to be said for the view that at least one of the other parties—particularly the largest party in the House of Commons—should be allowed the opportunity of trying its hand before resort is had to the arbitrament of the polling booth. We think, therefore, that, while the main responsibility for the Government's fall rests upon the Government itself, Mr MacDonald's decision to appeal to the country is open to serious question.

We hold no brief for the Labour Government and are counted among the most hostile critics of some of its views. But we regret both the occasion and the date of its fall. Favoured, no doubt, with a good fortune that was denied to his predecessors, but with a persistence and vision for which he is entitled to the thanks of the country, Mr MacDonald has achieved the great goal of a Reparations Settlement, and has furthered the cause of world peace. He has brought us to a stage at which the world looked to him with confidence for further signal service. In the electoral struggle these successes will be weighed in the balance against the failure to make headway in the great domestic problems, concerning which his promises at the last election were so far-reaching. We cannot pretend to forecast the verdict. But we do consider that, by his mistaken method in regard to the Russian question, and through the Parliamentary failure of his colleagues, he has thrown away a unique opportunity for continued public service within the limits of sane and safe progress dictated by the numerical position at Westminster. He now appeals to the country to remove those limitations and restore him to power independent and unfettered. That is an entirely different proposition, and we believe that the country in its wisdom will refuse to grant him his request.

There are other causes for regret at this premature election. Once again the contest has come upon us before Parliament has instituted a system of voting designed to make the House of Commons an accurate picture of the people's will. The continued failure to effect electoral reform in this direction is a growing menace to the prestige of the Parliamentary system. For the omission the Liberal Party must share the blame, for had it been able to achieve unanimity in its own ranks on a more equitable voting system, it could surely have found opportunity to secure that the change would have reached the statute book. But of infinitely greater importance are the possible consequences of an electoral campaign on the position in Europe and in Ireland. Happily, the passage of the Boundary Bill has been assured. But the fall of the Government that passed it will be powder and shot to the enemies of Irish peace. Then, again, there is a fear that the political crisis here will lend wings to the suspicion which, thanks to the deplorable efforts of certain British newspapers and publicists, has gained wide currency on the Continent, and especially in Central Europe, namely, that Great Britain dislikes the Dawes Scheme and will put obstacles in the way of its fulfilment. We trust that the leaders of all parties will go out of their way to emphasise with all their strength that this country, whatever Government may be in power, will honour the London Agreement both in the letter and in the spirit, and will bend its utmost endeavours towards making a success of the new régime in Europe.

PROTECTION—A CHANGE OF TACTICS.

AFTER having gone to the country a year ago on the direct issue of a general protective tariff, and come down heavily, Mr Baldwin is not anxious to supply Liberal and Labour opponents with the destructive ammunition which was used against him last November. But he is compelled by what are called party exigencies to give the Protectionists something. One cannot flourish a protective tariff before the country one year as a certain cure for unemployment, and, less than twelve months afterwards, confess that the remedy may be worse than the disease. So if it were only to save the face of himself and his followers, Mr Baldwin would be obliged to remain a professed believer in Protection. He is per-

sonally more than this; he is a convinced believer, and so are many among his principal supporters. But after the lesson of his defeat he sees the folly of any more frontal attacks on Free Trade as the fiscal policy best suited to the conditions of Great Britain. The attacks will go on, but, as in the late war, the tactics will be changed. Instead of bombardments and assaults, we are to have the infiltration of prepared positions. There is nothing new about infiltration as applied to fiscal policy. The retention of the McKenna duties after the war, the Safeguarding of Industries Act, with its key industries, its tariffs against countries with collapsed exchanges, and its provisions against "dumping," were measures of infiltration. So was the proposed extension of Imperial Preference agreed to by the late Government at last year's Conference. Mr Baldwin's rash blunder of a general tariff has by now lost much of the ground taken by the Protectionists in the previous six years, but he and his party are not downhearted; they are going to try again on the lines which yielded their earlier successes. A general tariff will not be a direct issue in the Election of next month, but we shall get again tariff infiltration should Mr Baldwin and his men return to power after Christmas.

He is, fortunately, a plain, blunt man who says what he means and means what he says. And this is what he said at Newcastle recently. "I want to repeat what I have said on several occasions, that at this forthcoming Election the general tariff is no part of our programme. We do not stand for it, but we hold ourselves at liberty to safeguard any efficient industry in which unemployment may be caused by unfair competition of any kind, to safeguard that industry by such a measure of safeguarding as, after careful study and consideration, may seem to us the most effective instrument for that purpose. That has all along been our policy since I declared it last January. It is a policy to which most people, irrespective of party, in this country would to-day give their assent. It is the policy for which we stand, and it is an essential policy, having regard to the fact that we support the findings of the Dawes Report, the Commission which we ourselves called into being, and, indeed, to support the Dawes Report, and not be prepared to take those steps that I have indicated would be an act of lunacy." Nothing could be clearer than that. The general tariff is in suspense—for the Election of this year and the Parliament which results from it, though not necessarily for any longer period. But the policy of the so-called Safeguarding of Industries Act is to continue in force, and in the words of one of Mr Baldwin's supporters, "is to be speeded up and made more productive of tariff results." If the Conservatives or Unionists, or whatever party label is now correct to describe Mr Baldwin's followers, come back as a possible Government, we shall see again intensified the scramble for the protection of interests, and the wire-pulling in Government Departments, which such a policy involves.

They will still have the Safeguarding of Industries Act in being as a foundation upon which they can construct their new and "effective instrument" for saddling this country with protective tariffs. Many people think that this Act is dead. That is not so. One portion of it, the temporary changes allowing orders to be made against goods coming from countries with collapsed exchanges, was allowed by the present Government to expire last August. But all the rest of the Act remains: Part. I., with its enormous list of Key Industries, and its duties of 33½ per cent., remains in force for two years longer; and the dumping clauses remain as permanent legislation, though no orders have yet been made under them. If there should be an anti-Socialist reaction strong enough to put the Conservative-Unionists, together with Constitutionalists like Mr Churchill, in power once more, enough of the Act is left to serve as a basis for their protectionist operations.

One curious feature about the mentality of Protectionists, as typified by Mr Baldwin, is their eclecticism. They seem positively to dislike trade with many European countries. Mr Baldwin at Newcastle cheerfully handed over Russia as a field of trade—for what that country may be worth—to Germany as Russia's "natural exploiter." And he produced once more the strange theory

that our "natural markets" are anywhere except in Europe. He allows this quality of naturalness to the Dominions, South America, and the East, though why the Latins of South America and the Mongols of China should be "natural" customers of ours rather than the Latins of Europe, the Scandinavians, or the Slavs, has never been explained. It has again and again been pointed out—and we repeat it now—that Europe still buys a third of our exports, as large a proportion as Europe bought before the war. The percentages were 33.7 in 1923, as against 34 in 1913. We buy from Europe one-third of our imports, as compared with 40.2 per cent. before the war. The whole of the dominions, including India, take very slightly more from us than a crippled Europe still takes, and the proportion of our trade with the Empire is actually less than it was ten years ago, in spite of the alleged benefits of preference. Mr Baldwin's "natural markets" of South America and the East are taking now, and took before the war, about half of what Europe takes. All his "natural markets" put together bought last year just 52.31 per cent. of our exports (as compared with 55.3 per cent. in 1913), and sold to us 41.5 per cent. of our imports (as compared with 37 per cent. in 1913). If it was not for the purchases of despised Europe, "unnatural" though its conduct may be, our toll of unemployed in the staple industries would be at least twice the present lamentable figures. The whole theory of natural and unnatural markets is, of course, nonsense, and has no existence in the minds of practical men of business.

MONETARY IMPROVEMENT IN EUROPE.

"For the majority of countries given, the years 1922 and 1923 have been a period of price stabilisation." So says a League of Nations Memorandum on "Currency, 1913-1923," lately issued from Geneva, at the price of 10s. It has been drawn up on the same lines as that published last year, with the important addition of a series of notes concerning the methods by which the various index numbers are compiled. It is well and clearly written, and it is, like its predecessor, stuffed with a banquet of facts and figures such as should gorge the appetite of the most voracious student of statistics. It deals with currency, circulation, prices, exchanges, &c., for all the world, from China to Peru, incidentally mentioning that the currency of Salvador was put on to a gold basis in 1919, and that Venezuela, "where even during the war gold never went completely out of circulation," quoted its exchange at a premium in November last. But it is the improvement in afflicted Europe that naturally compels most attention, especially from the point of view of those who hope that this improvement may be greatly assisted and furthered by the political settlement that has lately been achieved, as far as the agreements of statesmen can secure it.

In the matter of price stabilisation, then, it is gratifying to find that 1923 has repeated the record of its predecessor. But though this is the general conclusion, it appears that there has been a good deal of difference in the aims which the various countries have pursued. "In Austria, Danzig, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, and Latvia, after the application of the new monetary law in 1922, though not in 1921, and also in Esthonia, a policy of exchange rather than of price stabilisation has been pursued. Attention has been concentrated rather on the external than the internal purchasing power of money. The policy of those countries, on the other hand, whose exchanges are in measurable distance of parity, whose price indices range, for instance, between 160 per cent. and 185 per cent., has not been so clear. They were not faced, however, with the necessity of choosing between the alternatives of either allowing their exchanges to improve and maintaining stable prices, or allowing prices to rise up to the level of the outside world, as fixed by a constant exchange rate. They had reached, that is, the stage at which constancy in the one was likely to be accompanied by constancy in the other factor." The mere reaching of this stage, and staying in it, is surely a considerable achieve-

ment, in view of the political instability and apprehensions that have marked the period. The Memorandum admits, with admirable candour, that the division into years is not altogether satisfactory, since the years do not coincide with the periods in which boom, slump, and quiescence in prices occurred. But after entering all these cautions and caveats, the improved stability of prices in the past two years remains a very striking fact. "In China, Finland, Italy, Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America the average deviation in 1923 was less than 2 per cent.; while in Canada, Denmark, India, New Zealand, Spain, and South Africa it was less than 2 per cent. in both 1923 and the previous year. Particularly important to the world in general has been the marked stability of prices in the United States, in spite of their ever-increasing stocks of gold." Certainly it was most important, but many people in the countries which are struggling to restore their currencies to parity with America's believe that their task would have been a good deal easier if the policy of the Federal Reserve Board, in sterilising the continued additions to America's gold store had not been quite so successful. One consequence has been that, in spite of the reduction in price fluctuations, there has been a tendency for the discrepancy between the American index and those of other countries to increase—to take our own example, there was, at the end of 1922, no discrepancy between our index number and America's; but at December, 1923, owing to the slight upward reaction here, there was a discrepancy of 8 per cent. The high ideal set up and acted on by the United States has thus made the task of recovery to par rather more difficult for her poorer neighbours, whose monetary policy is complicated by unemployment problems.

As was to be expected, this stabilisation of prices is attributed, as a matter of course, by the League of Nations Memorandum to the stabilisation of monetary conditions. A table showing the note circulation, as a percentage of the circulation of 1919, brings out the important fact that in the great majority of countries both inflation and deflation of the note circulation had ceased by 1923. Moreover, "of the 34 countries given, only in Russia, Germany, Portugal, and Greece were the banks of issue being directly used during this year for the purposes of covering Governmental deficits. To these four should be added Hungary and Poland" (which figure in a different table), but "of these six countries all except Portugal and Greece have by now (April, 1924) taken definite measures to render the note issue independent of the Government finances." Thus it seems that history has justified the faith of those who preached the simple and commonplace, but persistently ignored doctrine, that if only Governments would learn to balance their Budgets, or finance deficits by real loans raised from investors, and forswear the use of the printing press, currency matters would soon be on the mend. It used to be argued that when once a country was involved in the vicious circle, such reform was impossible. But, in fact, when the vicious circle has whirled round long enough, it compels reform by ceasing to provide the delusive benefit that led to its introduction. As the Memorandum says, "the growing distaste for a currency the possession of which entails an inevitable loss to the holder, rendered it increasingly difficult for the (German) Government to cover its deficits by the printing press..... The conditions obtaining in Germany in the autumn of 1923 thus rendered a currency reform inevitable, because it had become almost impossible to find anyone on whom to impose the tax which inflation entails."

When we turn to the section of the Memorandum that deals with exchange, we find that there was a very general tendency for European exchanges to deteriorate during the year 1923, "and indeed, with the single exception of Latvia, in no case was the December average for this year above that for 1922." This apparent decline, however, is to a certain extent deceptive, arising merely because December averages only are taken, and because the dollar happened to have appreciated temporarily at the end of 1923. In the case of sterling, it will be remembered that we were suffering in England from a "flight from the pound" on a quite considerable scale, owing to an indiscreet utterance by a member of the Government about a policy of

inflation for the relief of unemployment, followed by political crisis and fears as to what might happen if the Labour Party came into office. In spite of these accidents, however, the annual averages for 1923 are still reassuring, for they show that in the case of many important countries—including Sweden, Holland, England, Czechoslovakia, and Finland—the mean exchanges for 1923 were closer to parity than during 1922.

A very interesting and important point is brought out by the Memorandum's section on gold—namely, the increasing preference shown by many countries for interest-bearing foreign assets as cover for note issue rather than gold. Thus, Siam has, since 1917, gradually converted the whole of its exchange reserve into readily realisable assets. India has directed her policy towards holding the gold standard reserve almost exclusively in the form of sterling securities; and "the statutes of all the new central banks in all countries in which a currency reform has lately been carried out treat gold and liquid foreign assets as of equal value as cover for notes..... This growing preference for interest-bearing assets over gold..... constitutes, without doubt, one of the most important of monetary tendencies at a time when the international distribution of gold is continually becoming more and more unequal." Perhaps the Memorandum slightly exaggerates the importance of the countries which have allowed their monetary policy to be dominated by this tendency; but it is evidently very prevalent, and must cause some heart-searchings in the United States, whose reserves "at the end of 1923 exceeded the total domestic stocks in Europe by almost 45 per cent., and amounted to nearly one-half of the total gold reserves of the world, exclusive of foreign holdings, which are largely double-counted."

WAGES IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE terms of settlement of the recent dispute in the building industry provide for the stabilisation of rates of wages for a period of nearly eighteen months. It is opportune, therefore, to examine the present position of wages in the industry, with reference to the changes which have occurred during the last ten years. Under the existing system rates of wages are fixed on a national basis, the various towns and districts in Great Britain, so far as they are covered by the organisations of employers and operatives, being allocated to certain grades. For each grade uniform rates of wages for skilled men and labourers respectively have been fixed by the National Wages and Conditions Council. This grading scheme provides for sixteen grades outside London, with intervals of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per hour in the case of craftsmen, between the rates. To several of the grades, however, more particularly those for which the lowest rates have been fixed, no towns are at present allocated. The number of towns in each grade, according to information published by the Ministry of Labour, is as follows, the rates of wages shown in brackets being those for craftsmen and labourers respectively:—

Grade A (20d, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	185	Grade B 1 (17 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	77
" A 1 (19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	1	" B 2 (17d, 13d)	40
" A 2 (19 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	24	" B 3 (16 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	80
" A 3 (18 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 14d)	61	" C 1 (16d, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	17
" B (18 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	21	" C 2 (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d)	5

The weighted average of the rates fixed under this scheme is 18.4d per hour, equivalent to 71s 3d per week on the basis of a 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour week in the case of craftsmen, and 14.0d per hour, or 54s 3d per week in the case of labourers. The latter rate, it will be seen, is about 76 per cent. of that applicable to the skilled workers. The average of the hourly rates at the end of 1920, when wages were at their highest level, was 25.8d per hour in the case of craftsmen, and 22.7d per hour in the case of labourers, the latter being 88 per cent. of the skilled men's rate. A comparison of these figures with those relating to the present date does not, however, tell the

full story of the movement in wages. During the period of falling wages, from 1921 to 1923, the operatives in the lower-paid districts succeeded in a very marked degree in improving their position relatively to those in the higher-paid towns. At December, 1920, the national grading scheme had not been adopted, but the various towns had been allocated by the Area Joint Councils to grades which corresponded with those subsequently adopted by the National Council. The following table, which relates to about 500 towns, shows in a striking way the extent to which the position of the lower-paid towns has improved since the end of 1920:—

Grade.	Percentage of Towns in Each Grade.		Grade.	Percentage of Towns in Each Grade.	
	Dec., 1920.	Sept., 1924.		Dec., 1920.	Sept., 1924.
A	40	36	B2	2	8
A1	..	..	B3	..	16
A2	..	5	C	15	..
A3	19	12	C1	..	3
B	..	4	C2	17	1
B1	..	15	C3	7	..

It will be seen that, although a small proportion of the grade A towns have been de-graded, there has been a considerable up-grading in the case of towns formerly graded C to C 3.

On the other hand, it will be noticed that the average rate of wages of unskilled labourers has been reduced since 1920 from 88 per cent. of the average for skilled men to 76 per cent. As a result of the successive increases in wages during the war period the ratio of the rates for the two classes had departed considerably from the normal, and it was obvious that steps should be taken to restore the position. This was accomplished by arranging reductions in wages in 1921 of greater amounts for labourers than for the craftsmen.

Turning now to a comparison between present rates of wages and those prevailing in 1914, we find a considerable development in the levelling up of the rates in different towns and between different classes of skilled workers. On the latter point it may be remarked that before the war rates of wages were usually fixed independently for the various occupations in a town, and it was rarely found that all the skilled workers received the same rate, whereas to-day no distinction is made, in the great majority of towns, between the different occupations. Information is not available for the whole of the 500 towns for 1914; but an analysis of the rates in about half that number produces the following result:—

Bricklayers.		Painters.		Labourers.	
Rate.	Percentage of Towns.	Rate.	Percentage of Towns.	Rate.	Percentage of Towns.
d		d		d	
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	18
10	11	9	16	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	6	19
9	18	8	19	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	5	9
8	12	7	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	4	12
7	6	Other	11		
Other	7				

The rates of wages prevailing in the same towns at September, 1924, are as follows:—

Percentage of Towns.		Rates of Wages		Labourers.	
		Bricklayers and Painters.			
55	20	d		d	
13	18 $\frac{1}{2}$			15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
15	14			14	
17	17 $\frac{1}{2}$			13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		Other		Other	

These figures indicate clearly the extent of the levelling up of the rates between different towns, and, by way of example, between two skilled occupations.

The average rates of wages for the 250 towns in 1914 were 8.9d, 8.0d, and 6.1d in the case of bricklayers, painters and labourers respectively. For the same towns the averages for September, 1924, are 19.0d, 19.0d, and 14.5d, showing increases of 113, 138, and 138 per cent. It should be noted, however, that the increases in hourly rates between 1914 and 1924 included certain advances

granted in order to maintain weekly wages at a uniform level after reductions in hours of labour, and that the percentage increases in weekly full-time rates of wages would be appreciably lower than those in hourly rates.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

AMONG the political experts of the United States the general conclusion at the present time is that only President Coolidge has a chance of obtaining a clear majority of the 531 votes available in the Electoral College. But Mr Clinton Gilbert, an experienced appraiser of political situations, and a Republican in his sympathies, writing recently in the *New York Evening Post*, would only claim as certain for Coolidge 295 votes, and Senator Simeon Fess, of Ohio, also a Republican, keeps his estimate at the modest total of 247. Even Mr Gilbert's estimate leaves a perilously small margin for the Republicans, and impartial authorities reckon that Davis and La Follette between them cannot possibly fail to secure less than 266 votes. Davis is certain of 160 votes from the States of the "Solid South," and now that Governor "Al" Smith has agreed to run again for his present office, he is likely to bring the 47 votes of the State of New York to the Democrats, which, without any other gains, would give them a total of 207 votes. Senator La Follette is conceded Wisconsin, Minnesota, the two Dakotas, and Montana, making a total of 39 votes, and his chances of at least doubling that number from other States like Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas are excellent. In any event, it seems unthinkable that between them Davis and La Follette can secure 20 votes over and above those conceded to them, which would make a majority for Coolidge impossible.

Under such circumstances the absorbing speculation in American political circles is what will happen when the Electoral College finds itself unable to deliver a President to the American people. Twice before in American history such a contingency has developed. In 1800 Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received an equal number of votes in the Electoral College, and the terms of the original Constitution threw the election to the House of Representatives. In it the Federalist party, under the guidance of Alexander Hamilton, whose feud with Burr culminated in a duel and his own death, gave their votes to Jefferson and ensured his election, Burr becoming Vice-President. But this contest revealed some flaws in this part of the Constitution, and in 1803 the twelfth amendment, which now regulates the procedure, was adopted. It retains the original scheme for the choice of a President by the Electoral College, but it also provides that if no person secures a clear majority of the College "then from the persons having the highest number, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President, whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President shall be the Vice-President if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States."

The new alternative plan was tested out for the first and only time exactly 100 years ago in the election of

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

Affiliated Abroad
Westminster Foreign Bank Limited
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp
Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or Agents in all the principal cities and towns of the United Kingdom and has correspondents throughout the World

Head Office: 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C. 2

1824. General Andrew Jackson, popularly known as "Old Hickory," got a plurality of the popular vote, but neither he nor his three competitors, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and W. H. Crawford, secured a majority of the votes in the College. The election then went to the House of Representatives, and there Clay, who was Speaker, induced his followers to support Adams, with the result that the latter, receiving the votes of 13 States as against Jackson's 7 and Crawford's 4, was elected. Clay became Secretary of State in Adams' Cabinet, but the transaction damaged his prestige, and is generally alleged as one of the chief reasons why the ablest American politician of his generation failed to reach the White House.

The operative results of the 12th Amendment can thus be summarised:—1. If the Electoral College fails to give any result, the word "immediately" in the amendment decrees that the choice must devolve upon the present House of Representatives, not the one to be elected in November. 2. The balloting in the House will be by States, each State having a single, and States which cannot give a majority to one candidate because their representation is equally divided will be unable to vote. 3. A majority of all the States, namely, 25, will be required for a choice. 4. If the House has not made a selection by March 4th, any Vice-President chosen by the Electoral College will automatically become President, and if none has been chosen, the Senate must select one.

Now, Congress does not meet till February 10th, and it will have at its disposal only 22 days to provide the country with a President, for he must be inaugurated on March 4th, or the whole machinery of the Government of the Republic will be thrown into confusion. It will be a hectic three weeks of intrigue and manœuvre, but several known factors govern the situation, and make some forecast of the outcome possible. The House must choose between the three highest candidates according to the original election returns, and these will undoubtedly be Coolidge, Davis, and La Follette. La Follette has no chance in the present House, for he can only command the votes of two States, Wisconsin and North Dakota, and is not definitely certain of the latter. Then five States will have their vote sterilised because their delegations contain an equal number of Republican and Democratic members. Forty-one States will, therefore, be left to determine the result, and of their delegations, 21 contain a Republican and 20 a Democratic majority. Coolidge would, therefore, be 4 votes short of a clear majority, and Davis 5; and even if La Follette threw to either of them his 2 votes, a majority would not be available.

Meanwhile the Senate, with its present personnel, would be trying for the first time in its history to elect a Vice-President. On the assumption that a Republican vacancy now existing is filled by a Republican, the political colour of the present Senate shows 46 Republicans, 42 Demo-

crats, and eight followers of Senator La Follette, including the two Farmer-Labourites. Here, again, both the old parties fall short of a clear majority, and the situation may well be at the mercy of La Follette and his supporters. The choice is restricted to the two highest candidates for the Vice-Presidency shown by the College, and it is reasonably certain that General Dawes (Republican) and Governor Bryan (Democrat) will remain in the field.

Now it is almost unthinkable that the Progressive group will vote for General Dawes, who has been turning his chief batteries against them and assailing them as Socialists, "Reds," and destroyers of the sacred Constitution. He could only be elected if a group of Conservative Democrats like Senator Bruce of Maryland, who dislike the name of Bryan and all it signifies, were to support him. But the chances of electing Governor Bryan, if the choice came to the Senate, would be so good that no Democrat would dare to contemplate such treachery to his party as making a gratuitous gift of the Presidency to the Republicans. Governor Bryan, like his more celebrated brother, William Jennings Bryan, has always been more or less of a Radical. He has given Nebraska very progressive government, has many points of contact and sympathy with La Follette and his followers, and, being a Westerner, is familiar with the problems in whose solutions they are specially interested. Despite his skull-cap and other eccentricities, he is a shrewd and capable politician, who has hitherto been overshadowed by his brother; but the Progressives in the Senate would find little difficulty in voting for him and justifying their course to their constituents. Indeed, Senator La Follette would think it a mighty jest to put, after all these years, a Bryan in the White House, with William Jennings—the *bête-noire* of the "big business" interests of the East, at his elbow. The Progressives must vote for somebody, or there would be no President when March 4th arrived, and chaos would ensue till the Supreme Court had given a decision authorising Congress to pass a law saying who should be temporary President until a new election could be held. If, therefore, the election goes to Congress, Governor Bryan is rated the highest to-day, and Republican papers are already alleging that the Progressives have concluded a secret bargain to put him in the White House, with a guarantee that he will choose a Radical Cabinet and pursue Radical courses. The banking and industrial interests will strain every nerve to avert such a result, so calamitous in their eyes, and the suggestion is being hazarded that if the election goes to Congress, and a deadlock is threatened in the House of Representatives, powerful pressure will be exercised upon the Republican leaders to allow a Republican member from each of the "sterilised" States to abstain from voting. Such action would give five additional States to the Democrats, and bring to the White House Mr Davis, in whose conservatism and general friendliness Wall Street and its allies have complete confidence. But the result of such a manoeuvre, exposing as it would the cynicism and similarity of outlook of the two old parties, would give a tremendous impetus to the Progressive movement, and probably ensure its immediate organisation upon a permanent basis.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE House of Commons had matters on its Agenda last Wednesday of greater popular interest than the answer of the President of the Board of Trade to an inquiry respecting the price of wheat. None the less, the pronouncement of Mr Sidney Webb merits the most careful consideration. The Northern Hemisphere, in his opinion, had a bare sufficiency of wheat, but last year at this time it had a superfluity. Prices to-day, therefore, were not abnormally dear so much as those of a year ago had been abnormally cheap.

Reference to actual figures go far to justify the President of the Board of Trade, whose intellectual integrity forbade a facile depreciation of the recent rise in prices as unfortunate or uncalled for. The precise price of

wheat in the pre-war year was rather under than over 8s per cwt, and a year ago it stood at 10s, when the cost of living showed an index number of 175. Eight to ten being as 100 to 125, the price of wheat was, on the face of it, far lower than the general situation justified. That this view was the true one was shown by the heavy fall, 235,000 acres, in the home wheat acreage for 1924. The main factor was the Canadian crop. The great overseas producers of wheat always have a far greater margin of possibilities than the older, settled lands. English farmers would go out of business if they reaped only 20 bushels to the acre, but when the Canadian harvest attained that standard the world wondered. It was four bushels above the average, and this on 22 million acres was 88,000,000 bushels. Every bushel of this was surplus wheat, and by this date last year it was waiting, eagerly soliciting, buyers at Mark Lane and elsewhere. To-day the general index number, 175, would mean wheat at 14s per cwt, and that in September was the price.

What has happened since Michaelmas is that wheat, while making only 12s for English new crop (which is out of condition through the damp weather), commands 16s for good dry foreign, and it is this rise of fine Canadian, good Australian, Argentine, and Indian which has been adduced by Mr Webb.

The attention of the public has been more immediately directed to the price of flour, which has been advanced to 26s 6d per bag, the price a year ago being 19s only at this date. Millers are described as "crying out before they are hurt"; more accurately, they might be said to be acting as though all their wheat were costing them 16s per cwt, which is not the case. The present official straight-run flour, by no means a top grade, contains at most 25 per cent. of this dearest wheat; its quota of English costs only 12s to 13s per cwt. This latter needs conditioning, but expenditure on that process is not heavy. Every mill, more or less, has its conditioning appliances and arrangements. The cost of the wheat does not, it may fairly be said, of itself justify the present charge for flour. The millers' defence lies in another direction.

The cause of flour rising 1s 6d per bag, a serious increase, on October 8th was the publication, on the 6th, of the stock returns for London. These are ascertained quarterly, and the returns collected on October 1st, representing stocks to meet the early winter, are especially important. Only 25,000 quarters of wheat were disclosed, or just one-fourth of a reasonable reserve, one-eighth or tenth only of what, with forty-seven million people to feed, a really prudent administration might be expected, were it a State affair, to keep in hand. It is, however, "no concern" of the Government in this country; on the importing firms of London, therefore, the burden of replenishing the granaries must fall. That they would rise to the occasion nobody, happily, doubted, but that they would charge well for their enterprise few doubted either. The millers have put up flour 1s 6d per bag at a bound, because they foresee having to pay in November and December at least 1s 6d per cwt more for that portion of their wheat coming from overseas. And the new English will at least cost the extra sum involved in conditioning.

Is the new price of wheat, which means a 10½d loaf, likely to last? The President of the Board of Trade was careful. He pointed out that he was only prepared to speak of wheat in the Northern Hemisphere. The harvests of the Southern Hemisphere begin to be reaped in the first week of December in Queensland and the Corrientes (Northern Argentina), and conclude in the last week of January in New Zealand and the Valdivia district of Chile. Both Australasia and South America have remarkably settled harvest weather, and by Christmas the markets know what the Southern Hemisphere has in the way of surplus. The present promise is high. Australasia should have ten million cwt more wheat to ship in 1925 than in 1924, and South America should have fifteen millions more. Both regions report an increased wheat acreage, and this, of course, greatly increases the probability of increased output. November and early December are, however, critical periods in both producing areas, answering to our June and early July, but the main danger—in contrast with ours, which is rain and lack of heat—is that of heat

and drought. Not for many years have the prospects of Antipodean harvests had their present importance. Speculation is already afoot; new crop Argentine wheat for January shipment has been offered at 14s 6d, and 14s has been paid; new crop Australian, also for January shipment, has been offered at 15s 6d, and 15s per cwt has been paid. The first will be here in later February, the second should arrive before the close of March. It is these new crops which will fix the price of bread in Great Britain for the earlier half of 1925; at present the outlook is for their fixing it a little in buyers' favour as compared with 10½d as a price for November and December.

Notes of the Week.

Ireland and the Political Crisis.—Although the threats to the life of the Labour Government have been interpreted by enemies of Irish peace as deliberate attempts to find a way out of implementing the Treaty of 1921, our prophecy of last week, that whatever course the crisis might take, the passage of the Irish Bill to the Statute Book was assured, has proved to be justified. The House of Lords has passed the Bill without amendment (though with criticism), and the Royal Assent was given on Thursday. The debates in the Upper House produced one surprise. Lord Grey appeared in the unexpected rôle of a champion of Ulster's plea, that the Bill to set up a Boundary Commission constitutes a breach of pledges given to Northern Ireland—a breach comparable to that which would be committed if our obligations to the Free State under the Treaty were not implemented. While sharing to the full in the general regret at the necessity for this week's legislation, we have previously stated our view that, while the new Bill completely fulfils our obligations to the Free State both in the letter and the spirit, it does not represent a breach of faith with Ulster. We may admire Lord Grey for so frankly stating the opposite opinion, for that opinion, incidentally, runs counter to those of his political party; but we find nothing convincing in his arguments. But if Lord Grey surprises us with this opinion, he surprises us doubly with the thesis that he builds upon it. He thinks "there is much to be said for the course" of saying to the Free State:—"We are very sorry, but we cannot fulfil our obligation to you." Lord Grey faces the consequences, and frankly avows that he is not afraid of them. "I do not see," he remarked, "what we have to lose with the Free State being a Republic." Lord Grey, we cannot doubt, is as eager for an Irish settlement as anyone, and he sees that that can only come through an agreement between Irishmen themselves. But does he really think that such agreement will be brought nearer by a British policy that would set Mr de Valera in the saddle? That would be the first result if Lord Grey's advice were to be taken, and we fear, as it is, that these views, expressed with the weight which all utterances of this statesman carry, will afford substantial encouragement and assistance to the extremist factions, both of the North and of the South. In our view, Lord Grey's attitude towards the Boundary Bill is based on unsound foundations, while the policy which he advocates is strangely devoid of that quality of statesmanship for which he himself has deserved and achieved so great a reputation.

The Break-down of the Egyptian Conversations.—Zaghloul Pasha left England last Tuesday without making any announcement as to the result of his conversations with Mr MacDonald, but the information has been supplied in a despatch of the same date from Mr MacDonald to Lord Allenby, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, which has been published as a White Paper. On all the points reserved for discussion at the time when Great Britain withdrew her protectorate and recognised the independence of Egypt in 1922, the Egyptian Prime Minister appears to have shown himself completely intransigent. He has demanded the with-

drawal of all British forces from Egyptian territory; the withdrawal of the British financial and judicial advisers; the cessation of British control over Egyptian foreign policy; the abandonment of the British Government's claim to protect foreigners and minorities in Egypt; and the abandonment of its claim to share in any way in the protection of the Suez Canal. Mr MacDonald raised the question of the Canal straightaway, inasmuch as its security is of vital interest to the British Empire, both in peace and in war, and the break appears to have occurred over this question before that of the Sudan was discussed in detail. As regards the Canal, presumably, the *status quo* will automatically continue until some agreement is reached—that is, the British garrison will remain in its present strength and its present quarters in Egypt until some alternative method, satisfactory to both parties, has been found for the military protection of the Canal. It would be reasonable for the Egyptians to contend that this object, vital though it is to the British Empire, need not be, and ought not to be, secured by the cantonment of British troops in all and every part of a juridically independent country, and it is incumbent on the Committee of Imperial Defence to determine, in the light of the best technical advice, what is the narrowest zone to which the British garrison can be confined in Egypt without prejudice to the security of the Canal itself. We must make it clear that our anxiety for the protection of the Canal is genuine, and that it has no ulterior motive—that it is not, in fact, a pretext for keeping the Nile Valley under our military control. On this point, Mr MacDonald, in his despatch, has given the most positive assurances, and he rightly says that there is no reason why accommodation is impossible, given goodwill. Here we can rest on the *status quo* and leave it to time to bring the political leaders of Egypt into a more accommodating frame of mind. The *status quo* will not, however, continue automatically in the Sudan, for there the British and Egyptian Governments are not the only two parties. The most important party are the Sudanese, and the Egyptian officials and other residents in the country have now for some time been engaged in an organised attempt to make the *status quo* unworkable by undermining the loyalty of the Sudanese population towards the present régime. Mr MacDonald's reference to this situation is the gravest passage in his despatch. "His Majesty's Government," he writes, "have no desire to disturb existing arrangements, but they must point out how intolerable is a *status quo* which enables both military and civil officers and officials to conspire against civil order; and unless the *status quo* is accepted and loyally worked until such time as a new arrangement may be reached, the Sudan Government would fail in its duty were it to allow such conditions to continue." The Prime Minister seems to contemplate a situation in which the Sudan Government will be forced to suspend the condominium in practice, and to carry on with the services of British and Sudanese alone, and it is hard to believe that the Egyptians will be consulting their best national interests if they force this drastic remedy upon us. If once the Egyptian element is eliminated from the Sudan Administration at this stage, is it likely that it will ever recover its position in it? The Egyptian personnel does not occupy the highest and most difficult posts for which the Sudanese will not be qualified for a considerable time to come; they fill those subordinate positions in which a native Sudanese staff could most easily replace them. The moral is that a reasonable attempt to find an accommodation on the several points at issue between the British and Egyptian Governments is as much to Egypt's interest as it is to ours.

The Defeat of the Communists.—"Communism as we know it has nothing practical in common with us. It is the product of Czarism and war mentality." No sentence in the Prime Minister's presidential address at the Labour Party Conference evoked louder and more spontaneous cheers from all parts of the Queen's Hall than this. It showed how little the Communist fraction counts inside the mass of politically organised Labour, in spite of the advertisement that has been recently given to it. During the last eight months the Communists' propaganda has,

on their own showing, been going on with exceptional activity; they had hoped to gain by the opportunity for destructive criticism afforded them by the position of a Labour Government in office with a minority of votes. As a matter of fact, Communism has gone back continuously ever since 1921. This year's Conference, indeed, registered a defeat more complete than anyone had foretold. Not only was their renewed application for affiliation rejected by a greater majority than in any preceding year—3,185,000 to 193,000, against 2,880,000 to 366,000 in 1923. More than that, the Executive's second resolution, moved by Mr Frank Hodges, excluding members of the Communist Party from endorsement as Labour candidates, local or national, was carried by 2,456,000 votes to 654,000, after a debate in which all the honours went to the speakers for the motion for exclusion, who argued not on tactics, but on fundamental difference of principle and on a reasoned opposition to the use of force. The Conference went further. It carried its own decision to its logical end, and, by a majority of 256,000, accepted a resolution in the name of the Sutton Labour Party, excluding Communists from membership of the Labour Party. This last decision was something of a surprise, and the smaller majority was due partly, no doubt, to this fact, and partly, one may hazard, to a recognition of the problem that will be at once presented in the application of such a test—a difficulty that arises, to some extent, in relation to candidates. It will, however, accelerate the process of defection from the Communist ranks, which had already been induced by resentment of the stiffer dictation recently announced from the headquarters of the Third International. Anyhow, the formal position is now clear enough. The accusation of "Bolshevik" no longer lies against the Labour Party; it has shaken its skirts clear of its awkward allies. There can be no recurrence of such incidents as those of the Woolwich bye-election of 1921, or, more recently, of the Kelvingrove bye-election of 1924. Of course, it is admitted by members of the party with most experience, that it is one thing to exclude members of the Communist Party, another to exclude Communists. Reliance, however, is placed on the fact that furtive and secretive movements have never had much hold on British politics. Whatever be the case abroad, here a party which has to hide its name, and conduct its activities in the dark, is not likely to gain new adherents. It would seem, therefore, that for the time being, at any rate, a definite check has been put on Communist progress in Great Britain.

The Stock Exchange and the Election.—Stock Exchange markets are regarding the present political crisis in a manner much more placid and philosophical than eleven months ago, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent. At that time a shiver of apprehension ran throughout most of the markets. A Labour Party had never been in power before, and although Mr Bonar Law had coquetted with the question of capital levy, and Mr Winston Churchill had given railway nationalisation an unexpected benison, the fear of the Labour Party doing something dramatic in both these directions seized upon the Stock Exchange mind, and depressed security prices. Business suffered, last year, a severe check during the month which intervened between the dissolution of Parliament and the General Election, but, so far as can be seen at present, is not likely to undergo much disturbance this time except from the natural and inevitable effect that will be produced by a diversion of public interest from financial into political channels. Home Railway prices started to go better upon the Dissolution being announced. Gilt-edged stocks are good throughout. There is a hard tendency in most of the investment markets. A few areas, such as the tea market, for instance, where a bull account exists, have come under the ban of the political situation, but the Stock Exchange views with composure the probable prospect of the Election's outcome. It is thought in the House that the Labour Party will be returned again, but with a working majority not greatly increased, and that, if this should turn out to be the case, the political

position will be much the same after the Election as it stands to-day. There are no dealings in Majorities at present, but a little market has sprung up in the seats which the Labour Party is likely to secure, and the price of these was called, at the opening of the business, 200 to 210. The middle price is about a dozen seats more than the Labour Party commands at present, and if the Election materialises upon the lines such as this quotation indicates, Stock Exchange opinion maintains that no great damage is likely to accrue to the country by reason of a General Election, which is regarded more as a nuisance than a necessity.

Coal Trade Finances.—The financial position of the South Wales mining industry goes from bad to worse, writes our Cardiff correspondent. The joint audit for August shows a further loss of £230,021, or 1s 3.63d per ton on an output of 3,531,916 tons. This the third successive month in which the industry has been worked at a loss, the deficit in June having amounted to 1s 4.9d, and in July to 0.01d per ton. The owners, therefore, were unable in respect of the August trading to obtain a penny of the standard profit provisionally provided for under the new national agreement. The deficiency, according to the terms of the agreement, amounted to £497,220, and this addition brings the total deficiency carried forward to the large sum of £2,180,026. The wage certified as payable, subject to the retention by the owners of their share of the surplus available after meeting the cost of the standard wages and their standard profit, is only 16.08 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates, but the wage actually payable under the minimum wage clause is 42.22 per cent. on those standard rates, and it is the liability of the owners to pay this minimum wage that explains the absorption by wages of the owners' standard profit of 15 per cent. of the standard wage, their 12 per cent. of the surplus available after paying the standard wages and other costs, and the net loss of £230,021. The output was lower in August than in July, and the costs appreciably higher. The tonnage raised was 867,000 less than in July, and nearly 370,000 tons less than in August, 1923. The wages cost per ton was 13s 5½d, compared with 13s 1d in July, and other costs 6s 7d, compared with 5s 10d; while the average price realised at the pit head was 18s 9.05d, compared with 18s 11.26d. The reduced output and the higher costs were due chiefly to the holidays, and to the irregular working of the pits in consequence of the depression in trade. There has been only one other month since December, 1922, when the revenue of the industry was less than it was last August, and only one month when the costs of production were higher.

Home Crops.—The monthly agricultural report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that, owing to the bad weather, the corn harvest was much delayed, and in the north and in Wales quite half of the corn was still in the fields at the end of September, and some remained uncut. In the eastern half of the country practically all had been secured before the end of the month. Root crops would benefit from more sun, and drier conditions would be beneficial to live stock. Forecasts of the production of this year's crops have been revised in accordance with the later information, and the revised figures are set out in the table below. It is to be borne in mind, however, that these forecasts are based on estimates made at the beginning of October, and are consequently subject to modification.

	1923.	1924.	Production, 1923.	Forecast, 1924.
	Acres.	Acres.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat	1,740,000	1,545,000	30,431,000	27,171,000
Barley	1,327,000	1,314,000	19,301,000	20,036,000
Oats	1,978,000	2,037,000	27,059,000	28,156,000
			Tons.	Tons.
Potatoes	467,000	452,000	2,758,000	2,648,000
Turnips and swedes	862,000	832,000	10,879,000	11,325,000
Mangolds	403,000	390,000	6,944,000	7,493,000

In the east potatoes have not suffered much from the rains of the past month, and disease, though present, is not very prevalent. There is a good deal of disease in the west, and reports of rotting are fairly frequent from Wales. The yield over the whole country is forecast at 5.9 tons per acre, the same as last year.

Free State and Compensation.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—As many inaccurate statements have obtained currency as to the payment of compensation for damage sustained during civil strife in the Free State, it may be as well to give the true figures. The matter is best dealt with under two headings, the first covering the pre-Truce (in the Anglo-Irish conflict) period, and the second covering the post-Truce period. In respect of the pre-Truce period, the British and the Free State Governments undertook each to compensate its own supporters in respect of personal injuries sustained (including cases of loss of life), whereas in respect of property losses each side undertook to pay for the damage done by its supporters. Under this first heading 11,600 awards have been made involving about £6,300,000, and of these 11,000 have been discharged by payments amounting to £5,500,000. Awards conditional on rebuilding account for £550,000, which are being worked off as rebuilding proceeds. The payment of £250,000 in respect of the residue of unconditional awards will be completed within the next few weeks. All the foregoing cases represent awards by the Compensation (Ireland) Commission. Certain other awards of the Law Courts—1,100 in number—have also been discharged by payments amounting to £550,000. The Free State share of the above payments is stated to be upwards of £3,000,000. The post-Truce period, dealt with under a recent Act passed in May, 1923, is represented so far by 4,000 decrees or reports of judges. Sums amounting to upwards of £630,000 have been paid, while awards to which a reinstatement condition was attached, to the extent of £600,000, are awaiting the progress of rebuilding before being discharged.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Late on Wednesday there was a striking fall in American cotton prices in the Liverpool market. This was due to statistics published by the United States Government on the crop. In trade circles a condition of about 52 per cent. was expected, indicating a yield of 12,200,000 bales. The report, however, gave 53.5 per cent., indicating an output of 12,499,000 bales. It was also announced that the amount of cotton ginned up to October 1st was 4,526,000 bales, against 2,633,000 bales a fortnight earlier, and 3,232,000 bales up to September 25, 1923. These figures were considered exceedingly favourable, and there was a rush to sell, which resulted in a decline in the Liverpool market of over 1d per pound in a few minutes. There are now some people who believe that prices will again be brought down to 1s per pound. At noon on Thursday the quotation for January futures in the Liverpool market was 13.56d. Further crop developments are very largely dependent upon the existence or absence of frost in the belt during the next few weeks. As things stand at present the growth this season, with linters, should be about 13,300,000 bales, against less than 11,000,000 bales last season. The slump in values has had a rather disturbing effect upon trade in yarn and cloth in the Manchester market, but in the long run the lower range of prices should be beneficial, as there is more probability of foreign buyers providing big contracts at comparatively low rates, but free buying is not likely to take place until there is more stability in prices. The annual report of the Liverpool Cotton Association for last season, published this week, contains a mass of interesting statistics. One thing stands out very prominently, and that is the much smaller consumption of American cotton in this country than several years back. During the last four years out of the total supplied only 13.83 per cent. has been exported to Great Britain, against 21.20 per cent. in the previous five years, and 41.23 per cent. in the five-year period 1885-90. Since that time, spinners in the United States have increased their con-

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA

KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr.182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

sumption from less than 33 per cent. to nearly 54 per cent. Lancashire spinners, however, are using larger quantities of Egyptian, East Indian, and Peruvian cottons.

The Quarter's Shipbuilding.—Lloyd's Register Shipbuilding returns for the quarter ended September 30th show that the tonnage under construction in Great Britain and Ireland—1,468,408 tons—is about 48,000 tons less than at the end of June, 1924, but about 197,000 tons more than it was twelve months ago. The average tonnage building during the twelve months immediately preceding the war was 1,890,000 tons, i.e., 422,000 tons more than the present total. A considerable decrease is shown in the tonnage commenced during the quarter, namely, 252,745 tons, as compared with 375,210 tons during the second quarter of 1924. The tonnage launched during the quarter—360,219 tons—is only 4,299 tons lower than that for the June quarter, which is the highest reached during the last 2½ years. The tonnage of motorships building at the end of September in Great Britain and Ireland reaches 387,670 tons, equal to nearly 36 per cent. of the steam tonnage under construction. The total merchant tonnage building in other countries—1,112,604 tons—is about 12,000 tons more than at the end of June, 1924. The figures for the leading countries abroad are:—Germany and Danzig, 408,617 tons; France, 137,210 tons; Italy, 132,457 tons; Holland, 88,643 tons; Denmark, 77,899 tons; and Sweden 69,240 tons. It is shown that 278,008 tons were commenced abroad and 192,372 tons were launched during the quarter, an increase of 34,114 tons in the tonnage commenced and of 28,706 tons in the tonnage launched. The total world tonnage under construction—2,581,012 tons—is 865,546 tons below the highest pre-war record reached on June 30th, 1913, viz., 3,446,558 tons. There are at the present time under construction in the world 35 vessels of between 10,000 and 20,000 tons each, and 8 of 20,000 tons and upwards. Twenty out of the 35, and all the larger vessels, are building in Great Britain and Ireland. The returns show that there are at the present time 43 steamers and motorships, each of over 1,000 tons, with a total tonnage of 290,220 tons, under construction in the world for the carriage of oil in bulk. Of these tankers, 22 of 133,820 tons are under construction in Great Britain and Ireland, and 11 of 95,500 tons in Germany. The tonnage of vessels now building in the world which are to be fitted with internal combustion engines amounts to 939,899 tons, while the tonnage of steam vessels under construction is 1,621,569 tons. The motor tonnage thus equals nearly 58 per cent. of the steam tonnage, showing the remarkable development which is taking place in the adoption of this system of propulsion. Of the combined tonnage building in Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, nearly 78 per cent. consists of motorships. The world figures include 85 motorships each of between 5,000 and 10,000 tons; 7 of between 10,000 and 15,000 tons; and 7 of between 15,000 and 22,000 tons.

The Civil War in China.—A great battle appears to be imminent on the front south-west of Shanghai. From a purely military point of view the result can hardly be doubtful, for the Chekiang troops, though evidently better drilled and handled than their opponents, are not only outnumbered, but are likely to be attacked by the Fukien army

in their rear. But there is always the possibility of sudden negotiations leading to a compromise, and of divisions among the victors or in the Chih-li party, which the Tuchuns of Kiangsu and Fukien professedly support. The chief interest is at present in the extreme north and south. Chang-tso-lin, having come to an agreement with the Russian Soviet Government, has fulfilled the agreement concluded with it in May by the Peking Government to give it control of the Chinese Eastern Railway, and has thereby secured Soviet support. He is held at Shanghai by the troops despatched by Wu Pei Fu, but is attempting an advance further West; his opponents are short of winter clothing and supplies, and the Peking Government has arranged for the issue of \$4,200,000 Treasury Bonds secured on the surplus of the Customs revenue. Meanwhile, the Moscow Press, no doubt under official inspiration, argues, in the familiar manner of Continental Anglophobes, that, as Wu Pei Fu four years ago defeated the Anfu party which was pro-Japanese, Japan must assist Chang-tso-lin, his present chief opponent, and the champion of Chinese nationalism against the menace of "British Imperialism." (The issue of Treasury bonds, being sanctioned by the British head of the Chinese Customs Administration, will doubtless be cited as confirming this view.) In the south, Sun Yat Sen, having failed to raise an army to assist in the defence of Chekiang, is stated to be about to leave Canton in a Russian vessel, possibly to join Chang-tso-lin in Manchuria. Since the issue of his remarkable manifesto early in September, in which he demanded the British naval measures taken to protect Canton from bombardment, he also has posed as a victim of "British Imperialism," and it is now announced that—probably under Soviet suggestion—he is attempting to negotiate with the Japanese Government. The Soviet effort to represent the Chinese conflict as one between Chinese nationalism and Western "capitalism" is only what might have been expected; but it is hardly likely either to detach Japan from her allies or to facilitate the discussion—now, however, postponed indefinitely—of the Anglo-Russian Treaty and loan.

Spain and Morocco.—The relief last week of Sheshuan and the successful withdrawal to Sok-el-Khamis of the outlying posts in the Beni Aros region north-east of Larache, have strengthened the position of the Spanish Directory, and improved the outlook in Spanish public finance. They constitute an important stage in the contemplated contraction of the Spanish zone and the pacification of the tribes under a Spanish Protectorate. The intended extent of the retirement has not yet been revealed; at present the hostile tribes seem still disposed to regard the withdrawal as a sign of weakness and to press for complete independence; the remains of a disaster near Sok-el-Khamis will probably confirm them in this attitude; and they appear to be well supplied with arms and with means to buy more. If Sheshuan, for example, is entrusted by Spain to the guardianship of a friendly tribe, it may soon become a centre of tribal warfare; the Spanish Government will have to support its native allies, and warfare will break out afresh. The nature of the country gives immense advantages to the native guerrillas over the Spanish regular troops; and any disaster to the latter must react unfavourably on Spanish internal politics and on the peace of the outlying parts of the French zone. The Spanish Government is charged with want of skill in dealing with its native allies; and the officers of the army are believed to hold that retirement affects their prestige. The Spanish Directory, therefore, has still a difficult task before it. We can only hope that its efforts at pacification may succeed.

A Proposed Belgian Free Port.—With the tightening of tariffs in post-war years there has come an increase in the number of free ports in protectionist countries. The latest proposal for easing the restrictive effect of a protective policy on trade comes from Belgium. A scheme, it is re-

ported, has been prepared for converting Zeebrugge into a free port, and is being put forward for legislative confirmation. This port, it will be recalled, is the continental terminus of the train-ferry recently established from Harwich. Apparently its development as a centre for American trade is anticipated if the port and a surrounding zone can be relieved of the incubus of Customs restrictions and payments in the same way as has been done at some other continental ports. Discharge and handling of goods and the establishment of manufacturing industries in the free zone is foreshadowed, the object being to facilitate American trade throughout central Europe. Extensive dredging at the port and also railway expenditure would be involved to carry out the scheme. These proposals, like all free port schemes, incidentally and perhaps unconsciously demonstrate the dependence on free exchange of any country not able to maintain a self-contained existence independently of trading intercourse with other lands. The object of all the free ports is to facilitate and encourage imports, exports and shipping generally, as well as to allow of the application of manufacturing processes to raw materials, and the re-export of the resulting products. The establishment of a coastal zone free from the delays and vexations as well as the expenditure of money always attendant on the imposition of tariffs is, in effect, the transformation of a part of a protectionist country into a free trade area. A free port is a working model of the advantages of free trade. Hamburg grew as a free port during centuries of trade into the greatest German shipping centre. Bremen, too, has been and is a free port. In Copenhagen a free area was established in 1894. Since the war free ports have been made in Sweden at Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Malmö. Spain and Italy rely on their free ports, Trieste, in particular, having a great traffic in its free zone. So now Belgium, too, is considering a way of partial escape from the throttling effect of tariffs on trade.

Port of London Authority.—A deficit of £257,400 is shown in the accounts for the year ended March 31st last of the Port of London Authority, and is explained in the report as being due partly to the strikes of dockers in the summer of 1923 and in February, 1924, which entailed a heavy loss on the whole Port, "and partly to the Authority, in their desire to stimulate trade, having reduced charges to a level which has since proved uneconomic." It is added that a revision of charges has been made in order to adjust the position. The following table shows how the financial results for 1923-24 compare with those of recent years:—

	For Year Ending March 31.					
	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Total revenue	£ 3,434,453	£ 8,305,801	£ 10,043,731	£ 7,929,874	£ 6,319,295	£ 5,542,971
Total expenditure	2,217,822	5,531,726	7,101,601	5,801,217	4,682,425	4,516,076
Balance of rev.	1,216,631	2,774,075	2,942,130	2,128,657	1,636,870	1,026,895
Fixed charges	932,786	1,600,323	1,944,180	1,575,293	1,400,990	1,284,328
Surplus revenue	283,845	1,173,752	997,970	552,728	235,880	Dr 267,439
Brought forward	89,637	349,384	383,347	896,044	1,448,772	1,573,252
Written off, &c.	373,482	1,523,136	1,381,317	1,448,772	1,684,662	1,315,819
Carried forward	281,578	1,139,789	485,273	...	111,400	...
	91,904	383,347	896,044	1,448,772	1,573,252	1,315,819

The reserve fund reached the statutory maximum of £1,000,000 on March 31, 1922, and since that date the interest on investments has been credited to net revenue account. Investments stand in the balance-sheet at £2,081,000, being valued at market prices, and interest brought in £73,100. Port stock issued amounts to £28,590,500, a million of 5½ per cent. stock having been redeemed in July, 1923. The balance of borrowing powers unissued amounts to £9,056,700. Capital expenditure during the year was £124,400. The net register and deck cargo tonnage of shipping that entered and left the Port of London and paid river tonnage dues during the year ended March 31st last was 30,748,768 tons, an increase of 720,631 tons, or 2.4 per cent. as compared with 1922-23. From the table below, which gives the values of total imports and exports (excluding coastwise goods),

of the six principal ports it will be seen that London maintains its leading position:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	Inc. or Dec. in 1923.
London (including Queenborough)....	£ 606,856,886	£ 564,333,772	£ 579,095,902	+ 2.6
Liverpool	528,012,834	484,200,149	532,990,145	+ 10.1
Hull	91,922,735	101,844,091	102,034,446	+ 0.7
Manchester (including Runcorn)	86,515,435	92,023,169	94,095,116	+ 2.3
Southampton	66,813,302	64,039,112	72,619,877	+ 13.4
Glasgow	94,701,689	81,174,625	80,299,380	- 1.1

During the year ended March 31st last, the Authority landed or received 2,293,180 tons of import goods for warehousing or for immediate delivery, a decrease of 120,464 tons, or 5.0 per cent., as compared with the tonnage dealt with in the preceding twelve months. The export traffic handled on the dock quays amounted to 615,349 tons, an increase of 53,805 tons.

Conditions in Hong Kong.—The following communication, written early in September, reaches us from a correspondent in Hong Kong:—It seems impossible to avoid reference to some fresh disturbance in Canton whenever one surveys the state of trade of this colony. The strike on the Shameen had no sooner been settled, or, rather, brought to a termination, than the strained relations between Sun Yat Sen and the merchants of Canton assumed a decidedly hostile aspect. The latter in no way approved of the Shameen stoppage, undoubtedly engineered by the Bolshevik faction, and as soon as the strikers were back at their posts there was quite a brisk movement of treasure and securities from the native city to the foreign settlement for safe custody. Within a day or two a further complication ensued. Sun Yat Sen, in his rôle of autocrat, seized a consignment of some 4,000 rifles, together with a large supply of ammunition, which had been shipped from Germany to the order of the Canton Merchant Volunteer Corps, an organisation recognised by Sun Yat Sen himself. This corps is the outward and visible sign of an increasing spirit of revolt on the part of the civilian population against the tyranny of the militarists. For some time past the villages and towns of Kwantung have been raising and equipping armed guards on the lines of the old English train bands, and recent events have given the movement a stimulus which prompted its leaders to obtain more serviceable weapons. Hitherto the scattered detachments of the Volunteer Corps have been composed of villagers with little stomach for fighting, but with a natural antagonism towards the marauding bands of soldiers belonging to the various armies over-running the country. For some time past the development of the corps has proceeded apace, and has called for a more business-like administration as well as additional rifles. With Sun Yat Sen as the patron of the force, no difficulty arose over obtaining a permit to import the required munitions. When, however, the arms actually arrived, having been transported by a Norwegian steamer which successfully ran the gauntlet at Colombo, but avoided Hong Kong, Sun calmly seized the ship and its cargo on the plea that the import permit had been obtained by false pretences. The merchants boiled with indignation, but their protests were of no avail, and when Sun threatened to ban the Volunteer Force and all connected with it, the commandant and his chief assistants at once fled for safety to Hong Kong. This was an ill-advised move, as, of course, it strengthened Sun's position considerably. With no means of employing force, the merchants resorted to the general strike, and throughout Canton and the neighbouring towns business came to a standstill. Although the plan was not a complete success, it led to negotiations being opened between Sun and the merchants through the mediation of one of Sun's mercenary generals. A so-called settlement has been arrived at by which the merchants pay Sun \$500,000, and in return receive the rifles, but at the moment there is a certain amount of haggling, and the transaction is not yet complete. Business has, however, been resumed, much to the relief of everyone here, for while the general strike

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

One of the largest and strongest Banks in
America. Resources of \$300,000,000.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

lasted it was impossible to move cargo to the distributing centres of Kwantung. With the five weeks' stoppage on account of the Shameen strike, and a further hold-up after a very brief resumption, it is no wonder that the godowns here are full up. It cannot be said that the outlook for this market is at all promising. With civil war pending in the North, and threatening to draw in the two big militarist leaders Wu Pei Fu and Chang Tso Lin, there is no telling how the situation may react upon Canton. Sun Yat Sen appears to be a shadow of his former self, and is nothing more than a puppet who for the moment fits in with the schemes of the generals in the South. To what extent the Soviet Envoy, Borodin, is entangled is not known, but there are many signs that the Bolshevik element is a growing one. There is also account to be taken of the merchant class, and their exploits of the last week or two show that they are not to be ignored, and may yet make their opinion respected in the camps of the War Lords. A few days ago the Colony was shocked at the news of the death of Mr. A. G. Stephen, chief manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, while at home on furlough. During the 10 years he was at the head of affairs in Shanghai not only had he to cope with the difficult problems of the Chinese Revolution and its aftermath, but he came in for the disorganisation of finance and trade brought about by the Great War. It was this experience which earned Mr. Stephen the reputation of being a sound practical banker, no empty title as those who passed through the big slump can testify. Mr. Stephen loomed large in the public life of this Colony and he had for some time been one of the two unofficial representatives on the Executive Council.

The Progress of Jugo-Slavia.—The Serbo-Croat-Slovene kingdom, briefly designated as the S.C.S. State or Jugo-Slavia, having deflated and thereby stabilised its currency, is readjusting its finances and developing its resources, communications, and foreign trade. According to the Report (recently issued by the Overseas Trade Department, and dated last April) from the Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Belgrade, the deflation, maintained by the refusal of the State Bank and the Government to issue more notes, has incidentally produced a shortage of currency, which has been intensified by the locking-up of capital in building operations and by the tendency of the peasants to hoarding, and so has embarrassed the smaller banks, raised the rate of interest on short loans to 30, 40, or 50 per cent., and thereby caused unemployment and hampered trade. The rate, however, will fall as the dinar appreciates, and the financial outlook is, on the whole, encouraging. The Estimates for 1923-24, adopted without change for 1924-25, greatly exceed those of 1922-23; the excess is ascribed to a desire to avoid supplementary estimates, and to the increased pay of State employees and expenditure on railway extension. The position has been complicated and obscured by votes on account, caused by Parliamentary delays in passing the Budget, and by the alteration in the financial year. But increases in railway rates, direct taxes, stamp duties, and the yield of the State monopolies are providing a revenue exceeding the additional expenditure. The land-tax has been raised by 500 per cent., and the Government aims at increasing direct and reducing indirect taxation, but the taxation is not yet uniform throughout the kingdom, and the peasants are relatively

under-taxed. Reparations seem to be coming in satisfactorily except for the hindrance set up by the occupation of the Ruhr region. The export figures are imperfect; the harvest last year was good, but a fall in wheat prices kept the export down. The production and export of fruit was large—the plum crop (the principal item) especially good. The estimated exports of cattle (to Austria mainly, and, secondarily, to Italy) and of swine (to Vienna and Prague chiefly) were largely exceeded. The value of the eggs exported was probably 500,000 dinars. Of raw silk, 2,500,000 kilogrammes are produced annually, and sold mainly in Zurich. Of beet sugar, if the existing factories worked to their full capacity, 60,000 tons might be exported annually. In many ways the State aids, or proposes to aid, the producers—in grading cereals, in drying plums, in encouraging the use of fertilisers (almost ignored by Serbia), and the improvement of livestock; in treating the silk cocoons in its own factories, in its assistance to the distressed wine industry, and in insurance against damage to crops by hail, and aid to the peasant sufferers. The export of timber is important and greatly increasing. So, apparently, is the output of minerals, and there are promising indications of oil. Roads are being improved, partly by labour conscription, railways extended, in part out of current revenue. Foreign visitors are to be attracted by a State tourist agency, and arrangements have been made with Greece for a free zone at Salonika, and adequate communications therewith. Exports should soon greatly exceed imports. The latter come chiefly from Austria, next in order from Czecho-Slovakia, Italy, and Germany; the British share in both, though small, has increased considerably in recent years. Textiles and yarns, the chief British import, are subject to severe Italian competition; but there are possibly openings for British machinery and metal goods, and for a few motor vehicles if sent on "sale or return." But the importance of personal intercourse with customers is emphasised, and credit must be given. A new and protective tariff is in preparation, and several commercial treaties have either been negotiated or are projected. Three Consular Reports are appended, respectively on Zagreb (Agram), Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Gruz (Gravosa); the last-named describes the development of what has become the chief Adriatic port of Jugo-Slavia.

South Africa's Foreign Trade.—The following are the figures of merchandise imported into South Africa during this year, up to the end of July, with comparative figures for last year:—

	1924.	1923.
January	£ 4,603,183	£ 4,079,379
February	4,313,034	3,711,566
March	4,866,123	4,435,881
April	5,255,770	4,493,726
May	5,044,092	4,461,120
June	5,103,810	4,161,725
July	5,504,831	5,045,001
Total for seven months..	34,690,843	30,388,398

GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES IMPORTED.

	£	£
January	590,979	274,316
February	526,699	125,761
March	340,044	377,618
April	506,259	204,770
May	518,689	243,243
June	573,533	301,623

EXPORTS (SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCE ONLY).

	£	£
January	7,772,059	6,722,397
February	6,862,576	5,273,029
March	6,101,557	6,418,168
April	5,826,146	5,027,107
May	6,192,336	5,656,656
June	5,149,560	5,714,231
July	4,470,350	3,634,304

Total for seven months.. 42,374,584 38,445,892

The figures for the last three months are preliminary and unaudited figures. General imports (apart from Government supplies) have increased by £4.3 millions, and exports by just under £4 millions in the first seven months of the present year.

Harrisons and Crosfield.—The upward movement in the rubber industry is happily reflected in the report and accounts of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, now published. A comparison of results for the last pre-war year and for a number of years past reads as follows:—

	1913-14.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Net profit.....	£ 134,269	£ 200,571	£ 249,204	£ 164,456	£ 149,138	£ 192,711	£ 242,475
Brought forward	23,879	37,530	36,147	37,873	44,525	45,114	66,526
Preference dividend ..	158,148	238,101	285,351	202,339	193,663	237,825	309,001
Prof. ord. div. (10%) ..	27,500	36,165	37,230	37,800	37,800	37,800	37,800
Management shares ..	30,000	37,500	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Reserves, &c.	30,000	37,177	45,344	5,941	1,250	2,500	20,988
Deferred ord. shares ..	35,118	41,024	24,922	—	—	12,000	22,000
Carried forward	35,530	50,088	59,982	14,073	9,499	18,999	47,497
		36,147	37,873	44,525	45,114	66,526	70,706

Turning to the balance-sheet, stocks at £424,724 compare with £326,951 a year ago. Loans to companies are down from £262,734 to £96,751, but investments are up from £1,445,109 to £1,563,277. Total assets at £3,571,736 show little change from £3,582,694, the figures recorded for the previous 12 months. In a circular sent out with the report, attention is drawn to the fact that at the time of payment of any further dividend on the deferred ordinary shares in excess of the fixed 10 per cent. per annum, the holders of the deferred ordinary shares shall have the option to apply for the allotment to themselves or their nominees, at par, of deferred ordinary shares to the extent of one-half of the further dividend, less income-tax. Shareholders have one month in which to exercise the option.

Clerical and Medical Life Assurance Society.—This excellent life office has celebrated this year its centenary, and produces a report for 1923-24 worthy of the occasion. The new life business done of £1,324,691 net, though less than the bumper figures of 1919-20 (the best year known in the history of life assurance), exceeds the new business of any other year. The net premium income increased by £41,184 to £609,492, and the life assurance fund showed an increase of £467,267 to £7,961,035. The funds earned a net rate of interest of £4 13s 2d, slightly less than the £4 14s earned in 1922-23, though higher than in any previous year. Death claims, as usual, were low, the amount payable being no more than 62 per cent. of that expected under the mortality tables. Working expenses and commissions were again lower at 15.06 per cent., as compared with 15.27 per cent. in 1922-23, and 16.36 per cent. in 1920-21. The assets of the society have been examined and revalued. There was a profit on securities realised of £8,763, and the value of the Stock Exchange securities (of which a complete list is published) is stated to exceed the book values by £185,501.

British-American Nickel.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—The affairs of the British-American Nickel Corporation, which is now in hopeless liquidation, are attracting considerable attention in Canada, and are also, it is reported, the subject of a special investigation in Norway, Norwegian investors having lost some 12 million dollars. It was a war-time enterprise, and on the ground that it would afford a competitive lever against the operations of the nickel combine, the British Government was induced to venture some three million dollars in it. War orders gave it a brief temporary prosperity, but soon after peace came both the Murray mine, which it developed, and the expensive plant which it erected at Deschenes, near Ottawa, were closed down. Last year some fresh capital was secured and operations were restarted under new management with, it is said, 1½ million dollars in the Treasury. All this sum is said now to have been frittered away, and trade debts of considerable magnitude piled up. The National Trust Company, as trustee for the debenture-holders, is offering the properties for sale under a receivership, and it is doubtful if any bids will be secured. Competent authorities hold that the nickel-copper ores at the mine grade too low for profitable mining and smelting, and the *Financial Post* of Toronto declares that the Murray mine had been carefully examined by the experts of other nickel companies and rejected, because the ores were too low in grade, before the new company took it over. It states that the

British-American ores run little better than 2 per cent. nickel-copper, of which rather less than 1 per cent. is copper. The International ores average about 5½ per cent., and the Mond ores 4½ per cent., so that while 14 tons of International ore and 20 tons of Mond can produce a ton of nickel matte, 40 tons of British-American ore were required. The tremendous amount of fuel required and other factors gave a cost of production that made competition hopeless. Altogether it is calculated that some 17 million dollars will have been dissipated in the enterprise, and since the British Treasury has provided three of these it would be interesting to discover just exactly what representations induced the British Government to risk public money in the project, and what are the views of the present Treasury authorities upon a scandal which has aroused great indignation in Norway.

Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited.—Why the accounts of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited, for the year ending December, 1923, could not have been completed and issued in nine weeks, instead of after nine months, was a very proper question asked but not answered at the shareholders' meeting of the V.O.C. Holding Company, Limited, held on Tuesday last. The accounts are now practically valueless. Nor did Mr Walter Samuel add much to the existing knowledge in his speech as chairman of the Holding Company. Their programme, he said, was a large one. The Concessions Company was producing from seven wells at present, situated at La Rosa, on the east side of the lake, and was drilling a large number on the west side as well as on the east. Production had risen this year from 284 tons in the first four weeks to 59,418 tons in the four weeks ending September 20. The monthly production had now reached 60,000 tons, and was steadily increasing. This extensive drilling programme has necessitated complementary expenditure on pipe-lines, water-lines, tank farms, pumping-stations, and wharfage, on a large scale, but it would not be unreasonable to expect, now that the sale and purchase of oil agreements with the Caribbean Petroleum Company have been revised in the company's favour, that the dividend-paying stage will be emerging next year. This will automatically mean dividends for the V.O.C. Holding Company, which now holds 942,153 shares out of 943,000 in the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited. Mr Walter Samuel stated that the Caribbean was the only company in Venezuela to-day which had in actual operation the facilities for shipping oil from the Maracaibo Lake to deep-water ocean ports. That is true, but the Lago group, with which is associated Lord Inverforth's shipping and oil interests, is building shallow-draught tankers in the Belfast yards of Messrs Harland and Wolff for service next year on the Maracaibo Lake. The competition of this group of American oil companies in the Venezuelan fields is becoming a real stimulus to the operations of the V.O.C. and the Royal Dutch-Shell group. This fact, and the probability that the Royal Dutch-Shell group have increased their participation in the Holding Company to the point of control, certainly make rosier the prospects of the outside shareholders in the V.O.C. Holding Company.

Oversea Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS—THE RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, October 7.

By unanimous vote the Assembly recommended to all Governments the ratification of the Protocol, and eleven States immediately signed it. Another resolution recommended the adherence to the compulsory jurisdiction clause of the Court Statute, and perhaps the most important fact of the Assembly is the signature of this clause by France without reservation in substance. It is, of course, subject to ratification, and on conditions of reciprocity for a period

of 15 years, with power of denunciation should the Protocol on Arbitration, Security, and Reduction of Armaments lapse. It is also subject to the condition that one of the parties may bring a relevant dispute before the Council of the League for pacific settlement, and that during such proceedings neither party may take action against the other in the Court. But there is no reservation regarding the limitation of cases which may be raised under this clause, as was at one time mentioned as a possibility. This means that if France ratifies, and if England also signs and ratifies the clause, there is no chance of France taking separate action again on the Peace Treaties against the opinion of England, unless her right to do so is legally upheld by the Court. As the clause is signed on a basis of reciprocity, no State could cite France before the Court without also having adhered to the clause. While there has been some discussion upon the fact that France, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland have already signed the Protocol—a fact which has been used to convey the impression that England has been seduced into an evil course—I do not believe there has been a single reference in the English Press to France's signature of the optional clause. The time seems to have come when liberal-minded people in England should not be blinded by a sense of moral superiority to the possibility that M. Herriot is not always governed by naked vice or by vice cloaked in seeming virtue.

Furthermore, those who have said that it was hopeless to expect American co-operation in a League Conference on disarmament, and that the League should have left it to America, were, as I suggested last week, premature in their assumptions. An announcement comes from the White House that America will be represented in the Conference next year, provided she is not previously bound to any conditions, and Mr Davis, the Democratic candidate, has emphatically announced that under a Democratic administration America would participate in any disarmament conference to be summoned. Therefore, America is prepared to make some contribution, whatever it may be, to the problem as such, and is beginning to show herself able to rise above small prejudices which many of her professed admirers in England are so ready to attribute to her. So far as Germany is concerned, I believe she will adhere to the Protocol if England does.

The Council has already set machinery going for the preparatory work of the Disarmament Conference, and has constituted itself a committee, with the assistance of representatives of the various technical organisations of the League. The necessary material, much of which is already collected, is to be sorted, and the first meeting of the committee will take place on November 17th, so that by the time the next ordinary session of the Council is held in the beginning of December, some progress will undoubtedly have been made. It is a big task, for it comprises not only the eventual presentation of some plan to the Conference, which will no doubt depend a good deal upon what forces are voluntarily notified to the Council by various States as available in case of need, but also a plan for the operation of the financial and economic boycott in case need arises for its employment.

In view of the American tendencies, it seems likely that she may also be invited to participate in the preparations, as she has already done in the preparation for the Conference to be held on the Trade and Traffic in Arms. It is early to see what the ultimate attitude of America will be towards the Protocol itself, but she will no doubt realise that war cannot be abolished by resolution. She will also probably realise that materially the arrangements made to satisfy the Japanese are more likely to be to her advantage than to her disadvantage, on the assumption that she has no intention of starting a fight. Why should she—or Australia, for that matter—object to an effort at conciliation by the Council on a matter legally of domestic jurisdiction, but acutely disturbing international peace? An effort without any powers whatever of imposing a decision, an effort purely and simply to reach agreement between parties in order to avoid an outbreak of war. All it implies is public discussion by an international body with the hope of avoiding war. Circumstances threatening war can in no event be kept secret. There is also the provision of the Washington Agreement for a meeting of the Signatory Powers in case of any Pacific

emergencies, and the League Japanese proposal does not really go further.

It is to be hoped that, so far as England is concerned, the Government will make haste to give a lead to public opinion on the provisions of the Protocol. Some pretty patchwork has been made of it in one or two quarters by linking up on one point several articles which quite distinctly apply to other points, and there is one consideration which perhaps has not been fully considered in the discussions on the sanctions part of the Protocol. Great Britain has, as a matter of fact, during the last century undertaken in various instances, from motives either of national or international necessity, such tasks as might devolve upon her under the Protocol. Time after time she has used her Fleet to keep the peace, either in her own name or in the name of several powers, because her Fleet happened to be on the spot, and, in cases like the international army during the Boxer Rebellion, she has shared in international action. There is another point. The signatories of the Protocol can at least deal faithfully with the smaller States. If a great State disturbs international peace, it will be extremely difficult in any event for Great Britain to remain disentangled, either in Europe or in the Pacific, and it is certainly arguable that the sanctions in the Protocol would make it a very adventurous undertaking for any State to break its obligations. There are also a variety of safeguards, by Armistice conditions, &c., against a State sneaking into an aggressive war and claiming it to be defensive.

FRANCE.—PAY OF CIVIL SERVANTS—FOREIGN WHEAT REQUIREMENTS—SUGAR—IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT—COAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 8.

THE Herriot Ministry, who recently fulfilled one of their election promises by according to all classes of public servants the right to enrol themselves in trade union organisations—which by implication also confers on them the right to strike, if they should think fit—have speedily found themselves placed in a difficult position by reason of their policy. The civil servants, after refusing to accept the increased scale of pay which a departmental committee, after discussing the question with their representatives, proposed to recommend should be adopted, have now put a pistol to the head of the Government and, if not in so many words, placed the latter in the position of extracting another three milliards from the pockets of the taxpayers to meet their requirements—or take the consequences. The effect on the Budget proposals, as detailed in this column last week, must necessarily be serious. The outstanding fact in the situation thus created is that it is generally agreed that the demands of the employees of the State are by no means unjustified. The present minimum salary prevailing among the lower grades of the civil service is 3,800f a year, plus an allowance of 720f a year in consideration of the increased cost of living, making a total of 4,520f a year. At this figure it has remained since the beginning of 1919, although the cost of living has doubled since that period. The commission which has been considering the matter proposed that the minimum figure should be increased by 680f a year to a total of 5,200f. The men insisted that the new minimum salary should be fixed at 6,780f, whereupon the Government proposed to fix the figure at 5,600f. At a congress held on Sunday and Monday resolutions were passed by which the civil servants pledged themselves to accept nothing less than 6,000f, and this has since been notified to M. Herriot personally. The Ministry of Finance asserts that if this demand is granted the national expenditure will be increased by at least 2,000 millions a year for salaries alone, or by between 3,000 and 4,000 millions if the automatic increase of pension allowances, &c., be included. Public opinion agrees that the pay of the public servants is undoubtedly inadequate, and therefore it appears probable that the additional money will have to be found.

The disappointing wheat harvest has caused a good deal of attention to be directed recently to the question

of what volume of foreign purchases this country will have to make to meet her requirements during the next twelve months. At the present moment, French purchases of foreign wheat, through one cause and another—one of them being the measures just taken regulating the milling and the selling price of flour—have practically come to a standstill. There is a danger, obviously, that this situation may have a serious effect on the securing of sufficient supplies in the near future, and also on the situation of the franc. In view of all the factors, there can be little doubt that the franc will again be unfavourably affected in the near future, but it is difficult to see why this drop should be of a very serious character. So far as wheat is concerned, France last year had to purchase abroad about 11½ million quintals at an average price at the port of entry of about 100f per quintal, for which this country had to pay in foreign currency rather over 1,000 million francs. During the coming year the deficit that will have to be met by foreign wheat will amount, so far as can be seen, to about 20 million quintals, which will have to be paid for at a rate that will work out at between 115 and 120f per quintal at the least, in view of the world shortage and other factors. This year, therefore, instead of paying about 1,000 millions for foreign wheat, this country will be called on to purchase foreign currency under this heading to the total of between 2,300 and 2,400 million francs. In brief, France will have to spend about 1,500 million francs more this year on foreign wheat purchases than she did last year.

This must be discounted, however, by the fact that, in compensation, this country during the coming 12 months will be called on to purchase very much less foreign-grown sugar than she did last year. In 1923-4 the total French sugar crop amounted to about 450,000 tons, whereas this year it will amount to at least 650,000 tons, and perhaps may exceed that total. To meet requirements France needs about 750,000 tons, as is shown by the fact that last year she had to purchase some 300,000 tons of foreign sugar. At 300f per ton this involved the purchase of foreign currency to the extent of, say, 900,000,000f. As the price of sugar has now fallen to around 200f, the 100,000 tons or so that will have to be purchased elsewhere during the coming year will involve an expenditure of only 200,000,000f, or 700 million less than last year. The increased sum spent on foreign wheat, therefore, will be neutralised by about 50 per cent. by the reduction in expenditure on foreign sugar purchases. If, as may reasonably be assumed, a substantial proportion of the additional, say, 750 millions that will still have to be sent abroad is recouped from increased exports, it may fairly be argued that, in spite of the substantially larger wheat deficit, the general situation, after all, remains practically the same.

Figures issued by the Comité des Forges giving the total output of steel and iron during August indicate that the drop in production during June and July has now been very largely recovered, and that the upward trend has been resumed. The total output of iron during August was 655,829 tons (as against 658,397 tons in May, which was the highest since the war began), and of steel 581,713 tons (as compared with 598,427 tons in May). The output of iron during the first half of 1924, which amounted to 3,786,179 tons, was 60.6 per cent. more than during the corresponding period of 1923. Steel production during the same period totalled 3,395,261 tons, or 49.4 per cent. more than during the first half of 1923. Exports of steel during the six months were 1,040,864 tons, compared with 515,977 tons in the first half of last year.

Coal production figures for August indicate that the total output of the French collieries is still steadily on the up grade. The total output during the month was 3,691,142 tons (for 25 working days), against 3,784,079 tons (for 26 days) in July. The average daily output continues to rise, as will be seen from the following figures:—Daily average in 1913, 136,147 tons; in January, 1923, 121,064 tons; in July, 1923, 128,592 tons; in January, 1924, 144,680 tons; in July, 1924, 145,541 tons; in August, 147,645 tons. The total output for the first eight months of the year was 29,488,613 tons. The restoration of the devastated mines in the Nord and the Pas de Calais has raised the daily output in that area from 80,108 tons in January last to 85,431 tons in

August. The deficit in relation to the daily average in 1913 has now been reduced to 5,866 tons per working day. The daily production of the collieries situated within the French pre-war frontiers is now only 6,268 tons less than in 1913. The Lorraine mines during August furnished a total of 17,766 tons per working day. Labour shortage is still proving an obstacle; nevertheless, recruiting of foreign labour has enabled the total number of miners employed to be increased from 242,566 in January, 1923, to 296,010 in August last. The output of metallurgical coke by the plants at the collieries during August was 223,700 tons, as against 224,633 tons in July.

GERMANY.—TARIFF—FINANCES—CURRENCY AND CREDIT—INDUSTRY—HOUSING—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 7.

GENERAL public sentiment is moving ever more against plans, which seem to have considerable official backing, for revision of the 1902 Customs Tariff in the direction of extreme Protection. The French request, which was expected, for a prolongation of the term of duty-free import from Alsace-Lorraine is, however, not well received. The textile industry considers itself threatened; and the iron and steel interests, while inclined for a private pooling of French ore with native coal, hold that Germany's position is economically so strong that she need not make concessions under a French pressure which is fundamentally political. Organs of the Ruhr heavy industry proclaim that without an agreement, Germany, having access to foreign ores, can do without minette, while France will find it hard to get along without German coke, and is bound, if she does not come to reasonable terms, to suffer from an excess of industrial production. Manufacturers in certain finishing branches continue to press for heavy duties. They claim that the normal duties, at whatever level they may be determined, should be increased by the cumulative amount of the 2 per cent. sales tax, which acts as a premium to importers, that is, by anything up to 10 per cent. The Government, however, regards the sales tax as a temporary impost, which will be abolished in at most a few years, whereas the tariff must be fixed for a long term of years. The great rise in breadstuff prices has prejudiced the official plan for restoration of the pre-war food duties, which, when introduced at a time of much lower prices, seemed to be certain of success; and the effect of the rise is increased by very bad crop reports, particularly from the west. The present estimate is that the harvest will be 20 per cent. less than that of 1923. The Foreign Trade Association has proclaimed for general most-favoured-nation treaties, but points out the obstacle to this in the French law of July 29, 1919, authorising only reciprocity agreements, with exclusion of general most-favoured-nation treatment, under which law French agreements have been made with Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Spain, Poland, and Finland. Apparently, under the law mentioned, most-favoured-nation treatment could not be accorded to Germany. If Reparations deliveries are omitted, German sales to France in the first part of this year were wholly insignificant, as a result of the application of the French maximum tariff, whereas French sales to Germany were very large; and in textiles, formerly an English domain, France led in sales to Germany. There is no sign that the Marx Cabinet will make special concessions to Allied countries merely for political reasons, but it is nevertheless plain that any considerable increase in the rates of the autonomous tariff would not be popular here unless the theory that the tariff can be used with effect in bargaining for mutual concessions is proved by the result of the negotiations to have been correct.

In the first half of the financial year, April-September, revenue received totalled 3,494,975,372 gold marks, expenditure 3,345,649,212 gold marks. The surplus was 149,326,160 gold marks, or, including 230,844,179 gold marks spent on redemption of Gold Loan, about 380 million gold marks. Of expenditure, 1,696,153,962 gold marks was for general administration, 1,210,190,390 gold marks subventions to states and municipalities,

ALL BRANCHES OF
INTERNATIONAL BANKING

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK
16 WALL STREET

LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendome

7,626,118 gold marks outlay in foreign currency for execution of the Peace Treaty, and 200,834,563 gold marks for Reparations account. The total of the floating debt on September 30th was in Reichsmarks, 479,646,944 billion paper marks; in Rentenmarks for Treasury bills, 76,955,000 Rentenmarks.

Interest rates move slowly downward. Day money in Berlin and other financial centres has of late become much dearer than month loans, a condition which is not normal. The Gold Discount Bank continues to report a decline in the demand for credit. Discounts on September 30th were £6,395,376, rediscount liabilities £6,226,093. The Reichsbank's return for September 30th shows another considerable increase in the gold reserve, which is now 577,919,000 gold marks; and a large increase, connected with the quarterly settlements, in credits and circulation. Discounts, advances and investments rose from 2,061.9 trillion paper marks to 2,302.4 trillions; paper mark circulation rose by 268 trillions to 1,520 trillions, and Rentenmarks circulation by 174,200,000 Rentenmarks. The directorate of the Reichsbank has been reappointed for the reconstructed bank. The capital market shows no great change. Increases of company capital in September totalled 20,118,000 gold marks, against 22,355,000 gold marks in August; and issues by new companies 8,458,000 gold marks, against 8,716,000 gold marks. There were no issues of debentures or loans, but a number of municipalities resolved to borrow and obtain the necessary State sanction. The totals of transactions by savings banks and co-operatives are increasing rapidly, also the clearings of the post-check service.

General prices are still rising. The cost-of-living index number for October 1st was 119, against 117 in the preceding week; the wholesale index on September 30th, 131.5, against 130 a week before. The "Frankfurter Zeitung's" wholesale index for October 2nd shows 139.45, and has risen from 128.52 since July 17th. Although all groups of commodities shared in the rise, the main rise was in food products—from 117.07 to 144.52. In Berlin rye has of late quoted dearer than wheat, which is without precedent. The Reichswirtschaftsrat lately found that the increase in the number of middlemen is largely responsible for higher prices. The number of registered trading firms in Berlin in 1923 was 60,000, against 31,000 in 1913. This is probably an outcome of the currency depreciation, which, as long as credit was granted, made it easy for non-producers to live by selling for cash and paying debts to producers or to the banks in worse money than the debts were contracted in. Also the social-economical revolution created a great number of middlemen—persons of the impoverished rentier classes, who engaged in petty trade operations because they lacked the necessary training for productive occupations.

The industrial situation improves very slowly. Bankruptcies in September numbered 817, against 855 in August and 1,173 in July. The Prussian Trade Ministry's monthly report shows an increase in the demand for paper and cloth, while the dyes branch is dull. The iron and steel branch is again inactive, and prices tend downward. Steel and rolling mills have markets for only about 50

per cent. of their output if working at full capacity. Only for tubes and wire goods is there any considerable demand, and the prices obtained for these are low. The building market is weaker. The American \$5,000,000 credit to the Ruhr is reported to be complete; and it is stated that a considerable number of other American industrial credits come automatically into force as soon as the Reparations Loan is successfully floated. Reports from Norway state that German firms have made bids at very much lower prices than native and competing foreign firms. Railway statistics show a sharp drop in traffic since the credit crisis began in the spring. Goods carried in June were 17.29 million metric tons; April, 21.5 million tons; monthly average for 1923, 20.02 million tons; 1922, 33.25 million tons; 1913 (without Alsace-Lorraine), 40 million tons. The figures since January, 1923, are imperfect. Receipts per ton-kilometre in June were 5.7 gold pfennigs, against 1.7 gold pfennigs in 1923; and 3.6 gold pfennigs in 1913. The output of Ruhr coal, despite the bad market, is increasing, being in the last reported week 396,000 tons a day, against 321,000 tons in August, and 232,000 tons in January.

Statistics collected by Berlin municipality show that about 20,000 houses in Berlin are now in foreign hands, almost all having been purchased since the war. With few exceptions, these are flat-houses, with probably an average of 15 dwellings. Good modern houses were mostly bought by foreigners from high exchange countries, whereas old buildings in working-class parts fell into the hands of Austrians, Poles, Czechs, and other low exchange nationals. Of late foreigners have hardly bought at all, and a great many houses—about 900 between September, 1923, and June, 1924—have been sold back to Germans, despite the fact that an increment tax of 30 per cent. is levied. The building of new houses has somewhat increased, owing to the devotion to this purpose of five-sixteenths of the rents tax imposed since February, and included in the increased gross rents.

Loans recovered very considerably last week, but as there has been no change in their status, the recovery seems to have been merely a reaction against the panic sales of the preceding week. Industrials rose last week, but this week, so far, have been dull and weak. The issue of gold balance-sheets continues. Multiplication of the present Bourse quotation by the scaling-down factor shows that shares of very few companies will start with quotations over par. In a list of 35 leading companies which have already issued gold balances, only three would quote above par, and the great majority between 40 and 60. The scaling-down of a 1,000-mark share in this list varies between to 500 gold marks and to 5 gold marks. The reintroduction of dealings in stocks for future settlement is being considered.

AUSTRIA. — POLITICAL SITUATION — REDUCED TAXES—NATIONAL BANK—MONEY RATES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, October 1.

THE fact that the decision of the League of Nations regarding Austria represents a compromise between the requests of the Austrian Government and the claim of the General Commissioner has relaxed the tension in the political situation. The Government has been allowed to raise public expenditure in the Budget for 1925 to 495 million gold kronen, in addition to which the amount of 50 million gold kronen can be spent for public investments. As, in the meantime, the recovery of the Chancellor has allowed him to take up his duties, and the Social Democrats do not wish to take any part in the responsibilities of the Government during the present economic crisis, things will remain as they were for the time being. The political unrest, which was temporarily caused by the metal workers' strike, and rendered more acute by intrigues of the Communists, has quickly passed.

The excessive taxation in Austria was admitted by the League of Nations, and therefore not only the Bank turnover tax and the tax on exchanges will be lowered, but also the company tax will be reduced from 36 per cent. to 25 per cent. It is also intended to further the issue of industrial bonds by taxation facilities. The Finance

Minister hopes to cover the falling off in revenue due to these reforms by the increased income derived from the new Customs tariff. In addition to this, economies will be introduced in the administration of the Treasury and of the Post and Telegraph services. It is further intended to convert the administration of the State Salt Works and Forests into independent companies, similar to the State Railways, which will have to carry on without any State subsidy.

The industrial situation has taken a turn for the worse owing to the strike of the metal workers, which lasted over a week, and came to an end with the complete defeat of the employers, who were obliged to grant to the workmen an increase in their wages of 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. Although the employers declared themselves ready to grant this increase, only after the Government and the Municipal Council of Vienna promised them taxation facilities, it is feared that this new burden will make it impossible for the industries to compete on foreign markets, especially against German industries, the competition of which is felt more and more.

The number of unemployed shows an increase of 12 per cent. as compared with last month (74,366 in September, against 66,420 in August), and it is to be expected that their number will grow owing to the dismissal of workmen in the engineering industry and of bank employees.

The policy of the Austrian National Bank was a point for lively discussion during last month, and the severe criticisms made in the report of the League of Nations' Financial Committee led to the resignation of its president, Dr Reisch, which, however, was not accepted by the Government. In the meantime, the position of the bank has somewhat improved; the total of bills discounted, which amounted to 3,273 milliard kronen on August 15th, decreased to 2,904 milliard kronen by the end of September. During the same period the gold reserve was raised from 3,289 to 3,666 milliard kronen, and the bank-note circulation reduced from 7,615 to 7,292 milliard kronen, so that the gold security of the bank-notes was raised from 37.6 per cent. to 40.6 per cent. If the decrease of bills discounted continues, the bank may soon be able to reduce the bank rate. The opposition against the increase of the bank rate from 12 per cent. to 15 per cent., which was carried through in August against the intention of President Reisch, is gradually becoming stronger. It is generally pointed out that this measure has rendered the economic crisis more acute, and has brought many industries into difficulties.

The small demand for money on the Stock Exchange and the stagnation in trade has led to a certain easiness on the money market; week-to-week money was offered at $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. per week, and first-class firms succeeded in getting month-to-month money at the rate of 16 per cent. to 17 per cent. per annum. It is worth noting that for the first time first-class banks and firms were able to discount their bills on foreign markets at much lower rates than the official rate of the National Bank. In order to encourage foreign capitalists to place their money in Austria, the National Bank has agreed to guarantee to any receiver of foreign credits the possibility of repaying the credit in the currency in which it was received. At negotiating in Vienna for the placing of large loans for several Austrian municipal councils, such as Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, and Salzburg.

CANADA.—CROP CONDITIONS—AGRICULTURE IN THE WEST—THE RAILWAY RATE MUDDLE—SALE OF ENEMY HOLDINGS OF C.P.R. STOCK—COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH HOLLAND—AGITATION FOR MORATORIUM IN SASKATCHEWAN—NEW OIL WELL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, September 28.

THE crop surveys of the *Manitoba Free Press* are always regarded with respect by the grain trade, and its mid-September report upon the three prairie provinces is more optimistic in its forecast of the volume of the 1924 wheat crop than the Government and other recent estimates. It ventures to predict 51,647,658 bushels for Manitoba,

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,611

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application. On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1. JAMES STEWART, Chief Manager.

473,516,744 for Saskatchewan, and 70,694,479 for Alberta, or a total of 295,858,791 for 21,525,899 acres sown, which is an average of roughly 14 bushels per acre. It places the oat crop at 238,000,900 bushels (26 bushels per acre), barley at 51,079,892 (18 bushels per acre), rye at 11,276,544 bushels (17½ bushels per acre), and flax at 7,595,370 bushels (6 bushels per acre). The volume of the wheat crop, though far short of last year's abundant yield, will, if the *Free Press* forecast is correct, be well above the decennial average, and its cost of production will be the lowest since 1914. But the *Free Press* report indicates that the quality has been seriously affected by frost, and the average grade will be low for many areas. Again, the oat crop is easily the most unsatisfactory for many years, both in respect to yield and quality, and many areas will not have sufficient seed oats next spring. Rye, however, is a very good crop, especially in Manitoba, but flax has not fared well. Maize, which is purely a fodder crop, and is becoming increasingly popular in the West, has been badly hit by the frost, but there are excellent crops of sweet clover and alfalfa, and there need be no fears of any scarcity of winter forage.

The *Free Press* calculates that the West should have available almost 200 million bushels of wheat for export, but this estimate is probably too high, and in view of the prevalent freight rates and rising prices for livestock, many farmers will probably decide that it is more profitable to transform their lower grades of grain into meat on the farm and export their produce on the hoof. The profits of the crop will be very irregularly distributed, but in view of adverse reports about crop conditions in France, Russia, and other countries, the Winnipeg market has a very bullish tone, and the prospects are that the aggregate returns of the prairie farmers for 1924 will not be lower than for 1923. Happily an increasing number of them have now other strings to their bow than grain growing. The days when the western provinces imported large quantities of dairy produce from the East and New Zealand have gone by, and at present they are shipping every week large quantities of early poultry to the markets of Eastern American cities, and making good profits by the business. The cattle situation is still unsatisfactory. The removal of the British embargo has not yielded the anticipated results, largely owing to the onerous costs of transportation, and western cattlemen still cast yearning eyes upon the American Government. Recently the King Government opened negotiations with Washington with a view to securing special arrangements for the admission of Canadian cattle to the U.S. market on easier terms than now exist, but no reply has so far been vouchsafed to the communication sent, and the chief, but rather dim, hope now lies in the victory of Mr. Davis in the Presidential election.

The Canadian Government has accomplished part of its autumn financing by placing \$90,000,000 one-year 4 per cent. notes with a New York banking group, headed by the Chase Securities Company and Blair and Co. Associated with them were other financial institutions in different sections of the Republic, including the Equitable Trust Company, the First National Bank of Boston, the Continental Trust and Savings Company of Chicago, and the First National Bank of Los Angeles. One significant feature of the transaction lies in the fact that the Canadian Government on this occasion passed over its usual financial agents, the J. P. Morgan firm. The actual cost to the Government will be nearer 4½ than 4 per cent., but the issue was subscribed in a few hours when offered to the public at virtually par. The proceeds of the loan will be used to retire Treasury notes which bear 5½ per cent. interest—an appreciable saving. There still remains to be provided for Victory bonds maturing in November to the tune of \$107,000,000. The general expectation is that there will be an offer of a domestic loan bearing 4½ per cent., as against the 5½ per cent. of the issue to be retired. Quite generous terms of conversion are likely to be offered, and as financial houses report a shortage of high-class bonds in Canada, the issue should be quickly taken up.

The Dominion Railway Commission recently devoted several days to hearing representations from different parties about the complicated and confusing railway situation which has arisen as the result of the restoration of the force of the Crows' Nest Pass agreement last July.

In view of the decline in the volume of traffic, which will be accentuated in the coming months by the shortness of the western crop, the officials both of the C.P.R. and the Canadian National Railways protest that the Crows' Nest Pass rates have dangerously impaired their revenues, that the agreement by which they are enforced is obsolete in view of changed conditions, and that the time is now ripe for a wholesale revision of the freight rate structure to meet a different situation. Against this counsel for the three western provinces, boards of trade in the West, and other interested bodies have argued that the C.N.P. agreement is a sacrosanct charter of transportation rights for the West, and that the proper course is to make all railway rates west of the Great Lakes conform to its terms. The railways contend that such a decree would involve them in financial difficulties. The province of British Columbia, moreover, is taking advantage of the opportunity to press for adjustments of the special rates in force through the Rocky Mountains in order to divert more traffic from the prairies to its seaports. The Railway Commission has reserved its decision, but if it sustains the plea of the railways, a strenuous political battle will loom up over the C.P.R. agreement which can only be abrogated by the authority of Parliament.

The Federal Government has just disposed in the New York market of some 38,000 shares of C.P.R. stock which before the war were owned by enemy nationals, and have been held in trust by the custodian of alien property. No public offering was made, but the stock was disposed of privately to a syndicate of New York financial houses, headed by Hayden, Stone, and Co. The price realised was about 145 per share, and the total sum about 5½ million dollars, which will be applied to the liquidation of Canadian claims against Germany and her Allies. Most of the stock fell into the hands of American investors, and there has been some criticism that the Government did not make an effort to sell it through British and Canadian channels, and divert it into the hands of British subjects.

The Government have also concluded a fresh commercial treaty with Holland, by whose provisions each country accords to the other the most-favoured nation treatment. The recent revision of the Dutch tariff would have produced serious discrimination against Canadian products if this new arrangement had not been made.

Sponsored by a new agrarian organisation called the Farmers' Union, and fanned by the failure of the crops in many central and northerly districts of Saskatchewan, there has been developing in that province a vigorous demand for a debt moratorium which will give struggling farmers a reasonable time to meet their obligations and prevent undue pressure by their creditors. The Farmers' Union has been engaged in competitive rivalry with the older agrarian organisation, the Grain Growers' Association, which it accuses of being too conservative, and it made strenuous efforts, but without success, to secure control of the Saskatchewan wheat pool. Negotiations between the two are now afoot for an amalgamation between the two bodies, and if this takes place the pressure upon the Saskatchewan Government for a local moratorium will be intensified.

Oil-drilling operations in the Canadian West have been very disappointing in their results so far, but they are still proceeding in various localities. It is now reported from Wainwright, Alberta, that British Petroleum Company's No. 4 well shows a good flow of petroleum of a high grade, rising from a 10 ft sand that has been encountered at about 2,000 ft. A field test shows 18.6 degrees gravity,

and the oil gives indication of containing a high percentage of lubricants; it is heavy, resembling the products of the Mexican fields. However, similar discoveries before have raised great hopes only to see them fade, and further reports must be awaited before the existence of a great new oil-field can be proclaimed.

AUSTRALIA.—COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL— QUARTERLY BANKING RETURNS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, August 22.

THE Commonwealth Bank Bill, which has passed through both Houses of Parliament, has been opposed by the Labour Party, which originally established the Commonwealth Bank as a Socialistic measure, the appointment of a board representative of producing and trading interests being specially objected to. From the statements of leading members of the party, it is probable that in case of the return of Labour to power the arrangements of the present Bill will undergo further change. The Government has emphasised their intention of making the Commonwealth Bank a central bank, though without ceasing to be a trading bank, but the Labour party regard it not as a central bank but as an active competitor against the other banks. The country members desire that the Commonwealth Bank should give more support to country interests, and the Government has promised to deal with the subject of rural credits by separate legislation at the earliest possible moment, perhaps this session.

The quarterly average returns to June 30th of banking liabilities and assets within Australia and New Zealand (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) show a slight decrease in deposits as compared with twelve months ago, but an increase of £7,862,140 in advances, &c., of which £5,478,929 is in Australia and £2,383,211 is in New Zealand. As regards Australia, the real increase in general advances is somewhat greater, the Commonwealth Government having paid off an advance of £6,000,000 made some years ago to finance the war gratuity. The increase has followed the active demand for accommodation from borrowers, partly for country production, partly for the extension of the cities, and partly arising out of large imports. Looking behind the two latter causes, a stimulus has been given to certain forms of activity in towns by the large expenditure of borrowed money by the various Australian Governments, and the activity so produced helps to stimulate private demand for banking accommodation, notwithstanding the strong efforts of the banks to keep this tendency under control. The cash holdings of the banks show a decline both as compared with the previous quarter and with a year ago, due largely to the flow of cash from the ordinary banks to the Commonwealth Bank during the June quarter, when heavy taxation receipts swell the balances of the Commonwealth Government and those of the State Governments which keep their accounts with the Commonwealth Bank. This disturbing feature does not arise in New South Wales and Victoria, where the State Governments remain with the ordinary banks. The following is a comparison of the principal averages (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank) for the quarter ended June 30th with those for the previous quarter and the corresponding quarter last year:—

	June 30, 1923.	March 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.
Deposits—	£	£	£
Australia	237,827,126	244,274,262	236,761,456
New Zealand	52,091,994	51,693,551	51,606,632
Total	289,919,120	295,967,813	288,368,088
Advances (in Government securities)			
Australia	202,514,707	212,446,077	207,993,636
New Zealand	47,523,808	50,496,157	49,907,019
Total	250,038,515	262,942,234	257,900,655
Cash Items—			
Coin and bullion (Aust. & N.Z.) ..	27,167,147	27,877,587	27,874,215
Australian notes	25,026,558	24,778,237	22,914,278
Legal tender notes of other banks (New Zealand only)	418,791	448,308	295,876
Total cash	52,612,496	53,104,132	51,084,369

As the figures do not include London liabilities and assets, the movements do not balance. During the past twelve months the capital, reserve funds, and undivided profits of the banks have increased by over £5½ millions. The principal averages (within Australia) of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, not included in the table above, compare as follows:—

	June 30, 1923.	March 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.
Deposits	32,377,574	29,940,516	29,904,577
Savings bank deposits ..	38,068,002	38,739,378	38,242,489
Discounts, loans, &c.	14,035,678	13,935,591	11,999,358
Government and municipal securities	37,479,846	39,464,547	39,537,851
Coin and bullion	2,046,847	2,226,862	2,107,557
Australian notes	3,750,438	3,990,336	9,084,343

POLAND.—TRADE DEPRESSION — EXPORT DIFFICULTIES — ADVERSE TRADE BALANCE — FINANCES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, September 29.

THE severe trade depression from which Poland has been suffering for several months has not yet reached its worst. The number of unemployed registered by the Labour Exchanges is steadily increasing, and has risen from 94,600 on May 1st to 159,820 on September 1st. This depression, like all disturbances, caused by a debauch of the currency, is of a very protracted nature. The ordinary difficulties, which are a characteristic feature of such an aftermath of inflation—the lack of new circulating capital and a high level of prices—have been accentuated in Poland by special political reasons.

The occupation of the Ruhr had a very beneficial influence on Poland's export trade. Upper Silesia's coal industry was benefited, in the first instance, by the barrier which was erected between the Ruhr and the unoccupied provinces of the Reich. The exports of coal from Upper Silesia to Germany rose rapidly during the early months of last year. After June they began to decline, and have now reached a comparatively very low level. In the near future the situation is unlikely to improve, and there is even a great probability that the difficulties of Upper Silesia's export trade will become greater. It is generally believed that the initiation of the Dawes scheme in Germany will have a detrimental effect on Upper Silesia's iron industry, whose principal market is the Reich. The restriction of railway building in Germany will necessarily affect this branch of Poland's industry.

The foreign trade statistics for the first four months of this year illustrate the changed situation. Since March the trade balance has swung against Poland, as may be seen from the following comparison:

	Exports.		Imports.		Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (—).
Monthly average, 1922....	54.6	70.4	15.8		
January, 1924	99.6	93.0	6.6		
February, "	96.8	80.9	15.9		
March, "	112.6	107.2	5.4		
April, "	113.2	123.2	10.0		
May, "	121.4	140.0	18.6		

The figures for the following months are not yet available, but it seems certain that the adverse tendency of the trade balance has remained.

The changed economic conditions are also reflected in a decrease of the State revenues, as shown below:—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
January, 1924	137.4	132.0		
February, "	123.2	104.1		
March, "	130.1	117.8		
April, "	130.6	112.8		
May, "	108.1	107.7		
June, "	108.0	153.2		

The yield of direct taxes decreased from April to June by 5.9, indirect taxes by 6.3 millions. The greatest disappointment has been caused by the Capital Levy, the backbone of Mr Grabski's financial reform. Its yield fell from

46.6 millions in March to 17.9 in April, 4.3 in May, and 3.8 in June. It seems that the yield of the levy does not exceed one-third of the estimated amount. In July and August there has been some improvement in the yield of direct and indirect taxes, but the increase is hardly sufficient to compensate for the deficit caused by the unsatisfactory results of the Capital Levy.

Though the trade depression has partly thwarted Mr Grabski's plans, it would be wrong to overlook the great progress which has been accomplished during his administration. The total revenues during the first six months of the year amounted in 1922 to 264.7, in 1923 to 237.3, and in 1924 to 737.4 million zlotys. They were this year more than three times greater than in 1923.

DENMARK.—EXCHANGE AND PRICES—TRADE BALANCE—AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, September 27.

LATELY the exchange situation has shown indications of more confidence than early in the summer, and the improvement is looked upon with satisfaction, especially as the outcome will undoubtedly be a steady down of prices if the improvement should prove lasting. The official price index for July (the semi-annual cost of living index of the Statistical Department) was 214 points, or 5 points higher than in January, and almost at the same time it became known that the wholesale price index of the *Finanstidende* showed a rise of 13 points during July—viz., from 220 to 233.

A reaction, however, set in in August, the index figure showing a drop from 233 to 231 during that month. The drop during August concerns three commodities only—viz., potatoes, cotton-yarn, and iron—while most of the other commodities have either maintained their price or shown slight rises. That the drop in wholesale prices is not more pronounced must be ascribed to rises in the markets abroad. But now much will depend upon the developments of the exchange. The *Finanstidende* points out that during August the gold-value of the Danish krone has risen still further, the dollar rate showing a drop from 624 to 611, and continues:—"But more is needed if a drop in the cost of living is to be attained, or even a continued rise avoided, and it is therefore to be hoped that the downward movement will be further accelerated during the present month. The chances for this should not be so bad, as agricultural exports bring large payments to the country every day, while at present the stocks of feeding-stuffs, &c., are presumably ample." In this connection it should be mentioned that on September 26th the dollar rate had dropped to 581.00, a further decline from the rate of 611 early in the month.

The figures for trade with foreign countries during July have just been published, and show that developments have been very favourable for Denmark, exports and imports showing that balance which has been desired for so long. The total imports during the month have amounted to 177,000,000 kr and the exports to 165,000,000 kr, to which must be added a further amount of 12,000,000 kr for re-exports. Consequently there was no excess of imports during the month, and it is correctly presumed that the other items of the financial balance are such that the final result is a surplus in favour of Denmark. During the first seven months of the year the import surplus has been 148,000,000 kr, or just over 20,000,000 kr a month. During this period the imports have amounted to 1,327,000,000 kr, and the exports 1,179,000,000 kr, of which 98,000,000 kr represent the re-exports of foreign goods. In 1923 the corresponding figures were:—Imports, 1,127,000,000 kr; exports, 909,000,000 kr total, of which 76,000,000 kr for re-exports. During the period January-July, 1923, the import surplus was accordingly 218,000,000 kr, or just over 30,000,000 kr per month.

Regarding the separate items of the commercial statistics, it should be mentioned that the imports of mineral fuel during the period January-July, 1924, have amounted to 110,000,000 kr, as against 84,000,000 kr during the corresponding period last year. This increase has some connection with the increasing industrial activity. Par-

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EASTERN PLANTATION FINANCE UNDERTAKEN.

NEW ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.

SECURITIES PURCHASED.

ADVANCES UPON APPROVED SECURITIES.

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

ticularly interesting are the figures for agricultural exports, which are the following:—

EXPORTS of DANISH GOODS (in Million Kr.).

	January-July, 1923.	1924.
Live stock	48.2	90.3
Pork, meat, &c.	274.2	289.6
Butter, cream, milk, and cheese ..	279.8	383.5
Eggs	59.8	77.5
Total	662.0	840.9

Accordingly, the increase on these four items amounts to about 179,000,000 kr. The quantities in question will appear from the following table:—

EXPORTS of DANISH GOODS.

	January-July, 1923.	1924.
Pork (in million kilos)	95.9	115.3
Butter in casks or boxes (mil. kilos)	64.2	73.3
Fresh eggs (million scores)	21.8	22.7

In this respect a rather considerable increase is likewise apparent, and naturally the agricultural exports have been of the greatest importance as a set-off against the adverse conditions which affected the krone rate during the first part of the year.

GREECE.—THE REFUGEE LOAN—EXCHANGES AND POLITICS—PUBLIC FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, September 23.

THE Council of the League of Nations has approved, at the request of the Greek Government, some technical and financial amendments to the Geneva Protocol of September 29, 1923, concerning the settlement of Greek refugees. The financial amendments relate firstly to the amount of the loan or loans to be issued for the purpose. This was originally fixed at £6 millions. It was evident, however, from the first that this sum was insufficient. The working of the settlement scheme has proved the necessity of increasing the sum to be disbursed. Consequently, the authorised amount of the loan or loans has now been fixed at £10 millions. Greek banks will participate up to 25 per cent. of the amount to be raised. Another modification of the Protocol concerns the power of the Greek Government to issue other loans. According to the original text of the Protocol, the Greek Government had undertaken not to pledge, without the consent of the International Financial Commission at Athens, any of its revenues for the service of loans, except for the purpose of meeting its external obligations or of obtaining loans destined exclusively to improve the financial position of Greece, so as to prevent depreciation of the revenues assigned to the Refugee Loan. The amendment now gives a free hand to the Greek Government to issue in the future any internal or external loans, guaranteed by the surplus remaining from the proceeds of the revenues assigned as security to the Refugee Loan, after the service of that loan has been effected. Only in case other revenues of the State were to be pledged for the issue of loans the agreement of the International Financial Commission will be required, that the hypothecation of such revenues will not be prejudicial to the interests of the bondholders of the Refugee Loan.

It is expected that the loan will be raised in November, immediately after the issue of the German loan. The revenues assigned for its service constitute an ample guarantee. In fact, their proceeds amounted to over £1,900,000 in 1923, and, according to estimates, will exceed £3 millions in 1924. This guarantee, the high yield of the loan (not less than 7 per cent.), and the moral support given by the League of Nations in view of its benevolent purpose, promise that the loan will be oversubscribed.

After remaining for some time stable around 250 drachmæ, the rate of exchange on London has hardened since yesterday, on rumours of a Ministerial crisis. A movement towards a coalition Government between the two principal political parties of the Assembly is being observed. The recent political events have weakened the position of the present Government, which, however, has been always considered as a temporary Cabinet.

Increases of salaries to public employees will result in an increase of expenditure of nearly 500 million drachmæ. It remains to be seen how this expenditure will be met. Provisional returns for the financial year 1923-1924 show actual State revenue up to May 30, 1924, of 3,769 millions drachmæ, and expenditure of 4,225 millions, as against an estimated revenue of 3,941 millions and estimated expenditure of 6,979 million drachmæ.

Books and Publications.

THE MECHANISM OF THE TRADE BALANCE.*

THIS book is intended primarily as an inductive verification of the general theory of the mechanism of international trade, as explained by Mill and other "classical" economists; and its treatment of Canadian matters (as the author tells us) is incidental to the main purpose. Canada was chosen as the field of inquiry because it was desirable for the purpose in view to consider the case of a country (a) in which external trade was important relatively to internal trade and industry; (b) in which there was compactness and unity of industrial and commercial structure; and (c) in which marked changes were taking place in the rate of foreign investment. All these conditions applied to Canada, and as regards (c) in particular there occurred a great inflow of capital rising from a few million dollars in 1900 to almost \$500,000,000 in 1913, and amounting over the whole period under consideration to over \$2,000,000,000. As a consequence, an inductive study of Canada's international trade during this period becomes largely a study of the adjustment of Canada's trade balance, currency and banking systems, price levels, and industry in general to a heavy import of foreign capital.

In Part I. of the book the author submits to very close scrutiny all the various items in the Canadian trade balance, and endeavours to represent statistically the movements in each item during each year of the period. As is inevitable in an analysis of this kind, some of the figures rest upon slender foundations, but so far as we can judge, all the available data have been drawn upon; and we think that the work has been done about as well and thoroughly as it could be done.

Part II. comprises a detailed analysis of the mechanism of adjustment of the balance of indebtedness. The author examines in order the operation of variations in the exchanges, gold movements, changes in relative price levels, and changes in commodity imports and exports. According to Mill's theory, the extension of loans to foreign countries results immediately in an export of gold with a consequent fall in prices in the lending country and rise of prices in the borrowing country. This change in relative price levels stimulates exports, checks imports in the lending country, and in this way brings about an excess of exports over imports equal to the loans abroad. As regards the initial movement of gold postulated by Mill, Professor Viner finds that in considering the case of Canada account has to be taken of the "outside reserves" of the Canadian banks, by the use of which the latter can control and regulate the movement of gold into and out of Canada, largely irrespective of the balance of payments. But if the outside reserves are regarded as equivalent to gold in Canada, then the Canadian process of adjustment of international balances approaches more closely that set forth *a priori* in the generally accepted theory.

* "Canada's Balance of International Indebtedness, 1900-1913." By Jacob Viner, Ph.D., Harvard University Press, 1924.

It is probable, however, that the Canadian variation from the typical method, by preventing sudden inflows and withdrawals of gold, operated to bring about a steadier and smoother adjustment of price levels and trade balances in the face of huge and irregular borrowings abroad than would have been possible if gold movements into and out of Canada were as automatic and free as they are elsewhere. The outside reserves, in other words, acted as a shock absorber in so far as Canadian financial and economic conditions were concerned. They appear, on the other hand, to have accentuated by their sudden contractions the financial difficulties of New York at critical moments.

On the question of relative price movements in borrowing and lending countries, the author shows, in so far as the inductive method permits of definite results, that the increasing flow of capital into Canada was accompanied by a relatively increasing price level in Canada as compared with other countries. The rise was most pronounced in the prices of domestic commodities and services, least pronounced in the prices of import commodities, and intermediate between these two in the prices of export commodities; thus operating to stimulate imports and to check exports and so to adjust the Canadian commodity balance of trade to the capital borrowings. These results are consistent with the classical theory, and, as he points out, even demanded by that theory if it is completed so as to take into consideration sectional as well as general price levels.

Professor Viner's work as a whole is the most considerable attempt which has yet been made to link up by inductive study the mechanism of the adjustment of the international balance of indebtedness with deductive theories. He has also given us a most valuable study of the Canadian trade balance as it was before the war, and a considerable insight into Canadian financial, monetary, commercial and industrial conditions.

TOWARDS A WHITE AUSTRALIA.*

THIS book is the product of a year's work, which gained for its authoress a research scholarship at Melbourne University; but a year is not long enough both to collect such a mass of material and to make it easily readable, and the book must appeal mainly to the professed student of Australian history. It is, however, a conscientious and comprehensive presentation, based chiefly on public documents and debates in the Colonial Parliaments, of the various projects for developing the resources of Australia by Asiatic and Melanesian labour, and of the growth of the opposition till its embodiment in the legislation of the Commonwealth. Miss Willard's account of the attempt to introduce Chinese and Indian coolie labour into the various colonies is far too detailed to summarise here; the objections became visible with the Chinese immigration to the goldfields, and were strengthened with every fresh arrival of coloured immigrants, until the opposition was extended to all Asiatic labour about 1890. Indian indentured coolies might perhaps have been permanently admitted but for the safeguards demanded by the Government of India; the Chinese formed separate communities, tended to penetrate from the tropical to the non-tropical regions, and had a far lower standard of life than the British worker. Even the attempt of a shipping company in 1878-79 to employ Chinamen on their ships trading with tropical parts failed before Labour and popular opposition, and brought the company to disaster, and the alleged needs of the Northern Territory did not avail to sustain the plans for its development by Asiatic immigration. Difficulties arose with the British Government on several grounds—economic principles, British traditions, discrimination against British subjects, and the treaty rights of China and Japan, but the opposition was sustained by the example of California, and comprehensive restriction laws were passed by several of the colonies after an international conference in 1896. Next year, at the Imperial Conference, a compromise (imitated from the Natal plan) was effected with the Colonial Office. It practically secured the exclusion of all coloured labourers by a language test, and this method was finally adopted by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901. With some modifications, it has been maintained to the present time, and is to be extended to the islands of which Australia is

* "History of the White Australia Policy." By Myra Willard M.A., Sydney. Melbourne University Press, 1923. (London) Macmillan and Co., Limited. Pp. 217, 10s 6d net.

the mandatory Power. Labour hostility, usually regarded in England as the chief motive force in the exclusion, has counted far less, as Miss Willard explains, than other and more general objections. Throughout the controversy the chief of these has been the possible submergence of the British-Australian people by hordes of alien immigrants, incapable of assimilation, likely to imperil public health and democracy, and certain to set up the worst evils incidental to absentee proprietorship and uncontrolled "capitalism." The Chinese were apt to evade the restrictions on their entry by borrowing the naturalisation papers of their compatriots; they sold their votes, and "repeated"; they lived apart; they occasionally introduced smallpox and leprosy; their habits were filthy, and they did not bring their women. The feeling against them was practically unanimous, and based on 50 years' experience; and some, though not all, of the objections held good against other Asiatic labour also. Kanaka labour, which has a chapter to itself, was also not open to all of these; but the terrible record of the atrocities in recruiting, and of the immigrants' sufferings on some of the plantations, sufficed to justify its exclusion.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Monroe Doctrine.* By Alejandro Alvarez. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Published by Oxford University Press, American Branch, New York. \$3.
- The Waste of Capitalism.* Report by Committee on Production. Labour Joint Publications Department, 33 Eccleston square, S.W. 1. 1s 6d.
- Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1924.* (Hague Rules Explained.) By Sanford D. Cole. (London) Effingham Wilson. 6s net.
- Stockholm Conference on General Average and the York-Antwerp Rules, 1924.* By Sanford D. Cole. (London) Effingham Wilson. 2s 6d net.
- Versicherungs-Lexikon.* By Prof. Dr Alfred Manes. (Berlin, S.W. 68) E. S. Mittler and Sohn. Gm. 50.
- Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, 1923.* Vol. I. Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Graham's buildings, Fort, Bombay.
- Annuaire Statistique, 39me Volume, 1923.* (Paris) Statistique Générale de la France.
- Japanese Immigration.* By R. L. Buell. Published by World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon street, Boston, U.S.A. \$0.5.
- Le Problème de la Population: N'est-il en Réalité qu'une Question Economique?* By Edgar de Radetzky. (Brussels) Librairie Kiessling et Cie., 46, 48, Coudenberg.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, October 22.	ACCOUNT, October 23.
------------------------	-------------------------

Politics have become, of course, the dominating factor in Stock Exchange markets. The defeat of the Government was not unexpected, but the House dislikes the idea of another General Election as much as it did that of a year ago, having regard to the disturbance which this creates in business circles, and the diversion of public interest from ordinary matters to those of politics. Consequently, the effect of the political crisis has been to bring about a shrinkage in the volume of business, but it affected prices only to a slight extent. Speculation is rife as to what is going to happen next.

British Government stocks are easier on the whole, but the gilt-edged list is by no means bad in tone. The closing of the subscription lists for the Queensland Loan last Wednesday morning, when they might have been, under the terms of the prospectus, kept open until Thursday evening, had a good effect. The price opened at "par," and rose to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. Large subscribers received 60 per cent. Lively attention is fastened upon the forthcoming German loan, details of which are expected to be made public very shortly.

German Government bonds have been a little better, while French issues moved irregularly. There is not much doing

in foreigners, however. Brazilian bonds continue to be well supported. Egyptian and Turkish bonds weakened; Austrian Sixes are better.

Home Railway stocks, after a further bout of depression, braced up to a slight extent, although the public are paying scant attention to the stocks. Undergrounds went back, on the assumption that the Exhibition, if it opens next year, will be on a very much smaller scale than that which is about to close at the end of this month. Mexican Rails have fallen, but Argentines are a firm market, thanks principally to the rate of exchange and the declaration of a dividend on Entre Rios first preference, which pays off one year's arrears of back dividend, in addition to the full distribution in respect of the year just ended. United of Havana moved curiously, advancing sharply one day and falling equally abruptly next upon dividend anticipations in both cases. The dividend, making 7 per cent. for the year, disappointed optimists. Brazilians are holding their recent rises. Taltals are better, thanks to a good report.

The rubber market remains firm, in spite of a little reaction in the price of the produce. Tea shares have been sold fairly heavily, and the group shows a long list of declines. The effervescence has departed from tea speculation at present, but coffee shares keep good, the excellent announcement from the Dumont Company serving to assist prices in this section. The banking market is one of the firmest, a good deal of money coming in for London, for foreign, and for colonial banking shares. Nitrates have also maintained their strong appearance, though with a little setback here and there. Textiles are somewhat uninteresting. Amongst shipping stocks, P. and O. went below its 300 line. Royal Exchange Insurance, another of the giants, gave way after a long and rapid rise, other insurance shares also being affected by a mild attempt to take profits by some of the recent purchasers. Iron and steel shares moved downwards on balance, the losses proving very slight. Tobacco shares were disposed to droop, each reaction finding, however, support at lower figures. Dunlops are not quite so good as they have been, though rather more interest is stirring in the motor market, owing to the approach of the annual Show. Sudan Plantations have fallen, most Egyptians, in fact, being dull in consequence of the indeterminate character of the visit just concluded by Zaghlul Pasha to this country. The brewery market is good, Watney's decision to distribute £800,000 of undivided profits as a 50 per cent. capital bonus being a strengthening factor. Gas and electricity issues have gone back a shade.

Politics, the Jewish fast on Wednesday, and the incidence of this week's Stock Exchange settlement, are quoted as three reasons for sluggishness in Kaffirs. Prices are not bad, but the alterations are insignificant. Chartered moved up a few pence, and Cam and Motors have been in demand. Tin shares improved, in spite of a decline in the price of the metal. The favourites continue to be those of the Middle East group, West Africans attracting little public notice, and the Cornish shares being still somewhat neglected. Ashanti Gold Fields have spurred. Amongst Mexicans, Tomboys stand out with a sharp rise upon the unexpected declaration of a dividend of 9d per share, tax-free. A few Canadians are better, and the recently introduced Chosen Syndicate shares were advanced upon statements that good developments have recently occurred on the property.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 134,616,265	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER FOUR DAYS ENDED OCTOBER 4, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Oct. 4, 1924, Dr £2,550,000	Dr £50,000	Dr £50,000
---	------------	------------

To the Public—				
Queensland Govt., £4,000,000				
5% Inscribed Stock (red. at par 1940-60), issued at £97 10s	4,000,000	3,900,000	200,000	3,700,000
The Crittall Manufacturing Co., Limited, 140,000 8% Cum. Pfg. Pref. £1 at par	140,000	140,000	17,500	122,500
Western Malt & Breweries (Ceylon) Tea, 80,000 Shares of £1, at par	80,000	80,000	8,000	72,000
Total offered to the public ..	4,120,000	4,120,000	225,500	3,894,500
To Shareholders only—				
Rhodesian Congo Border Concession, 50,000 New £1 Shrs., at 30s per Share ..	50,000	75,000	6,250	68,750
Total offered to shareholders ..	50,000	75,000	6,250	68,750
Total offered for subscription to date ..	4,170,000	4,195,000	231,750	3,963,250
Total offered for subscription for whole year—				
1923.....	138,761,265	1923.....	271,393,173	
1924.....	228,901,987	1924.....	573,675,650	
1921.....	513,881,637	1921.....	388,978,203	
1922.....	216,326,547	1922.....	367,549,656	
1923.....	313,575,105	1923.....	1,036,069,951	
1919.....	937,501,048	1919.....	1,393,381,441	

Queensland Government 5 per Cent. Inscribed Stock, 1940-1960.—This is an issue at 97½ per cent. of £4,000,000 Queensland Government 5 per cent. inscribed stock, 1940-1960, the proceeds of which will be used for expenditure on railways, main roads, advances to local authorities, and for other public works and services. If not previously redeemed, the loan will be repaid at par on October 1, 1960, but the Government reserve the right of repaying it at par, in whole or in part, at any time on or after October 1, 1940, subject to three months' notice. The prospectus reminds us that His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly responsible for "the payment of the stock." This stock, when held by persons not domiciled in Queensland, is not subject to any taxes, duties, or levies by that State. This is an interesting issue, the yield offered indicating a belief that bygone financial discussions have been laid to rest.

Continental and Industrial Trst., Limited.—Capital authorised and issued, £1,000,000, divided into shares of £10 each. Of these, 50,000 are fully paid and 50,000 partly paid. The company was incorporated on May 17, 1924, with an authorised capital of £500,000, divided into 50,000 shares of £10 each. The company carries on largely in Central Europe the business usually carried on by a trust company. On September 15, 1924, the company increased its capital to £1,000,000 by the creation of 50,000 additional shares of £10 each to rank for dividend *pari passu* with the existing shares. 1 per cent. commission has been paid on the subscription for 65,120 shares. The directors have power to raise or borrow money for the purposes of the company, provided that they shall not without the sanction of a general meeting of the company raise or borrow any sum of money which will make the amount raised or borrowed by the company and then outstanding exceed the nominal capital for the time being of the company; such power has not yet been exercised. These details are taken from an advertised statement, but a balance-sheet would assist us in arriving at the value of the undertaking as an investment proposition.

Caledonian Trust Company, Limited.—Authorised and issued capital £1,000,000, divided into £600,000 4½ per cent. cumulative preference stock and £400,000 ordinary stock. In February, 1917, the company created £500,000 4 per cent. debenture stock, of which £463,300 was issued and is outstanding. In September, 1924, the company created a further £400,000 4 per cent. debenture stock. This, with the unissued balance of £36,700 of the original stock, the company have agreed to sell at 78 and pay a commission of ½ per cent. Both issues of debenture stock rank *pari passu*, and are constituted by trust deeds dated February 22, 1917, and October 6, 1924. They are repayable at par in liquidation, but redeemable at 105 per cent. (a) in company's option on December 31, 1940, or at any time thereafter on six months' notice by the company, or (b) in winding up for reconstruction or amalgamation. Borrowing powers are limited by trust deed to the amount of the subscribed capital for the time being. Application for leave to deal, it is stated, in the £900,000 4 per cent. debenture stock will be made to the committees of the Stock Exchanges in London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. This is possibly an excellent security, but we fail to see why the usual information is denied to the public.

Gillette Safety Razor Company, Limited.—Capital common stock (no par value) 2,000,000 shares, of which 350,910 have been issued. Details of this undertaking, published for public information only, show that this company was incorporated in September, 1917, under the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. At a meeting held on October 6th, the shareholders unanimously adopted a resolution increasing the authorised share capital from 500,000 shares (of which 350,910 shares were in issue) to 2,000,000 shares of common stock. This is of no par value, and follows a practice which, though not familiar here, is often adopted in America. Since 1917 net earnings have made steady progress, the 1918 figures having been \$5,252,100. Profits are shown year by year from 1918 to 1923. Many people appreciate the products of this undertaking; this may lead them to make further inquiries, the answers to which are not revealed in the advertised statement.

The Crittall Manufacturing Company, Limited.—Authorised capital £450,000, divided into 200,000 ordinary and 250,000 8 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares, all of £1 each. This is an issue at par of 140,000 8 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each. The company—which manufactures metal casements, doors, ornamental bronze work, &c.—has been formed to take over (with effect as from June 1st last) a company of the same name dating from the year 1889, the whole of the purchase consideration for which will be satisfied by the allocation to the vendors of 61,050 preference shares and 176,650 ordinary shares, credited as fully paid. In addition to the fixed 8 per cent. per annum, the preference shares rank equally with the ordinary shares for a further 2 per cent. per annum, after the latter have received 8 per cent. No debenture debt (other than to

bankers) or further shares ranking in priority to or *pari passu* with the present authorised preference capital can be created without the holders' sanction. The proceeds of the present issue will be used for factory extensions. Surplus assets are given as £258,394. The average of profits for ten years ended May 31, 1923, is given, but this is not a very satisfactory method of showing earnings, especially in view of the fact that the period includes the years of war. Profits are given for one year to May 31, 1924, before making allowance for certain charges, as £52,513. Preference shareholders have limited voting powers. The products of the company should find a ready market, and, providing management be efficient, the company should follow a reasonably prosperous course.

The Oxford Gaslight and Coke Company.—This is an issue by tender of £79,498 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock at the minimum price of £95 per £100, yielding £5 5s 3d per cent. The total authorised capital is £393,892, of which £163,835 remains to be issued. The authorised loan capital is £196,946, of which £161,416 remains to be borrowed. Net revenue for its financial year ended June 30th last was £28,776, of which the interest on existing loan capital and that now being issued will amount to £5,916. Thus the cover as far as services are concerned is ample. A reasonably sound offer.

Western Maskeliya (Ceylon) Tea Company, Limited.—Share capital £80,000, in shares of £1 each, all of which are now offered for subscription at par. The company has been formed to acquire as from October 15, 1924, four tea estates, situated in the Lower Maskeliya district of Ceylon. The total area is 1,402 acres. The total cultivated area is 1,089 acres, including 1,011 acres under tea in bearing and 50 acres under rubber in bearing. It is estimated that for the period ending June 30, 1925, total crops of 315,000 lbs tea and 10,000 lbs rubber will be secured. The purchase price payable by the company is £48,000 in cash, and it is estimated that after preliminary and other expenses have been paid there will remain £19,990 available for working capital, difference in exchange, &c. It has been pointed out that costs are based on the rupee at 1s 5d, against the current exchange of over 1s 6d. The directors include names known to the industry.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
War 5½% 1925-28	96½	96½	—
Loans 5½% 1925-28	97½	97½	—
Do 5½% 1925-28	97½	97½	—
Funding Loan 4½%	88½	88½	—
Victory Bonds 4½%	91½	91½	—
Conversion Loan 3½%	77½	77½	—
Consols 2½%	67½	67½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½%	59½	59½	—
Local Loans 3½%	66½	66½	—
Anst. 5½% 1931-41	105	105	—
Canada 4½% 1920-25	101½	101½	—
India 3½% 1924-25	64½	64½	—
Do 7½% 1924-25	106½	106½	—
Do 5½% 1931	101½	101½	—
Do 4½%	86½	86½	—
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32	102	102	—
Nigeria 6½% 1924-29	115	115	—
U. of S.A. 6½% 1930-40	104½	104½	—
Victoria 5½% 1924-34	102	102	—
W. Aust. 5½% 1930-40	104	104	—

British Railways.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Great Western, Ord.	105½	105½	—
London & North-Eastern 5½% Pref. Ord.	77½	77½	—
Do Def. Ord.	29½	29½	—
London, Mid., and Scottish, Ord.	96½	97½	+ 1½
Metropolitan, Ord.	74½	76½	+ 2
Metropolitan District, Ord.	49½	49½	—
Southern, Ord. "A"	37½	38½	+ 1
Do "B"	85	85	—
Do Pref. Ord.	80½	80½	—
Do Def. Ord.	39½	41½	+ 2
Underground Electric (Edin.)	21½	21½	—
Do "A" (L)	8	8	—
Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	95½	96	+ ½

Banks.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Barclays B (£1, Lpd.)	21½	21½	—
Chartered Bk of India 19½	20	20	—
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid)	28½	3	+ 1
Midland (£12, with £2½ paid)	8½	8½	—
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10)	24½	24½	—
Nat. Bank of S. Africa	6½	6½	—
National Provincial, (£20, with £4 paid)	10½	10½	—
Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid)	11	11½	+ ½
Westminster Bank (£20, with £5 paid)	17½	17½	—

American Railroads.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Chesapeake & Ohio	96	94	- 2
Erie	31	29	- 2
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	43	42	- 1
Southern	77½	75	- 2½
Do Non-conv. Pref. 8½%	86	86	—

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Antofagasta Cons	88	88	—
B.A. and Pacific	85	84½	- ½
B.A. & Gt. Southern	89½	89½	—
Buenos Ayres West	80	80	—
Canadian Pacific	165	165	—
Central Argentine	75	74½	- ½
Leopoldina	30	30	—
Mexican Railway	63	79	+ 16
Do 1st Pref.	25	27	+ 2
Do 2nd Pref.	11	12	+ 1
San Paulo	164½	155½	- 9
United Havana	88½	89	+ ½

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Argentine 5½% 1886-7	100	100	—
Austrian 6½% Guar. 1903	93½	93½	—
Belgian 5½% 1912	73	73	—
Brazil 5½% 1912	72	72	—
Chilian 4½% 1895	85	85	—
Do 7½%	103½	103½	—
Chinese 5½% 1912	64	64	—
Egyptian 4½%	76	76	—
French 5½%	23½	23½	—
Do 4½%	19½	19	- ½
Greek 5½% 1884	54½	54½	—
Hungarian 7½% 1924	87½	87½	—
Japanese 4½% 1910	63	62	- 1
Do 6½% 1924	91½	91	- ½
Mexican Cons. 1899	42	40	- 2
Peruvian Corp. Pref.	33½	33½	—
P.L.M. 6½%	93½	93½	—
Portuguese (New)	27	27	—
Russian 5½% 1906	64	64	—
Spanish	103½	103	- ½
Seine (Dep.) 7½%	103	103	—
Siam 7½%	107	106½	- ½

Telegraphs.

	Price Last Week	Latest Price	Rise or Fall
Anglo-American "A" 23½	23½	23½	—
Marconi Wireless	13½	13	- ½
Marconi Canada	13½	13½	—
Marconi Marine	13½	13½	—

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

	(b) Week ended Oct. 3, 1924.	(c) Week ended Oct. 4, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 40 Weeks, 1924.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	269,000	353,000	622,000	1,101,900	1,723,900	24,958,000	24,958,000	24,958,000	24,958,000
London & N. Eastern (c)	3,722	250,000	348,000	598,000	1,092,000	1,490,000	24,958,000	24,958,000	24,958,000	24,958,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	417,000	689,000	1,106,000	1,823,000	2,929,000	47,209,000	47,209,000	47,209,000	47,209,000
London, Mid., & Scottish	6,942	661,000	931,000	1,592,000	2,637,000	3,448,000	60,868,000	60,868,000	60,868,000	60,868,000
Do for 1923	6,941	592,000	882,000	1,474,000	2,610,000	3,580,000	61,912,000	61,912,000	61,912,000	61,912,000
Southern	2,146	324,500	121,000	445,500	1,372,000	4,561,100	18,289,300	18,289,300	18,289,300	18,289,300
Do for 1923	2,146	304,700	106,100	410,800	1,387,200	4,721,500	18,548,800	18,548,800	18,548,800	18,548,800
Metropolitan (c)	799	45,120	4,049	49,169	1,568,031	1,557,872	1,723,903	1,723,903	1,723,903	1,723,903
Do for 1923	799	31,560	3,614	35,174	1,269,626	1,499,992	1,723,903	1,723,903	1,723,903	1,723,903
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	263,059	..	..	9,067,423	9,067,423	9,067,423	9,067,423
Do for 1923	..	..	..	238,214	..	..	1,556,867	1,556,867	1,556,867	1,556,867
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	41,434	..	..	1,614,445	1,614,445	1,614,445	1,614,445
Do for 1923	..	..	..	39,654	..	..	240,447	240,447	240,447	240,447
Belfast & Co. Down (b)	80	4,296	1,139	5,435	191,197	49,250	397,242	397,242	397,242	397,242
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	8,252	3,342	11,594	259,225	138,017	1,596,900	1,596,900	1,596,900	1,596,900
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b)	562	21,500	25,150	46,650	781,800	815,100	2,216,580	2,216,580	2,216,580	2,216,580
Gt. S. & Western (b)	1,151	25,276	32,925	58,201	982,836	1,233,744	952,459	952,459	952,459	952,459
Midland Gt. West. (b)	538	8,616	18,522	27,138	379,319	373,140	..	..	..	..

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	23weeks	Sept. 6	1,072	Ra. 3,40,000	+ 69,976	Ra. 61,06,315	+ 9,71,453
Bari L. Ry.	24weeks	13	118	17,000	+ 4,800	8,61,500	+ 4,700
Bengal & N. Western	24weeks	13	2,062	4,90,890	+ 1,564	1,52,44,171	+ 10,22,735
Bengal Nagpur	24weeks	13	2,800	13,05,000	- 30,000	3,65,64,723	+ 10,22,735
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25weeks	20	..	18,31,000	+ 57,000	5,60,96,000	+ 54,24,000
Burma	23weeks	6	1,342	5,32,758	- 56,219	1,52,52,341	+ 4,68,383
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	25weeks	20	239	97,000	+ 26,985	25,58,125	+ 1,91,239
East Indian	27weeks	Oct. 4	2,873	35,02,000	+ 1,24,000	9,01,80,000	+ 83,04,000
G. Indian Peninsula	26weeks	Sept. 27	3,175	32,93,500	+ 3,93,000	7,04,82,765	+ 88,71,431
Madras & S. Mahr.	23weeks	6	3,029	12,90,000	- 52,607	3,56,25,270	+ 24,05,690
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	23weeks	6	259	36,461	+ 2,632	13,82,548	+ 1,64,018
Do Lucknow-Breilly	23weeks	6	314	38,092	- 3,061	16,25,738	+ 1,53,041
South Indian	22weeks	6	1,877	8,23,332	- 1,16,916	2,06,37,945	- 1,00,1,193
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	14weeks	Oct. 4	754	£ 15,500	+ 3,700	174,700	+ 13,100
Argentine Trans.	14weeks	4	..	2,522	- 2,004	34,964	- 15,722
B. A. and Pacific	14weeks	4	3,362	151,000	+ 11,000	2,171,000	+ 346,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	14weeks	4	3,948	209,000	+ 33,000	2,659,000	+ 447,000
B. A. Western	14weeks	4	Net	82,000	+ 20,000	895,000	+ 289,000
Central Argentine	14weeks	4	1,882	95,000	+ 15,000	1,346,000	+ 312,000
Cordoba Central	14weeks	4	Net	33,000	+ 5,000	488,000	+ 259,000
Entre Rios	14weeks	4	3,305	225,000	+ 15,000	3,077,000	+ 252,000
San Paulo	14weeks	4	1,205	58,000	+ 5,500	979,600	+ 86,500
San Paulo	14weeks	4	729	21,300	- 500	285,100	+ 41,000
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	39weeks	Sept. 30	22,680	\$ 6,787,684	- 421,531	172,484,625	- 7,652,942
Canadian Pacific	39weeks	30	13,814	5,481,000	- 884,000	128,753,000	- 1,353,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil	40weeks	Oct. 4	1,011	10,900	+ 1,200	347,300	- 18,100
Leopoldina	40weeks	4	1,8	..	..	..	..

SAO PAULO.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

STAMPING OUT GERMS OF DISORDER.

BRAZIL'S SOLIDARITY PROVED IN SUPPRESSION OF REBELLION.

POLICY OF ENERGETIC DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

WE REPRODUCE BELOW THE MESSAGE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE CONGRESS ON AUGUST 12 LAST BY DR. CARLOS DE CAMPOS, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF SAO PAULO:

The exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves render it advisable and needful beyond all doubt that I should personally give you a clear and frank explanation of how matters stand, otherwise my message to-day would, indeed, have been a different one.

I would have liked to have congratulated myself, the State, and yourselves with the greatest satisfaction and confidence with regard to the last and auspicious session of your present Legislature, recognising that, owing to your well-directed efforts, to the wise provisions of which you have given so many ample proofs, it is upon you that the traditional and future progress of Sao Paulo depends. In addition, offering you the loyal and unlimited co-operation of the Government which had just assumed power for its new period of four years, and telling you, finally, all that was essential and necessary to be done within such a short administrative period to deal with the problems affecting the Government of this State. Nothing more would have been needed, since my predecessor had already left behind him in a brilliant and substantial report, duly published and distributed with all its correlative reports, detailed information and highly useful advice on the previous Administration and its chief corollaries.

A BARBAROUS ADVENTURE.

The recent barbarous events, however, which have taken place in this capital and in the interior of the State have willed it that the first message which I have the honour of laying before your august Legislative Assembly should be shorn of its normal and serene characteristics.

That is why I appear before you sombre and heavy-hearted, but unshaken in my purpose, to speak to you of treachery, crime, disgrace, and punishment.

This ignominious armed adventure is rendered all the more notorious by the fact that it was treacherously launched by a shameful conspiracy of envy and ambition against Sao Paulo. It was purposely chosen to be the theatre of such uncalled-for deeds as it is a great centre of social and political strength, and at the same time the metropolis of vast wealth. It was, therefore, a suitable place, as it served as the most convenient shelter and refuge for the double object which these brigands had in view.

There was nothing lacking in their evil designs. Their treachery

was a long and premeditated one, cruelly carried out in cold blood by Brazilians and Paulistas false to their traditions and to their nation. They were citizens without any idea of civic honour; soldiers without a spark of patriotism, and members of the police force false to the oaths which they had sworn to fulfil and safeguard.

EFFECT OF REVOLUTION.

The crime was perpetrated with cannon and machine guns against peaceful, industrious, cultured and harmless citizens. There was the sacrificing of human life, the destroying of property, the disorganising of labour. Terror and anarchy were spread in its path, with attempts to overthrow old-established and existing institutions of law, justice, right, order, and all principles of authority. In short, the very honour and credit of the State and of the nation.

The consequent disaster burst over our land, with its sad accompaniment of death and mourning, and left famine, orphans, and sickness. It paralysed all activities, led to economical and financial shocks, with the outbreaks of sedition, intrigue, calumnies, and discords. They have dragged the history of Sao Paulo through the mud.

Hence the punishment which this picture portrays—after the style of Dante, of bitterness, despair, and desolation—one which was meted out to these unpardonable criminals. This sad adventure of corruption, violence, and vituperation commenced with the capture of the barracks of Luz at an advanced hour of the night by the military forces from the Santa Anna barracks, in conjunction with the police cavalry, which had previously revolted under some of its officers and insubordinates of the army. Thereupon, after stealing arms and munitions by force, fraud, and false promises, they gathered together under the flag of insurrection several of the infantry of the public forces, and attacked the Campos Elyseos (inhabited by the President of the State and his family), the Law Courts, the Central Police offices, and the residence of the commander of the State forces, who was surprised and imprisoned. In view of the immediate and at every moment growing strength of the defences of the Presidential Palace by its customary guard, which was subsequently increased and better prepared by the gallant efforts of the brave major who was the adjutant of the President, and to whose help there later on hastened other brave officers and soldiers who were able to answer the first call—the revolutionaries proceeded to bombard the building with guns, which they had brought from Quitauna, without attaining their object.

They succeeded in doing considerable damage to the College of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to private houses in the neighbourhood, where they assassinated scores of women and children.

ORGANISING DEFENCE.

After that they proceeded to the assault of the Law Courts and the Central Police offices, which by that time had become important centres of the Government forces, under the orders of the brave Secretary of the Law Courts, who never for a single moment abandoned his post, and was indefatigable in the energetic and decisive steps which he took from the first to the very last day of the fighting. These forces were also under the command of Colonel Pedro Dias de Campos, who very soon showed what a brilliant officer he was, and also gave proofs of the marvellous competency and efficiency with which he was endowed. His gifts were subsequently recognised by the High Command of the Loyalist forces.

For four days and nights on end the patriotic resistance, which was generously supported by a great number of the friends of the President and of the Secretary of Justice, by politicians, Paulistas, and representatives of the various social classes, was kept up by the staff of the two Government offices and other public functionaries, at the two above-mentioned points which the revolutionaries were endeavouring to conquer.

When, however, thanks to spies, the communications between the Campos Elyseos were intercepted and destroyed, and the Palace of Justice was bombarded, thereby disconnecting it with the other points of defence, the Government decided, in agreement with Generals Estanislau Pamplona and Carlos Arlindo, and the staff officers, who had been constituted for these provisional operations, to transport itself to the suburb of Guyauña. Here they joined up with the contingents from Rio and the High Command, which latter was luckily entrusted to the illustrious General of Division, Eduardo Socrates.

LOYALTY OF ADMINISTRATION.

As a matter of fact, the President and the Secretary of Justice remained there issuing manifestoes and circulars, and took all the necessary steps in their power. They kept in constant communication with the President of the Republic, with the Ministers of War and Justice, with Santos, and, later on, with the interior, by means of a field telegraph, and also with the other Departments of the State, all of which with marvellous calmness and firmness maintained themselves on the side and in the service of the Government. They complied with all things and for all purposes, and did everything that was asked of them.

After this resistance, and with the object of joining the legal forces, the police, who had so ably supported the Government forces, marched off in perfect order, and took up strategical positions, all of them within the capital. These the revolutionists were never able to capture.

It is only just that we here place on record the assistance given by the troops, who kept faithful to the Government of the Union, and who arrived in the city for that purpose—namely, the garrison from Port Itaipús, and the one from the "Minas Geraes." They were sent by the worthy Admiral Penido, who was in command of the squadron stationed in Santos. In addition, there was a contingent from the 4th Battalion of Sharpshooters from Saint Anna, and nearly all the cavalry from Pirassununga.

From that moment onwards, by the most praiseworthy efforts of the Central of Brazil, we progressed. With ever increasing

security and success there continued to be mobilised and brought into touch with the enemy—who had purposely hidden in churches, factories, and schools—all the loyal troops. Their numbers were increased by numerous bodies of police from Rio de Janeiro, Minas Espirito Santo, Paraná, Santa Catharina, and Rio Grande do Sul and by valiant patriotic battalions formed in the Federal capital until, finding themselves hemmed in on all sides by a circle of iron and fire—and already vanquished in advance, their ranks thinned Exhausted and disheartened, this armed band of revolutionists—as furtively as they had entered—abandoned this capital and fled into the interior of the State.

REBELS DEFEATED.

As they are being pursued by a part of the Loyalist troops day after day the rebels are becoming more and more demoralised and allowing themselves to be captured. They are losing their officers, men, and munitions of war and provisions, as well as guns. To this object the contingents of General Azevedo Costa have contributed in no small measure. They were organised to act in conjunction with the civic elements which have been got together by the Vice-President, Colonel Fernando Prestes, by the late President Washington Luis, by the Senator Ataliba Leonel, and by the Deputies Julio Prestes, Fernando Costa, Hilario Freire, Eduardo Lorena, Deodato Wertheimer, and Colonel J. Diniz Junqueira. All of them are devoted to the defence of our land and to the Republican institutions.

Before this flight—one which we had already foreseen, and was daily expected by all those who could appreciate the utter futility and evident injustice of this black conspiracy and the weakness of its ephemeral and reprehensible methods—the rebels threw away their masks of pseudo-regenerators of the political customs of the country, and unceremoniously set about trying to rob the country of all the securities, all the specie, and especially the public and private moneys which they were able to discover and get hold of. They thereby stamped upon their insipid white flag the real symbol and object of their armed invasion into the territory of Sao Paulo.

BRAZIL'S SOLIDARITY.

In the midst of all this horror, of all this vileness, there stood out, we are glad to say—so that the noble spirit of Sao Paulo should not succumb—that sentiment for which to-day it is so grateful. It feels more the disgrace which has been inflicted upon it rather than the material losses which it has suffered. In the first place, it showed the unanimous solidarity of the people of Brazil, who gathered around the President of the Republic, looking up to him as the natural exponent of this most glorious hour. It was a solidarity evinced by the significant moral support given by all the Federal entities, as well as by the powerful and all-compelling assistance of the military, police, and patriotic forces of the Union and of the neighbouring States above referred to, whose bravery, devotion and efficiency can only be compared with the high sense of national adhesion and devotion to the Republic such as has never before been seen. Moreover, we must not forget the demonstration of piety and philanthropy which so much contributed to ennoble those who—Ministers of the Most High—in their charitable prayers, and the faithful who accompanied them, obtained so many blessings for Sao Paulo. Those who, rich and poor alike, never once refused to the needy the help and the means at their disposal; those who, professionally or spontaneously, contributed

with their science or with their care and attention in favour of the sick and wounded; all of them real ministers of religion, of charity, of medicine, and of the hospitals, vied with each other in their devotion and zeal in endeavouring to allay the sufferings of mind, the poverty and pain of the victims of this most horrible catastrophe.

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED.

As was only natural, among the exceptional measures which were adopted, and which were the most rigorously needed for the immediate re-establishment of the general order—that order which had been so profoundly disturbed—the legislative Congress of the Republic passed a resolution entered down in its minutes, and with a most significant majority, declaring a state of siege for Sao Paulo. It is in this capital and in the interior that the effects of this extraordinary measure have been felt, but only in extremely suspicious cases.

It is also to be noted that the Federal Government and the State Government, each in its own respective capacity, is taking all the necessary proceedings to thoroughly investigate these criminal events, and while justice is preparing for the trial and punishment of the responsible parties, I, for my part, have already issued the necessary decrees dismissing, for the sake of the public service, the civil functionaries, and expelling those members of the police force who have been implicated in these most disgraceful events, as being unworthy of belonging to the honourable ranks of the loyal servants of Sao Paulo.

Were it not that it is the supreme duty of the powers duly constituted by the classes, organised on the basis of honesty and labour by all those citizens who are conscious of the duty they owe to their Brazilian and Paulist citizenship—as regards the inevitable and immediate punishment of the delinquent—it would have been better to have effaced from our memory this black and hideous abasement of conscience which henceforth shall be dead to all human dignity.

It contaminated everything that came into contact with it. Briefly, these may be mentioned: The intangible spirit of general discipline which ensures the proper working of the organisms necessary to the common existence of mankind. The productive and happy tranquillity of an intelligent people conscious of their peaceful and progressive existence. The internal and external prestige of the State and of the country in its federative and international independence. Fraternal patriotism, which is the strongest foundation of Brazilian unity. The thousand and one influences that go towards the cementing of family love. The factors of municipal devotion, of State adherence, and of fidelity to the Union. In a word, all things which find their ultimate expression in love for the Fatherland.

SEVERITY NECESSARY.

It behoves us, therefore, for the sake of our national honour, to stamp out once and for all with a ruthless hand this pernicious germ which has tried to sow such poisonous seeds, and whose attacks threatened to enslave the Brazilian community. It shall be so in the interest of the noble aspiration and objectives of the majority; for the sake of our national solidarity; in answer to the indignant and just clamours which rise from the whole of Brazil; for the sake of the blood of the innocent victims; and in accordance with the dictates of all human laws as to the punishment of crime,

and even in the name of the Divine law which exacts the punishment of the guilty.

It will be only in this manner, when peace has been restored to our country, still sore from the effects of the great torture we have experienced, and while rendering the most reverent homage of tender regrets for those who perished and suffered in the heat of battle and its inevitable consequences, that we shall be able to resume our work of reconstruction, having eliminated from our midst the disintegrating and anarchist elements, which in such a treacherous and criminal manner came to upset the life of the country.

Thank God the damage is not irreparable, and can be remedied by our unshaken efforts, our incalculable resources and possibilities.

Let inexorable justice pronounce its verdict, and purge the social and political atmosphere. The Paulistians will know how to resume the normal course of their labours and of their ever-increasing prosperity and greatness.

The Government has the absolute conviction of having complied with its duty of resistance to the treacherous attempt—even to the point of cutting its throat—and in a like manner does it feel sure of being able to comply in every way with the claims and requirements established by law. Such will be its greatest preoccupation, and already it has taken the necessary urgent measures for public order and safety, for all the necessary supplies of life, and for all the guarantees to enable the public securing the full exercise of all its activities.

TO DEVELOP RESOURCES.

I can also promise you that the Government administration will devote all its efforts throughout all the branches of Government Departments in order to develop in every possible manner the resources of the State. This you will very shortly see by the special messages which I will send you on each one of these topics.

Some time ago, addressing myself to the Paulistians from the public platform during my political campaign—when I was putting up for the elevated post in which to-day I find myself—I gave assurances in all good faith that I would, with preference, always guide my actions by the dictates of tolerance.

I do not go back on my words, nor will I change my course, but "tolerance" does not spell "weakness," pusillanimity, or accommodating condescensions. There are certain classes of tolerance which are equivalent to complicity, as we ourselves have noticed in the case of the present revolt. For my part, I will not shirk the opinion or the duty of classifying them as they deserve.

The late tragic movement has come to put this part of the programme to the test. Let it be so. The fight was costly in life and treasure; the consequences are grave; therefore most severe will be the means of repression.

What I can and must affirm, however, is that unconditionally I pledge my intelligence, my forces, and my life in the integral and faithful carrying out of the Government mission which has been entrusted to me, whatever may be the consequences.

Allow me, therefore, gentlemen of the Congress, to solemnly repeat before you the promise I have undertaken of properly serving the great destinies of Sao Paulo and of the Republic.

CARLOS DE CAMPOS,

President of the State.

Sao Paulo, August 12, 1924.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

GRATIFYING RESULTS OF CENTENARY YEAR.

The one hundredth annual general meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society was held, on the 10th instant, at 15 St James's square, London, Mr Francis E. J. Smith (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The report and accounts which we have the pleasure to lay before you to-day deal with the year which ended on June 30th last, and the date marks the completion of the first 100 years of the society's existence. During the first year of our existence we saved £165. To-day, our life assurance fund amounts to nearly £8,000,000, and the excess of our income over our expenditure in 1924 has been £467,000.

The policies granted during our first year were 52 in number, and the sums assured amounted to £44,300. To-day, we record a new business thirty times as large, and the total amount of assurances on our books is about 19½ million pounds.

You will see that the net new life business of £1,324,000 is substantially ahead of last year. In fact, the new business of our centenary year is the largest in our history, with the exception of the abnormal year 1920, when the disbandment of our Army brought back a vast adult population to civilian life, and when the war conditions had made the public realise, as never before, the advantages of life assurance.

You will see that our premium income now exceeds £600,000, and showed the large increase during the year of £41,000. This, as befits a centenary year, is much the largest growth we have experienced in any one year.

RATE OF INTEREST EARNED.

The rate of interest earned represents a very satisfactory net yield of £4 13s 2d. When comparison is made with the average rates earned before the beginning of the present quinquennium, it will be found that for more than a generation prior to the war the net rate which the society was able to earn upon its investments was always less than 4 per cent., and that during the later nineties it sometimes fell below 3½ per cent. Remembering the scale of bonuses which the society was able to declare, based on the interest earnings of those past days, I feel sure that our policyholders and agents will rejoice to see the well-sustained interest earnings of the current quinquennium.

You will see that the death claims announced during the past year have shown an increase over the previous year, but with the expansion of the society's business an increase in the amount of the death claims was inevitable. What really matters is not the amount, but the character of the claims, and, regarded from this point of view, the mortality experience last year has fully sustained the high average reached during the first two years of the quinquennium.

Within the last year or two, both the Government and the Institute of Actuaries, whose president this year is our actuary, a fact upon which we congratulate him and ourselves, have published new tables relating to the mortality of annuitants. A year ago, anticipating the production of a new standard table, your directors felt that the time had come to give effect to the lower rates of mortality which now exist. An investigation made by our actuary disclosed such an improvement in the rates of mortality as to justify a substantial reduction in the rates of premium charged for new assurances. We brought these new tables into use last October. Our agents and connections at once recognised the attractive character of the rates we are now charging, and I have little doubt that the expansion of our new business shown this year has been largely brought about by this course.

THE ACCOUNTS.

I turn now to the accounts, and I will deal first with the Stock Exchange investments, which now reach a total of about £3,876,000. Our total holding of British Government securities is now a little over £2,400,000, which is about £130,000 more than last year. The Indian Government securities are a little higher than last year, and now stand at £463,000, including £100,000 5½ loan, which falls to be repaid in 1932, and Indian Railway Annuities, which are peculiarly suitable for an insurance company. We have substantially increased our holding of Colonial Government securities, which last year had dwindled to £112,000, mainly owing to the maturing of short-dated stocks. Foreign Government securities amount now to £128,000, and other foreign securities to £4,450, so that the total amount which we have invested outside the limits of the British Empire is less than £133,000, a figure which represents about 1½ per cent. of our total funds. You will notice that on June 30 the market value of our Stock Exchange securities was £185,501 in excess of the book value. A year ago the excess was £224,000, of which we have realised nearly £9,000. On balance, therefore, there has been a small fall in values during these 12 months; but, after all, £185,000 represents a very comfortable

margin. And I find that a revaluation made three months later shows that the margin had risen to just on £200,000. There is a Greek figure of speech called "Meiosis," which means saying less than you mean. I am quite sure every member of the board would say that our bonus, then, will not be less than the last; and I think they would offend against the canon I have quoted. The question is, how much better will the bonus be in 1926 than our bonus in 1921? Well, our valuation rate assumes 2½ per cent. interest; we have made, on an average, during the first three years of our quinquennium £4 11s 7d net after deduction of income-tax. Let that fact speak for itself.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Oct. 13—Oct. 18 were opened on Oct. 10, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £60,710,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 4d, about 74 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 7d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Sept. 5.....	40,000,000	51,165,000	3 15 6.37	nil
Sept. 12.....	35,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3.27	nil
Sept. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1.09	nil
Sept. 26.....	40,000,000	63,960,000	3 12 4.7	nil
Oct. 3.....	40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3.99	nil
Oct. 10.....	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9.13	nil

Tenders will be received on Oct. 17, 1924, for Treasury Bond and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.					
			Silver Coin.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Government Notes.	Amount of Notes.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.								
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,450	15.9	261,479	177
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	5,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,319	850
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.6	246,456	129
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.9	252,322	130
1923.								
Mar. 29.....	285,616	13,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294	190
June 28.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446	123
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	238,596	140
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.5	255,038	169
1924.								
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,867	130
June 25.....	280,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,198	140
Sept. 17.....	287,452	12,281	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	243,141	142
Oct. 1.....	285,592	12,237	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,186	184
Oct. 8.....	287,499	12,618	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	243,578	89
Oct. 8.....	288,601	12,280	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	244,328	109

Since July 31, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £300,000,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1918.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3½% Conversion Loan..	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666
3½% War Stock.....	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4½% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½ and 5½% War Stock..	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,086	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds....	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	994	820	396
4½ Funding Loan.....	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
4½ Victory Bonds.....	..	380	357	347	335	326	326	314	314
Treasury Bonds.....	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	467	470
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certs..	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
Other Debt.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,067	1,157	1,149	1,126	1,126
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	..	51	51	1,121	678	616	652	688	603
Treasury Bills.....	15	1,107	1,107	1,107	147	194	208	186	189
Temporary Advances..	1	243	205	154	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,663
	57	46	47	46	66	70	66	66	66
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,878	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,729

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances	Oct. 5, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Oct. 4, '24.	Oct. 4, '24.
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	£500,000..	10,500,000..	10,500,000..	10,500,000
Advances by Public Depôts.	181,261,500..	186,155,500..	178,695,000..	23,450,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	628,738,000..	588,320,000..	603,085,000..	15,845,000
Total Floating Debt	£1,369,500,000..	£21,155,500..	£21,155,500..	£21,155,500
* Includes £15,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1924, to Oct. 4, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1923, to Oct. 6, 1923.	4 Days Ended Oct. 4, 1924.	6 Days Ended Oct. 6, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.		6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
Customs.....	101,800,000	50,838,000	65,571,000	1,245,000	2,528,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	63,737,000	70,293,000	865,000	1,294,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,106,000	3,784,000	..	155,000
Stamps, &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	31,970,000	27,290,000	450,000	560,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty.....	21,000,000	9,190,000	9,480,000	380,000	120,000
Property & Income Tax.....	1,250,000	650,000	520,000	10,000	10,000
Super-Tax.....	265,000,000	109,122,000	110,114,000	5,050,000	5,807,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	61,000,000	24,840,000	20,990,000	310,000	370,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	8,000,000	8,800,000	10,750,000	170,000	430,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	2,900,000	25,600,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	..	460,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	8,059,896	8,299,172	2,250,835	2,277,010
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	6,462,750	7,629,732	492,100	388,754
Ordinary Receipts.....	30,000,000	15,657,508	20,942,509	80,824	953,700
Special Receipts.....	794,050,000	360,813,154	381,723,413	12,303,759	15,893,464
Revenue.....	..	367,444,768	388,541,580	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Billion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	5,780,000	4,310,000	..	300,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924.....	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	260,719	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	140,000	270,000	..	..	..
(c) For other issues: By Treasury Bills.....	1,220,980,000	1,285,501,000	22,266,000	55,365,000	..
By National Savings Certificates.....	13,850,000	33,050,000	500,000	5,200,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1921-33.....	13,521,620	29,208,627	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	489,159,000	495,055,000	34,950,000	25,100,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	502,521	186,598	13,123	9,048	..
Total.....	2,116,225,737	2,239,619,886	70,033,882	101,867,512	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1924, to Oct. 4, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1923, to Oct. 6, 1923.	4 Days Ended Oct. 4, 1924.	6 Days Ended Oct. 6, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	177,577,876	177,774,707	21,685,282	24,549,281
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	14,440,352	19,887,539	..	380,500
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	3,505,944	3,028,044	..	..
Payments to Local Authorities &c.....	13,150,000	4,687,891	4,158,012	206,000	70,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,383,727	1,865,791	75,000	75,000
Land Settlement.....	750,000	324,484	345,930	..	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	1,133,704	1,290,840	..	..
Supply Services.....	408,913,072	184,149,189	191,273,676	5,600,000	11,717,996
Expenditure.....	793,759,000	388,202,277	399,625,539	27,710,288	36,792,777
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances.....	..	..	5,000	..	..
Billion.....	..	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924.....	36,891	36,891	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	220,000	270,000	80,000	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924.....	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	260,719	..	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—	5,780,000	4,010,000	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed—					
Redemption of Debt—	1,206,230,000	1,271,730,000	37,825,000	51,360,000	..
Treasury Bills.....	16,400,000	13,100,000	550,000	750,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates.....	5,854,373	31,886,910	5,807,702	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	50	6,981,184	..	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....	486,118,000	500,591,000	1,000,000	14,500,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners.....	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	55,214	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	1,946,527	2,063,139	2,936,070	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	649,791	842,928	4,032	499,684	..
Total.....	2,596,318	2,896,067	2,940,102	1,535,265	..

Note.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 63 of 1924.

Treasury, October 6, 1924.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 8, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government debt	£
Notes issued.....	146,404,325	11,015,100	
		Other securities.....	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion.....	126,654,325
	146,404,325		146,404,325

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government securities	£
Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	44,733,443	
Reserve.....	3,080,094	Other securities.....	73,911,624
Public deposits.....	10,866,507	Notes.....	21,919,840
Other deposits.....	113,881,925	Gold and silver coin.....	1,826,749
Seven-day & other bills.....	10,130		
	142,391,656		142,391,656

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Oct. 8, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest.....	3,080,094	—	634,733
Public deposits.....	10,866,507	—	6,517,400
Other deposits.....	113,881,925	+	8,000,000
Government securities.....	73,911,624	+	6,828,906
Other securities.....	23,746,589	—	2,140,723
Reserve.....	124,484,885	+	1,196,650
Note circulation.....	128,481,074	—	54,927
Gold and silver coin.....	126,654,325	—	14
% of reserve to liabilities.....	19%	14%	4%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.
1924.					
Sept. 3.....	128,402,791	125,725,405	125,292,555	121,139,856	22,427,386
10.....	128,423,957	124,731,730	122,238,425	117,078,758	23,442,927
17.....	128,426,787	124,099,235	122,076,356	116,261,708	24,077,552
24.....	128,425,337	123,908,865	124,305,863	118,305,809	24,266,472
Oct. 1.....	128,426,147	122,288,835	128,080,392	120,473,972	25,887,312
8.....	128,481,074	124,484,885	124,748,432	118,645,067	23,746,589

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to September 24.....	25,448,812	1,159,912	2,108,335	28,717,059
Oct. 1.....	725,652	27,740	60,836	804,228
Oct. 8.....	613,915	36,103	68,518	718,536
Total to date 1924.....	26,788,379	1,223,755	2,227,689	30,239,823
Do 1923.....	24,980,066	1,204,500	2,196,478	28,381,044
Increase or decrease in 1924.....	+ 1,808,313	+ 19,255	+ 31,211	+ 1,858,779
%.....	+ 7.2 %	+ 1.6 %	+ 1.4 %	+ 6.5 %
Total for year 1923.....	32,770,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,827,592
Total for year 1922.....	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923.....	— 510,262	— 28,096	+ 4,489	— 533,869
%.....	— 1.6 %	— 1.8 %	+ 0.2 %	— 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of September.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Oct. 4.
	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days.....	26	25
BIRMINGHAM.....	7,992,000	9,232,000
BRISTOL.....	4,515,000	4,971,000
DUBLIN.....	3,857,000	4,568,000
HULL.....	3,575,000	4,038,000
LEEDS.....	2,801,000	3,067,000
LIVERPOOL.....	32,413,000	37,348,000
MANCHESTER.....	54,894,000	65,167,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.....	7,449,000	7,015,000
NOTTINGHAM.....	2,221,000	2,587,000
SHEFFIELD.....	4,321,000	4,200,000
Total.....	123,817,000	141,668,000

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.
(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. September, 1924.	Bank of Liverpool Bank, Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Provinci- al Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	West- minster Bank, Limited.	Willm's Deacons' Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England, ..	6,404	33,468	1,436	2,510	33,673	51,157	28,054	4,051	28,247	3,996	192,996
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	1,794	7,343	592	1,144	8,275	11,311	6,998	164	7,781	1,160	46,562
Items in transit	4,059	21,734	2,729	3,792	16,082	14,064	15,409	3,589	26,890	3,115	111,463
Money at call and short notice.....	3,365	33,198	1,722	1,217	50,132	44,924	40,648	2,844	47,876	2,188	228,114
Bills discounted	8,966	64,492	4,180	9,163	81,601	40,653	45,387	17,387	55,032	5,014	331,875
Investments	37,131	140,656	7,191	8,117	155,359	191,164	127,490	16,623	107,780	19,909	811,420
Advances to customers and other accounts Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	3,976	8,123	51	1,394	14,250	27,609	8,373	..	10,696	981	75,453
Bank premises account	1,728	5,245	346	695	5,579	5,584	4,327	718	4,119	865	29,206
Investments in affiliated banks	..	7,453	..	..	6,580	5,847	2,754	..	2,992	..	25,626
	67,423	321,712	18,247	28,032	371,531	392,313	279,440	45,376	291,413	37,228	1,852,715
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	10.76	11.55	8.65	10.08	10.11	15.01	11.12	10.23	10.75	12.04	11.19
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up.....	2,349	15,592	800	1,060	14,373	11,976	9,479	1,500	9,051	1,875	68,055
Reserve fund.....	1,600	8,250	800	530	10,000	11,976	9,479	1,200	9,052	1,200	54,087
Current, deposit, and other accounts	59,499	289,746	16,596	24,882	332,008	340,752	252,109	39,569	262,602	33,172	1,651,835
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.....	3,975	8,124	51	1,394	14,250	27,609	8,373	..	10,696	981	75,453
Notes in circulation.....	..	..	..	166	..	..	..	3,107	12	..	3,119
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	166
	67,423	321,712	18,247	28,032	371,531	392,313	279,440	45,376	291,413	37,228	1,852,715

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Bulgaria, appeared in the Economist of August 23; Canada, in September 20; Roumania in September 27; Germany, Estonia, Poland and Russia in October 4.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1
--	---------------	-----------------	-------------

prices have advanced steadily and considerably, and the quotations to-day, 36d and 36½d for cash and forward deliveries respectively, are fresh records for the year, and the highest since July 8, 1922.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS. (In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 15.	Sept. 22.	Sept. 30.
Notes in circulation	17,837	17,871	17,925
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,472	8,507	8,562
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion in India ..	5,733	5,733	5,731
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	1,400	1,399	1,400
Securities (Indian Government) ..			
Securities (British Government) ..			

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 30th ult. The stock in Shanghai on the 4th inst. consisted of about 43,600,000 ozs in sycee, 46,500,000 dollars, and 2,000 silver bars, as compared with about 43,200,000 ozs in sycee, 46,500,000 dollars, and 1,910 silver bars on the 27th ult.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Date.	Silver.
	Cash.	Forward.		Cash.
Oct. 4....	92 9	35½	Oct. 19, 1918..	48½
6....	92 9	35½	17, 1919..	63½
7....	92 11	35½	15, 1920..	53½
8....	92 11	36	14, 1921..	42½
9....	92 5	36½	13, 1922..	34½
10....	92 3	35½	12, 1923..	31½

NOTICES.

We regret to announce the death of Sir James Hope Simpson at the age of 60. Appointed general manager of the Bank of Liverpool in 1903, Sir James retired from the general management of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins some twelve months ago, but retained his seat on the board until the time of his death.

On and after Monday, October 13th, all stocks except 5 per cent. War stock will be transferable at 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2. The business of the Power of Attorney Office of the Bank of England will continue to be conducted temporarily at the head office in the late Bank Stock Office.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 11 Stamford New road, Altrincham, Cheshire, under the management of Mr H. W. Knott. An office has also been opened at 3 High street, Wroughton, near Swindon.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new branch at Old Hall street, Liverpool (to be known as Cotton Exchange Branch), under the management of Mr Harry Jackson.

The Tokenhouse Yard (registered) office of the Bank of London and South America, Limited, will be transferred, at the close of business to-day, to temporary premises at 25-31, Moorgate (first floor).

We learn that the London and Foreign Banking Corporation, Limited, which was recently organised for facilitating overseas trade by the granting of export credits, guarantees, acceptances against goods, &c., thus assisting reciprocal trade, and creating international credits, has acquired the business of the old-established London accepting house of Messrs Arthur H. Brandt and Co. The business of Arthur H. Brandt and Co., which was established in 1899, will be continued on the same lines as in the past, and the offices of the London and Foreign Banking Corporation, Limited, will be transferred to 39 Lime street, E.C. 3.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS.—Estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of September was 63,797 barrels, equal to approximately 9,100 tons, and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, amounted to about 10,500 tons.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM.—Production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of September amounted to 58,121 barrels.

GENERAL PETROLEUM COMPANY OF TRINIDAD.—Estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of September was 7,785 barrels, equal to approximately 1,112 tons, and the oil delivered to the United British Refineries, Limited, amounted to about 1,450 tons.

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS.—Total production during September amounted to 145,182 barrels, or approximately 20,740 tons, including:—St Helen's Petroleum Company, Limited, 35,143 barrels (5,020 approx. tons); Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, 31,846 barrels (4,549 approx. tons); Kern Romana, Limited, 2,457 barrels (351 approx. tons); Kern Mex Oilfields, S.A., 30,201 barrels (4,314 approx. tons).

STEAUA ROMANA, BUCHAREST.—Production for the month of September was 24,110 tons, as compared with 18,384 tons during September, 1923.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD.—Combined production for the week ending October 1, 1924, amounted to 875 tons.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim div.	Final div.	Method of Payment.	Interim Date of Payment.	Final Date of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Lat/ut Pre-Year %.
Banks.								
Anglo-South American	5%+	Oct. 27	Less tax				10	10
Colonial, "A" shares & "B" Ord	7 p.s.*	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Hambro	6%+	Oct. 15	Tax free				10	10
Irving Bank	3%	Quarterly					10	10
Punjab National	Rs.15						10	10
Insurance.								
Commercial Union	6/9 p.s.*	Nov. 4	Tax free				10	10
London and Lancashire	7 p.s.*	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Royal	13 p.s.*	Nov. 15	Less tax 4/6 in £				10	10
Standard (N.Z.)	1 p.s.†	& bonus of 1/6 p.s.	(c) 2/5 p.s.				10	10
Railways.								
Antofagasta	3%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				7	7
B.A. and Pacific	4%+	Jan. 1	Less tax				8½	7½
B. A. Western	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Madras	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Nizam's Guaranteed	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Nizam's	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
North Indian	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
Tatkal	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				10	10
United of Havana	4%+	Nov. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £				7	6
Mining.								
Aluminiu Corporation, Pref.	1/6 p.s.*	Oct. 21	Less tax				7	7
Iridis Hydraulic	1/6 p.s.*	Oct. 21	Less tax				10	7½
Rongong Tin	20%+	Oct. 21	Less tax				10	7½
Ropp Tin	1 p.s.*	Oct. 21	Tax free				3½	nil
Tomboy Gold	1 p.s.*	Oct. 21	Tax free				3½	nil
Tea and Rubber.								
Associated Tea	12½%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				20	25
Bajoo Kidool Rubber	10%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				15	15
Batagalla Rubber	10%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				15	15
Bogavantalawa Rubber	10%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				15	15
Bernam-Perak Rubber, Pref.	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				6	6
Brambrakelly	6%+	Oct. 22	Less tax 4/6 in £				15	12
Ceylon Tea	18%+	Oct. 30	Less tax				15	12
Horn ey Tea	5%+	Oct. 30	Less tax				15	12
Kamuning	10%+	Oct. 30	Tax free				15	12
Kintyre Tea	10%+	Oct. 30	Less tax 4/6 in £				15	12
Lindoola Tea	10%+	Oct. 21	Less tax				4	5
New Syihet Tea	10%+	Oct. 21	Less tax				4	5
Nyalas Rubber	5%+	Oct. 18	Less tax				6	5(a)
Pusing Rubber	10%+	Oct. 9	Less tax				12½	10
Rosehaugh Tea	10%+	Oct. 9	Less tax				5	12½
Straits Plantations	10%+	Oct. 9	Less tax 4/6 in £				12½	10
Sungkai Chumoor	10%+	Oct. 4	Less tax				5	12½
Tyspane Tea	10%+	Oct. 4	Less tax				10	10
Vellikelle Tea	10%+	Oct. 6	Less tax				10	20
Victoria (Malaya)	10%+	Oct. 6	Less tax				10	20
Other Companies.								
Acme Tea Chest	12½%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				20	20
African City Properties Trust	3%+	Nov. 1	Less tax 2/3 in £				15	12½
Airdale Collieries	5%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				15	12½
Asia Spinning	1/3 p.s.*	Nov. 1	Quarterly				15	12½
Australian Mercantile Land	5%+	Nov. 1	(and bonus of 5%) Tax free				15	12½
Borax Consolidated, Pref. Ord.	5%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				15	12½
Bryant and May	4%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				14	12½
Buchanan-Dewar	10%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				14	12½
Bushell, Watkins, and Smith	10%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				14	12½
Calcutta Tramways	4%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				3½	3½
Caledonian Property Investment	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				3½	3½
Canadian Explosives, Cum. Pref.	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				3½	3½
Crescent Steamship	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				3½	3½
D. and W. Murray, Limited	10%+	Oct. 15	Tax free				3½	3½
Deal and Walmer Gas & Electric	3½%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				7½	6½
Denaby and Cadeby Main Colls.	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				8	8
Enfield Cycle	10%+	Oct. 15	Tax free				8	8
Fortnum and Mason	3½%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Fredericks Hotels	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Furness, Withy	10%+	Oct. 15	Tax free				10	10
Glenacaig Distillery	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
George Fardon Platts	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Goode, Durrant	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Highland Distilleries	10%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Hope Bros.	5%+	Oct. 15	15% Tax free				35	30
Indo-European Telegraph	5%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
International Harvester	11%+	Oct. 15	Tax free				10	10
John Clegg	12 p.s.†	Oct. 15	Quarterly				10	10
John McClory	5%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Laurentide Company	11%+	Oct. 15	Less tax				10	10
Laurato Nitrate	5%+	Oct. 24	Quarterly				10	10
London and South American	5%+	Oct. 24	Quarterly				10	10
Investment Trust	1/6 p.s.*	Oct. 22	Less tax				10	10
London Trust Co.	10%+	Oct. 22	Less tax 4/6 in £				10	10
Longmorn-Glenlivet	1 p.s.*	Oct. 22	Tax free				25	25
Manor Powis Coal	1 p.s.*	Oct. 22	Tax free				25	25
Maynards	15%+	Oct. 22	(& bonus of 5 p.s.)				45	40
Old Silkstone Collieries, Cum. Pref.	8%+	Oct. 22	Less tax				8	10
Phoenix Brewery	2/6 p.s.*	Oct. 22	Less tax				8	10
Raphael Truck	11%+	Oct. 22	Less tax				8	10
Robert Simpson, Pref.	6%+	Nov. 1	Less tax				5	5
Rosario Drainage	4%+	Oct. 31	Less tax				5	5
Sadler and Co.	6%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				10	10
Savoy Hotel	6%+	Oct. 14	Less tax				10	10
Scottish Malt Distillers	12%+	Oct. 14	Tax free				10	10
Second Scottish Northern Invest.	12%+	Oct. 14	Tax free				10	10
Sir Elkannah Armitage	12%+	Oct. 14	Tax free				10	10
Spillers Milling	12%+	Oct. 14	Tax free				10	10
Steel Company of Scotland	12%+	Oct. 14	Tax free				10	10
Stephen Smith and Co.	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Temple Shipping Company	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Thomas Smith's Stamping	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Tweedales and Smalley	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Weaver and Co.	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Western Union Telegraph	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10
Yates and Thom	10%+	Nov. 1	Tax free				10	10

(c) The directors have capitalised £50,000 by declaring out of reserve a special bonus of 5s per share, and simultaneously making a call of 5s per share.

BURMA RAILWAYS.—Final dividend of £1 5s per cent, together with a bonus of £2 10s per cent, both subject to income-tax, on account of surplus profits to be distributed with the guaranteed interest of £1 5s per cent, less tax, payable on January 1, 1925, making in all a return of £8 10s per cent, for the year 1923-24 (being the same as for the preceding year).

ENTRE RIOS RAILWAYS.—In view of the improved cash position, the net revenue of the past year has been supplemented by utilising £40,000 of the first preference stock dividend fund, and the payment of a further dividend of 8 per cent. (less tax) is proposed on the first preference stock. This payment will reduce the arrears of the first preference stock to 6 per cent.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHARATTA RAILWAY.—Dividend and bonus for the half-year ending December 31, 1924, payable January 1, 1925, of £5 per cent., comprising guaranteed interest £1 15s, and surplus profits £3 5s, which will make, with the dividend and bonus of £3 10s per cent, paid in July last, a total of £8 10s per cent. for the year (dividend 6 per cent, bonus 2½ per cent), compared with £7 10s per cent. in each of the two previous years. Income tax will be deducted on the £5 dividend, at the rate of 3s 5d in the £, being 4s 6d in the pound on the guaranteed interest, and 2s 10d in the £ on the surplus profits.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.							
Abbottakoon.....	Tons. 6,580		Ozs. ..	Ozs. ..	Oss. 7,929	£ 13,382	
Ashtani.....	7,773		..	..	(b) 35,499	..	..
Balaghat.....	3,300	6,800	2,377	604	2,981	..	..
Blackwater.....	3,480	..	..	..	(e) 7,165	2,710	..
Boulder Perseverance.....	4,497	..	..	..	18,639	4,868	..
Champion Reef.....	10,030	18,735	4,024	718	4,742	..	..
El Oro.....	38,810	..	..	..		\$155,164	\$5,805
Globe and Phoenix.....	6,164	..	..	..	5,224	(g) 8,357	..
Golden Horseshoe.....	9,576	..	..	..	4,866	(d) 20,766	2,214
Hohona.....	7,500	..	..	..	36	..	..
Lake View and Star.....	7,500	..	..	..	174	16,223	..
Lomah (Rhodesia).....	1,080	..	..	..		(a) 2,090	..
Menzies Consolidated.....	15,532	..	..	..	10,110	\$218,030	..
Mexico Mines.....	19,005	28,463	9,039	1,071	11,469	(c) £52,192	4,732
Mysore.....	31,300	..	..	..	172	..	..
New Kleinfontein.....	11,300	..	..	..	5,493	..	..
North Kalguri.....	12,041	18,119	4,729	764	5,493	..	..
Nundydroog.....	13,300	1,900	8,524	129	5,493	..	..
Oregeum.....	13,300	1,900	8,524	129	5,493	..	..
Oriental Consolidated.....	6,300	..	..	..	2,985	\$106,850	..
Rezende.....	56,000	..	..	..	(a) 13,831	6,378	..
St John del Rey.....	2,300	..	..	..	(b) 31,000	..	..
Shamva.....	13,549	..	..	..	(h) 35,132	..	..
Sherwood Star.....	7,007	..	..	..	(a) 13,084	5,602	..
Sons of Gwalla.....	8,150	..	..	..	14,935	..	..
South Kalguri.....	8,150	..	..	..	4,128	(f) 19,040	..
Taqua and Abosso.....	338	..	..	..	2,403	..	..
Wady Gabait.....	17,784	..	46,397	silver	5,264	gold	..
Walhi.....	37,160	..	..	..	11,163	(c) 49,815	11,466
Witwatersrand.....	37,160	..	..	..	..	..	..

BANKS.

BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE OF THE U. OF THE S.S.R. (RUSSIAN COMMERCIAL BANK).—Condensed balance-sheet, September 1, 1924:

LIABILITIES.	Gold Rubles.	ASSETS.	Gold Rubles.
Capital.....	17,035,454	Cash and current accounts.....	596,057
Deposits & current accounts.....	21,152,720	Foreign currency.....	4,242,912
Call and short loans from the State Bank.....	1,873,240	Russian correspondents.....	8,713,468
Russian correspondents.....	2,807,946	Foreign correspondents.....	25,551,363
Foreign correspondents.....	5,837,541	Bills discounted and loans.....	3,324,270
Interests and commission.....	4,289,903	Organisation expenses.....	1,038,123
Other liabilities.....	812,319	Other assets.....	3,466,558
	53,809,131		53,809,131

COLONIAL BANK.—The net profit for the half-year ended June 30th amounts to £46,210, against £42,615 for half-year ended June 30, 1923. The dividend is at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, absorbing £27,900. The relief to shareholders in respect of repayment of Dominion income-tax for the year ended March 31, 1924, is £4,650. The sum of £27,133 is carried forward.

NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.—The shares representing the fractional interests in the issue of 46,250 £10 shares (fully-paid) at £12 per share and 62,500 £8 shares (paid to £5) at £6 per share have been sold. The average price realised was as follows:—£15 2s 8d for the £10 (fully-paid) shares; £7 8s 1d for the £8 shares (paid to £5). The net profit realised over the issue price of £12 and £6 respectively is £2 10s 8d for each £10 (fully-paid) share and £1 6s 7d for each £8 share (paid to £5), and will be distributed to the individual shareholders concerned in the proportion to their fractional share allotment when the next dividend is paid.

INSURANCE.

SALVATION ARMY ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—The number of policies, ordinary branch, issued during the year ended June 30, 1923, was 3,353, assuring the sum of £310,475, and representing a new annual premium income of £19,471. The premium income for the year amounted to £175,066, and the claims to £84,695. Of this amount the sum of £64,512 was paid on matured endowment policies. The premium income of industrial branch amounted to £58,996, and the claims were £161,584, of which the sum of £41,025 was paid on matured endowments, and £120,559 on claims arising through deaths. Total funds for ordinary branch amount to £1,114,880, and industrial branch £1,573,855, making total funds £2,688,735. For year ended June 30, 1923, total assurance funds amounted to £457,240.

RUBBER AND TEA.

BAJOE KIDOL RUBBER AND PRODUCE.—The net profit for year ended March 31, 1924, is £32,691, against £32,165 in preceding year. The ordinary shareholders receive 15 per cent., against 12½ per cent. for preceding year. The sum of £23,354 is carried forward, against £23,387 brought in. The issued capital is £218,160 in £1 shares. There are no debentures. Total assets amount to £336,614. Cash is at £35,249. The company has £46,834 invested in 4½ per cent. treasury bonds at cost, £17,044 in 5 per cent. War Loan at cost, £7,599 in 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan at cost, and £19,732 in 6 per cent. Dutch East Indies loan at cost.

KAMUNING (PERAK) RUBBER AND TEA.—The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £13,811, against £21,735 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is 1d per share, free of income-tax, equivalent to 5.37 per cent. gross, allowing for income-tax at 4s 6d in the £, which will absorb £8,375, leaving £10,238 to go forward. The reserve fund has been increased to £85,000 by transferring £24,395 from appropriation account.

KINTYRE TEA ESTATES.—The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, is £10,212, against £14,090. The ordinary dividend is again 15 per cent. for the year. A balance of £9,287 is carried forward, against £8,256 brought in.

NEW DUMBULA CO., LIMITED.—The directors have decided to recommend to the shareholders that part of the company's reserve should be capitalised and distributed in the form of bonus shares amongst the shareholders in the proportion of one fully-paid new share for every four shares. This will utilise £19,739, and leave a balance standing at reserve of £10,000. The report just issued shows a net profit of £54,029, against £44,517 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend has been raised from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. for the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH CYANIDES COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report for year ended April 30, 1924, reveals a net loss of £24,991, against a net profit of £17,205 in preceding year. An interim dividend on the preference shares, paid December 15, 1923, absorbed £1,425. A debit balance of £11,568 is carried forward, against a credit balance of £14,847 brought in to the accounts. The report states that the sum of £43,696 has been charged against reserve account, being the cost of the shares in the British Potash Company, Limited, in liquidation, which are now of no value. This makes the reserve account now £6,304. The company has an issued capital of £393,422 in ordinary and preference shares. There are no debentures.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.—The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, after payment of debenture interest, amounted to £64,369, against £61,995. The ordinary shareholders receive 10 per cent., the same as for preceding year. The sum of £45,144 is carried forward, against £38,900 brought in. The Hotel Burlington, Dover, was closed on October 1st, and the business of the hotel transferred to the Lord Warden Hotel, the lease of which has been assigned to the company by the Gordon Hotels, Limited. The directors have sold the company's interests in the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, to the Gordon Hotels, Limited, who took possession on October 1st.

DENABY AND CADEBY MAIN COLLIERIES.—The report for year ended June 30, 1924, shows a net profit, after payment of debenture interest, of £21,514. During the year, £18,993 not included in trading profit has been received in respect of compensation for cancelled agreements and added to reserve. A further sum of

£61,064 has been appropriated out of the year's profits, bringing the reserve fund up to £100,000. The ordinary shareholders receive 8 per cent., less tax, absorbing £96,000, leaving £26,987 to go forward, against £26,552 brought in. Total assets are £2,564,787. Cash is at £292,802. Investments at cost stand at £309,268 in the balance-sheet. With regard to liabilities, the company has an ordinary issued capital of £1,200,000 in £1 shares, £200,000 in preference shares of £10 each, and £800,000 in 6 per cent. debenture stock.

KAYSER, ELLISON, AND CO., LIMITED.—The net profit for the year ended March 31, 1924, is £14,561, against £5,853 in preceding year. It is proposed to pay the preference dividend to June 30, 1923, viz., £3,000 immediately after the annual meeting. The directors do not consider it advisable to recommend the payment of the whole of the arrears of preference dividend, but this matter will be dealt with at the earliest favourable opportunity. Stocks have been very carefully taken at cost or market value. The company's plant is still only partially employed, but it has been kept in a state of efficiency, and ready at any moment to take advantage of any improvement in trade.

MANCHESTER LINERS, LIMITED.—This well-known shipping concern has an issued capital of £902,920. Ordinary shares of £1 each amount to £445,200, and there is a 5 per cent. cumulative preference share capital of £457,720 in £1 shares. There are no debentures. Reserve fund stands at £500,000. Total assets are £2,043,418, of which £1,849,189 is in one item, as follows:—Steamships and office premises at cost, less depreciation, and investments at cost. The other two items are:—Cash, £85,304; and sundry debtors and claims of underwriters, £108,925. The company has maintained its net profit, being £63,160 for year ended June 30, 1924, against £65,812 for previous year. The ordinary dividend is 10 per cent., free of income-tax. The sum of £58,631 is carried forward, against £62,877 brought in.

RONEO, LIMITED.—This well-known concern has had a good year. The ordinary dividend for the year ended June 30, 1924, is 7½ per cent., against 5 per cent. for preceding year. The net profit amounts to £60,446, against £20,968. The sum of £19,768 is carried forward. There has been a steady increase in the business of the company during the past year, which increase is still maintained.

TATA IRON AND STEEL.—The following information has been cabled respecting the balance-sheet for the financial year ended March 31, 1924:—Gross profit, before charging debenture interest, loan interest and depreciation, Rs. 74,93,000; brought forward, Rs. 2,53,927—Rs. 77,46,927. Applied as follows:—Debenture and loan interest, Rs. 43,61,000; depreciation, Rs. 30,00,000—Rs. 73,61,000; carried forward, Rs. 3,85,927.

WINNIPEG ELECTRIC COMPANY.—With reference to circular letters of British Empire Trust Company, Limited, of February 18th and March 20, 1924, regarding 5 per cent. refunding mortgage stock of this company, the resolution passed at the meeting of the holders of the above stock on March 17, 1924, has now been confirmed in Canada. As a result, the stock will be known in future as "refund mortgage stock," and the rate of interest will be increased from 4½ per cent. to 5 per cent. as from April 2, 1924.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

With improved weather conditions farmers were able to make good headway with farmwork, also threshings; consequently supplies of native wheat were on a larger scale both here and at provincial centres. Prices remain firm in sympathy with the position of imported, and a steady trade resulted at 13s to 13s 6d per strong, and prices further hardened, with a good general demand. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 73s 6d, No. 2 ditto 72s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 65s 9d, all ex ship terms, choice white Karachi 66s, and Plate ditto 67s per 496 lbs. In the floating and forward cargo section, prices further hardened under stimulating foreign advices, combined with an active demand both on home and Continental account. Steamers of Australian January shipment sold at 65s to 65s 4½d, choice white Karachi October 64s 1½d, ditto early November 64s 4½d, Rosafé 64½ lbs October-November 66s, No. 2 hard winter October-November 64s 7½d, ditto 63½ lbs January-February 63s, No. 1 Northern Manitoba afloat 68s 6d per 480 lbs. Maize cargoes also firmer, and a good business transpired in Plate steamer's October-November at 47s 3d to 47s 4½d, and November-December 48s 3d to 48s 6d per 480 lbs. Barley in better request, and cargoes of Persian October-November sold at 43s 3d, Morocco October-November 42s 3d to 42s 6d, and Azoff Black Sea October-November 44s 6d per 400 lbs. Flour firmer, but trade generally quiet at the advance, as many large users have booked ahead at the comparatively lower prices recently ruling. London standard straight run officially raised to 53s per sack delivered in London area. Patents quoted 55s to 56s, town whites 53s. Imported firmer, with moderate inquiries. Manitoba patents quoted 49s 6d to 52s 6d, and Australian 47s to 47s 6d per 280 lbs ex store. Barley steady. Californian quoted at 69s-72s, Chilean brewing 66s per 48 lbs ex-ship. Karachi ex-ship 46s 6d, Danubian landed 46s, No. 4 Canadian Western ex-ship 45s, American malling 48 lbs ex-ship 44s 6d, all per 400 lbs. English quoted at 13s 3d to 23s 6d per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize again dearer. Plate ex-ship quoted at 46s 6d, landed 48s 3d, Bessarabian landed 48s 9d, and Odessa ex-ship 46s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats firm for spot parcels. Plate ex-ship 31s 6d, landed 34s, Canadian Western No. 2 ex-ship 37s 6d, white American 38 lbs ex-ship 33s per 320 lbs. English quoted at 10s to 11s per 112 lbs free on rail. Oatmeal firm. London-made, flaked 21s, rolled oats 20s 6d, medium and fine cut 20s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 20s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefee. Amount.	Ordinary. Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.										
Colonial Bank.....	June 30*	£ 28,473	£ 46,210	£ 74,683	£ ..	£ (m) 32550	8	£ 15,000	£ 27,133	£ 42,615 8
Breweries and Distilleries.										
Longmorn-Glenlivet Distillers ..	July 31	15,539	7,497	23,036	750	3,750	25½	2,000	16,536	6,255 20½
Financial, Land, &c.										
Caledonian Property Investment	July 31	..	2,413	2,413	..	1,167	3½	35	1,211	2,243 3½
Hotels and Restaurants.										
Frederick Hotels	June 30	38,900	64,369	103,269	27,500	20,625	10	10,000	45,144	61,995 10
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Denaby and Cadeby Main Collieries.....	June 30	26,552	211,514	238,066	12,000	96,000	8	103,079	26,987	.. ..
Motor and Cycle.										
Follows Magneto	Dec. 31	Dr 9,399	Dr 30,920	Dr 40,319	..	..	..	Dr 40,319	1,025	.. ..
Rubber, &c.										
Bajoe Kidol	Mar. 31	23,387	32,691	56,078	..	32,724	15	..	23,354	32,165 12½
Bernam-Perak	June 30	4,635	2,080	6,715	1,935	..	..	..	4,780	7,073 ..
Kamuning (Perak).....	June 30	29,197	13,811	43,008	..	8,375	4½	24,395	10,238	21,735 10
Lawas (Sarawak) Estates.....	June 30	..	2,854	2,854	..	..	..	1,994	860	.. ..
Sedgeley (F.M.S.)	Mar. 31	Dr 6,444	1,465	Dr 4,979	..	..	..	Dr 4,979	266	.. ..
Victoria (Malaya)	June 30	13,285	5,507	18,792	..	5,014	10	700	13,078	10,694 20
Shops and Stores.										
Maynards.....	June 30	130,164	75,633	205,797	3,390	43,830	45	25,000	133,577	77,586 40
Tea.										
Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon	June 30	3,474	12,310	15,784	3,600	10,000	20	..	2,184	17,567 25
Hornsey	June 30	1,038	2,306	3,344	600	1,800	15	..	944	4,070 12
Kintyre	June 30	8,256	10,212	18,468	1,000	7,181	15	1,000	9,287	14,090 15
Maturata Tea and Rubber	June 30	1,874	7,807	9,681	360	7,200	30	..	2,121	6,299 25
New Dumbula Co.	June 30	16,775	54,029	70,804	..	47,372	60	7,739	15,693	44,517 50
Other Companies.										
Associated Fire Alarms.....	June 30	2,282	5,143	7,425	..	2,660	6	2,500	2,265	5,334 5
British Cyanides.....	April 30	14,847	Dr 24,391	Dr 10,144	1,424	..	..	Dr 11,568	17,205	.. ..
Goode, Durrant, and Co.	July 20	5,933	58,403	64,336	11,550	25,125	10	20,000	7,661	56,756 10
Harrisons and Crosfield	June 30	66,526	242,475	309,001	37,800	47,496	10 Pr.	22,000	70,707	192,711 10 Pr.
Manchester Hippodrome	June 30	49,861	Dr 3,165	46,696	..	30,998	15 Mgt.	..	42,702	Dr 1,146 10 Def.
San Paulo Coffee Estates	Dec. 31	16,790	86,056	102,846	..	40,500	15 Pref. & Def.	..	62,346	.. ..

* Half-year. † Tax free. (m) Includes £4,650 relief to shareholders in respect of repayment of Dominion income-tax.

20s 6d to 21s per cwt. Millers' offals firm. Broad bran quoted at 9s 9d, middlings 10s 3d, fine ditto 12s 3d bags included ex-mill, light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 3d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, ground oats 15s 3d per cwt free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Oct. 4.....	Cwts. 285,005	Cwts. 418,253	Cwts. 427,980	Cwts. 462,333
5 weeks to Oct. 4.....	935,005	2,070,569	1,584,171	2,178,357
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 12 1	s d 8 9	s d 8 11½	s d 12 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Sept. 27	Cwts. 259,678	Cwts. 561,480	Cwts. 90,449	s d 12 1	s d 18 0	s d 8 8
Oct. 4	285,005	559,221	107,122	12 1	17 6	9 9
1920.						
Sept. 27	375,579	371,171	92,185	21 1	24 1	20 1
Oct. 4	462,330	568,626	89,462	12 11	16 4	9 10
1921.						
Sept. 27	427,984	245,956	75,462	9 0	10 6	8 11
Oct. 4	418,253	460,311	109,768	8 9	10 9	8 9

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 9th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Prices are weaker. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is now quoted at 80s per ton, and mixed numbers East Coast hematite at 88s per ton. These further reductions, however, have not brought out buyers to any extent, and what little business is doing for home consumption is practically confined to immediate requirements. Manufactured iron and steel: Some orders have recently been placed for shipbuilding material, but there is yet no sign of any genuine improvement in trade. Manufacturers complain that prices are unremunerative. Quotations are still maintained as follows:—Steel ship plates, £10 5s; steel ship angles, £10; iron bars, £12 10s; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Sellers are offering best Ribao Rubio ore at 21s 6d per ton, c.i.f. Tees, but there is very little business doing.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—No improvement can be reported so far as pig-iron and crude steel are concerned, trade being stagnant. Orders are still confined to oddments, and the absence of inquiries of any importance indicates a general indisposition to buy forward, so that there is little prospect of much recovery during the remainder of the year. Home consumption of steam coal tends to shrink. The best classes of house coal are scarce, and producers are obtaining very high prices for them. Durham foundry coke is now 35s at ovens for beehive, and 30s for "patent" quality. South Yorkshire steams are worth round about 20s at pits.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The export market for pig-iron still shows up very poorly, the demand being reduced to nearly vanishing point. The total shipments for the week from Glasgow harbour were 1,249 tons. Makers, however, are hopeful for better things from the home trade, as the engineering and foundry industries generally are reported to be well placed as regards work in hand. Prices for ordinary brands have not suffered any further fall. In the steel trade the general depression is scarcely relieved by the few small orders on local and export account that have come to hand, and makers are producing on the basis of an output considerably below capacity. The shipyards have good tonnages in hand, but very few fresh orders have been received recently to replace the completed vessels.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Sized and dry steam coals have been the only descriptions to show any strength on the Cardiff market this week. The causes of the firmness of these particular qualities was explained in last week's report, and, if anything, the market for them was stronger. For steam descriptions the demand was very inactive, and bituminous qualities also lacked support. Hardly any of the colliery companies have been able to keep all their pits fully employed throughout the week.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; seconds, 25s to 26s; best drys, 27s to 27s 9d; black veins, 24s 6d to 25s; Western Valleys, 24s to 24s 6d; Eastern Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; best bunker smalls, 14s 6d to 15s; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s 6d to 14s; coking smalls, 14s 6d to 15s 6d; anthracite big vein large, 52s 6d to 55s; red vein large, 35s to 36s; machine-made cobbles, 57s 6d to 60s; French nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; coke for export, 50s; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 26s to 28s; pitwood, ex ship, 27s 6d to 28s 6d.

METALS.

Tin opened with a quiet and easier tone, sellers being more in evidence. Subsequent movements, however, were attended by some irregularity, but prices ruled firmer on balance on buyers

becoming more prominent and stimulating advices. Cash sold at £242 10s to £241 10s to £240 15s to £244 10s, and three months £245 10s to £244 10s to £240 10s to £244 5s to £246 5s. Eastern cables reported sales on the basis of £250 5s c.i.f. At Thursday's session the tendency was in buyers' favour, due to adverse cables from the East. Cash sold at £242 5s to £241 10s, and three months £245 to £243 10s to £244 10s to £243 15s. Tin firmer at the close. Standard cash being dealt in at £243 to £242 15s to £244 10s, and three months £243 15s to £247 to £246 10s. English ingots quoted at £245 10s to £246. Copper displayed quieter features, and prices moved in buyers' favour. Standard cash sold at £62 2s 6d to £62, and three months £63 5s to £62 18s 9d. On Thursday prices moved in a downward direction. Cash sold at £61 17s 6d, and three months £62 17s 6d to £62 18s 9d to £62 16s 3d. Copper closed the week with a steadier tone. Cash sold at £62 2s 6d to £62, and three months £62 18s 9d to £63. Electro's £65 15s to £66 5s. Best selected £65 15s to £67. Strong sheets £92, wire bars £66 5s per ton. Lead firmer at £34 10s-£33 10s, as to position. Spelter firm at £33-£32 17s 6d, according to position. Aluminium: home quoted £125, export £130. Antimony: English quoted at £54 10s to £55.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—October 3, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.			Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.					
		Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.			Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.			
American	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Brazilian	Mid	1353	1453	1523	1578	1668	1559	1609	1694	1112	1197	1267	1317	1387	1457
Pernam, Macao, &c.		M	F	F	G	F	M	F	G	M	F	G	M	F	G
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.		1478	1628	1728	...	...	1569	1669	...	1072	1222	...	...	...	...
Oara, &c.		1478	1628	1728	...	...	1569	1669	...	1072	1222	...	...	...	...
São Paulo		1478	1628	1728	...	...	1569	1669	...	1072	1222	...	...	...	...
Egyptian		1503	1553	1603	...	...	1569	1644	...	1122	1202	...	...	...	...
Upper		Fr.	G	F	F	G	Fr.	G	F	F	G	Fr.	G	F	F
Sakellaris Fully Good Fair		1740	1820	1875	1925	1985	1655	1715	1755	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815
Brown		2055	2040	2540	2640	2710	1765	1843	1950	1415	1460	1914	1940	1914	1940
Peruvian		1805	1885	1940	1990	2050	1655	1715	1780	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815
Rough		M	F	F	G	F	M	F	F	G	M	F	F	G	F
Moderately Rough		2100	2200	2250	...	...	1875	...	...	1450	...	...	...	...	...
Smooth		1700	1800	1900	...	...	1350	1700	...	1300	1425	...	...	...	...
Tangul		1653	1728	1883	1898	1985	1619	1694	1794	1807	1877	1877	1877	1877	1877
Missini		1678	1728	1778	1828	1885	1594	1644	1744	1807	1877	1877	1877	1877	1877
West Indian, &c.		1800	1950	2050	2150	2540	1600	1750	...	1100	1450	...	...	...	...
Do		1525	1575	1625	...	...	1700	...	...	1277	...	...	...	...	...
Do		2400	2550	2750	2900	...	1900	2400	...	2200	2800	...	...	...	...
African, East, &c.		1270	1370	1520	1620	1685	1740	1300	1450	1650	1800	1900	1900	1900	1900
Do		Mid	F	G	F	Mid	Mid	Mid	F	F	G	Mid	Mid	F	F
East Indian		1488	1498	1518	1538	1558	1578	1594	1604	1624	1644	1664	1684	1694	1714
Machine Ginned Surtee		G	F	F	G	F	G	Fr.	G	F	F	G	Fr.	G	F
Machine Ginned Broach		1180	1220	1260	1300	1340	1215	1255	1335	1415	1495	1495	1495	1495	1495
Machine Ginned Bhowmuggar		1090	1140	1190	1240	1290	1340	1020	1070	1120	1170	1220	1270	1320	1370
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 1		1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1030	1080	1130	1180	1230	1280	1330	1380
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2		1110	1160	1210	1260	1310	1360	1040	1090	1140	1190	1240	1290	1340	1390
Machine Ginned Khandelish		1120	1170	1220	1270	1320	1370	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400
Machine Ginned Comptah		1285	1325	1365	1405	1445	1485	1225	1265	1305	1345	1385	1425	1465	1505
Machine Ginned Bengali		1100	1140	1180	1220	1260	1300	1045	1085	1125	1165	1205	1245	1285	1325
Machine Ginned Bolinda		1090	1130	1170	1210	1250	1290	1035	1075	1115	1155	1195	1235	1275	1315
Tinnivelly		1310	1350	1390	...	...	...	1410	1450	...	1485	1525	...	...	...
American-Scinde/Punjab		1185	1260	1335	1385	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Western		1275	1315	1355	...	...	1160	1200	...	960	1000	...	...	...	...
Western		1235	1275	1315	...	...	1300	1340	1380	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Northern		1300	1340	1380	...	...	1300	1340	1380	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern		1300	1340	1380	...	...	1225	1265	1305	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Coconada, Red		Fr.	1325	...	...	...	1200	...	...	985	...	...	...	...	...
China, Smyrna, &c.		Fr.	1325	...	...	...	1200	...	...	985	...	...	...	...	...

MANCHESTER, October 9.

The feature of interest in the market this week has been the slump in raw cotton rates as a result of the bearish Government report on the American crop. Before the statement was published there was an active demand in yarn and cloth and a fair amount of business done, but towards the close of the week the tone has become very unsettled, and buyers have been less inclined to give out orders. Cloth inquiry for India has continued on a large scale, and an encouraging turnover has taken place. Not much can be done at the moment in grey staples for China, but useful lines have been put through in fancies. For several minor outlets steady buying has taken place in printing and finishing qualities. Quotations in American yarns have not fallen to the same extent as the drop in the raw material, and the undercurrent of demand continues healthy. A fair amount of trade has been done in Egyptian counts. The lower range of values should be of benefit to Lancashire when there is greater steadiness in prices.

(1.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Description.	Price, Oct. 9, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Oct. 2.	Price, Oct. 25.	Price, Sept. 18.	Price, Sept. 11.	Price, Sept. 4.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	d	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaris Fully Good Fair	14-17	14-95	13-51	13-63	14-14	15-25
— Egyptian	25-00	25-00	24-75	24-55	24-80	24-90
Yarns—32's twist	24-1	25	23-1	24	24	24-1
— 40's twist	25-1	25-1	24-1	24-1	24-1	24-1
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35-1	35-1	35	35	35	35
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	37	0-14	6	34	0-33
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	41	6	41	39	38	0-33
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 16 by 16, 10 lbs	40	3	20	6-19	6	19
32-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8-1 lbs	18	6	18	9-17	9	17

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

Description.	Price, Oct. 9, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	d	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaris Fully Good Fair	14-17	16-56	13-15	13-64	17-02	22-81
— Egyptian	25-00	18-35	17-40	27-50	46-00	31-50
Yarns—32's twist	24-1	24-1	23	22-1	42	44-1
— 40's twist	25-1	25-1	24-1	24-1	39	43
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	35-1	35-1	28	45	60	63
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	37	0-14	30	0-14	63
32-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	41	6	41	39	38	0-33
32-in. ditto, 38 yds, 16 by 16, 10 lbs	40	3	20	6-19	6	19
32-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8-1 lbs	18	6	18	9-17	9	17

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Developments in London and in Australia have tended to exert a restraining influence on business, and the market to-day is decidedly quiet. The difficulties experienced for some time past in arranging credits for the purchase of wool in Australia have been brought to a head, and it is understood that the selling brokers, at the request of the banks, are arranging to curtail the selling programme. The idea seems to be to bring temporary relief by restricting the quantity of wool to be offered before Christmas, and, of course, this will mean that the season in Australia will be prolonged beyond the period originally intended. Buyers and users here are not unduly disturbed at the turn of events, and the general impression seems to be that a solution will be found by the interested parties. The slight ease in values at the London auctions during the last ten days has also had its effect on this market, and business is now being conducted on hand-to-mouth lines. Quotations for merinos show a reduction of at least 1d on the week, and a buyer with actual business to place could certainly obtain further concessions.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A very different aspect has come over the wool markets of the colonies and of all European centres. During the earliest sales of the new season in Australia and the first fortnight of the sales in London prices were on a level that had not been reached since 1920, but for once it seems as if the manufacturing end of the industry has been quite right in arguing that such values could not last. They have made similar statements for the last three years, but the raw material has always proved them wrong.

Already, with the new selling season only a month old, there are money difficulties. Buying brokers are having to ask clients from whom they solicit orders to arrange their own credits, and the restriction of these threatened by the banks a month ago has become a reality. Although there are very big needs in consuming centres, considerations of finance are making it impossible for mills to buy in the near future everything they need. The restriction of credit will probably continue to act for some months as a deterrent to wild buying, and will also probably result in the selling season being extended into next April.

The London sales closed this week with values generally quite 5 per cent. below the highest point. The first and second weeks of the series were the dearest, and it is doubtful if the rise over July rates was ever fully quoted; certain greasy fine crossbreds and several classes of lambs' wool have at times been 20 and even 25 per cent. above the last series in London. On the whole, clothing wools have never had the same strong competition at advancing rates as combing types. Most scoured merinos and crossbreds, it only long enough for woollen trade use, closed at about 5 per cent. above the July level, and not always so much.

VEGETABLE OILS.

A feature of the week's trading has been the further hardening of the value of linseed oil, largely in sympathy with dearer seed, and following a good trade demand encouraged by a temporary easing of prices. There was a sharp advance at Hull to £44 per ton naked spot and all positions to January-April. Cotton oils have also been a better trade, and a good demand has had the effect of steadying prices, crude Egyptian being held for £44, ex Hull mill, and ordinary refined for £46, while soya and other soft oils, following the trend of the market, are 10s to 20s dearer.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

The hide market remains firm and steady, and although tanners complain of the high cost of raw material, they clear the home market regularly week by week. Prices realised at the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday were:—Best ox and heifers, 9½d to 7½d, with seconds ranging in value from 8½d to 6½d. Cows sold at from 7½d to 6½d, with bulls unchanged from the previous week's prices. Calves were a very firm market, all weights and classes advancing from 1d to ½d per lb. Best light calf are now fetching 15½d per lb, with the heavier weights selling at 8½d. Wools made from 7s 6d to 15s 6d, and hogs from 8s 3d to 18s per skin.

The centre of the leather world this week has been at the Agricultural Hall at Islington, and this function has been well attended by traders from all parts of the United Kingdom and the Continent. A good deal of sole leather was on offer, and large clearances were effected at asking prices. Tanners were very firm, and 8/10 lbs bends in dry hides, and 10, 12 in wet salted, have sold well. Offal has also been in good demand, and many tanners had little to offer. Split hides for export have moved off better, whilst the demand for rough leather from American and Continental buyers has been a feature of the Fair. Rough E.I. kips were very dear, and importers had little to offer.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, October 10.

SUGAR.—Business was conducted on generally quiet lines, consumers displaying but little interest, with British makes receiving chief favour. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 41s 9d to 42s 9d; crushed, 40s 3d; granulated, stoved, 40s 1½d; fine and coarse, 38s 4½d; No. 1, 38s 1½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 37s 10½d; caster, 39s 6d to 41s 7½d; yellow crystals, 34s 10½d; and granulated, month forward, 37s 9d. White Java, spot, 34s 9d to 35s. American granulated, 37s; Dutch, J quality, 36s 3d. Czecho, granulated, October, 22s; November, 21s; November-December, 20s 9d f.o.b. Hamburg. Belgian granulated, ready, 22s 6d; October, 21s 6d; November-December, 20s 6d f.o.b. Antwerp. Czecho, beet 88 per cent., November, quoted 16s 6d f.o.b. Hamburg. White Terminal market steady, with moderate support accorded. October, sold 21s 10½d; November, 20s 3d to 20s 1½d; December, 19s 10½d to 20s, and 19s 10½d; March, 20s to 19s 7½d; May, 20s to 19s 9d.

COFFEE.—The market continues to steadily harden under sustained buying, particularly on home-trade account, and supplies on offer remain very small. Bold sizes of mountain-grown Jamaica sold, 182s to 210s. Costa Rica, good middling, 166s; Kenya ditto, 148s 6d to 150s.

COCOA.—There was a fair spot demand at full to rather dearer rates. Fine Grenada sold, 60s; Ariba, 92s 6d; Accra, 38s 6d to 42s 6d. Accra F/F grade, December-January, sold, 37s 3d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—59,600 packages Indian were catalogued in auction this week, and common to low medium parcels met a brisk market at ½d to ¾d per lb advance, medium being slightly irregular, but not altered on balance, while all the finer teas fetched extreme rates. Pekoe sold, 1s 7½d to 2s 1½d; broken orange, 1s 9½d to 3s 0½d; choice up to 5s. Ceylon sales of 13,600 packages cleared to active competition at full to again higher rates. Fine sorts well sought after. Pekoe sold, 1s 8½d to 2s 5d; broken orange, 1s 0½d to 2s 10½d per lb in bond. There is a sustained call for China descriptions, and prices move against buyers. Java and Sumatra auctions of 5,000 packages were soon cleared to a brisk demand at a full range of prices. Common and finest kinds in particular attracted attention. Pekoe sold, 1s 7d to 1s 8½d; broken ditto, 1s 3½d to 2s 0½d; pekoe souchong, 1s 6½d to 1s 7½d; orange, 1s 8d to 1s 9½d; broken orange, 1s 8d to 2s per lb in bond.

RICE remains generally slow but firm, while influenced by strength of exchange rate of the rupee. Two Stars, spot, London, 16s 9d; October-November, 16s 4½d; January-February, 15s 9d, c.f. and i., London. Spanish and Italian also firm, but quiet. Japanese peas, September-October sold, 25s 1½d to 25s 4½d; November-December, 25s 6d to 25s 9d. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 43s to 44s per cwt.

SPICE.—Pepper firm, with a steady demand for forward positions. Black Singapore L.S., October-December, quoted 5½d; Lampung, October-December, 4½d; Muntok, October-December, sold 9½d; January-March, 9½d to 9½d. Pimento, spot, 4d per lb, and October-November quoted 33s per cwt, c.f. and i., U.K. Cloves firm. Zanzibar, October-December, sold 10½d to 10½d per lb. Tapioca quietly steady. Sago flour dearer. Sarawak, October-December, buyers, 16s 1½d. Desiccated coconut firm. Spot halves, 41s 6d per cwt.

JUTE reservedly offered, and market firm closing lower. Firsts, September-October to November-December, sold £39 5s to £38 10s. Market strong at a further advance for Hessians and twills. 10 oz Hessians, October-December, sold, 37s 10½d; January-March, 36s 6d to 36s 7½d; 8 oz, January-March, done, 29s 3d to 29s 4½d 100 yards. B twills, January-March, 106s 100 bags.

HEMP.—With no revival in consuming demand, the market for Manila wore a dull and slightly depressed tone. J grade, October-December value, £56; January-March, sellers, £55; K, October-December, £55 10s; L, £55 10s; M, £53 10s. African sisal: No. 1 Tanganyika, afloat, sold, £48; October-December, buyers, £49 10s, c.f. and i. New Zealand quiet, on about former terms.

SHELLAC firm. Fair T.N., spot, 325s; December, 300s; March, 292s 6d cwt.

COPRA.—Market remains generally quiet, though steady, as sellers do not press for business. F.M.S. Straits, July-September, Rotterdam, quoted £31 2s 6d; August-October, sold, £31; September-November, £30 18s 9d; October-December, £30 16s 3d to £30 17s 6d. Dutch East Indies, August-October, £30 15s; October-December, £30 12s 6d. Ceylon, October-November, sellers, £32. South Sea Islands, F.M.S. quality, ditto, £30 7s 6d. Palm kernels steady, quiet. October-December, to Liverpool, quoted £22 15s ton.

RUBBER.—Market generally firm, and a fair amount of business was effected. Standard plantation, crepe and sheet, spot, also October, sold, 1s 3d to 1s 3½d; November, 1s 3½d; December, 1s 3½d to 1s 3½d; January-March, 1s 3½d; April-June, 1s 3½d. To New York, standard estate sheet, November-December, 1s 3½d per lb, c.f. and i. terms. Wild quiet, unaltered.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market remains quiet, but sellers adhere to steady asking prices.

ESSENTIALS.—Market very quiet, and quotations in most instances nominally unaltered.

FRUIT (Dried).—There is a fair selection of currants available, which is meeting with a better demand. New crop, Amalia, ½ cases, 46s to 47s; Patras, ditto, 49s to 50s; Gulph, 52s to 54s; finest, 57s; Vostizza, 65s to 68s; fine lots, 70s to 71s. Sultanias quietly steady.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS.

A synopsis of the economic position of all the leading commercial countries in the World in

Old crop, Smyrna, 53s to 55s; fine, 60s; new, fair quality, 51s to 53s; finer, up to 63s; very fine Cretans, 87s 6d to 95s; fine Carabourra, 80s; Australian, 1/2 cases, 44s to 46s; fine, 50s to 52s; old crop, Greek, 41s. Figs: Genuine naturals, in bags, 36s to 40s. Dates remain quiet of sale. Hallowee, first-tide, quoted 22s; Khredrowie: 19s; Siar, 15s 6d, landed terms, London. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots, 75s to 78s; choice, 87s; extra ditto, 96s; peaches, old crop, choice, 48s; new ditto, extra choice, 57s; fancy, 65s; plums, Oregon, size 30/40, 65s; 40/50, at 54s; Californian, 80/00, at 36s cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—Market firm on spot, with only small supplies available, with forward prices steadily advancing. Portuguese 1/2-flats quoted 3s 9d to 4s; clubs, 4s to 4s 3d; 12 oz, 5s 9d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 10s to 12s per dozen tins. Lobster very scarce, with extreme rates obtainable. Salmon: Prices are firm, but general course of trade proved rather quiet. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, quoted 55s to 60s; ditto, tall, 47s 6d to 48s 6d; 1 lb tall pink, 25s 6d to 26s; cases of 96 1/2 lbs, 24s to 30s per case. Canned Fruits: Very quiet, but prices steady. Singapore pines, 48 1/2s, best quality, 53 1/2d to 5s 6d; cubes, 24 2 1/2s, 10s 6d to 10s 9d; slices, 48 1 1/2s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, apricots, 2 1/2s, 8s to 11s; ditto, 1 1/2s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Peaches, 2 1/2s, 13s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2 1/2s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1 1/2s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad 2 1/2s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1 1/2s 10s 6d per dozen tins. Canned meats in moderate request, and corned beef firmly held.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 20s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £21 to £37 10s; Cochiti, £20 to £45. Ceylon bristle, £22 to £29; cinnamon leaf oil, 5 1/2d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 0 1/2d; Java, 5s 7d.

OILSEEDS.—Linedseed generally firmer with a better demand, but new crop Plate somewhat irregular. Calcutta, afloat, sold, £24 5s; September-October, £24 5s; October-November, £24 7s 6d; October-November, £24 7s 6d. Plate, afloat, £22 5s; October-November, £22 5s; November-December, £22 5s; January-February, sold, £20 15s to £21 10s, £21 2s 6d, and £21 10s. Rapeseed dearer, and sellers reserved. Toria, October-November, quoted £24 5s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £23 10s. Cottonseed firmer, with a better demand. Egyptian, black, new, October, sold, £13 15s; November-January, £13 10s. Sakellaris, November-January, £12 16s 3d. Bombay, December-January, £11 7s 6d. Gingly seed dearer. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £29 7s 6d. Groundnuts quiet. Coramandel, machine-dried, October-November, £28; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £25 7s 6d; East African, October-November, £28 10s. Soya beans firmer. Manchurian, October-November, £14 2s 6d; December-January, £13. Castor seed firm, but quiet. Bombay, October-November, £31 10s; Calcutta, ditto, £30 5s per ton.

OILS.—Linedseed irregular, but firmer. Spot, net, naked, 45s 6d; October, 44s 9d; October-December, 44s 9d; January-April, 44s 9d.

Rape firmer. Crude, spot, 50s, refined, 53s. Castor-oil steady. First pressure, spot, quoted 73s; second pressure, 71s; and pharmaceutical, 78s per cwt, Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 43s; Bombay, 41s; common edible, 49s; deodorised, 51s. Chinawood firm, with a good demand for spot parcels. Hankow, spot (barrels), 87s; October-November, 82s. Cocoa-nut steady. Ceylon, spot, 48s; October-November, 47s; Cochiti, ditto, nominally 60s. Soya firm. Oriental, barrels, September-October, 47s; bulk, 42s 6d. Cod quiet. English, spot, 34s to 35s. Groundnuts firm. English, crushed, naked, spot, 54s; deodorised, barrels, 62s 6d. Turpentine easier. American, spot, 64s; October-December, 64s 6d; January-April, 66s 3d. Rosin firmer. American, grade B, 14s 9d; G, 15s 3d; WG, 18s; WW, 19s 6d per cwt. French WW, 28s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on October 8th as follows:—The tallow market was firm during the week, and prices were 1s dearer to-day. There has been a good inquiry from Continental buyers, and the home trade has not been idle. At auction to-day 818 casks tallow were offered, and all were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 49s 3d; good to fair, 48s 6d to 47s 6d; dull to dark, 45s to 43s; hard, 49s. Australian beef: Fine, 49s 6d; good to fair, 48s to 46s; dull to dark, 44s 3d to 42s 3d; sweet, 49s 3d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 48s. Present shipment from South America, 47s 6d to 46s 6d. The market letter is dearer for tallow, 1s; stuff unchanged. Town tallow, 44s per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 5 1/2d; melted stuff, 33s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 43s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 44s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 46s 6d; fair to dull, 45s to 44s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 39s; melted stuff, 39s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—OCTOBER 9.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	7	0	7	8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	11	0	11	6
Short-horns	6	8	7	0	Canadian	nominal			
Devons	..	..	..	..	Sheep—Downs	11	0	11	6
Norfolks	..	..	..	..	Ewes	6	6	7	8
Scottish	..	..	..	..	Crossbred	..			
Irish	6	0	6	4	Scottish	..			
Fat Cows	..	..	..	..	Lamb—Downs	11	6	12	0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—OCTOBER 9.

Per Cwt.				Per Cwt.		
	s	d	s	d	s	d
English—King Edwards	10	6	0	0	Blackland—	
British Queens	9	6	10	0	King Edwards	9 0 to 0
Majestic	9	6	10	0	Evergoods	8 6 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.				INDIA RUBBER.—lb				PROVISIONS.—lb				SPIKES.—Pepper lb—			
COCOA—Duty, British grown				Alca, fine E.L. p. cwt				Butter—per cwt.				Black Singapore			
Crushed, per cwt.				Cape, good to fine.				Irish creamery				White Black			
Grenada				Balsam Peru				Do factory				Black Siam			
Ceylon, plantation				Opavi				Argentine				Pimento			
Guayaquil				Camphor				Dutch				Cinnamon—1st sort.			
Salab, finest				Japan, refined				New Zealand				Do 2nd			
COFFEE.—British grown				Cardamom, Ceylon				Danish				Cassia Lignum			
9 1/4d, foreign 14cwt				Cardamom, China				Beeswax, dry				Gloves—Zanzibar			
E. India extra, gd. mid 38				Castor oil				Canadlan				Penang			
Do good to fine				Gun Benjam. Sum. cwt				American				Madagascar			
Costa Rica, ord. to mid 14				Oilbunum, drops				Havana—Irish				Cochin, sum. rough			
Do to fine				fair to good				American				Do wormy			
Central American, gd.				Ipecacuanha				Lard—Irish bladders				Jamaica, ord. to good 16			
ord. to mid				Jaip.				American boxes, 60lb				Nutmegs—per lb			
Mid. to fine				Must. pot. China				For—per 8 lbs				Do 11s and 6d's			
Colombian, ordinary 100				Oil, Camia				Beef—Frozen per lb				Obilles—per cwt			
Do to fine				Aniseed				Scotch				TALLOW—per cwt.			
Do to mid				Peppermint, Wayne				Onese-cwt—Canadian				Good mutton			
CHEMICALS				Rabrh, China, County				New Zealand				Beef			
Acid, citric				DYE STUFFS, &c.				Eng. Cheddar				TAPIOCAL—per lb			
Boric				Galls, China				Oneshire				E. Flake, fair, spot			
Oxalic, net				Turmeric, Bengal				Dutch				Medium Pearl, cwt			
Foreign				Madras, finger				Keps, pr 120—English				Seed			
Alum lump per ton 10/10				Gambler, block				Irish				TEA—Duty 3/10, British			
Do ground				Do do to fair.				FLOUR—36 lb				foreign gd per lb			
Ammonia, carb.				DYEWOODS				Eng. straight ex mil				Indian and Oeylon—			
Muriatic, white				Brazil				Broken No. 1				Pekoe.			
Sulphate				Frustic, Jamaica.				Broken No. 2				Bacon			
arsenic, lump, per ton				Onbs				ROBIN—per ton				Orange Pakee.			
Powder				Limon				French				Broken Orange			
Ashe, pot.				Lewwood, Camphory				SAGO—Pearl, per cwt				TIN BR—ex yd			
Pearl				Honduras				SHELLAC—per cwt				Swedish S 35, Pt. std.			
Bleaching powd. p. ton				Jamaica.				Orange, first marks				Do 3 1/2			
Borax gran.				Red Sanders				Second, fair to fine				Do 4 1/2			
Do crystals				Soot, China				Do 5 1/2				Do 5 1/2			
Do powder				Flux ZK—spot a.l.f.				Do 6 1/2				Do 6 1/2			
Cream Tartar				Bign ALX				Do 7 1/2				Do 7 1/2			
987 powder				Pernan U/A Medium 115				Do 8 1/2				Do 8 1/2			
Calomel				Silexets U/A Medium 115				Do 9 1/2				Do 9 1/2			
Iodine, dry				FRUIT				Do 10 1/2				Do 10 1/2			
Nitrate of Soda, p. ton				Oranges, Val. selected				Do 11 1/2				Do 11 1/2			
Potash				Do cases				Do 12 1/2				Do 12 1/2			
Chlorate, net				Do Caps, boxes				Do 13 1/2				Do 13 1/2			
Prussiate				Lemons, Naples, cases				Do 14 1/2				Do 14 1/2			
Do Foreign				Do cases				Do 15 1/2				Do 15 1/2			
Sulphate				Do Midian, boxes				Do 16 1/2				Do 16 1/2			
Sal-Astos				Do cases				Do 17 1/2				Do 17 1/2			
Sal-Ammoniac, per lb				Do Malaga, cases				Do 18 1/2				Do 18 1/2			
Sal-Ammoniac, per cwt				Do Libanon, boxes				Do 19 1/2				Do 19 1/2			
Soda Chloride, per ton				Almeria				Do 20 1/2				Do 20 1/2			
Crystals, per ton				HIDES—Wet salted				Do 21 1/2				Do 21 1/2			
Alkali				Oceylan, per lb				Do 22 1/2				Do 22 1/2			
Canst				West Indian				Do 23 1/2				Do 23 1/2			
Sugar of white				Cape				Do 24 1/2				Do 24 1/2			
Foreign white				Lisbon				Do 25 1/2				Do 25 1/2			
Sulphate Quinine				Oporyo				Do 26 1/2				Do 26 1/2			
English Brands				Dry & Dressed Cape				Do 27 1/2				Do 27 1/2			
Foreign				Central American				Do 28 1/2				Do 28 1/2			
Sulphate Copper, p. ton				Buffalo, Singapore.				Do 29 1/2				Do 29 1/2			
Zinc, out				Penang				Do 30 1/2				Do 30 1/2			
Sulphur Flour				K. I.				Do 31 1/2				Do 31 1/2			
Do Roll				Market Hill				Do 32 1/2				Do 32 1/2			
Verdigris, Chinese, p. lb				Barby, or sheifer				Do 33 1/2				Do 33 1/2			
English				Do light				Do 34 1/2				Do 34 1/2			
Oil Peppermint, H.G. 33				Do light				Do 35 1/2				Do 35 1/2			
COGNAC—per ton a.l.f.				Do light				Do 36 1/2				Do 36 1/2			
Calabash, Sep-Nov.				Do light				Do 37 1/2				Do 37 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 38 1/2				Do 38 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 39 1/2				Do 39 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 40 1/2				Do 40 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 41 1/2				Do 41 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 42 1/2				Do 42 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 43 1/2				Do 43 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 44 1/2				Do 44 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 45 1/2				Do 45 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 46 1/2				Do 46 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 47 1/2				Do 47 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 48 1/2				Do 48 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 49 1/2				Do 49 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 50 1/2				Do 50 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 51 1/2				Do 51 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 52 1/2				Do 52 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 53 1/2				Do 53 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 54 1/2				Do 54 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 55 1/2				Do 55 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 56 1/2				Do 56 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 57 1/2				Do 57 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 58 1/2				Do 58 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 59 1/2				Do 59 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 60 1/2				Do 60 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 61 1/2				Do 61 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 62 1/2				Do 62 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 63 1/2				Do 63 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 64 1/2				Do 64 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 65 1/2				Do 65 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 66 1/2				Do 66 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 67 1/2				Do 67 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 68 1/2				Do 68 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 69 1/2				Do 69 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 70 1/2				Do 70 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 71 1/2				Do 71 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 72 1/2				Do 72 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 73 1/2				Do 73 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 74 1/2				Do 74 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 75 1/2				Do 75 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 76 1/2				Do 76 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 77 1/2				Do 77 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 78 1/2				Do 78 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 79 1/2				Do 79 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 80 1/2				Do 80 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 81 1/2				Do 81 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 82 1/2				Do 82 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 83 1/2				Do 83 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 84 1/2				Do 84 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 85 1/2				Do 85 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 86 1/2				Do 86 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 87 1/2				Do 87 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 88 1/2				Do 88 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 89 1/2				Do 89 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 90 1/2				Do 90 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 91 1/2				Do 91 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 92 1/2				Do 92 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 93 1/2				Do 93 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 94 1/2				Do 94 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 95 1/2				Do 95 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 96 1/2				Do 96 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 97 1/2				Do 97 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 98 1/2				Do 98 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 99 1/2				Do 99 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 100 1/2				Do 100 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 101 1/2				Do 101 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 102 1/2				Do 102 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 103 1/2				Do 103 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 104 1/2				Do 104 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 105 1/2				Do 105 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 106 1/2				Do 106 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 107 1/2				Do 107 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 108 1/2				Do 108 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 109 1/2				Do 109 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 110 1/2				Do 110 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 111 1/2				Do 111 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 112 1/2				Do 112 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 113 1/2				Do 113 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 114 1/2				Do 114 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 115 1/2				Do 115 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 116 1/2				Do 116 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 117 1/2				Do 117 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 118 1/2				Do 118 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 119 1/2				Do 119 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 120 1/2				Do 120 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 121 1/2				Do 121 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 122 1/2				Do 122 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 123 1/2				Do 123 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 124 1/2				Do 124 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 125 1/2				Do 125 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 126 1/2				Do 126 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 127 1/2				Do 127 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 128 1/2				Do 128 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 129 1/2				Do 129 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 130 1/2				Do 130 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 131 1/2				Do 131 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 132 1/2				Do 132 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 133 1/2				Do 133 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 134 1/2				Do 134 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 135 1/2				Do 135 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 136 1/2				Do 136 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 137 1/2				Do 137 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 138 1/2				Do 138 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 139 1/2				Do 139 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 140 1/2				Do 140 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 141 1/2				Do 141 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 142 1/2				Do 142 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 143 1/2				Do 143 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 144 1/2				Do 144 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 145 1/2				Do 145 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 146 1/2				Do 146 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 147 1/2				Do 147 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 148 1/2				Do 148 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 149 1/2				Do 149 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 150 1/2				Do 150 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 151 1/2				Do 151 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 152 1/2				Do 152 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 153 1/2				Do 153 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 154 1/2				Do 154 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 155 1/2				Do 155 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 156 1/2				Do 156 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 157 1/2				Do 157 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 158 1/2				Do 158 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 159 1/2				Do 159 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 160 1/2				Do 160 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 161 1/2				Do 161 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 162 1/2				Do 162 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 163 1/2				Do 163 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 164 1/2				Do 164 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 165 1/2				Do 165 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 166 1/2				Do 166 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 167 1/2				Do 167 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 168 1/2				Do 168 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 169 1/2				Do 169 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 170 1/2				Do 170 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 171 1/2				Do 171 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 172 1/2				Do 172 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 173 1/2				Do 173 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 174 1/2				Do 174 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 175 1/2				Do 175 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 176 1/2				Do 176 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 177 1/2				Do 177 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 178 1/2				Do 178 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 179 1/2				Do 179 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 180 1/2				Do 180 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 181 1/2				Do 181 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light				Do 182 1/2				Do 182 1/2			
COGNAC				Do light											

hardened slightly, and purchases have been reported of November Treasuries at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Decembers at a shade over. Three months' bank bills could still be placed, but with rather more difficulty, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Yesterday's Treasury bills were placed at a rate a shade over $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	..

The Bank return showed a decline in circulation and a corresponding increase in the reserve of just over a million. Repayments by the Government and borrowing by the market reduced the Government securities by $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and added $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions to Other. There was thus an increase of three millions in the deposits, of which one went to Public and two to Other. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £1,511,000 to £287,090,000, which includes £1,367,200 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £236,272,800, or £11,918,100 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The predominant influences in Stock Exchange markets this week have been the German Loan and the General Election campaign. Dealings in the scrip of the German Loan, which was subscribed many times over, it is understood, on Wednesday morning, are expected to start next week at about 2 premium. There is no great excitement over the possibilities of the election, and investment markets have been particularly strong in tone, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion and Funding loans leading the way. The new Queensland loan is quoted at nearly 2 premium. Home Rails are a much better market, and the foreign railway section is good on the whole. Rubbers have improved on a further hardening in the price of the commodity, but oil shares, dealings in which are still mainly professional, have been irregular. Industrials are fairly steady, and some of the shares in the motor list have strengthened as a result of the opening of the show at Olympia, while Kafirs have hardened a little on buying from the Cape.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

A slight improvement on the Cardiff coal market is chronicled this week, and quotations for some coals have even slightly advanced. Business in pig-iron is still quiet, nor are prospects of improvement very hopeful. The reduction of 10s per ton in steel ship and boiler plates, joists and angles, it is hoped, may attract orders. Tin moved upward, and copper was firm. Business in the cotton trade has been adversely affected by the further downward movement in raw cotton rates. Jute advanced sharply, while hemp displayed a firm tone. Further details of markets will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Although there was a little more activity at the beginning of the week, business on the Foreign Exchange market died away again, and dealings remain restricted. The dollar rate has shown remarkable firmness, rising at one time on the 14th to as high as \$4.50 $\frac{1}{2}$. From this largely sentimental movement there was later some reaction to the rate of \$4.49 quoted yesterday morning, comparing with \$4.49 $\frac{1}{8}$ a week ago. To a large extent this strength of sterling at so unusual time of the year would appear to be mainly due to the freedom with which America is at the moment lending abroad, but election prospects would also appear to be playing a passing part, and the success of Labour at the polls would almost certainly involve a reaction. The forward rate is $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per month below spot. The Paris rate, on further rumours of a loan in America and on a better Bank of

France return, shows some improvement on the preceding week's high figures, the rate yesterday morning being 85.50, as compared with 86.35 on the 10th. At the same time the position remains unsatisfactory, and is not likely to be improved either by the surrender of the Government on the question of civil service salaries or by the prospects of a large internal loan on very unfavourable conditions. Brussels has shared in this improvement, moving over the period from 93.75 to 93.15. In Paris, forward quotations are 13 to 15 centimes per month above spot, in Brussels 5 to 7 centimes above. Italy has also shown some improvement from last week's sudden depreciation, the rate being quoted at 102 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 103.15 on the 10th. Of the gold stabilised currencies, Berlin, Vienna, and Warsaw show little change, while Budapest remains on a constant ratio to sterling at 345,000. Among the neutral centres, Switzerland remains roughly near parity with the dollar, while Amsterdam at 11.48 $\frac{1}{4}$ has moved very slightly in our favour, as also has Stockholm at 16.88. Madrid, on the other hand, has improved from 33.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 33.41 $\frac{1}{2}$. Renewed banking trouble in Norway has been responsible for a rise in the Christiania rate from 31.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ to as high at one time as 32.05. It has now improved again to 31.72 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the situation does not appear to be as serious as was at first feared. Copenhagen also, after its recent improvement on the rise in price of agricultural products, had a sharp reaction from 25.52 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25.98 $\frac{1}{2}$, but here, too, it is not believed that the rise will be allowed to go very far. In Eastern Europe Prague and Bucharest are much the same as last week, but in Belgrade the dinar shows a slight reaction. In the East the rupee has moved up 1-32d to 1s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, the Indian Bank rate having again been raised. After its recent reaction, the yen showed some improvement to 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, on a better trade position, but there has again been a slight reaction to 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d a week ago. After reaching the high figure of 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ d on the 9th, a record for the year, silver prices fell away again, although Continental demand and bear covering prevented the fall from going very far, and a good undertone is provided by the cessation of hostilities in China. The Hong-kong quotation has in sympathy fallen away from 2s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2s 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, and Shanghai from 3s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In South America the main exchanges, after showing some weakness, have strengthened again. Rio stands now the same as a week ago at 6 3-32d, and Buenos Aires also the same at 45 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, while Monte Video has fallen away slightly from 48 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 47 $\frac{1}{4}$. Valparaiso, on the other hand, has appreciated slightly from 40 to 39.90 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 11th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£		£
Supply Services	7,221	From Revenue	10,152
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,995	Amount borrowed	1,022
Sinking Fund	614		
Sundries	246		
Increase in Exchequer balances	98		
	11,175		11,175

Revenue for the week ended October 11, 1924, was slightly higher at £10,152,000, against £10,093,000 for the corresponding period of 1923. Customs were lower at £2,076,000, against £2,324,000, but Excise receipts yielded £1,377,000, against £1,329,000. Motor vehicle duties increased by £227,000 to £371,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £3,359,000, against £3,123,000, but Excess Profits Duty was lower at £460,000, as compared with £500,000. Post Office receipts amounted to £1,000,000, being double the sum brought in during the corresponding week last year. Ordinary receipts were £64,064, or £79,000 lower than those of last year. Special receipts produced £10,152,000, against nothing last year. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £1,022,500, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
	£		£
Public Department Advances	238	Bank of England Advances	7,350
Treasury Bills	8,617	National War Bonds repaid	250
		Telegraph Money	250
		Sundries	82
	+ 8,855		- 7,832

The floating debt was increased by £1,607,500 to £793,889,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to October 11).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	399,278,292	Raised by Revenue ..	370,964,721
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,937,244
		Amount borrowed ..	24,376,327
Total	399,278,292	Total	399,278,292
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE RIDDLE OF THE POLITICAL TRIANGLE.

In some respects the General Election now being fought out resembles that which took place eleven months ago. Both came, to all who are not within the inner circle of politics, like a thunderbolt from a blue sky. Both could have been avoided had the Prime Minister in each case so wished. This year, as last, the minimum legal margin is allowed between dissolution and polling day. But there the resemblance ceases. In November, 1923, Mr Baldwin went to the country on one great and definite issue—namely, whether the fiscal policy of the country should be revolutionised in the search for a remedy for unemployment. Other problems, of course, came to the fore, especially the Labour proposal of a capital levy. But at least the contest was mainly fought on a subject on which the electorate had on previous occasions been intensively educated, and the lack of time for re-education did not prove so favourable to the fiscal revolutionaries as was expected. Moreover, last year the public understood clearly the main standpoints of the three parties. The Conservatives stood for a general tariff and no capital levy; the Liberals for the maintenance of Free Trade and no capital levy; Labour for the capital levy, Free Trade, and a glittering programme of social and Socialistic legislation. The choice was as clear as it can be at any General Election. But to-day there is none of this clarity. The plain man is still wondering why Mr MacDonald followed Mr Baldwin's example of political high diving, and he is not convincingly enlightened by Mr MacDonald's own explanations, which seem, briefly, to be that the two opposition parties, goaded by jealousy of Labour's efficiency in office, concocted a wicked plot to make that office untenable. Thus, the average elector, at the outset of his attempt to understand the election and all about it, is confused; and he may be pardoned if his confusion grows as he proceeds with his attempt. Plunged into the details of the Campbell prosecution and the Prime Minister's nice differentiations between "guaranteeing" and "lending," he must soon find himself wondering whether the politicians have merely trumped up a fight over obscurities, and hard put to it to discover what are the great national interests at stake in the election, and what are the three distinct attitudes of the three parties who are fighting for his vote.

With so much confusion in the air, the brevity of the time allowed the electorate to disentangle threads of policy is a serious matter. But the leaders of the three parties have done their best by issuing with an unexampled promptitude their manifestos to the nation. A brief summary of these will be found in a later column. The first thing to be noticed is that the two great bones of last year's contention are relegated to the background. The capital levy, instead of being a financial necessity and panacea, has become no more than a fit subject for inquiry. This retirement is apparently the firstfruits of the education provided by eight months of office. On the Conservative side, the general tariff is frankly dropped, but Im-

perial Preference and safeguarding of industry are still in the shop window. We may accept without any sort of reservation Mr Baldwin's renunciation of a general tariff for the life of the next Parliament; but we must repeat, as we pointed out last week, that if he were returned to power his election address gives him sufficient scope for infiltrating the bastions of our fiscal system and for building a foundation on which a full-blown tariff system might thereafter be constructed. Having read Mr Baldwin's manifesto with the utmost care, we cannot regard the tariff controversy as wholly ruled out from the present election; and those who believe, as we do, that the system of free imports is essential to this country's economic health, will keep their Free Trade armoury well prepared against a danger which, though it has receded, has not passed away.

Thus the two stars of last year's performance are, as it were, waiting in the wings, and the stage is crowded with lesser characters. Let us glance for a moment at the programmes, and try to select those that are worthy of a full share of the limelight. The task is not an easy one. There is no new proposal in the Labour manifesto, which is naturally based largely on a eulogy of Labour's performance in office, and passes on through a list of measures affecting the mines, the taxation of land values, transport reorganisation, &c. (all of which the Labour Government would have passed but for the "wicked plot" to turn them out), to a peroration reminiscent of the revivalist pulpit. The Conservative programme only breaks new ground in minor directions, and is in effect an appeal for a stable Government as a bulwark against Labour extremists. The Liberal manifesto opens with a long defence of the party's performance in the last Parliament, but embodies one new feature, namely, proposals as regards coal and power, based on the results of the inquiry conducted by Mr Lloyd George. The party gives prominence again to the land question, and strangely enough is the only party to include electoral reform in its platform. We trust that the neglect of the other parties to mention this vital question is an oversight, which will be rectified; for it is essential that the next Parliament should amend the present position, under which the numerical strength of a party in the House of Commons may be altogether out of proportion to the number of votes cast for it in the country. Those who believe that we must get back to the two-party system naturally regard electoral reform as of slight importance. But for our part we are convinced that we cannot return to that system; that the existence of at least three strong parties will continue; and that the accurate reflection in the House of Commons of the expressed will of the electorate has, under these circumstances, become an absolutely indispensable condition of the successful working of party Government.

The more one looks at these party programmes the more clearly one sees that this election should have been avoided. There is no great new principle at stake; there is no problem of first-class magnitude that was not before the electorate eleven months ago. Moreover, as we have shown, there is no clear cut issue. From this state of affairs several unfortunate results must follow. Firstly, the campaign will develop more of the elements of a class struggle than we have seen before—labour and anti-Labour, Socialism and anti-Socialism. That is the most deplorable of all the aspects of this unsatisfactory contest. Secondly, with the lack of a clear cut issue, with several red-herrings in prominence, and with our obsolete voting system still in force, it will be more than usually difficult to derive any distinct guidance or mandate from the result of the polls. We have, indeed, been plunged in a political morass, and can only hope that the experience will chasten all our political leaders, and convince them that the nation requires and demands their concentration on the problem of how the system of Parliamentary Government can be adapted to the new circumstances. It surely cannot be beyond the power of a country, whose institutions have been a model for so many lands, to adapt itself successfully to the change in party representation. The first experiment is certainly discouraging; but it need not have failed, and the reasons for its failure should teach salutary lessons. Meanwhile, if there is one consoling feature about the election, it is this: the programmes no longer glitter with promises of "a new heaven and a

new earth while you wait"; even the Labour manifesto is mild compared with that of last year; and all the programmes have enough common ground, both in the sphere of foreign politics and in that of domestic problems, to provide plenty of scope for a second attempt at Minority Government. The only thing that seems certain about the election is that one of the three parties will be called upon to attempt it. We hope that all three are carefully studying the task, its dimensions, its implications, and its responsibilities, in the light of the experiment of 1924, which has been brought to an untimely end, from which a little vision and common sense might so easily have saved it.

THE GERMAN LOAN.

THE rapid oversubscription on Wednesday of the London section of the German External Loan for 800 million gold marks may be described as the triumph of common sense over sentiment. The daily tirades against the loan in certain sections of the Press have been peculiarly ineffective, and an international loan to Germany, for so long the sport of rumour, is now an accomplished fact. Although the main credit still lies with those who drew up the Dawes Scheme which formed the basis for the London Agreement of August last, those responsible are to be congratulated upon the expedition with which the loan negotiations, some of which must have been of a delicate nature, have been carried out and the prospectus produced. The heavy oversubscription to the London issue will help to disperse the feeling which has apparently been spreading on the Continent of late, that Great Britain will only give the minimum of assistance in bringing the Dawes Scheme to fruition, and this, together with the rapid success of the issue of \$110 millions in New York, where the lists were closed within a quarter of an hour of the opening, marks an important step forward in the process of European rehabilitation.

The exact amount which is being raised has not been officially stated. Germany is to have "an effective sum of the equivalent of 800 million gold marks," to which has to be added the expenses of issue, negotiation and delivery, as well as a substantial allowance for issue at a discount of 8 per cent. New York has subscribed \$110 millions, and London £12 millions sterling, and it is understood that £3 millions will be issued in both France and Switzerland, £2½ millions in Holland, and £1½ millions in Belgium. These will be in sterling, as will also a small amount to make up the total, to be issued in Germany, but sterling bonds issued abroad will not be saleable on the London Stock Exchange for a period of at least two years. Italy will participate to the extent of 100 million lire, and Sweden to the extent of 25.2 million kronor. The bonds, which bear interest at 7 per cent., are to be bearer, and are redeemable by 1949.

On the matter of security, the London Conference of August last came to an agreement that the service of the loan should have "absolute priority as regards any resources of Germany so far as such resources may have been subjected to a general charge in favour of the said loan," but until Wednesday last, when the prospectus appeared, some doubt existed as to the exact nature of the security for the bonds which would be offered to investors. The "statement" appended to the prospectus, however, shows that the security is as satisfactory as could be desired. The service of interest and amortisation is:— (1) A direct and unconditional obligation of the German Government chargeable on all the assets and revenues of that Government. (2) A specific first charge on all payments provided for under the plan of the Dawes Committee to or for the account of the Agent-General for Reparation payments, such charge being prior to Reparation and other Treaty payments, which in turn have a specific precedence over the existing German debt. (3) A first charge by way of collateral security on the "controlled revenues," i.e., the gross revenues of the German Government derived from the Customs and from the taxes on tobacco, beer and sugar, the net revenue of the German Government from the spirits monopoly, and such tax (if any) as may hereafter be similarly assigned by the German Government in accordance with the terms of the

final protocol of the London Conference. The Reparation Commission have postponed in favour of the charges created in respect of the loan all Reparation and other charges upon the payments to the Agent-General for Reparation payments, including charges in respect of deliveries in kind or payments therefor, whether direct or through the operation of any Reparation Recovery Act or Decree.

Thus, though there is no direct Allied Government guarantee, as in the case of the Austrian loan of June, 1923, the investor is offered security of the highest order. Moreover, the service of the loan is amply covered. The amount required for interest and sinking fund, on the basis of present exchange rates will not exceed about 91½ million gold marks. The payments to the Agent-General for Reparation payments have been fixed at 1,000 million gold marks for the first year, and are expected to increase thereafter until they reach 2,500 million gold marks for the fifth and subsequent years. The annual gross receipts of the controlled revenues are estimated at not less than 1,000 million gold marks. Further, the German Government may not create any further charge upon the controlled revenues ranking in priority to or *pari passu* with the charge created in favour of the bondholders of this issue. The Agent-General for Reparation Payments is to be one of the trustees for the bondholders, and it is provided that funds which have to be sent abroad shall have an absolute right of remittance, which will have priority over Reparation or other payments.

These excellent safeguards and provisions contrast in a striking manner with the nebulous terms outlined in that indifferent result of an afterthought—the Russian Treaty. The two nations stand out in striking contrast. Germany recognises our institutions and economic system. She makes an earnest attempt to gain our confidence by emulation and frankness. Representatives of Russia approach the question of a loan not as supplicants for help, but as those conferring favours; in Russia the people are wed to an economic policy which at some angles is at variance with the views held by its representatives abroad. Indeed, if the economic policy prescribed in Russia were strictly adhered to Russia would not seek to borrow in London. The Russian people know this, and the Russian people know also that the British investor is not blind to this fact. Therefore, in the midst of this cloud of doubt and insecurity—with the knowledge that the British investor can no longer be regarded as a patient milch cow—a guarantee of the British Government is looked upon as a safe road out of a morass of difficulties. Incidentally, the Premier's point that the Government does not actually lend the money, but only guarantees it, betrays rather a naïve simplicity where City matters are concerned. A contingent liability is none the less a liability, and the difference between guaranteeing and actually providing the funds is a question of theoretic interest rather than practical finance.

The Russian attitude to international financial relations is well illustrated by her treatment of the question of foreign balances. When Russia decided to take the new road to happiness and prosperity, she confiscated the balances of foreigners in her hands. These foreigners, in return, naturally set off balances in hand held on behalf of the Russian Government, and in some cases balances of Russian nationals, where it was thought that in sending them to Russia such balances would fall into the hands of the Russian authorities. Immediately the Treaty was signed foreigners holding these balances were advised that they would be expected, under the terms of the Treaty, to hand over any such sums. But a scornful gesture was made to the suggestion that Russia should as a *quid pro quo* hand over balances in Russia which she had confiscated in the early years of her new life.

The City of London, by its eagerness to obtain the underwriting and to subscribe to the German loan, has shown that it recognises in the Dawes Plan the only practical road to economic recovery in Europe. But without co-operation on the part of the borrowers in giving real security and an undertaking "to adopt all appropriate measures for carrying into effect the Dawes Plan and for ensuring its permanent operation," there would have been a very different reception for the loan. Until Russia recognises that London will not accept an entirely

new code of business morals, her efforts to obtain any substantial amount of money here cannot be successful; for we refuse to believe that whatever Government may be in office at Westminster next month will be able to persuade the House of Commons to grant the guarantee of the British Government to a loan unless Russia entirely changes her attitude.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

OUR statistics for the past quarter of the profits of industrial companies show a continuation of the movement which has been in progress over the past twelve months—namely, a slackening in the rate of increase in net profits. Twelve months ago we analysed the reports of 209 companies, and showed that their aggregate net profits had increased by over 65 per cent., as compared with the earnings of the same companies in their preceding financial year. During the past three months the number of profit and loss accounts analysed has been 214, and these disclose aggregate net profits, after payment of debenture interest, &c., of £18,069,800, an increase of but 2 per cent. over the profits of the same companies in their preceding financial year. As may be seen from the table below, there has been a steady decline quarter by quarter since this time last year in the rate of increase in profits:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in		Increase.
		1922-23.	1923-24.	
1923.				
Third quarter	209	£ 10,469,118	£ 17,317,482	65.2
Fourth quarter	312	23,382,776	26,043,934	11.4
1924.				
First quarter	419	37,155,048	40,382,901	8.7
Second quarter	466	49,794,417	51,292,944	3.0
	1,406	120,801,359	135,037,261	11.8
Third quarter	214	17,667,060	18,069,800	2.3

To arrive at the true significance of these figures they must be read in conjunction with the next table, which sets out the quarterly increases or decreases in net profits since the beginning of 1918. It must be remembered, of course, that the effects of trade booms and depressions take a little time to make an impression upon these statistics, since accounts are not immediately published at the expiry of the period to which they relate. Unfortunately, indeed, a long time is in many instances allowed to elapse before accounts are presented, and this fact is inclined to blur the picture presented by our figures. It is, however, possible to trace the post-war boom and depression fairly clearly:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
First quarter	5.8	10.4	26.9	35	43.4	41.4	8.7
Second quarter	5.8	5.1	37.8	8.4	33.7	22.1	3.0
Third quarter	12.3	3.4	41.9	42.4	23.5	65.2	2.3
Fourth quarter	4.7	10.5	27.1	52.9	3.9	11.4	..

A somewhat exaggerated appearance is given by the percentage figures for 1923 of the recovery which occurred after the slump, but the percentage increases in that year are, of course, based upon very low profit figures.

Turning from the general to the particular, we show below how several different groups of companies whose reports have appeared during the past three months have fared in their latest financial year:—

NET PROFITS (after PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in Quarter Ended Sept. 30.		Increase.	Decrease.
		1923.	1924.		
Breweries	19	£ 4,952,132	£ 5,585,687	12.9	..
Gas	10	188,103	177,598	..	5.6
Hotels	3	146,996	140,337	..	6.659
Iron, coal, and steel ..	19	2,106,178	1,426,838	..	679,340
Land, mortgage	15	358,779	701,683	95.6	..
Oil	4	36,789	19,325	..	..
Rubber	42	639,312	866,662	35.6	..
Shipping	5	646,885	803,023	24.1	..
Shops	4	580,987	568,991	..	2.0
Tea	2	95,446	110,379	15.6	..
Telegraph	2	474,736	257,858	..	45.7
Textiles	9	2,745,915	2,007,243	..	738,672
Trust companies	8	396,525	332,669	..	63,856
Waterworks	8	24,832	28,512	14.7	..
Miscellaneous	65	4,346,363	5,073,645	16.7	..
	214	17,667,060	18,069,800	2.3	..

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS CONDUCTED. DEBENTURE TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

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

A prominent feature of the table is the decline of over 32 per cent. in the profits of 19 iron, coal and steel companies. Twelve months ago 14 companies in this group showed a large increase in profits, the increase being fairly general. This year's figures do not show much change in most cases, the decrease being accounted for by heavy declines in the case of four of the larger concerns. The decline in the textile company group also follows a substantial increase twelve months ago. The rubber group makes a good showing, and a large increase is shown by the land, mortgage and financial group.

In the next table we show the method of distribution of profits in each of the past five quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Preference Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.
1923.				
Third quarter	£ 17,317,482	£ 9,653,962	£ 3,039,838	£ 4,623,682
Fourth quarter	26,043,934	16,422,429	4,593,984	5,027,521
1924.				
First quarter	40,382,901	24,069,835	7,291,653	9,021,413
Second quarter	51,292,944	31,153,288	11,465,061	8,674,605
	135,037,261	81,299,514	26,390,526	27,347,221
Third quarter	18,069,800	10,737,274	3,295,099	4,037,427

The proportion of profits reserved in the past quarter, either in the form of specific allocations or by additions to balances carried forward, is above the average for the four preceding quarters, but well below the figure for the corresponding quarter of last year, when ordinary shareholders received a considerably smaller percentage of profits than in the past quarter. The distribution adopted by each of the groups in the past three months was as follows:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.	Pref. Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.
Breweries	£ 5,585,687	£ 3,772,941	£ 530,305	£ 1,282,441
Gas	177,598	162,437	8,251	6,910
Hotels	140,337	108,045	6,125	26,167
Iron, coal, and steel ..	1,426,838	901,329	201,386	324,123
Land, mortgage	701,683	372,046	157,949	171,688
Oil	19,325	706,444	..	154,663
Rubber	866,662	332,257	72,006	398,760
Shipping	803,023	286,500	157,500	124,991
Shops	568,991	60,213	1,076	49,090
Tea	110,379	394,278	17,500	153,920
Telegraph	257,858	1,023,306	403,301	580,636
Textiles	2,007,243	215,843	64.9	22,878
Trust companies	332,669	23,723	2,904	1,885
Waterworks	28,512	2,377,812	1,637,893	1,058,440
Miscellaneous	5,073,645	10,737,274	3,295,099	4,037,427

The shipping group heads the list in the matter of reserve allocations, the percentage of profits held back from shareholders being nearly 50 per cent. At the other end of the scale we have the telegraph companies—Marconi International Marine and Marconi's Wireless—reducing balances in hand in order to pay dividends. The gas, water, and investment trust companies set aside only very small proportions of their profits, but otherwise the figures are fairly satisfactory.

As regards earnings on capital, we show below the ratio to total ordinary and preference capital of net profits, and of amounts reserved in each of the past five quarters:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.	Carried to Reserve, &c.
1923.			
Third quarter	£ 195,420,900	£ 17,317,482	£ 4,623,682
Fourth quarter	255,094,800	26,043,934	5,027,521
1924.			
First quarter	390,545,000	40,382,901	9,021,413
Second quarter	517,002,000	51,292,944	8,674,605
	1,358,062,700	135,037,261	27,347,221
Third quarter	186,170,600	18,069,800	4,037,427

The ratio of profits to capital for the past quarter is better than it was twelve months ago, but is below the twelve months' average, while the position is reversed in the case of reserve allowances.

The average rates paid on debenture, preference, and ordinary capital in each quarter since the beginning of 1921 have been as follows:—

AVERAGE RATES PAID.

	On Debenture Capital.				On Preference Capital.				On Ordinary Capital.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
1st quarter	4.43	4.70	4.61	4.62	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.3	10.5	8.5	9.2	9.6
2nd quarter	4.61	5.00	5.08	5.17	5.6	5.0	5.4	5.5	12.6	8.8	9.9	10.1
3rd quarter	4.45	5.21	4.90	4.77	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.9	9.7	7.6	7.8	9.0
4th quarter	4.52	4.83	5.03	..	5.1	5.6	5.4	..	7.6	8.6	9.6	..

The average rate paid on ordinary capital in the last quarter is considerably higher than at this time last year, but is otherwise the lowest since the fourth quarter of 1922.

The final table gives the average rates paid by each of the groups, together with the average rate of ordinary dividend shown in our article a year ago:—

	Deben- ture Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Prefer- ence Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Dividend.
Breweries	10,755,130	3.9	10,840,735	4.9	25,200,728	14.9
Gas	801,960	4.5	118,850	6.9	2,642,366	6.1
Hotels	467,451	5.0	125,000	5.9	1,032,829	9.9
Iron, coal, and steel	3,140,235	5.0	5,175,035	5.9	12,202,079	7.5
Land, mortgage	4,630,652	4.5	2,852,955	5.5	5,474,512	6.8
Oil	385,077	5.8	1,564,340	4.6	1,394,214	7.3
Rubber	481,033	6.1	121,955	4.6	9,644,976	7.3
Shipping	nil	..	2,225,000	3.3	6,494,540	5.3
Shops	1,100,000	5.1	2,650,000	5.9	2,265,260	12.7
Tees	71,180	6.0	20,000	5.4	268,351	2.3
Telegraph	1,557,120	6.4	250,000	7.0	3,942,791	10.0
Textiles	6,117,694	4.4	7,815,551	5.2	9,334,986	11.0
Trust companies	884,583	6.8	1,578,680	6.0	4,022,987	5.4
Waterworks	87,841	5.1	54,509	5.3	367,039	6.5
Miscellaneous	8,431,853	5.6	31,994,867	5.1	34,721,395	6.4
	38,912,819	4.8	67,387,575	4.9	118,783,013	9.0

Eight of the sixteen groups show small increases in the average rate of ordinary dividend, but the brewery group, which pays the highest rate, records a reduction of 1.2 per cent. The increase in the case of the textile group is noteworthy in view of decline in profits recorded above.

CAPITAL ISSUES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

For many years past the *Economist* has given each week as complete a summary as possible of capital issues on the London money market, supplemented by quarterly analyses of the totals under various headings and comparisons with earlier periods. During the past twelve months, also, some indication of the volume of similar issues abroad has been afforded by a table appearing regularly in our "Monthly Supplement," reproducing certain figures collected by the League of Nations and covering 14 foreign States. The widely varying methods of compilation adopted in different countries tend, however, to make comparison as between one State and another extremely difficult, or even impossible. The extent of the ground covered by the statistics for any one country, again, is frequently misunderstood, and very misleading impressions are apt to be given when the figures are pressed into service in support of preconceived ideas on such a question, for instance, as the desirability of "rationing" issues of capital destined for employment abroad. In our monthly tables an attempt is made to indicate the limitations of the different figures by means of footnotes, but obvious considerations of space preclude us from going into very much detail. In the present article, therefore, we propose to examine the returns for each country, and indicate more exactly the basis on which each set of figures rests.

For convenient reference we reproduce below the greater part of our most recently published monthly table, which

appeared on page 27 of our "Monthly Supplement" dated September 27 last:—

CAPITAL ISSUES—(000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Roumania.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	India.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Kronen.	Koruna.	Francs.	Marka.	Lire.	Gulden.	Marki P.	Lei.	Kronor.	Francs.	Ruppes.	Dollars.
1913.....	16.3	..	..	..	103	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
1918.....	116.1	39	..	..	105	138	251	33	..	20	18	44	112
1920.....	30.6	..	..	1,015	1,078	423	94	..	150	120	46	78	122
1921.....	32.4	71.7	164	1,100	2,353	288	42	1,139	244	27	70	63	220
1922.....	47.8	4,227	98	1,214	7,059	232	33	2,190	245	27	67	37	285
1923.....	22.6	18,206	48	1,049	4,563	332	19	15,964	320	19	62	21	300
Jan.-Mar. 1923.	95.4	3,391	91	2,066	5,228	241	48	607	190	17	110	78	232
April-June.	54.2	2,494	130	1,210	3,799	296	15	3,504	228	42	71	25	392
July-Sept.	17.3	4,496	115	1,424	4,661	230	63	1,172	230	23	76	30	244
Oct.-Dec. 1923.	20.7	6,527	58	684	12,551	370	6	3,354	333	27	10	25	274
Jan.-Mar. 1924.	28.7	10,380	25	1,441	45,268	274	34	2,669	385	11	54	21	395
April-June.	31.7	15,730	43	1,210	92,954	473	34	6,547	423	26	64	20	316
July-Sept.	7.4	18,510	79	455	130,658	397	2	10,829	312	16	79	16	193
Oct.-Dec. 1924.	21.5	28,205	47	861	18,253	185	8	43,810	166	19	53	26	296
Jan.-Mar. 1924.	12.0	25,116	58	1,368	19.8	454	162	137,642	294	10	76	22	264
April-June.	22.6	41,916	..	543	28.7	516	55	2.7	216	19	40	26	246
July	24.1	34,757	..	256	..	692	20	201.0	62	20	70	65	276
August	3.1	..	..	130	..	518	76	..	..	..	..	..	272

a Including Government loans. c Excluding Treasury Bills and foreign issues. d Excl. Govt. and large railway issues. f Company issues. g Gold marks. i New companies only. k Nom. value. l Issue value. m Excl. bonus shares. n Excl. conversions. p Thous. billions. z Zloty.

The figures for the United Kingdom, which are our own, may be taken first. In the past these figures have not infrequently been quoted by various writers as measuring the whole of the new capital raised in the United Kingdom during any given period. Such an impression is wholly erroneous, as will be seen from the following summary of what the figures do, and do not, include. They comprise issues on the London market, including British Government borrowings, under such headings as Treasury Bonds, issued by public tender, National Savings Certificates (sales less repayments), Local Loans Stock, &c. Treasury Bill issues, and Ways and Means Advances are not included. Local authority borrowings on the London market, at definite prices and rates of issue, do, and local borrowings without limit, or by tender, do not, come within the scope of our figures. As regards both Government and local authorities, conversion operations are excluded, the figures given showing "new money" in every case. Actual receipts are shown throughout, the price of issue being taken into account when the calculation is made.

Our returns of capital issued by limited companies, and other industrial and trading concerns, are drawn almost entirely from publicly-advertised prospectuses, "offers for sale," or Press announcements, the exception being the totals "to shareholders only," which are obtained from the "Stock Exchange Official Intelligence." Private applications for funds, capital obtained by private syndicates, money loaned from banks, or on mortgage—none of these is, or could possibly be, included; most sections of British industry are never publicly financed, but obtain their necessary new capital privately from the resources of those who are connected with them, from their friends, or from their own accumulated earnings. Early in the present century the Lancashire cotton trade was practically re-equipped with new machinery without any but a small fraction of the cost being reflected in new issues on the London market. On the other hand, the amount raised by foreign and colonial loans and public issues in London represents probably a very large proportion of our total exports of capital, so that comparison between the figures for home and foreign borrowings is bound to give an exaggerated impression of the latter's importance.

Particulars as to the methods adopted in calculating the totals for the foreign states shown in our table above are given in the League of Nations "Bulletin," No. 8 of 1923. From replies to a questionnaire circulated to the various Governments, it was ascertained that the German, Austrian, Italian, Roumanian, and Czechoslovakian figures applied only to authorised share issues of joint-stock companies in the respective States. The series for France has been drawn up by the "Association Nationale des Porteurs Francaise de Valeurs Mobilières,"

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Accepts funds from banking correspondents for investment in designated American Securities, Bank Acceptances, U.S. Government Bonds, etc.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

and includes all issues of shares and bonds publicly offered for subscription on the French market by French or foreign companies, towns, provinces, colonies, colonial undertakings, the Crédit National, and "groupements de sinistrés." The Netherlands figures, drawn up by the Government, include issues by the State, local authorities, and all corporate bodies, for amounts exceeding 100,000 florins. The mortgage deeds of mortgage institutes and Treasury bills are, however, excluded, as are issues effected in the Dutch market on behalf of foreign companies and States. The latter qualification does not apply to issues for the Dutch colonies. The figures for the United States, drawn up by the *Journal of Commerce*, include all issues of shares and debentures, bonds, notes, &c., for amounts exceeding \$100,000 effected by domestic corporations and foreign corporate capital issues floated in the United States. Government, State, municipal, and other public emissions are not included, and no distinction is drawn between long and short-term obligations. Those relative to British India deal only with the authorised capital of new joint-stock companies. In the case of Switzerland, the Swiss Bank Corporation includes in its statistics all Government and other public issues, as well as those of companies. Loans of the Confederation and the Federal Railways, which are the Swiss equivalent of short-term Treasury bonds, taken up by the banks without resort to the general public, are omitted from the total. The Polish figures rest on a somewhat complicated system of analysis. They comprise all the share issues of new joint stock companies—(1) having their registered offices on Polish territory formerly belonging to Russia and Austria; (2) having their registered offices in Polish territory formerly belonging to Prussia in the event of their field of operations extending over the whole of Poland; (3) the issues of Polish branches of new foreign joint stock companies when their registered head office in Poland is within the territories which were formerly Russian or Austrian.

The meaning of the term "date of issue," varies in different countries. Broadly speaking, in the case of the British, American, French, Dutch, Swiss, and Danish statistics, the material date is that on which the new capital is actually offered for subscription, while as regards the other countries on the list, the date on which is granted authority for the issue is taken as relevant for the purpose of compilation. In Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, and the United States, again, the issue price is, as a general rule, the figure used for statistical purposes, while in the case of the other countries the nominal value (which may be much higher or lower than the issue price) is used. Uncalled capital, i.e. in the case of partly paid shares, is not included in certain of the figures, including those for Great Britain, Switzerland, and Holland, while in others, such as those relating to France, the United States, Italy, Germany, Poland, and India, no distinction is made between called and uncalled capital. The statistics for Great Britain, Switzerland, Holland, France, the United States, Denmark, Roumania, and Germany do not include issues of "bonus" shares, for which no payment is made by the recipients.

As regards conversion operations, also, there is much difference of practice. The returns for Great Britain, Holland, and France include only that part, if any, of such a flotation which is subscribed for with new money, while the Swiss and American figures include the gross total. The German statistics include shares distributed to replace shares of another kind, while the Italian, Swedish, and Roumanian take such readjustments into account only when, and so far as, the total amount of the capital is altered.

These considerations show how great is the necessity for caution in making international comparisons of the volume of new capital. From what has been said, the most serious source of error would appear to result from the omission, in many cases, of all particulars relating to Government issues, especially when the dominating influence of State financial policy on the post-war history of most European States is taken into account. The effect of ignoring such issues is to make the figures for the particular countries concerned in many cases an understatement of the actual situation. On the other hand,

the practice adopted in some other instances, of showing what in this country is known as "authorised," rather than "issued" capital, tends to give an exaggerated impression of the rate at which new capital is being created, by calling attention to amounts which may possibly be issued in the future, only a part of which, however, represents "effective" demand in the present.

DISTILLERY COMPANIES' PROFITS.

WE have recently examined the financial position of breweries, see *Economist*, May 24, 1924 (page 1045), and September 27, 1924 (page 485), and now present our readers with a picture of the leading distilleries. Amongst distilleries the trend is towards amalgamation. Buchanan-Dewar, Limited, is probably the most important of these; with a total issued capital of £8,767,038, shares are held in James Buchanan and Co., John Dewar and Sons, and W. P. Lowrie and Co. to the value of £4,103,072. Booths absorbed John Watney and Co., of Wandsworth, having previously acquired the business of Samuel Mart and Co. The Distillers Company has taken over the ordinary shares of the Distillers' Finance Corporation of Belfast; its nominal capital, in consequence, is increased from £4,000,000 to £6,000,000. Only as recently as September, Messrs Macdonald, Greenlees, and Williams (Distillers), Limited, came into the London market with an "offer for sale" of cumulative preference shares at par. This company has an authorised share capital of £600,000, in £1 shares. This is divided into 400,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference, all of which have been, or will be, issued, and 200,000 issued ordinary shares. There is a debenture issue of £83,333 outstanding. This company is also a combination of three businesses interested in whiskey. Our first table shows the net profits of a number of distillery companies over the past three years:—

Name.	Net Profit (after Payment of Debenture Interest).			Carried Forward.		
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Booths	£	£	£	£	£	£
Buchanan-Dewar	..	64,041	48,893	..	11,800	6,277
Dailuaine-Talisker	..	958,740	1,102,657	..	96,589	98,516
Distillers Co.	39,200	38,235	41,318	11,684	14,160	19,622
Highland	457,964	620,637	677,914	98,770	107,546	119,631
Longmorn-Glenlivet	32,876	42,512	70,327	20,383	23,546	16,537
Scottish Malt Distillers	..	6,255	7,498	..	15,339	11,982
Walker, John, and Sons	49,949	49,941	49,971	12,641	18,369	11,982
William Longmorn and Co.	14,063	10,082	11,734	4,285	5,307	6,040

Booths have not had an unsatisfactory year; gross profits are returned as £167,985 for 1923, as against £133,697 for 1922. The report observes that "the whole of the publicity and advertising has this year been charged to working expenses." Buchanan-Dewar makes a profit of £1,102,657 on a capital of £8,767,038—a comfortable return. Dailuaine-Talisker, on a paid-up and issued share capital of £193,935, net £38,235. The Distillers Company can show profits of £677,914 on a capital of £5,835,000, while Highland Distilleries, with a modest share capital of £127,500, record earnings of £70,327. John Walker and Sons, for its first year as a public company, records a net profit of £798,246, with a share capital of £2,760,000, and loan capital of £2,000,000; the directors, in their report, state that "the sales for the

period under review, both at home and abroad, have been the largest in the history of the business."

Our second table shows the principal liabilities and assets of a number of distillery companies:—

Name.	Principal Liabilities.			Principal Assets.				
	Share & Deb. Capital.	Creditors.	Reserves.	Props. Plant, &c.	Stocks.	Investments.	Cash.	Debtors.
Booths—								
Dec. 31, 1922	£ 577,585	£ 73,141	£ 15,584	£ 201,641	£ 378,519	£ 5,091	£ 1,778	£ 264,616
Dec. 31, 1923	946,373	64,601	..	199,245	357,191	112,933	16,610	341,354
Buchanan-Dewar—								
Mar. 31, 1923	6,649,580	5,860	450,000	..	..	4,903,072	72,919	2,768,021
Mar. 31, 1924	8,767,038	6,183	600,000	..	..	4,903,072	61,638	5,170,282
Dalluaine—								
Talisser—								
June 30, 1920	193,935	83,183	10,000	150,000	135,802	2,085	2,428	16,867
June 30, 1921	193,935	86,763	28,739	151,738	176,126	1,885	3,264	4,115
June 30, 1922	193,935	49,260	70,000	150,000	132,652	1,864	63,687	8,893
June 30, 1923	193,935	45,089	80,000	150,000	122,909	844	60,342	31,473
June 30, 1924	193,935	53,049	90,000	150,000	108,674	844	97,162	32,751
Distillers Co.—								
May 15, 1920	3,196,510	877,219	735,165	1,350,000	2,001,986	934,752	179,914	990,373
May 15, 1921	4,083,290	659,294	841,337	1,552,000	2,168,599	1,056,378	131,420	1,014,288
May 15, 1922	4,083,290	582,200	1,006,558	1,734,000	2,186,751	1,096,902	24,913	699,370
May 15, 1923	4,792,500	561,979	1,240,828	1,682,000	2,046,793	3,227,876	64,632	576,904
May 15, 1924	6,655,000	541,745	570,971	1,592,000	308,275	4,051,656	94,474	305,071
Highland—								
Aug. 31, 1920	96,050	50,853	..	70,695	53,049	..	44,806	18,239
Aug. 31, 1921	96,050	26,416	..	71,789	76,113	..	11,151	15,873
Aug. 31, 1922	134,300	26,306	..	70,918	75,387	..	644	50,529
Aug. 31, 1923	134,300	32,760	40,529	69,478	130,625	..	39,478	17,653
Aug. 31, 1924	129,300	48,874	40,529	68,727	128,327	..	50,836	51,032
Longmorn—								
Glenlivet—								
July 31, 1923	30,000	586	8,149	27,417	15,011	..	8,181	8,866
July 31, 1924	30,000	431	9,637	26,663	19,133	4,981	7,137	4,865
Scottish Malt—								
Distillers—								
July 31, 1922	297,582	56,713	62,000	210,426	80,047	212,906	1,747	3,428
July 31, 1923	297,582	85,070	90,000	212,656	126,896	165,496	5,089	12,528
July 31, 1924	297,582	43,928	120,000	218,470	111,261	164,431	1,293	48,386
Walker (John) and Sons—								
May 31, 1924	4,760,000	1,743,495	418,672	323,855	5,119,522	233,363	278,256	..
William Longmore & Co.—								
Sept. 30, 1922	35,000	3,190	19,150	8,000	22,258	21,284	17,651	4,22
Sept. 30, 1923	35,000	3,200	26,130	8,000	24,459	27,162	12,700	3,96
Sept. 30, 1924	35,000	3,758	28,170	8,000	27,095	27,162	13,170	6,74

We have already referred to the amount of the increased capital of Booths and the Distillers Company, and, with these exceptions, changes in capital do not call for special note. The reserve column in some cases admirably reflects the prosperity which has overtaken the industry. In the matter of investments it will be noticed that recent expansions have been along the line of acquiring share interests in other undertakings rather than merging assets and liabilities. Sooner or later, however, we venture to predict that a demand will arise for more information about the controlled undertakings. Directors will then have to face the question of merging or publishing consolidated accounts showing assets and liabilities in detail.

Our final table shows dividends for past three years, also some comparative prices of ordinary shares, and present yields:—

	Dividends on Ordinary Shares.			Price of Ord. Shares.		
	1921-2.	1922-3.	1923-4.	End Oct. 15, 1923.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Present Yield.
Booths (13s)	..	10	10	..	2 1/2	10 0 0
Buchanan-Dewar	..	30 1/2	17 1/2	..	2 1/2	6 0 0
Dalluaine-Talisser	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	23 1/2	24	14 1/2 0
Distillers Co. (£1)	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	16 3 3
Highland (£1)	10 1/2	30 1/2	35 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	12 0 0
Longmorn-Glenlivet (10s)	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	15 8 9
Scottish Malt (£1)	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	..	..	17 6 0
Walker (John) (£1)	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	..	..	..
William Longmore	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	..	..	..

* £10 shares. † Free of income-tax. ‡ Paid on larger capital of £4,000,000.

Booth's Distillery (which changed its name to Booth's Distilleries in August, 1924) ordinary shares are of the rather unusual denomination of 13s each. Dealings in the ordinary shares of John Walker and Sons have recently commenced, and are now shown each day in the Supplementary Official List. The shares of Buchanan-Dewar have just been granted a quotation in the London Official List.

The outlook for distilleries as an investment proposition is difficult to determine. Considered from the export aspect, there appears to be an excellent demand the world over. According to some authorities, spirit consumption at home was lower in 1923 than 1922. There is a sign which no doubt our readers will appreciate at its proper value—that the public in recent years have been asked to take a larger share of financial interest in the distillery industry.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.

(BY OUR MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

It is possible to record a distinct improvement in the Lancashire cotton industry during the past three months. Certain aspects of the situation are still very unsatisfactory, but there is no doubt whatever that most spinners and manufacturers are more favourably placed. In the middle of the summer sellers of yarn and cloth were weak when tested, and buyers had matters all their own way. Recently order lists have been extended, and producers are now able to hold out for prices which in most cases show a margin of profit. A disappointing feature is the fact that the spinning mills engaged on American cotton are still running short time. The present scheme began last March, and provides for the factories to work only 26 1/2 hours per week instead of the usual 48 hours. The Masters' Federation is watching the turn of events very closely, but, so far, they have not been prepared to recommend an increase in working hours. In an irregular way, however, there is now a larger output, and this is reflected in the bigger forwardings of raw cotton from Liverpool to the mills.

An event of the quarter has been the downward movement in prices for American cotton. On June 30th the quotation for fully middling American on the spot in Liverpool was 17.04d. There was a rising tendency towards the end of July until 19.17d was posted on the 30th. From the beginning of August the basis of the Liverpool contract was altered to middling descriptions, the quotation on the first of that month being 18.18d. By the 19th the price had fallen to 15.85d, with 15.27d on the 26th. After a slight reaction there was another easier tendency until 13.22d was reached on September 23rd. An advance took place to 15.25d on October 6th, but the figure on Wednesday last (October 15th) was 13.39d. The cotton crop season in the United States has surprised most people in the trade. Early in the summer it was feared that the output would again be comparatively small, in spite of the record acreage. The weather conditions in the belt, however, have been very favourable, and we are now assured of a much bigger output than in the three previous seasons. The latest Government estimate is 12,500,000 bales, but many people believe that the actual growth will not be far off 13,000,000 bales. This compares with only 10,200,000 bales in 1923-24. At the time of writing the prospects are particularly bright, and, in the circumstances, lower values are anticipated. With regard to Egyptian cotton the quotation for fully good fair Sakellaris on the spot in Liverpool on June 30th was 23.05d. There was a smart advance towards the end of July, which carried the price to 26.15d on the 30th, and 26.25d was posted on August 15th. A rather easier movement then showed itself to 24.05d on September 16th. Since then values have been rather stronger, the figure on Wednesday last (October 15th) being 25.05d. Three months ago it was expected that the Egyptian crop for this season would be of record dimensions, and there was talk of 8,000,000 cantars. Recently, however, the plants have deteriorated, and it is feared that the growth will not be more than 6,750,000 cantars. The low estimate of the Egyptian Government of 5,944,000 cantars is discredited.

In the Manchester cloth market there has been more activity during the past quarter than in any similar period for a long time back. Comparatively few buyers have been prepared to place big contracts, but numerous small orders have been secured which, in the aggregate, have reached encouraging dimensions. Producers, therefore, have been enabled to clear their stocks, and most active outlet has been India, and a healthy trade has been done, especially for Calcutta and Bombay. Recent shipments have been larger; during the nine months ended September the exports of piece goods to India from this country were 1,250,639,000 square yards, against 1,073,865,000 square yards in the same period of 1923. A revival of demand has shown itself in grey shirtings, and makers are better supplied with work than

for a long time back. Extensive purchases have also been made in light bleaching descriptions, and the industrial situation in Blackburn and district has improved. Printing cloths have also attracted more attention, and firms in Burnley and district are busier. The freer buying for India has been assisted by the appreciation in the value of the rupee, and the trade situation abroad is healthy as a result of the monsoon season being satisfactory. As can easily be understood, no trade development of any importance has taken place in China. Business has been thoroughly upset by the civil war, and for several weeks the auctions in Shanghai have been suspended. Some orders have been placed in white shirtings, but merchants on the other side have not been inclined to do anything more than keep up assortments. The news to hand during the last few days with regard to the political situation has been much more favourable, and demand now tends to broaden. There is ground for believing that if a stable Government could be formed in China, trade would revive quickly as stocks of textiles are comparatively low. The general demand for numerous minor outlets East and West has been more encouraging, and particular mention may be made of the persistent demand in fine fancy materials for the United States. In similar goods a steady business has also been done for European countries. An improvement has shown itself in the turnover for Egypt, the Near East, and South America. Inquiry in cloths suitable for home consumption has recently broadened, and the wholesale establishments in the North of England are more optimistic as to the demand from the country during the next few months.

The following is a comparative table of cloth exports from the United Kingdom, the figures being given for the nine months ended September in each year:—

	Yards.	£
1913	5,350,278,900	73,659,119
1922	3,068,278,700	106,637,069
1923	3,097,216,600	104,072,046
1924	3,341,388,800	114,899,318

Since the end of June there has been a striking change in the position of spinners of yarn made from American cotton. It is evident that the strong support given to the short-time scheme has at last brought beneficial results. The big stoppage of production at the end of August due to the annual holidays at Oldham had the effect of stocks in first hands being cleared. When work was resumed demand was more active, and spinners took advantage of the situation to put up their prices and improve their margin of profit. Since then the better state of affairs has been well maintained, and although the organised curtailment of output scheme is still in force, and costs of production are relatively high, the prices ruling in most counts and qualities are remunerative. The situation is somewhat artificial, in view of the fact that the mills are working only three days a week instead of five and a-half. The Masters' Federation, however, is determined to move slowly, and not increase production until there are definite signs that more yarn is required. With regard to the Egyptian yarn section, the trade demand has been healthy from week to week, and most spinners are stronger in point of engagements than for a long time back. It is very difficult to obtain early delivery of many counts and qualities. The mills in this department are running full time.

The following is a comparative table of shipments of cotton yarn from the United Kingdom, the figures being given for the nine months ended September in each year:—

	Lbs.	£
1913	154,761,700	11,022,055
1922	158,363,900	20,763,425
1923	104,530,000	15,263,209
1924	123,319,700	20,836,107

The wages agreement between the employers and the trade unions has now expired, and it is open for either side to put forward an application for a change in list rates. It is understood, however, that neither the masters nor the operatives intend to take any action at the present time. Current wages are 95 per cent. above list rates, and 90 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. Some allowance, however, must be made for the reduction in working hours, and actual wages are about 61 per cent. above the pre-war level.

The improvement in the trade position mentioned above has been very welcome, and undoubtedly most spinning and manufacturing concerns are doing much better than three months ago. In numerous instances, however, adverse balances are heavy, and it is feared it will be a long time before many companies are able to declare a dividend on the ordinary share capital. It must be remembered that the freer buying has been on sound lines in order to meet the urgent requirements of customers. Speculative operations so far have been within a small compass. The next move in the situation will be towards increased employment for the operatives engaged in the mills spinning American yarns, and it may be taken for granted that the short-time scheme will be revised at an early date. Unless some action is taken by the Masters' Federation, some of the members will break away from the movement and ignore the recommendation. With regard to piece goods, there are no indications of markets abroad having satisfied their requirements.

AN ANALYTICAL DIGEST OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER, 1923—II.

CONTINUING our digest, the first part of which appeared in our issue of September 27th, we present a series of tables dealing more closely with the rivalry of parties in the counties of Great Britain, as shown by the results of the General Election last December.

TABLE showing the COUNTIES in which each of the THREE PARTIES Obtained More Seats than the other TWO PARTIES in December, 1923.

Liberal Counties.	Liberal Seats.	Other Seats.	Conservative Counties.	Con. Seats.	Other Seats.	Labour Counties.	Labour Seats.	Other Seats.
Devon	7	4	Warwick	14	3	Lanark	16	6
Somerset	5	2	Kent	12	3	Glamorgan	13	3
Cornwall	5	0	Surrey	12	0	Durham	10	8
Leicester	4	3	Hampshire	10	3	Monmouth	4	2
Wiltshire	4	1	Middlesex	9	8	Northampton	3	2
Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty	3	0	Sussex	8	1	Cumberland	3	2
Bedford	2	1	Gloucester	6	5	Fife	3	1
Buckingham	2	1	Worcester	6	0	Stirling & Clack- mannan	3	0
Carmarvon	2	0	Lincoln	5	4	Dumfries	2	0
Huntingdon	1	0	Suffolk	4	2	Berwick and Haddington	1	0
Caithness and Sutherland	1	0	Hertford	3	1	Linlithgow	1	0
Argyll	1	0	Dorset	3	1			
Banff	1	0	Oxford	2	1			
Galloway	1	0	Cambridge	2	1			
Dumfries	1	0	Hereford	2	0			
Orkney and Shet- land	1	0	Westmorland	1	0			
Anglesey	1	0	Morey and Nairn	1	0			
Cardigan	1	0	Roxburgh and Selkirk	1	0			
Flint	1	0						
Merioneth	1	0						
Montgomery	1	0						
Pembroke	1	0						
Brecon & Radnor	1	0						

A glance at the map of Great Britain will show over how much larger an area the Liberals predominate than do the Conservatives, notwithstanding the fact that the latter party are supposedly the representatives of the landed interest. Although the Liberals dominate in 23 counties, or grouped counties, they only obtained 48 seats from such counties, whereas the Conservatives, dominating in 18 counties, obtained 102 seats; and the Labour party, dominating in 11 counties, gained 59 seats. It is noteworthy that the first three of the Labour counties are among the ten most important of Great Britain. Middlesex, Warwick, and Kent, dominated by the Conservatives, hold the eighth, ninth, and eleventh places in order of population, but the Liberals do not outnumber the two other parties in any of the twelve leading counties.

TABLE showing the COUNTIES in which HALF the MEMBERS were RETURNED to one or other of the Three Parties.

Labour.	Labour.			Liberal.	Liberal.			Conservative.	Conservative.		
	Lib. Seats.	Con. Seats.	Lib. Seats.		Lib. Seats.	Lib. Seats.	Con. Seats.		Con. Seats.	Lib. Seats.	Lib. Seats.
Essex.....	10	8	2	Midlothian & Peebles....	4	3	1	Cheshire....	7	5	2
Stafford.....	9	5	4	Berkshire....	2	1	1	Shropshire....	2	1	1
Derby.....	5	4	1	Renfrew.....	2	2	..	Ayr and Bute	2	..	..
Norfolk.....	4	1	3	Forfar.....	2	2	..	Perth and Kinross....	1	1	..
Ayr and Bute	2	2	..	Carmarthen....	1	1	..				
Renfrew.....	2	2	..	Forfar.....	1	1	..				
Forfar.....	2	2	..	Denbigh.....	1	1	..				
Carmarthen....	1	1	..	Perth and Kinross....	1	..	1				
Denbigh.....	1	1	..								

Of the 13 counties and grouped counties shown in the table, six are equally divided between two parties, viz., Renfrew, Forfar, Carmarthen, and Denbigh between

Labour and the Liberals, Ayr and Bute between Labour and the Conservatives, and Perth and Kinross between Conservatives and Liberals. Of the 104 seats, 43 are held by Labour members, 32 by Conservatives, and 29 by Liberals. Essex and Staffordshire, which hold fifth and sixth rank in the list of the chief counties, are at present held strongly for the Labour party, and Cheshire, standing twelfth on the list, is equally favourable to the Conservatives.

TABLE showing the PARTY PREDOMINANCE in the COUNTIES which are not included in the two previous tables.

Seats held by—	Lab.	Con.	Lib.	Seats held by—	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
In—				In—			
Lancashire	23	21	22	London	29	22	11
Yorkshire	23	20	14	Nottingham	4	3	2
Northumberland ..	4	3	3	Aberdeen and Kinross	2	1	2
	50	44	39		35	26	15

In these great counties in which party predominance scarcely appears (except, perhaps, in the case of London) the Conservatives hold 79 seats, the Labour party 76, and the Liberals 54.

In 1923 the Liberals won seats in Warwickshire, Buckingham, Berkshire, Sussex, Hertford, Shropshire, and Huntingdon, in which counties neither Liberals nor National Liberals were represented in the 1922 General Election. In fifteen other counties they gained more seats than were won by Liberals and National Liberals in November, 1922; but in thirteen counties they won fewer seats in 1923 than in 1922. In twenty counties they won an equal number of seats in both years. The following table shows these results:—

TABLE comparing the SEATS WON or LOST in the COUNTIES by LIBERALS in December, 1923, with those WON by LIBERALS and NATIONAL LIBERALS in November, 1922.

	1922	1923	Gain		1922	1923	Gain		1922	1923	Loss
Lancashire	Lib	Lib	14	Hertford	Lib	Lib	1	Argyll	Lib	Lib	1
Yorkshire	Lib	Lib	11	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Carmarthen	Lib	Lib	1
London	Lib	Lib	11	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Caithness	Lib	Lib	1
Devon	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Denbigh	Lib	Lib	1
Somerset	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Shropshire	Lib	Lib	1
Cheshire	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Cornwall	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Leicester	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Wiltshire	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Durham	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Midlothian	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Northumberland ..	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Bedford	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Middlesex	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Hampshire	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Warwick	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Buckingham	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Berkshire	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1
Sussex	Lib	Lib	1	Barnstaple	Lib	Lib	1	Stafford	Lib	Lib	1

The table shows that the Liberals gained seats in 22 counties; the chief gains were in Lancashire (14 seats), Devon and Somerset (5 and 4 seats respectively), and Cheshire (3 seats). Nine other counties each yielded two seats, and four counties one seat each. In 20 counties there was no change in the number of seats held by the Liberals; in 14 counties they lost seats; but Derby was the only county in which the loss exceeded one member. For the Scottish Universities the National Liberal of 1922 was returned as a Liberal in 1923.

TABLE Comparing the SEATS WON or LOST by CONSERVATIVES in the COUNTIES in December, 1923, with those WON in November, 1922.

	1922	1923	Loss or Gain		1922	1923	Loss or Gain		1922	1923	Loss or Gain
London	44	29	-15	Derby	2	4	2	Glamorgan	2	2	-2
Lancashire	38	21	-17	Durham	4	4	0	Roxburgh & Selkirk	1	1	0
Yorkshire	24	20	-4	Nottingham	4	4	0	Moray & Nairn	1	1	0
Warwick	17	14	-3	Stafford	4	4	0	Perth & Kinross	1	1	0
Surrey	12	12	0	Hertford	4	4	0	Westmorland	1	1	0
Kent	14	12	-2	Devon	4	4	0	Bedford	1	1	0
Hampshire	12	10	-2	Dorset	4	4	0	Norfolk	1	1	0
Middlesex	14	9	-5	Northumb'd	4	4	0	Wiltshire	1	1	0
Essex	9	8	-1	Scottish Uni-	1	2	1	Buckingham	1	1	0
Essex	13	8	-5	versities	2	2	0	Midlothian	1	1	0
Cheshire	11	7	-4	Ayr and Bute	2	2	0	Leicester	1	1	0
Worcester	5	6	1	Cambridge	2	2	0	Berkshire	1	1	0
English Uni-	5	6	1	Oxford	2	2	0	Somerset	1	1	0
Gloucester	7	6	-1	Monmouth	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Stafford	5	5	0	Northampton	2	2	0	Isle of Ely	1	1	0
Lincoln	5	5	0	Shropshire	4	2	-2	Huntingdon	1	1	0
Lancark	5	5	0					Cornwall	1	1	0

London still returns a majority of Conservatives, although they are 15 fewer than in 1922. In Lancashire the Conservatives lost 17 seats; in each of the counties of Middlesex, Essex, Devon and Somerset they lost five seats; in

Yorkshire and Cheshire they lost four in each county; in Warwick, Leicester, and Berkshire they lost three seats in each county; in nine other counties they lost two seats in each; and in ten counties they lost a seat in each county. In 14 counties they retained the same number of members in 1923 as in 1922. They won two seats in Derbyshire and one in each of the counties of Worcester, Dorset, Aberdeenshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk, and Moray and Nairn, and one seat at Cambridge University.

TABLE Comparing the SEATS WON or LOST by the LABOUR PARTY in the COUNTIES in December, 1923, compared with those WON in November, 1922.

	1922	1923	Gain or Loss		1922	1923	Gain or Loss
Yorkshire	21	23	2	Gloucester	1	2	1
Lancashire	18	23	5	Nottingham	1	2	1
London	9	22	13	Midlothian	1	2	1
Lancark	16	17	1	Fife	1	2	1
Glamorgan	11	13	2	Cumberland	1	2	1
Essex	10	10	0	Stirling & Fife	1	2	1
Stafford	9	9	0	Kent	0	2	2
Durham	11	10	-1	Leicester	1	2	1
Middlesex	2	5	3	Ayr and Bute	1	2	1
Derby	4	5	1	Dumfriesshire	1	2	1
Norfolk	1	4	3	Cheshire	1	2	1
Monmouth	4	4	0	Forfar	2	2	0
Northumb'nd	6	4	-2	Renfrew	2	2	0
Northampton	0	3	3	Warwick	0	1	1

The Labour party won seats in 1923 in Northampton, Kent, Warwick, Somerset, Suffolk, Shropshire, Berkshire, and Berwick, in which counties they had no representation in 1922. In 17 other counties they increased the number of their seats. In Northumberland they lost two seats and in Durham one, and in Carnarvon their only seat. In eleven counties they won the same number of seats each year. These analyses may be of some slight assistance in enabling our readers to assess the respective prospects of each of the chief parties in the elections of 1924.

Notes of the Week.

The Party Programmes.—We summarise below the main points of the programmes of the three largest parties at the forthcoming election, the parties being given in order of their strength in the House of Commons at the Dissolution:—

CONSERVATIVE.

- To "safeguard employment . . . in any efficient industry imperilled by unfair foreign competition by applying the principle of the Safeguarding of Industries Act or analogous measures."
- To encourage mutual trade in the Empire by Imperial Preference.
- Limitation of armaments, but the conditions of Imperial defence to be re-examined and a careful scrutiny made of the commitments proposed in the latest scheme of the League of Nations.
- Agriculture.**—Maintenance of wage-regulation, promotion of facilities for acquisition of small holdings, development of rural industries, and investigation of the cost of foodstuffs by a Royal Commission.
- Examination of new housing schemes and methods and improvement of slum areas.
- Contributory scheme for old-age and widows' pensions.
- Education.**—Co-operation between local authorities and the Board of Education, to promote measures for reduction in size of classes, improvement of sanitary conditions of schools, development of central schools, agreed salary scales for teachers, adult education, religious liberty.
- Reforms affecting status of women and children.

LABOUR.

- Ratification of the Russian Treaties.
- Housing.**—"Generous financial assistance" to local authorities and building industry, to provide houses to let at low rents, a separate dwelling for each family, and a continuous policy of slum clearance.
- Continuance of policy aiming at "giving every child equality in education," and insisting on higher qualifications and salaries for teachers.
- National ownership and organisation of coal-mining industry, electric power production, and railway and canal system.

- "Drastic" reform of the Poor Law system.
- Taxation of land values.
- A Royal Commission on licensing reform.
- Bulk importing and distribution of foodstuffs, and building materials.
- Strengthening of Trade Boards, reduction of excessive hours of labour, improvement in Workmen's Compensation Acts.

LIBERAL.

- Land Policy.**—Complete alteration in present system of land tenure, town land values to contribute to maintenance of town amenities, conditions of leaseholds to be revised, compulsory purchase of land for housing, disappearance of the slums.
- The State to acquire all mineral rights, and provide assistance in building of "super-power" stations.
- Education.**—A ten-year programme of educational advance, including better schools, smaller classes, improved qualification and remuneration of teachers, and more secondary schools and vocational institutions.
- Trade and Industry.**—"The party holds unshakably by its policy of Free Trade," and advocates co-operation of all engaged in industry, extension, and co-ordination of the Insurance Acts, a comprehensive scheme of contributory insurance against old age, breakdown of the breadwinner's health, widow- and orphanhood.
- Examination of the liquor question by experiments on bold and democratic lines.
- Electoral Reform.**—"Effective measures to secure a real correspondence between Parliamentary representation and electoral strength."
- Housing.**—"The reserve of unemployed labour to be utilised to build houses for the people."
- Establishment of economic and commercial relations with Russia, but on lines other than those of present Treaties with the Soviet.
- Mutual disarmament and promotion of international peace.

The Unemployment Figures.—Election polemics are not as a rule marked by a very strict regard for the finer points of statistical accuracy, but the present Government's treatment of the unemployment figures is somewhat exceptional. Replying to an accusation that during Labour's term of office an appreciable accretion has taken place in the ranks of the unemployed, the Lord Chancellor, in the absence of his colleagues this week, took occasion to declare that the "true comparable figures" showed a decrease, as follows:—January 28, 1924 (the earliest date after the Labour Government took office), 1,320,518; September 29, 1924, 1,199,316. How far these may be said to be "true comparable figures" is an open question. The *Ministry of Labour Gazette* for February last gives an almost identical figure (1,322,000), but points out that January 28th was the last full day of the railway stoppage caused by a partial strike of locomotive men, and that a week later the total had fallen to 1,248,000. Thus 74,000 of the 121,000 decrease for which the Labour Party apparently desire to take credit may be written off at once. Lord Haldane goes on to say, however, that the real decrease is greater than the figures show, because "those for September 29th included a large number of persons (at least 75,000) who would not have been on the registers for unemployment owing to the arrangements in force when the Labour Government took office." The political correspondent of the *Times*, on Wednesday, went further, and made a statement—the authority for which was not given, but which, *prima facie*, would appear to have emanated from official sources—to the effect that the present total includes about 30,000 persons who came on the live register owing to a change of regulations in February, a further 30,000 because those working on short time are now included, and another 70,000 as a result of the admitting to benefit of new classes under an Act passed in August last. We have on earlier occasions found it necessary to point out the pitfalls prepared for outside observers by the continual shifting of the basis on which the official unemployment figures rest. From the beginning of July the weekly totals have shown a steady increase from 1,009,000 to 1,092,000 early in August and 1,216,000 on October 6th. In other words, the apparent increase has amounted to 207,000 since the

beginning of June, or 124,000 since the middle of August. The apparently heavy increase in the last two months has been put down in some quarters to the repeal of the McKenna duties. Leaving out of account the short-time factor, however, it is obvious that if allowance is made for about 70,000 persons brought in as a result of new legislation, the rate of increase has, as a matter of fact, slowed down appreciably as compared with the summer months. An authoritative statement by the Ministry of Labour as to the exact figures involved would be very welcome.

The Iraq Boundary Dispute.—The danger of an armed conflict between British and Turkish forces on the Iraq frontier, which was imminent at the end of last week, has happily been removed by the agreement of both Governments to seek a further ruling from the Council of the League of Nations as to what *status quo* is to be observed pending a final settlement. In accepting this Turkish proposal, the British Government have made a concession, for, pending the new decision which the Council has been asked to give, the present *status quo* is to continue—that is, the territory occupied by the Turks as a result of their recent military advance is to remain provisionally in their hands. This concession is obviously statesmanlike, however, since the *status quo* line, wherever exactly it may be drawn, is itself no more than a provisional demarcation during the inquiry which the Council instituted by its decision of September 30th, and the results of which the Turkish as well as the British plenipotentiaries at Geneva agreed to accept in advance. This common agreement to accept the Council's verdict on the principal issue was the key to a peaceful solution of the controversy, and either party would have been gravely to blame if it had precipitated a conflict in order to gain a transient advantage on a secondary matter. The British Government, by its concession, have avoided placing themselves in this position, whereas the Turkish Government, by ordering their troops to advance beyond their previous lines while the whole question was *sub judice*, have laid themselves open (as is realised by the weightier organs of the Constantinople Press) to the imputation of levity and rashness, even if their interpretation of the *status quo* were eventually to be upheld by the Council's legal advisers. The principal issue—that is, the determination of the line along which the permanent frontier between Turkey and Iraq is to run—cannot be settled until the three neutral commissioners of the Council have had time to report; and meanwhile the Council has been asked by both parties to define the *status quo* which, at the Council's request, they respectively pledged themselves to observe on September 30th. Ismet Pasha, in a note which the Council received from him last Monday, contends that the *status quo* which was referred to on September 30th means the actual situation on that date, when the Turkish troops, as a result of their recent advance, had arrived at their present positions. The British Government, on the other hand, interpret the *status quo* as that which prevailed on July 24, 1923, when the Lausanne Treaty was signed. It will be remembered that, in Article 3 of the Treaty (which provided for the reference of the boundary dispute to the Council of the League, failing direct agreement between the two parties within a certain period), it was laid down that, "pending the decision to be reached on the subject of the frontier, no military or other movement shall take place which might modify in any way the present state of the territories of which the final fate will depend upon that decision." There is no doubt that this was the *status quo* which the British Government had in mind when it accepted the Council's decision on September 30th, for Lord Parmoor referred verbally to Article 3 of the Lausanne Treaty on that occasion. Since the Turks interpret the decision otherwise, it remains to be seen what view the Council takes of the matter. Meanwhile, it must be repeated that the British Government have shown themselves wise, and the Turkish Government unwise, in the attitude which they have taken up respectively on this minor and temporary matter pending the settlement of the larger issue of the definite frontier.

Overseas Trade in September.—At first sight the September trade returns look rather discouraging, for as compared with September, 1923, imports are nearly £18 millions higher and little over a million less than in August of this year, although as a rule there is seasonal decline in imports at this period of the year. At the same time British exports are half a million below the figure for September last year, and £3 millions less than they were a month ago. The decline in British exports which is entirely due to the coal and iron and steel trades, is offset by an increase of £1½ millions in re-exports, but the excess of imports at £28 is nearly £17 millions higher than at this time last year. The figures for September and first nine months are set out below :—

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in September, 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	83,171,920	100,895,230	+ 17,723,310	+ 21.4
British exports	63,836,144	63,282,876	- 553,268	- 0.9
Re-exports	8,110,443	9,565,535	+ 1,455,092	+ 17.9
Total exports	71,946,587	72,848,411	+ 901,824	+ 1.3
Excess of imports over total exports	11,225,333	28,046,819	+ 16,821,486	+ 150.1

FIRST NINE MONTHS.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	787,091,155	909,355,367	+ 122,264,212	+ 15.5
British exports	566,122,381	589,319,261	+ 23,196,880	+ 4.1
Re-exports	86,857,891	102,838,324	+ 15,980,433	+ 18.4
Total exports	652,980,272	692,157,585	+ 39,177,313	+ 6.0
Excess of imports over total exports	134,110,883	217,197,782	+ 83,086,899	+ 61.9

The advance in imports, however, is to a considerable extent a matter of higher prices. Grain and flour imports, for example, are 2 million cwt. higher at 18,316,300 cwt., but the value has increased from £7,836,600 to £10,702,200. Similarly raw wool imports increased by less than 30 per cent. in quantity, but by 136 per cent. in value. Food imports account for an increase of nearly £8 millions, raw materials for an increase of £3¼ millions, and manufactured goods for an increase of over £6 millions, practically the only items on the import side to show decreases being rubber and tobacco, rubber imports falling from 266,500 cwt. to 100 lbs in September last year to 127,900 cwt. last month, while the value thereof dropped from £1,641,100 to £659,700. On the export side coal accounts for a decline of over £2 millions, while coke and manufactured fuel is down by £583,400, and iron and steel and manufactures thereof by £872,500. There are also declines of half a million in woollen and worsted goods and in chemicals and dyes. Cotton manufactures, however, show an increase of £1¼ millions, and exports of fish show an improvement of half a million. The increase in re-exports is accounted for mainly by raw cotton, hides and skins and tin. Quantity figures for the first nine months of the last three years, in the case of some of the leading import and export groups, are shown below :—

NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30.

	1922.	1923.	1924.
IMPORTS.			
Wheat	72,845,997	75,988,014	87,059,156
Raw cotton	9,153,995	6,193,962	6,282,781
Sheep's and lamb's wool	9,155,567	7,052,915	9,012,663
Iron ore	2,460,387	4,538,254	4,717,688
Iron and steel manufactures ..	597,336	1,010,833	1,753,659
Motor spirit	246,762	249,242	323,290
EXPORTS.			
Coal	45,476,573	59,472,942	46,792,096
Iron and steel manufactures ..	2,340,832	3,181,175	2,929,162
Machinery	282,483	320,953	337,923
Cotton yarn	158,364	104,530	123,320
Cotton piece goods	3,068,279	3,097,217	3,341,389
Woollen tissues	89,896	111,694	126,246

The pronounced decline in coal exports is accounted for by the Ruhr occupation last year, and it will be observed that the total for the nine months of 1924 is in excess of that of the same period of 1922. Iron and steel and

manufactures thereof have declined on the export side, but show a substantial increase in imports; in the case of the latter, Belgium, of the few countries shown in the monthly returns, is the most prominent. The import and export figures for each separate group are set out on a later page.

Iron, Steel, and Coal Output.—The figures just issued by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers show no improvement as yet in the condition of the iron and steel industry. Pig-iron production in September declined by 19,700 tons to 569,200 tons, and while steel production rose from 527,500 tons in August to 645,000 tons in September, it must be remembered that the August figure was exceptionally low, owing to the holidays. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of September (170) was three fewer than at the end of August. Furnaces active have now been steadily declining since May, 1923, when they numbered 223. Part of the explanation of the falling production lies in the decline of the export trade, for exports in September amounted to only 263,800 tons, compared with 301,100 tons in August; this is the lowest figure reached since 1922. Of the total exports, 52,000 tons were galvanised sheets, 42,500 tons tin plates and sheets, and 35,400 tons pig-iron and ferro alloys. Imports, on the other hand, rose from 173,700 tons in August to 207,200 tons in September. Imports are now at a higher rate than before the war. The only consolation that can be derived from the high figure of imports lies in the fact that the greater proportion of the material is in semi-finished form, which is further worked up in this country. The September imports included, for instance, 52,900 tons of billets, blooms, and slabs, and 33,600 tons of sheets and tin-plate bars. The output of coal in the four weeks ending September 27th averaged 5,107,000 tons per week, compared with an average of 5,195,000 tons per week in the three weeks of August not affected by the holidays. Exports of coal amounted to 5,098,400 tons, or slightly more than in August, of which 1,154,900 tons went to France, 580,100 tons to Italy, 468,600 tons to Germany, 351,200 tons to Denmark, and 334,100 tons to Sweden. Exports of metallurgical coke amounted to 179,000 tons, compared with 163,900 tons in August.

Stock Exchange Views of the German Loan.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—In the few days that elapse before the Stock Exchange market will start in the new German scrip, it may be of interest, possibly of service, to set out some of the arguments which have been debated, and very hotly debated, on the floor of the Stock Exchange, in connection with the issue of the loan. There are many brokers who have received from their clients strings of orders, mostly to buy, in the scrip when dealings shall begin. It is expected that the opening price will be about 30s premium, though the quotation will be governed largely by the extent to which the stags have entered the issue, and the avidity which they may exhibit to snatch a small profit. In the first place, the political economist looks ahead, and in doing so regards this German Loan as a valuable contribution to the solution of the problems which vex the question of Peace settlements. As a prop to the peace of Europe, an encouragement to international trade, with a consequent quickening of employment at home, and a stirring of industrial channels in many directions, the loan is held to be an operation of practical value. The financier, taking a more circumscribed view, maintains that it is cheap, inasmuch as Germany has now escaped from four of her most pressing liabilities, to wit, the Army, the Navy, internal mortgages, and the interest (save in worthless marks) upon her internal loans, while the security for the issue consists in an excellent system of railways and the industry of 65 million people. The speculator points out that Germany has certainly cheated and hoodwinked her creditors in the past, notably over what he describes as the deliberate depreciation in the mark, but, as the bonds pay 7½ per cent. on the money, and as Germany can be counted upon to pay so long as it pays her to pay, the high yield offered by this national loan compensates for the risk involved in subscribing to it. The rush on the part of the New York investor is referred to as showing what appreciation the loan attracts

from people who are farther removed from the scene of the war, and who have not suffered to the same extent as the other Allies. On the other hand, sentiment plays a principal part in arousing a bitter feeling of opposition to the loan. People who have lost sons, partners, brothers, friends, have raised protests against lending money to the enemy by whom their relations and others were slain, but if it be asserted that sentiment plays a part in finance, the experience of the past week in connection with the German loan will show that this theory is not tenable. Nevertheless, a Stock Exchange man who lost his only son in the war justified an application for the German loan on the ground that, having but a modest amount of money, he was obliged to take advantage of any opportunity for making more that might come his way. And there are yet others who admit quite candidly that, though there were a certain profit to be obtained through subscription to the loan, or by purchase of the stock when dealings commence, they would refuse to touch that profit, owing to the feeling that still remains as an aftermath of the war. The *Economist* is no place for the ventilation of sentimental considerations, but these, as well as purely financial factors, are bound to weigh upon the future of the loan, and its popularity in the market. Time has a wonderful way of dealing with wounds, and, regarded from the merely prosaic standpoint, the loan at its issue price will appeal as being cheap to those who subscribe with a clear appreciation of the risks that unknown political developments attach to it.

The Chinese Civil War.—Rapid changes have taken place this week in the situation in China. The sudden collapse of the Chekiang army and the flight to Japan of Lu Yung Hsiang, its general, have been followed by the defection of a division of the victorious Kiangsu army, and by preparations to resist the advance into Chekiang of the Fu-kien troops. Negotiations, however, are reported between the leaders, which will probably result in the suspension of hostilities by some sort of compromise which will leave the forces of Wu Pei-Fu free to resist the advance of Chang tso-lin on Peking. The latter's troops are still held back at Shanhaikwan, and are attempting to make their way through the mountainous country further west; but complications may arise if the necessities of either belligerent should lead to interference with the rights of the numerous Japanese settlers in Manchuria. A Japanese Note to Chang tso-lin and the Peking Government, while affirming Japanese neutrality, has intimated that these rights must be respected; and it is possible also that the cession by Chang tso-lin of the Chinese Eastern Railway to Russian control may involve Japan in controversy with Soviet Russia. But the Japanese Government is not likely to injure its own interests or those of its allies by taking any steps tending to defer a return to peace in China. War material, indeed, is coming to Chang tso-lin from French sources, apparently with the connivance of the Japanese officials at Dalny, and in contravention of the arms embargo of 1919; but, on the whole, the outlook is more hopeful. The serious fighting in Canton between the Merchants' Volunteers and the Labour Party, the latter probably organised by Bolshevik emissaries, and between the Volunteers and Sun Yat-Sen's forces, has terminated in the defeat of his opponents, but his hold on Canton is evidently shaken, independently of the advance of the forces of Chen Chiung-Ming, his former adherent and present rival. With Sun Yat-Sen overthrown and peace secured in the Shanghai region, lately the seat of war, the way would be open for a definite defeat of Chang tso-lin and the restoration of peace in the Chinese Republic.

"Sheltered" and "Unsheltered" Wages.—Reference was recently made in our columns to the disparity of wages in various industries. From time to time, however, striking examples come to light of differences in the rates of wages of workers engaged in one particular occupation in the same district, but employed by different authorities. A recent instance is contained in an award issued by the Industrial Court on the question of the wages of engineers employed by the

London County Council. In 1922 the bonus paid to men in the general engineering industry was reduced, by three equal instalments, from 26s 6d to 10s a week. The men employed as engineers by the London County Council, however, have had two of the instalments restored, and are thus receiving 11s a week more than those in precisely similar occupations in the outside industry in which the employers find it impracticable, under present conditions, to grant any increase in wages. Within the last few months the engineers employed at Woolwich and in other Government establishments, who also suffered a reduction of 16s 6d a week in 1922, have been granted advances of 6s in the case of skilled men and 5s in the case of semi-skilled men and labourers. Another example of disparity is found in the railway workshops, where the engineers are receiving a bonus of 16s 6d a week, or 6s 6d more than men in the employment of engineering firms. As distinct from these cases of rates of wages in excess of those prevailing in the engineering industry generally, we find the engineers in the Rotherham steelworks on strike to enforce the observance of the rate of the engineering district rate. These examples illustrate the fact that when, as in these cases, it is possible to eliminate factors, such as the relative strength of trade unions and the relative skill of typical classes of workers in one trade as compared with another, the degree of "shelter" enjoyed by particular groups of workers continues to be an important factor in the payment of wages. Variations in wage levels arise, in some cases, solely from the condition that the ability of the employer to pay is limited by the operations of the market in which he is a competitor, while in others the employer is not subject to competition, and is therefore able to pay wage rates more in conformity with the amounts required to maintain the pre-war standard of living.

Discounts and Advances.—Although the inclusion of Treasury bills with bills discounted in bank balance-sheets tends to obscure the movements in commercial bills, a correspondent suggests that a distinct change in the method of financing business has been in progress since the war. "The tendency has been for manufacturers and merchants to arrange their finances rather by advances than by bills of exchange, with the result that the latter have become a less reliable indication than formerly of the amount of business in progress." Advances are not such a clean and compact form of finance as bills, but they have the advantage for the borrower of giving somewhat greater freedom of action. From the banking point of view advances offer a better interest return than bills. The usual charge for an advance is 1 per cent. over Bank rate, as against, say, 4 per cent. for a commercial bill. On the other hand, an advance which may be subject to renewal is less liquid than a fine bill, and represents a less favourable reserve for the bank. A certain proportion of banking advances are, of course, renewed as a matter of policy. The trade slump has made it impossible, or at any rate inexpedient, to call them in. The shrinkage in the volume of bills was specially noted earlier in the year by the chairmen of the Indian banks. It is now largely the custom of merchants in India to draw against their shipments by telegraphic transfers rather than by bills of exchange. Conditions are rather different from those existing in this country, as the telegraphic transfer, which is an immediate operation, avoids the risk of loss through fluctuation of the rupee. The tendency to replace bills by some other form of the transfer of funds is, however, interesting as an illustration of prevailing tendencies.

High-Priced Colonials.—Colonial and Corporation stocks, which ordinarily fall into the list of securities available for trustee investments, become automatically removed (for the purposes of new buyers) from such a group when the prices of the stocks go over par in such cases as those in which the loans have less than fifteen years to run. It is a moot point whether or not the prospective buyer may take into account the interest accumulated in the price. For instance, some people argue that it is permissible for trustees to buy a 5 per cent. stock standing

at 102 if the purchase is effected three months after an interest payment has been made. In strict trusts, it is generally held that trustees cannot be blamed for refusing to take any risks whatever in the matter of investments which they are called upon to make. A number of Colonial trustee stocks are now no longer eligible for present buyers, owing to the prices at which the securities stand, and a brief list of some of the stocks which fall into this category may be of service. The quotations will possibly appeal to certain of the present stockholders as being sufficiently tempting for them, the proprietors, to take advantage of the current levels. At the same time, there are many investors, not bound by trust clauses, to whom an immediately good rate of interest from gilt-edged stock outweighs the disadvantage of the practical certainty that redemption at par will be effected at the earlier of the dates when two are given. This list illustrates the Colonial stocks which are on offer in the market at the present time, but which also can be sold with equal readiness if the holders consider it judicious to realise:—

Description.	Dividends Due.	Redemption Date.	Latest Price.	Yield.	With Redemption.
New South Wales 6½%	1 F. & A.	1930-40	107	£ s d 6 1 6	£ s d 5 4 0
Do 6%	1 M. & N.	1930-40	103	5 16 6	5 5 0
New Zealand 6%	1 F. & A.	1936-51	110	5 9 0	4 18 0
Nigeria 6%	15 A. & O.	1936-46	107	5 12 0	5 3 0
South Australia 6½%	1 F. & A.	1930-40	107	6 1 6	5 4 0
Do 6%	1 M. & S.	1930-40	104	5 15 0	5 2 6
Str. Settlements 6%	1 J. & D.	1936-51	109	5 12 0	5 2 6
Tasmania 6½%	1 F. & A.	1930-40	107	6 1 6	5 4 0
Union of S. Africa 6%	1 M. & N.	1930-40	104	5 14 6	5 2 6

The standard of yield on gilt-edged stocks at the present time is reasonably gauged by the 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan, which stands at 77½ and pays 4½ per cent. on the money. The newer 4½ per cent. conversion stock can be bought at 98, giving 4½ per cent. on the money. The yield on the 5 per cent. War Loan, allowing for accrued interest, is 5 per cent., and on Consols, which is always regarded as an irredeemable stock the return at the present price comes to 4½ per cent.

Agricultural Adversity and Diversity.—More than three years have passed, writes an agricultural correspondent, since the repeal of the Agricultural Act decisively started farmers—according to their own account—on the road to ruin. Notwithstanding the distribution of some £18,000,000 from the Exchequer as a solatium, it is quite true that many occupiers of farms who had unwisely bought their holdings were very badly hit by that ill-fated experiment in agricultural legislation. In some cases, no doubt, they were financially shipwrecked, and escaped with but little salvage from the wreck. For that class there was, in fact, little hope of substantial relief. They were the victims of untoward circumstances and misplaced hopes. And for many of those others, who had not crippled themselves by the purchase of their farms at "boom" prices, the times have been very troublous. Almost everything they had to sell met with continuously falling markets. From 1920 to 1923 the index number of prices of agricultural produce fell from 292 to 157. It is true that the prices of fertilisers and feeding stuffs, as well as wages of labour, have fallen in an equal, or even greater, ratio, but the difficulty of making immediate adjustments of business to so rapid a shifting of price levels is probably more serious in farming than in any other industry. It may be, and indeed frequently is, said that the economic conditions which have troubled farmers have affected every other business, and in some cases even more disastrously. It is unfortunate that those who plead the farmers' cause often appear to overlook this fact, and to suggest that they are suffering from some special malignity of fate or some peculiar oppression by the State. A correspondent of the *Times*, for example, describing himself as "Farmer," has stated that "farmers are now struggling for their very existence—the lists of bankruptcies are sufficient proof." It is true that the number of bankruptcies

of farmers in 1922 was relatively high—403. In the "nineties" the average annual number was about the same. The increase of farmers' bankruptcies in 1922 as compared with 1921 was 40 per cent., while the increase for all other classes was 36 per cent. But even this relatively high figure represents only about 0.15 per cent. of the farmers in Great Britain. If this were a true measure of agricultural adversity, the general position could not be described as desperate. The use of this argument is a typical instance of the ill-considered statements which farmers think good enough to impress the public. In the business of farming, more than in any other, the large majority of those who "go under" do not actually pass through the bankruptcy court. Another common mistake is the failure to discriminate. The diversity of agriculture in this country is extraordinary and, for so small a territory, unique. To refer to British farming as a homogeneous industry is wholly misleading. In the first place, two-thirds of the agricultural holdings in England and Wales are small holdings, i.e., of not more than 50 acres. Little more than 3 per cent. (in exact figures 12,923) are above 300 acres. Of the small holdings, which number 273,530, a certain but unknown proportion are intensively cultivated as market gardens, but the vast majority are "one-man" holdings farmed by the occupier and his family, and employing little or no other labour. There is practically no economic affinity between the small holder and the large farmer, and conditions which may benefit one may be disastrous to the other. Even among the larger farmers there is great variety of interest. The grass-land farmer and the arable farmer have little in common. The barley-grower and the stockowner look with different eyes on the price of feeding barley and its free importation. The sorrows of the potato-grower leave the dairy farmer unmoved, and the man whose chief source of revenue is wheat finds small comfort in the fact that the price of milk keeps relatively high. In short, farming is not one industry, but a collection of industries. It follows that no scheme for helping agriculture can be effective or fair unless it is discriminating.

Loans for Public Works.—Local authorities were, as usual the largest borrowers under the Public Works Loan Act, 1875, during the financial year ended March 31st last. The annual report of the Board shows that the total amount of loans approved by the Commissioners out of the Local Loans Fund did not differ greatly at £10,177,113 from the total of £9,718,728 in the previous year. The amount actually advanced during the period was smaller. The Commissioners made 1,524 advances out of the fund, for sums of £6,569,486, compared with 1,816 advances, for £13,647,162. Of the total, £5,599,917 was advanced on the security of local rates and £969,569 on property. The amount granted during the year to local authorities was £3,903,816, of which over £3 millions has been granted since the passing of the Housing Act, 1923. The comparison is with £6,297,277 in the previous year. The amount actually advanced in this way was only £3,457,612, against £11,439,575, and the net decline of over £7 millions in the loans advanced was entirely accounted for by the falling off in advances under the Housing Acts. Loans under the Public Health Acts were higher by nearly a quarter of a million at just under £1½ millions. No loans were granted to private individuals for the erection of working-class dwellings, against £1,200 in the previous year. A lower interest rate prevailed on the loans made, the average being £4 15s 8d per cent., against £5 7s 2d per cent. in the previous year.

The Outlook in Peru.—President Leguia's Message to the new Congress, summarised in Tuesday's *Times*, gives a very hopeful account of the financial and economic conditions in the Peruvian Republic. It states that the Budget deficit has fallen in a year from £1,000,000 to £10,000; that the Post Office, under the management of the Marconi Company, is making a profit, that large railway extensions are being undertaken, that the irrigation works now in progress (under engineers from the United States) will reclaim 250,000 acres for cultivation,

that the port of Callao is to be improved, and that he is confident of a satisfactory settlement of the frontier dispute with Ecuador, and of that over the possession of Tacna and Arica with Chile; that the country is tranquil and the army loyal. Unofficial statistics recently published as to the increased production of cotton and minerals to some extent confirm the President's forecast, but his view of the economic position is regarded by well-informed British observers as unduly optimistic. His estimate of the deficit, in particular, is probably much too low; the revenue depends mainly on the prices of cotton and sugar, which are determined by causes outside Peru; the financial administration leaves something to be desired, for the service of the internal debt is apt to be somewhat behindhand, and that of the internal loans considerably more so; and, as a British official report pointed out last year, the prosperity of the country, and especially of the capital, depends largely on the expenditure of the Government. The wealth of the country is immense, and largely untouched, and the country needs foreign capital, and internal peace. President Leguia is confident that he can secure the latter, but the process may be costly, and it is too soon to regard its success as assured.

Uruguayan Railways.—The report for the year ended June 30th last of the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video, Limited, and of its three extension systems shows a substantial improvement in net profits, in spite of a slight increase in the ratio of expenditure to gross receipts. The results for the combined system for a number of years past are set out below:—

Year.	Gross Receipts.	Expenses.	Profit.	Percentage of Expenses to Receipts.
1912-13	£ 1,243,393	£ 669,008	£ 574,385	53.81
1913-14	1,103,229	622,727	480,502	56.44
1914-15	946,767	562,684	384,083	59.43
1915-16	1,088,956	669,208	419,748	61.45
1916-17	1,178,602	771,433	407,169	65.45
1917-18	1,542,320	1,010,288	532,041	65.50
1918-19	1,792,804	1,219,680	573,113	68.03
1919-20	1,892,902	1,245,944	646,958	65.82
1920-21	1,879,630	1,504,995	374,635	80.07
1921-22	1,891,302	1,207,917	683,385	63.87
1922-23	1,989,203	1,172,769	816,434	58.96
1923-24	2,102,656	1,252,765	849,891	59.58

A further expansion in goods and live stock traffic was mainly responsible for the increase of 5.70 per cent. in gross receipts. Expenditure is up by 6.82 per cent., but deducting charges not directly relating to actual railway operations, such as contributions to renewal funds, Pension Law, &c., the working expenditure shows an increase of only 6 per cent., which is not unsatisfactory in view of the increased traffic. Of the increase in direct expenditure, salaries and wages accounted for £31,500, fuel for £4,800, and general material for £12,900. The coal bill on the main line was reduced from £93,700 to £67,500, and the oil bill increased from £76,900 to £111,100. Coal consumption fell from 34,300 tons to 24,200 tons, while oil consumption increased from 21,800 tons to 35,400 tons. The tonnage of goods traffic handled on the combined system increased by 168,600 tons, or 23.56 per cent., the bulk of which was accounted for by wheat and maize, the tonnage of the former carried increasing by over 100 per cent. The separate figures for the main line and the three extensions read as follows:—

	Gross Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Profit.	Percentage of Expenses to Receipts.
Central Uruguay	£ 1,471,174	£ 947,292	£ 523,882	64.39
Eastern Extension	317,350	146,122	171,228	46.04
Northern Extension	164,450	78,114	86,336	47.50
Western Extension	149,681	81,237	68,444	54.27

The expansion in net profits of the Eastern and Northern Extensions was 2.28 and 1.84 respectively, while those of the Western Extension rose by 16.01 per cent., gross receipts advancing by 7.97 per cent., and expenditure by only 2.01 per cent., the ratio dropping from 57.44 to 54.27 per cent. Owing to the depreciation of the Uruguayan

currency, exchange operations in remitting funds to England, at an average of 19 per cent. below par value, entailed a loss of £167,400, as against £155,600 in 1922-23. This has been written off against revenue. After paying fixed charges and the 5½ per cent. preference dividends, the main line accounts show a balance of £145,300, out of which £20,000 is transferred to general reserve and a dividend of 5 per cent., as against 4 per cent. a year ago, is paid on the ordinary stock, leaving £45,300, or £2,000 more, to be carried forward. The Eastern Extension pays a dividend of 8½ per cent., as against 7½ per cent. a year ago, and the Northern Extension 5½ per cent., against 5 per cent.

Bolckow, Vaughan's Report.—The fifty-ninth annual report of Bolckow, Vaughan is not a very happy statement of affairs. The profit for the year is shown as £84,677, and to this is added £150,000 transferred from income-tax reserve. From this is deducted certain losses and "special" depreciations amounting to £71,978. Interest on borrowed money absorbs £59,046, and debenture interest £140,000. A half-year's preference dividend to December 31, 1923, has been paid; this took £11,802. After bringing into the accounts £24,816 from the previous year, a debit balance of £23,332 is the net result. A summary of results since 1906 is appended:—

	Gross Profit.	Depreciation and Extension, &c.	Deb. Int. and Pref. Div.	Balance.	Written Off Cap. Expenditure.	Ordinary Div.	%
1906-7	£ 683,010	£ 135,734	£ 45,545	£ 501,731	£ 150,000	£ 274,630	10
1907-8	444,201	140,523	48,220	255,458	80,000	164,778	6
1908-9	322,035	173,740	51,311	96,984	nil	137,315	5
1909-10	390,485	135,317	55,477	199,691	nil	164,778	6
1910-11	403,664	173,472	56,618	173,574	nil	164,778	6
1911-12	318,821	159,887	56,119	102,815	nil	137,315	5
1912-13	642,235	161,850	54,568	425,817	160,000	274,630	10
1913-14	371,261	146,432	51,551	173,278	nil	164,778	6
1914-15	338,119	132,413	50,759	154,947	nil	164,778	6
1915-16	623,631	272,967	58,099	292,565	nil	302,903	11
1916-17	771,408	371,382	54,091	345,935	nil	329,556	12
1917-18	715,100	324,041	46,896	344,163	nil	329,556	12
1918-19	696,785	207,050	42,796	446,939	nil	397,687	12
1919-20	805,364	308,415	40,197	456,752	nil	450,677	12
1920-21	441,641	77,664	72,513	291,464	nil	300,451	8
1921-22	Dr 34,900	50,569	103,604	Dr 189,999	nil	nil	nil
1922-23	Dr 185,490	83,753	124,801	Dr 394,044	95,684	nil	nil
1923-24	...	...	210,847	Dr 23,332	nil	nil	nil

* After allowing for War taxation.

The report should be carefully read by shareholders, especially as the directors have decided to call up the uncalled balance of 8s per share on the 1,860,900 ordinary shares. We are told that "Possibly a reduction in the book value of the investments as a whole would be desirable." It is stated that "a thorough reconstitution of the board and the appointment of a managing director have been discussed, and the directors are of opinion that steps in both these directions should be taken." The report finally adds that "the coal and steel industries are passing through a period of abnormal depression, and the company has endeavoured to meet these conditions by restricting its output. The works have been maintained in a thoroughly efficient manner, and the company is ready to cope successfully with an increased trade as soon as national and world conditions lead to a resumption of orders which would keep the works more fully employed. No period in the long history of the company—extending to nearly 60 years—has been so fraught with difficulties as the last three years. The company's experience is not singular, but is shared by many similar enterprises in this country. It can be confidently asserted, however, that your company's undertaking is well equipped, and fully able to take a prominent part in the obtaining of business and in the execution of orders, once a revival in trade is discernible." In view of the fact that directors and shareholders alike are fully alive to the necessity of minutely examining every item in the balance-sheet, we do not think any useful purpose would be served by criticising these figures.

United Steel Companies.—A slight improvement is noticeable in the revenue for the year ended June 30th of the United Steel Companies, Limited. The report is not a document which will convey much comfort to shareholders, the directors again recommending "that the resources of the company should not be depleted by the distribution of any dividends." It is stated that "since

the close of the company's financial year, the conditions affecting the steel trade of the country generally have been more unsatisfactory, foreign competition in particular having increased considerably." Two of the company's largest works in the middle of August were brought to a standstill by a strike which, on October 11th, had not been settled. A comparison of results for the past six years is set out below:—

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Gross revenue.....	£1,164,585	£930,521	£711,146	£388,034	£504,633	£530,301
Administration expenses and income-tax	48,133	38,007	81,485	..	156,601	159,792
Interest	209,820	146,853	146,254	148,026	156,601	159,792
Net profit	906,632	745,661	483,407	240,008	348,032	370,509
Brought forward	..	64,674	80,381	308,293	440,743	666,149
Reserve and written off	906,632	810,335	563,788	548,301	788,775	1,036,658
Preference dividend.....	41,822	119,369	32,021	79,890	122,626	133,577
Ordinary dividend	79,024	79,051	55,336	27,668	..	..
Carried forward	721,112	507,042	168,138	..	..	..
	(10%)	(10%)	(3%)	(5%)	(10%)	(10%)
	64,674	104,873	308,293	440,743	666,149	903,081

The balance-sheet (fully analysed in another column) of this combination of companies is one to which we have previously drawn attention. Assets are just over £16½ millions, of which nearly £6½ millions consist of shares in associated companies, while advances of over £2½ millions have been made to associated concerns. The directors in their report do not suggest that there is any high capitalisation of the combine, which was formed at a time of swollen values. It is, however, very desirable that assets should be carefully examined with a view to reassuring shareholders.

Aramayo.—Our mining correspondent writes:—In the early part of this week the shares of the Aramayo Mines in Bolivia Company were marked up by 15s to £4 15s-£5 on the proposal to issue to the shareholders two bonus shares in respect of every five held. The announcement explained that this measure had been decided upon "in consequence of the acquisition of the new mining properties in Bolivia and the general development of the company," and that the amount involved—6,000,000—will be charged against the profit and loss. It may be recalled that the report for 1923 showed a surplus of 11,963,100f, after providing for the bonus of 15 per cent., which brought the distributions in respect of that year up to a total of 35 per cent. Of this surplus, 2,774,300f was represented by the new properties and about 1,000,000f by the balance of exchange account, which during the year had been very substantially reduced owing to the appreciation in the Bolivian exchange. The proposed increase in the capital will, of course, neither provide the company with any extra resources nor enlarge the interest of the respective shareholders. It is a book-keeping transaction which far from warrants the addition which has been made to the market value of the undertaking. On the basis of the past two years' results, the company would pay 22½ per cent. on the expanded capital. When the value of the "rights" has been deducted from the shares, the market quotation will presumably stand at something like £3 10s. On these factors the prospective yield indicated is about 6½ per cent. The conclusion is that—barring the possibility of an appreciable expansion in the earnings—holders of shares would probably find it advantageous to secure the present enhanced price.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The production of gold from the mines of the Transvaal in September was 799,422 fine ounces, which compares with 809,571 ounces in August, and 739,504 ounces in September, 1923. The following table gives the output for each month since the beginning of 1918:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January..	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728	764,469	796,768
February..	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	704,970	704,970	760,617
March ..	696,281	712,379	707,036	671,123	761,586	761,586	796,871
April	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	743,651	743,651	768,923
May	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	629,786	786,564	809,003
June	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697	755,309	773,053
July	736,199	725,497	735,099	699,555	730,635	754,306	829,437
August ..	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490	769,371	809,571
September	708,206	696,558	684,173	691,026	747,069	739,504	799,422
Total (9 months)	6,440,850	6,278,208	6,225,201	6,020,608	4,686,763	6,779,730	7,142,465
October ..	679,764	723,723	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,942	..
November	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	..
December	641,245	660,191	632,215	681,947	790,712	776,849	..
Total (12 months)	8,420,500	8,330,091	8,153,825	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	..

In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of each of the past eight months by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Feb., 1924.	Mar., 1924.	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.
Gold mines	182,055	176,483	173,022	172,586	174,198	174,347	175,770	177,406
Coal mines	15,958	15,763	15,800	15,863	16,042	15,674	15,486	15,458
Diamond	3,419	3,170	2,762	2,863	2,999	3,155	3,025	2,362
	201,432	195,416	191,584	191,312	193,239	193,076	194,281	195,226

The number of natives employed at the gold mines continues to increase.

THE Board of Trade have appointed a committee to consider and report on what steps can be taken to bring about the growing of flax seed and flax in the United Kingdom on a commercial scale. The secretary to the committee, to whom all communications should be addressed, is Captain S. E. J. Brady, M.B.E., Board of Trade, Great George-street, London, S.W. 1.

THE University of London announces that Mr Henry Higgs will deliver a course of six public lectures on "The British Budget," at University College, on Wednesdays, at 8, beginning October 22. The lecturer will deal with the preparation and execution of the Budget, and the various factors controlling it. The lectures are open to the public without fee or ticket. A syllabus can be obtained on application, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to the Secretary, University College, London, W.C. 1.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—AMERICAN BANKERS CONVENTION—COMMODITIES STILL ADVANCING—AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION—COAL OUTPUT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 7.

MANY important and timely matters were discussed and acted upon by the American Bankers' Association at its fiftieth annual convention in Chicago last week, which was attended by a larger number of the members of that representative organisation than ever before. At the opening session outstanding features were the congratulatory message from President Coolidge and the annual address of Walter W. Head, president of the association. The latter noted as distinctly encouraging features at present the promise of renewed agricultural prosperity for the current year, and the tendency toward political, economic, and social stability in Europe. He called attention to the increasing financial burden of government in late years, at the same time pointing out that State and local taxes have increased at an even greater rate.

As usual, the various resolutions adopted by the association were characterised by conservatism. Briefly summarised, the more important resolutions, after calling attention to the fact that financial conditions throughout the United States are exceptionally strong, declared that the time had arrived for a thoroughgoing return to a free play of private enterprise and private initiative under unhampered competitive conditions, and that Government influence and political interference in business should be reduced to a minimum. Hope was expressed that the Government would participate officially in some of the conferences which will shape the course of commercial affairs of the world for decades. Such participation the association considered necessary for the protection of America's future markets and for the protection of American investors. In this connection, the belief was expressed that American financial interests should adopt a favourable attitude toward such loans as the international loan to Germany. The American Bankers' Association, in one of the resolutions adopted, took the position that there was no more justification for Government paternalism for the farmers than for any other class; it approved, however, efforts to bring about the orderly marketing of crops.

Other resolutions recommended that changes in and development of the Federal Reserve system should be committed to experts friendly to the system. The association advocated further tax revision along scientific lines, deprecated the unwarranted attempts to nationalise the railroads, and deplored the heavy burdens imposed upon them by continuous investigations and legislative interference. The fact that industrial conditions have become more stabilised than they were was noted with much satisfaction, but the belief was expressed that in certain industries liquidation of wages corresponding to that which has occurred in many lines must take place before business is again on an even keel.

After some discussion the Bankers' Association, in a rather perfunctory manner, adopted the report of its executive council, which endorsed the so-called McFadden Bill submitted to Congress, but objected to the branch banking provisions of that measure as it now stands. Modifications were urged to the effect that branch banking be allowed within cities located in States which now give this privilege to their own banks; that no permission be granted for State-wide branch banking by national banks; and that no further extension of city branch banking be allowed, even in the event that such banking shall be permitted in States that do not now allow it, but may hereafter permit it through the enactment of new laws. The resolution recommending these changes was not adopted unanimously, and it is evident that many members are not satisfied with the proposed modifications which country bankers especially seem to regard as merely nominal concessions to them in the form of future restriction. They appear to be sceptical about such "soothing" proposals, which they fear will not protect them sufficiently from efforts in Congress to broaden the branch banking powers. Present indications are that a bitter controversy will develop when this subject again comes before Congress. Meanwhile, a campaign of education is planned, the results of which cannot be foretold.

Offerings of new securities by domestic corporations—public utility, industrial, and railroad—and to some extent by foreign, mostly European, interests continue to pour into the American investment market in enormous volume, and are still absorbed not only readily but, in practically all cases, rapidly. The recent issue of \$50,000,000 Pennsylvania Railroad 40-year 5 per cent. secured gold bonds, priced to investors at 98½ per cent. and accrued interest to date of delivery, to yield approximately 5.10 per cent. to maturity, is a further striking illustration of the remarkable and undiminished absorptive power of the market. This offering was over-subscribed before the subscription list was opened. As in numerous other instances, the subscription books were opened but immediately closed. One of the latest foreign flotations here is that of the Nord Railway Company of France. An underwriting syndicate, consisting of J. P. Morgan and Co., the Guaranty Company, the Bankers' Trust Company, and Harris, Forbes, and Co., are offering \$15,000,000 of the Nord company's 6½ per cent. bonds, due October 1, 1950, at 88½ to yield 7.50 per cent.

For the third month in succession the average of commodity prices in this country during September showed an advance, and by a singular coincidence the percentage of gain was identical with that recorded for August. Bradstreet's index number, as of October 1st, was \$12.9987, which represented a rise of 1.4 per cent. over September 1, and followed upturns in August and July of 1.4 and 3.2 per cent. respectively. Of the thirteen groups of commodities used in the compilation, eight advanced last month, including substantial gains in provisions and textiles and smaller advances in breadstuffs, hides and leather, live stock, coal and coke, and chemicals. The five groups showing declines were fruits, metals, oils, naval stores, and building materials. Thirty-four products rose, while 24 declined, and 48 remained unchanged. From this year's low point, reached on July 1st, the October 1st index showed an advance of 6.3 per cent., but the gain over October 1 of last year was less than 1 per cent. The drop from the high point of 1923 touched on April 1 was 6.7 per cent., while the upturn from the low level of 1921 on June 1 was 22.4 per cent. As compared with the peak for all time—namely, that reached on February 1, 1920—the latest index number represented

a decline of 37.7 per cent., but it was 49 per cent. above the August 1, 1914, level.

Returns for August show the second successive monthly increase in the total production of automobiles and trucks from the low point reached last June. The output of automobiles reached 251,631 cars, as against 237,668 in July and 217,935 in June, while 27,484 auto trucks were produced, as compared with 25,235 in July and 27,882 in June. These figures, reported by the Department of Commerce, reveal a gain in the production of all such vehicles during August of 6.4 per cent. over July, and of nearly 13 per cent. over June, although the August total was 19 per cent. below that of August, 1923. For the eight months of this year the total output of passenger cars and trucks amounted to 2,540,180, as compared with 2,704,541 for the corresponding period of 1923 and 1,674,094 in 1922, representing a decrease of 6 per cent. from last year, but an increase of 51.7 over the first eight months of 1922.

There has been a seasonal increase lately in coal production in this country. For the week ended September 13th the output of soft coal reached 9,531,000 tons, according to the Geological Survey, representing a gain of 20 per cent. over the Labour Day week, and of 27 per cent. over the first week of August. During the first 217 days of this calendar year, 312,102,000 net tons of soft coal were produced, as compared with a total of 388,212,000 tons for 1923. Production of anthracite has also increased sharply. For the week ending September 13th, it totalled 1,820,000 tons, or 25 per cent. more than in the preceding week. In the Labour Day week of 1923, it will be recalled, labour troubles seriously curtailed the output, while at that time in 1922 production was below normal, although the general strike of that year had been terminated. The present production of anthracite is about at the same rate as in 1921.

FRANCE.—BUDGET AND CIVIL SERVICE PAY—WHEAT REQUIREMENTS—REVENUE—FOREIGN TRADE—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 15.

It is now considered probable that the Chambers will re-assemble on either November 4th or 11th, consequently Ministers and the Finance Commissions of both Houses are extremely busy threshing out the details of the various departmental estimates on which the Budget for 1925, which will form the *pièce de résistance* of the autumn session, will be based. Rumour insists that the work of preparing the Budget is proceeding more slowly than had been hoped for.

The problem set before the Herriot Ministry, which came into power hopelessly pledged to reduce taxation, is to devise some means of accommodating the proverbial quart (of expenditure) in the traditional pint pot (of revenue), and so far as can be gathered the means is yet to seek. The task has been rendered all the more difficult by the dogged determination of the entire French civil service—strong in their newly conferred right to form themselves into trade unions and to adopt syndicalist methods—to extract increases of pay from their employer, the Government, which will mean an increase of the estimated expenditure under this head, during the coming year, of between 3,000 and 4,000 million francs, instead of the 700 millions which the Government anticipated having to furnish. That the civil servants are in earnest in their demand was proved by the fact that last Thursday evening, when the hour for ceasing work came, practically the whole of the superior clerks and heads of departments at the Ministry of Finance itself, held a mass meeting in the large hall outside M. Clementel's own cabinet, and passed resolutions which a representative deputation immediately laid before their chief.

The Government propose to fix the new base salary at 5,800f, and to reduce the increased cost to the country by cutting down the number of public officials of all classes by 20,000. M. Poincaré, it may be remembered, stated some two years ago that substantial economies were to be effected by reducing the number of civil servants by 50,000, and subsequently by another 15,000. As a matter of fact, although the last two Budgets were largely based on these

factors, no civil service post has yet been suppressed, nor apparently is it likely to be.

Revised estimates of the wheat harvest have now been published in the *Journal Officiel*, which indicate that this country will have to purchase much less foreign-grown corn to meet her requirements during the coming year than had been expected. The Minister of Agriculture, basing his calculations on the threshing work already done, estimates that the yield from the 5,427,730 hectares under wheat this year will prove to have been 76,839,890 quintals, while the crop of maslin (two-thirds wheat and one-third rye) is estimated at 1,302,160 quintals, and of rye at 10,128,600 quintals. If these calculations prove correct, it appears that the amount of foreign wheat that will have to be purchased will not be greater than last year.

The revenue, after the slight falling off in August, due to exceptional circumstances, of which the holiday period was one, is again coming in with gratifying volume, the total receipts from all sources during September having been 2,015,527,000f, as compared with 1,788½ millions in August, 2,529½ millions in July, 2,122 millions in June, and 1,968½ millions in May. Revenue from normal and permanent resources during September totalled 1,920,434,600f, the difference of 95,092,600f having been drawn from exceptional revenue (of which 53,958,000f was derived from overdue payments of the now expired special tax on war profits). The total revenue for the first nine months of the year from normal and permanent sources has amounted to 17,791,019,100f, as compared with 14,136,658,400f during the corresponding period of 1923, an increase of 3,654,360,700f. The difference, roughly speaking, represents the 20 per cent. increase in taxation (the *double décime*) imposed by the Finance Act, which came into operation last spring. Indirect taxes and State monopolies during September yielded a total of 1,498,716,000f, or 153,007,700f more than had been expected, according to Budget Estimates. Revenue from these sources during the first nine months of the year has amounted to 14,368,402,500f, or practically 15 per cent. more than was expected when the Budget Estimates were drawn up. The tax on turnover during September yielded nearly 323 millions, or 15 per cent. more than was expected from it, and 25 per cent. more than it produced in September, 1923. Registration duties produced over 326½ millions during the month, or about 15 per cent. above the Estimates, and nearly 104 millions more than in the corresponding month of last year. Direct taxation yielded 394,185,800f in September, of which 365½ millions was derived from income-tax. Income-tax during the first nine months of 1924 has produced 3,075,706,000f, or 765 millions more than in September last year.

The foreign trade returns for September, which have been issued to-night, indicate that the depression of the past three months has apparently come to an end, and that business, so far as foreign exchanges of commodities are concerned, is again on the upward grade. Exports during September had a total value of 3,184,332,000f, or an increase of 217 millions over the previous month, while imports, which had a total value of 3,156,970,000f, registered an increase of 85 millions over those of August. The unfavourable balance of trade recorded in July and August disappeared in September, and was replaced by a surplus of exports amounting to 132 millions. The total value of exports and imports during the first nine months of the year, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, are shown in the following table:—

	First Nine Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Imports—			
Foodstuffs	5,222,335,000	6,573,290,000	+ 1,350,955,000
Raw materials	1,415,729,000	1,837,185,000	+ 4,219,906,000
Manufactured goods	3,141,347,000	3,691,070,000	+ 549,723,000
Total	225,209,961,000	29,201,545,000	+ 6,680,584,000
Exports—			
Foodstuffs	2,235,752,000	2,835,751,000	+ 599,999,000
Raw materials	6,547,273,000	7,758,497,000	+ 1,211,224,000
Manufactured goods	11,600,739,000	18,455,924,000	+ 6,855,185,000
Postal parcels	1,147,666,000	1,397,319,000	+ 249,653,000
Total	21,531,430,000	30,447,491,000	+ 8,916,061,000

The figures indicate that imports have increased by about 30 per cent., while exports have risen by 41½ per cent. The visible balance of exports over imports during the nine months has amounted to 1,245,946,000f, as compared with a surplus of imports during the corresponding period of last year totalling 989,531,000f. The comparative figures show a net balance in favour of this country of 2,235 million francs in respect of the two periods of nine months. In weight, exports during the past nine months have shown an increase of 3,627,232 tons, and imports of 2,341,799 tons, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. Both imports and exports of raw materials increased substantially in September, as compared with the same month last year, but imports of foodstuffs were over 72,000 tons less.

The index figure of wholesale prices for September, which has now been issued by the *Statistique Générale*, represents a rise of nine points, and brings the situation, for all practical purposes, back to that of 1920, when prices reached their highest point in this country. The average index figure for 1920, calculated on the base of 100 as representing the mean of prices during the period 1901-1910, was 589, which corresponds approximately to 500, as calculated on the base of 100 in 1914, which is the method now adopted. The figure for September is 496, against 487 in August and 491 in July. Although the rise has been uniform for both foodstuffs and raw materials, vegetable foods have gone up 17 points and animal foods 17 points, while sugar, &c., is returned at 23 points lower. In raw materials, textiles have risen by no fewer than 32 points, while minerals and metals show a fall of 16. The index figure for retail prices in Paris at the end of September has simultaneously shown a further sharp rise, and is returned at 374, as against 366 for August and 360 for July, which was the lowest figure returned since the year began, the highest being in March, when 392 was returned. Retail prices in Paris may therefore be regarded as having been equivalent in September to an increase of 274 per cent. on those of 1914, as compared with 265 per cent. at the end of 1923.

GERMANY. — POLITICS — TARIFF — CURRENCY — PRICES — INDUSTRY — BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 14.

THE Reichstag, which reassembles on October 21st, will very likely confine itself to listening to a final Cabinet declaration and announcement of dissolution. Attempts, almost hopeless from the first, have been made during the past weeks to gather both Socialists and German-Nationals into a national Cabinet. These failed. The People's Party regards itself as bound by its promise to get the Nationals into the Cabinet at all costs, but the other two parties in the present Coalition, the Centre and the German-Democrats, have rejected this plan for a so-called Right bloc. The Centre, therefore, to-day unanimously voted for retention of the present minority Cabinet, and the Democrats take up the same attitude. The People's Party leaders declare that if the Right bloc cannot be created, the Reichstag must be dissolved and that the Cabinet must resign; and this solution at present seems the most likely. The success of the Reparations Loan is considered secure. Success will probably have a considerable effect upon the relations of international finance to German private business. The laws concerning the new bank, the private note bank, the Rentenmarks liquidation, and the coinage have been declared to be in force, and since October 12th the operation of the railways has been in the hands of the new "Reichsbahngesellschaft."

The discussion as to the tariff and the new commercial treaties continues. Trade journals protest against the conclusion of treaties for long terms, declaring that the treaties now being negotiated will inevitably be "in the spirit of Versailles," and that as commercial conditions in the world are in a state of transition, agreements concluded to-day may prove unprofitable under the different conditions of a few years hence. Official utterances continue to be in favour of a moderate tariff, and there have been more demonstrations from commercial and social quarters against high duties, and in particular against

the proposed restoration of the food duties. The director of commercial policy in the Ministry of Industry declares that the French law of 1919, adduced as a reason why most-favoured-nation treatment cannot be accorded to Germany, is the obstacle to an agreement with France. This official expresses disbelief in the possibility of framing a homogeneous policy by the Ally countries in the German Treaties question. "In the question of special treatment for Alsace-Lorraine," he adds, "negotiations will naturally be conducted with France concerning the position of industry in both countries. There can, however, be no question of favouring French industry by granting special treatment to the numerous (French) branch concerns founded in Alsace-Lorraine and the Saar district. . . . The programme of the German Government is not High-Protectionist." The official added, somewhat ambiguously, that the Government's aim is to progress from protective duties (*Schutz Zoll*) to a sort of Customs-Protection (*Zollschutz*), out of which, after alteration of the general political and economical situation, a system of Free Trade, in collaboration with other States, could be developed. In some quarters most-favoured-nation treatment on a basis of mutuality is being opposed on the ground that, since 1913, a great many countries have made themselves independent of German manufactures, which are the only goods worth mentioning that Germany can export; and that reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment would mean letting foreign goods into Germany, while German manufactured goods would be excluded from foreign markets as a result of this new independence.

The new Reichsmark is now theoretically in existence under a decree of the 12th. The old Reichsmark (paper mark) notes remain legal tender for a term of three months after they have been called in, 1 billion old being equivalent to 1 new. The Vice-President of the Reichsbank, Herr von Glasenapp, has been replaced by Privy Councillor Kauffmann, a member of the Directorate since 1908, whose speciality has been exchange questions. The Reichsbank's return for October 7th shows a new increase of 16,746,000 gold marks in the gold reserve, of which all but 26,000 gold marks was acquired abroad. A small quantity of gold has of late been bought in Sweden; the rest, it seems, in New York. During the week discounts, loans, and investments declined slightly, from 2,302 to 2,268 trillion marks, and note circulation by 1,495,772 billion marks to 1,519,014,882 billion marks. The Gold Discount Bank's return for October 7th does not show the great increase in credits which was expected as a result of the reduction of its discount rate from 10 to 8 per cent. Discounts and cheques total £6,564,742, against £6,395,376 a week earlier. The Reichsbank's rationing of credit is, it is stated, to be continued.

The Prussian Government has issued regulations for foreign borrowings by the municipalities. The contracting of municipal loans abroad is to be limited to the smallest sum possible. In general, credit is to be sought at home. Competition in foreign borrowing is to be avoided, and therefore the right to borrow abroad is to be confined to such local bodies as can collaborate. These are (in addition to the municipal credit concerns, including the giro-centrals) the provinces and the larger urban and rural municipal districts. Contracting of foreign loans by small municipalities is forbidden. Loans must be only for productive purposes. Repayment may be promised only in German currency, that is, in the new Reichsmark; undertakings to pay interest or principal in foreign currencies are prohibited. The municipalities are forbidden to pledge their properties as security. In view of the record of municipalities in regard to their old loans, these conditions are likely to make all foreign borrowing impossible.

There are signs of a general crisis in insurance, particularly in the fire branch. The Ritzau Insurance Concern, and some of less importance, have gone into bankruptcy, and more failures are expected. Speculative foundations and competition for business at unprofitably low premiums have characterised German insurance for some time past.

The rise in prices continues. The cost-of-living index number on the 8th was 121, against 119 on the 1st; the wholesale index number on the 7th 133.7, against 131.5 on September 30th. The minimum cost of food per week

for a family of two adults and one child, which was 8.23 marks in 1913, was 8.80 marks on September 17th and 9.09 marks on September 24th. Industry is rather more active. The number of publicly supported unemployed on October 1st was 519,000, against 588,000 on September 1st. Orders from abroad in September exceeded those of August by about 15 per cent., the gaining industries being the locomotive and railway car, potash, heavy machines, metals, paper, cellulose, and textiles. Considerable French and Belgian orders have been received for special machines, and orders for railway materials have come from the Balkans and the Russian frontier States. Shipping arrivals in Hamburg in the first nine months of 1924 totalled 11,297,190 tons, against 11,644,065 tons in the same period of 1923.

The Bourse last week was extremely dull, and inclined to be weak for stocks, while loan quotations also sank. In the first two days of this week stocks were more active, and, on the whole, firm, the influence being apparently the settlement of the loan question. The "Frankfurter Zeitung's" stock quotations index for the 10th was 523.93, against 563.37 a week earlier, and 824.50 on January 4th. A favourable effect was created by the announcement that the companies composing the Aniline Concern have decided to scale down their capital in compiling their gold mark balance-sheets at the moderate rate of 5 to 1. The seven companies in question had a pre-war capital of 226,800,000 marks, all ordinary shares, which was raised during the inflation years to 3,529,700,000 marks, plus 220,660,000 marks preference shares. The new capital will be 705,940,000 gold marks. The great question of "Aufwertung" continues to induce speculation. The two questions most in evidence before the Reichstag "Aufwertung Commission" are (1) resumption of interest on Federal Loans, and (2) revision of the mortgage provisions of the Third Taxation Decree of February. For the first purpose some elaborate schemes have been submitted, all having it in common that money for payment of interest is to be extracted from someone's pocket without the need for new taxation. These plans have been rejected by the Government. The revision demanded of the mortgage law is that the 15 per cent. restoration conceded where mortgages were not paid off, or where repayment was accepted with a reservation, shall be extended to all mortgages paid off after July 1st, 1922, even when the mortgagee accepted the repayment without reserve, and consented to the removal of the mortgage record from the real estate register. Many mortgagees who accepted repayment in almost worthless paper marks reserved their right to benefit from any possible later restoration of mortgages, such as actually took place, but the majority made no reserve. The confusion caused by these demands and by the uncertainty has very unsettling effects on business. No citizen is any longer sure whether a big debt may not be suddenly imposed on him by act of the Legislature, and no would-be lender on security of real estate can any longer rely upon the land register as proof that a property is free from prior encumbrances.

INDIA. — CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE — GOVERNMENT STORES — RAILWAY FINANCE — COTTON EXCISE DUTY — TRADE PROSPECTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, September 25.

ALL endeavours to convert the Finance Member to the view that India would derive substantial benefits from immediate official reversion to the pre-war ratio in exchange have failed egregiously. Sir Basil Blackett prefers to step more warily. The 2s ratio, he asserts, is not only ineffective but harmless; last busy season the proposed rate of 1s 4d gold could have been reached only by the contraction of the currency, whereas advocates of this rate demand, for business reasons, further expansion of currency, viz., to ensure adequate finance for abounding trade without forcing the bank rate to unduly restrictive levels. Beyond these domestic factors there is, despite the Reparation settlement, a continuing instability in the international outlook, the final reaction of which upon Indian exchange cannot yet be calculated. We may

assume, therefore, with some confidence that no fundamental change in official policy upon this issue will occur, or rather be notified, before the next Budget statement at the beginning of March. Concerning currency, the commercial community is satisfied that, within its powers, the Government of India will do its utmost in the approaching months of heavy export to make the path of trade as smooth and level as can be expected. This does not preclude the recurrence of a 9 per cent. bank rate before trade again begins to slacken, but an effective method of eliminating that long-standing feature of the Indian busy season has yet to be discovered. It has been discussed for 30 or 40 years, and we are as far off a solution as ever.

Following criticisms of apparently diminished enthusiasm in purchasing official stores from indigenous producers, the Government of India has announced that it is intensifying its efforts to implement the promises associated with the establishment of the Indian Stores Department, but that the rate of progress in this direction is necessarily conditioned by the necessity of perfecting the administrative and inspection arrangements, without which "local purchase" could not function efficiently. Since the adoption of the Steel Tariff Bill, it has been evident, in fact, that quite a new spirit was animating the Government of India in handling this particular problem, with the result of a large increase in rupee orders, and a very welcome stimulus to local manufactures, notably engineering. In the next few months we may expect to see this new policy carried a stage further, railway companies in particular being pressed to rely upon Indian products to the utmost extent consistent with efficiency.

Legislative endorsement of the Acworth Committee's scheme for separation of railway finances from the general finances of the country remained uncertain until the final debate. It is impossible to over-estimate the improvement in efficiency likely to ensue. This reform has been urged for many years, and while self-contained would be greatly reinforced by adoption of another long-standing demand, viz., the establishment of a Ministry of Communications controlling railways, the major ports (in which should be included Chittagong, Vizagapatam, and Cochin), posts and telegraphs, river navigation, &c. Not unexpectedly, the Legislative Assembly utilised its powers concerning "separation" to render it conditional upon continuous State management of the lines (the East Indian and G.I.P.) shortly to be taken over, further Indianisation of the railway staffs, and increased local purchase of railway stores. As it will be many years before a domiciled company would be able to raise the rupee capital needed to take over a first-class railway, the first stipulation was easy to concede. Indianisation of the railway staff is proceeding rapidly, and will be raised to 75 per cent., according to present arrangements, as competent men become available. It was further recommended by the Assembly that "the purchase of stores for State railways should be undertaken through the organisation of the Stores Department of the Government of India."

An active Press campaign, inspired by the Bombay Millowners' Association, culminated this week in the adoption of a resolution by the Legislative Assembly reaffirming its detestation of the obnoxious cotton Excise duty and demanding its early abolition. This resolution will not accelerate abolition; it leaves the position unchanged. The objections to the impost now rest mainly on political and historical grounds; as a hindrance to the cotton industry, the raising of the import duty to 11 per cent. has removed its sting. In the leading Bombay newspaper it was frankly admitted that "the removal of the Excise would mean an average extra 6 per cent. dividend to shareholders"—no doubt a very desirable consummation, but hardly susceptible of description as an objective of urgent public importance. An alternative suggestion that the yield of the duty (about 1½ crores) should be divided between the mill and hand-loom industries, for research, &c., has attracted some attention, and more may be heard of it at a later stage. A crore of rupees allocated to the hand-loom industry, for expenditure under the supervision of the textile experts attached to each of the Provincial Governments, would not only help to modernise its methods and improve its outturn, but would also be appreciated by Indian opinion on grounds of sentiment.

An official member, in a recent Assembly debate, remarked: "I asked all the large importers of dyes in Bombay what their estimates were, and they told me that the village dyers of India consume five times to ten times the amount of dyes used by all the factories and mills in India put together. That is commercial opinion." The continued vitality of the hand-loom industry could not be more clearly indicated, but it needs a larger measure of State aid, whereas abolition of the Excise duty would deprive it of the only protection against mill production it now possesses.

In recent years the jute forecast has been appallingly inaccurate. This year, owing to revised methods of compilation, devised in consultation with the trade, it is believed that the final forecast of 80 lakhs of bales is approximately accurate. Prices are up 50 per cent. on last year, and as mills here require 55 lakhs, and are rapidly securing this quota, some foreign consumers are likely to go short. Cotton also promises to be again a bumper crop, lower prices ensuring full demand alike from Indian mills and from abroad. Crops generally are good, and India could do an enormously enhanced trade this year if European demand returned to its former levels.

NEW ZEALAND.—LOWER TAXES—THE LAND TAX—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, September 8.

THE most important public statement of policy during the last few months was that made last week by the Minister of Finance concerning the reductions that he expects to make in taxation during the forthcoming year. The continued surplus of the public finances and the generally favourable economic outlook at the present time have made the business community look for such reductions, and in his Budget speech Mr Massey had forecast the taking off of approximately a million pounds of taxation. Details of that reduction have been disclosed in the statement just made. There is to be a further reduction of 20 per cent. in the land-tax, and a further 13½ per cent. from the income-tax, which, with the 20 per cent. reduction previously made, will bring rates to two-thirds of what they were two years ago. The import duty upon tobacco is also to be reduced, and something is to come off the amusements-tax, the total reductions being estimated to amount to over £900,000.

It would appear that the direct taxpayers are being very generously treated. The recommendations of the Land and Income-Tax Commission have been treated rather cavalierly, and there is apparently no present intention to alter the basis of taxation. Within the last few years farmers have been relieved of income-tax, and have had a substantial reduction in their land-tax. As a result of these concessions, the burden of taxation on the farming community is much less than upon other sections of the people. It is true that even the lessened burden weighs heavily upon those farmers whose finances are crippled by the existence of large mortgages upon land bought at inflated values; but the reduction is more in the nature of a bonus on land values, or rather an offset to the reduction in land values that might be expected to result from a lower level of prices for farm produce than a remission of taxation to the working farmer. It is difficult to see how the productivity of the country will be increased by such remissions as have been given on the land-tax.

This land-tax, though levied upon the unimproved value of the land, has never, except for two or three post-war years, been a penal tax operating to break up large estates. From its introduction in 1891, to 1915 it was in substitution of, not in addition to income-tax, so that it merely became an alternative method of assessment for income-tax, and, except for some psychological results at the very beginning, did little or nothing to break up the great estates. After 1915 farmers were made liable to income-tax in addition; but as the war prices brought prosperity, this double assessment did no more than intercept some of the war profits for the State.

came, however, land valuations had in many cases been revised to the level of boom values, and the heavy land taxation, in addition to high income-tax, did for a year or two have a penal effect. So the Committee of 1922 reported that it had become unprofitable to farm land in large areas, which was the original object of the Act of 1891, never till 1922 effective. The following year farmers were relieved of income-tax. The Commission of 1924 recommended the abolition of land-tax altogether; but the farmers prefer to keep it, since they are, as a matter of fact, better off under it than they would be under the general income-tax.

The export season just ended is very well reflected in the trade statistics for the past seven months ending July 31, 1924. Nearly all the chief exports have fallen in value, but the abnormal level of wool prices has kept the level of exports above the similar period for 1923. It is a rather uncomfortable thought that the prosperity of the Dominion should depend so much upon the maintenance of a high level of values for one product.

The imports, which were heavy at the beginning of the year, slackened considerably during the second quarter, being five millions less than in the second quarter of 1923, but have since mounted up again and appear to be still mounting. This heavy importation is also an uncomfortable sign, especially when the nature of the imports which caused the expansion is considered. The chief items responsible have been coal, increased from £189,000 to £495,000 mainly because of lessened home production; electrical machinery, from £821,000 to £1,329,286; motor vehicles, from £1,232,973 to £2,065,012; and wheat, from nothing to £643,000, because of the failure of the local wheat harvest.

The increased imports of coal and wheat speak for themselves; the import of motor vehicles has reached very large proportions in recent years, and there is some ground for believing that prosperous New Zealand has become something of a dumping ground for the small car manufacturers of Britain and the United States, in their difficulties arising from over-expansion. The large imports of electrical machinery are usually defended as not only necessary but profitable for the immediate development of the Dominion; but there is considerable room for doubt as to whether the vast schemes now being pushed ahead for hydro-electric development in every part of New Zealand will not in the end show very heavy capital losses in many cases. Where construction expenses are heavy, and the construction is undertaken far in advance of the requirements of the countryside, the burden of interest, depreciation, and operating expenses may mount to such a figure that either the settler finds the power too costly for him to use, or the supply must be heavily subsidised out of taxation. In either case, it may easily happen that the development of the country is actually retarded by the interest charges as much as it is accelerated by cheap power. This has happened before in the history of New Zealand, and what happened with railways in the seventies seems likely to happen again with hydro-electric schemes at the present time.

ARGENTINA.—CROP PROSPECTS—GOLD SHIPMENTS—EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, September 19.

THROUGHOUT the whole pastoral and agricultural region of the Republic there is at present a feeling of thankfulness for the copious rainfall, which came at the eleventh hour. A little linseed may be lost, but wheat is not only safe, but in unusually fine condition, while for the sowing of maize the land is now in excellent state, and pasturage everywhere in good grass. One must live in a country having its export trade wholly dependent on the fruits of the earth to realise how a week's steady rain, following six weeks' drought, can change the commercial aspect of affairs and promote general optimism, even admitting that harvest is still distant and the potential danger of locusts ever present. The first

official estimate of areas sown has been published, and reads as follows:—

	1924-5.	Average Annual Sowings.
	Hectares.	1914-24.
Wheat.....	7,100,000	6,594,994
Linseed	2,300,000	1,647,679
Oats.....	1,070,000	1,051,012
Barley.....	255,000	225,715
Rye.....	150,000	100,902

From the comparison it will be seen that only in linseed has there been any marked increase in the area sown, taking the ten-year average—a fact which bears out the arguments in favour of greater sub-division of the arable land contiguous to the railways and its employment as a means of attracting permanent immigration of a productive category. Between 1914 and 1923, inclusive, according to the figures of the Ministry of Agriculture, the net gain of immigrants permanently settled here has been but 106,963. This is due in some measure to the fact that from 1914-1918 more people left the country than entered it. Last year's balance in favour was 148,990 immigrants, the best result of the decade, but nothing to what Argentina can take annually to the mutual advantage of all concerned. This is generally recognised, hence much is hoped from the Government's colonisation scheme detailed in last month's "Correspondence."

There is no actual legislative progress for the month to be recorded. The Government proposal to prorogue the 1923-24 Budget, with such modifications as are necessary in respect to sundry clauses covering issue of bonds for public works, has been approved by the Budget Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and will probably be adopted, thereby giving ample time for the discussion of the 1925 estimates at some future date. And although Congress will sit daily until the end of September, there seems small likelihood of the various novel projects being discussed, much less made effective, during the actual session. Meanwhile the hand-to-mouth treatment of the national finances continues. A purchase of material for locust defence work having to be made in the States, a six months' loan for the necessary sum, \$5,000,000 gold, has just been arranged with the group of bankers who, to all intents and purposes, seem to be acting as the American financial agents of the Argentine Government, Messrs. Blair and Co. and the Chase Securities Corporation. Treasury bills of \$1,000 each have been drawn to the above amount, and discounted at 4 per cent. per annum, free of all charges. Presumably this operation will be met at its due date by gold shipment, directly or indirectly affected to that end, this opinion being strengthened by the procedure and explanation given regarding the latest extraction of gold from the Conversion Office. A Government decree authorises the extraction of \$2,126,800 gold by the Banco de la Nacion for shipment to the Chase National Bank, New York. This sum, it is explained, is to make up the shortage in payments made out of funds originally set aside to meet the charges on the reconditioning of the two Argentine battleships now in the States, which funds were partially used to meet charges in connection with the service of the external debt. Interest, it is added, was saved by so doing, and the operation is perfectly licit. Nevertheless, when one remembers that the charges of the external debt are, so to say, a constant, this addition of five million gold here and two million gold there is disconcerting. Conservative Argentine financiers feel that the mechanism of the dual currency is being thrown out of gear, and that with intent to confuse the issue. For these gold shipments by the Government would be just as feasible were the emergency legislation which prohibits the free movement of the Conversion Office rescinded. The argument that a gain in exchange results to the Treasury under present conditions, and that no such profit would be apparent if gold shipments were open to all, is unsound, seeing that the gold is not State property, but unquestionably belongs to the public who hold the paper currency of the Republic, which represents the gold. Where the real danger lies is in the fact that, while the Banco de la Nacion has the right to re-discount its portfolio at need with the Conversion Office, the Government

has also the right to ship gold, and is shipping it in dribbles, which threaten to increase in quantity in a comparatively short space of time. On its August balance-sheet the cash percentage of the Banco de la Nacion—cash in hand against total deposits, clearing balances excluded—is a shade under 14 per cent. For a State bank with general deposits of \$1,275,000,000 paper, or well over a third of the total bank deposits of the Republic—spread, be it remembered, among thirty distinct institutions—the maintenance of such a percentage shows plainly that the Banco de la Nacion is relying on the right above mentioned, even though it be but as an emergency measure. Aply directed though this institution must be considered, its position as the Government bank, coupled with the absence of any direct influence on either the money market or the exchange movement, tends to render its balance-sheet, so to say, top-heavy; the more so seeing that in the last resource it is always the Banco de la Nacion that must find ready-money at short notice, as has occurred yet again in the case of the State railways.

In the local money market rates during the past thirty days have been firmer, the banks showing less inclination to compete for first-class business, 6 per cent. to 8 per cent. being a fair indication of the range, and the tendency hardening. Exchange has during the same period moved in favour of Argentina, sterling being 43½d and American dollars \$124.50 Arg. gold per \$100 U.S., a rise of roughly 5 per cent. compared with last month's quotations. Heavy exports, plus the gold shipments of the Government, explain the improvement of the Argentine dollar, and there is now a general belief that the balance of trade will, when 1924 is closed, be found to have turned in favour of the Republic. It is too soon for the expression of an opinion as to this optimism. One may, however, point out that the Customs revenues to date show an increase of over 20 million dollars paper when compared with last year's figures at the same time of year, which implies heavy imports. Moreover, that exchange, as it approaches parity, will lead to bigger Argentine remittances from various sources is reasonable to suppose. Continental rates have seen much selling of both lire and pesetas, Italy being 18.40 lire per \$ gold and pesetas 6.15. Political conditions are viewed unfavourably by local holders of Italian stocks, numerous on this market. Cereal prices are somewhat weaker on the improved crop prospects, with spot wheat for export at \$14.60 paper per 100 kilos, linseed at \$22.40, and maize \$10.60, all Buenos Aires quotations. Freight rates are firm, and October chartering has been reasonably brisk at 24s 6d up river range to U.K./Continent, while new season charters, February-March loading, are being booked at from 25s to 26s, according to size of carrier. Berth rates for grain parcels to U.K. are quoted 19s 6d, with 19s Continent and 21s Scandinavian ports.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. — STATE FINANCE — MONEY MARKET TENSION — SUGAR CROPS — PRICES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, October 5.

THE disagreement between the Socialists and the Agrarians, which threatened to produce a political crisis in Czecho-Slovakia, has been settled. The Socialists have obtained their State Insurance Act, and the Agrarians concessions in the form of a small duty on imported grain. Such is the agreement arrived at by the Committee of Five—the Petka—and Parliament will ratify it when it reassembles this month. M. Svěhla's Coalition Ministry, which came to power just two years ago, still takes "Economy" as its watchword. While in 1922 national expenditure amounted to 19.8 milliard Czech crowns, for 1924 it is estimated at 17 milliards, with a still further reduction promised in the new Budget, public information regarding which is not yet to hand. As to the future, the Government, while realising that taxation is far too high—it is 1,260 Czech crowns per capita—offers little hope of a reduction. Direct taxation will certainly not benefit, except that the present very complicated system will be much simplified. The metallic money in circulation amounts to 123 million crowns, in the form of one-crown, fifty, twenty, ten, five, and two heller pieces.

This amount will soon be increased by the issue of five-crown pieces. The Czech-Italian Commercial Treaty, which has just been concluded, will especially benefit the Czech glass trade, and negotiations are now proceeding with Austria and Poland for similar commercial treaties.

The tension on the money market remains unchanged. The transactions for a new loan in the United States are progressing favourably. Recent business on the Bourse has been much affected by the bankruptcy of Castiglioni at Vienna. For Castiglioni was vice-president of the Czech Union Bank (Ceska Banka Union) and a big shareholder therein. The Vienna and Prague papers debate very much as to whether he was an actual shareholder or merely the representative of Italian capital. Whichever be the true version, the bankruptcy of this "faiseur d'affaires" has had a very disturbing effect in Prague. Castiglioni was interested in four big Czech industrial enterprises, and his whole aim seems to have been to control the Central European exchanges as he would. This bankruptcy should clear the way to normal conditions in Central Europe, and much capital formerly concentrated only in speculation should now be free for productive industry and credit. The amalgamation of many of the Czech banks into a few small groups is rumoured, and the amalgamation of the Czech Discount Bank of Prague with the Czech Discount Bank of Brno is regarded as a lead.

Favourable weather conditions have helped towards a good harvest in grain and hops, and the quality of the sugar-beet is high, especially in Slovakia. The Czech Sugar Company has increased its dividends by 70 crowns per share, and a continued improvement for the remainder of the year is to be relied upon. This company made large profits from its purchases of raw sugar at Krasnova Dvur a short while ago. But it is firms like that of Messrs Schöller, who not only manufacture the sugar, but possess their own sugar beet areas, who are expected to do exceptionally well, for while the price of the beet is 26 crowns per metric quintal, when purchased from the farmer, if grown in their own fields, it costs the firm but 12 crowns per quintal.

The increase of wholesale prices in terms of gold parity (July, 1914 = 100), according to the Statistical Institute of the Government, is as follows:—

June, 1923.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.
141.8	140	139.8

The wholesale index figure for the last three months recorded is:—

June, 1924.	July, 1924.	August, 1924.
901	965	997

While the following are the figures for retail prices:—

Group I.	January, 1924.	April, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.
Foodstuffs, fuel	917	907	923	909
Group II.	January, 1924.	April, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.
Textiles, earthenware, ..	1,053	1,055	1,050	1,045

In some of the larger industries—such as coal-mining—there are indications of dissatisfaction with present rates of wages, and complaints are heard as to the employers' disregard of the workers' councils, but only in the china trade (centred mainly in and around Karlsbad) has there been a strike.

Letters to the Editor.

GREEK REFUGEE LOAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your last week's issue your Athens correspondent comments on the revision recently agreed in Geneva of the League of Nations Protocol for the Settlement of Greek Refugees. The precise terms of the revised text with regard to the raising of loans by Greece (other than the Refugee Loan) are of considerable importance. As a member of the League of Nations Finance Committee, whose duty it was to advise the League on the revision, I should, therefore, be glad if you would find space for the actual text, which runs as follows:—

NEW TEXT.

ARTICLE VI.

"The Greek Government undertakes not to create any charges on its revenues by way of security for any loans

not intended either for productive purposes or for carrying out its obligations under the Treaties of Peace. Should the case arise of a loan for one of these objects, then—

"(a) The Greek Government may create a charge of inferior rank upon the residue of surplus revenues assigned to the refugees' loan in conformity with Article V., paragraph 2.

"(b) As regards revenues other than those assigned to the refugees' loan in conformity with Article V., paragraph 2, the Hellenic Government undertakes not to create charges thereon unless the International Financial Commission shall have recognised that the nature of the revenues on which it is proposed to create a charge is such as not to compromise the yield of the revenues assigned to the refugees' loan."

The essential words (italicised) "for productive purposes" are not clearly brought out in your correspondent's paraphrase, from which it might be thought that Greece could consistently with the Protocol issue loans for any purpose whatever. This is not the case; and in the interests of the Refugee Loan it is very desirable that the real position should not be misunderstood.—Yours faithfully,

O. E. NIEMEYER.

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, October 14, 1924.

BANK RATE AND PRICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—A year ago in your Banking Supplement you commented on the fact that, concurrently with decreases in Bank rate, bank deposits had been contracting. "These facts," you said, "taken with the previous record, which showed deposits continuing to expand long after the 1919 and 1920 rises in Bank rate had, if the theory so eloquently expounded by Prof. Cassel and Mr. Hawtrey were to be relied on literally, demanded their contraction, seem to justify the scepticism with which it is usually received by practical bankers."

On that occasion I made no comment. But in your Banking Supplement of this year you quote this passage over again, and lest it become a hardy annual, I feel bound to enter a protest.

I cannot, of course, speak for Prof. Cassel, but, so far as my own views are concerned, you are entirely mistaken in attributing to me any such theory as that implied in the passage quoted. What I have contended is that changes in Bank rate can be relied upon to affect the volume of trade borrowing, and through it the amount of the consumer's income and outlay, and therefore the level of prices. But it is a mistake to suppose that this involves a proportional change in the volume of currency and bank deposits, or that such a change is a necessary link in the chain. So far as I can see, your assumption that it is so seems to proceed from the crude and discredited form of the quantity theory of money, which taught that a change in prices cannot occur without a proportional change in the volume of purchasing power. I hoped I had made clear in Chapter III. of my "Currency and Credit" within what narrow limits the quantity theory is in my opinion true.

The proportion of prices to volume of purchasing power may be affected by many disturbing factors. One of the most potent (especially during the last few years) has been the influence of the state of credit upon rapidity of circulation. Rapidity of circulation is increased when credit is expanding and prices are rising, and is diminished when credit is contracting and prices are falling. These tendencies may be great enough to counteract almost entirely the effect of an expansion of credit in increasing the volume of purchasing power, or that of a contraction of credit in decreasing it.

The continued high level of bank deposits in 1921 in face of a high Bank rate and collapsing prices is to be explained by the exceptionally low rapidity of circulation characteristic of those conditions. As to more recent statistics, I will content myself with saying (1) that it is very unsafe to draw conclusions regarding credit movements from data taken at so long an interval as a year, and (2) that the terms "high" and "low" applied to Bank rate are essentially relative. A Bank rate of 4 per cent. may count as high in one set of circumstances, and in a different set may count as low. Indeed, 6 per cent.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.

14, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
WITH BRANCHES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES IN:—
AUSTRALIA CEYLON JAPAN NEW ZEALAND
BORNEO CHINA JAVIA SUMATRA
CANADA INDIA MALAYA U.S.A.
MANUFACTURERS DESIRING REPRESENTATION IN ANY OF THE ABOVE COUNTRIES ARE INVITED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMPANY.

may be low when inflation is raging; 3 per cent. may be high when excessive deflation is at work.—Yours faithfully,

R. G. HAWTREY.

18 Elm Park-gardens, S.W. 10,

October 14, 1924.

[If, as Mr. Hawtrey contends, "changes in Bank rate can be relied upon to affect the volume of trade borrowing," it seems strange, as our Banking Supplement pointed out, that the volume of deposits—which must surely be affected by that of trade borrowing—has consistently moved in the wrong direction for his doctrine.—Ed., *Economist*.]

Books and Publications.

LAND ECONOMICS.*

THIS is the introductory volume, although published second in point of time, of a series described as "a standard course in real estate," outlined by a Joint Commission representing the National Association of Real Estate Boards, and other bodies. The Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities is responsible for the preparation, Dr Ely being director of the Institute and Mr Moorhouse a research instructor on its staff, both being also associated with the University of Wisconsin. It is to be followed by a number of other volumes dealing with various aspects of the subject which it is its purpose to outline and expound.

The authors claim to be opening a new field of economic inquiry. It is not, of course, suggested that the importance of land has been neglected by economists, but the idea which underlies the establishment of the Institute of Land Economics, and is the justification for this book, is that the subject of land has been usually treated, so to speak, in compartments, and that it requires to be studied more comprehensively and with a wider grasp of its various relationships. This is suggested by the statement in the preface that "the senior author has studied land problems from different angles for many years, and he has concluded that these problems are basic to more economic activities than it is commonly believed." "Land economics" is, therefore, not, as might be hastily assumed, another term for "agricultural economics." The subject is much wider. It includes all the functions of land, including its use for agriculture, mining, forestry, houses, factories, &c., and attempts to correlate the different factors which are applicable to its diverse utilities. Thus this treatment of the elements of the subject embraces, in addition to general principles, chapters dealing with urban land utilisation, agricultural land utilisation, forest and mineral land, property rights in water, land values and valuation, the social ends of land utilisation, policies of land settlement and development, and policies of land taxation.

The scheme and general arrangement of the book are admirably clear and well-considered. The subject is lucidly stated and logically expanded. The arguments are supported by a wealth of illustrative facts and figures, and there is plentiful evidence of careful research and the mastery of relevant material. Much of the discussion is very germane to current problems. The relative advantages and disadvantages of public and private ownership, for example, are acutely analysed. The principles applicable to the value of land under varying economic and social conditions are clearly explained, and although this particular field is already well-tilled the authors succeed

* "Elements of Land Economics." By Richard T. Ely, LL.D., and Edward W. Moorhouse, M.A. (New York) The Macmillan Company. 178 net.

in giving it a fresh aspect. The public or social interest in the utilisation of land to its best advantage is explained in detail. The powers of the Government to interfere with private rights of property are classified under the two categories of "police" regulations and the right of "eminent domain." It is noted incidentally that 38 per cent. of the total area of the United States is owned by the Federal and State Governments. The advocates of Land Nationalisation might find in the United States data for their consideration.

The general interest of the community in the proper and most suitable utilisation of land is insisted upon, but in regard to agricultural land the importance to the nation of ensuring that the natural fertility of the soil is maintained—that the land is not robbed—appears to be somewhat overlooked. The authors distinctly favour the ownership of farms by the occupiers, a system which, whatever its merits, admittedly involves some risk of the dissipation of the national wealth in the land by incompetent or reckless owners.

The authors in the elaboration of their argument are apt to restrict themselves to land problems as they arise in the United States, and to refer almost exclusively to American conditions. This, perhaps, is justifiable in a work which is, no doubt, primarily intended as a text-book for students in American Universities. The book is, nevertheless, valuable and suggestive for English students of the subject with which it deals.

CHINA IN TRANSITION.*

EVERY year this massive volume expands in size, and includes new matter and several fresh subjects, so that an index is provided in the present issue to those dealt with in former years, but now crowded out. This year's volume contains, like its predecessors, a mass of interesting and detailed information respecting the physical features of the Chinese Empire, its geography and geology, fauna and flora population, central and local government, army and navy, commerce and finance, industry, education, communications, and religions; but several of the chapters are rewritten, and some are entirely new. Among the former are those on education and public justice; of the latter we may specially note an extremely interesting account, by a Chinese Professor at the University of Peking, of the Chinese Renaissance, which began in the seventeenth century and has developed into the reforming modernism of the twentieth. Another new chapter deals with Labour in its primary form, closely resembling that of mediæval Europe, and in the new form given it by the industrial revolution. Labour agitation, energetically promoted by foreign agency, is still an exotic; the Chinese operative cannot afford to sacrifice his job to doctrinal considerations; the darker features of industrialisation, such as the employment of child labour, are promoted by the workers themselves, in spite of the efforts of European employers to mitigate them; an improved dietary will make the workers more efficient, and the employers are preceding them in improving the conditions of their employment. Another very valuable new chapter deals with the recent international relations of the Republic, including the negotiations with Soviet Russia; and there is an illuminating (and depressing) account of recent politics, which in their latest development appear to consist mainly of the intrigues of the party politicians against the military power of Wu Pei Fu, and of his success in frustrating them. This chapter serves as a useful check on the tendency of foreign observers to interpret Chinese events by Western standards, and the political and military position contrasts markedly with the progress in other fields of activity—in the improvement of public health, for example (largely promoted by bacteriological research conducted by Chinese doctors), in education (much influenced, in its higher grades at any rate, by American models), and in industry, agricultural science, and trade. An encouraging account is also given of the work of the committee appointed last year to investigate and readjust the national finances; and the book

* "The China Year-Book, 1924-5." Edited by H. G. W. Woodhead, C.B.E. (Tientsin) Tientsin Press, Limited. (London) Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co. Pp. xxxiii.-1280. With Railway Map. 42s. net.

leaves the impression that the good sense and intelligence of the Chinese people will carry the Republic through its difficulties, in spite of self-seeking and incompetent politicians and warring Tuchuns.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire, 1763-1914.* By L. C. A. Knowles, M.A. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Limited. 10s 6d net.
- Commercial Relations Between India and England.* By Bal Krishna, M.A., Ph.D. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Limited. 14s net.
- Le Cambisme.* By Yvan Bell. (Paris) Gauthier-Villars et Cie. 35f.
- Elements of Economics.* By S. Evelyn Thomas, B.Com. (Lond.). (St. Albans) Donnington Press. 10s 6d net.
- Inwood's Tables of Interest and Mortality for the Purchasing of Estates and Valuation of Properties.* By Sir William Schooling, K.B.E. (London) Crosby, Lockwood and Son. 21s net.
- Report of the Temporary Mixed Commission for the Reduction of Armaments: League of Nations.* (London) Constable and Co. 1s net.
- Reduction of Armaments. League of Nations.* (London) Constable and Co. 4d net.
- Statistical Information on the Trade in Arms, Ammunition and Material of War. League of Nations.* (London) Constable and Co. 2s 6d net.
- Hours of Labour in Industry. Czechoslovak Republic.* (Geneva) International Labour Office. 1s net.
- Hertslet's Commercial Treaties. Vol. XXX.* (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 21s net.
- The Edinburgh Review. October, 1924.* (London) Longmans, Green and Co. 7s 6d net.
- Life Assurance.* By H. Hosking Taylor and Victor W. Tyler. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Limited. 6d net.
- Tea Facts and Figures. October, 1924.* (London) Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall avenue, E.C. 2s net.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester
Bradford Foreign Branch 13, Market Street, Bradford

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, October 22. ACCOUNT, October 23.

THE issue of the new German Loan and the General Election campaign have been the two outstanding factors of consequence in Stock Exchange markets this week. That the German Loan would be a success, financially regarded, was a foregone conclusion to the eyes of those who saw in advance the extraordinary interest which its advent aroused amongst the public. The political situation provided a surprise in the way whereby triangular contests are being abandoned in many constituencies. This had the effect of quickening the expectation that the Unionists will come back stronger than before. Moderate dealings are taking place in the Stock Exchange in Labour seats, the present quotation for which is about 180, this representing the estimate of the speculator as to the number of seats which Labour will win in the General Election. The idea that the Unionist membership will be strengthened has brought about a strong tone in many markets, investment and speculative alike.

The War Loan will be quoted ex dividend at the end of the month, and the price rose to 102½. Conversion 3½ per cent. enjoyed, with the Funding Loan, something of a jump,

on heavy purchases in a market none too well supplied with floating stock. The new Queensland Fives, issued at 97½, the price of which started about par, advanced to 11½ premium, and other gilt-edged stocks show corresponding strength. Several new loans are mentioned as likely to make an early appearance. The Japanese issue will probably be out on Tuesday next.

It is expected that dealings in the new German scrip will start on the basis of 2 premium. The success of the new loan was held at first to be a bull point for existing German bonds, but the impression received no support, and Germans, after being run up, reacted substantially from the best. There is nothing much doing in the French loans. Austrian Sixes keep dull, but Hungarian 7½ per cents. have recovered a trifle. Russian bonds are nearly all a point lower, and Brazilians, after giving way on a decline in the value of the milreis, recovered as the rate of exchange braced up.

Home railway stocks are a much better market than they have been of late, material rises occurring in Great Western, Metropolitan, and some of the others. The Mexican Railway group is also better, there being practically no stock to meet a modest demand. Argentine Railways hold their improvements, and foreign rails as a whole keep a good market.

Rubber shares have gone ahead again, the price of the produce strengthening to a shade over 1s 4d per lb, and interest being piqued by what is regarded as the practical certainty of the standard output being reduced to 50 per cent. from November 1st. Oil shares, still largely controlled by professional operations, are somewhat irregular; Lobitos, Anglo-Ecuadorians, and Mexican Eagles spurred; Venezuelans at length crossed £3 per share. The reduction of the dividend in Kerns led to a fall in the price of the shares. The tea market is, comparatively speaking, quiet. People have been selling in consequence of the dwindling attention paid to the market by the public, and, although prices of tea itself are high, the breeze of speculation has died down, and left share prices drifting. Textiles, hotel shares, iron and steel, stores, manufacturing, and a number of similar industrials are mostly better on balance, now that it appears as though there is a chance of the Continental chaos being replaced by order, and by greater stability in foreign exchange.

The shares of the Gillette Razor Company have been introduced on the basis of \$62 for the shares of no nominal denomination. Electricity supply shares, which have been dull for the past few weeks, are disposed to stiffen in price. The shipping market is exceedingly quiet. Insurance shares hardened in a few cases. Austin Motors, Rovers, and a few others in this section display strength, in consequence of the opening yesterday of the Motor Show. United Dairies went ahead, thanks to a good dividend, and British Oil Cakes came into demand at higher prices. Wireless shares are quiescent.

The Cape has come in a buyer of its Kaffir favourites, and Government Areas, Modders, and others in this group show rises on the week. The British public are inclined by reason of this mild recovery to pay a little more attention to South African shares, and the market is not so dormant as it has been recently. Amongst Rhodesians, Chartered stand out with a quiet rise; in the diamond section, De Beers went a little over 12, anticipation looking for a strong demand at Christmas-time for stones. Mexican mining shares are generally harder, and amongst tin shares a few West Africans strengthened. Movements in Malaysians have been rather uninteresting. Copper shares swung between narrow limits.

NEW ISSUES.

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

Amount previously recorded.....	Nominal Capital.....	Cash Subscription.....	First Payment.....	Further Liability.....
138,761,265	..	..	..	..

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 11, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Oct. 11, 1924, Dr £2,550,000	..	nil	..	nil

To the Public—				
German External Loan, 1924, £12,000,000, 7% Sterling Bonds (red. at par by annual drawings 1925-49), issued at 92½ per cent.....	12,000,000	..	11,040,000	.. 600,000 .. 10,440,000
Ayrshire (Local Authorities) Electricity, £750,000, 4½% Stock (red. 1945-55), issued at 95% £500,000 to repay existing Loans ..	250,000	..	240,000	.. 12,500 .. 227,500
The Scottish Central Investment Trust, 75,000 Shares, £10, at par.....	750,000	..	750,000	.. 37,500 .. 712,500
Total offered to the public ..	..	..	12,030,000	.. 650,000 .. 11,380,000

Total offered for subscription to date		Total offered for subscription for whole	
in—	Year—	in—	Year—
1924.....	150,791,265	1923.....	271,331,173
1923.....	228,026,737	1922.....	573,675,550
1922.....	519,139,749	1921.....	388,978,203
1921.....	220,901,754	1920.....	367,549,656
1920.....	320,716,753	1919.....	1,036,099,951
1919.....	944,555,400	1918.....	1,393,381,441

German External Loan, 1924.—This is a loan consisting of bonds of various issues to yield in the aggregate an effective sum of the equivalent of 800,000,000 gold marks, plus the expenses of issue, negotiation, and delivery, the amount offered here being £12,000,000 in 7 per cent. sterling bonds. The issue price was 92 per cent. Payment of capital and interest is not subject to deduction for any German taxes, present or future, and will be made in sterling at the Bank of England, London. A sinking fund will be provided, and that portion applicable to the British issue will be applied in the purchase of bonds when their price is below par (exclusive of accrued interest), or by drawings at par when the price is at or above par (exclusive of accrued interest). Bonds not previously redeemed will be repaid at par on October 15, 1949. Certain of the portions of the loan issued in other countries will be in sterling bonds, and application for the quotation of these on the London Stock Exchange will be made two years hence. The loan, further reference to which will be found in a leading article, was rapidly over-subscribed.

Ayrshire (Local Authorities) Electricity 4½ per Cent. Redeemable Stock, 1945-1955.—Issue of £750,000 4½ per cent. stock at 96 per cent. The stock will be redeemed at par on November 11, 1955, unless it shall have previously been cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement with the stockholders, but the board will have the option of redeeming at par the whole of the outstanding amount at any time on and after November 11, 1945, on giving three months' notice. The issue will rank *pari passu* with other loans of the board, and is secured on the whole revenues and property of the board, including all funds, the rates or charges which the board have power to make from time to time for the supply of electric power, and the precepts which the board have power to issue to the constituent authorities, viz., the County Council of Ayr, the Town Council of the burgh of Ayr, and the Town Council of Kilmarnock, to meet any deficiency in the net revenue of the board for the financial year. The revenue of the board from electricity supply for the year ended May 15, 1924, was £150,886. The net debt of the board is given as £904,962. A penny rate will produce £9,209; the total gross annual revenue of the various local authorities concerned is £833,054, excluding the revenue from electricity undertakings. On the whole, this appears to be a well-secured stock.

The Scottish Central Investment Trust, Limited.—Share capital £1,000,000, divided into shares of £10 each, of which 75,000 are now offered to the public at par. Each share will be converted, as from January 16th next, into £6 of 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock and £4 of ordinary stock. This company has been formed to carry on the usual business of an Investment Trust Company. The prospectus states that "the fundamental principle of such a company is the employment of its funds in the acquisition of a large number of carefully selected investments. Each shareholder thus obtains, according to his interest in the company, the advantage of widespread distribution of his capital in a way which is not otherwise open to the investor of moderate means." The power of the company to borrow by way of bonds, debentures, debenture stock, or otherwise is limited in the aggregate to the amount of issued share capital and the amount of the reserve funds as appearing in the company's last balance-sheet prior to the time of borrowing. In addition, the company may borrow from its bankers sums not exceeding 10 per cent. of its issued share capital. Not more than one-twentieth part of the combined issued share and debenture capital, or more than one-tenth of the subscribed share capital, whichever is greater, can be invested in any one security, and no investment can be made upon which there is unlimited liability. The company, no doubt, will be mainly supported by those who have knowledge of the directors.

Gray, Dunn, and Co.—Authorized share capital £250,000, divided into 150,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 100,000 ordinary £1 shares. There are no debentures or debenture stock. Issue at par of 100,000 7 per cent. £1 cumulative preference shares. The ordinary share dividend is to be fixed at 10 per cent. until a satisfactory reserve has been accumulated. The company has been formed to acquire the business of Gray, Dunn and Co., which was established in Glasgow in 1853 to carry on the manufacture of biscuits and cake. The growth of the biscuit industry necessitated removal in 1862 to larger premises, which have subsequently been further enlarged. The auditors certify that these land and buildings are worth £41,235, and the plant, machinery, &c., are valued at £27,938, making a total of £69,173, while office and warehouse fittings, horses, motor-cars, bakery utensils, &c., are reckoned at £11,478. The purchase price is fixed on the valuation figures, with in addition £85,315 in respect of stocks and goodwill, the latter being taken at £60,000. The consideration is payable as to 25,000 preference shares, the whole of the ordinary shares, and £40,067 in cash. The balance remaining from the issue of preference shares is £59,032. Profits are shown for five years from January, 1920, during which period they fluctuated between £49,049 for the twelve months ended January, 1923, to

£34,450 in the following year. For the half-year to July 19th last profits are returned at £18,928. The preference shares have been underwritten for a commission of 2½ per cent. and an overriding commission of 1½ per cent. Preliminary expenses are estimated at £12,000, which is payable by the new company. This appears to be a reasonable issue, which should appeal to local investors.

The Britannic Estates, Limited.—Authorized and issued share capital £100,000. Information concerning this company is published in the Press in order to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. The directorate includes Sir Charles Greenway. Incorporated as a private company in December, 1921, with a share capital of £100,000, the company has acquired from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company freehold premises in Finsbury-circus and elsewhere in London. In 1921 the company issued £650,000 6½ per cent. first mortgage debentures and £850,000 7 per cent. thirty-year notes. It has now created £750,000 of 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, issued at 94½ per cent., subject to a commission of ½ per cent., and paid in full on October 1st last, the proceeds of which have been applied primarily to repay the above-mentioned £650,000 of 6½ per cent. debentures. The new 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock is secured by a trust deed in favour of the Metropolitan Trust Company, Limited, constituting a first mortgage on the freehold and leasehold premises specified in the schedule to the trust deed. The debenture stock is repayable at par on September 30, 1954, with an option to the company to redeem at par on or after October 1, 1939, on three months' notice. The stock is unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited. Apparently a well-secured debenture.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War (3½, 1925-28) .. 96½	96½	96½	—
Loans (4½, 1925-46) .. 97½	97½	97½	—
Loans (5½, 1925-47) .. 102½	102½	102½	—
Funding Loan 4½ .. 88½	88½	88½	—
Victory Bonds 4½ .. 91½	91½	91½	—
Conversion Loan 3½ .. 77½	77½	77½	—
Consols 2½ .. 271	271	271	—
Irish Land Stock 3½ .. 59½	59½	59½	—
Local Loans 3½ .. 66½	66½	66½	—

British Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Great Western, Ord. 105½	105½	105½	—
London & North-Eastern 5½ Pref. Ord. 78½	78½	78½	—
Do Def. Ord. 29½	29½	29½	—
London, Mid. & South. 4½ .. 97½	97½	97½	—
Metropolitan 76½	76½	76½	—
Metropolitan District. 49½	50	50	—

Banks.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) 248½	248½	248½	—
Chartered Bk of India 20	20½	20½	—
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) 3	3	3	—
Midland (£12, with £4 paid) 8½	8½	8½	—
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) 24½	25	25	—

American Railroads.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio .. 94	92	92	—
Erie .. 29	29	29	—
Do 4½ 1st Pref. 42	40	40	—

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antofagasta Cons. 884	894	894	—
B.A. and Pacific .. 84½	84½	84½	—
B.A. Gt. Southern .. 89½	89½	89½	—
Buenos Ayres West. .. 80	80½	80½	—
Canadian Pacific .. 165	163	163	—
Central Argentine .. 74½	75½	75½	—

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Argentina 5%, 1886-7-100 .. 100	100	100	—
Austrian 6% Guar. 93½	93½	93½	—
Belgian 3% .. 73	73	73	—
Brazil 5% Fund, 1914-72 .. 73	73	73	—
Chilian 4½, 1895 .. 85	85	85	—
Do 7½ .. 104½	104½	104½	—
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 64	65	65	—
Egyptian 4% .. 76	75½	75½	—
French 5% .. 23½	23	23	—
Do 4% .. 19	18½	18½	—
Greek 5%, 1884 .. 54½	55½	55½	—

Telegraphs.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" 23½	23½	23½	—
Marconi Wireless .. 18	18	18	—

Mines.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Broken Hill Prop. (A1) 1½	1½	1½	—
Chartered (A1) .. 1½	1½	1½	—
Cons. Gold Fields (A1) 1½	1½	1½	—
Crown Mines (10) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
De Beers Cons. (A1) 11½	11½	11½	—
East Rand Prop. (A1) 3½	3½	3½	—
Geduld (A1) .. 6½	6½	6½	—
Gov. Gold Areas .. 6½	6½	6½	—

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

Miscellaneous.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Aerated Bread (A1) .. 1½	1½	1½	—
Amal. Cottons (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Anglo-Persian Oil (A1) 2½	2½	2½	—
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) and Co. (A1) .. 57½	57	57	—
Ass. P. Ind. Cement (A1) 2½	2½	2½	—
Barker, John (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
B'ham Small Arms (A1) 57½	57	57	—
British-American Tobacco (A1) .. 58	58½	58½	—
Burmah Oil (A1) .. 42½	42½	42½	—
Coats (J. and F.) (A1) 2½	2½	2½	—
Courtauld (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Cunard (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Dorman, Long (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Dunlop Rubber (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Fine Cotton Spinners (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Forestral Land (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Furness, Withy (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Highland and Low. (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Hudson's Bay (A1) .. 2½	2½	2½	—
Imperial Tobacco (A1) 2½	2½	2½	—

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED. RECORD RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Viscount St. Davids presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, which stated that the year had been a record one in receipts, although the tonnage was less than in the record year of 1920, dealt first with the general position in Argentina. First of all, the population before the war was increasing rapidly, but when the war came immigration stopped, and a great number of people left the country, particularly Italians, to serve in the armies of their own countries, so that when the war ended, the population of Argentina was certainly not greater than when the war began. Immigration had begun again, and the population of the country was just upon 10 millions, of which 1,900,000 were in Buenos Ayres itself. The population had also largely increased by natural growth. Last year the natural increase was nearly 185,000, so that between immigration and natural increase the population went up 346,000. The bulk of the immigration went to the cotton districts, and cotton was doing well. Then, again, the immigrants were nearly all of the Latin race, and were wine drinkers, which would help the wine business of the Cuyo provinces.

Two years ago they agreed to the transfer of the Bahia Blanca line to the Southern Railway, subject to the approval of the Government. That approval had now been given. As to how it would affect this company, he would say at once that in good years giving up the Bahia Blanca line would be a loss to them, but in bad years it would be a great gain.

With regard to the Pacific, it was the newest of the big systems. When they went there the country was to a great extent uninhabited, but the population had been growing up. Because there was very little population, there were big estancias. These produced very little for a railway, and they wanted to see them broken up. The breaking up of the big estancias was going on very slowly, but still it was going on. Every year he heard of one or two being broken up, and though it was a slow process, it would be a continuous one, and would benefit them more from year to year for many years to come.

On the Argentine Great Western, in the irrigated districts, the progress had not only been continuous, but it had been faster, and he might say that the money they had spent on tiny branches and sidings had already done an enormous deal to accelerate that progress. They produced business over the whole system, and had been financially successful from the very beginning. On those little branches in the irrigated area progress was certain to be continuous year by year.

About the immediate future, first of all up to date they had got on top of the last two good years a traffic increase of £366,000. He had always told shareholders that this time of the year was too early to be sure of the wheat crop, but they had a bigger area under

wheat, and up to now it was all looking well. They had a large area being ploughed for maize, and they had the cattle industry in a far more flourishing position than it was twelve months ago. When he spoke to them twelve months ago in that room, Argentine exchange was 38½, whereas to-day it was 45. They had all these good features on the top of an increasing population and increasing development. Unless they had some quite unforeseen disasters to the harvests, he was quite confident as to the result of the present year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD, LIMITED.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

POSITION OF THE TEA AND RUBBER INDUSTRIES.

Presiding, on the 15th instant, at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, the chairman, Mr H. Eric Miller, opened his address with a tribute to his predecessor, Mr Heath Clark, who recently retired from the board after devoting 43 years to the interests of Harrisons and Crosfield.

Mr Miller then dealt with the accounts, and stated that the total profit of £242,475 was only a few thousand pounds less than the largest profit the company had ever shown, and was the result of a general improvement in business throughout almost the entire organisation.

POSITION OF THE TEA INDUSTRY.

Regarding the tea industry, Mr Miller remarked that the generally optimistic view expressed by the chairman a year ago, regarding the view of the tea-producing industry, had been more than justified. Tables showing an estimated production of 798,000,000 lbs and consumption of 794,000,000 lbs in 1924 were read, and Mr Miller then said: "Until June it was thought probable that there might be an increase in the Northern Indian crop, but, as the season progressed, it became apparent that the crop would be rather smaller than last year. This development tended to stiffen the feeling of the market, and influenced by various considerations, such as the adverse climatic and political conditions which have caused a reduction in the exports from China, the abnormal floods in Southern India, and signs of some increase in the demand from Russia, more confident operations on the part of buyers in all parts of the world have ensued. In weighing up the various factors, there can be no question as to the strong position in which the tea-producing industry is now established."

RUBBER.

Turning to the rubber industry, Mr Miller said: "During the years 1923 and 1924, the reduction in world stocks of crude rubber will have amounted to about 85,000 tons, and I consider that stocks are now no more than sufficient to enable the trade to carry on without impediment. It is years since we had such a healthy market, governed mainly by trade buying and an absence of outside speculation."

Mr Miller gave statistics showing the average annual rate of progressive increase in world consumption during the past 14 years to be 13 per cent., and pointed out that the per capita consumption of rubber in the U.S.A. is 5½ lbs per annum, against less than ½ lb in Europe.

RESTRICTION.

Referring to restriction, he said: "The whole problem was how to tide the industry over until the world could take the increasing quantity of rubber which the estates were capable of producing. Had the industry been allowed to drift until sufficient of the weaker members of it had gone to the wall, it would have meant a senseless sacrifice, not only of the capital honestly adventured in

the industry, but of a vast number of native labourers who derive their livelihood from it."

SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

"The world's absorption during 1925 may be conservatively estimated at 450,000 tons. The output of the non-restricting areas, including wild rubber, cannot be estimated at more than 190,000 tons. Hence at least 260,000 tons will be required from the restricted areas, and this represents about 65 per cent. of their standard production. By giving every possible encouragement to the further development of the use of rubber, and by continuing to regulate exports to meet the real needs of the world, a prosperous future for the rubber-producing industry will be assured."

The report was adopted unanimously, and a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares was declared, making 25 per cent. for the year.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.

ANOTHER RECORD YEAR.

The twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Frederick Hotels, Limited, was held, on the 16th instant, at the Hotel Great Central, Marylebone road, London.

Mr Ronald Peake (the chairman) said that when he addressed the shareholders a year ago he was able to report that the year then being reviewed was the best in the history of the company. He was pleased to say that the year now under consideration again showed an improvement. They had catered for more visitors, increased their turnover, and earned a greater gross and net profit. The net profit for the year had amounted to £64,368, and the directors proposed to place £10,000 to reserve fund, to pay the preference dividend for the year, to pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward £45,143, as compared with £38,901 brought in. The improved results were mainly due to the London hotels, which continued to increase in popularity. In the accounts under review three months of the period of the Wembley Exhibition were included, but during that period their London hotels would have been full in any case, so that the benefit from the Exhibition would be more marked in the current year's accounts.

During the year, agreements had been entered into with the Gordon Hotels, Limited, by which they had assigned to this company the lease of the Lord Warden Hotel at Dover, and had purchased this company's interests in the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu, Limited. It had long been apparent that Dover could not support two first-class hotels, such as the Burlington and the Lord Warden, but that if one of them were closed down the other could be run with a reasonable chance of success, and, as a result of negotiations, this company took over the lease of the Lord Warden on October 1st. The Burlington was closed on the same day, and the connection transferred to the Lord Warden Hotel. The Lord Warden, being a smaller hotel than the Burlington, could be more economically worked, and the directors hoped to run the hotel at a profit. They would take the earliest opportunity of disposing of the Burlington.

During the past year the mortgage of £30,000 on the freehold of the Hotel Russell had been paid off.

Business, as far as it had gone this year, had been exceptionally good. The London hotels had largely increased their turnover over the corresponding period of last year, and the country hotels had also done well. Business at the Hotel Majestic, Harrogate, had, of course, been affected by the fire, but as they were insured against loss the profit at that hotel should not be materially affected.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000 | Issued Capital - £8,734,660

Reserve Fund - £4,000,000 | Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK (Incorporated under laws of State of New York) and BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

GOODE, DURRANT, AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.

The 26th ordinary general meeting of Goode, Durrant and Co., Limited, was held at the registered office of the company, No. 27 Milton street, London, on the 17th instant, Mr J. Albion Williams, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr D. M. Jackson, A.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman suggested that the directors' report and the audited balance-sheet for the year ended July 20, 1924, should be taken as read. This having been agreed to, he proposed the adoption of the directors' report and balance-sheet, remarking that at the previous meeting held on October 19, 1923, he had spoken of the very difficult conditions that had existed during that period, and for the year under review at the present time the general conditions of trade had been no less difficult than in the previous year. In spite of this, the balance-sheet and report showed an increased profit amounting to £61,403 8s 4d, as against £56,755 19s 7d, and the directors considered that this result was satisfactory.

He also reported that tenders were being received for the further extension of the company's factories, which were urgently needed to cope with the growing trade, and that according to latest cable advices received from Australia the prospects of both agricultural and pastoral areas in Western and South Australia were exceedingly good, and the directors were hopeful for the coming year.

Mr W. E. Pennick seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously resolved that the directors' report and the audited balance-sheet for the financial year ended July 20, 1924, be received and adopted.

DIVIDENDS AND ALLOCATIONS.

The Chairman proposed, Mr Gait seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that dividends at the rates of 7 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, including the interim dividends paid in April last be declared and paid; that the sum of £20,000 be placed to the credit of the general reserve fund, making the total reserves £260,000; that the sum of £3,000 be added to the superannuation fund for employees, making that account £8,250, and that the balance of £7,661 12s 10d be carried forward to next year.

The Chairman proposed, Mr Emms seconded, and it was unanimously resolved that Mr Henry Heale and Mr Frederick Simonett be re-elected as directors of the company.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr W. E. Pennick, it was unanimously resolved that Mr Wilfrid Stow (who has been a local director of the company in Perth, Western Australia, since September, 1915) be elected a director of the company.

On the motion of Mr Gait, seconded by Mr Rose, Messrs Newman, Ogle, Ashworth and Co. were appointed as the auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

Hearty votes of thanks to the chairman, and to the staffs in London and the various branches, concluded the proceedings.

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

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors), FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - - - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1924, to Oct. 11, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1923, to Oct. 13, 1923.	Receipts, Week Ended Oct. 11, 1924.	Receipts, Week Ended Oct. 13, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:					
Bank of England....	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..	..
REVENUE.	6,633,614	6,818,167	..	..	..
Customs.....	101,800,000	52,914,000	67,895,000	2,324,000	2,324,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	65,114,000	71,622,000	1,377,000	1,329,000
Motor Vehicle Duties..	15,600,000	4,477,000	3,938,000	371,000	144,000
Stamps.....	56,000,000	32,680,000	27,950,000	710,000	660,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	21,000,000	9,000,000	10,330,000	310,000	850,000
Property & Income Tax	1,250,000	660,000	520,000	10,000	3,123,000
Super-Tax.....	265,000,000	112,481,000	113,237,000	3,359,000	500,000
Excess Profits Duties &c.	61,000,000	25,300,000	21,490,000	460,000	..
Corporation Profits Tax	20,000,000	9,200,000	11,270,000	400,000	520,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	27,900,000	26,100,000	1,000,000	500,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	480,000	460,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	8,063,646	8,299,172	3,750	..
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	6,526,814	7,773,173	64,064	143,442
Ordinary Receipts..	30,000,000	15,668,211	20,942,509	10,753	..
Special Receipts.....	794,050,000	370,964,721	391,616,854	10,151,567	10,093,441
Total, Inc. Balance	..	377,596,335	398,635,021	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:-					
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	..	5,780,000	4,480,000	..	170,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:-					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:-					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1923 and 1924 ..	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924 ..	260,719	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	140,000	270,000	..	..	..
(c) For other issues:-					
By Treasury Bills.....	1,271,807,000	1,333,101,000	50,827,000	47,600,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	14,400,000	34,650,000	550,000	1,000,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,521,620	29,238,621	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	496,309,000	503,955,000	7,150,000	8,900,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921 ..	562,521	186,598	..	..	..
Total ..	2,184,904,304	2,307,983,327	68,678,567	68,363,441	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1924, to Oct. 11, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1923, to Oct. 13, 1923.	Issues, Week Ended Oct. 11, 1924.	Issues, Week Ended Oct. 13, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—	305,000,000	180,673,351	179,330,534	2,995,475	1,555,827
Interest, &c.	46,000,000	15,053,855	20,424,955	613,503	537,416
Sinking Fund	15,000,000	3,505,044	3,028,044	..	..
Road Funds	13,150,000	4,687,891	4,458,012	..	300,000
Payments to Local Tax-Adm. Accounts, &c.	3,500,000	2,403,727	1,866,791	20,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer ..	750,000	327,083	358,641	2,599	12,711
Land Settlement.....	2,440,000	1,356,819	1,230,840	223,115	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	408,919,000	191,370,512	197,543,676	7,221,323	6,270,000
Supply Services	793,759,000	399,278,292	408,301,493	11,076,015	8,676,954
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion.....	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	36,891	73,782	..	36,891	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	250,000	270,000	30,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1923 and 1924 ..	4,750,000	3,620,000	250,080	250,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	6,000	12,000	2,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924 ..	310,719	..	50,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921 ..	5,780,000	4,010,000	..	..	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	1,248,440,000	1,313,595,000	42,210,000	41,865,000	..
Treasury Bills.....	16,950,000	18,700,000	550,000	600,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates ..	6,104,373	31,886,910	250,000	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds	50	6,981,184	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919 ..	500,280,500	517,341,000	14,162,500	16,750,000	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners.....	..	..	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) of the Finance Act, 1911 ..	..	55,214	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England.....	2,182,009,534	2,304,901,664	68,580,515	68,177,845	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,116,679	1,116,679	29,948	51,596	..
Bank of Ireland	777,791	970,928	128,000	128,000	..
Total ..	2,694,370	3,081,663	98,652	185,556	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 63 of 1924.
Treasury, October 13, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
34% Conversion Loan..	..	..	..	..	266	684	666	666	666
5% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock..	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds ..	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	813
4% Funding Loan	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
4% Victory Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	457	470
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certs..	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
Other Debt	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	1,121	878	616	652	588	612
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	1,107	1,154	1,47	194	208	186	182
Temporary Advances ..	1	243	205	154	74	70	70	66	66
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,664
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,730

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Oct. 13, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Oct. 11, '24.	Week Ended Oct. 11, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	180,511,500	185,155,500	178,934,000	237,500
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	635,535,000	588,320,000	611,705,000	8,620,000
Advances by Public Deposits	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding	815,046,500	774,475,500	793,889,000	1,607,500
Total Floating Debt	1,531,092,500	1,463,845,500	1,574,628,000	10,255,000

* Includes £18,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Oct. 20—Oct. 25 were opened on Oct. 17, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £57,670,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 0d. about 33 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 3d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Sept. 12.....	35,000,000	48,335,000	3 15 3/27	117
Sept. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1/9	117
Sept. 26.....	40,000,000	63,960,000	3 12 4/7	117
Oct. 3.....	40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3/9	117
Oct. 10.....	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9/13	117
Oct. 17.....	35,000,000	57,670,000	3 14 11/17	117

Tenders will be received on Oct. 24, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.					
			Silver Coin.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes	Ratio to Notes	Govern- ment Secur- ities.	Balance of Bank of England.
1922.								
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	88,500	18,450	15/9	261,479	177
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	6,000	88,500	18,650	16/3	254,312	850
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,948	7,000	87,000	21,150	16/6	246,456	169
Dec. 27.....	301,337	13,972	7,000	87,000	21,150	15/9	258,922	137
1923.								
Mar. 23.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/3	241,294	190
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/3	242,446	143
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/5	238,596	140
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	87,000	22,450	16/6	255,032	159
1924.								
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/6	236,887	130
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/0	245,198	140
Sept. 24.....	285,592	12,227	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/3	241,185	184
Oct. 1.....	287,499	12,618	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/2	243,578	89
Oct. 8.....	288,601	12,280	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/2	244,322	109
Oct. 15.....	287,090	12,353	7,000	87,000	22,450	17/2	243,862	133

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	July 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	April 30, 1924.	July 31, 1923.
Cash and bank balances...	395,568	428,158	396,354	437,251	438,848
Bank balances abroad...	70,049	78,699	56,948	54,506	56,509
Call and short loans...	266,548	279,161	301,555	314,327	287,293
Securities...	507,124	509,950	496,333	484,143	399,612
Loans in Canada...	1,060,372	1,103,757	1,095,775	1,111,975	1,135,206
Loans abroad...	186,629	181,475	173,448	179,737	181,156
Other assets...	150,562	144,258	143,869	146,534	101,156
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation...	155,361	171,396	169,348	161,554	163,043
Deposits—					
Government...	100,898	108,456	120,543	135,292	62,230
Public in Canada...	1,678,129	1,718,129	1,684,126	1,715,793	1,706,597
Foreign...	320,516	340,770	326,929	338,900	296,845
Bank balances—					
Canadian...	10,455	13,712	9,835	13,172	11,075
Foreign...	38,820	38,834	30,163	35,362	36,720
Bills payable, &c...	65,790	59,589	58,429	59,148	25,120
Capital and rest...	246,784	246,785	246,785	247,184	247,029
Other liabilities...	3,032	2,597	3,655	3,855	2,239

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 29, 1924.	Aug. 22, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Total securities...	16,76,51	16,76,74	16,75,31	16,57,24	16,13,76	12,80,46
Loans...	16,04,50	18,00,24	18,53,19	18,62,10	18,93,79	14,97,80
Cash credits...	38,19,35	41,53,49	41,08,02	41,22,23	41,24,24	30,51,99
Inland bills...	5,65,82	5,73,73	5,59,83	6,00,29	6,08,18	4,05,36
Foreign bills...	16,47	19,23	18,67	24,06	24,06	23,34
Dead stock...	2,61,99	2,61,74	2,60,94	2,60,90	2,59,52	2,43,11
With other banks...	1,79,50	1,43,23	1,33,37	1,26,99	1,36,86	1,36,86
Cash...	27,84,82	26,53,48	27,41,22	30,28,88	28,77,50	37,63,73
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up...	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve...	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50
Total deposits...	98,31,61	1,02,09,28	1,02,84,70	1,06,18,39	1,04,77,84	92,29,38
The above includes—						
Deposits in London...	1,544	1,289	1,240	1,276	1,325	230
Advances in London...	461	464	471	473	468	313
Cash, &c., at other banks in London...	1,198	955	886	849	913	110

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Aug. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1923.	Position June 30, 1924.
Cash and bullion...	1,115,653	1,114,883	1,115,149	1,110,407	1,110,549	1,110,549
Discounts...	190,248	219,799	340,431	247,672	413,122	417,400
Advances...	264,463	289,361	326,130	318,172	229,975	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes...	1,143,840	1,199,175	1,300,760	1,177,994	1,361,730	362,270
Govt. deposits...	964,818	963,651	969,537	988,255	846,217	87,340
Other deposits...	77,391	78,037	73,551	83,777	184,520	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion...	5,544,268	5,544,231	5,544,154	5,538,829	5,538,829	3,730,625
Of which held abroad...	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion...	302,097	301,716	301,524	301,524	301,524	301,524
Discounts and advances...	7,754,792	7,848,942	7,807,311	7,807,311	7,807,311	2,327,775
Advances to the State...	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes...	40,569,979	40,648,504	40,533,936	38,086,964	5,811,875	5,811,875
Government deposits...	12,666	15,475	12,969	21,751	183,700	183,700
Private deposits...	1,772,953	1,876,550	1,959,436	1,967,317	845,950	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Sept. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)...	356,154	355,307	354,575	354,233	349,626	322,650
Securities...	1,222,053	1,235,849	1,247,094	1,248,398	999,281	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	7,632,602	7,627,895	7,526,085	7,526,374	7,183,185	394,150
Current accounts...	219,362	283,936	381,738	347,238	361,565	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 13, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1924.	Sept. 29, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold...	610,128	612,670	629,090	631,511	581,774	165,092
Silver...	10,343	10,453	11,290	11,806	9,732	8,436
Discounts and advances...	353,495	367,325	370,206	360,864	336,501	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	971,983	981,991	973,167	949,805	1,003,778	316,632
Deposits...	18,000	20,950	22,229	21,737	42,559	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold...	216,000	216,000	211,750	220,250	161,842	22,971
Silver...	170,460	166,000	161,000	153,470	175,987	77,567
Discounts, advances, and other investments...	275,500	269,500	264,500	265,500	263,335	109,499
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	119,000	121,500	116,500	114,000	134,859	11,250
Deposits and bills payable...						

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY.—In billions of marks.

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Silver coin reserve...	(a) 595	(a) 578	(a) 578	(a) 578	(a) 544	(a) 544
Gold and bullion...	924,000	924,000	924,000	924,000	924,000	924,000
Treasury notes...	246,322,062	222,468,942	366,682,501	338,347,468	842,201,593	842,201,593
Remittance notes...	897,359,823	936,056,468	852,426,462	842,201,593	1,082,990,951	1,082,990,951
Bills of exchange and cheques...	127,828,229	123,638,343	111,012,658	108,290,951	8,991,460	8,991,460
Advances...	6,111,200	14,459,810	10,196,160	11,594,050	13,486,200	13,486,200
Remittance discounts, &c...	8,664,400	39,964,400				
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	151,914,882	152,010,654	152,014,379	1305,717,145	749,704,015	749,704,015
Total deposits...	633,256,568	670,096,117	895,386,075	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000
Loan from Rentenbank...	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold...	504,867	504,838	504,930	505,103	527,160	171,375
Silver...	92,609	92,972	93,772	93,648	96,890	18,150
Assets & Advances...	303,780	310,630	287,885	284,332	321,513	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	861,732	891,282	832,486	837,839	910,572	275,925
Deposits...	110,930	90,923	114,824	109,514	89,559	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Oct. 8, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold...	147,227	147,227	147,229	147,226	147,226	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills...	36,245	34,954	30,978	19,256	28,533	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Gov. securities...	8,999	8,999	8,999	8,999	8,999	8,999
Discounts and loans...	419,450	428,561	430,371	445,130	445,130	76,911
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	387,441	389,073	380,979	394,619	394,619	113,484
Deposits at notice...	120,896	125,756	128,494	90,615	90,615	7,188

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1923.	May 24, 1924.
Gold...	275,202	245,885	246,803	246,560	272,465	104,918
Balance abroad and foreign bills...	60,945	54,430	48,844	46,923	30,445	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities...	55,571	55,637	55,943	56,114	128,903	32,465
Discounts & loans...	369,766	405,122	373,813	373,726	318,335	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	514,957	547,609	512,158	502,171	542,345	226,555
Deposits at notice...	145,941	138,628	132,870	145,934	152,284	369,660

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 8, 1924.	Oct. 1, 1924.	Sept. 24, 1924.	Sept. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1923.	Nov. 22, 1923.
Total cash...	18,145	18,526	18,963	14,623	13,085	13,085
Gold coin & bullion...	23,591	23,588	23,584	15,786	12,993	12,993
Of which held abroad...	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,506	2,466	2,466
Foreign banks...	42,357	40,664	40,676	60,994	60,994	60,994
Discounts and loans...	82,366	81,940	81,572	28,078	9,551	9,551
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	25,800	25,800	25,800	23,000	8,000	8,000
Capital paid up...	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,214	16,697	16,697
Government deposits...	78,101	77,789	77,220	41,574	16,896	16,896
Other deposits...	47,013	47,209	46,698	40,871		

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 10, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Aug. 20, 1924.
Gold...	99,900	99,566	99,448	99,288	97,548
Foreign coin and balance with foreign banks...	233,617	237,947	256,418	266,791	278,398
Private loans & discounts...	243,019	232,172	221,647	207,935	189,122
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	460,384	403,031	419,485	430,283	377,833
Deposits...	64,810	121,144	138,391	122,962	172,962

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cs. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 7, 1923.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Sept. 11, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1923.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Bank- ing Office.....	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520
Discounts & advances.....	2,052,162	1,926,542	1,812,688	1,774,605	1,661,411	1,533,974
Gold & silver holdings.....	1,050,629	1,050,643	1,051,369	1,051,288	1,051,189	1,073,217
Foreign bills and balances abroad.....	661,084	657,108	648,807	657,421	657,296	2,408,933
Other assets.....	221,144	220,318	220,020	219,718	216,610	378,460
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circ'n.....	8,103,282	8,222,658	7,730,585	7,524,766	8,002,211	9,162,700
Deposits.....	4,597,805	4,309,226	4,677,035	4,640,369	4,482,623	5,361,377
Other liabilities.....	1,224,054	1,228,347	1,484,582	1,409,357	1,401,192	983,433

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From May 10, 1924.		From May 10, 1924.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
Demand ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
30 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
60 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
90 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %
120 days ..	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.
 * No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	Buying.		Buying.	
	Selling.		Selling.	
	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd.
T.T.	101	99 1/2	103 1/2	101 1/2
Demand ..	100 1/2	98 1/2	102 1/2	100 1/2
30 days ..	99 1/2	98 1/2	101 1/2	99 1/2
60 days ..	99 1/2	98 1/2	101 1/2	99 1/2
90 days ..	99 1/2	98 1/2	101 1/2	99 1/2

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on October 14th, 1924, for Rs100,000,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India. The result was as below:—

	Rate.	Applications.		Allotments.	Average Rate.
		Rs.	%		
Def. T.T. ..	1/6	25,00,000	100	25,00,000	1/6
	1/5 1/2	10,00,000	..	..	..
		35,00,000	..	..	..
Imm. T.T. ..	1/6 1/2	25,00,000	100	25,00,000	1/6 1/2
		25,00,000	..	..	..
		25,00,000	..	..	..
		60,00,000	..	..	..

On October 21st 100 lacs will be offered.

The Government of India have announced that the total remittances to the Secretary of State for India during the half-year ending September 30, 1924, were as follows:—

Council Bills and Telegraphic Transfers	103,000
Sterling purchases in India	18,310,000
Sterling taken over in London	700,000
	19,113,000

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended October 15, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
British West Africa	29,508	Russia	14,593
British South Africa	512,478	Sweden	11,200
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	3,561	Netherlands	6,170
		Belgium	4,100
		France	1,553
		Switzerland	3,700
		Straits Settlements	3,000
		Other countries	110
Total declared value of imports	545,547	Total declared value of exports	44,426

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on September 30, 1924:—

In India	Nil
In England—	
Cash at the Bank of England	818
British Government securities—	
Value as on September 30, 1924	39,999,182
	40,000,000

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, October 13, 1924.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on October 15th as follows:—

GOLD.

The moderate amount of gold available here this week has been taken for India and the trade. The following figures show the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of September, 1924:—imports, £414,246; exports, £642,297.

SILVER.

The price of silver for cash delivery continued to advance, and touched 36 1/2d on the 9th inst.—a fresh record for the year. The quotation for forward delivery remained unchanged at the same figure. On the next day the market boiled over, and prices began a fall that carried them to 35 1/2d for both cash and forward delivery on the 13th inst. At this figure, bear covering and Continental demand combined to impart a steadier tone, though, probably owing to the imposition of limits, the tendency to react has not as yet had much play. The collapse of the Chekiang army and the flight of its leader may prove a factor in the market by removing obstacles to the free transit of commodities, of which at the present time exports ought to be active—this possibly may be taken as a bull point.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.
(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Sept. 22.	Sept. 30.	Oct. 7.
Notes in circulation	17,871	17,925	17,892
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,507	8,562	8,547
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	5,733	5,731	5,713
Securities (British Government) ..	1,399	1,400	1,400

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 11th inst. consisted of about 44,700,000 ounces in sycee, 44,500,000 dollars, and 2,760 silver bars, as compared with about 43,600,000 ounces in sycee, 46,500,000 dollars, and 2,000 silver bars on the 4th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver. Cash.
		Cash.	Forward.		
Oct. 11....	92 3	35 1/2	35 1/2	Oct. 26, 1918..	49 1/2
13....	92 2	35 1/2	35 1/2	24, 1919..	64 1/2
14....	92 3	35 1/2	35 1/2	22, 1920..	53 1/2
15....	92 2	35 1/2	35 1/2	21, 1921..	40 1/2
16....	92 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	20, 1922..	33 1/2
17....	92 4	35 1/2	35 1/2	19, 1923..	31 1/2

NOTICES.

Ralph Cockayne Assheton, Esq., D.L., J.P., of Downham Hall, Clitheroe, has been elected to, and has accepted a seat on the board of directors of the Union Bank of Manchester.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at High street, Wickwar, under the management of Mr T. A. Arden, of the Wotton-under-Edge branch.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new branch at Beaufort street, Brynmawr, under the management of Mr R. L. Butterworth, who is also manager of Ebbw Vale branch. Their Beaufort office, hitherto sub-branch to Ebbw Vale, will become sub to Brynmawr, and the days and hours of business altered to Mondays and Thursdays, 10.15 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

The Bank of Montreal advise that a branch of the bank will be opened at Guadalajara, Mexico, on or about October 20th, and at Monterrey, Mexico, October 27th.

The board of directors of the Banca Commerciale Italiana in Milan have decided to submit to an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be convened shortly, a proposal for an increase of capital from £400 to £500 million lire, to be offered to present shareholders, in proportion of one new share for every four old shares held. The price and terms will be announced at the meeting.

The P. and O. Banking Corporation, Limited, have opened a sub-branch at Canton.

It is announced that the firm of Arthur H. Brandt and Co. is now associated with the London and Foreign Banking Corporation, Limited, of 39 Lime street, E.C. 3. The style of the firm remains unchanged, and the business will be continued as heretofore.

The directors of the Midland Bank, Limited, have the pleasure to announce that they have elected the Lord Kysant, G.C.M.G., to a seat at their board.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Oct. 10, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Oct. 12, 1924.			Aggregate 41 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Western	3,754	258,000	352,000	610,000	1,127,000	1,379,000	25,067,000
Do for 1923	3,747	250,000	349,000	599,000	1,117,000	1,431,000	25,557,000
London & N. Eastern (c) ..	6,722	437,000	695,000	1,132,000	1,880,000	2,783,000	46,632,000
Do same period 1923 ..	6,702	408,000	707,000	1,115,000	1,864,000	2,967,000	48,324,000
London, Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	614,000	910,000	1,524,000	2,698,000	3,548,000	64,339,000
Do for 1923	6,941	581,000	889,000	1,470,000	2,669,000	3,662,000	63,920,000
Southern	2,146	323,100	127,800	450,900	1,049,300	1,430,900	25,382,000
Do for 1923	2,146	303,200	116,900	420,100	1,013,000	1,438,400	25,382,000
Metropolitan (c)	794	43,389	4,125	47,514	1,611,429	159,997	1,771,417
Do for 1923	794	43,389	4,125	47,514	1,611,429	159,997	1,771,417
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	3,672	1,025	4,697	194,869	50,275	245,144
Dublin and S. East (b) ..	160	5,670	1,426	7,096	264,895	141,446	406,341
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	529	16,850	20,630	37,480	798,430	835,700	1,634,130
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	22,551	35,624	58,175	1,005,367	1,269,368	2,274,735
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	9,463	18,371	27,834	388,782	591,511	980,293

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	24 weeks	Sept. 13	1,072	2,12,000	+ 41,143	Rs. 64,28,315	+ 10,12,596
Barat L. Ry.	25 weeks	20	118	15,800	+ 100	8,77,300	+ 64,800
Bengal & N. Western ..	25 weeks	20	2,062	4,65,250	+ 15,894	1,57,09,401	+ 10,38,629
Bombay Nagpur	25 weeks	20	2,800	4,65,250	+ 33,000	14,99,000	+ 1,81,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	24 weeks	Oct. 11		19,08,000	+ 71,000	6,18,93,000	+ 55,74,000
Burma	24 weeks	Sept. 13	1,342	5,37,250	+ 66,745	1,57,89,601	+ 41,63,300
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	26 weeks	Oct. 31	39	1,31,143	+ 24,301	26,89,268	+ 2,15,540
East Indian	28 weeks	Oct. 13	2,873	29,35,000	+ 8,02,000	9,31,15,000	+ 75,02,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	25 weeks	Oct. 11	3,175	24,57,500	+ 1,22,100	7,55,71,185	+ 96,56,642
Madras & S. Mahr	25 weeks	Sept. 20	3,029	13,15,000	+ 17,685	3,81,49,451	+ 25,30,168
Rohilk'd & Kumaon ..	24 weeks	13	259	41,618	+ 3,372	14,26,543	+ 1,69,767
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	24 weeks	13	514	41,173	+ 9,868	16,66,903	+ 1,48,164
South Indian	24 weeks	13	1,877	9,93,984	+ 44,162	2,25,23,395	+ 10,07,527

ARGENTINE (a).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
Argentine N.E.	14 weeks	Oct. 4	754	15,500	+ 3,700	174,700	+ 18,100
Argentine Trans.	15 weeks	11	1,362	162,000	+ 20,000	2,333,000	+ 366,000
B. A. and Pacific	15 weeks	11	3,948	200,000	+ 42,000	2,859,000	+ 489,000
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	15 weeks	11	Net	73,000	+ 29,000	968,000	+ 316,000
B. A. Western	15 weeks	11	1,882	91,000	+ 11,000	1,437,000	+ 323,000
Central Argentine	15 weeks	11	3,305	229,000	+ 18,000	3,306,000	+ 270,000
Cordoba Central	15 weeks	11	1,205	54,000	+ 1,000	1,033,600	+ 87,500
Entre Rios	15 weeks	11	729	19,900	+ 600	305,000	+ 40,400

CANADIAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
Canadian National ..	40 weeks	Oct. 7	22,680	4,882,363	+ 655,145	177,366,988	+ 8,308,088
Canadian Pacific	40 weeks	7	13,814	4,398,000	+ 578,000	135,662,000	+ 2,511,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	41 weeks	Oct. 11	1,011	12,100	+ 1,800	359,400	+ 16,300
Leopoldina	41 weeks	11	1,831	36,604	+ 9,036	1,225,209	+ 164,907
San Paulo	41 weeks	12	1,534	53,354	+ 22,094	1,609,978	+ 293,817

CHILEAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or —	1924.	+ or —
Antofagasta	41 weeks	Oct. 12	838	40,390	+ 8,120	1,544,915	+ 115,235
Nitrato (4-monthly) ..	39 weeks	Sept. 30	366	35,709	+ 18,663	720,235	+ 120,401

CUBAN.

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Interim Date of Final Div.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Lat's Pre-vious.
Railways.					
Atchison, Topeka, &c.	11%	Dec. 1	Quarterly	7	7
B.A. Great Southern	4 1/2%	Dec. 1	Less tax	7	7
Baltimore and Ohio	11%	Dec. 1	Quarterly	7	7
C. Uruguay E. Extension	11/2 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
C. Uruguay N. Extension	6 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	5	5
C. Uruguay Rly. of Montevideo	3 1/2%	Dec. 1	Less tax	4	4
Natal-Zululand	11/2 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	2 1/2	2 1/2
South Indian	11/2 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	8	8
Vera Cruz, 6% Cum. Pref.	4%	Dec. 1	(8 months to Dec., 1916)	1916	1916
Banks.					
Banco Nacional Ultramarino	6 1/2%	Oct. 20	Less tax	..	..
Bank of Adelaide	10%	Oct. 20	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Motor Union	4 p.a.	Oct. 28	Less tax	..	..
Northern	8 p.a.	Nov. 6	Less tax	..	..
Royal Exchange	8 p.a.	Nov. 6	Less tax	..	..
Do New Stock	2 1/2%	Nov. 6	Less tax	..	..
Scottish Union and National	4 p.a.	Nov. 6	Less tax	..	..
Do "A"	15 p.a.	Nov. 17	Tax free	..	..
World Marine and General	5%	Nov. 17	Tax free	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Batavia Rubber	5 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	10	10
Bukit Lintang Rubber	8 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	5	5
Cheras Rubber	5 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Galphele Tea	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Inch Kenneth Rubber	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Lethenty Tea	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Lunava	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Matutera	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
New Dimbulu Tea	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Strathisla Rubber	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Sungei Bahr Rubber	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Sungei Purun Rubber	2 1/2%	Oct. 28	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Mining.					
Arizona Copper	1/2 p.a.	Nov. 25	Tax free	..	..
Kamunting Tin	1 p.a.	Nov. 29	Tax free	..	..
Do	1 p.a.	Nov. 29	Tax free	..	..
Tekka-Tai Ping Tin	1 p.a.	Nov. 29	Tax free	..	..
Union Corporation	1/2 p.a.	Nov. 29	Tax free	..	..
Woluhut Gold	2 1/2%	Dec. 4	Subject to tax	5	5
Other Companies.					
Aberdeen Market Co.	6 1/2%	Oct. 21	Less tax	10	10
African Steamship	5%	Oct. 21	Less tax	..	..
A. J. Stevens	12%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Anglo-American Telegraph	15/2 p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Austin Reed	10%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Babcock and Wilcox	5%	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Baytree Spinning	5 p.a.	Dec. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Brazilian Traction	1%	Dec. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Brighton West Pier	2 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
Bristol United Breweries	2 p.a.	Dec. 1	Less tax	7 1/2	7 1/2
British Canadian Trust	10%	Nov. 3	Tax free	18	12 1/2
British South Africa Co.	10%	Nov. 3	Tax free	32	34
Bushell, Watkins, and Smith	10%	Nov. 3	Tax free	10	9
Caledonian Property Invest.	1 p.a.	Oct. 26	Less tax	..	..
Canada Company	2 1/2%	Oct. 26	Less tax	..	..
Cellulose Holding and Invest.	2 1/2%	Oct. 26	Less tax	..	..
Clydesdale Investment	12%	Nov. 14	Less tax	..	..
Consolidated Trust, Def.	5 1/2%	Nov. 14	Less tax	..	..
Dorking Gas, "A" and "B"	7%	Nov. 14	Less tax	..	..
Do "C"	7%	Nov. 14	Less tax	..	..
Do "D"	7%	Nov. 14	Less tax	..	..
Dubarry	15%	Nov. 1	(appears to June 30, 1922)	..	..
Dumont Coffee, Pref.	10%	Nov. 1	Less tax	12 1/2	10
First Scottish American Trust	10%	Nov. 1	Less tax	8	8
Frederick Leney and Sons	5 1/2%	Oct. 31	Less tax	23	30 p.a.
G. P. and J. Baker	2 1/2%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Greater Scales (Birmingham)	15 1/2%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Hankow Light and Power	4%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Do Deferred	4%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Holbrooks	4%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Ilfracombe Hotel	4%	Oct. 31	Less tax	..	..
Imperial Continental Gas	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Industrial and General Trust	10%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Investment Trust Corp. Def.	8 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Isle of Wight Electric	4%	Nov. 1	Tax free	..	..
Jabez, Johnson, Hodgkinson, and Pearson	10 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	15	15
J. and C. H. Evans and Co.	10%	Nov. 1	Tax free	10	10
Joseph Lines	12 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	20	20 p.a.
Joshua Perkins and Sons	10%	Nov. 1	Tax free	10	10
Joshua Watson	10%	Nov. 1	Tax free	10	10
Kern River Oilfields	10%	Nov. 1	Tax free	10	10
La Concordia Estancia	6 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	12	8
Lambert Bros.	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	17 1/2	20
Majestic Spinning	1 p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	10
Malton Farmers Manure	3 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	5	5
Montevideo Telephone	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	8	8
National and Foreign Securities	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	25	30
Novello and Co.	2%	Nov. 1	Quarterly	8	8
Pennmans	2%	Nov. 1	Quarterly	8	8
Piccardo Tobacco Co.	2%	Nov. 1	Quarterly	8	8
Pine Spinning	16 p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Realisation of Scotland, Ord.	2 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Do Def.	3 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Rosario Nitrate	2 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Royal Mail Steam Packet	2 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Salas del Carmen Nitrate	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Scottish Lands and Buildings	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Second Edinburgh Invest. Trust	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	15	15
Def.	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Second Mercantile Trust	5%	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Steel Co. of Canada	12%	Nov. 1	Quarterly	..	..
Swansea Wagon	10%	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	8
Teccha (Argentina) Land	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	18	18
Thomas Donne	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	18	18
"Times," Pref.	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	18	18
Do Ord.	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	18	18
Tongat Sugar	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	14	12 1/2
United Dairies	9 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	14	12 1/2
Val de Travers Asphalt	16 p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
Wallace Brothers	3 p.a.	Nov. 1	Less tax	..	..
William Longmore	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Tax free	20	20
Yokohama and Canadian Trust	5 1/2%	Nov. 1	Less tax	4	5

INTERNATIONAL LIGHT AND POWER.—There has been allocated the sum of £20,079 for the payment of 15 months' arrears of preference dividend. Since the close of the year under review a further payment has been made of one year's preference dividend, making a total of 27 months paid since December last, and leaving only 15 months in arrears up to the date of the accounts.

OWEN OWEN, LIMITED, have decided not to pay an interim dividend this half-year upon the "A" and "B" preference shares.

SAN PAULO COFFEE.—Final dividends of 5 per cent. are proposed on the preferred and deferred shares, making 15 per cent. for the year on both classes of shares, leaving a balance of £22,346 to be carried forward. The preferred shares are entitled to a cumulative dividend of 7 per cent., and to half remaining profits, after deferred shares have received 7 per cent. For 1922 the dividend on both classes of shares was 7 per cent. respectively.

UNITED STEEL COMPANIES.—No dividend is being paid on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and it is now in arrears as from January 1, 1922.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

UNITED STEEL COMPANIES.

June 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with June 30, 1923.	ASSETS.		Compared with June 30, 1923.
Amount.	£		Amount.	£	
Ordinary shares	8,006,549	..	Land, minerals, &c.	4,130,295	.. 15,548
Pref. shares	1,317,516	..	Goodwill	816,930	.. 51,445
Deb. capital	2,410,838	.. 16,900	Sundry stocks	664,516	.. 666
Mortgages & loans	243,998	.. 23,584	Wagons	170,950	.. 68,333
Ten-year notes	1,025,622	.. 22	Cash	136,461	.. 118,434
Reserves	990,977	.. 27,172	Sundry debtors	855,401	.. 147,880
Creditors	842,092	.. 382,619	Advances to associated cos.	2,861,517	.. 394,897
Advances by associated cos.	558,031	.. 370,430	Investments	6,408,308	.. 36,265
Profit and loss	903,082	.. 235,933	Trustees for deb. holders	194,387	.. 36,265
Total	16,298,765	.. 529,450	Total	16,298,765	.. 529,450

BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN, AND CO.

June 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		Compared with June 30, 1923.	ASSETS.		Compared with June 30, 1923.
Amount.	£		Amount.	£	
Shares 20s paid	3,164,060	..	Lands, buildings, mines, & other properties	5,552,065	.. 15,765
Shares 20s (12s pd.)	1,116,540	..	Investments	1,753,863	.. 66,836
Pref. shares	472,080	..	Stocks on hand	1,160,267	.. 153,279
Amounts owing on debentures and interest	2,070,000	.. 8,748	Royalties	60,189	.. 27,351
Loans & deposits	127,551	.. 151,766	Sundry debtors	317,839	.. 45,289
Pref. share div.	1,455,379	.. 165,210	Loans and advances	225,161	.. 501
Sundry cred. div.	153,631	.. 131	Cash and bills	2,781	.. 47,500
Insur. reserves	83,725	.. 19,759	Underwriting commission and discount on 6% deb.	..	..
Repairs, &c.	429,168	.. 70,832			
Reserve	..	.. 24,616			
Profit and loss	..	..			
Total	9,072,134	.. 64,177	Total	9,072,134	.. 64,177

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Oss.	Oss.	\$	\$
Akim, Limited	5,523	..	..	..	104		
Associated Gold	5,523	..	..	..		(a) 5,488	..
Associated of W. Australia		..	..	..		6,488	..
Fairbanks Gold	9,382	..	..	..	890		
Gt. Boulder Proprietary	5,560	..	..	..		(a) 22,517	..
Loneley Reef	21,276	..	..	..	3,693		(c) 7,392
Oriental Cons. (Aug.)		..	..	..		\$102,687	\$35,016
Oroville Dredging— Pato (15 days to Oct. 14th)	5,530	..	..	..		\$31,141	
Oroya Links	8,745	883	..	..		\$12,295	
Prestes	1,609	..	..	..		(b) 15,084	
Santa Gertrudis	51,715	..	..	..		\$3,405	
Do Inversiones	56,000	..	..	..		35,132	9,580
Shamva	4,995	..	..	..		\$50,500	
Vipond							

(a) Par value. (b) Including premium. (c) 91s per oz fine net.

	Output.		Other Notes in Return.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Copper.				
Falcon	239	..	Bilister copper; 2,457 ozs gold; 5,107 ozs silver.	..
Measina	532	..	Copper, 458 tons copper ingots.	..
Namagua	245	..	Bilister copper.	..
Tin.				
Aramayo	217	..	Silver, 125,000 ozs.	..
Ex-Lands Nigeria	30	..	Tin concentrates.	..
Gold Coast Cons.	43	..	..	..
Kingsdown	..	..	22,550 tin concentrates; 21,350—3,900 crude arsenic.	..
Coal.				
Lower Bisloli	12	..	Despatch, 48 tons.	..
Naraguta	45	..	..	..
Nigerian Base Metal	12	..	..	..
Reong	461	..	..	..
South Bukuru	8	..	..	..
Yarde Kerri	2	..	..	..
Miscellaneous.				
East Kent	4,784	..	Week ended Oct. 11th.	..
Kesley Silver	..	..	125,105 ozs silver.	..

NORTH BROKEN HILL, LIMITED.—For the month of September the production was as follows:—35,870 tons of ore were treated, producing 6,660 tons lead concentrates, averaging 62.8 per cent. lead, 28.3 ozs silver per ton, and 7.7 per cent. zinc; also 5,730 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47.3 per cent. zinc, 6.6 per cent. lead, and 8 ozs silver per ton.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER.—During September 4,360 tons of ore were produced, 3,806 tons of ore, with approximately 1,100 tons of quartz flux added, were melted, producing 484 tons copper matte, assaying 31 per cent. Matte as drawn from furnace averaged 35 per cent. reduced to 31 per cent. by fuming in sand mould; to prevent this steel moulds are being provided. Operations still much hindered by barely sufficient water for vigorous smelting programme.

ZINC CORPORATION.—September: Lead concentrator treated 18,464 tons of ore, producing 3,862 tons of lead concentrates and 3,863 tons of zinc concentrates. Estimated gross profit with lead at 244 per ton, 215,553. Increase (or decrease) each £1 fluctuation in price of lead, 23,541.

Reports and Notices.

Lt.-Col. the Hon. Clive Bigham, C.M.G., C.B.E., has been appointed a director of the National Provident Institution to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lord Ailwyn.

Messrs C. L. Kettridge and Co., incorporated accountants, have opened branches of their business at 7 Avenue Edward VII., Shanghai, and at 714 Standard Bank Building, Vancouver, B.C.

Messrs John Gibbs, Son, and Smith, of 11 Copthall court, London, E.C.2, announce that they have taken into partnership Mr John Fraser Rutherford.

Messrs C. M. Lampson and Co. announce that Mr Samuel C. Cole has retired, after 38 years of devoted service, and will therefore no longer sign for the firm. Mr William E. C. Drewett is authorised to sign for the firm by procuration.

RAILWAYS.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN.—Gross receipts for year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £10,899,175, against £9,586,880 in preceding year. Working expenses amounted to £6,562,843, against £5,942,967. Net receipts amounted to £4,296,331, against £3,643,913. Exchange loss on remittances was £755,733, against £401,293. The dividend on the ordinary stock is again 7 per cent. for the year.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE.—The gross receipts for year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £11,360,047, against £10,655,819 for preceding year. Working expenses amounted to £7,520,674, against £7,210,763. Net receipts are £3,839,373, against £3,445,056. The ordinary and deferred stockholders again receive 6 per cent.

BANKS.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK.—The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, amounts to £425,908. The sum of £337,661 is brought forward from previous year, making a total of £763,569 available. The dividend for the year is 10 per cent., less tax, absorbing £338,468. The sum of £425,000 is added to the staff pension fund, while £50,000 is applied in reduction of bank premises account, and a balance of £350,101 is carried forward.

BAKER, DUNCOMBE, AND CO., LIMITED.—Balance-sheet, September 30, 1924:—

LIABILITIES.		£	ASSETS.		£
Capital—32,000 fully paid "A" shares of £5 each	..	160,000	Investments—5% Treasury Bonds, 4 1/2% Treasury Bonds, £1,000,000	..	995,000

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.		
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Preferential.	Ordinary.	Rate.			
Banks.										
Anglo-South American.....	June 30	337,661	375,908	£ 713,569	..	338,468	10	£ 25,000	350,101	436,256
Northern Banking	Aug. 30	50,247	148,425	198,672	..	82,452	17 1/2	50,000	66,220	..
Breweries.										
Highland Distilleries	Aug. 31	23,645	69,326	92,971	..	44,625	25 1/2	25,000	23,346	41,512
William Longmore	Sept. 30	5,307	11,733	17,040	..	7,000	20 1/2	4,000	6,040	10,082
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Bolckow-Vaughan and Co.	June 30	24,816	Dr 186,846	Dr 161,530	11,802	..	..	Dr 173,332	..	Dr 466,115
Charles Roberts and Co.	June 30	14,371	31,864	46,235	..	20,815	10 1/2	14,000	11,420	..
Lambert Brothers	June 30	94,691	142,809	237,500	13,750	131,250	17 1/2	92,500	164,610	20
United Steel Companies	June 30	666,149	370,509	1,036,658	..	..	..	133,577	903,081	348,032
Financial, Land.										
British New Guinea Development	Jan. 31	Dr 2,426	3,106	680	..	..	..	680	..	..
City of San Paulo Improvements..	Feb. 29	54,812	31,415	86,227	..	..	..	86,227	..	..
Oil.										
Kern River Oilfields	May 31	56,123	232,149	288,272	..	150,000	12 1/2	..	138,272	196,556
Rubber, &c.										
Banteng (Selangor)	April 30	16,477	4,847	21,324	..	9,900	10	..	11,424	12,146
Bukit Lintang	June 30	596	1,205	1,801	..	1,550	5	..	251	4,036
Inch Kenneth	June 30	848	2,391	3,239	..	1,744	7 1/2	..	1,495	2,615
Straits Plantations	June 30	9,310	17,067	26,377	..	15,000	12 1/2	1,600	9,777	12,415
Strathisla (Perak)	June 30	9,061	11,626	20,687	..	1,745	2 1/2	1,000	8,881	3,049
Sungkai-Chumar	June 30	30,821	5,059	35,880	..	4,993	5	1,000	29,887	13,495
Textiles.										
Jabez Johnson, Hodgkinson.	July 31	25,120	38,968	64,088	6,000	18,000	15	10,000	18,088	52,996
Trusts.										
British Canadian	Aug. 31	6,582	19,034	25,616	4,488	7,979	8	6,000	7,149	14,430
Other Companies.										
Dumort Coffee	Dec. 31	11,958	162,663	174,621	60,000	..	..	114,621	Dr 106,74	..
Eastern Chemical	Mar. 31	Dr 1,968	Dr 5,855	Dr 7,823	..	..	..	..	5,973	20,989
Glenboig Union Fire Clay	Aug. 31	10,156	13,255	23,411	..	17,438	15	..	25,524	118,037
Smithfield and Argentine Meat ..	Dec. 31	Dr 288,589	264,113	25,476	12,600	30,015	10	22,000	49,466	59,253
Stuttard and Co.	July 31	46,995	67,086	114,081	12,600	30,015	10	22,000	49,466	59,253

† Free of tax.

flaked 21s, rolled oats 20s 6d, medium and fine cut 20s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 20s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s 6d to 21s per cwt. Millers' offals, firm. Broad bran quoted at 10s, middlings 10s 3d, fine ditto 13s, bags included, ex mill, light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 3d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, ground oats, 15s 3d per cwt, free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Oct. 11	Cwts. 300,308	Cwts. 487,436	Cwts. 488,610	Cwts. 568,260
6 weeks to Oct. 11	1,220,010	2,558,005	2,076,781	2,546,617
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 3	s d 8 11	s d 9 0	s d 12 2

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Oct. 4	Cwts. 285,005	Cwts. 559,221	Cwts. 107,122	s d 12 1	s d 17 6	s d 9 9
Oct. 11	300,308	576,301	120,182	12 3	17 3	10 1
1920	354,236	432,461	80,841	21 1	25 0	19 11
1921	368,259	465,718	50,469	12 2	15 1	9 8
1922	488,614	282,482	91,073	9 1	10 8	9 0
1923	487,438	513,930	100,203	8 11	10 6	8 8

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 16th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business, on the whole, is still quiet, with very little prospect of any improvement now until the result of the General Election is known. Meantime, makers are endeavouring to maintain 80s as the nominal price of No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., although something less than this would be taken by second-hands. The hematite position is also lifeless, and whilst mixed numbers East Coast hematite is still quoted by some makers at 88s, business could not doubt be done at 87s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: With the exception of a fairly large order for steel plates received by one of the local works, trade is only moderate, but with the reduction of 10s per ton in the home price of steel ship and boiler plates, joists and angles, it is hoped that some further orders will be placed. Quotations are now as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s per ton; steel ship angles, £9 10s per ton; iron bars, £12 10s

per ton; steel rails, £9 per ton. Iron ore: The position shows very little, if any, improvement, and the sellers' price of best Bilbao Rubio remains at 21s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Reductions in pig-iron prices have not resulted in any appreciable increase in orders. There is very little moving, and even on a restricted output makers are finding difficulty in disposing of stocks. There is, however, slightly more interest in the market this week, and values having reached bottom, an early improvement is hoped for. The shipments from Glasgow last week totalled almost 520 tons, of which about 480 tons were on foreign account; for the corresponding week of last year shipments were 1,813 and 1,604 tons respectively. In the steel trade a few small export lines have been secured, but works still complain of lack of tonnage. The outstanding event of the week in this branch is the reduction in the nominal home prices. For eighteen months the basis for ship plates has been £10 5s per ton, and in many quarters the opinion has been expressed that a reduction is long overdue. The revised prices are as follows:—Ship plates, £9 15s per ton; boiler plates, £13 per ton; angles, 7 united inches and up, £9 10s per ton. Sheet makers on Tuesday followed with 10s per ton reduction on 1 1/2 and heavier, 15s per ton on 18-20 gauge, and 20s per ton on lighter than 20 gauge. Inquiries for sheets have not been quite so numerous. Japan is still holding off, and galvanised corrugated sheet makers, although well booked, report a slackening of demand. Bar iron makers are steadily employed, but on a basis considerably below capacity. It is reported this week that the Glasgow firm of Messrs. Melville, Dundas, and Whitson are the contractors for the new silk works to be constructed at Woverhampton for Messrs. Courtaulds, of Coventry. It is understood the cost of this contract will be about one and a half millions.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The downward trend of pig-iron does not appear to have run its course, as there has been a further reduction since our last report. Prices have also fallen since coke prices were reduced, but in this respect the market has probably reached bottom. Derbyshire foundry iron is now quoted at £4 2s 6d at furnaces. Matters could scarcely be worse in the open hearth steel department, as no forward contracts have been booked for a long period, nor are there any signs of a revival of buying. The figures relating to railway material were down. Imports registered an increase on the month of about 30,000 tons, mostly pig-iron and billets. The tool steel branch, which tapered off in August, has not yet recovered. Business is brisk in both the home and export markets in tools used on the land and for contractors' work, and the building trade is providing a great amount of work for makers of tools, stove grates, rain water goods, water fittings, and various light castings. The cutlery and plate branches, too, are busier to-day than for two years or more. Nothing very cheerful can be reported of the coal and coke industry, as, despite the reduced production, stocks at

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended September 30.		Nine Months Ended September 30.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	7,836,588	10,702,240	71,970,306	81,509,458
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	411,046	684,539	4,784,876	5,557,048
C. Meat	8,653,408	8,912,259	85,874,319	80,942,097
D. Animals, living, for food	1,301,635	2,212,042	7,309,563	15,506,160
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	9,972,507	12,500,974	109,041,767	119,419,171
F. " " dutiable	8,891,338	10,047,308	82,534,051	90,415,335
G. Tobacco	985,992	884,159	10,630,993	10,097,988
Total, Class I.	38,056,514	45,973,521	371,645,875	403,447,237
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	237	504	7,793	10,821
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	481,419	377,402	4,293,383	4,371,978
C. Iron ore and scrap	472,734	634,643	5,908,419	6,353,408
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	762,623	1,079,562	9,138,643	11,405,944
E. Wood and timber	5,804,375	33,448,489	36,245,311	36,245,311
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	4,311,347	5,296,209	47,603,135	74,749,192
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woolen rags	1,617,703	3,718,344	41,384,528	58,020,933
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	138,884	1,281,406	1,129,107	1,310,657
I. Other textile materials	467,009	738,792	7,564,110	9,176,402
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, & gums	5,291,768	4,054,361	34,138,418	38,361,165
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,744,724	1,908,915	12,664,960	16,098,405
L. Paper-making materials	1,521,074	1,127,658	8,577,021	8,235,653
M. Rubber	1,757,949	736,876	8,449,568	6,894,748
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,186,802	1,433,683	7,686,274	7,854,651
Total, Class II.	23,578,648	27,324,821	222,059,648	279,689,268
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	92	36	10,938	4,580
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	665,121	730,327	5,447,481	6,265,967
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,255,186	1,880,738	10,297,072	16,476,897
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,988,607	2,886,276	18,124,190	24,979,788
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	564,346	668,587	5,085,472	5,493,927
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	217,228	328,395	1,641,108	2,167,560
G. Machinery	764,855	739,352	6,972,978	7,751,978
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	364,436	523,499	3,377,237	3,894,528
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	715,561	841,518	6,573,185	6,761,314
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,009,728	1,280,543	8,577,468	11,158,854
K. Silk and silk manufactures	2,082,476	2,405,954	16,364,824	18,948,511
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,222,890	1,471,572	10,329,078	12,104,634
M. Apparel	1,643,180	1,989,862	12,614,334	14,075,132
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,023,552	1,317,012	9,938,313	10,880,693
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	2,013,781	3,412,577	26,865,903	30,611,545
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,034,950	1,267,267	8,833,431	10,402,436
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,301,496	1,397,132	9,587,321	10,404,393
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	385,427	904,101	5,610,374	6,938,147
S. Rubber manufactures	269,748	449,269	3,889,146	3,475,305
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,351,734	2,473,297	19,423,460	18,853,049
Total, Class III.	20,874,394	27,027,314	189,442,313	221,449,238
IV.—Animals, not for food	265,320	329,096	1,065,123	1,767,197
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles ..	397,044	240,478	2,878,196	3,002,427
Total	83,171,920	100,895,230	787,091,155	909,355,367

accumulating at many of the pits, and prices of second-class fuel are in a state of disorganisation. Shipments to the Continent have dropped to a small volume, whereas the former overseas buyers of British coal are taking increased tonnages. Gas and house coal are quiet. The home consumption of coke has shrunk with the stoppage of numerous blast furnaces, but there is a rather better demand for foundry coke. The coal market quotations are merely nominal as a rule. Best South Yorkshire steams are worth about 20s, but parcels of nuts and smalls are being offered at cut rates. Blast furnace coke is 16s 9d per ton at ovens upwards, and the two qualities of foundry coke at 35s and 30s at ovens.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—This week there have been indications of an improving undertone on the Cardiff coal market. Prices have been steadier, the volume of exports slightly greater, and inquiries a little more active. The quotations for dry steam and sized coals have even slightly advanced, while the best Admiralty large descriptions have experienced less difficulty in obtaining their minimum prices than for some weeks past. Very few contracts have been entered into over next year. Collieries have been more disinclined than in any other post-war autumn period to sell ahead except at prices appreciably above the current market quotations, and contractors have been hopeful that they would be able to compel the collieries to meet them. The action of one or two of the French railways in asking for tenders over next year has stimulated other inquiries, but while none of these have yet resulted in any considerable business they have introduced into the market a feeling of greater confidence. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; second, 25s to 26s; best drys, 27s 6d to 28s; black veins, 24s 6d to 25s; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 23s 6d; best bunker smalls, 14s to 15s; ordinary cargo smalls, 11s 2s 6d; coking smalls, 14s 6d to 15s; anthracite big vein, large, to 13s; coking smalls, 14s 6d to 15s; 36s; machine-made cobbles, 50s to 52s 6d; French nuts, 58s 6d to 60s; stove nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; 55s to 58s 6d; French nuts, 58s 6d to 60s; coke for export, 50s; inland blast-rubblly culm, 11s 9d to 12s 3d; coke for export, 50s; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 26s to 28s; pitwood, ex ship, 26s 6d to 27s.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended September 30.		Nine Months Ended September 30.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	389,852	682,822	3,078,514	5,111,562
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	141,791	215,294	1,236,874	2,144,338
C. Meat	122,867	148,138	916,158	1,131,580
D. Animals living, for food	18,320	22,881	117,696	204,844
E. Other food and drink	2,646,982	3,577,764	20,154,637	25,838,932
F. " " dutiable	690,366	518,385	4,954,317	4,995,710
G. Tobacco	..	..	..	..
Total, Class I.	4,010,178	5,095,342	30,458,196	39,426,996
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	7,824,126	5,738,364	75,395,567	55,837,606
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	155,379	152,838	1,373,601	1,566,69

LONDON, FRIDAY.		DRUGS—		INDIA RUBBER—		PROVISIONS—		SPICES—	
COCA.—Duty, British grown	9 4d.	Opium, fine R.L. p. cwt/100	15 10 0	Latex, 1st and 2nd spec.	1 41 8 0	Butter—per cwt.	2 6 0	Pepper, lb.	9 2 0 0
3rd duty, per cwt.	70 0 80	Balm, Peru . . . per lb	6 12 6	Plantation crop . . .	1 42 0 0	Irish creamery . . .	2 6 0	Muntok, fair white	9 2 0 0
Grenada	64 62 6	Capivi	1 4 1 0			Do factory	2 76 0	Black Singapore . .	9 51 0 0
Steylon, plantation . .	10 11 5	Camphor—				White	2 92 0	Sumatra	9 44 0 0
Java	75 62 6	Do refined	2 2 0 0	INDIGO—per lb—		Argentine	1 96 0	Onamson—1st sort . .	1 8 0 0
Rahis, finest	47 6 48 6	Cardamom, Ceylon . .	6 8 0 0	Bengal, special red vio-		Dutch	2 240 0	Do 2nd	1 7 0 0
COFFEE—British grown		Cardamom, China prlb	4 8 0 0	let to fine	6 3 6 9	New Zealand	2 2 0 0	Do 3rd	1 6 0 0
4d. foreign 14s. cwt.	145 8	Castor oil, fine	85 0 0	Mid. ord. low to good	6 6 0 0	Madras, do less good	2 3 0 0	Olives—Jaffa	55 0 0 0
Indian, second quality	125 0	Oil, Sesame	18 0 0	Low to good ord.	3 9 0 0	Do low to good ord.	1 0 0 0	Cassia—Zanzibar . .	1 1 1 2
Do good 14s. 18s.	145 8	Oil, Mustard	11 0 0	Do low to ord.	1 0 0 0	American	1 10 11 2	Peanut	2 2 4 0
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	134 0	Oil, Camellia	3 9 6 0	Kurpah, sd. mid. to gd.	8 0 0 0	Canadian	1 10 11 2	Do 2nd	1 3 1 0
Good to fine	169 0 150 0	Oil, Olive	2 6 2 0	Low to mid	8 0 0 0	Hams—Irish	nom	Cochin, small rough	8 6 0 0
Central America, ord.	135 0	Peppermint, Wayne	27 8 8 0			Canadian	nom	Do wormy	6 0 0 0
Mid. to fine	156 0 140 0	Salt, Brine	3 0 6 3	HEMP—per ton—	5 8 0 0	Do	114 0	Java	26 0 0 0
Colombian, ordinary 100	117 0	Do	110 0	Italian P. C.	52 0 0	American, 1st	96 0	Java, ord. to good 160	6 180 0
Do to do	135 0	Do	110 0	Manila, 1st	96 0	Do	98 0	Mace	10 3 6 0
Colombian, ordinary 100	117 0	Do	110 0	N.Z., high point, fair,	45 0	Do	98 0	Nutmeg, 60s	2 8 0 0
Do to do	135 0	Do	110 0	Nov.-Jan.	45 0	Fork—per 8 lbs . . .	4 6 7 4	Do 100 and 60s . .	2 8 0 0
Do mid. to fine	140 0 115 0	Do	110 0			Beef—Frozen per lb	2 4 6 0	Onions—per cwt . . .	40 0 80 0
CHEMICALS—		Do	110 0	JUTE—		Booth	2 4 6 0	TALLOW—per cwt.	
Acid, citric . . . per lb	1 2 2 1 4 4	Do	110 0	Native 1st marks	48 10	Swiss-New Zealand .	62 0 96 0	Good mutton . . .	50 6 0 0
Nitric	8 4 0 0	Do	110 0	Sept. Oct.	48 10	Eng. Cheddars . . .	10 112 0	Beef	49 6 0 0
Sulphuric	8 4 0 0	Do	110 0	LEATHER—per lb—		Oshshire	10 131 0	TAPIOCA—per lb—	
Carbon	1 4 0 0	Do	110 0	Black	1 3 1 10	Do	10 131 0	1st Flake, fair, spot	3 0 4 0
Foreign	0 114 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1812	1 3 2 2	Wap. pr 180—English	24 25 0	Medium Pearl . . .	25 6 38 0
Alum lump, per ton 180	110 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1813	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	Best	25 6 38 0
Do ground	111 18 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1814	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	TEA—duty 3-1-3d, Brit.	
Ammonia, 24 lbs . . .	15 15 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1815	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	foreign 4d. per lb—	
Sulphate	14 0 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1816	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	Indian and Ceylon .	9 4 0 0
Argentine, lump, per ton	85 0 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1817	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	Pekoe	1 74 3 0
Powder	85 0 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1818	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	Do 2nd	1 74 3 0
Asbestos	70 0 0	Do	110 0	Do do 1819	1 3 2 2	Do	24 25 0	Orange Pekoe . . .	1 54 2 0
Pearl do do	70 0 0	Do	110 0	Do do 182					

CANNED GOODS.—Market firm on spot, with only small supplies

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

THERE has been a good deal of disturbance this week owing to the after effects of the lock-up due to the German loan. A small amount was borrowed from the Bank of England on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, when a large sum was due for repayment, part of it had to be renewed, in spite of assistance in the form of purchases of December Treasury bills. Discount rates have been hard; there was a moderate demand for bank bills on Continental

account, Germany being now added to the list of European buyers, but three months' bills were not taken freely at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Yesterday's batch of Treasury bills was placed at a slightly lower rate than had been anticipated, but the result did not affect the market.

	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase in the Reserve of £548,000, of which £544,000 was due to the return of notes from circulation. Other securities declined by £1,455,000, but there was a small increase in Government securities. Public deposits rose by £2,702,000, and Other deposits were £3,381,000 lower on balance. Currency notes outstanding were reduced this week by £1,871,600 to £285,218,300, which includes £1,366,400 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £234,401,900, or £13,789,000 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Buoyancy has been the keynote of the stock markets this week, and although scarcity of supply of stock has been partly responsible for some of the sharp rises which have occurred, there has been quite a considerable amount of business transacted. Gilt-edged stocks have been good under the lead of Five per Cent. War Loan, but Home Rails, though slightly better, have received only moderate support. Interest in the foreign market has centred in dealings in the new German loan, which opened on Tuesday at $2\frac{1}{2}$ premium, and quickly rose to over 5. The rise to nearly 15 6d in the price of the raw material has produced great activity in rubber shares, and the oil market is stronger on talk of a rise in the price of crude oil. Industrials generally have been active, but business in mining shares has not been very large.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Business in the cotton trade during the week has been rather irregular; in some quarters there is an expectation of lower values. Wool is firm, but buyers of piece goods still act with caution. The pig-iron market is adversely affected by the General Election, and our Middlesbrough correspondent states that ironmasters are not prepared to make further losses by reducing prices. In manufactured iron and steel recent reductions have not brought on much business, except for constructional steel. Our Sheffield correspondent writes that the outlook is regarded as brighter for the iron and steel industries. Towards the end of the week the wheat market developed weakness. Linseed oil is easy. Tea was inclined to be easier. Further details of the commodity markets will be found on later pages from special correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The coincidence of elections in Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Sweden, and Jugo-Slavia seems to have restricted business for a time to the narrowest limits, so that extreme dullness characterised the foreign exchange market during the week. Apart from the continued strength of sterling against the dollar, and the absence of any appearance of resistance in the French franc, the most conspicuous feature of the week was perhaps the sharp appreciation of the Roumanian leu. Opening at 4.48 $\frac{1}{2}$, the dollar rate advanced sharply to 4.50 on Tuesday, and 4.51 on Wednesday. There was subsequently a reaction against these rather high levels, which seem to have been hardly justified by any of the known material factors, and the rate moved back to 4.49 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Thursday. Yesterday this tendency continued, and the rate was quoted at 4.49 $\frac{1}{2}$. The slight improvement on balance during the week, and the maintained strength of

sterling against seasonal precedent, may be attributed to the continuance of American bullishness on our election prospects, and of further American investments in British securities on account of the better rates obtainable here as compared with at home. As against this, there was a certain buying of dollars in connection with the American section of the German loan. Paris opened on a weak note at 85.80; an improvement to 85.55 was followed by reaction, and yesterday the quotation was 86.10. The further rumours of an internal loan, which became more precise as time went on, seem unlikely, if true, to bring about any improvement, as they appear to agree, chiefly in one particular, the arduous conditions under which it must be obtained. Brussels was slightly weaker at 93.70 yesterday, as against 93.35 at the beginning of the period under review, and the same tendency is traceable in the lira at 103.60, as against the opening rate of 102.90. Although both moved in sympathy with the French franc, the absence of the same causes of weakness as have affected Paris enabled them to break away, and there seems to be no reason, under present conditions, why they should be affected in a similar degree. Madrid only moved slightly from 33.44 to 33.46, although there was a reaction to 33.52 for the day only on Wednesday; Christiania recovered from last week's set-back, due to her banking troubles, and is better on balance at 31.48. Sweden has remained sluggish at about 16.86-16.90 throughout, and Berlin, Warsaw, and Vienna are all practically unchanged. The leu appreciated sharply from 815 to 780, but reacted, probably on profit-taking, to 790 on Thursday. Renewed strength was shown yesterday with the rate at 780. This tendency is probably due to the favourable figures of export of Roumania's grain harvest, coupled with the local sale of foreign currencies obtained for such export. None of the other European currencies call for remark, except Amsterdam, which improved sharply on Tuesday to 11.41 $\frac{1}{2}$ from 11.46 $\frac{1}{2}$ the previous day, as a result, it is stated in some quarters, of transactions connected with the German loan. At 11.44 yesterday the rate is better on balance for the week. The South American exchanges were featureless throughout, Buenos Aires remaining at about 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ -45, Monte Video at 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ -48, and Valparaiso at 39.30 all the week. As regards the Far East, the rupee was firm throughout at 1s 6d, or a little over, and shows little sign of weakening. The Hong Kong rate is a shade lower at 2s 5d than at the opening; Shanghai rather better at 3s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Singapore unchanged at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The yen is a little better on balance at 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, having remained fairly steady at about this level throughout.

The silver market has seen a little more movement, but though there have been almost daily fluctuations, these have been small, and the general tone is steady. Continental buying for minting purposes seems to have fallen off, as a result of high-price levels, but both buying and selling took place on China account. With India inactive, and with less demand anticipated by the bazaars, future prospects seem a little uncertain, though falling rates would probably bring buyers quickly into the market again with steadying results.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 18th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	8,530	From Revenue	17,446
Interest, &c., on Debt	5,541		
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	427		
Increase in Exchequer balances	371		
Reduction in Debt	1,977		
	17,446		17,446

The Revenue for the week was £17,446,000, as compared with £17,214,780 for the corresponding period of last year. Customs were down at £1,189,000, against £2,003,000, but Excise was higher at £8,971,000, against £8,386,000. Receipts from stamps were up by £700,000, having reached the figure of £990,000. Property and Income-tax was well maintained at £3,676,000, as compared with £2,673,000, but Super-tax, at £350,000, was lower than the corresponding figure for last year by £10,000. Ordinary Receipts amounted to £210,000, against the sum of £272,780 for last year, while Special Receipts were nil, against

£900,000. The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £1,976,891, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	4,000
National Savings Certificates	200
Public Department Advances	2,700
Bank of England Advances	3,250
National War Bonds repaid	200
Sundries	27
	+ 4,200
	— 6,177

The floating debt was reduced by £1,940,000 to £791,949,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to October 18).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	414,319,927	Raised by Revenue ..	388,410,721
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,509,770
		Amount borrowed ..	22,399,436
Total	414,319,927	Total	414,319,927
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include a review of German unemployment statistics since the Armistice.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

FREE TRADE IN THE ELECTION.

BEFORE our next issue appears, the deluge of oratory with which the country is being flooded, and much of which, though emanating from the platform, is, unfortunately, of the street corner variety, will have ceased, and we shall know how far the constitution of the House of Commons has been changed by this unwanted and unnecessary appeal to the electorate. As the National Reform Union points out in a manifesto issued this week, when Mr Baldwin appealed to the country eleven months ago, there was at least the satisfaction of obtaining, at the cost, perhaps, of a million sterling, a decisive verdict from the electors upon a question of enormous importance—the tariff question. But now we have no clear-cut issue. Of the programmes of the three parties, that of the Liberal Party is the least indefinite, and, at any rate, puts forward a constructive land policy and new proposals as regards coal and power as an alternative to Socialism. The Labour Party has no new proposals, but their programme is not lacking in promises of all sorts of palliatives with which it is hoped to catch the ear of the unemployed elector, while the Conservatives have made not "tranquillity," but "stability" their slogan. We are conscious that any reference to the Protectionist past of Mr Baldwin and his associates—and more especially to his disastrous plunge into a general tariff a year ago—is regarded as tactless and even indelicate in the best Conservative circles. Whenever in a humble voice we venture to refer to these evidences of instability—in the recent past—we are sternly told that the past is past, and that Protection is no longer an issue of the election. The dominant issue is now claimed to be the desire of the country for a "stable" Government which the plungers of a year ago alone are able to provide if returned in sufficient force. On the principle that reformed rakes make the most faithful of husbands, the Conservatives and Unionists ask for a renewal of the confidence given to

Mr Bonar Law in 1922 and thrown away by Mr Baldwin in 1923. Having plunged upon Protection once with disastrous results, are we, they blandly ask, likely to try the expensive game a second time?

The truth, which cannot be concealed, is that the party of Mr Baldwin is as much in love with tariffs and Imperial preference and food taxes as it was twelve months ago. Nothing is changed except the means by which the end may be achieved. The frontal attack, the claim that tariffs alone can cure unemployment, has been given up, but the tariffs remain as a goal to be worked for by sapping and mining the Free Trade policy of this country. Mr Baldwin, made cautiously by experience, talks mildly of safeguarding efficient industries by special measures against unfair foreign competition, and waves the flag of Imperial Preference. To Mr Baldwin's hints of "safeguarding," the North-Western Free Trade Union has made an apt retort. "By the means he seeks authority to apply," it points out, "he cannot safeguard the employment or standard of living of the 130,000 coal-miners who are working directly for export, or of the 300,000 additional coal-miners whose product goes to the making of iron and steel and other manufactures that are exported. The means he proposes to employ will do nothing for the iron and steel workers, two-thirds of whose output, directly or indirectly, is for the foreign market; for the cotton operative, who exports three-quarters of his produce; for the engineering worker, 60 per cent. of whose output goes abroad; or for more than half the workers in shipbuilding, woollen and worsted, chemicals, and a dozen other industries, in all of which there is a preponderance of exports; or for shipping and transport workers, whose livelihood depends essentially on freedom of trade. Still less can his policy confer any benefit, even a sectional benefit, on the workers in industries which are not subject to foreign competition at all, the 700,000 building operatives, the 600,000 railway workers, the host of workers in public utilities, gas and electricity supply, the food trades, printing and publishing, the shopkeeping and other distributive trades, Government and municipal service. Only a small fraction of the community could benefit, even in the unlikely event of the policy succeeding in its aims. On the other hand, the taxation of imported foodstuffs and raw materials which the policy necessarily involves, would handicap the export industries and lower the standard of life in the industries that are not subject to foreign competition, with no compensating benefits." Most of the candidates who own Mr Baldwin as their leader say as little as they may about safeguarding "efficient industries." The Empire is a subject less harmful to their prospects. But in Birmingham, the Mecca of the modern Tariff Reformers, the true gospel is preached with all the old Chamberlain rigour. Mr Neville Chamberlain is nowadays the leading prophet. For him victory means the re-establishment of the McKenna duties, a new Safeguarding of Industries Act, and the Imperial Preference proposals of 1923 with all their new food taxes which the country rejected when Mr Baldwin appealed to it last November. The Birmingham School has not abated a jot of its demands for a tariff and it has upon the Conservative leaders at least as decisive an influence as the extremists of Glasgow have upon the Labour Ministers. It was that Birmingham influence which caused the Lords to throw out the Lloyd George Budget of 1909, and which drove Mr Baldwin into the abyss of dissolution in 1923. In Birmingham the raw truth may be told; elsewhere the tariff gospel needs to be watered to suit local tastes. But should the electors, in their desire for stable Government, give Mr Baldwin a working majority over the two other parties, Birmingham pressure would soon stretch Mr Baldwin's safeguarding of industries to dimensions indistinguishable from those of a general tariff. And the working classes of this country, upon whom rising food prices already press hardly, would find themselves called upon to subsidise comparatively wealthy Dominion food producers in the sacred name of Imperial Preference. Upon this most important subject Mr Baldwin on Thursday delivered two "pledges," totally inconsistent the one with the other. He declared that the Unionist Party stood by its Imperial Preference pledges to the Dominion representatives last summer—with the long Conference

list of new food taxes—and then a few minutes later pledged himself that there would be no taxation of food if the Unionist Party were returned to power. He appears to reconcile these mutually exclusive "pledges" in a fashion understood only by Tariff Reformers. To the plain man a food tax is a food tax, for whatever purpose it may be imposed.

Under our present political organisation the sober middle opinion of men and women, millions of them, in this country, is inadequately represented. The bulk of the electors are neither reactionary Protectionists nor predatory Socialists. They approach in opinion most nearly to the doctrines of that Liberal Party which, before the disastrous split of 1916, was the strongest and most stable political force in these islands. Now, though Liberal in sentiment, the majority of the electors do not "find salvation"—in the old phrase—in the support of Liberal candidates. For the moment, though small in numbers, and maybe threatened with reduction at the coming election, the Liberals alone stand between Protective tariffs on the one side and Socialist experiments on the other. We have just seen a Labour Government kept in office by Liberals, and finally thrown out by Liberals. Presently it is possible that we shall see a Conservative Government kept in office by Liberals and prevented by Liberals from indulging its lusts for Protection and food taxes. The country would be in a sorry plight should the Liberal Party cease to exercise its balancing and moderating influence. We should then have to choose between an industrial system handicapped by tariffs and food taxes, and an industrial system "nationalised" towards inevitable bankruptcy.

THE NATION'S SAVINGS.

It will be generally acknowledged, though definite proof is practically unobtainable, that the general standard of living in this country is higher than it was before the war. It certainly will not be disputed that the standard rose very considerably during the war and in the years which immediately followed it, but it is difficult to gauge how far the level then reached has been maintained. There has possibly been a slight lowering during the past two or three years, but so far as can be gathered from general observation, the decline has not brought the standard down to the pre-war level. If that is the case, it presumably follows that, in the absence of any increase in the national income, this higher standard has been secured at the expense of savings. We know of no accurate index of the annual amount of national savings. There are, however, certain figures which to some extent throw light upon the point.

Firstly, certain deductions can be drawn from the premium income of life assurance companies. According to the Board of Trade figures, the premium of British Life Assurance companies has shown a steady increase, from £48½ millions in 1913 and £50½ millions in 1914 to £78½ millions in 1921 and £80½ millions in 1922, while it is estimated that the total for 1923 reached £82½ millions. Some small modifications have to be made in these figures for our purpose. Firstly, a deduction must be made in respect of claims paid, but it does not seem unreasonable to assume that the allowance required here is only a small one, on the ground that most of the receivers of insurance payments on the death of the insured treat them as capital, except in the case of industrial assurances for the payment of funeral expenses and insurances against death duties. But in the main the figures we have quoted represent a certain type of new savings, and they show an increase which is practically equal to the increase in the level of prices. They represent a ratio to the national income, estimates of which were given in the *Economist* of October 4th, of 2.16 per cent. in 1913 and 2.1 per cent. in 1923. Too much store, however, cannot be set by the similarity of these percentages, for we are inclined to think that the habit of life insurance is increasing, and therefore an increasing proportion of the national savings

might have been expected to be finding its way into life insurance. It does not, therefore, follow that because this form of saving has increased at a normal rate the total savings have increased, nor yet that the entire savings of those who follow this method of saving have increased at the normal rate.

A second series of figures which may be used as a pointer are the figures of new capital issues. In the table below we set out our annual figures, excluding issues by the British Government:—

	Million £'s.)		
1909	178.5	1919	211.4
1910	242.9	1920	330.0
1911	191.7	1921	186.1
1912	210.8	1922	204.1
1913	196.5	1923	193.9
1914	180.0	1924 (9 months)	125.0

The figure for the post-war period is a little higher than that of the pre-war quinquennium, but this is accounted for very largely by the total for the boom year 1920, the figures for the past two years being slightly below representative pre-war years. New capital applications, of course, do not necessarily represent a net addition to the nation's savings. A certain, though unascertainable, proportion is subscribed by foreigners, particularly in the case of foreign loans raised in London. Again, some proportion of an issue of shares may be taken by people already in ownership of the business concerned, though we endeavour to exclude cases of this kind in the compilation of our statistics in order to arrive as closely as may be to the actual amount of new capital offered to the public. In 1919-20 the fact that the British Government spent £326 millions more than it received and covered the deficit by borrowing, helped to swell the total of the nation's savings. Since then, however, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's surpluses have amounted to £426 millions, which, together with payments of £169 millions to Sinking Funds, was used in reducing the National Debt, and the repayments thus made supplied funds for reinvestment. Thus, while the figures of new issues given above are slightly higher than those for pre-war years, allowance has to be made for the fact that £100 millions was found by taxation. This means that voluntary savings, through the medium of new issues, are slightly less than before the war, whereas they should show an increase of some 75 per cent. if the rate of saving was being maintained.

The third series of figures from which we may obtain some indication of the movement of savings is the analyses of joint-stock company profit and loss accounts which we undertake every three months. In the last pre-war quinquennium the aggregate net profits of the companies whose reports were analysed amounted to £275 millions, of which £67 millions, or 24.3 per cent., was placed to reserve. In the post-war period the net profits of a substantially larger number of companies amounted to £565 millions, of which £124 millions, or 22 per cent., was reserved. In the pre-war period the ratio of reserve allocations to ordinary and preference capital was 2.3 per cent., and in the post-war period 2.8 per cent., the latter figure being due to an exceptionally high proportion set aside in 1920. For 1923 the figure was 2.0 per cent., while that for the quarter ended September 30th last was 2.2 per cent., as shown in our article last week. Thus, according to our figures, the companies whose figures are available are setting aside to reserve very much the same proportion of profits as before the war.

The general conclusion to be drawn from these three sets of figures, which we put forward with all due reservation, is that the total amount of the nation's savings has not increased in proportion to the rise in prices; for while life assurance premiums and savings by public companies through their reserves have kept pace with the increase in prices, the subscriptions to new issues, which represent a much larger amount than either of the other two categories, have not increased at all. In other words, while savings generally in terms of money have increased in total amount since pre-war days, the ratio to the national income has not been maintained. It is difficult to say whether the national savings ought to be increased to the point at which the pre-war ratio is restored. It is estimated that before 1914 we were saving about 15 per cent. of the national income, which was added to the

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits • \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

nation's capital, some of it going to swell our investments abroad which were not brought home, but went on accumulating at compound interest overseas. These did not directly contribute to the national well-being, and it is difficult to say definitely to what, if any, extent they were assisting the nation's productive power. It is, indeed, quite possible that not only the standard of living, but also our competitive position in world trade can be maintained with a lower ratio of savings to income than before the war. It is impossible to say how fast capital is increasing in the world as a whole, or at what rate our industrial equipment should be expanded to keep pace with this increase.

CONDITIONS IN THE HOSIERY TRADE.

A DIRGE has recently been chanted, in quarters where such lugubriousness is not usually found, over the present state of the hosiery trade. It is alleged that there is a "partial slump," due to foreign imports produced at starvation wages, and to a concerted effort by America to "capture the British market" in certain grades of goods. Such efforts have doubtless been made in the past, and will be made in the future, and they are not limited to the hosiery trade. They have, however, usually met with but partial success, due in most cases to temporary neglect on the part of British manufacturers. Let us see how the hosiery trade has fared in the general fight.

Here are the figures for cotton and woollen hosiery during the last 60 years:—

OVERSEAS TRADE IN COTTON AND WOOLLEN HOSIERY OF ALL KINDS (except Gloves). (In Thousand £.)

5-Year Averages.	British Exports.	Net Imports.*	Excess of Exports.
1844-68	936	..	..
1869-73	1,220	..	..
1874-78	1,194	186	1,008
1879-83	1,401	164	1,237
1884-88	1,525	368	1,157
1889-93	1,388	362	1,026
1894-98	1,188	328	860
1899-03	1,331	614	717
1904-08	1,738	1,307	431
1909-13	2,318	2,192	126

Single Years.	British Exports.	Net Imports.*	Excess of Exports.
1914-18	3,030	2,010	1,020
1919	4,801	2,236	2,565
1920	9,694	3,163	6,531
1921	3,428	1,413	2,015
1922	6,075	2,025	4,050
1923	6,153	2,709	3,444

* Net imports of woollen hosiery are included only in 1904-08 and subsequently.

In considering the statistics for 1923, we have to bear in mind that trade with the Irish Free State has been included in the returns since April 1st of that year. This may affect the comparison somewhat, but it cannot alter

seriously the broad fact that British exports are now 165 per cent. over the pre-war level, while net imports are only 23 per cent. above it.

It will be seen that down to the beginning of this century there had been a fairly constant decline in the excess of exports over imports. This is unduly increased by the inclusion of woollen imports during the last ten years before the war, and if this factor were allowed for, little decline would be shown for that period. Indeed, it may be said that in the 15 years before the war a distinctly stronger situation in the home trade was noticeable. Since the war, the enormous fluctuations in prices have to be remembered. After making all allowance for this, however, the record since the close of the struggle is eminently satisfactory for our producers. And, as we shall see later, the record for the present year to date is more satisfactory still.

A remarkable fact, however, is that our makers have never achieved in the cotton branch of the trade anything like the success achieved in the woollen branch. In woollen goods foreign competition has been met by them with comparative ease, but in cotton goods they have failed for long periods at a stretch, though their position now cannot be said to be so bad as it was immediately before the war. Here are the trade's records, split into the two branches:—

OVERSEAS TRADE IN HOSIERY OF ALL KINDS (not including Gloves). (In Thousand £.)

5-Year Averages	Woollen Hosiery.			Cotton Hosiery.		
	British Exports.	Net Imports.	Excess of Exports.	British Exports.	Net Imports.	Excess of Exports.
1854-58 ..	304	..	..	..	..	..
1859-63 ..	355	..	..	..	..	..
1864-68 ..	315	..	..	621	..	..
1869-73 ..	276	..	..	944	..	..
1874-78 ..	292	..	..	902	186	716
1879-83 ..	313	..	..	1,068	164	904
1884-88 ..	642	..	..	883	368	515
1889-93 ..	819	..	..	569	362	207
1894-98 ..	795	..	..	393	328	65
1899-03 ..	924	..	..	407	614	207
1901-08 ..	1,251	289	962	487	1,018	531
1909-13 ..	1,739	422	1,317	579	1,770	1,191
1914-18 ..	2,070	249	1,821	960	1,761	801
Single Years						
1919	2,797	52	2,745	2,004	2,184	180
1920	6,800	515	6,285	2,894	2,648	246
1921	2,877	239	2,638	841	1,174	333
1922	4,984	160	4,824	1,091	1,865	774
1923	5,004	201	4,803	1,249	2,508	1,359

In the woollen section of the industry our manufacturers evidently had little trouble in beating their competitors. It is difficult to see why they should not have been able to do the same in the cotton section. Yet in this they steadily went backward during all the thirty years preceding the great war. Possibly the cotton goods, being cheaper, are less profitable; or possibly the home demand ran more in favour of the woollen than the cotton articles. Whatever may have been the reason, our producers do not seem to have paid sufficient attention to cotton hosiery before the war, and it is to be hoped that this neglect will be remedied. There are plenty of people who deliberately

choose cotton underclothing, not because of its cheapness, but because their sensitive skin cannot bear the irritation caused by a woollen covering next to it. If we add the demand on this score to that caused by considerations of economy, we shall readily realise why it was that last year 2½ millions' worth of cotton hosiery was imported for consumption in this country.

Of course the position is now much better than it was immediately before the war. In the five years to 1913 exports were only 33 per cent. of the net imports. In 1923 the proportion had risen to over 45 per cent.

Home producers, however, should not conclude that this justifies them in taking things easily. Germany is the country to be watched, since she sent us in 1913 over 80 per cent. of the cotton hosiery imported in that year. And Germany is as yet far from having got back into her stride. She will find it extremely difficult to do so, hampered as she will be by enormous Reparation obligations. Yet she will have to make the utmost efforts to that end, and if our factory owners order their arrangements on the supposition that they will have to meet competition from Germany as keen as it was before the war, they will not go far wrong, or will probably be erring (if at all) on the safe side.

Before proceeding further, it will be well to compare pre-war and post-war prices, and some remarkable contrasts between exports and imports are thus brought out. Here are the figures relating to stockings and hose—the only goods for which complete records of quantities in pre-war times exist:—

PRICES OF STOCKINGS AND HOSE.

	Exports.			Imports.			Import Price of Materials.
	Thous. Doz. Pairs.	Thous. £	Per Doz. Pairs.	Thous. Doz. Pairs.	Thous. £	Per Doz. Pairs.	
Cotton							
1913..	722	199	5/6	1,001	353	7/1	7d per lb
1923..	811	550	13/7	1,843	621	6/9	17d
Wool							
1913..	2,364	961	8/2	16	8	10/	10½d per lb
1923..	3,648	3,496	19/2	60	36	12/	15d

This is a very striking comparison; and, when interpreting it, the vast variety in the quality of goods it covers should be kept constantly in mind. It will be seen that the import price of cotton stockings and socks in 1913 was 7s 1d per doz. pairs, or, say, 7d per pair. This price would, of course, be equal to nearly 1s per pair in retail shop windows. But before the war it was a common sight in the poorer suburbs of London to see men's half-hose of German manufacture ticketed as low as 3d and even 2½d per pair. Of these very inferior goods, the import value would certainly not exceed 2d per pair. Presumably they were only bought by the poorest of the poor; and their sale could not have been very large, or the imports in 1913 would not have reached the comparatively high average of over 7d per pair—which, be it noted, compared with 5½d only for the exports in that year. But with the very high price ruling for raw cotton in 1923, the demand for these low-grade articles would naturally be stimulated largely. Their import value last year would probably range between 4d and 5d per pair, and as the value of all imports averaged 6½d per pair, these very cheap socks would seem to have formed the bulk of them.

And now let us get back to the position of the industry as a whole. We have already seen that in 1923 this was decidedly better than in 1913. How does 1924 compare with 1923? Here are the figures:—

OVERSEAS TRADE FOR NINE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER.
(In Thousand £.)

	Woollen Hosiery.		Cotton Hosiery.		Total.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Imports	160	260	2,099	1,834	2,259	2,094
Re-exports	16	15	110	123	126	138
Net imports	144	245	1,989	1,711	2,133	1,956
British exports	3,722	3,883	897	1,026	4,619	4,909
Excess of exports	3,578	3,638	..	..	2,486	2,953
Excess of imports	..	..	1,092	685	..	..

Plainly, the industry is meeting foreign competition better this year than last, and that not in woollen hosiery only, but in cotton as well.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that a considerable section of the hosiery trade now comprises goods made of other textiles than cotton or wool. These have only been separately recorded in the trade returns since 1920, and the figures for 1923 have not yet been published. It may be that this section would not show up so favourably as we could wish. If so, it would be regrettable. England was a leader in the production of artificial silk, and in the manufacture of stockings and other goods from this material our hosiery firms should have the lead also.

THE AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

AUSTRALIA is expecting a heavy export season. At least 90 per cent. of the wool clip will be exported, and prices are expected to be high. Foreign buyers, therefore, will want the banks to make them advances against letters of credit on London, as it is the custom for wool growers to be repaid in full (through the brokers) within a fortnight or so after the wool is sold. The wool sales have been in progress for some weeks, and the heaviest months will be November and December, at the time when credit will also be required to finance wheat and butter exports. Already, since the end of September, the premium on the Australian pound for the purpose of remittance has been twice increased by the Australian banks. Moreover, the official rates quoted do not accurately represent the position, for we understand that most transactions of any size have for some time past been made at still higher rates. The immediate outlook, therefore, for a return to a more normal state of affairs is not hopeful, especially since borrowing by Australian Governments in London—the large scale of which is one of the causes of the present exchange difficulties—does not yet appear to have ceased. The situation is naturally giving rise to a great deal of discussion in Australian financial and commercial circles. A Sydney correspondent, in describing some of the latest measures which have been taken or proposed in order to remedy the currency situation, including the passage of the Commonwealth Bank Act (to which reference has already been made in these columns), shows that opinions are strongly divided on the subject. He writes as follows:—

What has been done to meet the present exchange difficulties? The Notes Board has offered to issue £5,000,000 additional notes.* Dr Earle Page stated in the House of Representatives on September 4th: "Advances of notes up to £5,000,000 in the aggregate will be made available to the banks as required, and will bear interest at a rate not exceeding 2 per cent. above the highest rate allowed by the banks on fixed deposits, repayment to be made as to £3,000,000 not later than June 30, 1925, and as to £2,000,000 not later than July 31, 1925. Any bank receiving assistance under this arrangement will be required to lodge cash or approved securities in London against the advances made here, the bank to receive the interest actually collected in respect of such cash or securities, while held by the Notes Issue Board." The banks have accepted this offer; the additional notes will tend to raise the price level, and so may stimulate the demand for sterling on the part of importers.

Meanwhile the Federal Parliament has passed the Commonwealth Bank Act. The intention of this Act, in the words of its sponsor, Dr Earle Page, is to change the Commonwealth Bank from a mere "Governmental institution in competition with the private banks" into an effective Central Bank which shall be "the keystone of the financial arch of Australia."

It is doubtful whether this end will be achieved in the near future. Already the Commonwealth Bank has some measure of control. It has on several occasions made advances fairly freely at lower rates than those of the

* A Times Sydney telegram suggests that this amount is to be increased to £20 millions.

other banks, which have then been constrained to lower their own rates. During the 1923-4 export season it assisted the other banks, by making advances out of existing credits; this was made possible through the co-ordination of the resources of the Treasury with those of the bank. Already some of the other banks do settle their balances through the Commonwealth Bank.

But, apart from the "capital" provision, the Act does little to strengthen the bank's position. It is an open secret that the bank at first met with considerable hostility from the other banks, which it has quietly and gradually been overcoming. It will be some time yet before the bank obtains anything like the prestige of the Bank of England, for example. It will take time to induce the other banks to keep larger balances with it, and to regard them as "cash."

The "discount rate" provision will not be of much importance for some time. In the first place, there are now comparatively few bills to be discounted. The habits of the community have changed in the last twenty years or so; and bank overdrafts, cash discounts, and high stamp duties have caused the supply of bills to dwindle to insignificant proportions. The Government may issue more Treasury bills, through which contact between the Commonwealth Bank and the other banks may be established, but that lies in the future. At present such an issue would involve either increased borrowing at an inauspicious time or conversion of "fixed" into "floating" debt at a higher rate of interest. In the second place, if there were enough bills, and if the other banks did make a practice of re-discounting them in time of need, it is doubtful whether the rate could be kept effective, except at intervals.

It is true that, although there are few bills, the Commonwealth Bank may make advances to the other banks against securities, and so control credit. But this would not be so desirable as re-discounting, and, in any case, the Commonwealth Bank already has this power; and the Act does not increase it. Nevertheless, in the near future, the board of directors of the Commonwealth Bank will have complete control of currency and some control of credit. What will be their policy? An attempt to estimate the opinion of informed Australians may be of some interest in this connection.

Proposals such as those of Mr J. M. Keynes, for "a managed currency," have received little support. Devaluation, which has been suggested in the past, has few advocates now that the Australian pound is so nearly equivalent to 113 grains of gold. On the whole, it may fairly be said that the general opinion is in favour of a return, sooner or later, to the pre-war gold standard. But, as in England, we are not prepared to face the evils of relatively rapid deflation in practice. Nevertheless, opinion is to some extent divided as to policy in the near future. For the sake of clearness it will be convenient to state two opposing views in a somewhat extreme manner.

The first view is held by those who consider stability of the price level to be the most important aim. They would like also to keep the English exchange stable at par, but if this is impossible without inflation, they would rather see sterling at a discount than the price level here increased. For, they urge, England and Australia have, in fact, quite separate and distinct currencies, although the paper unit of each is called a "pound"; hence, they say, there is no great cause for alarm if the English exchange does not happen to be at the pre-war par. They rightly expose the popular error that, when an Australian exporter receives £97, say, in exchange for £100 in London, he "loses" £3. They see no reason why we should "inflate" because England does; they are quite prepared to return to a gold standard before England; and they think it would be foolish to lose the "lead" which we have over her in this matter.

The other view is held by those who consider that it is more important to keep the English exchange stable and near par, even if this involves some inflation. They stress the intimate commercial and financial relations which exist between the two countries. A great deal of our public and private borrowing is done in England, and in terms of English pounds. Again, about half the foreign trade of Australia is with Great Britain. It is

desirable to have a stable exchange, otherwise a great deal of uncertainty as to the future may exist, and tend to discourage industry and trade. Further, if we kept our pound stable with sterling, we should be attaching it to a currency with a long and honourable history. Some weight may also be attached to our close political relations with England and the rest of the Empire. As to a speedy return to the gold standard, they point out that this would mean tying our currency to that of the United States; that it would not ensure stability of prices; and that one great advantage of the gold standard—relative stability of exchange with other gold standard countries—will only become of much importance when England returns to gold. They therefore hope to follow England "back to gold," rather than to precede her.

The English Treasury appears to favour the second view. In a memorandum laid before the Imperial Economic Conference, it explained how Australia could keep the English exchange at par. "A central bank of issue may undertake to issue its notes against sterling and convert them back into sterling at a fixed rate, and/or it may itself take measures for expanding and contracting credit as the state of the exchanges may require."

On the whole, the Federal Government appears to favour the first view. "Circumstances may arise," said Dr Earle Page, "under which a considerable deviation from par may become necessary. In the first place, it would not be proper to take the Australian pound to the English pound if the latter were depreciated by a policy of inflation. Secondly, care must be taken to protect Australian industry from the excess of imports which might be induced by the manufacture of credit." With these reservations, "the Government concurs" in the resolutions passed by the Imperial Economic Conference, advocating an exchange standard. Later in the same speech, we learn that "until definite steps can safely be taken towards resumption of gold payments, the proper policy is to aim at issuing just enough paper to maintain stability of the general price level."

Yet the Government realise that "unfettered discretion must be given to the Central Bank." The Act undoubtedly does this, and the determination of future policy will rest entirely with the new board, which is yet to be appointed.

ARGENTINE RAILWAYS.

At the meeting of the Central Argentine Railway, the chairman of the company gave some impressions of his recent visit to Argentina. He stated that during his conversation with him, he found the President of the Republic and the members of the Cabinet "were to the utmost of their capacity seeking to control the country's expenditure without at the same time retarding or discouraging the fulfilment of its wonderful destiny among the nations of the world. It might be thought that this was mere optimism. His conclusions, however, were based on observations not of one or two trips, but of contrasts between the Argentina he first knew when he went there in 1890 to inaugurate the line to Tucuman and what he had seen on his various visits culminating in the one this year. Wherever he went during his visit there was palpable evidence of progress, development and well-being.

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."
THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING
BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

The 'estanciero' was recovering from the crisis which overtook him after the war. The Government was sound, and unquestionably welcomed the influx of new capital. The outlook in general, in a word, could not be more promising."

Viscount St Davids also sounded an optimistic note at the annual meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific on October 17th. First of all he pointed out that the population before the war was increasing rapidly, but when the war came immigration stopped, and a great number of people left the country, particularly Italians, to serve in the armies of their own countries, so that when the war ended, the population of Argentina was certainly not greater than when the war began. Immigration had begun again, and the population of the country was just upon 10 millions, of which 1,900,000 were in Buenos Aires itself. The population had also largely increased by natural growth. Last year the natural increase was nearly 185,000, so that between immigration and natural increase the population went up 346,000. The bulk of the immigration went to the cotton districts, and cotton was doing well. Then, again, the immigrants were nearly all of the Latin race, and were wine drinkers, which would help the wine business of the Cuyo provinces.

These remarks will no doubt assist our readers when perusing the accounts and reports of the four great Argentine railway companies. These accounts, it should be borne in mind, cover the year ended June 30, 1924. First of all we submit for notice a record of dividend distribution over recent years:—

Company.	1913-14.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
B.A. and Pacific, ord. ...	% nil	% 2	% 5	% nil	% nil	% 7	% 7
Do 5% 2nd non-cum. pref. ...	5	5	5	nil	5	5	5
B.A. Great Southern ...	5	4	7	4	4	7	6
B.A. Western ...	5	2	6	4	4	6	5
Central Argentine, ord. Do deferred ...	5	nil	6	nil	nil	6	6

The only change on the year's figures is that of 6 per cent. for Buenos Ayres Western, as against 7 per cent. a year ago. The reason for this reduction is mentioned later. On the whole the progress recorded for 1922-23 is well maintained.

In the next table the results for 1923-24 are set out:—

	Pacific.	Southern.	Western.	Central.
	£	£	£	£
Gross receipts	9,130,939	10,859,175	4,935,470	11,360,047
Working expenses	5,869,682	6,562,843	3,090,758	7,520,674
[Ditto for 1922-23] ..	(5,485,808)	(5,942,967)	(3,072,917)	(7,210,763)
[Ditto for 1921-22] ..	(5,318,508)	(6,259,563)	(3,226,063)	(7,389,951)
Net receipts	3,261,257	4,296,331	1,844,712	3,839,373
[Ditto for 1922-23] ..	(3,186,426)	(3,643,913)	(1,570,265)	(3,445,056)
[Ditto for 1921-22] ..	(2,146,604)	(2,160,273)	(871,967)	(2,052,611)
[Ditto for 1920-21] ..	(981,397)	(1,368,254)	(377,884)	(1,966,865)
[Ditto for 1919-20] ..	(2,487,990)	(2,338,813)	(1,603,196)	(3,164,809)
Other income (less charges)	Dr 478,738	Dr 564,502	Dr 128,645	Dr 754,288
Net income	2,782,519	3,731,829	1,716,067	3,085,285
Fixed charges	1,951,989	822,058	494,776	908,896
Balances	830,530	2,909,771	1,221,291	2,176,389
Preference dividends ...	110,000	400,000	129,855	436,306
Ordinary dividends ...	700,000	2,036,300	1,040,860	1,739,926
Reserves	7 %	(7 %)	(6 %)	(6% ord & df)
Inc. (+) or dec. (—) in carry-forward	+ 20,530	— 26,529	+ 50,576	+ 157

* Buenos Ayres Western.—Allowance made in this item for £342,809, which represents exchange loss on remittances, which the company have charged against net revenue account. For 1922-23 the loss amounted to £195,420, and was charged against general revenue fund.

A year ago we recorded in our table a net increase of £2,968,578 for the Pacific, £3,394,445 for the Southern, £1,850,666 for the Western, and £3,195,436 for the Central. Thus a very satisfactory all-round increase is revealed, with the exception of the Western. In the latter company an exchange loss on remittances amounting to £342,809 caused net receipts to be reduced from £1,844,712 to £1,501,902, as against a comparative figure of £1,570,265 for the previous year. This loss is reflected in the drop in the dividend distribution.

The next table distinguishes the receipts from passenger train traffic and goods traffic, giving a comparison with the figures for 1922-23:—

	Passenger Train Traffic.			Goods, Merchandise, and Live Stock.			Total (Including Miscellaneous).		
	1923-24.	Inc. or Dec.	%	1923-24.	Inc. or Dec.	%	1923-24.	Inc. or Dec.	%
B.A. Pacific ..	1,852,428	— 92,711	— 5	4,816,802	641	0	6,669,239	— 458,705	— 7
B.A. Gt. Sthn. ..	3,693,593	+ 187,258	5	5,364,094	410	1	9,057,687	+ 1,272,294	14
B.A. Western ..	1,424,675	+ 124,779	9	1,734,207	+ 167,240	10	3,158,882	+ 252,288	8
Central	3,305,780	+ 131,702	4	4,176,275	+ 570,979	14	7,482,055	+ 704,229	9

The Western shows that receipts on account of passenger services increased by over 8½ per cent. goods just over 4, and livestock traffic nearly 8½ per cent. The most important growth in total receipts is that recorded by the Great Southern; the gross receipts of this undertaking were £10,859,175, as against comparative figures of £9,586,880. The changes in total receipts are compared in the table below with those of recent years:—

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN TOTAL GROSS RECEIPTS.

	1913-14.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
B.A. Pacific ..	— 12.7	+ 19.2	+ 19.0	+ 30.8	— 16.4	+ 8.9	+ 16.1	+ 5.29
B.A. Gt. Sthn. ..	— 16.8	+ 1.8	+ 25.6	+ 30.1	— 8.4	+ 3.6	+ 13.9	+ 13.3
B.A. Western ..	— 13.0	+ 14.8	+ 30.3	+ 41.0	— 21.1	+ 1.1	+ 13.3	+ 6.3
Central	— 6.6	+ 17.8	+ 12.0	+ 41.0	— 0.2	+ 3.1	+ 12.8	+ 6.6

Three lines show a decrease in the ratio of expenses to receipts, but a slight increase is recorded for the Pacific undertaking:—

RATIO OF EXPENSES TO RECEIPTS.

	1913-14.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
B.A. and Pacific ..	63.63	65.80	71.51	69.69	65.68	71.24	63.26	64.28
B.A. Gt. Sthn. ..	58.56	76.16	77.96	69.19	84.33	74.34	61.99	60.44
B.A. Western ..	58.82	75.68	75.08	69.48	78.72	76.18	66.18	62.62
Central	58.54	73.93	84.60	67.66	79.82	78.26	67.66	66.20

While gross receipts of the Pacific amounted to an increase of £458,705, or 5.29 per cent., working expenses increased £383,874, or at the rate of 7 per cent., thus showing a working percentage of 64.28 per cent. This is accounted for by the fact that the management has taken advantage of the increased receipts to put a larger amount into maintenance and upkeep of the line.

The next table shows a classification of expenditure:—
(00's omitted.)

	Running Expenses.		Maintenance.		General and Miscellaneous.	
	1922-23.	% of Revenue.	1922-23.	% of Revenue.	1922-23.	% of Revenue.
Pacific	£ 3,006,434	34.6	£ 1,100,833	12.7	£ 210,955	2.4
Great Southern ..	3,163,530	33.0	3,320,930	35.1	2,295,821	24.1
Western	1,546,033	16.6	1,671,422	17.8	1,033,209	11.1
Central	3,946,837	41.8	3,940,642	41.8	2,676,423	28.5

The Pacific states that expenditure on fuel has gone up owing to its higher price, and more coal was consumed on account of increased engine mileage, but the Central mentions that they made a saving of £84,000 arising out of falls in fuel prices.

Our final table shows the aggregate gross and net receipts for the first 15 weeks of the year 1924-25:—

	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts.		Net Receipts.	
		Amount.	Inc. or Dec.	Amount.	Inc. or Dec.
B.A. Pacific	3,362	£ 2,333,000	+ 366,000	£ 968,000	+ 318,000
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	3,948	2,859,000	+ 489,000	1,437,000	+ 262,000
B.A. Western	1,882	1,437,000	+ 323,000	519,000	+ 262,000
Central Argentine ..	3,305	3,306,000	+ 270,000	..	..

Stockholders of the Southern and Western will receive with regret the decision of the directors to cease publication of net receipts in the usual weekly traffic returns. This is a step, in our opinion, in the wrong direction. These weekly traffic receipts are valuable data which assist stockholders in following closely the progress of the undertaking, affording, as they do, a useful barometer of the year's results. It was thought that when the Southern and Western gave these figures the other two lines would perforce have eventually followed in their steps. But now a retrograde step has been taken.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE PUBLIC.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Stock Exchange now regards itself as a profession, and the Chairman of the Committee, speaking at a public dinner in the Spring, quoted what he described as the opinion of a well-known authority in raising a Stock Exchange career from being a business to that of a professional standing. The sense of members as a whole is against permission being granted to individual advertisement. There are, of course, many firms who see no objection to such a course being followed as is adopted by business people who wish to bring their claims prominently before the public notice. Apart from the point of etiquette, one great disadvantage that would at once appear if individual advertisements were allowed to Stock Exchange members is the fact that the people with the long purses would stand to benefit very considerably as compared with those with a capital too modest for them to embark upon any publicity worth the name. The Stock Exchange as an institution spends a few hundreds annually in announcing that its members are not allowed to advertise, and that lists of members can be obtained upon application to the secretary. These lists of members are of little use to the ordinary man who wants to do business through a member of the Stock Exchange, but who does not know how to get into touch with one. He may come across a name in these lists of someone whom he knows, but the probability points in the other direction. Nor is it always deemed advisable or convenient to consult a friend with a view to obtaining introduction to a Stock Exchange member. On the other side of the counter there stands the broker, member of a Stock Exchange, who will readily undertake any orders, small or large, and who is sufficiently appreciative of his capacity as a servant of the public for him to wish to help the smaller man with a view not only to obtaining business for himself, but also to protect the hard-earned savings of the little capitalist from being raided by unscrupulous weapons employed by the outside broking fraternity. Yet, if a man walks into the office of the broker to whom he is a stranger, and says that he wishes to sell stocks and shares, the broker cannot tell whether the certificates which the prospective client produces are genuine or not. The client may offer bankers' references, but these, as a rule, are not regarded as being of any great value. The broker has, for all practical purposes, to shoulder the responsibility of his prospective client's securities being genuine, and for the sake of earning a few pounds commission—or it may be only a few shillings—he naturally refuses to take the risks which dealing for a stranger inevitably involve. There is not so much danger in buying shares, though here also the risk attendant upon receiving cheques is plain. The Stock Exchange is apt to complain that banks receive more than their fair share of brokers' remuneration. At the same time, the House does nothing to help the man who wants to do business direct with a member. The client desires to gain that personal contact which invariably leads to business being done better than is likely to be the case when a sheaf of orders comes from a banker to a broker who has no personal interest in the individuals for whom the transactions are to be effected.

The Stock Exchange Committee have this week passed a Rule, subject to confirmation at their meeting on November 3rd, which affords an important concession to the public in the matter of commission. According to the present rule, a broker is allowed, at his discretion, to charge one commission only on the purchase and sale of the same stock for the same client in the same account. The proposed addition will give him powers to extend the concession to the settlement following that in which the original bargain is done. The speculator who buys 100 Courtaulds next Monday will be charged 6d a share brokerage, the bargain being done for the November 6th account, but can carry over the shares or sell them for the account ending November 20th without his broker being under the necessity to charge him another commission, if, in the discretion of the broker, the latter cares to make such a concession.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Collections effected and documentary credits established in all parts of the United States for banking correspondents abroad.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

The modification is one that has been urged for a good many years past. It was put forward vigorously by a former member of the Committee, who gained a certain amount of support, though not sufficient to enable the alteration to be carried when the change was mooted. A certain amount of opposition to the amendment has already arisen in the Stock Exchange, nor can it be said definitely that there is every prospect of the new rule being confirmed on November 3rd. The brokers on the Stock Exchange Committee represent, on the whole, that class of investor to whom a concession of commission will make little difference. It is the average broker, who works hard on the floor of the House and who is not supported by what may be called the big business from banks, issuing houses and insurance companies, who will welcome a change that is likely to result in a considerable expansion to his normal business. The objection which some purists will oppose to the change is that it may have the effect of increasing the mere speculation which, on paper, is damaging to the reputation of such an institution as the London Stock Exchange. Carried to its logical conclusion, the stern discountenance of speculation would circumscribe markets, would make business more difficult, and undoubtedly lead to the necessity for prices being widened in the margins between buying and selling. No one with the interests of the public at heart would want to fan a speculative—much less a gambling—flame, and, as the best interests of the Stock Exchange are those of the public, it follows that what is best for the one must be most beneficial to the other. At the same time, it is impossible to close the eyes to the fact that speculation is indeed the breath of Stock Exchange life, nor need this be regarded from the narrow standpoint of what is profitable to Stock Exchange members. Rather it deserves consideration from the angle of the public benefit in helping to render markets liquid, in protecting the public from the blandishments of bucket shops, and of keeping within businesslike bounds that spirit of speculation which, so long as the world lasts, is certain to remain a strongly-rooted element in human nature.

The concession, which it is suggested should be permitted in the way of remitting Stock Exchange commission, is in its wider aspect a step towards the attraction of business to the Stock Exchange and to the safeguarding of clients from the temptation to gamble with irresponsible outsiders who are bound by few rules other than those of their own making. If the Rule is passed, its incidence may not lead to any immediate increase in the volume of business. The advertisement which the Stock Exchange will receive, through the acknowledgment of the Committee's readiness to save the public expense in Stock Exchange dealings, cannot fail to counteract the charge frequently levelled at the House, that its commissions are too high, and that nothing is ever done to help the public in any way through concessions in the shape of brokerage which is allowed to be remitted. The rule will retain the words "at the broker's discretion," and it should be pointed out that this discretion will govern every transaction. When the Stock Exchange has taken steps to meet the public in this manner, it will be appropriate for the Inland Revenue to reconsider the question of reducing the stamp duty of 20s per cent. *ad valorem*, which acts as a severe burden upon investment. Before the war the rate was 10s per cent., and it became doubled as a war-time measure. Reversion to the previous rate of 10s per cent. would make so considerable a difference to the expense of buying registered stocks and shares that

the result might easily be a doubling of the volume of business transacted, which, in its turn, would mean larger receipts to the Government from income-tax, contract stamps, and telegraphic and other such communications.

The brokers in the House, it may be interesting to add, outnumber the jobbers by about 240, which, incidentally, answers the oft-propounded question as to which is the more profitable branch of Stock Exchange business, broker or jobber. A broker's career is safer, its work more arduous, its expenses greater. The jobber makes money more rapidly when his particular market is popular, but he has to endure long periods of inactivity, and consequent modesty of income, when public attention neglects the stocks and shares in which he deals.

Notes of the Week.

The Russian Treaty.—So far as can be gathered from the speeches of candidates for next week's election, the prospects of a ratification of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty by a British House of Commons seem as remote as ever. Labour candidates, it would appear, are not, as a whole, making the Treaty as important a plank in their platform as might have been expected. Mr Ponsonby, who described himself as "the villain of the piece" in a speech at Huddersfield on Wednesday, offered a defence of the Treaty which strikes us as being peculiarly ineffective. In the meantime Russia maintains its intransigent attitude. The Moscow Parliament has this week been busy debating the subject, and, according to Press telegrams, has passed a resolution declaring that the Treaties represented the limit of concession beyond which the Soviet Government must not go. Propaganda for home consumption takes an even more impossible line. The Russian correspondent of a daily contemporary gives some interesting quotations from a pamphlet by Kameneff, of which 25,000 copies are said to have been recently published in Moscow. This document states that "the Treaty was signed only after we ensured the complete recognition by the British Government of all fundamental principles and economic reforms introduced by us in our Soviet Union," and adds that the Treaty means that "the British Government has pledged itself to compensate and pay in full our creditors if we default." Then, again, "We have consented to pay a slightly larger interest than usual on the understanding that from this extra interest the British holders of old Russian bonds and old owners of property in Russia will receive a small compensation. It is not we who will pay our British creditors, but the English themselves." This sort of thing should help Mr MacDonald to realise his mistake in thinking that there is any great difference between guaranteeing a loan and actually making it. The pamphlet goes on to say that although Russia has agreed to come to a future agreement with Great Britain regarding her claims on Russia, "you may be sure that our own counterclaims will cover, with a nice balance in our favour, the old war debts and other obligations of Russia. In the Treaty the settlement of these claims and counterclaims has been postponed. When they will be discussed I do not know, nor, I believe, do the English know themselves." Such remarks as these, which emanate from the Vice-president of the Soviet Government, only strengthen the conviction that the Treaty cannot be accepted by this country in anything like its present shape or until Russia's attitude is entirely reversed.

The German Elections.—On Monday last President Ebert signed a declaration dissolving the Reichstag, and the elections will take place on December 7th, thus making possible simultaneous elections for the Prussian Diet. The Cabinet of Herr Marx came into office at the end of November last, succeeding that of Herr Stresemann, but the Reichstag now dissolved was elected in March of this year. Our Berlin correspondent writes:—"In the anomalous condition of party politics the dissolution must be regarded as a Cabinet appeal for continued minority support of a minority administration, for Dr Marx has not resigned, cannot expect a majority for his three Coalition parties which together number only about one-third of the

Reichstag, and has no prospect of taking other parties in. The last of several plans for widening the present Cabinet Coalition of Centre, People's Party, and German-Democrats was to admit the German-Nationals. This the People's Party continued to require, but they were foiled by opposition from the German-Democrats, who saw in such a solution germs of a reversal of the domestic and international policy pursued during the past year. Only the Social-Democrats, who expect gains, are really pleased by the dissolution. The dissolution was not unavoidable, and the time chosen, with the Reparations plan only formally initiated, with important negotiations for private credit pending, and with the Tariff and Commercial Treaties questions hardly touched, is not propitious. The failure of the negotiations for strengthening the Coalition brought no new fact into the relations of Cabinet and Reichstag. The Minority Cabinet, which had existed since the Socialists seceded in November, 1923, managed to get through work; and its success with the Dawes Bills indicated that when vital matters are at stake, the German-Nationals would probably always shrink from going to the extreme of opposition. The new elections may conceivably increase the strength of the three middle parties forming the present Coalition, but the biggest possible gain would not make the Cabinet independent of other parties. Neither the German-Nationals, who with their Allies the Agrarians (*Landliste*) have 110 seats out of 472, nor the Socialists, who have 100 seats, can possibly gain an absolute majority. Cabinet troubles are, therefore, likely to continue."

The Fall of Mecca.—The most satisfactory feature in the present situation in Arabia is that the British Government is not involved. As it happened, a treaty was actually in course of negotiation between Great Britain and King Hussein when His Hashimite Majesty was overtaken by disaster. But for Hussein's intractability, that treaty might have been signed at an earlier date, yet it is hardly conceivable that we should have committed ourselves on paper to supporting him against his rivals in the Arabian Peninsula. In any case the treaty will now presumably remain in suspense until the situation clears, and the fact that our hands are free is the more fortunate because both the Kingdom of the Hijaz and the rival principality of Nejd are by way of being our allies. In fact, writes a correspondent, so *liés* were we with both parties on the last occasion when they fought, that His Majesty's Government found themselves assisting each against the other. That, however, was only a few months after the close of the war, and the war, which ruined the rest of the world, brought rich harvests to Arabian princelings. Owing to an accident of geography, their support was eagerly solicited by both groups of belligerents, and the gold so jealously hoarded in England and Germany was poured into Arabia, whose chiefs were too sophisticated or too unsophisticated (who knows which?) to accept payment in paper, and much preferred solid sovereigns which could be converted into useful objects like amulets or chased dagger-handles. At that time King Hussein was receiving subsidies in gold and rifles from the Foreign Office, and the Amir Ibn Sa'ud from the India Office, and the two departments—to long restrained by the proprieties of English life from joining battle across their quadrangle in Whitehall, enjoyed the spiritual satisfaction of fighting one another vicariously—and that at the most solemn moment of the Peace Conference—in the heart of Arabia. Only the British taxpayer (had he known) would not have rejoiced, for he was paying impartially for the mercenaries hired and the munitions expended on both sides. Truly, his right hand knew not then what his left hand was doing, but now we may at least congratulate ourselves that Ibn Sa'ud has conquered and King Hussein been beaten at their charges and not at ours. This time, no outside influence has weighted the scales, and in equal combat Ibn Sa'ud has proved himself, as had long been expected, to be infinitely the strongest of the Arabian Powers. Several years ago he annexed the North Arabian Principality of Jebel Shammar, and, now that the Hijaz has succumbed, he is left without a rival except for the Yemenite Imam of Sanaa. Already, however, Ibn Sa'ud has stretched out a long arm southwestwards, and, should

the Yemen also fall into his power, he would be the first statesman since the Prophet Muhammed who had united the Arabian Peninsula from within. Indeed, the Wahhabis, who are "Protestant" reactionaries towards a primitive Muslim ideal, have been building up their power by much the same means as the founder of Islam—a fervent religious faith guided into political channels and organised for success in this world in the form of a militant fraternity. The next step for the Wahhabis, if they followed in the footsteps of their early Muslim predecessors, would be to burst the bounds of Arabia and embarrass the task of all sorts and conditions of mandatory Powers. How quickly the Mosul frontier and the Mesopotamian oilfields and the new motor route through Palmyra from Beirut to Baghdad would be buried under the avalanche of united Arabian tribesmen! But fortunately the West, which has given all these hostages to fortune in the Middle East, has also discovered weapons for protecting them. Even in his own country, the desert fighter is out-matched by the aeroplane and the armoured car, and the vast open spaces, which used to give the victory to the rider on horses and camels, now exposes him defenceless to the swifter movements of machines. The Wahhabis discovered this not long ago, when they raided Trans-Jordan; and so we can afford to leave Arabia to herself, for we shall find little difficulty in guarding the borders of the desert and the soil against the Prophet's successors.

Employment in September.—The trade union percentage of unemployed, according to figures given in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, rose from 7.9 per cent. at the end of August to 8.6 per cent. at the end of September. Monthly movements in this percentage over a number of years are as follows:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	7.4
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	7.9
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	8.6
October	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	..
November ..	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..
December ..	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

These figures should be read in the light of certain qualifications mentioned in *The Economist* last week (see page 607). Among the 11½ million workpeople insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at September 22nd was 10.8, as against 10.6 at August 25th, and 11.7 in September, 1923. The live register of the employment exchanges showed between these dates a rise of 53,000 in the number of unemployed, of which 39,000 were men. The principal industries showing a decline in employment in September were coal, iron, and steel. In the cotton, wool textile, building, and pottery trades some improvement was reported.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—"In Lancashire trade circles some surprise was expressed when it was announced on Tuesday last that the Master Spinners' Federation had decided to recommend an increase in the working hours in the mills using American cotton from 26½ to 32 hours per week from November 3rd. Only about ten days ago Mr F. Holroyd, the president of the Federation, issued a strong manifesto appealing to the members to support loyally the short time scheme, and it was not expected that any revision in the working hours would be made just at present. The decision, however, is partly due to representations from the Manufacturers' Association to the effect that their members were not being supplied adequately with yarn, and that cloth contracts are being lost owing to manufacturers not being able to obtain sufficient supplies of twist and weft. So far back as last February it was decided to restrict American yarn output by working the factories only 26½ hours per week instead of the usual 48. Out of

the 56,000,000 spindles in Lancashire about 36,000,000 are engaged on American cotton, and the decision to increase production will mean bigger wages for nearly 100,000 operatives. The Master Spinners' Federation will continue to review the situation from week to week, and they will be prepared to recommend a further extension of working time when it is warranted by a further improvement in the trade position.

Cost of Living.—A further increase in the cost of living is shown in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette's* index for September. On October 1st the cost of living for an average working-class family was approximately 76 per cent. above that of July, 1914, as compared with 72 per cent. a month ago and 75 per cent. at this time last year. The monthly movements of this figure since 1918 are shown below:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.—All items. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	% 85.90	% 120	% 125	% 165	% 92	% 78	% 77
February ..	% 90	% 120	% 130	% 151	% 88	% 77	% 79
March	% 90	% 115	% 130	% 141	% 86	% 76	% 78
April	% 90.95	% 110	% 132	% 133	% 82	% 74	% 73
May	% 95.100	% 105	% 141	% 128	% 81	% 70	% 71
June	% 100	% 105	% 150	% 119	% 80	% 69	% 69
July	% 100.105	% 105.110	% 152	% 119	% 84	% 69	% 70
August	% 110	% 115	% 155	% 122	% 81	% 71	% 71
September ..	% 110	% 115	% 161	% 120	% 79	% 73	% 72
October	% 115.120	% 120	% 164	% 110	% 78	% 75	% 76
November ..	% 120.125	% 125	% 176	% 103	% 80	% 75	% ..
December ..	% 120	% 125	% 169	% 99	% 80	% 77	% ..

The rise in September was due to increases, largely seasonal, in the prices of food. For food alone the average increase over the pre-war level was 72 per cent. on October 1st, as compared with 66 per cent. a month ago and 72 per cent. a year ago.

The Civil Warfare in China.—A fresh turn has just been given to the Chinese kaleidoscope. During Wednesday night Feng yu-hsiang, the Christian General, hitherto supporting Wu Pei-fu and the Peking Government, quietly occupied Peking with the consent of its garrison, cut all communications, and issued a proclamation denouncing the civil war and proposing a round-table conference of the rival leaders; he also deposed President Tsao-Kun. This revolution follows on other indications of a desire for peace. On the Shanghai front further conflict had been arrested by the characteristically Chinese method of buying off the defeated Chekiang troops for \$20 per head (with a higher price for officers) and free transit to their homes. Thus one of the disturbed areas was at least provisionally pacified, and Shanghai saved from attack or from an inrush of destitute and desperate refugees. Chang-tso-lin's advance will now be suspended, and the new Peking Government will profit by the issue of Treasury bonds, secured on a portion of the Customs revenue assigned for the service of the German Boxer Indemnity—an issue which, though sanctioned by Sir Francis Aglen as head of the Customs Administration, implies no sort of foreign intervention. Even had Chang-tso-lin eventually been victorious, it is held by Mr J. O. P. Bland (writing in Wednesday's *Times*), and by other competent British observers, that he would merely have substituted a more stable successor for the present weak Peking Government. Meanwhile, Sun Yat-sen's quarrel with the Canton Merchant Volunteers developed last week into a fierce battle in the city, in which the Volunteers were routed and utterly broken up. Many shops and warehouses were set on fire by Communist looters, possibly under Bolshevik influence, and the damage done is estimated at £5,000,000; but such estimates are usually excessive. The sufferers are being relieved by the Chinese merchants of Hong Kong, and the foreign settlement is protected by a small body of British-Indian troops. The conflict, however, must intensify the local hostility to the rule of Sun Yat-sen and hasten its end, already foreshadowed by the advance of the forces of Chen Chiung-Ming, his rival, who controls a large section of the province of Kwangtung. The possibility of foreign intervention is receiv-

ing increased attention in the Press. It is clear that the Powers concerned will not intervene if they can avoid doing so, except to protect the lives and property of their subjects in any local disturbance; and Japan has warned both the Peking Government and Chang-tso-lin to respect the rights of her nationals in Manchuria and Mongolia. The issue of Treasury bonds is a purely Chinese affair; the supply to Chang-tso-lin from France and Japan of "commercial aeroplanes" and munitions appears not to have been sanctioned, directly or indirectly, by their Governments, and the deportation to Japan of Hsu-shu-tseng, by order of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking, was made possible by his presence in the foreign settlement at Shanghai. Part of the Japanese Press and public is stated to advocate intervention, and Sun Yat-sen may seize the Canton Customs, and thereby endanger the claims of the foreign bondholders, or local conflicts may necessitate the despatch of foreign troops and set up unexpected complications. But any intervention not purely local, or not limited to the protection of foreign subjects, would rouse the anti-foreign feeling of the Chinese people and make the situation infinitely worse. The Chinese people is weary of warfare, and will welcome any stable Government.

Spain and Morocco.—The final stage seems at last to have been reached in the long and exhausting conflict between the Spanish army and the tribes of the Riff. It has opened with the assumption of the posts of High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief by the Marquis de Estella, who also retains the Presidency of the Spanish Directory; and he has issued a General Order declaring that the honour and prestige of Spain are at stake, that the tribes are ceasing to hold together, and that many of them desire peace. Spain must be freed from the problem of Morocco, and he proposes to solve it by withdrawing the many small garrisons from the outlying posts, which cannot be held, and creating a fortified zone, supported by strong bases, and near the coast. Within this zone there will be roads and railways, and the natives in it will probably come to appreciate the benefits of civilisation; outside it they will be left alone, but they will be admitted into it to trade, if unarmed. The examples of French Morocco and Iraq encourage hopes of their ultimate pacification; but the hostile tribes will make the withdrawal of the garrisons as difficult as possible, and will regard it as proof of Spanish defeat. The Marquis de Estella, however, believes that gun-running has ceased, and that the tribes have obtained their arms chiefly from their prisoners (some five hundred of whom they still hold captive), and their money from the ransom paid by Spain and from the price given by a British syndicate for a mining concession, which Spain cannot recognise as valid. Whether it will ever take effect under the new conditions is an interesting subject of speculation, but there can be little doubt that the new Spanish plan will succeed in the end. The Spanish army may reasonably feel that its prestige, which the Marquis de Estella had been thought to have compromised, is secured; the Spanish people appear to accept the continuance of the war as a painful necessity, and will be encouraged to make the necessary sacrifices by the knowledge that the need for them must soon cease. A rapid conclusion of the conflict would relieve the national finances of the chief strain upon them, would help the Spanish nation on its way towards disarmament, and would probably strengthen the hold of the Marquis de Estella on the Directory and of the Directory on Spain.

The Debt Clearing Office.—The fourth annual report of the Controller of the Clearing Office (Germany)* shows that considerable progress has been made in the payment of claims. British debt claims to the number of 102,000 and amounting to £76 millions were lodged with the Department, and of these claims amounting to £64½ millions have been finally disposed of. German claims amounting to £63 millions were notified by the German Clearing Office, of which £48½ millions have been settled finally. The residue still to be dealt with comprises the more complicated claims involving inquiry into the facts, which are largely in dispute, and the determination of ab-

* H.M. Stationery Office. 1s 6d net.

struse questions of commercial and Treaty law, and some considerable time will therefore elapse before these outstanding claims are finally adjusted. Property claims lodged amounted to £67 millions, of which £43 millions have been either agreed as to amount by the German authorities, adjudicated upon by the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal, or withdrawn by the claimants. The remainder are still under discussion. The total sum paid by the Clearing Office to British creditors and claimants up to September last was £71¼ millions, of which nearly £69 millions was paid to creditors or claimants in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The two principal causes which operate to prolong the life of the Clearing Office are (1) the unavoidable delay in obtaining awards from the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal owing to the congested state of its list, and (2) the fact that the Treaty contains no specific provision for finally disposing of contested claims under Article 296, as the Clearing Office has no power to require a creditor whose claim has been contested to refer it for adjudication to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. The Clearing Office was very concerned to find a remedy for these two evils. To obviate the delay in obtaining awards of the Tribunal, it was suggested that additional Divisions should be appointed, but apart from the expense which such appointments would entail, there are obvious objections to the indefinite multiplication of Divisions, which would lead inevitably to confusion and a possible conflict of jurisprudence. In June last an invitation was sent to the German Government to send delegates to London for a general discussion as to the appropriate measures to be adopted to expedite the Clearing procedure. This invitation was accepted, and the discussions took place at the Clearing Office and extended over several days, and in the result an agreement was come to which, it is confidently expected, will attain the desired object of hastening matters towards a conclusion. Claims by British nationals on Austrian property have already been met to the extent of 6s 8d in the £, and a further substantial dividend is due this month. No further dividend in the Hungarian section since the first dividend of 1s 6d in the £ in 1923 has been paid, but it is hoped that the funds available will enable a further dividend to be paid before the close of the year. The report states that the work of classifying claims in the Russian department has been continued, and information has been supplied for the purposes of the Anglo-Soviet Conference, and it is significantly added that "the future work of this department depends upon the Treaty, recently signed, as a result of this Conference."

Housing in Vienna.—An Austrian correspondent writes:—As in most old cities, there has always been a housing problem in Vienna, where, as is usual on the Continent, the majority of the people live in tenement houses. In 1917, the last date for which exact statistics are available, there existed in Vienna in these houses 554,545 flats for a population of round about two millions. Of these flats, more than half, viz., 275,456, consisted of no more than one room, one kitchen, and a small ante-room, while 213,125 contained three rooms and one kitchen, or two rooms and two smaller rooms (called Kabinete) altogether. Thus nearly 90 per cent. of the available living space for the population of Vienna consisted of flats containing no more than four rooms. The houses in which sometimes as many as 50 of these flats are crowded together are old fashioned, having been built at a time when sanitary arrangements, fresh water supply, and the means of proper ventilation were not known. These conditions can only be compared with those prevailing in some of the worst mining villages in Great Britain. The rent of these flats varied from anything between 6 and 12 gold crowns (i.e., 4 to 10 shillings) per month. Generally speaking, the workman or craftsman in pre-war Vienna had to spend about one-quarter of his wage on rent. During and after the war, four reasons contributed to make this state of affairs well-nigh unbearable. The Rent Restriction Act, passed shortly after the outbreak of the war, rendered rents practically negligible as inflation went on and wages rose accordingly. Secondly, there was a great influx of fugitives into Vienna, and in addition the number of marriages increased rapidly. Thirdly, the rise in the social status of the workman found its first expression in his demand for

better living conditions aspiring to those formerly enjoyed by the middle classes (of which about 70,000 enjoyed the use of three rooms or more). Lastly, building activities which during the period 1909 to 1913 had added from 6,500 to 13,900 flats per annum to the total, dropped to nil during the war, and showed no hope of revival after the peace, as the rate of interest and the new level of costs made only luxury buildings profitable. After demobilisation, attempts were made to solve the housing shortage by a sort of self-help system, people forming building societies of their own and starting to erect single houses for themselves. The Social Democratic Party of Austria having assumed office in the Municipality of Vienna in 1919, soon realised the costliness of this method of building, and after close investigation decided to produce a building programme of its own. It was decided to build within five years, on land belonging to the municipality, 28,000 flats from 3-4 rooms, and to put these flats in blocks which, erected in proper surroundings, should also contain club rooms, nurseries, baths, and communal kitchens, which, under the guidance of an expert staff, would give to the inhabitants of these flats the advantages of family and communal life. Assuming the cost of one flat to amount to about 200 million crowns, the cost of the complete scheme involves something like £15,000,000, which the Municipality has to find out of income. Austria can only hope to compete in the world markets if the cost of living remains as low as possible, and the abolition of the Rent Restriction Act, by which rents are at present kept at 150 times their pre-war value (the depreciation of the crown amounts to 14,000 times), would at once result in a tremendous rise in wages. Therefore as there can be no discrimination in rents, the flats in these new houses could only be let at rates corresponding to rents paid for similar accommodation elsewhere. It was argued that those who were already in the possession of flats, and were protected by the Rent Restriction Act, should by reason of this protection first be called upon to contribute towards the cost of finding accommodation for their less fortunate brethren. Consequently, a special tax on flats was introduced, by which from 40 to 1,900 times (rising to over 3,000 in special cases) the rent had to be paid to the municipality. In 1923 this tax yielded 40 milliard crowns, but as expenditure amounted to 591 milliards, recourse had to be had to taxes apparently levied for other purposes, amongst which the famous Social Welfare Tax alone (assessed on the wage turnover) yielded 400 milliards. According to the official budget for this year, the total expenditure of the municipality amounted to 3,300 milliard crowns. In order to secure the supply of raw material at adequate prices, the municipality acquired considerable amounts of shares of, or went into partnership with, most of the firms supplying anything from cement to light castings. It also acquired an influence in the leading building companies. The building contracts are allotted by public tender, the municipality allowing only very small profits. There are no agreements between the municipality and the workmen, the contractor being made liable for all delay in the execution of the contract.

Tin and Tinplate Control.—The tin market has again been strong, owing in part to the shortage of supply for next month and to heavy buying for American account. The U.S. tinplate mills are actively engaged, and one order for tinplates booked recently for the canning trade runs into over 1½ million boxes, or 80,000 tons. This in itself would require more than 1,000 tons of metallic tin. The steel plate for this large order will be rolled this year, and will help the American steel trade. The tinplate market in this country has been seriously upset by the importation of American tinplates. This business is being done through London and Liverpool merchants, and is the outcome of the dispute between the South Wales sales agency and the merchants. The former claims to handle 50 to 60 per cent. of the total South Wales tinplate output, and an attempt has been made to keep merchants' commission down to 1 per cent. while regulating the selling price of plates. The merchants contend that their commission does not give them sufficient margin, and that they ought to have a free hand, especially in selling forward or when the market looks like falling. During

ALL BRANCHES OF
INTERNATIONAL BANKING
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK
16 WALL STREET
LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendome

the last week or two some fairly big lines of American tinplates have arrived at Liverpool, Manchester, and London, and they have been readily absorbed by the tin-box manufacturers. The price works out at under the Welsh figure for similar plates, and this is somewhat surprising seeing that the freight from the States to this country on tinplates is round about \$9 per ton. So far the bulk of the American plates coming in have been "wasters," but it is feared that "primes" will follow. In the circumstances, the selling agency is now inclined to adopt a more conciliatory attitude towards the big merchant group outside the "combine," and it is understood that a meeting will be held shortly. The merchants are prepared to suggest 2 per cent. commission and a free hand in the matter of selling, otherwise the dispute must go on. The importation of large quantities of cheap Continental sheet and tinplate bars has further complicated matters, and some of the tinplate mills outside the combine are already taking their bars from foreign sources, while others are giving notice. Despite the glowing reports issued about the state of the Welsh tinplate trade, many of the works are short of specifications, and unless these are forthcoming shortly, it will mean that more mills will have to close down. Offers have recently been made of plates for export at low rates, but no business has resulted, and there is no doubt that the trade is in a somewhat disturbed condition. The exports for the nine months to September 30th were at the rate of 48,200 tons per month, against 41,200 tons for 1913.

East Indian Palm Oil.—In his address to the shareholders of the Colonial Bank on October 16th, Mr Chas. F. Wood, the chairman, said that it was 18 months since he first referred to the menace to the Nigerian palm oil industry arising from the scientific cultivation of the oil palm in the Dutch East Indies. The menace is perhaps still small and insignificant, but it is increasing and deserves attention, although Nigeria is likely to be less affected than some of the other West African countries, since the Nigerian staple crop is groundnuts. In 1923 there were 62 oil palm plantations in the East Indies, of which 13 are in Java and 49 in the "external possessions," and of these latter 33 are on the east coast of Sumatra. It is reported that no less than 27,000 acres were planted in 1923, and the output of palm oil, which reached nearly 4,000 tons in 1922, was maintained in 1923, and is likely to be exceeded for 1924. The exports of the oil from Medan alone for the first six months of this year were 2,200 metric tons. The yield of oil from a given area is said to be higher than in West Africa, the quality better, and the palms come to maturity more quickly. Very little reference has so far been made to the production of palm kernels and palm kernel oil. The oil palm was first introduced into the East Indies in 1848, when four young trees were received at Buitenzorg. Government experiments in its cultivation were successfully carried out from 1859-64, but progress was slow until about 1911, when the first oil-palm plantation was laid out on a large scale. Whether the East Indian production will readily develop into a serious menace for West Africa seems doubtful, or at all events remote. It

may be safely asserted that the large British firms interested in the West African oil-palm have by no means neglected scientific plantation work, and the evolution of superior types by all the means known to the scientific plant breeder. This particular kind of research in one of the most interesting fields of economic botany has been pursued in West Africa for many years. Moreover, the world's demand for palm oil, both for edible and technical purposes, is on the increase, and it is doubtful if the comparatively small production of the East Indies can adversely affect the African trade for some time to come, if at all. At the same time, these developments are of interest and worth watching, if only for the purpose of reminding the West African producers that they must not slacken their efforts to maintain the quality of their products.

United Dairies.—Although the directors of the United Dairies, Limited, publish meagre information as to the progress of the undertaking, the report and accounts which are now before us record a further increase of trade and development. The following table shows the remarkable progress made by this concern during the past six years:—

Year Ended June 30.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Prof. capital ..	£ 1,344,508	£ 1,555,284	£ 1,652,564	£ 1,881,674	£ 1,893,243	£ 2,059,339
Ord. do.	1,086,173	1,726,052	1,798,677	2,027,125	2,038,403	2,121,397
Paid share cap.	2,430,681	3,281,336	3,451,241	3,908,799	3,931,646	4,180,736
Calls in advance	..	..	..	..	..	41,539
Net profit	233,445	279,668	356,186	452,692	468,623	506,542
Div. on ord. shs.	10%	12½%	12½%	12½%	12½%	14%

It will be recalled that for some years past this company has been mainly engaged in absorbing dairy businesses and companies, issuing its own shares in exchange, and if the above figures really do represent the progress of the company, this policy of expansion may be justly claimed to have proved itself. Out of profits £100,000 has been allocated to reserve; in the balance-sheet the reserve is given as £250,000. But as assets are now £6,143,054, it is to be hoped that a secret reserve is hidden away in the subsidiary companies. A sum of £30,000 has been devoted to founding scholarships at certain agricultural colleges for the benefit of sons of milk producers. The report states that during the year the company acquired the majority of the shares of the Belgravia Dairy Company, Limited, an old-established business, with branches in London and Brighton. In June last the company made an issue of 250,000 preference and 150,000 ordinary shares, the latter at a premium of 12s per share—this premium amounting to £90,000 will be carried to reserve less the expenses of the issue. As the premium was not payable until September 1st, the full figures relating thereto do not appear in the balance-sheet. As far as we can gather, this concern is in a very prosperous state, but until we have seen consolidated accounts setting out the assets and liabilities of the associated companies, it is impossible for us to arrive at the measure of progress.

Saguenay Pulp and Paper.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—Many British investors are interested in the fate of the Saguenay Pulp and Paper Company, and its subsidiary and allied companies; for some time they have been involved in serious difficulties, and their position has been complicated by their relations to the Becker firm in London. Plans, however, for the reorganisation of the Saguenay Company are well under way, and it is understood that the present bondholders will be offered first mortgage bonds of a new company in exchange for their present holdings, and behind their security will rank junior securities representing fresh cash investment in the company. There are outstanding \$5,500,000 old bonds, and about \$7,000,000 new bonds are to be issued at 6 per cent., the extra bonds being required to effect an exchange for bonds of various subsidiary corporations, including the Chicoutimi Pulp Company. One of the chief obstacles to reorganisation has lain in an issue of \$2,500,000 collateral

trust bonds ranking after the first mortgage issue, which are held as security by three banks, two in Canada and one in England. The banks are reported to have agreed to accept preferred shares in a new company on condition that they retain control of the common stock. The banks involved have been negotiating with a group of experienced pulp and paper operators, who are now ready to take over the management of the company and give it the benefit of their operating experience. In the reorganised company, authority will be taken for an increase at some future date of the first mortgage issue in order to provide capital for the installation of newsprint machines, as the Chicoutimi concern has excellent opportunities for newsprint industry. The Chicoutimi mills resumed operations a short time ago on pulp contracts received from Britain and the U.S., and are now running on a reasonably satisfactory basis. It should be noted, however, that prior to the first mortgage issue there will be outstanding a mortgage on the Chicoutimi freehold estates, the timber property which supplies the raw material for the Saguenay and Chicoutimi companies, and the obligations of the Chicoutimi Port Company, but the latter is now paying its way.

Cam and Motor.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The shares of this Rhodesian proposition were recently the subject of much speculative excitement, and the issue of the annual report has been awaited with an unusual degree of interest. The document in question has now—somewhat belatedly—made its appearance. It shows record results, both as regards profits and ore reserves; the figures, however, proved scarcely up to market expectations. Last year, the somewhat increased quantity of 195,600 tons was milled for a revenue of £476,800, as against £375,400 in 1922-23. On the present occasion, £44,500 is brought in from premium reserve, or rather more than was derived from this and another special fund during each of the two preceding periods. The dividends totalled 27½ per cent., leaving the slightly reduced balance of £13,300 to be carried forward. Out of the profits of the twelve months ended June 30, 1923, an initial dividend of 7½ per cent. was disbursed. At 834,000 tons value 55.2s per ton, the ore reserves score a further moderate increase in both quantity and value. The estimate is framed conservatively as regards tonnage, and the gold is calculated at normal price; but on this basis the "profit in sight" may be computed at 35s per share. The difference between this and the current market price cannot be regarded as an excessive payment for the possibilities of the future. At the same time the yield on last year's dividends is only about 10 per cent. Hence, taking the position altogether, an expansion in the earnings or a fresh spell of good developments would be required to justify any advance upon the present market quotation of the shares—albeit the latter is some 27s below the highest point touched some few months ago. There would appear to be the prospect of a gradual increase in the profits, which have lately been adversely affected by certain temporary conditions of working; while the plant should be capable of dealing with a larger tonnage than heretofore.

Two Base Metal Companies.—The advance which has taken place in the price of zinc and lead is strikingly reflected in the results of the Electrolytic Zinc and North Broken Hill companies, cabled summaries of whose annual reports have been issued this week. During the twelve months ended June 30, 1924, the first-named undertaking produced 44,770 tons of electrolytic zinc (an average of 123 tons per day), as against 31,280 tons in 1922-23; also increased quantities of lead and silver, with some cadmium and copper. The gross profit totalled £456,800, compared with £401,800 in 1922-23 and £93,800 in 1921-22, and was arrived at after allocating the increased amount of £100,000 to depreciation. In respect of the year, 9 per cent. was paid on both classes of capital, as against 8 per cent. on the preference and 4 per cent. (initial) on the ordinary for 1922-23. As at the current price of 27s 6d the return on the preference shares represents no more than 6½ per cent., it is obvious that some allowance is made for larger distributions in the future. Such

appear to be in prospect. Important new works and improvements, upon which £600,000 has been expended during the past year, are now practically ready to commence operations. An increasing tonnage is being derived from the company's own mines in Tasmania. In comparing the latest results of the North Broken Hill with those of 1922-23, it is necessary to bear in mind the circumstance that in the meantime the company has absorbed the British Australian undertaking. Even so, the profit and loss account shows a balance of £685,800, after providing £50,000 for depreciation, as compared with £284,800 for 1922-23, after amortising only £20,000. Three dividends, totalling 11s per share, have been disbursed in place of 6s, and the increased balance of £309,900 goes forward. At £799,150 the surplus liquid assets show a marked increase. Moreover, this amount does not include shares and debentures in other companies, valued in the balance-sheet at £440,450. The strength of the position has been reflected in an upward movement in the shares.

Conditions in Japan.—Cable advices from Tokyo state that the general tone of the money market remains easy, and consequently new issues have been floated at lower rates. Short loans, however, were a shade higher compared with September. Although the quotations of foreign exchanges are still weak, the downward tendency appears to have been arrested for the present, and the anxiety concerning overseas trade occasioned by the civil war in China has gradually abated. The activity in raw silk has continued. There was an advance in the price of rice for future delivery, as anticipations of an increased crop have not been realised. The first official report estimates the new crop at 58,000,000 koku (that is 1½ per cent. below the average crop per annum for the past five years). The share market has continued dull.

The first ordinary meeting of the present session of the Institute of Actuaries will take place on Monday next, 27th inst., at 5 p.m., at the hall of the Institute, Staple Inn. An inaugural address will be delivered by the President, Mr A. D. Besant, B.A.

MR. EDGAR CRAMMOND, a director of the British Shareholders' Trust, Limited, will deliver a lecture at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George-street, S.W.1, on Tuesday next, the 28th inst., at 6 p.m. The subject of his address will be "The Economic Position of Great Britain."

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—GERMAN LOAN FLOTATION—STEEL ORDERS INCREASING—SILVER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 14.

FROM the heavy advance applications received for the American portion of the German loan, it was evident that the opening of subscription lists to-day would be merely a formality. Such proved to be the case. The books were opened at 10 o'clock this morning and closed a few minutes later. Demand for the bonds from all sections of the United States reached enormous proportions; investment houses did not exaggerate in describing it as a "riot." Demand for the bonds was indicated not only by the immense total of actual subscriptions, but also by transactions on the New York Stock Exchange this morning, where the initial sale consisted of a block of \$5,000 "when issued" at 94½—an advance of 2½ over the offering price. Trading continued active throughout the session, and after reacting to 92½, the price displayed renewed strength, rallying close to the early level. Much of the buying on the exchange represented covering of firm orders accepted by some houses for the bonds before they realised fully how popular the issue would be, and that the big oversubscription would result in the scaling down of amounts

applied for, since it is a foregone conclusion that the offering will be allotted. Owing to the tremendous supply of funds in the United States seeking profitable employment, the flotation of the German loan caused no disturbance whatever in the financial situation here. The stock market, it is true, suffered substantial recessions to-day when it became known that the German loan had been heavily oversubscribed. The selling was a continuation of the liquidation that started last week, and bore the earmarks of a vigorous bear drive by speculative interests, who apparently based their attack upon election uncertainties. It should be borne in mind, too, that much of the rise in the stock market since last June was in anticipation of a settlement of European economic problems and the flotation of a German loan. With the acceptance of the Dawes plan and the enormous demand for the German bonds testifying to the marked progress made in that direction, the stock market, as usual, sold off after discounting the actual event.

Indications are that further American loans to European interests on an extensive scale will follow the big German bond flotation. Simultaneously with the official publication of details and formal offering of the \$110,000,000 German bonds in the United States came the announcement that a new corporation, to be known as the American and Continental Corporation, and having an initial subscribed capital of \$10,000,000, had been organised by a group of strong financial interests here to make American capital available for the financing of European industrial enterprises. The new institution, which has been formed under the auspices of the International Acceptance Bank, Inc., and Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., with Dillon, Read, and Co. and associates, has an authorised capital exceeding \$25,000,000. One of the outstanding features of this corporation is that it will have an advisory board of representative banks and bankers in the countries whose industries are to be financed. These foreign bankers will virtually become partners in the different financial undertakings in order "to secure not only their advice, but also a mutuality of interest," to quote from the statement issued on behalf of the new corporation. Since the latter's immediate problem, it is pointed out, lies in Germany more than in any other European country, a group of prominent German banks and bankers has been formed there to act in this capacity. It is proposed that in due course important interests in other countries will become associated with this enterprise in a similar capacity.

At the end of September, unfinished business on the books of the United States Steel Corporation totalled 3,473,780 tons, the largest amount of forward orders reported at the close of any month since last May, and representing an increase of 184,203 tons over August 31st. On September 30th a year ago, the corporation's unfilled orders stood at 5,035,750 tons. The gain last month was not as large as the trade had expected, but, considering general conditions in the steel industry, and the fact considerable forward business appears to be held back pending the Presidential election next month, the showing is regarded as favourable. It is a much larger increase than was recorded in August, and is pretty conclusive evidence that the steel trade in this country turned the corner some time ago, and is steadily, though gradually, improving. The corporation's plants operated at about 61 per cent. of capacity on the average during September, and shipments were estimated at more than 800,000. On that basis, incoming business approximated one million tons. The September rate of operations compares with 56 per cent. capacity in August and only 44 per cent. in July. New orders booked last month were about double those of July. Railroad orders accounted for a large portion of the September business. Some 22,000 new cars were purchased last month by the carriers, which will require about 350,000 tons of steel, of which the Steel Corporation probably received orders for more than half. Several sizeable rail orders were booked by the corporation's plants, while its export business approximated 100,000. Although steel buyers are operating conservatively, if not cautiously, owing to election uncertainties and doubt concerning prices as a result of the change in the system of price-basing caused by the discontinuance of the so-called Pitts-

burgh plus system, October orders received thus far are said to have reached satisfactory volume, and substantial inquiries are pending which seem likely to be closed during the current month. Present indications point to another increase in the corporation's unfinished business at the end of October.

The further vigorous advance in the price of bar silver in this market, totalling nearly 2 cents an ounce last week, attracted much attention. The recent rise is the most rapid that has taken place in many months, and carried the price to the highest level reached for over a year, namely, 72½ cents. The upturn is attributed largely to the heavy demand for the white metal from the Orient and various European countries, exports of silver having exceeded imports every month this year. A contributory factor, probably, is the reported shortage, temporarily at least, of domestic supplies, which is said to have been caused partly by commitments made by American producers to foreign Governments for deliveries that fall due this month, besides other contracts entered into. The quantity of silver, therefore, available to meet new requirements seems to be smaller than heretofore, apart from holdings of brokers and speculators, which it would be difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy. Within the past few days the price has reacted somewhat from the peak. The top figure of 72½ cents compares with last year's high point of 68½ cents, and with the 1923 and 1924 low points of 62½ and 62½ cents respectively.

FRANCE.—BUDGET DEFICIT—A NEW LOAN—EXPORT TAXES—INVESTMENT OF LEGAL RESERVES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 22.

THE week has been filled with excursions and alarms, most of which have centred round more or less unfounded reports as to the Government's intentions with a view to meeting the deficit which it is certain will exist at the end of the current financial year. This deficit is generally spoken of as "about four milliards." Most of this, as is known, is a legacy from the previous Government, which frankly announced, when forcing its Budget for 1924 through the Chambers, that the estimated revenue would in no case be likely to balance the estimated expenditure for the year. In his programme-speech at the Radical and Socialistic Radical Congress at Boulogne on Sunday, M. Herriot fixed the actual amount of this deficit at 4,183 millions, but he was also candid enough to state that 1,408 millions of this was due to exceptional expenditure that will not recur in 1925; therefore, the real deficit to be provided for in the next Budget will not be more than 2,775 millions.

For the present year, however, there is an actual deficit of 4,183 millions, and this the Government propose to liquidate by means of a special internal loan. What the nature and terms of this loan will be has formed the subject of consideration at more than one recent Ministerial Council, but down to the present no definite decisions have been come to. Reports appeared in several of the newspapers on Friday to the effect that the Government proposed that the loan should take the form of ten-year 5 per cent. bonds, redeemable with bonuses equivalent to 50 per cent. of their nominal value. The effect of this report was to produce an enormous volume of selling of all descriptions of existing Rentes, which brought the Three per Cents. down to 50, a lower quotation than they have reached for over a quarter of a century. The 1920 6 per cent. Rente dropped from 76.40 to 74.45, and the 1920 Redeemable Fives from 78.50 to 74.80. Hasty denials of the erroneous statements were sent out from official quarters, in the shape of a statement to the effect that, although a loan of "about four milliards" had been decided on in principle, neither the type of loan nor the date of issue had yet been fixed. The Finance Minister has since announced that the real object of the contemplated issue is to meet the immediate wants of the Treasury, and that he is considering adopting a new form of security that shall be as attractive to the investor as certain issues of short-term bonds have recently proved to be. Some of those bonds yield as much as 10 per cent., and in view of

the public liking for this form of investment, it is highly probable the new issue will take the form of ten-year bonds, carrying only 4 or 5 per cent. of interest, but reimbursable at a heavy premium on maturity, on being drawn for redemption. It is highly probable the new issue will be made early next month, as soon as possible after sanction can be obtained from Parliament, which will reassemble, it is now announced, on November 4th.

The perturbation caused by the exaggerated reports as to the new loan was complicated by the fact that negotiations with American bankers were known to be pending, with a view to the issue of a new loan to this country in the United States. Mr Pierpont Morgan has now arrived here, and has been in conference with the Finance Minister on the question, but it is understood that no immediate decision is expected, as there is no urgent necessity for one. The French railway companies have been granted sufficient delay before they will be required to repay the advances made to them, that it is certain ample time will be available for the necessary negotiations for the new loan to take place without undue haste. It is understood the amount of the new American loan to this country will be about \$200,000,000 in amount, and that it will be devoted to improving French credit. In any case, although it has not yet apparently been decided whether this country will endeavour to attain the object in view by means of a loan from the United States bankers, it may be taken for granted that the only obstacle really in the way of such a loan is the one of terms. So far as can be gathered, Mr Morgan and his friends are at present asking for rather more than the French feel inclined to pay for the accommodation.

The Finance Minister's proposal to extend the tax on turnover to export sales, in order to raise a portion of the additional money required to meet the coming year's expenditure, has met with a good deal of opposition from the trading community, the argument, of course, being that such an impost must inevitably tend to reduce the advantage which French exporters now enjoy by reason of being able to pay labour and other production costs in depreciated currency. After conferring with the officers of the association known as Councillors for Foreign Trade, which is recognised by the Government as having the right to speak on export questions, M. Clémentel promised to ask the authority of Parliament to allocate a portion of the extended tax itself to a new national institution which is shortly to be created for ensuring foreign credits for French exporters. On this understanding, and subject to an undertaking being given that certain products shall still remain exempt from the extended tax, the exporters' representatives have passed a resolution expressing approval of the Minister's proposal. Their view is that the imposition of the tax on exports will bring about the repeal of measures which certain countries have taken against French merchandise (and which others propose to take), on the ground that its exemption from this tax amounts to a form of bounty, and that the burden of the new tax will be more than compensated for by the assurance of their foreign credits. The Finance Minister anticipates that the extension of the tax on turnover to exports will yield an additional 400 millions a year to the revenue.

Of the total additional revenue of 1,500 millions, which, according to his statement to the Finance Commission of the Chamber, the Minister expects to secure by his new proposals, 200 millions is to be drawn from the exaction of interest payments in respect of unpaid tax on war profits, the recovery of which has been the subject of legal proceedings; 145 millions from a revision upwards of the assessments for income-tax on industrial and commercial profits; 115 millions from the suppression of the right of certain taxpayers to calculate their assessments according to the fixed regulations of the revenue authorities and not on their real value; 100 millions from the super-tax on unearned increment in connection with the sale of property and business undertakings since 1920.

The most ingenious and interesting proposal put forward by M. Clémentel is, perhaps, that limited companies shall be compelled in future to invest their "legal reserve funds" in French public funds. Under the terms of the law of 1867, limited companies are obliged to set aside

5 per cent. of their profits, before any distribution to shareholders, for the purpose of constituting what is known as a "legal reserve." This stipulation ceases to be obligatory when the reserve in question is equivalent to one-tenth of the share capital. The object of the provision is, of course, to furnish both shareholders and creditors of the company with an automatic guarantee against loss. The proposal, which the Finance Minister announces his intention to embody in the form of one of the articles in the forthcoming Finance Bill, has been received with a good deal of unfriendly criticism. In some quarters it is stigmatised as a skilfully dissimulated form of capital tax (although it is difficult to see the accuracy of such a conclusion), while even so serious a journal as the *Temps* insists that it is equivalent to "a fresh attack on the rights of property." Other equally serious journals, such as the *Information*, are warm in their approval of the proposition, one going even so far as to assert that its chief fault is that it does not go far enough, as it ought to be accompanied by the increase of the legal reserve from 10 per cent. (as at present) to the equivalent of 20 per cent. of the nominal capital. The total capital of the limited companies existing in France at present is estimated at about 30,000 million francs, from which it is calculated that M. Clémentel's proposal, if passed into law, will result in about 3,000 millions of Rentes being absorbed for the constitution of the legal reserves of the companies. The stabilising effect of such a volume of permanent investment in the public funds needs no comment. In view of the present low quotations of the Rente, and of the belief that the premier French security, now that the country has apparently passed through the worst of its financial troubles, will slowly but surely improve, the argument that the investment will prove an excellent one to any company which is compelled to make it appears to be fairly sound.

GERMANY.—FINANCES—CURRENCY AND CREDIT—PRICES—INDUSTRY—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 21.

THE Finance Ministry's return for the ten-day term October 1st-10th appears without the yield of Customs, spirits, tobacco, beer, and sugar, these having been paid to the account of the Commissioner for pledged undertakings. The account, therefore, shows revenue of only 146,335,633 gold marks, against expenditure, 195,000,004 gold marks, and a deficit of 48,664,371 gold marks. The total gross revenue in September was 609,207,831 gold marks, against 592,033,933 gold marks in August. In April-September, which is the first complete half financial year since the currency stabilisation, revenue was 3,299,193,213 gold marks, viz. :—

Direct taxes—	Gold Marks.
Permanent	2,617,238,788
Non-recurring	30,726,640
Customs and Excise.....	2,647,965,428
Other taxes.....	645,531,021
Various receipts.....	4,967,369
	729,393
	3,299,193,213
Yields of the chief taxes were—	
Income.....	1,002,208,057
Turnover	914,515,362
Property	178,232,154
Corporation (Income)	143,978,183
Railway traffic—	
Passenger	86,498,693
Freight	84,590,334
Bourse transfers	60,601,916
Tobacco	231,125,478
Customs	136,512,148
Beer	101,403,390
Sugar	90,974,073
Wine	38,815,548
Spirits monopoly	36,528,625

The state of the finances must be considered satisfactory. Whereas in the four and a-half months intervening between the Rentenmark's creation and the end of the financial year 1923-24, there was a deficit of 754,400,000 gold marks, covered out of Rentenbank credits, the first half of the new financial year shows a surplus of

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

149,326,160 gold marks, or, including expenditure on redemption of gold loan, 380,170,339 gold marks. The estimated revenue for the half-year was 2,602 millions, and it has been largely exceeded. Monthly receipts from taxation averaged 27 per cent. more than was estimated. The total expenditure on the ordinary Budget was 2,898 millions, and it materially exceeded the estimate of 2,471 millions, but most of the difference was caused by an increase over the estimate in the subventions to the States and municipalities, which increase resulted automatically from the increase in yield of taxes.

The Reichsbank has adopted the new Reichsmark (gold mark) in its accounts. Already in its cash transactions the Rentenmark and the paper mark in units of one billion are treated in the same way as new Reichsmarks.

The new Reichsmark notes in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, and 1,000 marks will soon be issued. The banks represented in the Berlin "Stempelvereinigung" have decided in future to carry Reichsmark accounts only. Future bills and cheques are to be drawn in Reichsmarks, and old bills and cheques in Rentenmarks, and billions of paper marks will be treated as if in Reichsmarks. The Gold Discount Bank, it is understood, will give no exchange credits to new customers, but will prolong existing credits, gradually calling them in. The Discount Bank's return for October 15th shows discounts of £6,422,049, against £6,564,742 a week earlier. The Reichsbank's additions to its gold reserve between April 23rd and October 7th total 152,904,000 gold marks. Interest rates are slowly declining, but long-term loans are still hard to obtain. From New York come numerous reports of credits concluded or impending, and of attempts to boom German securities generally. The leading American bankers, no doubt, look well after their own and their clients' money, but there is evidence that the improvement in Germany's credit is being exploited by less reputable American financiers to plant worthless securities on the public; and for this Germans, though they also may have offered very doubtful securities to New York, are not responsible. American financial newspapers print advertisements by brokers or bucket-shop keepers offering German bonds and stocks which have practically no value, while securities which have some (if in absence of gold mark balance-sheets are unknown) value are offered as bargains at prices more than 100 per cent. higher than they can be bought at in Berlin. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* of October 17th gives some instances of the false statements by which these speculations are recommended.

Wholesale prices, after rising since July, have gone slightly back. The official index number for October 14th is 132.2, against 133.7 on the 7th, and an average of 115 in July. The cost of living index number is still rising, being 123 on October 15th, against 121 on the 8th. The Foreign Trade Association has petitioned the council of the new Railway Company to reduce freight rates. It calculates that if German rates for seven chief commodities are 100, French are only 49, Italian 45, and Belgian 38, while Hungarian and Polish, which are considered high, are only 74, and Austrian and Czech 66. On the question of Commercial Treaties, the same association protests against the notion that Germany should try to exploit the difficulty which England as a Free Trade country has in retaliating in order to refuse concessions to English exporters to Germany. The real interest of the Continental states, says the association, should rather be to go as far as possible in liberal treatment of English

goods, in view of the great advantages which a Free Trade country in general presents to exporters. This is only one of several recent utterances by representative bodies against a narrow trade policy. The Government has decided to remove the import prohibitions from further classes of goods. At present about 300 out of 900 classes in the tariff are import forbidden, and it is expected that 100 classes will be freed. Next month negotiations will begin in Moscow for a definitive Commercial Treaty with Russia. The ratification of the recently-concluded trade agreement with Austria is endangered by the dissatisfaction of certain German interests with the duty rates conceded. The Motor-Car Traders' Association has protested strongly against the prohibitive rates in the pending general tariff scheme.

The condition of industry changes slowly for the better. Home sales of textiles are checked by the extremely high retail prices, and only inferior quality goods are in demand. The paper market has improved, and export in newsprint paper has increased. The iron and steel branches are still very dull, with low prices. Only for high quality coal is there a good market. It is declared that English coal may be driven out of Hamburg if railway rates, as demanded, are further reduced. The Rhenish-Westphalian steel interests have been negotiating since the middle of the month for a revival of the Steel Syndicate. The present Stahlbund is practically extinct. The Stahlwerksverband, which before the war was weakened by reducing its authority to the heavy "A" products, was not renewed in 1919, owing to the steel scarcity then prevailing, and to the belief that this condition would continue. To-day production, if works were operated to full capacity, would far exceed demand. The proposed syndicate, which this time would embrace all steel products, would ration production, reducing it in proportion to the capacity of the works, but would not, it is expected, fix prices directly or have a selling monopoly. Most of the big works have of late created their own trading organisations. The initiative for the syndicate came from the Thyssen interests, which until lately opposed the syndicate idea in all forms, and it is supported by Rhenish Steel, the Gutehoffnungshuette and Kloeckner companies, and by about nine-tenths of all the interests concerned. Subordinate syndicates would be formed for different steel products. The Westphalian trade Press favours the notion of an international steel syndicate, in which at present Belgium seems to be most interested, but does not believe that the foundation is practicable until pending tariff and commercial treaty questions are settled, and complains of alleged French demands for too great a share.

The Bourse last week continued inactive, but the undertone was firm, and stock and loan quotation averages slightly rose. Yesterday the Berlin Bourse struck as a protest against the high transfer tax. To-day stocks were weakish under the influence of the Reichstag dissolution, but in spite of the relegation of the Aufwertung question to a new Reichstag, speculation in loans continued.

CANADA.—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE— TERMS OF NEW ISSUES—SOUTHWARD EMIGRATION—LUMBER BUSINESS—GRAIN MARKETS—RISE IN PRICES—PULP AND PAPER TRADE—GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITION

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, October 11.

THE Federal Government has successfully completed its financing for the present year. In the last week of September it placed with the chartered banks of Canada \$35,000,000 worth of two-year 4 per cent. bonds, and, through a syndicate of Canadian financial houses, also successfully floated a domestic loan of \$50,000,000 worth of 20-year 4½ per cent. bonds. These bonds were issued to the public at 97, which would make them yield 4.73 per cent., and they were oversubscribed within three hours. Purchasers of new bonds are allowed to make payment on October 15th with Victory bonds maturing November 1, 1924, after detaching the interest coupons due November 1st. Such purchasers will receive in cash the difference between the face value of the maturing bonds and

the price of the new bonds, which is equivalent to a bonus of \$3 per \$100 in cash, as well as of one half-month's interest. The new issue is now selling at 98. These funds, added to the loan lately raised in New York, will provide for all but a fraction of the maturing obligations, and it is understood that the Finance Department feels itself in a position to make up the deficiency in cash. The success of the domestic issue is highly gratifying to the Government, and reveals an unexpected reservoir of funds available for investment at low interest rates, but in some quarters it is rated a bad sign that so much money should be ready to find refuge in Government bonds in a young country with vast natural resources which ought to offer unlimited opportunities for profitable investment in development enterprises of various kinds. The argument is made that industrial and other enterprises are being strangled by excessive taxation, and that the various Governments must strain every nerve to offer to the Canadian taxpayer some of the measure of relief which has been given in the United States since the war.

Unfortunately, the decline visible in the Federal revenues does not promise much hope of immediate relief, and the continuance of the southward exodus, which diminishes the number of taxpayers available to share the burden, is again causing disquietude. Claims were made in the spring that it had been checked and that many Canadians were returning from the United States, but they seem to have been erroneous. At any rate, the figures of the U.S. Immigration Department show that during the half-year ending June 30, 1924, more than 96,000 Canadians paid the head tax for entry into the United States, and in June itself, when work is normally most plentiful in Canada, the number was only a little short of 20,000. Add to these the numerous people who slip over the frontier without paying the head tax, and during the current calendar year the total loss of population to the United States may easily reach 300,000, which is a most serious drain upon a population of nine millions.

The lumber business is suffering from a severe slump. The volume of domestic construction in the past year has been small, and, owing to the cessation of the building boom in the U.S., the American demand has been reduced to very modest dimensions. The result is that many firms—especially in B.C.—have larger stocks on hand than they have had since 1914. Prices are very low, and few companies are planning to make their normal fresh cut this winter, confining their operations chiefly to the salvaging of timber from burnt-over areas.

Wet, inclement weather in the prairie provinces has hampered threshing operations, and the movement of wheat to the Lake ports, although it has gained momentum in the last week, is still very slow. However, the lateness of the crop has proved very fortunate, for prices have been mounting rapidly, and No. 1 Northern on the Winnipeg Exchange is now well above the \$1.50 which in the summer was regarded as a goal merely to be dreamed of, not attained. Since most of the farmers have still their wheat unsold, they will reap the benefit of the rise, and it will be particularly welcome, because reports from country elevators to their head offices indicate that the percentage of wheat affected by frost is proving larger than was anticipated in many districts. The steep rise in prices is a very fortunate development for the co-operative grain pools, as they will inevitably obtain from the farmer considerable credit for the increased returns, and in a "bull" market their marketing problems will be simplified.

The pulp and paper boom seems for the moment to have passed its peak. The exports of pulp and paper for the month of August, valued at \$10,905,420, show a decline of almost half a million dollars compared with the July figures, and a fall of more than a million and a half dollars compared with August, 1923. For the first eight months of the current year, the exports amounted to \$91,393,867, as compared with \$92,920,867 for the corresponding period of 1923.

Now that the holiday season is over, the stock markets have been fairly active, and good dividend-paying stocks are in steady demand by permanent investors. The buying power of the farming community in Eastern Canada is undoubtedly greater this year than last, and is reflected in an expansion of orders from country stores

keepers. Few manufacturers, however, are able to report any real improvement in their plight, although the normal autumn business is providing a certain increase in orders, but a good deal of unemployment is inevitable this winter in all the larger cities. As the result of the grain movement, car-loadings of revenue freight have taken an upward turn after showing a decline for many weeks, but railway revenues are still far from satisfactory, and both by the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. great economies are being enforced. Prices still show a tendency to rise, largely, however, as the result of the rise in grain prices, which affects many other commodities.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—GOVERNMENT'S WHITE LABOUR POLICY—WAGES—INDIA TAKING GOLD —WORKING COSTS AND YIELDS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, October 1.

THE increase in the scope of white labour as compared with native and coloured labour has been much discussed of late. Johannesburg Municipality, in conjunction with the Government, is employing up to 1,000 indigent whites at a wage of 7s. 6d. per day, or little more than one-third the standard wage paid to organised labour. This means that many "border-line" jobs are now being done by whites instead of, as is usual, by natives, and the natives are already starting to complain of being elbowed out, not because of inefficiency, but owing to the political craze of employing white men at the behest of the Nationalist-cum-Labour Government.

Mr. Tielman Roos, Minister of Justice, made the mischievous statement the other day that white men for whom there was no work in the mines should nevertheless be forced upon the industry, and indulged in talk about a more stringent ratio being applied to the mines than the accepted 10.5 natives to one white, if the companies did not voluntarily find employment for more whites. We are threatened with yet another Commission on this question and observance of mining regulations. In practice the ratio is rather more favourable to whites than the figure quoted. Sir Evelyn Wallers, President of the Chamber of Mines, at yesterday's quarterly meeting, pointed out the "amazing confusion of thought between what is relief work and what is ordinary industrial employment on economic lines. To provide unemployment, relief work is the business of Government and public authorities, and every member of the public must contribute to its cost."

A day's pay for men on the mines averages 20s per shift, or £300 a year, and underground contractors over £450. It is estimated that the former figure is 50 per cent. higher than the average paid to white men in other industries. Compared with 1914, the mines are now paying 14 per cent. more.

The President declared that the three independent investigations of three commissions, the Economic of 1914, the Brace Mining Industry Board, and the Statutory Conciliation Board which considered the wages of mechanics, constituted "overwhelming endorsement" that the wages paid by the industry were reasonable and fair, and crystallised the policy of the mining houses in the following sentence: "The gold mining industry stands on the results of those investigations, and, therefore, the proper and straightforward course for me to pursue in the best interests of all concerned is to state in clear terms that the industry is unable to agree to any increase in the general level of wages paid by it."

The slightly more attractive terms (one penny an ounce lower price) offered to Indian purchasers of gold have resulted in a large increase in shipments. No less than 1,472,400 ozs have been shipped there since July, and for several weeks past practically no gold has been sent from Cape Town to London. Only gold of high degree of fineness, as attained by the Rand Refinery, is suitable for the Indian market. Sales and payments are still made in London, as South African trade with India is far too small to carry the financial transactions necessary for the sale of so large a quantity of gold.

The outstanding feature of the August analysis of the Chamber of Mines was the reduction in working costs by

4d per ton to 19s 1d, which is exactly a florin above the average in 1914, but it must be remembered that the present figure includes miners' phthisis assessment, while leave pay, which had not been instituted in the earlier period, now represents 5 per cent. of the white wages bill. The Barnato group charges the cost of gold realisation, merely a nominal item ten years ago, to working costs, and this, spread over the whole Rand tonnage, would be equal to nearly 3d per ton. Moreover, there is now a more general tendency to charge as much work as possible to current expenses rather than to capital, in some instances for the sufficing reason that capital funds are not available. Were it possible to have the figures on a strictly comparative basis, one imagines that costs would probably be no higher than in 1914, despite the fact that the mines are, so to say, "ten years deeper." But this is as it should be, as there have been enormous advances in practice, in rock drills underground, and tube mills (expansion) and corduroy tables and all sliming above. At West Springs, for the second month's notification, costs were only 19s 1d per ton, corresponding exactly with the Rand's average. The Gold Fields group has always been remarkable for its low costs. Simmer and Jack reduced its rate to 15s 8d, and Robinson Deep to 17s 4d. But Government Areas' figure of 16s 8d included realisation charges, equal to 1s 3d per ton, a net rate of 15s 5d. Considering that the net price of gold was only 88s 3d per ounce, a premium of exactly a dwt for each ounce, or 5 per cent., representing a decrease of 2s 3d per ounce on the month, the profit of £1,186,200 for the Rand companies, equal to 9s 10d per ton, must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

It is officially estimated (by the Government mining engineer) that the mines of the Union this year will contribute over four and a half millions sterling to the revenue of the Union and provincial administrations. The comparative figures for the two years are:—

	1922-23.	1923-24 (Est.)
	£	£
Gold mines.....	1,885,865	1,343,396
Share of profits.....	..	1,235,000
Income-tax.....	..	109,250
Provincial taxes.....	..	..
Diamond mines.....	668,995	727,000
Export duty.....	..	602,049
Share of profits.....	..	197,715
Income-tax.....	..	1,785
Employers tax.....	..	89,281
Collieries—Mines.....	100,976	3,759
Base metal.....	3,759	6,805
Totals, inc. other items	2,794,624	4,571,411

In the previous ten years the mining industry contributed £34,572,617 to the country's revenue, making a total of nearly £42,000,000 in fourteen years. It will be observed that Government ownership revenue from four or five mines on the Far Eastern Rand is estimated to exceed the income-tax from all profitable and dividend-paying gold mines by over £100,000.

HOLLAND.—EAST INDIES AND THE BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, October 18.

HOLLAND is at the present time living in the period of budgets. After the budget of the Dutch Government, those for the municipalities are gradually coming in, and just recently the budget for Netherlands East India has also been submitted. This last particularly is of an international interest, because Netherlands East India is becoming more and more a country into which investments from all parts of the world flow.

Careful investigation shows that the Dutch share in the plantation of rubber in Netherlands East India amounts to 35.4 per cent., that of England to 40.4 per cent., while Belgium, France, and America each take for their share 5 to 6 per cent., and Japan 3.6 per cent. This situation, however, has not been confined to rubber only. The plantation of tea, it is true, is still for the greater part in Dutch hands (60 per cent.), but about 30 per cent. already is English. It is, indeed, not unlikely that by recent transference of many Dutch tea plantations in Java to English

owners and by the extension of British tea plantations in Sumatra, the Dutch preponderance in tea plantations has disappeared. Only the old plantations, such as sugar, tobacco and coffee, are still preponderantly Dutch. But even in coffee England already has a share of 13.3 per cent. This, however, only concerns the plantations. If the total capital investment is considered—which, according to estimate, amounts to 3,000 million guilders—then the Dutch share amounts to 73 per cent., that of China (Chinese established in the Netherlands East Indies) to 10½ per cent., and of England to 9 per cent. In addition there is also the Netherlands East India bonded debt. Of this debt amounting to about 1,300 million guilders at the end of 1923 more than 500 million was taken up in dollars and pounds.

The following are the Budget estimates for 1925:—

	Total. Florins.	In N.E. India. Florins.	In Holland Florins.
Expenditure	690,309,415	530,233,183	160,076,232
Revenue	652,400,143	640,626,243	11,773,900
Deficit	37,909,272	..	148,302,332
Surplus	..	110,393,060	..

Separated under the principal headings the draft Budget for 1925 is as follows:—

	Total. Florins.	Ordinary. Florins.	Extra-ordinary. Florins.	Fleet Extension. Florins.
Expenditure...	690,309,415	635,290,864	46,504,416	8,514,135
Revenue	652,400,143	637,707,143	9,593,000	5,100,000
Deficit	37,909,272	..	36,911,416	3,414,135
Surplus	..	2,416,279	..	..

The total is in round figures about 46 millions more favourable than for 1924, that for the ordinary budget almost 24 millions and for the extraordinary budget nearly 23 millions.

The estimate for 1925 is in line with the continued efforts towards retrenchment, which are reflected in the expenditure figures shown below:—

Year.	Total.		Ordinary.		Extraordinary.	
	Million Guilders.	Per- centages	Million Guilders.	Per- centages	Million Guilders.	Per- centages
1921....	1,059	100	825	100	194	100
1922....	856	81	746	91	91	47
1923....	717	68	646	79	62	32
1924....	715	68	647	79	60	31
1925....	690	65	635	77	47	24

Since 1921, which was a top year for all groups of Government control, 1925 therefore shows for the total expenditure of the Budget a decrease of 35 per cent., for the expenditure on behalf of the ordinary service a decrease of 23 per cent., and for those of the extraordinary services a decrease of no less than 76 per cent.

As to the revenue, the estimate includes, besides some proposals of minor importance for increasing the receipts, a proposal for a tax on goods handled in the ports, for the purpose of bringing about as far as possible a better balancing of the financial conditions of the various ports. The net surplus expected from this tax is estimated at 2,700,000 fl; against this, however, a decrease in receipts of port charges is figured to amount to 429,000 fl. A revision of the income-tax for corporations is proposed in the Budget of the current year.

In future the Indian debt will require about 28½ million florins more than at present. An annual expenditure of about 115 million florins for the Indian public debt is far too great a burden; for 1925 this would mean that more than one-sixth of the revenue would be required for this purpose, while, at the same time, in view of present circumstances and prospects, the Budget must be considered to be fixed above the level of normal conditions.

In the large increase of the ordinary receipts, taxes have played a proportionately greater rôle than other sources of income. While the revenue has risen from 311.4 million florins in 1913 to 652.4 million florins for 1925, or 105 per cent., the receipts from taxes in these years has increased from 102.9 million florins to 270.3 million florins, or about 163 per cent. The result of this is, of course, indicated in the rapidly increased burden of taxation.

JUGO-SLAVIA.—FINANCIAL POLICY—HARVEST—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, October 6.

In his declarations on financial and economic policy, the new Minister of Finance, Dr Spaho, emphasises the intention of the Government to increase national productivity not so much by artificial stimuli as by providing the internal peace and quiet necessary for economic life. The chief care of the Government will be to provide one unified tax law, since the various provinces still pay taxes according to inherited laws, under which the burden of taxation is very unequally distributed. This law, and the gradual increase of the import agio until it equals the depreciation of the dinar are to provide the chief new financial resources for the greater expenditure of the 1925-6 Budget. This Budget will be larger than the present one, partly because the needs of the various Ministries have increased, and partly because pensions and bonuses for the disabled and State dependents have been raised. Laws to this effect are ready, and will be submitted to Parliament when it assembles on October 9th. The Government will also prepare a new Customs tariff, which it considers will meet present needs better than the old one. The Minister, however, does not expect a rise in the price of imported goods as a result, because the new tariff should be counteracted by the rise of the dinar. No artificial measures will be taken to increase the value of the latter; for this the Government relies on increased export. An attempt will be made to pay off part of the State's debt to the National Bank.

In accordance with his declared opinion that investments should not be met from the ordinary budgetary receipts, the Finance Minister has signed the second instalment of the Blair loan, to the amount of 3 million dollars, and giving Blair the option to issue another 2 millions. This money will be used for the completion of the railway lines undertaken by the last Government.

Harvest results are very satisfactory, except for wheat and fruit. The wheat yield will be only 14½ million quintals, as compared with 16½ last year, while the fruit crop will be fully 25 per cent. less. Oats and barley have yielded 3 million quintals each and rye 1,400,000. The maize harvest is a record one, and the yield on an area of just under 2 million hectares is 30 million quintals. The beet crop is double that of last year, with 880,000 tons, and the tobacco yield 25 million kgs. The total export capacity for the twelve months beginning September 1, 1924, is calculated at 10,400 million dinars, as compared with 8,500 million dinars during the preceding year. The export surplus of the chief articles is reckoned thus:—Wheat, 150,000 tons; rye, 1,400 tons; barley, 16,000 tons (maximum); oats, 7,000 tons; and maize, 300,000 tons. Much of the last-named will be used to make up the deficiency of wheat and as fodder, since cattle-rearing is getting more intensive.

The volume of trade, particularly export, is increasing, as may be seen from the statistics below:—

EXPORT.						
	1923.		1924.		Increase %.	
	Tons.	Mil. Din.	Tons.	Mil. Din.	Tons.	Value.
July	233,032	547.2	335,940	686.3	44.16	25.24
August	309,210	706.8	389,674	854.7	26.02	20.91

IMPORT.						
	1923.		1924.		Export 1924 Same Period.	
	Tons.	Mil. Din.	Tons.	Mil. Din.	Over Import	Excess of Export
First quarter	1,913	....	1,928	....	2,062	134
Second quarter ..	1,883	....	1,891	....	2,114	223

Thus the trade balance for Jugo-slavia in 1924 is obviously active, as it was also during the last quarter of 1923.

The other two most important economic events worth mention are the resumption of reparation deliveries, of which Jugo-slavia's share for September is fixed at 3,335,000 gold marks, and the lowering of export duties, on wheat to 16 dinars, on rye and maize to 10 each, while on flour it has been altogether rescinded.

After a slight weakening during the political crisis and the summer months, the exchange is becoming firmer under the influence of an improved internal political situa-

tion, a continued active trade balance, and a very busy export season. The dinar has improved from 368 to the £ in the middle of June to 320 in the middle of September, around which it has maintained itself now for over three weeks. The fact that the National Bank has an increased fund of metal covering (475 millions, as compared with 443 millions at the beginning of May), that the Government has changed very little of its 3 million dollars from the Blair loan, and that the country is in the middle of a very heavy export season should all be in favour of the maintenance of the present improvement of the dinar.

Letters to the Editor.

BANK RATE AND PRICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In commenting on my letter, which appeared in your issue of October 18th, you contest my statement that "changes in Bank rate can be relied upon to affect the volume of trade borrowing." I confess that in reading your Banking Supplement it never occurred to me that this was the point on which you intended to express disagreement. If it was, you might have easily filled columns with the names of those who uphold the theory you set out to attack, and I do not know why you selected Professor Cassel and myself for mention.

If changes in Bank rate cannot be relied on to affect the volume of trade borrowing, they cannot be relied on to do anything whatever.

In regard to the point to which you refer in your comment, that the volume of deposits ought to be affected by the volume of trade borrowing, I will offer the following observations:—

In the first place, changes in the outstanding amount of trade advances and discounts correspond, not to the changes in the volume of trade borrowing taken by itself, but to the net changes after allowing for repayments. When borrowing is stimulated and trade becomes active, the repayment of advances is accelerated, and the amount outstanding may be little if at all increased. When borrowing is checked and trade becomes depressed, the repayment of advances is delayed and the amount outstanding may be little, if at all, diminished. On the other hand, it is with the gross and not the net amounts of borrowing that price movements are most closely associated.

Secondly, banks hold other assets besides trade advances and discounts. An increase in the former, which allows of an increase in deposits independently of any increase in the latter, is a well recognised symptom of a trade depression.—Yours faithfully,

R. G. HAWTREY.

18 Elm park gardens, S.W. 10,
October 20th, 1924.

SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED WAGES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—May I make a comment on the article entitled "Sheltered and Unsheltered Wages," which appeared under "Notes of the Week" in your issue of October 18th?

I read the paragraph with considerable interest, and while I believe that the inferences drawn are perfectly correct, I should like to qualify the statement in one respect.

When you speak of eliminating factors such as the relative strength of trades unions and the relative skill of the different classes of workers, it is rather implied that the only variable left to be considered is degree of "shelter" enjoyed. This may be true with regard to some of the instances you mention, but I suggest that very probably, as far as the L.C.C. is concerned, "shelter" is not the only cause for the increase of 11s.

The point to which I wish to draw attention is the opportunity, or lack of opportunity, which L.C.C. work compared with outside engineering work provides for the application of payment by results. May I take an example from a case known to me personally?

LEGAL & GENERAL
ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED
ALL INSURANCE
EXCEPT MARINE
Head Office
10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4
ESTABLISHED 1836 General Manager W. A. WORMAN, F.I.A.

The standard minimum rate for engineers in this locality is 56s, but for engineers at the works in question is 70s 6d. The particular trade is not a "sheltered" industry, and the reason for the difference in its engineers' rates and those for the rest of the locality is due to another cause. The majority of engineers employed locally are in works where piecework is possible and very largely adopted. Those who are working piecework (i.e., very largely the best men in the trade) are picking up at least 71s. Unfortunately, in the works to which I refer, engineers, apart from those permanently attached to specific departments, are almost entirely engaged on installation, alteration, and repair work. For this any really operative system of payment by results is impracticable. Therefore, unless they are to lose many of their best men to proper engineering works, where they can pick up the extra money that piecework yields, it is necessary to make the rate of remuneration under day-work conditions correspond in some measure with the remuneration paid for piece-work conditions.

I suggest that this cause may operate to a considerable degree as far as the L.C.C. is concerned, and that, though it in no way falsifies the accepted explanation of differences of wages in "sheltered" and "unsheltered" industries, it is advisable to be careful, in making specific comparisons, to consider whether it is an important factor.—Yours truly,

L. J. CADBURY.
Bournville, Birmingham,
October 20th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

TOWARDS DISARMAMENT.

AN excellent preparation for the Disarmament Conference projected for 1925 is provided by four documents issued by the League of Nations.* Six subjects are dealt with altogether. We number them for convenience.

I. In conformity with the resolutions passed by the Assembly last year, the members of the League were invited by the Council to limit their expenditure on armaments, pending the elaboration of the scheme for a general reduction, to the sums provided in the Budgets of the current fiscal year, subject, however, to their obligations as members of the League and to any exceptional features of their situation. Thirteen States replied. Roumania declined, in view of the constant threats to her security, chiefly, no doubt, from Soviet Russia; Latvia, Liberia, and Czechoslovakia promised limitation; the other Governments were generally favourable, but pleaded exceptional circumstances—Portugal that she must make up arrears; Spain the demands for Morocco; Estonia and Jugo-Slavia that they had to build up their defensive systems; Poland that her Budget would not be normal till 1927; and then her circumstances must determine her attitude; Great Britain declined, naturally enough, to bind herself for an indefinite period.

II. The question of the reduction of naval armaments on the lines of the Washington Treaty was referred early this year to a conference of naval experts at Rome. Two

* 1. A 40, 1924, ix. (3d). 2. A 36, 1924, ix. (4d). 3. A 16, 1924, ix. (1s). 4. A 30, 1924, ix. (2s 6d). (London) Published for the League of Nations by Constable and Co., Limited.

Peter Walker (Warrington) and Robert Cain and Sons, Limited.—Authorised share capital £5,000,000. There are 2,000,000 8 per cent. £1 cumulative preference shares, all of which have been issued, and 3,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which £2,270,000 have been issued. First mortgage debentures have been authorised for £2,500,000, of which £2,000,000 have been issued bearing interest at 7 per cent. This is an offer for sale of 1,000,000 fully-paid 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 20s per share. The company was formed in October, 1921, to acquire the properties and undertaking of Robert Cain and Sons (including the share capital—free of debentures—of Harding and Parrington).

son, Limited), as well as the whole of the ordinary share capital of Peter Walker and Son, Warrington and Burton, Limited. On the formation of the company the vendors of Robert Cain and Sons, Limited, accepted £2,000,000 in 8 per cent. preference shares as part of the purchase price, and it is a moiety of these shares which now becomes available to investors, owing to family reasons, following the death of Sir William E. Cain, Bart. The balance-sheet is made up to September 30th in each year, and for the two completed periods since the amalgamation for which figures are available there was available for distribution £407,545 and £392,225 respectively, while the preference dividend requires £160,000 a year, surplus assets amount to £4,431,971, after making allowance for the debenture issue. But these include goodwill and investments, the latter of which are taken on an unstated basis of valuation. Dividends of 10 per cent. and 9 per cent. per annum have been paid on the ordinary shares, and £20,000 has been placed to reserve. An interim dividend of 4 per cent., actual, has been paid in respect of 1923-24 on the ordinary shares. Considering that this is an "offer for sale" and not a prospectus, the information given is unusually plentiful. The 8 per cent. dividend, however, is an indication that the risks are slightly higher than those prevailing in some other industries.

Perfetti Nitrate Company.—Incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Chile. Share capital issued and fully paid, £700,000. This is an offer for sale of £150,000 7½ per cent. first mortgage registered debentures at 98 per cent. They are repayable at 103 per cent. by ten annual drawings, the first drawing to take place on September 30, 1926. The company has the right to redeem the debentures, or any part thereof, at any time on six months' notice at 103 per cent. The debentures will be constituted by a trust deed, providing for the creation of first specific mortgages under Chilean Law on the five nitrate oficinas owned by the company, together with the lands and nitrate grounds belonging to the oficinas, comprising an area of 20,455 acres, situated in the Provinces of Tarapacá and Antofagasta, Chile, together with buildings, fixed plant, and other immovables thereon. Assets are valued at £792,664, and liabilities are returned as £75,075, making a net surplus of £717,589. Net profits are given for six years. These, after providing for interest charges, depreciation, &c., are stated to have averaged £44,683 per annum. During the period the oficinas were managed and worked by another company, to whom large payments were made out of earnings, to cover the cost of management and interest upon sums advanced for working capital, thereby reducing the net profits to the Perfetti Company over a period of six years by £139,387. It is proposed to use part of the proceeds of this issue in paying off liabilities and the balance for general purposes, including the purchase of new plant and machinery, and in meeting the cost of overhauling and bringing up to date where necessary the existing plant and machinery. A speculative proposition, not, however, without attractions.

The Aldershot Gas, Water, and District Lighting.—Authorised stock capital £682,630, of which £50,000 "A," £10,000 "B," £158,042 "C" consolidated stock, and £428,130 preference stock have been issued, with a further £440 in respect of premiums, making a total of £646,613. The authorised loan capital is £327,206, of which £62,042 of 4 per cent. debenture stock, £21,100 6 per cent. mortgage bonds, and £100,625 7 per cent. mortgage bonds have been issued, bringing the total issued loan capital, with £1,707 in respect of premiums, up to £185,475. Messrs A. and W. Richards invite tenders for £60,000 of 4 per cent. consolidated preference stock. The minimum price of issue has been fixed at 70, at which the yield is £5 14s 4d per cent. Purchasers will receive in February next two months' dividend in respect of the period ending December next. Thereafter, dividends will be paid half-yearly. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December last is returned at £29,983, of which the interest on the loan capital absorbs £10,794, leaving £19,189 available to meet dividends on the ordinary and preference stocks. After payment of dividends in respect of 1923, the surplus remaining, at £12,420, was carried forward. The reserve and special purposes funds together amount to £13,504. The new capital is required for extensions to the plant, works, and mains. The issue will appeal to conservative local investors.

Amari (Nigeria) Tin Mines, Limited.—Capital, £50,000 in 500,000 shares of 2s each. This is an offer for subscription of 200,000 shares to shareholders in the Keffi Consolidated Tin Company. The company has been formed to acquire and work two tin areas in Northern Nigeria. The property being acquired originally belonged to the Keffi Tin Company, Limited, and was subsequently taken over by the Keffi Consolidated Tin Company, Limited, which undertaking ceased work upon it in 1922. During the period from July 1, 1918, to February 28, 1921, 287 tons of tin were produced, realising £55,632. The estimated ore reserve at the early part of 1922 was 27,000 tons. The purchase price has been fixed at £11,500, payable wholly in cash. The vendor company, in conjunction with Messrs Francis Wood and Co., have sent out

an expert to Nigeria to endeavour to obtain further prospecting licences. In the event of this visit proving successful, this vendor company is to be allotted 2,500 fully-paid shares, and Messrs Francis Wood are to take another 12,500 shares, while a further 160,000 shares are reserved for option to these two undertakings. The issue has been underwritten at a commission of 6 per cent. and an overriding cash commission of 1½ per cent., while Messrs Francis Wood and Co. have agreed to act as brokers to the issue for a fee of 500 guineas.

The Dallas Dome Wyoming Oilfields Company.—Incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A. This company was incorporated mainly with the object of acquiring the Derby Dome (Wyoming) Oil Company (Inc.), registered under the laws of the U.S.A. The purchase consideration payable by the Dallas Dome Wyoming Oilfields Company for the property and assets of the Derby Dome Wyoming Oil Company (Inc.) was the issue of 1,043,730 priority shares of \$1 each credited 75 cents as paid up and 115,970 deferred shares of \$1 each credited fully paid in the Dallas Dome Wyoming Oilfields Company. The subscription of 600,000 priority shares has been underwritten in consideration of the payment of 10 per cent. for underwriting and 1½ per cent. for the over-riding commission, together with the right to call for two years from April 11, 1924, all the unissued partly-paid priority shares at 1s per share and the right to take up at par (4s per share) all the unissued reserve deferred and priority shares for a like period. These details are taken from an advertisement in the Press, published to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. From our point of view, the information is insufficient if the object of the advertisement is to give information such as one ought to find in a prospectus.

Leatherhead Gas and Lighting Company.—Sale by tender of a number of £10 shares as will, together with premiums, yield £10,767, also £9,050 4 per cent. debenture stock in lots of £50, being the balance of additional authorised capital. The minimum price of issue is £11 10s per £10 share, and £70 for each £100 4 per cent. debenture stock. Share capital amounts to £72,942, and loan capital £18,900. The undertaking would have been well advised to take expert advice in drawing up this document. Facts which should be made known are missing.

Gray, Dunn, and Co., Limited.—We are informed that the lists were closed at 10.5 a.m. on October 20th, the capital asked for having been largely oversubscribed.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 5½%, 1925-28 .. 90½	90½	90½	0
War 5½%, 1925-28 .. 90½	90½	90½	0
Loans 5½%, 1925-28 .. 90½	90½	90½	0
Loans 5½%, 1925-28 .. 90½	90½	90½	0
Funding Loan 4½% .. 89½	89½	89½	0
Victory Bonds 4½% .. 92½	92½	92½	0
Conversion Loan 3½% .. 78½	78½	78½	0
Consols 2½% .. 57½	57½	57½	0
Irish Land Stock 2½% .. 60½	60½	60½	0
Local Loans 3½% .. 66½	66½	66½	0
Aust. 6½% 1931-41 .. 105	105	105	0
Canada 4½% 1920-25 .. 101½	101½	101½	0
India 3½% 1926-31 .. 109	109	109	0
Do 7½% 1926-31 .. 110	110	110	0
Do 5½% 1932 .. 101½	101½	101½	0
Do 4½% .. 85½	85½	85½	0
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32 .. 102	102	102	0
Nigeria 6½% 1929-39 .. 115	115	115	0
U. of S.A. 6½% 1930-40 .. 104	104	104	0
Victoria 5½% 1924-34 .. 102	102	102	0
W. Aust. 6½% 1930-40 .. 105	105	105	0

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. ... 108½	108½	108½	0
Do North-Eastern ... 79½	79½	79½	0
Do Pref. Ord. ... 30	29½	30	½
Do Def. Ord. ... 99½	99½	99½	0
London, Mid., and ... 75½	75½	75½	0
Metropolitan ... 50	50½	50½	½
Metropolitan District ... 50	50½	50½	½
Southern, Ord. "A" ... 39	39½	39½	½
Do Ord. "B" ... 81	81½	81½	½
Do Pref. Ord. ... 41½	41½	41½	0
Do Def. Ord. ... 2½	2½	2½	0
Underground Electric ... 10½	10½	10½	0
Do "A" (1/1) ... 96	97½	97½	1½
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ... 96	97½	97½	1½

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1,100) ... 24½	24½	24½	0
Chartered Bk of India ... 20½	20½	20½	0
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) ... 3	3	3	0
Midland (£12, with £2½ paid) ... 88	88	88	0
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£100) ... 25	25½	25½	½
Chesapeake & Ohio ... 92	93	93	1
Erle ... 29	31	31	2
Do 4½% 1st Pref. ... 40	43	43	3
Nat. Bank of S. Africa ... 62	62	62	0
National Provincial, (£20, with £4 paid) ... 102	102	102	0
Standard of S. Africa (£20, with £5 paid) ... 11½	104½	104½	2½
Westminster Bank (£20, with £5 paid) ... 17½	17½	17½	0

American Railroads.

Southern ... 73	73	73	0
Do Non-cum Pref. 85	86	86	1

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons. ... 89½	87½	89½	2
B.A. and Pacific ... 84½	81½	84½	3
B.A. Gt. Southern ... 89½	87½	89½	2
Buenos Ayres West. ... 80½	79½	80½	1
Canadian Pacific ... 153	155	155	2
Central Argentine ... 75½	74½	75½	1
Leopoldina ... 29½	28½	29½	1
Mexican Railway ... 8	8	8	0
Do 1st Pref. ... 28	28	28	0
Do 2nd Pref. ... 14	14	14	0
San Paulo ... 155½	154½	155½	1
United Havana ... 89	89	89	0

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7-100	100	100	0
Austrian 6% Guar. 93½	95	95	1½
Belgian 3% .. 73	73	73	0
Brasil 5% Fund., 1914-73	72	72	0
Chilian 4½%, 1895 .. 85	88	88	3
Do 7½% .. 105	106½	106½	1½
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 65	67	67	2
Egyptian 4% .. 75½	76	76	½
French 5% .. 23	23	23	0
Do 4% .. 18½	18½	18½	0
Greek 5%, 1884 .. 55½	55½	55½	0
Hungarian 7½%, 1924-88½	89	89	1
Japanese 4%, 1910 .. 82	82	82	0
Do 6% 1924 .. 91½	91½	91½	0
Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 39	38	38	1
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ... 34	34	34	0
P.L.M. 6% .. 93	93	93	0
Portuguese (New) .. 27	27	27	0
Russian 5%, 1906 .. 7	6	6	1
Spanish 4% .. 64	64	64	0
Seine (Dept.) 7% .. 103	103	103	0
Siam 5% .. 106½	106½	106½	0

Telegraphs.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A" .. 233	233	233	0
Marconi Wireless .. 18	18	18	0
Marconi Marine .. 18	18	18	0
Mines.			
Brakpan (£1) .. 3½	3½	3½	0
Broken Hill Prop. (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Chartered (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Cons. Gold Fields (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Crown Mines (£1) .. 11½	11½	11½	0
De Beers Def. (£2½) .. 11½	11½	11½	0
East Rand Prop. (£1) .. 8½	8½	8½	0
Geduld (£1) .. 3½	3½	3½	0
Gov. Gold Areas (£1) .. 7½	7½	7½	0
Miscellaneous.			
Aerated Bread (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Amal. Cottons (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Ass. Phos. Cement (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Barker, John (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Pharmaceuticals (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Brasil Traction (£100) .. 57	56½	57	½
British-American Tobacco (£1) .. 5½	5½	5½	0
Burmah Oil (£1) .. 5½	5½	5½	0
Coats (J. and F.) (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Courtaulds (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Cunard (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Dorman, Long (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Dunlop Rubber (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Flax Cotton Spinners (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Forestral Land (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Furness, Withy (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Hudson's Bay (£1) .. 5½	5½	5½	0
Imperial Tobacco (£1) .. 5½	5½	5½	0
Knights .. 8½	8½	8½	0
Modderfontein (100) .. 4	4	4	0
Modderfontein, "B" (50) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Modderfontein, Deep (50) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Premier Def. (2/6) .. 6	6	6	0
Rand Mines (50) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Selukwe .. 8½	8½	8½	0
Rio Tinto (£5) .. 34	34	34	0
Spring Mines (£1) .. 2½	2½	2½	0
Linggi Plantns. (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Lipton (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Lever Bros. 7% Cmp (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Do 8% Cmp (£1) .. 1	1	1	0
Do 20% Cmp (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Lister (£1) .. 10½	10½	10½	0
Loblois Oilfield (£1) .. 4½	4½	4½	0
Lyons (J. & Co.) (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Mexican Eagle (£100) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Nobel Industries (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Pekin (2) .. 3½	3½	3½	0
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Shell Transport (£1) .. 3½	3½	3½	0
Smithfield & Argentine Meat (£1) .. 2	2	2	0
Union Cold Storage 6% Cmp. Pref. (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Do 7% Cmp. Pref. (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
United Dairies (£1) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
United Serdang (2) .. 4½	4½	4½	0
United Tobacco (£1) .. 4½	4½	4½	0
Vallambrosa (2) .. 1½	1½	1½	0
Vickers (£1) .. 24½	24½	24½	0
Watney Def. Bk. .. 24½	24½	24½	0

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

UNITED DAIRIES, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	June 30, 1924.	Amount.	June 30, 1924.
Pref. shares .. 2,059,339	+ 166,096	Investments and loans .. 4,275,411	+ 249,402
Ord. shares .. 2,162,936	+ 124,533	War stock (at market value) .. 304,730	+ 95,344
Mortgages .. 901	+ 187	Freehold & leasehold property .. 471,523	+ 94,482
Sundry creditors .. 1,205,165	+ 316,601	Sundry debtors .. 812,870	+ 182,479
Insurance fund .. 17,238	+ 6,091	Furniture .. 4,232	+ 877
Reserve .. 250,000	+ 100,000	Cash .. 274,228	+ 121,161
Profit and loss .. 449,055	+ 37,833	Expenses (new issue) .. 1,580	+ 1,580
Total .. 6,144,634	+ 745,325	Total .. 6,144,634	+ 745,325

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked * or stated in Cash.	Interim or Final Div.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Year.	Year closed.
Banks.						
Bank of Montreal .. 3%	(bonus 2%)	Final	Nov. 14	Quarterly	14	14
Canadian Bank of Commerce .. 3%	(bonus 1%)	Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Farmers' Loan and Trust .. 6%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Mitsui .. 6%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
National of Australia .. 10%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Royal Bank of Canada .. 12%	(bonus 2%)	Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Union Bank of Canada .. 2%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Western Australian .. 17½		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Insurance.						
Argentine Great Western .. 3%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Barragulla .. 3%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Bengal Nagpur .. 24½		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Bolivar .. 24½		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Mining.						
Miami Copper .. 500 p.s.		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Premier Diamond .. 150%		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Scottish Australian .. 24%		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Siamese Tin Syndicate .. 10%		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
St John del Rey .. 79 p.s.		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Tomboy Gold .. 1 p.s.		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Wallarah Coal .. 1 p.s.		Final	Nov. 15	Quarterly	14	14
Tea and Rubber.						
Allyniger Tea, Pref. .. 3%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Anglo-Sumatra .. 16½		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Bandar Sumatra .. 10%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Bordubi Tea .. 25%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14
Borjan Tea .. 15%		Final	Nov. 1	Quarterly	14	14

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

MR R. J. HOSE ON HOME AND FOREIGN CONDITIONS.

ADJUSTMENT OF REPARATION PROBLEM.

POSITION OF NATIONAL FINANCES.

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The thirty-sixth annual general meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, was held, on the 21st instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.

Mr R. J. Hose (the chairman) presided.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, at each of our meetings during the past two or three years I have had to refer to the continued serious disturbance to international economic and political relations brought about by the non-settlement of the all-important question of Reparations, and it therefore affords me very considerable gratification to be able to point to a proposed adjustment on a sound basis of this most pressing problem as the outstanding event of the past year. The removal of this obstacle from the path of European reconstruction has been due to the fact that the labours of the First Committee of Experts have borne fruit in the Dawes Report, which was ultimately agreed upon by the Allies at the London Conference, and was later accepted by Germany.

THE GERMAN LOAN.

As one of the most important provisions in the report is that covering the flotation, under Allied auspices, of a loan of £40,000,000 sterling to be devoted to the rehabilitation of German finances, it appears consistent with the spirit of the agreement that the funds required are being subscribed in suitable proportions by the various countries intimately concerned. The service of both interest and amortisation of the loan is a direct and unconditional obligation of the German Government, chargeable upon all German assets and revenues, and is a prior lien on all Reparation payments. The issues which have been made in this market and elsewhere have met with generous response, and this bodes well for the success of the entire Reparation scheme, which must otherwise have been ineffective. There were, no doubt, a large number of our countrymen, as well as nationals of our Allies, who, mainly from a sentimental point of view, were unwilling to invest their money in the bonds offered for subscription. Whilst this attitude must be viewed with the greatest sympathetic comprehension, it can only be emphasised that if one part of the Dawes Plan were accepted, then the whole had to be agreed to, in order that it might be assured of ultimate success.

It is a fundamental principle of sound finance that, whenever a country contemplates seeking a loan in a foreign market, this must be based upon the restoration of the credit of the prospective borrowing nation, which must, indeed, in every case, place its financial house in order, and provide those who supply the funds with reasonable ground for regarding their money as adequately secured. These essential conditions appear to have been complied with in the case of the German International Loan, and would also naturally have to be fully observed by any other country which may contemplate seeking loan accommodation, either in the London market or elsewhere.

STABILITY OF THE FRANC.

In view of the steps which have been taken towards the rehabilitation of German finances, it is eminently desirable that in order to provide for the restoration and development of the national industries of France, the stabilisation of the franc should be undertaken as soon as possible on a basis consistent with the undoubted fundamental economic wealth of that country. In this connection, it is extremely encouraging to note that, according to current reports, negotiations are apparently proceeding in the United States for the conclusion of a loan intended to secure funds for this purpose. Similar measures, having for their object the stabilisation of the Belgian and Italian currencies, are equally desirable, especially in view of the fact that German currency is now on a gold basis. There appears every justification for such operations, and in view of the result of the war, the flotation of these loans should be even more easy than in the case of the International Loan to Germany.

EFFECT OF MORE NORMAL CONDITIONS.

The beneficial effect of more normal conditions in Europe, will be more widely felt than is perhaps generally appreciated, for the lack of purchasing power has spread its effect throughout the world, and there can be no doubt that this factor has adversely

affected trading conditions even in those far-distant countries in which we operate. As a case in point, it may be mentioned that Germany was formerly a very large purchaser of nitrate of soda, which, as you know, is produced exclusively in Chile. Germany also imported in normal times very considerable quantities of Argentine products, and it is quite possible that the depreciation in the exchange values of the currencies of the two South American countries I have mentioned has been in no small degree due to the impoverishment of their former European customers. The depreciation in the sterling values of the Argentine and Chilean pesos during the past few years has been very severe, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

	Exchange Rate at June 30,				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	d	d	d	d	d
Argentina	57½	43½	44½	41½	41½
Chile	13½	6½	6½	6½	5½

Assuming our conclusions in this matter to be correct, we may confidently attribute to the improvement in the European outlook some part at least of the recent favourable movement in these exchanges. The latest rates represent recovery since the date of our balance-sheet, the Chilean peso being to-day worth 6 1/32d and the Argentine 44½d.

RECOVERY IN BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

A further factor which has recently exercised a very favourable influence upon the exchanges of the leading countries of South America is the recovery which has latterly occurred in business conditions there, especially in the export trade, and this is particularly true in the case of Argentina. The crops of cereals from the last harvest in the Republic were very abundant, and shipments of grain during 1924 have been maintained up to a date at a volume for which one has to go back to 1920 to find an equal, this movement having been assisted by reports of short crops in North America and the damage to European harvests caused by the recent adverse weather conditions. In addition, the Republic has effected during the current year shipments of frozen meat in excess of any previous record. It is now generally anticipated that, by the end of this year, a very substantial balance of trade in favour of Argentina will be established, whereas during the past three years an import surplus has been recorded.

CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA.

The latest news of conditions ruling in Argentina is summarised in the following cable advices which we have just received from our Buenos Aires branch:—

“Labour conditions are quiet, except for the Port strike, which is, however, presumably about to be settled. Cereal prospects have improved, although growing crops have been affected by frosts and drought. Pasturage is feeling the want of rain. Good prices are ruling for cattle, and fat stock is not too abundant. The progress in the dairy-farming industry is maintained, although exports are on a reduced scale, owing to the rise in exchange. The wool clip in Patagonia is reported good, although rain is also needed in that district. The hides market is steady. Wine stocks have been reduced, and prices are high. Stocks of textiles are normal, and competition is keen. The building trade continues very active. Railway prospects are favourable. The petroleum industry is making better progress. Money is in good demand, but quotations of bonds remain high.”

CHILE AND MEXICO.

The export trade of Chile is also on an expanding scale, especially as regards nitrate of soda, copper, iron ore, cereals, and wool, and this, combined with the greater confidence inspired by the new Government, and the prospect of an improved national financial position, has doubtless been responsible for the recent rise in the exchange value of the peso. In Mexico, the existing Government proved more successful than the majority of its predecessors in being able to suppress a serious and widespread rebellion, while our advices from Peru indicate that the commercial and economic position there is sound, by reason of the increasing magnitude of her exports of cotton, sugar, and petroleum. In Spain the question of taxation has been satisfactorily settled during the past year, and you will be pleased to know that it is now based on reciprocal

terms, whereby as England permits foreign banks to establish themselves in this country under the same conditions as English concerns, we are allowed to operate in Spain under practically the same terms as Spanish institutions.

HOME AFFAIRS.

After thus very briefly summarising the prospects in the countries abroad in which the bank chiefly operates, I will now turn to home affairs, and would first of all express my gratification, which I am sure is shared by the whole business community, at the abolition of the corporation profits tax in the last Budget. With regard to the national finances of Great Britain, the first six months of the fiscal year ended on September 30th last, and in that period the expenditure amounted to £360,000,000 and the revenue to £348,500,000, there being thus a deficit of some £12,000,000 sterling, which compares with a small surplus in the corresponding period of the preceding year of nearly £3,000,000. In this connection, however, it will be recalled that the 1923 Budget resulted in the somewhat extravagant surplus of about £50,000,000, and, in view of the fact that the major portion of the revenue is usually collected in the period October-March, the present position may be regarded as satisfactory, and as merely reflecting the reductions in taxation provided for in the present Budget. The total of the floating debt outstanding on September 30th was £774,176,500, this being £20,000,000 lower than the figure of a year previously. The reduction since March 31st last, however, amounts to only £299,000, and this slowing up in deflation has doubtless assisted in preventing sharp fluctuations in the general index number of wholesale commodity prices.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

It is unfortunate that, at a time when more normal conditions are being restored in many directions, the business of the country should be disturbed by another General Election, and the hope may be expressed that, whatever Government may take office as a result of the present appeal to the electorate, it will do so under circumstances giving promise of some degree of stability. A development of considerable importance from a business point of view which has occurred under the recent Labour régime has been the inauguration of official committees, one of which was appointed to inquire into all questions relative to the National Debt, and the other to report upon conditions and prospects of British industry and commerce. The information collected by these committees will no doubt be of lasting benefit to whomsoever may be called upon in the future to control the national policy of this country. In addition, a measure was adopted by the Government in April last to fund a part of the very large total of internal debt left as a legacy of the war, an offer being then made to holders of 5 per cent. War Loan to convert their holdings into a longer-dated security, and, as a result, fully £150,000,000 of War stock was exchanged into a 4½ per cent. conversion loan.

I do not propose to review in detail at the moment the conditions ruling in the various countries where the bank operates, as to attempt to do so would occupy a considerable period of your valuable time. Moreover, the particulars which I should have to give you are perhaps somewhat difficult in parts to follow when merely heard, and we are therefore following the course adopted in past years of sending you shortly a special booklet containing my complete address, to be read at your leisure.

THE YEAR'S PROFIT.

You will see from our statement of accounts that our net profit is about £426,000, as compared with £436,000 last year. The reasons which I gave for the very heavy falling off in the previous year again apply to the period now under consideration, for, as I have already mentioned, the principal currencies depreciated considerably between the dates of June 30, 1923, and 1924. Had it not been for the loss incurred by reason of the remittance of our earnings from places abroad at these lower levels, our profits for the year would have been somewhat higher than on the previous occasion.

The figures in our balance-sheet are affected on this occasion by the exclusion of those of the offices in Paris and New York, formerly included therein, and I have to explain that, for certain valid reasons, we found it desirable to establish, at the beginning of this year, a separate institution in the former place (I referred last year to the arrangements we had made in New York) under the name of the Banque Anglo-Sud Américaine, Société Anonyme, for the purpose of carrying on our business. This change will enable us to conduct operations in Paris on a wider basis and at a decreased cost, and we already feel the beneficial effect thereof.

In comparing our figures with those of the previous year, I must therefore ask you to bear this fact in mind, and, indeed, were the figures made up on the previous basis, the total of our balance-sheet liabilities and assets would show an increase of more than £3,000,000, instead of, as in the published accounts, a diminution of £3,000,000. The transactions also affect very considerably the item of holdings in foreign and auxiliary banks, which has gone up by £600,000. This is not actually an increase, but represents

the amount of our investment in these two companies, i.e., the Banque Anglo-Sud Américaine, Société Anonyme, Paris, and the Anglo-South American Trust Company, of New York, which formerly was the capital of our own offices, and therefore did not appear in the balance-sheet as a separate item. I may add that we hold the whole of the capital in the Paris concern (as in New York), with the exception of the qualifying shares necessary for directors.

BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

The figures in the balance-sheet do not show any other very important variation, but I am pleased to note that the acceptances on account of customers have increased from £3,000,000 to £4,800,000. This is an item to which we attach very much importance, because it represents the financing of shipments of produce and other commodities, a department of our business which is not only valuable in itself, but shows the trend of international business. Our cash with bankers and with auxiliary banks is £11,000,000, whilst we hold in British Government securities £10,500,000, and these two items together represent 46 per cent. of our total liabilities to the public. The gross profits have decreased from £1,800,000 to £1,600,000, this being very largely due to the depreciation of exchanges, to which I have already alluded, and the same cause results in the charges having shrunk by about £100,000, while income-tax and rebate are lower than formerly, with the result that our net profits are £10,000 less than they were a year ago. We propose to utilise them in the distribution of a dividend of 5s per share, less income-tax, making a total of 10 per cent. for the year; adding £25,000 to the staff pension fund, applying £50,000 to bank premises account, and carrying forward the balance of £350,100.

AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS.

I have dealt with our auxiliary institutions in Paris and New York, and I should now like to refer briefly to the position of the other banks in which we have a capital participation. Generally speaking, these have made favourable progress, despite the various adverse factors in trading conditions.

Our affiliated institution, the British Bank of South America, Limited, maintained at 10 per cent. the dividend for the last financial year ended December 31, 1923. In some countries where the Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, operates, the liquidation of indebtedness on the part of clients has not been so rapid as might have been expected, and the board of that institution is recommending that the working profit—a little less than that of last year—be carried to contingency account.

The results of the Banco de A. Edwards y Cia. have again been of a satisfactory nature, and the dividend for the year ended June last was maintained at 16 per cent., while further substantial allocations were made to its reserve funds. The net profit of the Banque Générale Belge for 1923 was higher than that of the preceding year, and this institution has declared a dividend of 12 per cent., as against 10 per cent. for 1922.

As you will doubtless have seen from Press reports in May last, an arrangement has been arrived at, satisfactory to all parties, whereby this bank and five others, representing the majority of holders of the “B” shares of the British Overseas Bank, Limited, have disposed of their holdings. Our interest in the concern has therefore terminated.

SEVERE COMPETITION.

The competition in banking, which one had hoped would, as a result of the events of the last ten years, have been less severe, has, unfortunately, after an interval during which more reasonable margins were obtainable, become so severe that it may safely be said that we have to work in some directions on a lower margin than ever, and, with the inability to reduce working charges to a pre-war basis—in view of the much higher cost of living which still prevails—we are hard put to it to reduce our ratio of expenses to profits to that which formerly obtained, and this condition, I find on looking at the balance-sheets of many of our neighbours, is also applicable to their case. We have therefore given very serious attention to the adoption of means which will accomplish something more in this direction, and, in view of the fact that our affiliated institution, the British Bank of South America, Limited, and ourselves both had branches in certain places, we have made arrangements with them to combine the offices in Rosario, Montevideo, and Manchester, with the result that, at all events, the bulk of the combined businesses at each of these places should be retained at a considerable reduction in working costs, and I hope that we shall find evidence of this when I meet you a year hence.

The depreciation in our capital at the date of the balance-sheet now before you was £332,964, as compared with £326,405 in the previous year, but the improvement in the values of the Chilean and Argentine pesos during the last three months enables me to tell you that, valued at to-day's prices, the capital abroad has recovered almost the whole of the difference between these two figures.

I now have the pleasure to move the following resolution:—

"That the report and balance-sheet as distributed be adopted, and that a final dividend of 5s per share, less income-tax, be and is hereby declared payable on 27th inst."

Sir Robert Harvey, vice-chairman: I have great pleasure in seconding the chairman's proposition.

The Chairman: Has any shareholder any observations to make or any questions to ask?

There being no response, the Chairman then submitted the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The Chairman: I have much pleasure in moving "That Mr Andrew Geddes, the retiring director, in accordance with the articles of association, be and he is hereby re-elected." I cannot make this proposition in the usual formal way without saying to you that as an old colleague, as an official of the bank, and, later on, a colleague on the board, I have so great a respect for Mr Geddes that I esteem it a great privilege to move this resolution.

Mr H. W. Patrick seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously carried.

Sir Clarendon G. Hyde: Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I rise to move the re-election of our chairman. Mr Hose combines in himself those rare qualities of shrewdness, caution, and courage which, coupled with knowledge and experience, are necessary for the conduct of a successful bank. I have much pleasure in moving "That Mr Robert John Hose, retiring director, in accordance with the articles of association, be and he is hereby re-elected."

The resolution was seconded by Mr A. G. Gumpert, and carried with acclamation.

The Chairman: I thank you on my own behalf—and, perhaps, my friend Mr Geddes will allow me to thank you on his behalf—for this vote of your confidence.

Mr J. B. Waters: I beg to move "That Messrs Price, Waterhouse, and Co. be, and they are hereby, reappointed auditors for the year ending June 30, 1925, at a fee of £750."

Mr W. A. Wilson seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

Baron Emile Beaumont d'Erlanger: Ladies and gentlemen,—It is now my privilege, and a privilege which I highly appreciate, to propose a vote of thanks to the staff of the bank in London and abroad. Connected as I have been for a great many years with

this bank, I know full well that it is to the staff that you are mostly indebted for the great progress in its prosperity. It is an arduous task for the managers of this bank to have to choose the staff, for they are disseminated all over the world and in distant parts, and we have to put our confidence and trust in men who are separated from us by so many thousands of miles. Therefore, they have to take great responsibility, and have to exercise the greatest prudence in the management of the branches which are entrusted to them.

How successful the management has been over a long number of years in selecting its staff I leave to your own appreciation, and I can only say that the confidence we have placed in these men and the confidence you have placed in them is revealed by the fact that you have paid to them to-day the greatest compliment you could have shown them by not asking a single question at this meeting, and I hope you will associate yourselves with us in this hearty vote of thanks to the whole of the staff in London and abroad.

Mr J. A. Goudge: I beg to second that resolution. The resolution was carried unanimously.

MR CREED'S RESPONSE.

Mr E. W. Creed (manager of the Antofagasta branch): Ladies and gentlemen,—Being on leave after many years' absence from this country, it is a great honour and privilege to me to be able to respond to the vote of thanks so well proposed and so gracefully received. Your kindly acknowledgment of the efforts of the staff on such occasions as these is, I assure you, very keenly appreciated by the whole of the staff, and also it is evident that you understand our difficulties, especially of those who are working abroad far away from the head office. This appreciation of our work at the present time is particularly gratifying when the outcome of our labours has not perhaps been quite so satisfactory as on previous occasions.

My own experience of the staff is that they have always taken a great pride in the progress of the bank, and in carrying out the policy laid down by our chairman and his colleagues—a policy, we all realise, which has resulted in the continued expansion of our business and in the creation of our present organisation. This organisation, I hope, will enable us, when that great increase of business which we all expect takes place, to compete successfully and obtain our fair share of such business. It is also a pleasure to me to testify, apart from the natural loyalty that the staff has to the bank, to a feeling of real co-operation that exists between the administration in London, the staff at head office, and the staff at the branches. Your expression of appreciation of their work

will, I am sure, be an encouragement and stimulus to them in the future. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much.

THANKS TO DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT.

Mr A. J. Widderson: Ladies and gentlemen,—It is with much pleasure that I rise to propose a hearty vote of thanks to our directors and the management for the services they have rendered to us during the past year. A period of anxiety and difficulty in trade which has now lasted for many years, and the disproportion between earning power and the present ratio of expenses, to which the chairman has alluded, make it the more agreeable to contemplate a balance-sheet which allows of a payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum and to the appropriation of £50,000 to the writing down of premises. There seems to be every prospect of a moderate and gradual revival in trade which may bring us into position to earn profits even on a higher basis, and I am sure we may rely as hitherto on those at the helm, acting with prudence, and at the same time with courage, to avail themselves to the utmost of the opportunities that are presented. I have much pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the directors and management for the services they have rendered, and I think special thanks are due to our chairman for having so ably presided over to-day's proceedings.

Mr M. E. Duffett: As an old shareholder, I have very much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks proposed to our directors and management, and particularly to our chairman. We have been passing through a very serious time in commerce during the last 12 months, but our directors and the chairman have successfully piloted us through it, and we are now advancing, as many of us think, into a new era, an era of constitutional government and a stable Government, and if we are correct in this anticipation, I do not think we need hesitate to look forward to a continuance of the prosperity of the Anglo-South American Bank.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen,—It is very encouraging to receive every year the approbation of the shareholders for the services we are able to render. I thank Mr Widderson for his special reference to myself. I can assure you that without the aid of all my colleagues I should not be able to accomplish so much. On their behalf, on my own, and on behalf of the managers also, I thank you very much.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE UNITED STEEL COMPANIES, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR'S TRADE.

POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE INDUSTRY.

HIGH COSTS AND FOREIGN COMPETITION.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of United Steel Companies, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield.

Mr A. O. Peech (the chairman), who presided, said: Ladies and gentlemen,—As the directors' report and the balance-sheet have been in your hands for some time, I assume that it will be your pleasure to take them as read.

You will have seen from the report that, taking all the circumstances of the year into account, the directors are not dissatisfied with the results, and, in truth, to have obtained a total net profit, solely from trading, of £670,083 in face of the conditions of the past year is no mean achievement.

CHANGES IN THE BALANCE-SHEET.

Before dealing at length with trade conditions generally, I propose to comment on the changes which have taken place in the balance-sheet during the year. Taking the liabilities first, the share capital is, of course, unaltered. Debenture capital and mortgages and secured loans together show a reduction of £40,484, accounted for by repayments of "A" debentures and reductions of mortgages by this amount. The sinking funds held against "B" and "C" debentures have been increased by the usual instalments, and by accrued interest, together amounting to £35,678, the effect of which is therefore, that the debentures, mortgages, and secured loans have together been reduced by £76,162 during the year. Since the inception of the company the total debenture indebtedness has been reduced by over £280,000. Creditors and credit balances and advances by associated companies I shall deal with when I come to the corresponding figures of the assets. Reserves for capital purposes show a slight reduction of £8,505, due to the application of some small amounts for specific purposes during the year. The profit and loss account has been dealt with in the directors' report, and I need only repeat that, after making the usual provisions and reserves, the surplus at June 30, 1924, amounted to £903,081 16s 4d. I shall refer later to this item.

ASSETS.

Turning now to the assets, land and minerals, plant, &c., shown at £4,190,294, is £15,549 less than last year, this being the net

amount of depreciation and sales, less additions during the year. Wagons: We have increased our wagon stock during the year by the addition of 1,000 new wagons for use at the collieries. Owing to increased output, these further wagons were very necessary, and they were financed on the usual terms applicable to such transactions.

With regard to investments, which consist of shares in associated companies taken at cost, you will notice some alteration from the 1923 figure. It has been thought advisable, in order to consolidate holdings, to transfer to Frodingham the one-half share of the Appleby capital previously included in this item. The other half-share was already held by Frodingham, and as the physical operation of the two works is so interlocked, it is, in the opinion of the board, better that they should be under one control. In connection with developments at our Cumberland works, we found it advisable to form a new subsidiary company, called United Coke and Chemicals Company, Limited, and a sum of £75,000 invested in it is included in the figure now appearing at June 30, 1924.

With regard to advances between the parent company and its subsidiary companies, advances to these companies have decreased by £148,000, while advances by them have decreased by £370,000. These figures, of course, represent the net effect of the transactions of the year, and are largely the result of repayments made by the parent company.

The items of stocks, debtors, and debit balances, cash, and creditors and credit balances, which are all of a fluctuating character, if grouped together, show an increase in these net assets during the year of £374,562. The last item amongst the assets, representing the investment of sinking funds, shows an increase of about £36,000. I think that I have now dealt with such individual items as call for comment in the balance-sheet.

CUMBERLAND AREA.

It has been my practice at these meetings to mention briefly the position at the various works of the combine. In the Cumberland area we cannot say that the trading position has shown any very notable improvement. As you probably know, we depend largely at those works upon foreign orders, chiefly for rails, railway sleepers, &c., and Continental competition has been very strong during the whole year, and business obtainable has been very small. Fortunately there has been a good outlet for iron, permitting us to operate a substantial portion of the blast-furnace plant, the collieries, and coke ovens fully, and the iron ore mines to a substantial extent. In this connection you will be glad to know that our optimistic anticipations with regard to our Beckermat ore mine have been more than realised, for since I spoke to you last year further developments have proved ore to be even more abundant than we expected.

With regard to the Workington dock extensions, I am pleased to say that work has proceeded fairly steadily throughout the year, and the contractors have informed the Dock Board that they expect to complete the dock by May, 1925. As you know, it is anticipated that this will effect considerable economies, both with regard to the import of raw materials and the export of finished products.

In the Lincolnshire area, our Frodingham works have been fully employed during the year with good results. Happily, we have there very excellent facilities for manufacture and ample supplies of raw material under exceptional conditions as to cost of production. These factors have been very helpful during the past year, and, of course, will continue to be so in the future.

APPLEBY AND SHEFFIELD WORKS.

Our Appleby Works are very much in the same position as they were last year, and the extension work on the new steel plant is still at a standstill. The production of iron at the furnaces has been substantial during the year, and the company have also had a considerable output of tarred slag for road-making.

At our Sheffield works, comprising the Steel, Peech, and Tozer works, at Ickles and Templeborough, and the works of Samuel Fox and Co., Limited, at Stocksbridge, the position is probably fairly well known to most of you present here to-day. The year started well, with a moderate amount of business on hand in the heavy trades, and this continued on a moderate level until about March, 1924, when the outlook changed considerably for the worse. During the following three months orders were scarce, and prices were seriously affected by the increase in Continental competition.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that, taking the year as a whole, there has been a distinct improvement in the volume of business done in the higher quality steels for which the Sheffield works are famous, and this leads to the hope that this class of trade will again absorb the major portion of the output of these works.

STRIKES AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT.

As you have seen from the directors' report, and as is common knowledge locally, the entire works at Ickles, Templeborough, and

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital	-	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	-	£8,734,660
Reserve Fund	-	£4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	-	£4,367,330

Northern District Office	-	-	-	69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch	-	-	-	19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

**THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,**
54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under laws of State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

Stocksbridge were shut down from the middle of August until the middle of this month. Despite every possible effort on our part to avoid a stoppage of the works, a strike occurred. A small minority of our men, mostly engaged on maintenance work, ceased work, regardless of the fact that the vast majority had, by negotiation through their responsible leaders, amicably reached a national settlement.

Allegations were made that we had broken agreements. That these allegations were entirely unjustified was amply and fully proved by the decision of the umpire, given in detail on September 27th, on the claims before him for unemployment benefit for the strikers under section 4 of the new Unemployment Insurance Act.

It would appear that the immediate effect of this recent legislation will be not only to prolong strikes, but it will also tend to delay the possible settlement of industrial disputes. Where stoppages, such as this, are begun without due regard to the actual facts and circumstances, they are bound in the present conditions of trade to cripple British industry still further, and to make matters more difficult for everybody—both employers and employees.

NEW SIDINGS.

During the past year new sidings have been in course of construction connecting the Templeborough and Ickles Works of Steel, Peech, and Tozer, Limited (and also the works of the United Strip and Bar Mills, Limited), with the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, which sidings were opened for traffic on August 1st last. Up to this time these works were connected by railway only with the London and North-Eastern Railway, and the amount of traffic required to be dealt with has in recent years been so huge that it has not been possible for the London and North-Eastern Railway adequately to cope with it. These works are already feeling the benefit of having the direct access to the London, Midland and Scottish Railway provided by this siding, and it is confidently anticipated that great advantages will be obtained in the future. Not only will the distance to be covered by both inwards and outwards traffic be shortened in many cases and cost and delay eliminated, but difficulties arising from shortage of wagons should be largely removed, and the receipt and dispatch of wagons much facilitated.

REINSTATEMENT OF STOCKSBRIDGE WORKS.

You will remember that last year I informed you of the disastrous fire which had destroyed some portion of our Stocksbridge works. I am glad to say that during the past year these works have been completely reinstated, and, in common with the other light steel departments, have been fairly fully occupied during the year.

Our Yorkshire collieries and coking and by-product plants have maintained very good outputs during the 12 months, with good results to the trading profit of the combine.

The Thomas Butlin and Co. branch, situated near Wellingborough, has been engaged largely in the production of tube railway linings and general foundry work, in respect of which their geographical position is favourable.

Having regard to the fact that the whole of the works of the constituent companies have been fully maintained during the year, your directors are again of the opinion, as they stated last year, that the question of depreciation may quite prudently be left until the profits are better able to bear the burden. For this reason no depreciation other than that shown in the balance-sheet has been written off in this year's accounts.

UNITED STRIP AND BAR MILLS.

While on the subject of our works and subsidiary companies I ought to mention United Strip and Bar Mills, Limited. As you know, the extensive plant of this company started operations about two years ago. It is a plant of the most modern type for the production of steel strip and steel bars on the American principle of continuous running and mass production. In depressed times like these it has been most difficult to find sufficient trade for a plant of such capacity, and it must be remembered that this plant to a large extent was laid down with a view to supplying foreign markets.

In view of the effectiveness of competition from Europe in these markets during the last year, the output of United Strip and Bar Mills has found itself limited in the main to home supplies, and it has not been possible to operate either of the two mills at more than about one-third of their capacity, and the profit made from this limited operation cannot be taken as any indication of the results which will be obtained when the company is able to find a footing in world markets generally, and to operate the plant fully. Of course, it is understood that whatever the output of these mills be, they are a substantial customer to other subsidiary companies in respect of material.

PREFERENCE DIVIDEND GUARANTEE.

As you are aware, we have guaranteed the dividend on the preference capital of this company, and again during the past year

have fulfilled our guarantee by making payment of the net amount of the dividend. You will observe a note in our balance-sheet under "Debtors and debit balances," showing that the net amount paid in this respect since the commencement of the subsidiary company is £192,035 19s 10d. This amount is recoverable by our company out of future profits of the Strip and Bar Mills Company, and is being carried in our balance-sheet as a good debt because of our belief that the mills can make the necessary profit to repay this amount and to carry their own burden of capital, given an opportunity to operate within fair limits of their output capacity. At the same time, your directors may deem it prudent at some future date to write off this amount out of the surplus carried forward in our accounts, especially as your company owns all the ordinary capital of United Strip and Bar Mills, Limited, and such action would make no actual difference to the profits receivable.

GENERAL TRADING CONDITIONS.

Now, with regard to general trading conditions. I am not overstating the position—you all know, everybody knows—that the steel trade has suffered, and is still passing through, the worst time ever experienced in its history. A combine such as ours, doing a trade which is largely dependent on exports, is bound to feel the result of unsettled world conditions, such as we have, very much more than companies which rely largely upon home markets to absorb their output, and this is so particularly having regard to the handicap of high costs, which, unfortunately, runs through all British iron and steel production, the overwhelming burden of taxation, and the fierce competition to which our trade is subjected by foreign producers, who are unhampered by such burdens, and whose costs of production are, therefore, much lower than the cost of production in this country.

The position is constantly changing, but, looking at matters in a general way, the fact remains that over the last four years there has been a gradual, I might even say a substantial, improvement in our business, and I think that on these lines we are justified in looking forward with some confidence to the future. At any rate, there is no necessity to be unduly pessimistic.

BOARD'S SOUND POLICY.

Reverting now to the question of the surplus appearing on our profit and loss account, £903,081, the directors are well aware that the preference shareholders in particular must have felt keen disappointment on being informed in the report that, in view of the conditions obtaining, the board were reluctantly compelled again to recommend that the resources of the company should not be depleted by the distribution of any dividends. I have elaborated on these conditions in order to explain fully to you the reasons for adopting the prudent policy of conserving to the utmost the resources of the company.

I need hardly tell you that in view of the conditions to which I have just referred, although all the properties of the company have been adequately maintained out of revenue, many projects of development and expansion have been deferred during the past two years, and new capital expenditure at all our plants has been restricted solely to such schemes as promise an almost immediate return of the capital required for them.

THE FUTURE.

As to the future, I think I reflect the feeling of your directors in saying this—that we have within the combine the most exceptionally good natural resources, coupled with the most modern plant, and all in a condition of readiness to take advantage of whatever improvement in effective demand may show itself. We believe that conditions are on the upward trend, and that every day is helping towards general stability. The unsatisfied requirement in regard to steel all over the world is enormous. That this unsatisfied demand will become before long an insistent effective demand, backed by adequate purchasing power, we firmly believe, and although one may not prophesy with safety, we feel that the improvement is not so far off as we may be apt to think during a time of depression; and our shareholders may rest assured that when the improvement does come we will be in a position to meet it with the most adequate resources in raw materials and modern plant, and with an organisation fitted to make the best use of them.

I now beg formally to move, "That the directors' report and the balance-sheet, as at June 30, 1924, be adopted," and I shall call upon Mr Guedalla to second this motion.

MR GUEDALLA ON GERMAN COMPETITION.

Mr Herbert Guedalla, in seconding the motion, said that trade in this country was not a mere money or profit-making proposition. It was our exports which paid for our food; and coal, iron, and steel in the past had contributed in no small measure to that task. He must confess to a deep feeling of alarm at the latest incursion into political finance. We had participated in a large loan to Germany, and he doubted much whether the full aspect of the transaction commercially, so far as this country was concerned, had been properly diagnosed. All that Germany wanted was

credit. In many directions she was our keenest and strongest trade competitor, especially in iron and steel. Her factories were only working now to 50 per cent. of their capacity. On a comparative basis her cost of living was, and probably would continue to remain, about 25 per cent. less than obtained in this country. Her taxation burden would be less than ours, her labour was more amenable, and thus she was in the finest position for starting on the plan which they knew she had made of an intensive campaign to capture the markets of the world. "But our ship will weather this storm, I have no doubt," he said, "because I have the greatest confidence in our captain and his men, who are so loyal to their trust."

Mr Bradbury, a shareholder, urged the desirability of paying a dividend on the preference shares, and proposed an amendment that this course should be pursued. Another shareholder seconded.

The Chairman intimated that the amendment was out of order. All the proposer and seconder could do would be to vote against the resolution.

Sir Fredk. Jones urged the desirability of supporting the directors. The only effect of any such amendment as that suggested would be to depreciate the market value of the shares. The balance-sheet before the meeting was the best ever published by the company. He wished the shareholders to realise that, get it into their minds and see how it was going to influence the future of the company. He believed their works were superior to anything else there was in the country, and the only thing that was wanted was trade. If some of the shareholders could wave a magic wand and give the company trade they could have not only a dividend on the preference, but on the ordinary as well.

The resolution was carried.

The retiring directors, Sir Fredk. J. Jones, Bart., and Mr H. Barber, were re-elected, and Mr A. Blackmore was re-elected routine director.

The auditors, Messrs W. B. Peat and Co., were re-elected.

Mr Edwin Cottam, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff, said there was no chairman of any company who devoted more time to the business of the company with which he was concerned. He was a practical man. All the directors and staff had got their backs into their jobs, and were doing the best for the shareholders.

Mr Matthew Allott seconded.

The resolution having been carried with acclamation,

The Chairman expressed thanks for the vote and appreciation of the fact that their critic at the meeting had endeavoured to second the vote of thanks. He could tell the shareholders that the board had worked very hard during the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED.

PROMISING OUTLOOK IN ARGENTINA.

The ordinary general meeting of proprietors of the Central Argentine Railway, Limited, was held on the 20th instant, at River Plate House, London, Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the loss on the remittances amounted to £817,600, as compared with £309,000 last year. This was admittedly a heavy loss, but it was one that was quite beyond their control. Apart from remittances made by the Argentine Government for the service of its foreign debt, the price at which Argentine produce was selling to-day was somewhere in the neighbourhood of that which obtained in 1914 before the war, while the imported goods with which those exports were liquidated must still be about double the price at which they stood in pre-war days. This, in itself, must constitute a disturbing element, but it demonstrated that a return to normality in Argentina largely rested on a similar change in Europe. So long, however, as high wages, short hours, and, what was far worse, inefficient or indifferent work and doles undermined the productivity of labour and enhanced prices in manufacture, so long must exchange reflect that situation. Still, the tendency should be to improvement, always assuming that nothing happened to disturb either Argentine crops or the world's finances. To-day, however, exchange was better than it was twelve months ago. The Chairman then dealt in detail with the figures in the balance-sheet, and remarked that various important improvements of the railway had been made during the past year. Referring to his visit to Argentina, he said that he found that the President and his Ministers were fully alive to the many problems which confronted their country, and they were receiving their most serious and constant attention. Industry was growing in Argentina, and as to the land, which was the destination of all newcomers, only a small fraction of that immense territory had yet been touched. Argentina's possibilities in this respect were almost limitless.

The Argentine was a great nation and bids fair to become one of the leading ones, and with its natural gifts nothing could stop its progress and prosperity. It might have temporary setbacks—

what nation had not?—but he was more than ever convinced that its future was almost boundless. Colonists were settling along the line, and homesteads were everywhere springing up. The outlook in general could not be more promising. As to the railway itself its potentialities were immense. The latest advices from their local committee were that, although gross receipts to date were £270,000 ahead of those of last year, further increases might be expected. The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY, LIMITED.

ELECTRIFIED SERVICE—INCREASED PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Limited, was held, on the 21st instant, at River Plate House, London.

Sir Henry Bell, Bt., chairman of the company, presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, referring to the results of the year's operations, said he wished to call attention to the paragraph in the report dealing with their reduced interim dividend of 2 per cent. With traffics as they were to the end of December, and exchange as it then was, the directors felt that they were not justified in paying more. At the last meeting he told them that the maize crop in the Pampa districts had been practically ruined by drought. The loss of their long-haul Pampa maize handicapped them most severely at the commencement of their financial year, but subsequently the favourable wheat, linseed, and oat crops, and the increasing receipts from passenger and live-stock traffic so improved the situation that at the close of the year they were in a position not only to charge the exchange loss on remittances against net revenue, but also to recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent. and to carry forward £66,000.

The recent offer of £1,000,000 5 per cent. ten-year bearer notes at 95½ per cent. was heavily over-applied for. Within the next year their 5 per cent. terminable (1925) debenture stock and bearer debentures and the 5 per cent. Provincial Government Bonds (1888) would mature, amounting together to £1,987,750. Those securities fell due for repayment in June and July next, and they would have to make arrangements for dealing with them at the appointed date. It was not a question of increasing their capital; it amounted to a replacement of one obligation by another, and could not be regarded in any way as new money.

An outstanding feature of the year's working was the electrified service, which was open to the public in May, 1923. During the past year they had carried 13,887,000 passengers. Those were remarkable figures, and when he mentioned that in March last they had carried 1,304,000 passengers, shareholders would have some idea of the problems which had to be faced.

As to the future, they could not remain stationary; the country was developing, and they could not avoid their obligations to assist in its expansion, nor did they wish to do so. Their considered view was that at the present time they should endeavour to open up to agriculture those areas remote from existing lines where the soil was suitable to grain.

According to their latest advices, their receipts in the current year showed a gross increase of £323,000.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY OF MONTE VIDEO, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN OPTIMISTIC OF THE FUTURE.

The ordinary general meeting of the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video, Limited, was held, on the 21st inst., at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Mr Frank Henderson, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and the statement of accounts, said that the gross receipts of the main line were £92,000, or 6.71 per cent. in excess of those for the previous year. There was an increase of £73,000, or 8.46 per cent., in the working expenses, which left a net profit of over £18,000, or 3.69 per cent. more than last year, the ratio of expenses to receipts having been 64.39 per cent., or 1 per cent. higher, which, he thought, they might consider satisfactory, having regard to the fact that a very large proportion of the increase in the tonnage of goods carried was in low-rated traffic. The two outstanding features were the substantial increases in both goods and livestock traffic, which, he thought, clearly indicated the improvement that had taken place in the whole trade and economic condition of the Republic. Unfortunately, owing to the depreciation of the dollar, they again incurred a very substantial loss in remitting their funds to London.

A cheerful aspect at the moment regarding this all-important factor in the accounts was the steady improvement that had taken place in the value of the dollar. There would, no doubt, be fluctuations, but all the same they had started the year well, and, with the balance of trade in favour of Uruguay, a similar condition of prosperity in the Argentine (and, perhaps, in a minor degree,

in Brazil also), there would seem to be a reasonable prospect of the dollar maintaining an improved value as compared with last year, and if this were fulfilled it would have a beneficial effect on the company's financial position. A few days after the last meeting he sailed for the River Plate to study with the management a programme of renewals and improvements to cover the next few years. The renewal fund stood to-day with a credit of £643,000, and the time had now come to spend a portion of that money.

After providing for the loss on exchange and all other charges, the balance remaining on net revenue account amounted to £147,314, out of which the board proposed to place £20,000 to the general reserve fund, and to pay balance dividends of 2½ per cent. (making with the interim dividend 5½ per cent.) on the preference shares for the year, and 3 per cent. (making with the interim dividend 5 per cent.) on the ordinary stock, both less income-tax, carrying forward a balance of £45,314, which, he hoped, the proprietors would consider satisfactory.

Mr Henry C. Allen seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD OF PROGRESS.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 24th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, the Viscount St Davids, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: As it is the last time probably that I shall address the Bahia Blanca shareholders, I hope you will allow me to give a short *résumé* of what has happened since I first became your chairman in January, 1900. At that time the length of the line was 234 miles, and the price of the stock, which was preference stock, was 40. We had to do something, and eventually in July, 1904, we leased the line to the Pacific with the guarantee of dividends which were to begin at 3 per cent., and gradually rise to 4½ per cent, and, as from the year 1917, the dividends have been 4½ per cent., and have always been regularly paid. When we leased the line we built up a big line to connect the old Bahia Blanca with the Pacific, and we built branches so that now the length of the line has increased from 234 miles to 764 miles. To-day at Galvan there is a first-class port, solidly built of concrete with a capacity for 13 ocean-going vessels besides coasting craft. We have got all the berths electrically equipped, and we can load 1,000 tons of grain per day in each vessel. We have four electrically worked elevators, each of which can ship 5,000 tons per day. We have electric cranes and storage capacity for 65,000 tons of grain. When I became connected with this line the goods traffic which we handled in the year was 30,000 tons; last year it was 1,700,000 tons. Then we carried in the year 16,500 passengers; last year we carried 740,000 passengers. Our capital in 1900 was £1,800,000; now it is £10,050,000.

As to the future, we are transferring the lease to the Buenos Ayres Great Southern. I need not tell you that their guarantee of your interest is a perfectly safe one. The stocks stand to-day at 83, and there is no doubt that gradually as capital accumulates again in the country, and money becomes cheaper, and the rate of interest becomes lower, a stock with 4½ per cent. guaranteed by the Buenos Ayres Great Southern will some day or other come to par or over. Therefore, I think I may fairly claim that as the result of 24 years of work, I have given the shareholders a very substantial record of achievement and success, and I think I am leaving you in a first-class position. I think, also, that we are all entitled to congratulate ourselves.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company, Limited, was held on the 22nd instant, at River Plate House, London, the Chairman (Mr H. C. Allen) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the results of the working for the past year were eminently satisfactory, the gross receipts, for the first time in the history of the company, considerably exceeding £10,000,000. The net receipts were £4,296,331, compared with £3,643,913. Allowing for the exchange loss on remittance each year, the balance was £3,540,598, compared with £3,242,620. These very satisfactory results were arrived at after making increased allocations to the renewal and analogous funds; the contributions from revenue under those headings aggregating £734,355 this year, compared with £569,894 for the previous period. The amount now standing to the credit of the general renewal fund exceeded £4,500,000. The other funds of a like

THE BEST SECURITY

against financial loss from
Burglary and Housebreaking is a
Liverpool & London & Globe Policy.

Banker, Manufacturer, Merchant, Shopkeeper,
Householder—each will find a policy suited
to his own particular needs.

A postcard will bring full details.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Prospectus free on request.

Head Office:— London:—
1 Dale St., Liverpool. Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.3. I

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

nature all showed increases, and the totals amounted to over £5,250,000. There was undoubtedly a tendency towards greater stability in all foreign exchanges, as—after the dislocation caused by the war and its aftermath—international finance gradually worked back towards the gold standard. This made it the less likely that in future they would find themselves the victims of disturbing fluctuations such as they had experienced in recent years. The results for the past year reflected not only on the favourable crop conditions the company has enjoyed, but also on the very great advantage not only to them, but to the country generally of a sound, stable, and yet progressive administration. The directors were of opinion that the time was now ripe for resumption of a railway expansion, and that petitions had been presented to the Argentine Government for concessions for the construction of three extensions. In the aggregate those three extensions would amount to some 350 kilometres, and the capital cost should be in the neighbourhood of £2,000,000. With regard to the prospects of the current year, he thought the proprietors might with a certain amount of confidence look forward to as good, if not better results, than those they had just been considering.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED. EFFECT OF REDUCED OIL PRICES.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited, was held, on the 22nd instant, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, Mr Henry H. Haldin, K.C., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the net amount of oil produced showed a diminution of 17,127 barrels, which at \$1 per barrel made a difference of only £3,000, whereas the decrease in gross profit was about £41,000. It would be seen, therefore, that the profits had been reduced, not so much by loss in production as by the drop in the price of oil, for which they were in no measure responsible. However, the peak of production had been passed in California, and they expected that in the near future the price of oil must rise.

The fall on the old Kern field was hardly noticeable, a mere 9,500 barrels, which was not 2 per cent. on last year's production. Considering the many years this field had been in production, it might fairly be described as miraculous. The big fall was in the St. Helens, where the drop was from 716,949 to 556,441 barrels. On the Garnier lease two wells were drilled, both of which failed to produce, and the lease was surrendered. On the Montebello property another deep well had been drilled, which had taken more than two years' work, and they had hoped that production would be obtained there. They had acquired certain other properties on behalf of the St. Helens Company.

The difficulties of producing in California were: (1) depths to be drilled 50 per cent. deeper, (2) cost of material increased 33 per cent., (3) wages still up 50 per cent., (4) the difficulties of acquiring new land owing to the Naval Reserve Act, and (5) all prospective lands outside the Naval Reserve, but near to development, were held for fabulous sums. They could congratulate themselves on having foreseen these eventualities, which had completely justified their policy of going farther afield for production. Mr Ivey had paid a visit to California, where he effected certain valuable rearrangements with the local administration, and was largely instrumental in the acquisition of land in the Edison district of Kern County. For the second time they had brought

in a large sum in respect of the McLeod lease to the credit of the St. Helens profit and loss account, which had helped the Kern dividend and enabled them to write off a substantial sum by way of depreciation. Their patience and perseverance in Mexico had at last been rewarded, and it looked as if the west side of their property would amply repay them for the money spent. In Trinidad their revenue was equal to their expenditure, and there was scope for considerable development in the large areas they possessed in that island.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Govt. Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.							
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19.450	15.9	261,479
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	5,000	28,500	19,650	16.3	254,312
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16.5	246,456
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15.9	258,922
1923.							
Mar. 28.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,294
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	242,446
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.5	238,595
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16.5	255,032
1924.							
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.6	236,667
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.0	246,198
Sept. 24.....	285,592	12,227	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	241,185
Oct. 8.....	288,601	12,289	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	244,322
Oct. 15.....	287,090	12,353	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.2	242,850
Oct. 22.....	285,218	12,234	7,000	27,000	22,450	17.3	240,859

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in and not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £309,989,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Oct. 27—Nov. 1 were opened on Oct. 24, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £55,135,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 2d. about 9 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 5d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Sept. 19.....	35,000,000	51,165,000	3 13 1.09	nil
Sept. 26.....	40,000,000	63,960,000	3 12 4.7	nil
Oct. 3.....	40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3.99	nil
Oct. 10.....	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9.15	nil
Oct. 17.....	35,000,000	57,670,000	3 14 11.17	nil
Oct. 24.....	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 3.74	nil

Tenders will be received on Oct. 31, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
5% Conversion Loan.....	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666
4% War Stock.....	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds.....	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	880	813
4% Funding Loan.....	..	409	406	401	399	399	396	396	396
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds.....	..	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
Exchequer Bonds.....	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
National Savings Certs.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
Other Debt.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	..	51	51	1,121	878	616	652	588	616
Treasury Bills.....	..	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107
Temporary Advances.....	..	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186
Other Capital Liabilities.....	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,682
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,728

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Oct. 20, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Oct. 18, '24.	Week Ended Oct. 18, '24.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	179,911,500	186,155,500	178,234,000	3,500,000
Advances by Public Deposits	633,960,000	588,320,000	*615,715,000	2,700,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	813,871,500	774,475,500	791,949,000	4,010,000
Total Floating Debt	1,627,743,000	1,548,951,000	1,565,898,000	1,910,000

* Includes £28,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1924, to Oct. 18, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1923, to Oct. 20, 1923.	Receipts. Week Ended Oct. 18, 1924.	Receipts. Week Ended Oct. 20, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—					
Bank of England.....	..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
..	..	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	101,800,000	54,103,000	69,898,000	1,189,000	2,003,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	74,085,000	80,008,000	8,971,000	8,386,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,477,000	3,918,000	..	..
State, &c., Duties.....	21,000,000	33,400,000	28,680,000	720,000	730,000
..	..	10,490,000	10,620,000	990,000	290,000
Stamps.....	..	..	..	..	..
Land Tax.....	1,250,000	660,000	530,000	..	10,000
Property & Income Tax.....	265,000,000	116,157,000	115,910,000	3,676,000	2,673,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	25,650,000	21,850,000	350,000	360,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	20,000,000	9,540,000	11,850,000	340,000	590,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	53,500,000	28,900,000	27,100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Post Office.....	300,000	480,000	460,000	..	..
Crown Lands.....	..	..	..	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	8,053,646	8,299,172	..	..
Miscellaneous—	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts.....	11,850,000	6,736,814	8,045,953	210,000	272,780
Special Receipts.....	30,000,000	15,668,261	21,842,509	900,000	900,000
Revenue.....	794,050,000	388,410,721	409,031,634	17,446,000	17,214,780
Total, inc. Balance.....	..	395,042,335	415,849,801	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	5,790,000	4,480,000	10,000	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924.....	..	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	..	260,719	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	140,000	270,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills.....	..	1,315,867,000	1,374,434,000	44,060,000	41,333,000
By National Savings Certificates.....	..	15,150,000	34,800,000	750,000	150,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33.....	..	13,521,620	29,306,627	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	..	500,259,000	507,705,000	3,950,000	3,750,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired.....	..	23,109	50,081	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	..	562,521	186,598	..	..
Total.....	..	2,251,120,304	2,370,431,107	66,216,000	62,447,780

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
	£	Apr. 1, 1924, to Oct. 18, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Oct. 20, 1923.	Week Ended Oct. 18, 1924.	Week Ended Oct. 20, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	186,213,986	183,964,866	5,640,635	4,654,332
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	15,553,855	20,940,455	500,000	515,500
Road Fund	15,000,000	3,876,044	3,327,044	371,000	299,000
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts &c.	13,150,000	4,687,891	5,158,012	..	700,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	2,403,727	2,807,884	..	341,093
Land Settlement	750,000	327,083	380,318	..	21,677
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	1,356,819	1,290,840	..	..
Supply Services	408,919,070	199,900,512	205,543,676	8,530,000	8,000,000
Expenditure	793,759,000	414,319,927	422,833,095	15,041,635	14,531,602
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion		..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1924		73,782	73,782	36,891	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921		250,000	270,000	..	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1922 and 1924		4,750,000	3,620,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914		6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924		310,719	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed..		5,780,000	4,010,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills		1,288,500,000	1,356,495,000	40,060,000	42,900,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates		17,500,000	19,400,000	550,000	700,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		6,304,373	32,134,356	200,000	247,446
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		60	6,981,184	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		510,180,500	521,691,000	9,900,000	4,300,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners					
		23,109	50,081	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911		..	55,214	..	..
		2,347,998,460	2,367,630,712	65,788,536	62,729,040
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England		1,189,443	1,999,437	+ 272,864	- 111,239
Bank of Ireland		932,401	800,968	+ 154,610	- 168,979
Total		3,121,844	2,800,395	+ 427,474	- 281,26

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 22, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	Notes issued	£
Government debt	11,015,100		
Other securities	8,734,900		
Gold coin & bullion	126,659,380		
	146,409,380		146,409,380

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities	42,468,443
Reserve	3,095,454	Other securities	77,116,347
Public deposits*	14,757,735	Notes	23,503,750
Other deposits	112,497,350	Gold and silver coin ..	1,828,365
Seven-day & other bills	13,366		

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Oct. 22, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Reserve	3,095,454	+	66,555
Public deposits	14,757,735	+	900,839
Other deposits	112,497,350	+	1,334,937
Government securities	42,468,443	+	235,000
Other securities	77,116,347	+	5,244,302
Reserve	25,332,115	+	1,019,386
Note circulation	122,905,630	+	205,205
Coin and bullion	128,487,745	+	814,181
% of reserve to liabilities	19%	+	1%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.	£	£	£	£	£	%
Sept. 17	128,426,787	124,059,235	122,076,356	116,261,708	24,077,552	19 1/4
Sept. 24	128,425,337	123,988,865	124,300,863	118,305,809	24,266,472	19 1/4
Oct. 1	128,426,147	122,288,835	128,080,392	120,473,972	25,887,312	20 1/4
8	128,481,074	124,484,485	124,748,432	118,645,067	27,745,589	19
15	128,484,143	123,450,130	127,934,228	120,804,854	24,784,013	19 1/2
22	128,487,745	122,905,630	127,255,085	119,584,790	25,332,115	19 1/2

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to October 8	26,778,379	1,223,755	2,227,589	30,233,823
Oct. 15	663,211	30,989	58,386	752,586
Oct. 22	625,126	31,651	58,020	714,797
Total to date 1924.	28,076,716	1,286,395	2,344,095	31,707,206
Do 1923.	26,179,362	1,264,911	2,305,119	29,749,392
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 1,897,354	+ 21,484	+ 38,976	+ 1,957,814
	+ 7.2 %	+ 1.6 %	+ 1.6 %	+ 6.5 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,554	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,185	37,161,481
Increase or decrease in 1923	- 510,262	- 28,096	+ 4,499	- 533,859
	- 1.6 %	- 1.8 %	+ 0.2 %	- 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of September.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Oct. 18.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	26	25		
	£	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM	7,992,000	9,992,000	94,345,100	96,524,600
BRISTOL	4,515,000	4,971,000	48,268,000	48,207,000
DUBLIN	3,857,000	4,566,000	249,826,600	225,888,500
LONDON	3,554,000	3,575,000	44,328,800	44,592,800
MANCHESTER	2,801,000	3,067,000	42,812,200	42,156,200
NEWCASTLE	3,554,000	3,775,000	30,309,000	31,800,900
NOTTINGHAM	2,801,000	3,067,000	37,248,000	38,143,300
PLYMOUTH	32,413,000	37,248,000	358,334,400	381,443,300
ROCHESTER	54,694,000	65,167,000	608,742,200	633,815,200
SHEFFIELD	7,449,000	7,015,000	83,698,100	83,728,600
TOTAL	2,221,000	2,587,000	25,681,600	25,906,600
	4,321,000	4,200,000	47,203,800	44,369,700
Total	123,817,000	141,668,000	..	..

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Bulgaria appeared in the *Economist* of August 23; Roumania in September 27; Estonia in October 4; German Gold Discount, German Rentenbank, and Greece in October 11; Canada, Germany, Denmark, Russia and Egypt in October 18.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

RESOURCES.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Oct. 19, 1923.
Total gold reserve	3,037,380	3,045,950	3,045,940	3,125,170
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	83,310	85,690	85,790	72,850
Bills discounted for member banks	263,080	266,390	266,760	854,520
Bills bought in open market	197,260	175,390	138,260	190,520
Government obligations owned	598,520	581,220	575,960	94,040
All other resources	86,580	86,540	86,550	69,560
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	62,660	37,550	56,540	36,850
Other deposits	2,216,560	2,218,000	2,157,460	1,938,750
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,767,260	1,757,450	1,744,370	2,272,390
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation				470
All other liabilities	12,790	12,750	12,210	22,450
Capital and surplus	332,932	332,900	332,880	338,060
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	77.1%	78%	79.1%	75.3%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Sept. 28, 1923.
Gold coin and bullion	551	551	551	549	549	533
Gold certificates	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,102
Subsidiary coin	50	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted	4,227	3,997	3,909	4,270	4,589	3,069
Loans & advances to Govt	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,400	1,500
Investments	423	423	423	423	423	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	153	153	153	153	153	40
Notes in circulation	10,418	10,013	10,083	10,365	10,587	10,720
Bankers' deposits	4,565	4,765	4,579	4,638	5,033	5,123
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	70.4%	71.3%	71.9%	70.3%	67.5%	67.8%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Aug. 29, 1924.	Sept. 28, 1923.
Total securities	16,778.85	16,765.51	16,764.74	16,751.31	16,577.94	12,701.31
Loans	16,135.47	16,094.50	18,000.24	18,513.18	18,624.10	15,147.79
Cash credits	37,668.85	38,193.35	41,533.49	41,081.02	41,229.29	30,525.23
Inland bills	5,612.20	5,658.82	5,773.73	5,593.83	6,009.29	4,545.57
Foreign bills	16.86	15.47	19.23	18.67	21.06	16.05
Dead stock	2,634.04	2,611.99	2,611.74	2,609.94	2,609.94	2,435.59
Bal. with other banks	1,361.16	1,795.60	1,432.21	1,337.37	1,265.99	2,350.90
Cash	28,293.86	27,842.82	26,533.48	27,411.32	30,288.88	39,399.36
Capital paid up	5,625.50	5,625.50	5,625.50	5,625.50	5,625.50	5,625.50
Reserve	4,575.50	4,575.50	4,575.50	4,575.50	4,575.50	4,350.00
Total deposits	97,811.65	98,311.61	1,02,092.28	1,02,847.70	1,06,183.38	94,583.33
The above includes—						
Deposits in Lond'n	1,239	1,544	1,289	1,240	1,276	217
Adv'ces in Lond'n	463	461	464	471	473	308
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	910	1,198	955	886	849	153

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Sept. 22, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Cash and bullion	1,115,737	1,115,653	1,114,883	1,115,149	1,114,383	221,320
Discounts	196,652	190,248	219,799	219,799	241,064	41,740
Advances	267,639	264,463	289,361	326,130	208,733	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	1,150,443	1,143,840	1,199,175	1,300,760	1,351,814	362,270
Govt. deposits	959,557	964,818	963,651	969,537	840,506	87,540
Other deposits	79,190	77,391	78,037	73,551	188,640	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion	5,544,321	5,544,268	5,544,234	5,538,031	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	302,388	302,097	301,716	295,540	632,650
Discounts and advances	7,734,684	7,684,792	7,848,942	5,291,505	2,327,775
Advances to the State	22,700,000	22,800,000	22,900,000	23,400,000	..
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	40,459,510	40,569,979	40,548,504	37,670,009	5,811,875
Government deposits	18,338	12,666	15,475	56,414	183,700
Private deposits	1,737,348	1,772,553	1,876,550	1,978,043	846,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Sept. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	357,592	356,144	355,307	354,575	349,965	322,650
Securities	1,254,260	1,222,013	1,235,849	1,327,094	976,965	607,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	7,617,350	7,623,602	7,627,895	7,596,085	7,128,877	594,150
Current accounts	238,592	219,362	283,936	381,738	417,120	112,126

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1924.	Sept. 29, 1924.	Oct. 22, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	497,678	510,128	512,670	529,090	581,777	164,092
Silver	10,570	10,343	10,453	11,290	9,778	8,436
Discounts and advances	355,188	353,496	367,325	370,260	341,161	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	963,105	971,983	981,991	973,167	997,239	518,638
Deposits	22,142	18,000	20,960	22,229	48,737	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	215,750	215,000	216,000	211,750	161,228	22,972
Silver					61,919	29,786
Discounts, advances, and other investments	174,580	170,460	166,000	161,000	176,497	77,667
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	275,000	275,500	269,500	264,500	263,133	109,499
Deposits and bills payable	123,000	119,000	121,500	116,500	139,934	11,250

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	505,076	504,867	504,838	504,930	527,284	171,175
Silver	92,940	92,609	92,972	93,772	95,763	103,500
Assets & advances	282,809	303,780	310,630	287,885	303,103	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula'n.	833,843	861,732	891,282	832,486	887,579	275,925
Deposits	157,662	110,930	90,923	114,824	82,904	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,227	44,224

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

† Rate for previous day.

Decreased volume:

(b) Week ended Oct. 17, 1924.		Week ended Oct. 19, 1924.			Aggregate 42 Weeks, 1924.		
(c) Week ended Oct. 18, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passen- gers,&c.	Goods, &c.	Total Week.	Passen- gers,&c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western.....	3,754	250,000	360,610	610,000	1,152,700	1,415,000	25,677,000
Do for 1923	3,747	255,200	359,000	584,000	1,140,400	1,474,000	26,141,000
Lond. & N.-Eastern (c)	6,732	420,000	720,000	1,140,000	1,922,200	2,855,000	47,772,000
Do same period 1923	6,722	391,000	730,000	1,121,000	1,903,800	3,047,000	49,445,000
Lond., Mid., & Scottish	6,942	598,000	924,000	1,522,000	2,758,200	3,633,000	53,914,000
Do for 1923	6,941	562,000	913,000	1,475,000	2,725,800	3,765,000	54,857,000
Southern	2,146	310,500	129,200	415,000	1,442,200	961,900	19,383,900
Do for 1923	2,146	291,500	125,900	417,500	1,425,000	1,633,919	18,819,949
Metropolitan (c).....	799	43,601	3,815	36,393	1,334,372	157,621	1,491,993
Do for 1923	799	32,578	3,815	26,195	..	..	10,060,411
Underground H.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	235,222	..	..	9,535,580
Do for 1923	..	..	..	40,762	..	..	1,637,203
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	38,385	..	..	1,691,569
Do for 1923	..	..	..	47,671	198,508	51,393	249,901
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	3,639	1,118	8,934	270,356	144,919	415,275
Dublin and S.-East (b) ..	160	5,461	2,000	39,350	814,800	858,700	1,673,500
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b)	562	24,365	28,067	61,672	1,022,992	1,307,435	2,336,427
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	23,605	17,124	25,339	397,597	606,635	1,006,232
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	8,815	17,124	25,339	397,597	606,635	1,006,232

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -

INDIAN.									
				Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.		
Assam Bengal	25 weeks	Sept. 20	1,072	349,000	+ 50,899	67,42,982	+ 10,29,162		
Barai Lt. Ry.	26 weeks		118	19,300	+ 3,620	8,96,630	+ 58,000		
Bengal & N. Western	26 weeks		2,062	4,65,230	+ 15,894	1,57,09,411	+ 10,62,629		
Bombay Nagpur	25 weeks		2,800	4,66,000	+ 33,000	1,32,61,100	+ 1,81,000		
Bengal Nagpur	25 weeks			19,39,000		42,60,331	+ 49,11,000		
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	29 weeks	Oct. 18				37,130	1,63,56,476	+ 3,61,508	
Burma	25 weeks	Sept. 20	1,342	5,66,876	+ 37,100	1,22,857	+ 31,009		
Delhi, Umballa, Kalka	11 days	Oct. 18	2,873	28,84,000	+ 1,23,000	9,59,939	+ 73,79,000		
East Indian	26 weeks		1,333	28,50,000	+ 1,22,100	9,55,71,185	+ 9,56,642		
G. Indian Peninsula	25 weeks		1,317	28,54,000	+ 1,22,100	9,55,71,185	+ 9,56,642		
Madras & N. Western	25 weeks	Sept. 20	3,023	13,15,000	+ 17,685	5,85,46,551	+ 1,70,844		
Robilly & Kumaon	25 weeks		20	36,902	+ 4,386	17,04,076	+ 1,43,778		
Do Lucknow-Breilly	25 weeks		20	31,175			+ 9,46,203		
South Indian	25 weeks		1,877	9,65,237	+ 61,324	2,34,88,632			

				\$	\$	\$	\$
Argentine N.E.	16weeks	Oct. 18,	754	15,600 +	4,100	203,700 +	24,000
Argentine Trans.	16weeks			2,821 -	1,659	41,097 -	8,124
B. A. and Pacific	16weeks	18,	3,362	155,000 +	7,000	2,485,000 +	373,000
B. A. Gt. Southern	16weeks	18,	5,948	208,000 +	39,000	3,067,000 +	528,000
			Net	1,100 +	26,000	1,049,000 +	344,000
B. A. Western	16weeks	18,	2,882	94,000 +	12,000	1,531,000 +	335,000
			Net	35,000 +	4,000	552,000 +	291,000
Central Argentine	16weeks	18,	3,305	231,000 +	21,000	5,537,000 +	88,500
Cordoba Central	16weeks	18,	2,205	55,000 +	1,000	1,088,600 +	
Santa Fe Central	16weeks	18,	729	26,500 +	4,500	331,300 +	44,900

Canadian National..	41 weeks	Oct. 14	22,680	5,138,847	752,763	182,505,835	9,060,851
Canadian Pacific....	41 weeks	14	13,814	4,214,000	979,000	137,365,000	3,490,000

924.	Gt. West. of Brazil..	42weeks	Oct. 18	1,011	13,200 + 2,200	372,600 -	14,100
	Leopoldina	42weeks	18	1,831	38,575 + 9,212	1,263,784 +	174,119
	San Paulo	42weeks	19	153½	48,737 + 16,031	1,558,715 +	209,848

Antofagasta	42 weeks	Oct. 19	838	43,016 +	11,816	1,387,501 +	22,221
Nitrate (½-monthly)	41 weeks	15	366	44,515 +	25,366	764,750 +	145,767

Havana Central	14 weeks	Oct. 4	12,436 +	419	1,040,305 +	110,828
United of Havana ..	16 weeks	18	57,629 -	642		

Central Uruguay ..	16 weeks	Oct. 18	273	25,174	+	706	57,121	+	1,32
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	16 weeks	18	311	4,893	-	468	63,362	-	1,32
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	16 weeks	18	185	2,571	-	127	34,922	-	2,81
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	16 weeks	18	211	2,661	+	224	38,003	+	6,64

Alcoy and Gandia .. 42weeks	Oct. 18	33	Pa. 18,000 +	3,000	957,350 +	104,520
Egyptian Delta .. 27weeks	10	575	15,502 +	4,274	161,943 +	24,540
Gt. Southn. of Spain 41weeks	11	104	Pa118,905 -	16,483	4,275,090 +	471,320
Mexican Railway .. 15weeks	14	432	\$258,400 +	3,900	3,891,000 +	261,900
New Cape Central .. 39weeks	Sept 27	205	2,961 +	328	103,646 +	7,200
Paraguay Central .. 16weeks	Oct. 18	274	5,400 +	1,650	70,040 +	2,420
Paraguay Central .. 16weeks	18	100	3,000 +	1,422	40,692 +	3,440

TRAMWAY-WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.					
	£	s.	d.	Receipts for	Total Receipts

Name.	Period.	End.	Pre- Mile.	1924.		1924.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine....	42 weeks	Oct. 21	39	\$28,850	+ 727	3,650,357	+ 128,512
Burnley Corporation	1 week	18	12	\$3,299	+ 305	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	42 weeks	18	35	Rs 1,534	22,464	60,375	5,9
Chatham & District	41 weeks	16	15	\$1,592	+ 139	83,520	6,8
Egyptian Markets ..	41 weeks	16	..	\$2,114	+ 303	...	...
Glasgow Corporation	20 weeks	18	106	\$46,872	- 139	889,678	+ 18,1
Tramways	52 weeks	Sept. 30	106	\$1,888	+ 482	122,081	+ 5,2
Iale of Thanet Trams	33 weeks	Aug. 27	28	1,614	65	47,599	- 5,6
Lanarkshire Trams	29 weeks	Oct. 14	124	\$26,093	- 1,164	726,610	- 73,4
Liverpool Corporation	23 weeks	22	163	80,550	4,505	2,349,302	176,3
Tramways	44 weeks	19	..	Rs 9,972	3,475	9,67,633	35,6
L.C.C. Tramways ..	42 weeks	19	..	\$4,976	+ 1,414	183,177	+ 29,2
Madras Elec. Co (S. Wks)	37 weeks	18	..	\$14,434	+ 1,654	534,815	+ 125,1
Pernambuco Trams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Combined revenue.

Reports and Notices.

Mr H. S. Saunders has been appointed an auditor of the General Life Assurance Company, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr A. L. Gunn.

Mr Robert Grant, jun., a partner in the firm of Messrs Higginson and Co., merchant bankers, 80, Lombard street, E.C. 3, has been appointed a director of the Phoenix Assurance, Limited.

The resignations of the following directors were accepted at a board meeting of the Eileen Alannah Mining Company, held on October 20, viz.:—Lieut.-Col. A. Weston Jarvis, C.M.G., M.V.O., G. Seymour Fort, Esq., C.B.E., G. R. Saunders, Esq.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Meston, K.C.S.I., has been elected to the vacancy on the board of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, caused by the death of Sir Thomas Holderness, Bart., G.C.B., K.C.S.I.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

CONSOLIDATED EXTERNAL DEBT OF COLOMBIA.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the payment of the October instalment of the Debt service in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1924.

CZECHOSLOVAK 8 PER CENT. STATE LOAN OF 1922.—The Customs receipts for the second quarter of the current year amounted to 211,351,841 kr, against 189,090,230 kr for the corresponding period of 1923, and the net revenue from the tobacco monopoly was 286,621,714 kr, in comparison with 288,706,323 kr, making a total received from both sources for the first half of 1924 943,591,238 kr, compared with 905,952,676 kr received for the first half of 1923.

GREEK DEBT.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1924, compared with those from January 14 to August 31, 1923:—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross receipts, August, 1924	7,993,327.95	(a) 33,396,537.00
Do do do 1923	10,681,697.90	(d) 20,290,000.00
Estimated receipts for eight months (Law of Control) 1924	19,266,666.67	7,133,333.33
months (Law of Control) 1923	18,237,351.67	6,753,223.78
Actual receipts for 1924 (eight months)	69,938,244.60	(b) 264,100,894.05
Actual receipts for 1923 (eight months)	61,716,950.70	(c) 150,885,759.20

Note. Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper and naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the external gold loans of 1881 to 1893. Owing to the change in the Greek Calendar from Old to New Style, both the estimated and actual receipts in the above statement are for 13 days less in 1923 than in 1924. As regards receipts subject to the system of plus-values, all increases in duties and prices are excluded therefrom in the above table. Minimum receipts have, however, been fixed in order to guarantee the plus-values against eventual diminution in consumption. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) In addition to these amounts, import duties equivalent to £13 9s 1d in the case of (a), to £6,211 5s in the base of (b), to £3,424 11s in the case of (d), and to £39,522 16s in the case of (e) were paid in gold at the Piræus Customs.

3 PER CENT. DIPLOMATIC DEBT OF VENEZUELA, 1905.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify the receipt of a sight draft for £4,390 15s 4½d, being the moiety of the fifth fortnightly instalment of the Debt service payable to the Council in respect of the half-year ending December 31, 1924.

RAILWAYS.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.—The following is copy of telegram received by Messrs Baring Brothers and Co., Limited, from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, dated October 7, 1924:—“Directors Illinois Central to-day authorised issue, subject to approval Inter-State Commerce Commission, of additional common stock for subscription at par by common stockholders to amount of 10 per cent. of common stock, as registered at close of business October 22, 1924. Subscription warrants to be mailed shortly after October 22nd. Payment in full due December 10th. Explanatory circular will be mailed with each warrant.”

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.—The following statements show the traffic for the year ending March 31, 1924, and also for the four preceding years:—

Year Ending		Gross Earnings.			Working Expenses.		Net Earnings.
		Total.	Averages.		Rs.	Per cent. on Gross.	
			Per Mile per Week.	Per Train Mile.			
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs.
March 31, 1920.....		6,57,56,972	469	5.46	3,84,96,350	58.54	2,72,60,622
March 31, 1921.....		6,42,66,227	458	5.39	4,24,08,509	66.00	2,18,57,718
March 31, 1922.....		6,77,00,233	482	5.63	4,84,29,146	71.53	1,92,71,087
March 31, 1923.....		7,60,76,669	539	6.01	4,88,51,381	64.21	2,72,24,688
March 31, 1924.....		7,79,00,897	543	6.37	5,10,08,105	65.48	2,68,92,792

The ordinary stockholders receive 5 per cent. for the whole year, as against 6 per cent. for preceding year.

CORDOBA CENTRAL.—Converting Argentine currency into sterling at par, the results of working for year ended June 30, 1924, as compared with those of the previous year, were as under:—

	1922-23.	1923-24.
Gross traffic receipts	£ 3,071,699 12 8	£ 3,168,601 19 4
Working expenses	2,274,393 4 3	2,317,971 0 7

Net receipts 797,306 8 5 .. 850,630 18 9
Percentage of working expenses 74.04 % .. 73.15 %

Loss on exchange amounted to £163,522.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN.—The report for year ended June 30, 1924, shows that the preferred and ordinary stocks of this railway are to receive 6 per cent., the same as for preceding year. For year 1921-22 stockholders received 5 per cent. dividend. The number of passengers carried was 3,049,871, against 3,098,747. Goods and live stock traffic was 1,820,760 tons, against 1,685,358 tons.

BANKS.

FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY.—Balance-sheet, September 29, 1924:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Deposits	\$ 156,894,629	Cash on hand and in bank ..	\$ 39,811,202
Accrued interest, reserve for taxes, dividend, &c.	2,110,274	U.S. Government bonds and certificates	16,085,721
Domestic and foreign acceptances	2,072,737	Bills purchased	32,266,901
Capital stock	5,000,000	Call loans—Collateral	43,024,728
Surplus and undivided profits ..	17,363,576	Time loans—Collateral	23,179,175
		Accrued interest	718,893
		Bonds and stocks	22,061,692
		Bonds and mortgages	1,261,427
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances	2,071,477
		Real estate	2,960,000
			183,441,216

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—Balance-sheet, September 29, 1924:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital	\$ 25,000,000	Cash	\$ 132,812,166
Surplus fund	15,000,000	U.S. Government Bonds ..	45,472,596
Undivided profits	3,987,957	and Certificates	27,991,122
Accrued dividends	742,000	Public securities	22,857,341
Accrued interest payable and reserve for taxes and expenses	3,935,648	Other securities	350,437,675
Current accounts	2,384,896	Loans, &c.	1,724,260
Acceptances	26,353,287	Real estate bonds, &c.	4,644,347
Outstanding treasurer's cheques	16,715,644	Items in transit	26,353,287
Deposits	574,821,514	Real estate	8,288,458
	668,940,916	Accrued interest and accounts receivable	8,359,794
			668,940,916

RUBBER.

SUMATRA PARA RUBBER PLANTATIONS.—The report of this concern just issued for year ended June 30, 1924, provides an interesting table showing crops and dividends for the past 18 years. From this compilation we gather the crop for 1906-7 was 21,900 lbs, and rose steadily year by year until 1919-20, when 1,200,454 lbs of rubber was secured. The crop for season 1923-24 was 1,000,099 lbs. Dividends have been as high as 4½ per cent. Nothing has been paid on three occasions. The dividend for 1923-24 is 6½ per cent., against 10 per cent. for preceding year. The net profit for year 1923-24 is £13,250.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CARLTON HOTEL, LIMITED.—The net profit for year ended August 31, 1924, after payment of debenture interest is £59,655, against £46,065 in preceding year. The dividend and bonus on ordinary shares is 12 per cent., against 10 per cent. for preceding year. The sum of £13,983 is carried forward, against £15,233 brought in. The sum of £20,000 has been transferred to general reserve, while £5,905 is transferred to reserve for amortisation of leases of Carlton Hotel.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS.—The report for year ended April 30 1924, shows a net profit of £39,356, against £41,481 for preceding year. The dividend on the ordinary shares is 8 per cent., against 10 per cent. for preceding year. The sum of £5,000 is transferred to general reserve, and £1,869 is transferred to special dividend reserve fund. The reserve accounts now are:—Capital reserve, £8,845; special dividend reserve, £63,021; general reserve, £40,042.

ANTWERP WATER WORKS.—The working for the six months ended June 30, 1924, subject to debenture interest, British taxation, trustees' fees, sinking fund contributions, and commission, shows a

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		£	%
Financial, Land, &c.										
Cellulose Holdings and Investment	June 30	£ 535	13,979	14,514	..	13,256	25½	1,257	26,714	9
Olydesdale Investment	Sept. 30	8,905	32,644	41,549	10,462	15,500	10	10,000	22,073	8
Tecka (Argentina)	June 30	17,331	43,337	60,668	..	20,000	10	20,000	..	..
Gas.										
Primitiva Gas of Buenos Aires ..	Dec. 31	Dr 456,600	Dr 2,656	Dr 459,251	..	..	..	Dr 459,256	..	..
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.										
Carlton Hotel	Aug. 31	15,233	59,655	74,888	11,000	24,000	12	25,905	13,983	46,065
Motor and Cycle.										
A. J. Stevens and Co.	June 30	17,624	40,733	58,357	881	16,384	12½	15,000	26,092	22,075
Brampton Brothers	Aug. 2	11,222	22,313	33,535	3,487	8,174	10	10,000	11,874	19,574
Enfield Cycle	Aug. 31	37,645	19,660	57,305	1,356	20,000	10½	..	35,949	9,779
Joseph Lucas	Aug. 31	88,427	137,584	226,011	10,734	70,783	20	45,000	99,494	128,813
Rubber, &c.										
Berang (Selangor)	June 30	73	1,855	1,928	..	10,000	10	..	1,928	3,079
Castlefield (Klang)	June 30	2,420	12,223	14,643	..	12,496	6½	..	4,643	15,664
Sumatra Para	June 30	1,872	13,250	15,122	..	1,915	2½	..	2,626	22,046
Tangoe	June 30	1,931	1,928	3,859	..	..	..	..	1,944	Dr 1,850
Tea.										
Central Province Ceylon	June 30	1,619	11,270	12,889	3,000	5,000	10	2,500	2,389	10,600
Ceylon and Indian Planters'	June 30	5,289	22,437	27,726	1,500	13,200	30	7,586	5,440	22,932
Trusts.										
Anglo-Scottish Trust	June 30	7,067	9,890	16,957	..	..	..	8,440	8,517	79,761
Other Companies.										
Brett's Stamping	Aug. 1	2,005	6,029	8,034	930	3,100	10	2,000	2,004	439
Gramophone Company	June 30	289,738	195,136	484,874	5,000	163,500	15	..	316,374	127,183
Picture Playhouses	July 31	5,279	10,746	16,025	..	5,793	3	6,000	4,232	8,227
Raphael Tuck and Sons	April 30	5,882	39,356	45,238	13,750	20,000	8	6,869	4,619	41,481
Rosario Drainage	June 30	34,602	27,931	62,533	7,200	18,460	5	..	36,873	29,307
United Dairies	June 30	101,544	506,542	608,086	118,881	285,599	14	130,000	73,603	468,623

† Free of tax.

net profit of £23,018. The profit for the same period of last year was £12,042. The average daily rate of exchange over the half-year has worked out at 99.40 to the £1. During the first three months the fall in the value of the franc was exceptional, the rate at one time touching 139 to the £1. The sum of £24,426 was received from the Treasury on account of German Reparations, on May 30th, and on the following day an interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on account of the current year. Considering the extremely adverse exchange, the directors consider the result of the half-year's working as satisfactory, and but for the fact that an interim dividend has already been paid out of the money received for German Reparations, the board would have felt justified in declaring a small interim dividend out of the profits of the half-year, but considering the unstable condition of the franc, they think it more prudent to await the final accounts for the year.

GRAMOPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.—The result of the trading for year ended June 30, 1924, is a credit balance of £229,646; add balance from last account, £289,738, making £519,384. From which the following must be deducted:—Debit stock interest, £15,000; debenture sinking fund instalment, £7,800; directors' remuneration and tax, £5,700; dividend on preference shares for the year ended June 30, 1924, £5,000; dividend of 15 per cent. on ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, 1923, £163,500; corporation profits tax, £6,000; leaving a balance of unappropriated profits of £316,374. The directors recommend there be paid (less income-tax) a dividend of 15 per cent. on the 750,000 fully paid ordinary shares, and on £340,000, the amount paid up on the remaining 850,000 ordinary shares.

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE CALTEX OIL COMPANY.—September production, 3,575 barrels, or 567 tons, all wells being temporarily closed part of month on account of rainy season.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—Combined production for the week ending Wednesday, October 8, 1924, amounted to 878 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

A spell of fine open weather continued throughout the week, and good progress has been made with ploughing and sowing operations in most parts of the country. Native wheat is in moderate supply, especially suitable milling qualities which rule at 13s to 13s 4d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Business, however, made quiet progress, owing to declining prices for all imported cereals.

Values of North American wheat registered a sharp drop in view of lower forward offers, while other descriptions also tended in buyers' favour. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 69s. No. 2 hard winter 61s 6d, and choice white Karachi 65s, all ex ship per 406 lbs. In the floating and forward section buyers adopted an attitude of reserve in face of lower American advices, and which was reflected in prices on this side. White sorts, however, were less depressed, and a moderate business resulted in new crop Australian, and steamers of this quality, January, sold 64s 9d, January-February 64s 3d to 64s 6d, while a part cargo of white Pacific December 64s per 480 lbs c.f. and i. Flour in generally quiet request, and prices ruled easier in sympathy with wheat. London standard straight run quoted 52s, patents 54s to 55s, town whites 52s per sack delivered in metropolitan area. Of imported, Manitoba patents range from 49s to 52s, as to quality, and Australian 47s per 280 lbs, ex store. Maize cargo market depressed in view of favourable weather conditions in Argentina combined with some pressure to realise near positions. Steamers of La Plata November-December changed hands at 47s 9d, and December-January 49s 6d to 48s 9d per 480 lbs c.f. terms. Barley weaker. Californian quoted at 69s-71s, and Chilean brewing 67s both ex ship per 448 lbs. Danubian ex ship 42s, ditto landed 43s 6d. American malting 48 lbs ex ship to arrive 42s, and Persian ex ship 41s per 400 lbs. English quoted at 13s-23s per 112 lbs free on rail. Oats dull and lower. Plate ex-ship quoted at 112 lbs free on rail. 33s, No. 2 Canadian Western ex-ship 36s, white American 38 lbs 31s 6d, landed 33s 9d per 320 lbs. English quoted at 10s-11s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize depressed. Plate ex-ship 45s 6d, ditto landed 47s, Bessarabian 47s 6d, and Odessa 47s, both landed per 480 lbs. Oatmeal quiet. London made flaked 21s, rolled oats 20s 6d, medium and fine cut 20s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 20s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s 6d-21s per cwt. Millers' offals steady. Broad bran quoted at 10s, middlings 10s 6d, fine ditto 13s, bags included ex-mill, light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 3d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, ground oats 15s 3d per cwt free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Oct. 18	Cwts. 371,114	Cwts. 416,910	Cwts. 526,007	Cwts. 285,408
7 weeks to Oct. 18	1,591,124	2,974,915	2,602,788	2,832,025
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 8	s d 9 0	s d 9 2½	s d 11 1

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Oct. 11.....	300,309	576,301	120,182	12 3	17 3	10 1
Oct. 18.....	371,114	672,796	173,907	12 8	17 2	10 4
1920.....	356,079	539,289	78,070	21 1	25 5	19 8
1921.....	285,407	503,739	45,106	11 1	14 4	9 0
1922.....	526,007	381,575	84,421	9 3	11 2	9 2
1923.....	416,910	622,613	96,015	9 0	10 6	8 7

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 23rd, is as follows:—Pig-iron: In the throes of a General Election, what little business might be passing is seriously interfered with. Ironmasters are not prepared to reduce their prices, and thereby increase their losses any further, and are maintaining their quotations for—No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B., at 80s per ton, and East Coast mixed numbers hematite at 87s 6d per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The recent reductions in prices have not brought forth much business except for constructional steel. There has been a further drop of 10s per ton in bar iron, otherwise prices remain as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron Ore: Imports are lower at present than for a very considerable time past, as consumers are endeavouring to reduce their stocks before taking in further deliveries. Consequently, there is practically no new business, and sellers' quotations are purely nominal on the basis of 21s 6d per ton for best Bilbao rubio c.o.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—While no change in the actual conditions of the iron and steel industry can be reported, the outlook is regarded as much brighter, and confidence is returning. The head of one of the largest companies in the kingdom publicly stated this week that he believed that the revival of trade was a good deal nearer than people supposed. Forward buying, however, remains at a standstill, and the business passing is for small lots. Pig-iron prices are rather easier on the week, and it would appear that the advantage of the lower coke prices has been passed to the consumer of iron. The export trade in pig-iron is quiet. Trade is extremely dull in the high-grade tool steels, which are too dear to be bought in Continental countries. The principal lines which are at all active are those supplying steel material and tools to the motor industry and to the railways. The coal market is slumping badly, and at many collieries huge stocks of small fuel have accumulated, for which no market can be found except at nominal prices, consequently great bargains can be obtained by users of nuts or slacks. The demand for house coal is small for the time of year, and sales of steam and gas coals and coke are on a limited scale. Market quotations are now nominal for the most part, and cannot be relied upon as an index to values.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—A slightly better tone prevails in the iron and steel markets. Pig-iron is in better demand, and no further fall in price is reported. The shipments from the Clyde last week were 760 tons, of which 594 tons were for overseas. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,795 and 1,695 tons respectively. Following on the reduction in steel plates and sheets, bar iron makers in Glasgow dropped their prices 10s per ton this week. The sheet trade is not so well off. The recent fall in the franc is enabling Belgians to quote some extraordinarily low figures for semis, offers of considerable quantities at below £5 15s delivered this district having been made. Among contracts placed on the Clyde within the last week are two steamers, each about 5,500 tons dead weight, placed with Messrs Lithgows, Limited, by Messrs Hogarth and Co., Glasgow: and two steamers, each of about 8,000 tons dead weight, placed with the Clyde Shipbuilding and Engineering Company of Port Glasgow by the Lloyd Triestino of Trieste.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been very little movement in business this week on the Cardiff coal market. Middlemen are reported to have secured a contract for the supply of 140,000 tons of through coal, 30,000 tons of large coal, and a quantity of patent fuel over next year at prices which are approximately equivalent to the current quotations for the lowest grade of steam coals, but the colliery companies are refusing to look at any business over 1925 at the prices which contractors are offer-

ing; they prefer to take the risks of the market in view of the fact that the prices recently ruling and those now offered by buyers are involving the collieries in heavy losses. Employment in the coalfield has been irregular, and shipments are abnormally low. The depression is as acute as ever.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; seconds, 25s to 26s; best dries, 27s 6d to 28s; Black Veins, 24s 6d to 25s; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 23s 6d; best bunker smalls, 15s to 15s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 11s to 13s; coking smalls, 15s to 15s 6d; anthracite big vein, large, 47s 6d to 50s; Red Vein, large, 34s 6d to 35s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; ruddy culm, 11s 6d to 11s 9d; coke for export, 50s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 25s 6d to 27s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 26s to 26s 6d.

In the tinplate industry the position is practically unchanged. The works are fairly fully employed, but prices are a shade easier at the minimum rates, and merchants are withholding specifications for new orders pending a revision of the present scale of commission allowed by the manufacturers.

METALS.

The market for tin displayed firmer features in sympathy with higher Eastern cables, combined with a good demand, especially for distant positions. Standard cash sold from £249 10s to £256 2s 6d, and three months £251 to £256 and £258. Copper firm, though slightly irregular, with dealings on a liberal scale. Standard cash fluctuated between £62 18s 9d to £62 12s 6d, and £63 3s 9d, three months £63 17s 6d to £64-£63 15s, and at £64 7s 6d. Electrolytic £67 5s to £67 10s, wire bars £67 10s, best selected £66 15s-£68. Strong sheets £92. Lead active and firmer. Good soft foreign pig quoted £37 15s to £35 13s 9d as to position, and English £38 15s. Spelter firmer at £34 1s 3d to £33 15s per ton as to position. Antimony firm. English specials £57 to £60, and foreign £49 to £50. Aluminium steady. Home trade £125, exported £130. Quicksilver spot £11 10s per bottle.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—It seems that arrangements have been made in Australia to get over the difficulty which had arisen in financing the clip, and the latest reports from the principal selling centres reveal a firmer tone and better competition. More interest is also being taken in the raw material in this country, and during the week some fair weights are reported to have been sold on export account, both to the Continent and to the United States. There is also a better tone in the local market for tops, but actual business is still being governed by immediate requirements. Users appear to show no desire to enter into forward contracts, even though tops are being offered in some cases at quite attractive prices for delivery in the first two or three months of next year. There is not much change in topmakers' quotations as compared with those ruling a week ago, but, if anything, the position favours the buyer. Warp 64's tops are slightly easier at 77d to 78d, with average at 76d to 77d. There is practically no change in carded descriptions, while as regards prepared sorts, 46's to 50's are about 1d down, the others being steady at recent rates. There is not a great deal of business passing in home-grown wools, but quotations are generally steady with a hardening tendency in deep lustre classes. Spinners are not doing much in the way of new business, and the white Botany section is badly off for work. On the other hand, there is quite a fair amount of activity in coloured yarns, and relatively better prices are obtainable. Quotations, however, show considerable irregularities, and it is not possible to do much on to-day's basis. There is no material change in the piece goods trade, buyers still operating with great caution and in small quantities.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The course of the Australian auctions is being watched very keenly, particularly in view of what has happened during recent weeks. Private cables were received last week-end from Sydney and Melbourne, stating that there would be no more trouble over financing wool credits, and that better competition and freer buying was expected during the ensuing week. Melbourne and Sydney cables since received indicate better competition, prices tending rather in sellers' favour. Apparently the wider competition has been responsible for the catalogues being successfully cleared, but private cables indicate that wool is selling in Sydney on the

RUBBER OUTPUTS AND DIVIDENDS

In the table below we give the outputs for last three complete years, and monthly outputs for July, August, and September, 1924, and Oct., 1923, and dividends for four complete years of a number of Rubber Companies, while the latest reports of Rubber Companies are analysed under our Summary of Profit and Loss Accounts each week. The latest dividends declared appear under Dividend Announcements, and the Rubber Share Market is dealt with in our Stock Market section. Particulars as to the Market Price of the Commodity and other information will be found in our Produce Market Section.

Name. Year ends December 31, Except where Stated.	Outputs.			Outputs.				Dividends paid in Past 4 Complete Years.			
	Year 1921.	Year 1922.	Year 1923.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1923.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	%	%	%	%
Ampat (Sept. 30)	226,514	232,234	251,099	35,025	33,700	30,078	27,015	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	12 1/2 (22-23)	12 1/2 (23-24)
Anglo-Dutch	2,369,600	3,895,650	2,693,480	354,114	222,200	213,400	248,720	10	5	10	12
Anglo-Java	1,752,499	1,780,811	2,135,500	19,100	59,500	77,700	213,400	nil	nil	nil	1d p.a.
Anglo-Johore	239,212	272,055	259,764	22,516	21,201	26,100	46,100	nil	nil	nil	nil
Anglo-Malay	814,209	1,199,767	907,735	93,907	86,829	89,441	78,601	nil	nil	7 1/2	6
Ayer Kuning	812,127	858,670	656,026	35,501	33,000	31,000	50,000	7 1/2	10	10	10
Badek	286,645	464,407	454,132	nil	nil	4,200	66,750	nil	5	7 1/2	15
Bah Lias (Oct. 31)	1,129,038	1,245,16	1,202,80	110,542	111,440	99,500	80,884	nil (20-21)	7 1/2 (21-22)	10 (22-23)	...
Bandar -umatra (July 31)	523,977	414,711	404,210	41,010	44,000	44,000	46,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	7 1/2 (22-23)	...
Batang (Selangor) (April 30)	467,809	449,827	461,206	33,400	26,500	29,000	31,740	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	...
Batang Consolidated	296,140	303,819	325,823	33,710	35,217	27,570	27,777	10	nil	5	12 1/2
Batu Tiga	510,500	609,767	629,450	59,500	54,500	55,900	59,000	10	nil	5	10
Bekoh Consolidated (June 30)	418,745	432,773	400,603	33,654	27,220	26,797	34,718	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	nil (22-23)	10 (23-24)
Bertam Consolidated (March 31)	1,269,877	1,501,498	1,28,745	121,000	100,000	122,000	113,000	5 (20-21)	5 (21-22)	16 1/2 (22-23)	10 (23-24)
Besoeeki	207,937	432,726	380,000	47,000	45,000	27,000	9,000	nil	5	10	8
Bikam	246,735	294,000	285,800	26,000	19,200	20,400	25,750	5	nil	7 1/2	10
Bradwall	392,248	524,578	523,470	43,098	42,965	36,904	52,698	nil	nil	10	7
Brooklands	615,204	702,000	688,800	64,000	57,000	57,000	65,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	...
Bukit Kajang (June 30)	756,638	655,540	615,536	61,391	44,561	41,730	64,536	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	...
Bukit Mertajam (March 31)	602,386	676,119	780,929	84,470	77,829	89,945	82,767	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	7 1/2	4
Bukit Sembawang	1,010,164	1,055,655	1,123,433	53,564	49,618	38,564	38,270	6 1/2	12 1/2	10	10
Chersonese	504,891	502,753	428,445	53,564	49,618	38,564	38,270	5	10	5	7 1/2
Cheyoia	867,033	728,100	600,000	53,500	50,700	41,200	44,000	5	5	10	7 1/2
Consolidated Malay	482,805	903,362	722,500	60,400	41,300	35,200	62,700	12 1/2	nil	13d p.s.	2d p.s.
Dennistown	392,404	454,401	454,401	25,336	23,928	25,421	35,421	10	nil	6	5
F. M. S. Planters	900,300	901,000	770,000	56,000	48,000	45,000	93,000	10	7 1/2	7 1/2	15
General Ceylon	1,063,642	1,151,166	858,746	63,886	97,458	94,500	94,000	nil	nil	5	2 1/2
Glenshiel	265,172	377,076	305,303	31,251	24,580	25,400	21,965	nil	nil	5	5
Golden Hope	213,446	343,759	279,875	25,215	15,950	15,537	26,929	nil	5	5	7 1/2
Grand Central (Ceylon)	4,379,972	5,063,897	3,981,101	394,891	133,547	58,527	470,396	2 1/2	6	7 1/2	7 1/2
Highlands and Lowlands	1,215,779	1,171,977	1,129,717	79,900	26,900	75,800	94,700	nil	2 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Inch Kenneth (May 31)	534,688	396,583	343,537	21,390	20,170	19,470	24,550	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	7 1/2 (22-23)	...
Insulindie (June 30)	226,801	364,420	300,092	33,486	36,473	26,420	30,332	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	3 (22-23)	...
Java Amalgamated	882,31	834,149	931,832	65,400	69,800	51,500	79,200	nil	nil	10	7 1/2
Java Rubber Plantations	735,635	454,638	426,800	34,500	38,900	30,500	40,800	20,32	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	4 1/2 (23-24)
Jeram (March 31)	248,900	289,311	272,149	30,483	28,400	27,444	28,332	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	5 (23-24)
Kamuning (Perak) (June 30)	747,769	717,071	764,452	47,800	47,800	45,400	46,200	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	5 (23-24)
Kali Gagah (March 31)	216,908	305,420	353,419	21,000	1,600	24,500	24,800	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	5 (23-24)
Kawle (Java) (March 31)	474,803	584,251	468,100	49,000	52,400	49,400	46,200	10	nil	10	10
Kepong (Malay)	483,360	683,840	542,542	49,616	35,160	42,750	51,339	12 1/2 (20-21)	6 1/2 (21-22)	12 1/2 (22-23)	10 (23-24)
Kinta Kellars (March 31)	664,000	667,750	570,400	53,100	42,750	16,500	53,900	25	5	7 1/2	7 1/2
K.M.S. (June 30)	249,093	262,641	295,200	33,500	27,400	28,000	33,660	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	...
Kuala -elangor	667,712	627,809	424,741	33,278	32,980	27,340	26,117	25	nil	7 1/2	12 1/2
Labu (F.M.S.)	1,120,230	900,101	762,855	43,500	44,500	41,900	55,640	nil	5	7 1/2	7 1/2
Lanadron	1,10,819	1,261,642	1,058,162	63,001	61,980	66,538	128,981	nil	nil	8 (21-23)	...
Langen Java (Aug. 31)	455,034	555,688	712,289	49,478	17,39	nil	52,011	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5	...
Langkat Sumatra	370,000	353,000	496,000	40,000	42,000	34,000	59,300	nil	nil	7 1/2	7 1/2
Ledbury	434,976	473,677	475,452	42,116	39,91	47,878	51,745	nil	nil	7 1/2	7 1/2
Linggi Plantation, Ord.	2,175,728	2,256,547	2,235,1	131,100	125,900	65,300	206,830	nil	nil	10	7 1/2
London Asiatic	1,426,257	1,355,145	2,322,793	1,049	146,000	174,501	213,941	nil	nil	15 (22-23)	...
Lumut (Sept. 30)	1,076,700	1,099,700	1,011,557	65,800	51,082	53,819	82,200	7 1/2 (20-21)	10 (21-22)	15 (22-23)	...
Malacca, Ordinary	3,515,765	3,584,678	3,231,310	309,800	253,900	265,100	314,400	nil	nil	5 (23-24)	15 (23-24)
Malayalam (March 31)	681,091	990,670	2,276,799	99,950	221,800	256,900	234,133	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (23-24)	...
Mendaris	1,148,560	1,204,098	636,694	13,643	36,022	13,248	13,562	nil	nil	5	...
Nordanaal (Johore)	517,254	704,603	495,710	37,795	27,100	30,000	47,000	5	nil	5	5
Pataling	539,770	574,370	495,710	73,726	66,536	66,536	80,345	nil (20-21)	7 1/2 (21-22)	10 (22-23)	5 (23-24)
Perak Rubber (March 31)	527,110	769,087	745,324	73,726	66,536	66,536	80,345	nil	nil	5 (22-23)	...
Permatang	516,122	516,589	514,645	21,794	19,455	16,833	35,520	nil	nil	2 1/2	nil
Port Dickson-Lukut (March 31)	302,568	452,760	514,645	47,177	47,461	33,887	50,985	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	5 1/2 (23-24)
Rangpon Para	478,893	521,150	560,073	nil	nil	57,000	82,645	nil	nil	4	6
Rani (Travancore)	701,347	775,346	682,713	22,780	56,940	76,210	83,150	2 1/2	7 1/2	5	6
Rembau Jelai				84,300	84,000	83,000	110,080	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	4 (23-24)
Rubens, pri 30	901,792	778,502	714,003	74,000	68,000	5,500	5,500	5	2 1/2	5	1d p.a.
Rubber Estates of Johore	514,020	525,970	494,902	40,111	33,100	32,662	47,662	nil	nil	1d p.a.	1d p.a.
Rubber Estates of Krian	301,815	370,150	344,374	29,970	21,100	24,000	24,000	nil	5	7 1/2	7 1/2
Sapumalkande	606,582	680,08	565,335	44,01	540	32,40	92,50	nil	5	7 1/2	5
Seafeld	831,367	1,081,960	808,234	62,818	45,910	34,665	77,244	5	nil	5	3
Seaport (June 30)	450,000	530,000	450,000	31,000	23,000	38,000	40,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	4 (23-24)
Selangor	666,554	680,150	666,526	42,070	38,049	37,500	52,678	10	10	16 1/2	12 1/2
Sendayan (Sept. 30)	459,882	471,035	410,776	23,800	21,600	21,600	36,000	15 (20-21)	7 1/2 (21-22)	15 (22-23)	...
Serdang (Jan. 30)	1,585,337	1,747,842	2,245,530	19,411	182,982	176,783	178,753	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	nil (22-23)	...
Serdang Central	331,000	382,000	55,000	35,500	36,000	37,500	37,500	nil	nil	5	5
Seremban	659,313	772,505	701,443	53,220	37,032	40,032	67,032	42	nil	5	4
Sialang (Jan. 31)	1,507,227	1,698,655	1,572,667	126,125	134,818	124,615	156,969	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	12 1/2	10
Singapore United (June 30)	624,358	610,166	688,744	171,000	164,500	149,500	70,500	4	3	5	5
Straits Rubber	2,348,440	2,429,648	2,101,741	21,000	59,878	48,484	53,490	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	7 1/2	...
Sumatra Consolidated (April 30)	306,565	404,778	551,860	60,000	80,000	83,000	71,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10	...
Sumatra Para (June 30)	1,072,539	1,064,851	1,145,860	79,000	35,200	39,500	51,840	nil	nil	8	...
Sungei Choh	576,119	651,512	480,081	35,200	30,050	29,500	58,000	10	10	10	15
Sungei Salak	522,070	493,245	58,000	38,500	37,075	39,000	58,000	10	10	10	15
Sungei Chuma (June 30)	445,070	298,910	479,873	34,273	34,366	33,548	39,150	nil	nil	8 1/2	10
Tanjong (Jan. 30)	1,513,934	1,098,371	1,312,260	139,440	138,015	137,417	165,945	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	5 (23-24)
Teburan (June 30)	614,130	702,597	721,897	49,961	278,813	283,000	239,990	ni (20-21)	5 (21-22)	10 (22-23)	...
United Serdang (Aug. 31)	2,876,88	2,552,227	2,845,681	284,610	85,000	67,100	62,700	12 1/2	15	17 1/2	15
United Su Betong	958,313	828,313	1,135,149	73,300	73,300	58,252	87,925	nil	nil	8 1/2	10
United Sumatra	860,211	715,397	635,086	50,200	39,700	42,500	74,330	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	10 (22-23)	...
United Temulang (July 31)	480,313	671,227	730,795	62,000	57,000	54,500	72,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	15 (22-23)	16 1/2 (23-24)
Vallambora (March 31)	892,438	952,510	852,416	62,000	57,000	54,500	72,000	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	16 1/2 (23-24)
Way Halim (March 31)	187,690	204,298	221,86	7,400	...	...	11,750	nil (20-21)	nil (21-22)	5 (22-23)	...
b November, 1923. c January, 1924. d February, 1924. e March, 1924.											

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The unwieldy supplies of building woods have had a considerable influence in bringing the spot market to its present unhealthy condition. Yet, if we take London as a criterion of the state of the wood trade generally (and it is generally taken so), it is surprising, in these times of bad trade in our leading industries, how well the demand keeps up. To September this year the deliveries from the docks are not only better than for the corresponding period of 1923, they are considerably better than for the pre-war year of 1913, so that when our leading industries *do* start in earnest, more timber will be wanted for them, which should be noted by Swedish and Finnish mill owners, who, in sheer disgust at this season's trading, have threatened (some have really started) to restrict their cut for next year.

All shipbuilding woods are slow of sale, which is not surprising considering the state of that industry. Stocks of teak are light, and prices, therefore, are firm. In American pitch pine, stocks are fairly large, but prices are firming up both in the States and here. Stocks of Oregon pine logs are fairly heavy, but the call for these is not large owing to depression in the above-mentioned industry.

In the furniture woods markets, stocks have shown a slight decline over the month, but the imports this year have been very heavy, especially from the United States. Stocks are stated to be not large, and prices have shown a tendency to increase both in the States and on the spot. In the mahogany market, prices for logs have an upward tendency, the quantity of imports not being sufficient for present rates of consumption; mahogany, in log form, is the brightest spot in the wood market. For cutwood, *i.e.*, imported planks and boards of this wood, the demand is only moderate, and values for the time being do not show much change.

In colliery timbers the import for the month is much heavier than in September last year, but the nine months' imports show a decided decrease compared with twelve months ago. The pit-wood market is decidedly dull, similar to its customer—the coal trade.

MANCHESTER, October 23.

Business in the market during the past week has been rather irregular. Spinners and manufacturers have again been well supplied with inquiry. In some quarters there seems to be an expectation of lower values in manufactured goods, as a result of the longer working hours in the spinning section. There is every probability, however, of the larger yarn output being well absorbed. For India a considerable trade has been offering in piece goods, and fairly encouraging contracts have been put through in grey shirtings, light bleaching descriptions, and printing cloths for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, with exceptional sales for Karachi. Demand for China continues rather more promising, but merchants are afraid to commit themselves to orders of weight. In moderate lots there has been rather more activity for Egypt, Turkey, and South America. Manufacturers continue to strengthen their position. American yarn quotations have been stiffly held, and there are no indications of the shortage of supplies being relieved. Buying has been patchy. A steady business has been done in Egyptian spinnings at late rates.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Oct. 23, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
		d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton —Mid American	13 62	17 72	14 34	12 55	18	21 20
— Sakellardis Fully Good Fair						
— Egyptian ..	per lb	24 70	18 60	17 75	23 00	43 00
— Egyptian ..	per lb	24 70	23 20	20 24	41	47 1/2
Yarns —32's twist	per lb	25 24	23 20	20 24	21	39
— 40's twist	per lb	25 24	23 20	20 24	21	39
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	per lb	35 31	28 40	28 40	58	68
		s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
32-in. Printers , 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	3 37	6 30	35	0 63	0 67
32-in. Shirtings , 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	41	3 37	0 31	6	55	0 68
34-in. ditto , 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lb	20	0 19	9 18	0	21	37
39-in. ditto , 37 yds, 16 by 15, 84 lbs	18	3 18	3 16	3	20	29

BRANCHES:

MOSCOW: Tverskaya 1,
(Ugol P. Revolutnii).
CONSTANTINOPLE:
Grande rue de Pera, No. 464.
Age is in U.S.A.: Amtorg
Trading Corporation, 136,
Liberty Street, New York.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

Whilst there is as yet no decided sign of ease in hide prices, buyers seem to be getting cautious, as only two classes of best ox hides sold at the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday, these making 9½d per lb. Three classes were withdrawn in the absence of suitable bids. Seconds made from 6½d to 8½d, but best cows were unsold. Calf (best) were steady from 8½d to 15½d, but the 9/16 lbs class were unsold. Wools made from 7s 7d to 16s, and hogs from 8s 3d to 18s each. There is a slight depression in the imported hide market, and buyers both here and on the Continent are holding off in anticipation of lower prices. About 30,000 ox have been sold of late to England and the Continent, 8½d having been paid for Argentine ox, and 9½d for Montevideo ox. Business has been good in dry River Plates, and Australian wet salted have also come in for some attention this week. Dry Africans have sold on a basis of 8½d to 10½d according to origin. The Chicago position is cabled as strong, best heavy packers now selling at 16½ cents, an advance of ½ cent on last prices.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, October 24.

SUGAR.—The market developed a generally quieter tone after recent steady absorption, and of British refined, Messrs Tate and Lyle's reduced spot quotations 6d per cwt, also granulated month forward. Here, particularly in standards, a fair business was effected. Cubes now quoted 41s 3d to 42s 3d; crushed, 39s 9d; nibs, 41s 9d; granulated, stoved, 39s 7½d; fine and coarse grain, 37s 10½d; No. 1, 37s 7½d; No. 2, also London and T.L., 37s 4½d; ditto month forward, 37s 4d; second half November, 36s 6d; December, 36s; yellow crystals, spot, 34s 4½d; caster, finest, 41s 1½d; A, 40s 7½d; B, 39s; pulverised, 39s 9d; mineral water, 37s 9d. White Java, spot, 34s d to 34s 9d; May-June, steamer, 20s, c.f. and i. London. American granulated, spot, 36s 9½. Czecho, granulated, ready 22s 9d; first half November, 21s 6d; November, 21s 1½d; December, 20s 10½d, f.o.b. Hamburg. Dutch granulated, J quality, spot, 35s 9d; C.B.S., ready shipment, 22s 6d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. Belgian granulated, October, 21s 1½d; first half November, 20s 4½d; November-December, 20s, f.o.b., Antwerp/Ghent. White Java, October-December shipment, to India, quoted 22s; January-March, 22s 3d, c. and f. terms. Hungarian crystals January-March, India, quoted 21s 6d, c. and f. terms. A steamer cargo Mauritius crystals, November shipment, to Calcutta, changed hands at 21s. c. and f. terms. Raw refining kinds remain a quiet market, and it was reported that a steamer cargo Cuban, basis 95 per cent., consigned to the U.K., has been ordered to New York. Polish beet, 88 per cent., prompt, quoted 18s 3d; and November, 17s, f.o.b. terms. 500 tons German granulated, F.M.S. brand, was disposed of to the U.K., prompt shipment. White terminal market quiet and easy. October buyers, 22s; December, sold, 20s 1½d; March, 19s 9d; May, 19s 10½d cwt.

COFFEE.—There is a good, steady demand for all the finer qualities, chiefly on home trade account, and market continues very firm, but only a slow movement takes place with regard to inferior. Fine bold Co'ombian sold, 165s; fine peas, 171s 6d. Unwashed San Paulo, quay terms, 132s.

COCOA.—Market firm on spot, with a fair demand, and fine Trinidad sold, 78s to 80s; summer Arabia, 100s; fine Accra, 46s to 47s; Accra, F/F grade, November-January and December-February, sold up to 43s; and later down to 40s, then 41s, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—62,600 packages Indian were brought to auctions during the week, and, with a quieter demand, prices manifested a weaker tendency, common and low medium teas being fully $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb lower. Pekoe sold, 1s 7d to 2s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; broken orange pekoe, 1s 8d to 2s 9d; fine to choice, 3s to 4s 8d. Ceylon sales of 17,200 packages elicited fair support for leaf kinds at about steady rates, but otherwise rates declined $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. Pekoe sold, 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; broken orange, 1s 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 2s 7d. 4,100 packages Java and Sumatra auctioned elicited generally good support, and a firm tone prevailed all round. Pekoe sold, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; broken ditto, 1s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; pekoe souchong, 1s 6d to 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; orange pekoe, 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 9d; broken orange, 1s 7d to 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. in bond.

RICE.—Market firm, but general course of trade is quiet. Two Stars, spot, 18s. 1,000 tons No. 3, cleaned Rangoon, October-November, double bags, to the Levant, sold, 16s 7½d, and now 16s 9d, c.f. and i., asked. Spanish and Italian firmly held. Japanese peas, November-December, 25s 6d per cwt. Rangoon bran, firm forward at late rates.

SPICE.—Pepper continued in demand, and market ruled again dearer. Black Singapore, f.a.q., October-December, quoted 53d; L.S., ditto, 55d. Lampong, January-March, sold, 53d to 54d; Muntok, spot, done, 11½d; October-December, steamer, 11½d to 11½d, 11d; January-March, 11½d to 11½d Zanzibar cloves dearer. Spot, 1s 1d to 1s 1½d; October-December, sold, 11½d per lb. Tapioca quiet, steady. Singapore flake, December-January, Havre, 28s 6d. Penang seed to London, 24s. Sago flour, October-December, quoted 17s 4½d. Desiccated coconut steady. Spot halves, 43s per cwt. Ginger remains firm.

JUTE.—Market presented quiet features, and prices favoured the buyer. Firsts, September-October, Continent, sold, £41 15s; October-November and November-December, £41 15s to £41 5s, and £41 10s ton. Hessians steady. B twills, April-June, sold, 102s 9d per 100 bags.

HEMP.—Manila held for steady prices, but there is not much response from buyers. J grade, October-December, quoted £56 10s; K and L, £55 10s; M, £54. New Zealand and African Sisal steady at late rates. Indian hems in demand, and firm, with sellers indifferent. No 2 Benares, November-January, quoted £41 ton.

SHELLAC steady. T.N., spot, 330s to 335s; December, 315s; March, 305s cwt.

COPRA remained in a generally quiet state. F.M.S. Straits, October-December, to Rotterdam, sold, £32 25 6d to £32 35 9d and £31 175 6d. Dutch East Indies, October-December, quoted £31 135 9d. Ceylon, October-November, £33 5s. South Sea F.M.S. ditto, £31 10s. Palm kernels quieter. October-December, to Liverpool, quoted £23 135 9d; December-February, £23 10s ton.

RUBBER generally quieter and rather unsettled, with some profit-taking in force. Standard plantation, crepe and sheet, spot, also October, sold, *rs* 53^d; November, *rs* 54^d to *rs* 58^d; December, *rs* 58^d to *rs* 53^d; January-March, *rs* 53^d to *rs* 58^d and *rs* 55^d; April-June, *rs* 58^d to *rs* 53^d. To New York: Standard estate, sheet, November-December, buyers, *rs* 53^d; December-January, *rs* 58^d per lb. c.f. and i. Wild steady.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Dried yolk, old season's, spot, 11d; new, 1s 1d; prime hen albumen, spot, 4s 10d to 4s 10½d per lb.

GAMBIER.—Block, October-November, quoted 73s cwt, c.f. and i. terms, U.K.

CARDAMOMS very firm. Green Aleppy, spot, sold, 5s 6d; seeds-quoted 7s; good bold pale Mysore quoted 8s 9d; medium, 8s; small, 6s 6d to 7s lb.

QUININE steady. Sulphate, spot, 2s 2d to 2s 3d per oz.
FRUIT (Dried).—The market for currants ruled quietly steady.
 New crop, Amalia, $\frac{1}{2}$ cases, quoted 46s to 47s; Patras, ditto, 49s to

"The Magic of Islam"
NORTH AFRICAN MOTOR TOURS

24 Distinct Optional Itineraries for Tours from London both at fixed dates or dates to suit independent travellers, covering the whole of

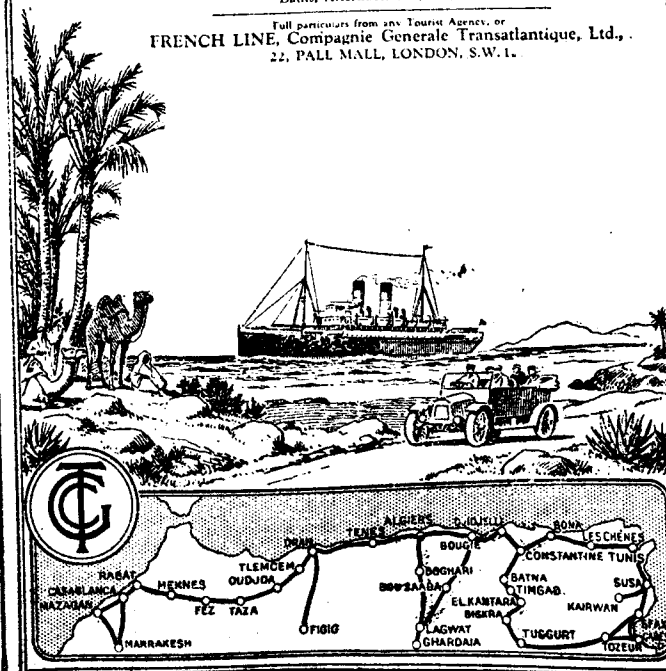
Algeria Tunisia Morocco (French)

RABAT, MARRAKESH (Morocco City), FEZ, FIGIG, LAGWAT, BOU SAADA, BISKRA, CONSTANTINE, TUGGURT, TUNIS, KAIRWAN, TIMGAD, CARTHAGE. The palm-clad OASES of the SAHARA. The snow-capped Atlas. Across the Sahara by 12-wheeled Desert Cars.

Desert Cars.
LONDON TO ALGIERS IN TWO DAYS

Company's own Express Mail Steamers from Marseilles and Bordeaux.
 Company's own Hotels (24) the wonder of North Africa.
 Company's own Luxurious Private Cars.
 Special feature: The fares are absolutely inclusive, even of Gratuities,
 Baths, Afternoon Tea, etc., etc.

Full particulars from any Tourist Agency, or
FRENCH LINE, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Ltd.
 22, Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.



50s; Gulph, 52s to 54s; finest, 57s; Vostizza, 65s to 68s; fine, 70s to 71s. Sultanas are much higher in price than last week, the market being influenced by reports that two-thirds of the crop has been disposed of already. Selection on offer is not on a par with previous consignments. Old crop, Smyrna, 53s to 55s; fine, 60s; new, fair quality, 51s to 53s; finer, up to 63s; fine Cretans, 88s to 90s. Valencia raisins show no change from last auctions. Australian, 41s cases, quoted 44s to 46s; fine, 52s; old crop, Greek, 41s. Figs: Natural, in bags, 36s to 40s. Market for dates remains very quiet, but sellers require previous prices. Evaporated fruits: Californian standard apricots, old crop, 75s to 78s; choice 87s; extra ditto, 96s; new crop, extra choice, 105s. Peaches, old crop, choice, 48s; new extras, 57s; fancy, 65s. Plums, Oregon, size 30/40, quoted 65s; 40/50, 54s; Californian, 60/70, rule at 42s 6d; 70/80, 40s; 80/90, 36s cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—The market in general remained very steady, with a moderate business in force. Sardines: Portuguese ½-flats quoted 35s to 45s; clubs, 4s to 4s 3d; 12 oz, 5s 9d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 10s to 12s per dozen tins. Salmon: 1 lb flat reds, labelled, 55s to 60s; ditto, tall, 47s 6d to 48s 6d; 1 lb tall pink, 25s 6d to 2s; cases of 96 ½ lbs, 28s to 30s per case. Lobster nominal. Canned Fruits: Singapore pines, 48 ½s, quoted 54s 4d to 5s 6d; cubes, 24 ½s, 10s 6d to 10s 9d; slices, 48 ½s, 5s to 5s 3d. Californian apricots, 2½s, 8s to 11s; ditto, 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2½s, 13s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2½s, 9s 9d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1½s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad 1½s, 19s to 20s; ditto, 1½s 10s 6d per dozen tins. Canned meats steady. Lunch tongues meet a fair demand.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 20s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £21 to £37 10s; Cochín, £20 to £45. Ceylon bistle, £22 to £29; cinnamon leaf oil, 54d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 0d; Java, 5s 7d.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed opened steady, but subsequently became quiet and easier, and new crop prices were irregular. Calcutta, afloat, £24 7s 6d; October-November, £24 7s 6d. Plate afloat, £21 15s; October-November, £21 15s. November-December, £21 15s; January-February, sold, £22 to £21 2s 6d. Rapeseed firm, and sellers reserved. Toria, October-November, quoted £24 17s 6d; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £24 5s. Cottonseed in export, with a fair demand. Egyptian, black, new, October, £14 15s; November-January, £14 10s. Sakellaridis, November-January, £14 5s. Bombay, December-January, £11 17s 6d to £11 15s paid. Gingly seed steady. Chinese, new crop, October-November, £29 17s 6d. Groundnuts steady. Coromandel, machine-dried, October-November, £8 10s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £25 2s 6d; East African, October-November, £28 15s. Soya beans firmer. Manchurian, October-November, £24 2s 6d; December-January, £13 7s 6d. Castor seed quiet. Bombay, October-November, £30 10s; Calcutta, ditto, £30 5s per ton.

OILS.—Linseed easier. Spot, net, naked, 45s; October, 44s; November-December, 44s; January-April, 44s. Rape firmer.

Crude, spot, 52s 6d, refined, 55s 6d. Castor-oil steady. First pressure, spot, quoted 73s; second pressure, 71s; and pharmaceutical, 78s per cwt. Hull, with London 2s per cwt extra. Cotton dearer. Crude Egyptian, spot, 45s 6d; Bombay, 43s 6d; common edible 51s; deodorised, 53s. Chinawood dull. Hankow, spot (barrels), 85s; October-November, 80s. Cocoa-nut firmer. Ceylon, spot, 50s; October-November, 48s; Cochín, ditto, nominally 60s. Soya firmer. Oriental, barrels, November-December, 49s; bulk, 44s. Cod firmer. English, spot, 36s to 37s. Groundnuts firm. English, cru hed, naked, spot, 55s; deodorised, barrels, 64s. Turpentine regular. American, spot, 62s 6d; November-December, 63s; January-April, 63s 6d. Rosin firmer. American, grade B, 16s; G. 16s 6d; W.G., 19s; W.W., 20s 6d per cwt. French W.W., nominal per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on October 22nd as follows:—The tallow market was firm during the week, and prices were 1s 3d dearer to-day. The scarcity of spot offerings is still being acutely felt. Shipments of tallow from Australia during September amounted to 2,000 tons, against 1,400 tons during the corresponding month of last year. At auction to-day 1,018 casks tallow were offered, and 917 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 52s 6d; good to fair, 51s 6d to 50s; dull to dark, 48s 3d to 4s; hard, 52s 6d. Australian beef: Fine, 52s 9d; good to fair, 50s 6d to 50s; dull to dark, 48s to 45s; sweet, 53s. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 49s. Present shipment from South America, 49s to 47s. The market letter is dearer for tallow, 1s; stuff, 6d. Town tallow, 40s per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 6½d; melted stuff, 35s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 45s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 46s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 48s 6d; fair to dull, 47s to 46s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 41s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—OCTOBER 23.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the oxal. Sheep, per stone.

	s	d	q	d		s	d	q	d
Beasts—Herefords	6	10	7	2	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	nominal			
Shortfords	6	2	6	8	Canadian	nominal			
Devons	7	0	7	2	Sheep—Downs	11	0	11	6
Northfords	nominal				Ewes	6	8	7	4
Scottish	nominal				Crossbred	nominal			
Irish	6	0	6	2	Scottish	nominal			
Fat Cows	nominal				Lamb—Downs	12	0	12	4

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—OCTOBER 23.

	Per Cwt.		Per Cwt.
English—King Edwards	10	Blackland—	s d q d
British Queens	9	King Edwards	9 0 to 9 0
Maje-lie	9	Evergoods	8 0 0 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.				INDIA RUBBER.—lb s d q d				PROVISIONS.—s d q d				SPOICES.—Pepper, lb s d q d			
COCOA.—Duty, British grown				Almas, fine E.I., a cwt 100				Butter—per cwt.				Mustak, lb s d q d			
9 44 foreign 14s. cwt.				Para, fine hard spot 1 51 9 0				Irish creamery 2 8 23 0				Black Singapore 0 11 6 0			
Grand, per cwt. 70				Baleam Per. per lb 7 6 3 0				Do factory 1 0 12 0				White Stam 0 52 8 0			
Grenada 54 9 62 6				Camphor 1 4 1 0				Argentine 1 99 0 22 0				Cinnamon 4 4 4 0			
Ceylon, plantation 1 11 6				Osmorhiza, refined 2 2 2 0				Dutch 2 42 2 16 0				Pimento—lat north 1 8 9 0			
Guayquil 75 0 62 6				Osmorhiza, Ceylon 6 8 8 0				New Zealand 2 42 2 8 0				Do 3rd 1 7 6 0			
Java, fine 49 9 52 6				Osmorhiza, China prlb 4 8 8 0				Danish 2 42 2 4 0				Cassia Lignea 55 6 8 0			
COFFEE.—British grown				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Bacon—engd.—Irish 110 0 121 0				Cloves—Zanzibar 1 1 2 0			
9 44 foreign 14s. cwt.				Gum-Bolton-Sum-cwt 65 10 10 0				Do India 1 1 1 0				Penang 2 2 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Canadian 110 0 114 0				Madagascar 1 3 1 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				American 104 8 1 2 0				Cochin, small round 82 6 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Hams—Irish 110 0 114 0				Do wormy 0 8 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				American 118 11 0 0 0				Japan 99 0 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Lard—Irish bladder 103 0 107 0				Jamaica, ord. to good 160 0 180 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				American bolls, 10 lb 8 10 2 0				Mace 2 10 3 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Forek—per 8 lb 6 8 7 4				Nutmeg, 65 lb 2 10 3 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Best—cross per 8 lb 8 8 10 0				110 lb and 80 lb 2 2 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Scottish 8 8 10 0				Onitiles—per cwt 40 6 80 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Osmorhiza—per Canadian 8 0 9 0				TALLOW—per cwt 60 6 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				New Zealand 8 8 10 0				Good mutton 51 6 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Siam, Osmorhiza 103 0 122 0				60 6 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Dutch 8 8 10 0				TAPIOCA—per lb 34 6 38 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Siam, per 120—English 8 8 10 0				E. I. Plant, fair, ord 34 6 38 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Irish 23 0 26 0				Medium Plant—per 34 6 38 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				FLOUR—33 lb s				Seed 24 6 38 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Eng. straight—cwt 51 0 0 0				TKA—Duty 3 30 3d British			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				RICE—per cwt 51 0 0 0				foreign 4d per lb			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Broken No. 2 27 3 0 0				Indian and Ceylon 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Broken No. 1 14 9 0 0				Broken Pake 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				ROBIN—per ton 16 0 0 0				Broken Pake 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				French 16 0 0 0				Orange Pake 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SAGO—Pearl, per cwt 37 8 8 0				Broken Pake 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Orange Pake 1 7 2 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Orange 37 8 8 0				SUGAR—per cwt 11 8 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Second, fair to fine 34 3 0 0				per cent. polarization 11 8 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				TIN ORANGE 330 3 55 0				B.W. L. unmoorad. 11 8 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Garret, Lac. ACO 275 0 0 0				Java, c. c. white May 32 0 14			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Bacon—Pura 345 8 8 0				Bafian—London 54 4 4 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SILK—per lb 345 8 8 0				Unb. Crystals 54 4 4 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				China—Bine Elephant 34 4 4 0				Crushed 42 3 42 3			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Canton 34 4 4 0				Granulated 37 4 37 4			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Tapan 34 4 4 0				Crystals, No. 3 37 4 37 4			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Be-rolled 34 4 4 0				Caster 29 3 4 3 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Japan 34 4 4 0				Plover 29 3 4 3 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				Italian—Baw, Fr. Milan 34 4 4 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per cwt 37 8 8 0				Macao—B. O.—P. per cwt 25 0 0 0			
Do. d. foreign 14s. cwt.				Osmorhiza, oil 6 8 9 0				SHELLAC—per c							

of December Treasury bills; this addition to credit is still available, and may account for the fact that withdrawals by the banks for balance-sheet purposes were on a small scale. The discount market was distinctly easier, with fine three months' bank bills taken freely at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., in spite of generally reported plenty of commercial paper coming forward; and the Treasury bill tender reflected this ease.

	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	$3\frac{1}{8}$	..

The Bank returns showed a decrease in the Reserve, chiefly due to an efflux of notes at the end of the month, of £690,000. Government and Other securities declined by £680,000 and £912,000 respectively, and Public and Other deposits by £769,000 and £1,516,000. There was a reduction of £193,600 in currency notes outstanding this week to £285,024,700, which includes £1,365,513 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £234,209,200, or £13,981,700 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The unexpected result of the General Election produced a pronounced rise in prices throughout the Stock Exchange, which, in the case of the investment markets, follows a steady advance during the preceding fortnight. British Government Stocks have scored substantial advances under the lead of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Conversion Loan, despite the reported imminence of a large volume of new issues, and both Home and Foreign Rails have risen sharply. Industrials generally were included in the upward movement, and a large business has been done in rubber shares, while oils have been better, with the exception of Mexican Eagles, which fell on uncertainty as to payment of the half-yearly preference dividend. Mines, as a whole, have shared in the better tendency.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Markets have been somewhat restricted on account of much attention being given to the political situation. The undertone on the Cardiff coal market is improving, but there has not been any notable movement in prices. In pig-iron, prices are showing signs of better business, while the position of manufactured iron and steel is reported as "more favourable" by our Middlesbrough correspondent. Tin opened the week very steadily, but later prices displayed irregularity. Copper was in good demand. In spite of uncertainty as to the future level of values in the raw material, the market is inclined to firmness. Our Bradford correspondent reports that traders as a body appear to have regained confidence in the wool position. Wheat, influenced by the improved exchange rate and political situation, moved up and down, but was fairly even on balance. Rubber maintained a steady demand. Jute prices gave way under selling pressure. Further details will be found on later pages from our special correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

An anticipatory lull, pending the result of the election, characterised the foreign exchange market in the earlier part of the period under review, the feature being the maintained firmness and gradual improvement of sterling against the dollar. As mentioned last week, the United States have been bullish of sterling ever since the Government decided to go to the country, and this, in combination with the continued interest shown by American capital in Europe, would be sufficient to account for the tendency mentioned. The feature, after the election results began to come in, has been the sudden sharp improvement in the dollar rate, and the general movement, in greater or less degree, of most Continental currencies in our favour. Opening at 4.49½ on 25th, the dollar rate improved gradu-

ally to 4.49½ on 27th, 4.50½ on 28th, and 4.50½ on the morning of the 29th, closing the day at 4.50½. On the 30th, when the publication of the first results left the final issue less in doubt, a further sharp improvement to 4.52½ took place. At the time of writing this hardening tendency shows signs of continuing, and the rate is now 4.52½. Paris opened with a weakish tendency at 86.25, but subsequently a slight improvement set in, the rate hardening to 85.85, but in response to the general strength of sterling it weakened again to 86.20 on Thursday and 86.50 yesterday. The recovery and comparative firmness in the middle period is believed to be traceable to official intervention in the market, presumably with the object of creating an "atmosphere" for the projected internal loan. But for such intervention it is possible that the subsequent reaction might have carried the rate much higher. Belgium and Italy followed Paris fairly closely, showing similar reaction to sterling. The former weakened from its opening rate of 93.70 to 93.80 on Tuesday, recovered to 93.50 on Wednesday, and went to 94.30 yesterday. The lira, after opening at 103.85, stands at 104.15. Amsterdam weakened sharply with the dollar from 11.45½ to 11.48½ on Thursday, but has recovered again to 11.47½-11.48. Similarly Berlin, Warsaw, Stockholm, and Geneva, all "dollar" currencies, moved in our favour; Berlin from 18.85 to 19.10, Warsaw from 23.35 to 23.40, Stockholm from 16.92 to 16.98, and Geneva from 23.41 to 23.50, on the two days mentioned. Christiania, after improving to 31.51, also reacted to the general strength of sterling, to 31.58 on Thursday, and is slightly better at 31.56. Copenhagen similarly reacted, but improved to 26.05 yesterday. The leu remains firm at about 800-810. The peseta is weaker at 33.61, a reflection of the recurrence of difficulties in Morocco. Rather heavy forward offerings of this currency point to anticipations, in quarters which should be well informed, of a still further decline in its value. Other European exchanges call for no remark. In the Far East the rupee remained firm at 1s 6 1-32d throughout, and Hongkong at 2s 4½d. Shanghai was a little weaker on balance at 3s 4½d on Thursday, after opening at 3s 4½d; and at 3s 4½d yesterday reflects the continued uncertainty of local conditions. Singapore is unchanged at 2s 4½d. The yen has again developed weakness at 1s 8½d, after opening at 1s 8 23-32d, presumably as a result of further rice and cotton purchases in India and reconstruction materials elsewhere. If this assumption is correct, it presages healthier conditions before long. The South American exchanges showed little signs of life, Buenos Aires remaining firm at about 44½, Monte Video at 47½. In the silver market prices showed a considerable and rather unexpected decline, sales being persistent and on a fairly heavy scale, on China account. Spot closed at 34½d, as against 35½d only a week ago. No support was forthcoming from the United States, which came in as a freer seller; and, unless the Continental mints are to be attracted by the lower price levels now prevailing, there seems to be little capacity of resistance in the market to any continued selling on China account.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended October 25th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	6,000	From Revenue	10,445
Interest, &c., on Debt	415	Decrease in Exchequer balances	246
Sinking Fund	49		
Sundries	753		
Reduction in Debt	3,444		
	10,691		10,691

The Revenue for the week amounted to £10,444,600, as compared with £11,484,000 for the corresponding week last year. Customs were well maintained, at £2,835,000, against £2,892,000, and Excise was slightly higher, at £1,596,000, against £1,534,000. The Estate, &c., Duties were lower, at £1,230,000, as compared with £1,440,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £1,545,000, against £2,326,000, and Super-tax was down by £3,000, at £370,000. Post Office receipts were the same, at £1,500,000. Ordinary receipts were down, at £308,606, as compared with £330,000, while Special receipts amounted to £500,000, against nil last year.

The week's operations reduced the National Debt by £3,444,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	2,885	Public Department Advances	5,799
National Savings Certificates	50	National War Bonds repaid	100
		Telegraph Money	400
		Sundries	80
	2,935		6,379

The floating debt was reduced by £2,899,000 to £789,050,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to October 25).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	421,566,396	Raised by Revenue ..	398,855,327
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,755,633
		Amount borrowed ..	18,955,436
Total	421,566,396	Total	421,566,396

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE VERDICT OF THE COUNTRY.

In the matter of electoral miscalculation Mr MacDonald has surpassed Mr Baldwin. A year ago Mr Baldwin, enjoying a sufficient majority in the House of Commons, suddenly appealed to the country, and came back with only 259 seats in a House of 615. This time Mr MacDonald, who was in a position to remain in office and prosecute many good objects, both in the foreign and domestic sphere, gratuitously invited defeat in the House and went to the polls, with the result that the Conservatives return to Westminster with a clear majority of more than 200 over all possible combinations. Future Premiers will, we predict, be very chary of playing unnecessarily with the fires of electoral fortune. Thus we return in very definite fashion to the old-style majority Government. The first experiment in minority government is over, but the second, perhaps, will come at least within a decade.

For his signal defeat Mr MacDonald has one consolation. He was out frankly and avowedly to smash the Liberal party. His success in that direction has exceeded his wildest hopes. But the smashing has not been done quite according to plan. The terrific blows which the Liberals have sustained have been received not at the hands of Labour, but at the hands of the Conservatives. That is where the Labour calculations went wrong. Of the 110 seats, which up to the moment of writing the Liberals have lost on balance, the Conservatives have gained no less than 103. As compared with this, the net gain of seats by the Conservatives from Labour was 55. It was the great swing from Liberal to Conservative that decided the Election. This movement has undoubtedly amazed the country by the proportions which it assumed. No party prophet foresaw its extent, but with the figures of nearly the whole of the contests before us the explanation is clear. In the first place, there has been an enormous poll. On an electorate only 775,000 larger than a year ago nearly two million more votes were actually recorded. This net increase corresponds roughly with the increase in the aggregate Conservative vote, the Liberal poll having fallen and the Labour poll having risen by well over 1,000,000. Part of the swing of seats

from Liberal to Conservative, especially in Lancashire and the Western counties, is accounted for by the disappearance of Free-trade *versus* Protection as a major issue. Probably a larger part still is due to the inherent difficulties of a central party in an Election which was in its essence a clash between two extremes. In the public eye the Election resolved itself into a single struggle between Socialism and anti-Socialism. The proposed Russian Treaty in itself created an alarm which was worth hundreds of thousands of votes to the Conservatives, while in the last stages of the contest the Zinovieff letter stimulated this alarm with such potency that it not only brought out to the polling booths large numbers of the apathetic men and women who normally abstain from voting, but also induced a big bloc of voters who usually do not vote Conservative, to fly to the support of candidates whose standpoint was as far as possible removed from that of the Labour Party. Add to this the facts that the country saw in the Conservative Party the only Party at all likely to achieve a clear majority; that the Liberal Party placed the Labour Government in power, and that the Liberal leadership was never clear or inspiring, and you obtain full and abundant explanation of the Liberal débacle. No impartial observer will believe that the 2,900,000 or so votes polled by the Liberal party represents the true strength of Liberalism in the country. Nor, we imagine, will any but the most partisan of Conservatives pretend that the 7,400,000 total does not greatly exceed the figure of the true supporters of Conservative doctrine. As to Labour, it may be said that the present election shows that the time when that Party may hope to obtain a clear majority in Parliament is yet far distant. But its leaders may justifiably hail the increase of well over a million in its aggregate poll as a step along that road.

Thus the verdict of the country in favour of an anti-Socialist Government is clear enough. But it is nothing like so clear as the figures of the new Parliamentary representation suggest. The election has indeed produced the most glaring example that has yet been seen of the faulty working of our electoral system. Of the 568 contested elections, whose results are at the moment to hand, the Conservatives have won 403, Labour 150, Liberals 36, and other parties (including "Constitutionalist") 11. Had the aggregate votes cast for the various parties been reflected in the proper proportions in the number of members returned, the 568 seats would have been divided as follows:—Conservative 262, Labour 194, Liberal 103, other parties 9. Adding the 32 unopposed returns, according to party, we should have the following division of 600 of the 615 seats in the House of Commons:—Conservatives 278, Labour 203, Liberals 109, other parties 10. The Conservative Party would still have won enough seats to claim the election as a victory, but they would not have had a clear majority, and the possibility of a Labour Government continuing in office with Liberal support (a condition of the dropping of the Russian guaranteed loan) would not have been impossible. The election results reinforce a hundred-fold the urgent need for electoral reform. The present system has on this occasion worked overwhelmingly in favour of the Conservatives. Circumstances might arise in which it would work otherwise. But in any case we trust that Mr Baldwin will put the interests of the country before those of his party, and pass legislation that will ensure that future Houses of Commons will reflect the will of the people. To maintain the present system in face of the figures of this latest election is utterly incompatible with democracy, and also presents a formidable weapon to the enemies of parliamentary institutions.

The casualties of the election have been notable. Women candidates have been signally unsuccessful, and their number in the new House is reduced to four. The Labour Cabinet has fared surprisingly well, and emerges with the loss of only one member, the First Commissioner of Works. But a number of junior members of the Government disappear, including Miss Margaret Bondfield and

Mr Frank Hodges; while prominent Trade Union leaders, such as Mr Ben Tillett, Mr Purcell, and Mr Ben Turner, are among the vanquished. On the Conservative side the tidal wave carried all the protagonists to safety, though Mr Neville Chamberlain had a narrow escape in his Birmingham stronghold. Naturally the Liberal casualty list is very severe, the crowning disappointment being the wholly unexpected defeat of Mr Asquith at Paisley. We cannot regard as satisfactory any House of Commons which does not contain the greatest Parliamentarian of the century, and trust that an early opportunity may be found to enrich the assembly with his presence. With their leader fell many of his most prominent lieutenants, but the debating power of the Liberal remnant is increased by the return of Mr Walter Runciman, who recorded in Swansea one of the few Liberal gains. But the most striking addition to the *personnel* of the House is the return of Mr Winston Churchill, whose spell of electoral misfortune has now been broken. He returns as an "anti-Socialist constitutionalist," and few things would be less surprising than to find that, when the list of Mr Baldwin's Cabinet is announced, this cumbersome designation has definitely faded into the single equivalent of Conservative, and that Mr Churchill will take high office in the party which first introduced him to politics.

It is expected that Mr MacDonald will resign on Tuesday and not wait to meet Parliament. During the election Mr Thomas announced that the Labour Government would in any case adopt the latter course, for which there are precedents in the case of Mr Baldwin last year, and of Lord Salisbury 30 years ago. But the size of the Conservative majority will probably incline the Premier towards immediate resignation. We stand, therefore, on the threshold of a period of Conservative Government, which, in spite of the adage concerning the danger of unwieldy majorities, is hardly likely to last less than four years. They cannot be four years of tranquillity, for the problems which Mr Baldwin inherits are many and urgent. He will not, we trust, misconstrue the verdict of the country as a mandate for reaction; and we hug the hope that recent electoral experience will dictate the utmost caution in tampering with the Free Trade system. We cannot, however, dismiss from our minds the anxiety aroused by his manifesto declarations in favour of the safeguarding of industry and Imperial Preference; an anxiety which in the minds of Free Traders may be qualified with maliciously joyous eagerness to see how Mr Baldwin will combine the two contradictory pledges of "Imperial Preference" and "No food taxes." But the most crucial test awaiting the coming Conservative Government lies in the sphere of foreign policy. A complete change has come over the European scene in the eleven months since Lord Curzon left the Foreign Office. We hope that he will not return to that office, because we doubt, and more than doubt, his ability to adjust his policy and outlook to the new conditions and the new atmosphere. Already the French Press is nervously asking whether the political change here will jeopardise the new harmony of Anglo-French relations. For this country to meet the changed conditions and the new stage of international development with what we think of as the Curzonism of a year ago, would spell a set-back to the cause of international peace, and a disaster both to Europe and this country. Profound interest, therefore, attaches to the rumour (which is a little difficult of acceptance) that Viscount Grey may figure as Mr Baldwin's Foreign Minister. The country will not forgive the future Conservative Cabinet if it fails to continue those lines of policy which Mr MacDonald has successfully pursued in European affairs, nor is it, we believe, in the temper to tolerate protection or reaction at home. If Mr Baldwin grasps these facts, and succeeds in keeping the die-hard element of his party in reasonable subjection, he will be building in the surest way a bulwark against that wave of extreme Socialism, which any less enlightened course might, during four or five years of Conservative rule, swell to very formidable proportions. He will find his safest guide in the remembrance that, huge though his Parliamentary majority is, more than half the electorate polled for the two progressive parties.

THE POLICY OF FRANCE.

By a striking coincidence, the exchange of telegrams between the Governments of the French Republic and the U.S.S.R. was published, last Thursday morning, in the same issues of the daily Press as the election results in this country, which have turned so largely upon the relations between Soviet Russia and Great Britain. That this was a coincidence and nothing more would hardly be worth saying, if certain people in France and England had not hinted that there was some dark design, with a bearing on British internal politics, in the date chosen by M. Herriot for his telegram to Moscow. Such a suggestion might be dismissed *a priori*, even if we did not know the antecedents of the French Government's action, but, as a matter of fact, these antecedents go back a long way. It will be remembered that M. Herriot visited Soviet Russia during the Poincaré régime, and that a sincere attempt to arrive at an understanding with the Soviet Government has always been an important point in the policy of the present French Prime Minister and his supporters. After this Government took office, a committee was set up at the Quai d'Orsay to study the problem, and the present overture is the result of several months' deliberation.

It will be noted that the French recognition (following in this the British precedent) has been given in guarded terms. The Government of the U.S.S.R. is recognised *de jure* "as the government of the territories of the old Russian Empire where its authority is accepted by the inhabitants, and, in those territories, as the successor of the former Russian Governments." This clearly excludes the Polish, Lithuanian, Lettish, Estonian, and Finnish territories of the former Russian Empire, which the U.S.S.R. itself has already recognised as belonging to the new succession states; but what does it mean in such cases as that of Georgia? In Georgia, there exists a Soviet Government, linked up with Moscow in a complicated federal hierarchy, and Moscow claims that this Government represents the popular will of the Georgian nation; whereas the Georgian Menshevik Government (whose headquarters in exile have hitherto been in Paris) maintains that its Soviet successor is only another name for a Russian military occupation. This ambiguity in the terms of recognition will no doubt cause trouble later; but the immediate issue, in the negotiations which are to take place in Paris, will be the obligations to which M. Herriot intends to hold the U.S.S.R. "as the successor of the former Russian Governments." His reservation of the rights of French citizens and of the French Government is precisely worded, and, from what we know of the temper of the French bondholders, we should guess that the French negotiators will not be given so free a hand in this respect as Mr. MacDonald's Government took to itself—as it has turned out, to its own undoing. It is significant that Moscow, in accepting recognition, and agreeing to negotiations in Paris, has made no specific reference to M. Herriot's observations on the question of French claims, but has preferred vague references to the advantages of a general accommodation. At any rate, the French Government will have the benefit of our own Government's experience during the last months; and the investigations into the authenticity of the Zinoviev document will be followed in Paris with considerable interest, since "non-interference in internal affairs" has been stipulated by the French Government and accepted by the Soviet Government as a condition of the forthcoming negotiations. Moreover, it has been agreed, on M. Herriot's initiative, that regular diplomatic relations shall be opened by the reciprocal appointment of ambassadors before the negotiations begin—an arrangement which would render any breach of the "non-interference" clause more serious in its consequences.

At this stage it would be idle to speculate whether the negotiations are likely to prove a genuine—or even a nominal—success. At the actual moment, British observers will be acutely sceptical in the light of recent British experience; but such scepticism may prove to be mistaken, for France, as a Continental Power, has abid-

ing motives for a reconciliation with Russia which transcend differences of political principle, and may even prove stronger than the interests of private bondholders. This is one form of that fundamental issue between "reparation" and "security" between which the mind of France is perpetually divided. No "Continental system" can give France so much security as a Franco-Russian entente, and M. Herriot touched upon this aspect of the question in declaring that his Government, "true to the friendship which binds the Russian people to the French people," accords *de jure* recognition to the Government of the U.S.S.R. Immediately after the Armistice, France looked to a Poland, restored in the grand manner, to replace the Russian Czarism as her principal ally on the eastern flank of Germany, but the past six years have produced a certain disillusionment on both sides, and it is conceivable that, if the relations between France and Germany were to remain what they were until the London Conference last summer, the relations between France and Russia might return to what they were before the Bolshevik Revolution, and the peace of Brest-Litovsk. From this point of view the conversations which have been taking place between French and German representatives in regard to a commercial treaty may influence the forthcoming negotiations between France and Russia. If there proves to be a real prospect of a Franco-German understanding when these conversations are resumed on November 5th, the political motive, on the French side, for a Franco-Russian understanding, will be weakened in proportion, and the claims of the French bondholders will then be asserted, no doubt, with greater determination.

These Franco-German conversations have been necessitated by the fact that the special economic advantages secured to France under the Versailles Treaty (the most important of them being the free entry into Germany of the products of Alsace-Lorraine) are due to lapse on the 10th of next January, when the Treaty will have been in force for five years. France is thus compelled to negotiate, and Germany has a certain hold over her which she is evidently not neglecting to use, but the spirit which has animated the conversations so far has not been so negative as those circumstances might suggest. The new frontiers have permanently destroyed the industrial self-sufficiency of the two countries, and French and German industrialists and financiers, disillusioned with the results of five years' attack and defence in the battle of Reparations, are becoming increasingly favourable to the idea of co-operation. So far the conversations have revealed differences of opinion on important technical matters. The Germans want a commercial treaty on the basis of "Most-Favoured-Nation" treatment, while the French want a tariff convention, in which the duties on every item in the list shall be the subject of a separate bargain. It is possible that the negotiations may break down on this; the history of the commercial negotiations between France and Belgium since the war illustrates the difficulty of arriving at a mutually satisfactory agreement by the French method, even when the political environment is as favourable as it can be. On the other hand, the political relations between France and Germany have sensibly improved, while the desire on both sides for an economic agreement is now undoubtedly very strong. On the balance, it seems probable that an agreement will be made, and the spirit in which it is made will be of great moment to this country.

A Franco-German economic agreement conceived as one step towards a general co-operation between the leading industrial Powers would be in absolute accord with the standing policy of Great Britain. It would bring within sight that restoration of our Continental market for which we have been hoping against hope for half-a-dozen years. On the other hand, anything in the nature of a Franco-German economic hegemony on the Continent, with a policy of excluding the overseas industrial Powers, would not only be a grave menace to our own prosperity, but would, we believe, be as fatal in the long run to the interests of Europe as the chaos which had preceded it. From our point of view, it is fortunate that it has fallen to M. Herriot's Government to handle the situation created by the expiry of the Versailles clauses, for we do not believe that M. Herriot will come to an understand-

ing with Germany in a spirit hostile to us. The course of his foreign policy since he took office indicates that he is working for a good understanding with his neighbours all round, and not for any reversal of alliances or regrouping of forces. This was the impression made by the conduct of the delegation which represented France so brilliantly in the last Assembly at Geneva, and we draw the same augury from the news that the French Government has now agreed to submit to arbitration the long-drawn-out dispute with Switzerland over the Savoy Free Zones. In this controversy with a small and friendly nation, M. Poincaré's Government did not represent France at her best, and the new departure taken by M. Herriot is a straw which shows which way the wind is blowing. So long as French policy continues to travel in this direction, it may be sure of British sympathy and support.

INDIAN CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.

THE fact that the exchange value of the rupee has for some time past fluctuated between 1s 5d and 1s 6d has led to the usual demand for a Government Commission to consider the advisability of reverting to the pre-war ratio of 1s 4d per rupee, or 15 rupees to the £1. But Sir Basil Blackett is apparently not convinced of the expediency of the proposal. He pointed out in his statement to the Legislative Council that during the last export season a reversion to the pre-war rate could only have been attained by a contraction of the currency, while those who desire a return to the 15 rupee to the £1 basis, apparently demand that such a step must be accompanied by an expansion of the currency in order to ensure adequate funds for the financing of the abounding trade. The Finance Minister frankly admitted that the 2s ratio that had been fixed as the outcome of the recommendations of the Indian Committee on Exchange and Currency of 1919, was not only ineffective, but harmless, and he certainly held out no hope of a change until a more definite stabilisation of international relations prevailed, by which we understand that no alteration would be countenanced until England returns to the full gold standard.

In any consideration of Indian exchange and currency it is essential to examine the basis of India's system. The main object which the Indian authorities have tried to keep before them in working their standard is the maintenance of the exchange value of the token rupee in meeting foreign payments. It has been stated, in fact, that the cardinal feature of the system is absolute security for the convertibility into sterling of so much of the international currency as may be at any moment required for the settlement of India's external obligations. Admitted that the system has broken down on several occasions—what are the causes? The reply is principally the Government's inability to keep up its supplies of exchange. The Indian Government is, rightly or wrongly, a large dealer in exchange. Briefly, it endeavours to maintain exchange by selling India Council bills and telegraphic transfers. The original idea was to enable the Secretary of State for India to provide for his home charges by selling these remittances in London to merchants and bankers who required funds to be available in India. We have, so to speak, two bodies in the money market: on the one hand, the Indian Government requiring sterling for the purposes of paying for its purchases in London, interest on loans contracted here, pensions due, and for services rendered. On the other hand, we have a group of bankers and importers of Indian produce requiring funds in India to meet their indebtedness in that country in rupees. By means of the sales of Councils both parties are satisfied. However, it cannot be too strongly urged that Council remittances are primarily not sold for the convenience of trade, but to provide for the home charges in the widest sense of the term. There is no obligation upon the Government to sell drafts to meet all trade demands, notwithstanding the fact that the currency and exchange problem with India has led to an extension of the system.

There is a good deal of misunderstanding because this selling of exchange by the Government, although rightly employed in times of monetary stringency and of redundancy of money to expand and contract the currency of India, seems to have been taken to involve both the provision of funds for the Secretary of State for India, and also the satisfaction of the demands of trade up to such an amount as would enable the balance of trade in India's favour, over and above the home charges, to be settled without the export of more gold than was actually required in India for absorption by the public. In seasons of ordinary prosperity, no effort is needed for the maintenance of the exchange value of the rupee, since the balance of trade, which is then usually in India's favour, ensures that. It is only when the favourable balance of trade is seriously diminished, or the balance becomes temporarily unfavourable, that Government action is necessary.

In effect—we are speaking largely of the pre-war period—the Government has endeavoured to fix the upper and lower limits of exchange by entering the exchange market as an operator whenever the price of sterling rose or fell below certain limits. In normal times, as we have shown, no special steps were necessary, and Council remittances were sold to realise about the amount required by the Government to meet its home charges. When exchange was in excess supply, that is when sterling export bills were offering in large quantities, the Indian Government endeavoured to keep the rupee from rising to too high a level by itself taking the surplus sterling exchange off the market. This was partly accomplished by increasing the sale of Council remittances in London, and partly by the Government's taking over gold imported into India at a fixed price in rupees. By these means the currency was expanded, and the rupee exchange, to put the matter bluntly, forced down. If demand for sterling was in excess supply in India, that is, if the rupee exchange showed a continuous fall due to heavy imports, the Government itself sold sterling by offering for sale Reverse Councils, that is, drafts and telegraphic transfers drawn from India on London, and by giving sovereigns in exchange for rupees at fixed rates. The currency was thus contracted, and the rupee exchange forced up.

The system broke down during the war. First it became necessary to support exchange; then, later, owing to India's favourable balance of trade, exchange rose to unprecedented levels. The Government was obliged to retire from the exchange market. The usual Commission on Exchange followed—there have been many such in India's monetary history; and, following the Commission's report on December 22, 1919, an endeavour was made to divorce the rupee from the pound sterling paper and to link it with the pound sterling gold. It was decided to give the rupee a gold basis of 11,300.16 grains of pure gold, that is, 1-10th of the gold content of the British sovereign. But, as if actuated by malevolent intent, exchange then began to turn in the reverse direction. From its high level of over 2s 9d the rupee gradually fell away as trade decreased, and as we write it is back to 1s 5 31-32d. The divorce has evidently not been made absolute, and so we get the usual demand for a Committee to examine the reasons for the rupee's vagaries.

It is doubtful whether the Committee of 1919 expected finality to have been reached when they gave the rupee a 2s gold basis, since in their Report they stated that while sterling is divorced from gold, the fixing of the rate of the rupee in terms of gold would be based on the sterling cost of shipping gold to India. When the pound sterling is again equivalent to gold, they say, the minimum exchange rate for the rupee would remain fixed, and the price obtained for Council bills would vary between the gold points according to the demand. The pound sterling, it will be recognised, is still divorced from gold, and the assumption is that a definite alteration in the rupee basis is dependent upon a return to the gold standard by England. Actually, the Indian Government has for many years endeavoured to encourage the circulation of gold in India, though, at the present time, little gold, if any, is in circulation—certainly it is not acting as a medium of currency, the actual circulation consisting of silver rupees and rupee notes.

The difficulty about the whole business is that no one seems to have a very definite idea of the basis upon which exchange should or could be satisfactorily fixed. The old ratio of 1s 4d (gold) has, in theory, been replaced by the new one of 2s (gold), but, although Government accounts are kept on the 10 rupee basis, the ratio is not effective from the standpoint of trade. Curiously enough, as one Indian writer has pointed out, the parities of gold and silver are sometimes above and sometimes below the market rate of exchange, the vagaries of which are impossible to anticipate and difficult to explain even in retrospect. One thing alone is clear; that is, the Government recognises its inability to fix exchange on the 2s per rupee gold basis.

The gold question with India is a vexed question—far too long to explain within the limits of an article, but quite briefly it may be stated that there is no prohibition on the export of gold; neither is there any restriction on its importation, as is evident from the large amount of gold at present entering India from South Africa and elsewhere. The bulk of the gold imported is absorbed by the native dealers, as naturally, although the Government is prepared to take over imports, the acquisition rate while the gold basis of the rupee is theoretically 11,300.16 grains of pure gold, is 10 rupees to £1, and with exchange at its present level, no importer is likely to hand over his gold at that rate. Sovereigns, presumably, would still be given in exchange for gold at the fixed rate. But, here again, there is the difficulty that the present system works only one way. The Government stands ready to give rupees in exchange for gold, but one cannot take 10 rupees to the Government and demand in exchange one sovereign.

In the light of what we have written, it will possibly be clear that the main reason for the rupee exchange ruling around 1s 6d is India's present trade position. Then, again, that there is some connection between the movements in American exchange on London and the rupee rate is also evident, as a short explanation will show. As demand for dollars in India is small, the banks there are probably unable to sell all their purchases of dollar bills. Resort then is had to the London market, where the bills can be ultimately sold for sterling, while sterling is sold in the Indian exchange market to importers. The rupee dollar transaction thus develops into a rupee sterling one, and further perplexity is introduced into an already intricate problem. Our own view is that the influence nowadays of the price of silver on the rupee exchange is relatively slight, since with the rupee on a theoretical basis of 2s the bullion content is considerably below that at which it would be profitable to export rupees for the purposes of sale as silver. At the present time there seems little danger of the price of silver rising to such a point as would cause the bullion value of the rupee to exceed 2s gold.

In the meantime, as some people have exclaimed, "first the Indian Government sells Council remittances, then stops for a period, and later again starts selling. Why is there no continuity in their policy?" Admittedly, the sudden offering of Councils and the equally abrupt cessation of sales is puzzling. The explanation seems to be that while the Government acts when it may be considered expedient to influence exchange by selling Councils in London drawn on India, when the currency in India has been expanded sufficiently to bring about the desired result, it is equally expedient to stop sales, particularly when the state of trade in India is such as to warrant a cessation of this form of remittance. In any case, there would be no point in the Government's continuing sales and so piling up funds in London for which it might have been in the busy seasons that it has been necessary to assist exchange by taking excess sterling off the market in exchange for rupees, and when sufficient expansion has been brought about to retire from the market. If contraction of the currency, on the other hand, be considered advisable, the Government can equally well accomplish it by selling telegraphic transfers on London.

We do not claim that the present position is anything but unsatisfactory, but it is no more unsatisfactory than that of many European currencies, and until the principal European nations have stabilised their monetary units by a

return to the gold standard, we do not look for any alteration in the Indian system. Much as we sympathise with the Indian operators in their position, we argue that India must wait on Europe, and it is unthinkable that she could commit herself to a new ratio until the pound sterling paper has been fully replaced by the pound sterling gold. To attempt a revision of the ratio at this moment when the currencies of Europe are in a state of transition would, we imagine, lead to chaos, and the last state of India's currency and exchange would be worse than the first.

THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF OUR OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE use made of the Board of Trade's returns of our overseas commerce by all three political parties at this week's election furnishes an example of the greatly enhanced popular interest in these figures during recent years. At the same time, the fact that diametrically opposite conclusions were frequently drawn by different speakers from the same sets of figures should serve as a warning that the returns, as they stand, contain innumerable pitfalls for the unwary, as for the biased observer. In particular, the unprecedented rapidity with which prices have changed during the last eventful decade makes it imperative to distinguish between apparent increases and decreases in the trade figures, and the true quantitative variations, after differences due to price movements have been eliminated. Ten years ago the *Economist* published the results of an inquiry into the fluctuations in value and volume of our overseas trade since the year 1880, and it is now proposed to supplement the figures there given by corresponding figures covering the year 1913 and every year since the war. In the earlier article the plan followed consisted in the calculation of what the total value of our imports and exports in any particular year would have been if the price of each article had remained as in the previous year. A figure was thus obtained showing the proportionate increase in the quantity of our trade as a whole, and also indicating the change which had been recorded in average import and export prices. Since the war the Board of Trade has from time to time published in its "Journal" the results of similar recalculations of post-war trade totals at 1913 prices, and these serve as the basis of the figures for 1919 and subsequent years given in our table below.

The earlier figures may first be briefly recapitulated. The table which follows sets forth for each year between 1880 and 1896 (1) the proportionate increase in the Board of Trade returns for imports and exports respectively; (2) the increase in the volume or quantity of trade calculated on the basis of unchanging prices; and (3) the percentage change in import and export prices shown in each year's figures. The first two points are indicated by index numbers, taking the trade of 1880 as equal to 100. The subsequent figures show at a glance the percentage changes as compared with that date:—

COMPARATIVE CHANGES in the VALUE and VOLUME of TRADE—1880-96.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.		
	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Import Prices.	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Export Prices.
1880.....	100	100	..	100	100	..
1881.....	97	97	..	104	110	.. 6
1882.....	100	103	.. 3	108	114	.. 4
1883.....	104	110	.. 6	107	117	.. 4
1884.....	95	107	.. 5	104	118	.. 4
1885.....	93	108	.. 5	96	114	.. 5
1886.....	85	108	.. 5	96	120	.. 5
1887.....	88	114	.. 1	100	126	.. 1
1888.....	94	119	.. 3	104	132	.. 2
1889.....	104	130	.. 1	112	137	.. 2
1890.....	103	129	.. 1	118	137	.. 6
1891.....	106	133	.. 3	111	139	.. 1
1892.....	103	134	.. 4	102	135	.. 5
1893.....	99	132	.. 2	98	132	.. 1
1894.....	99	143	.. 8	97	136	.. 4
1895.....	101	151	.. 3	101	137	.. 3
1896.....	108	158	.. 1	107	144	.. 4

The table shows that during the 17 years in question, neither imports nor exports showed any marked upward tendency, but fluctuated around the 1880 level. But as prices were falling all the time—except during the period of good trade that culminated in 1890—the apparently stationary values concealed the fact that, quantitatively, by 1896 imports had increased nearly 60 per cent. and exports nearly 45 per cent. From the figures given the conclusion seems to be that import prices fell more rapidly than export prices, thanks to the opening up of new countries and to improvements in transport. The net result of these changes in the terms of international trade was an improvement of our own relative position, since we were enabled to purchase a larger quantity of imports for a given quantity of exports. The figures for the succeeding period, from 1896 to 1913, are shown below, the basis for the "value" and "volume" columns being the same as before, viz., 1880 = 100:—

COMPARATIVE CHANGES in the VALUE and VOLUME of TRADE, 1896-1913.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.		
	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Import Prices.	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Export Prices.
1896.....	108	158	.. 1	107	144	.. 1
1897.....	110	162	.. 2	104	142	.. 1
1898.....	125	168	.. 4	104	142	..
1899.....	118	171	.. 3	118	149	.. 6
1900.....	128	171	.. 2	130	143	.. 1
1901.....	127	177	.. 3	125	145	.. 5
1902.....	128	180	.. 1	126	155	.. 5
1903.....	132	184	.. 2	130	156	.. 1
1904.....	134	186	.. 2	145	162	.. 3
1905.....	138	199	.. 3	148	173	.. 3
1906.....	148	194	.. 3	168	193	.. 4
1907.....	157	199	.. 3	191	205	.. 6
1908.....	145	191	.. 4	169	189	.. 3
1909.....	152	200	.. 1	171	188	.. 3
1910.....	164	216	.. 5	195	206	.. 3
1911.....	165	211	.. 2	205	218	.. 2
1912.....	181	226	.. 2	220	220	.. 2
1913.....	186	233	.. 1	237	228	.. 4

The "recorded value" figures in this case, show an apparent increase of about 80 points in the case of imports, and of about 130 in the case of exports. But these results greatly exaggerate the real increase in the volume of trade, owing to the rapid rise of prices. Broadly speaking, the imports for 1913 showed a rise, as compared with 1896 of 70 per cent. in value and only 50 per cent. in volume, while exports rose by 120 per cent. in value and 60 per cent. in volume. The table also shows that during the last few years before the war our overseas trade was tending to expand quite rapidly. By 1913 something approaching a "boom" was in progress. This fact should be borne in mind when the figures given in our next table, covering the period since the war, are being examined:—

COMPARATIVE CHANGES in the VALUE and VOLUME of TRADE—1913 and 1919-1924.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.		
	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Import Prices.	Value Recorded.	Volume of Trade.	Percentage Change in Export Prices.
1913.....	186	233	.. 4	237	228	.. 4
1919.....	426	206	.. 140	360	125	.. 177
1920.....	505	206	.. 19	602	162	.. 25
1921.....	283	173	.. 33	317	114	.. 22
1922.....	262	200	.. 20	324	157	.. 26
1923.....	286	223	.. 2	346	175	.. 4
1924*.....	330	250	.. 2	360	185	.. 1

* On basis of first nine months.

A word of caution must be given as regards some of the earlier post-war figures, which are based on a re-calculation of quantities at 1913 prices, since the quality of certain goods covered by an identical designation may have changed to some extent during the period. The altered position of the Irish Free State, again, affects the returns for 1923 and 1924, though not to a material extent. The 1924 figures, based on the returns for the first nine months, may conceivably be modified when the whole year's totals

are available, owing to price changes which are now in progress, affecting important commodities, such as wheat, wool, and cotton. The "boom" years, 1919 and 1920, were remarkable on account of the extremely high prices recorded, the increase over 1913 being greater in the case of exports than of imports. The volume of trade was, however, much less than in the pre-war year, imports in 1919 falling short of the 1913 figure by 12 per cent., and exports by no less than 45 per cent. From 1921 onwards prices have been falling—much less rapidly, however, in the last two years, and import prices in 1924 showed a slight movement in the opposite direction. In 1921 the fall in prices was accompanied by a considerable decline in volume, but since then the quantity of both imports and exports has expanded fairly consistently. The present position may be summed up by saying that while our import trade has more than recovered its pre-war volume, exports have still a considerable lee-way to make up if our position is to be as favourable as in 1913. The disadvantages of the present position have been off-set to some extent by the higher relative prices we have been able to obtain for our exports since the war, but such a state of affairs is far from being an unmixed blessing.

THE OUTLOOK FOR SUGAR PRICES.

A CLOSE scrutiny of the world sugar position shows that the long period of high prices is drawing to a close, and that there is a reasonable prospect that next year markets will turn in favour of consumers. Indeed, it would be very surprising if users were not able to fill their requirements on terms more in line with the pre-war average cost of this important commodity than anything recorded since 1914. Probably another few months will elapse ere the prospects of much heavier Continental crops make their influence felt, and by that time another big Cuban crop of cane sugar will be coming on to the market. It is perfectly obvious to the careful student of this particular article of every-day consumption that such a combination will put the market to a very severe test, and the increase in supply will have the inevitable effect on prices unless there is a surprising expansion in the demand.

No matter which way the position is looked at, there is no denying the fact that the situation in regard to sugar has been greatly modified in favour of the consumer since the recent authoritative forecasts of the new Continental crops were made. Careful examination shows that the resources for the 1924-5 season promise to run well into pre-war figures in the case of the beet sugar production, and this suggests that the course of the market in the long run will have to be downwards in view of the much increased capacity for the production of cane sugar which has taken place in recent years in the leading cane-growing countries. Further, it is quite likely that such places as Cuba and Java will show during the coming season a further increase in their output. Reports from Cuba indicate that very liberal rains have fallen, and that the weather of late has been excellent for the growing cane. From this it may be deduced that the coming crop, the cutting of which will begin in December, should easily establish a new high record as regards the tonnage produced. It is, however, premature to expect the general market to be influenced by this possibility, as the American position is still more or less governed by the relative scarcity of sugar at the leading United States centres owing to the heavy consumption that has prevailed this year, estimated at well over 5½ million long tons. The American refiners are, as a matter of fact, faced with some little difficulty in securing adequate supplies of raw sugar, and they are relying on the comparatively small surplus of old-crop Cuban sugar to carry them over the remainder of the year. The American stocks at the present time are low, and this remark may also be applied to the supplies in this country. Proof of this may be seen in the diverting of a cargo of Cuban sugar intended for the United Kingdom to the American ports and the purchase of a fair quantity of German granulated sugar for shipment to the United States markets.

The delay that has occurred in bringing about an adjustment in the American markets, while the remainder of the Cuban crop remains in firm hands has failed, however, to stem the decided undercurrent of weakness that has developed in Europe, where chief attention is being centred upon the good prospects of the beet sugar crops. In spite of the scarcity of imported sugar offering on this side, the British refiners during the past month reduced their prices by 3s to 4s per cwt, but this notwithstanding the trade demand has been strictly confined to actual needs, buyers obviously holding off in anticipation of the freer circulation of Continental sugar towards the close of the present year. It is very significant that raw Continental beet sugar has been offering on this side for some weeks past on terms round about 17s per cwt f.o.b., and needless to say the home refiners have taken every advantage of this sugar, which is relatively cheaper by a good deal than the current cost of Cuban raw sugar as imported by America. The remarkable change that has taken place in the European beet industry may be gauged from the fact that Mr Licht's recent forecast of the total crops of 6,700,000 metric tons was followed a few weeks later by a revision which placed the prospective yield as high as 6,845,000 metric tons. This must be compared with the actual production of 5,065,334 metric tons, representing the output for the previous season, and the figures would indicate a big step forward. This season's production would, assuming that all goes well, be about 1,100,000 tons short of that secured during the one which preceded the war. The German yield for that period was well over 2,600,000 tons, whereas the crop this season is estimated at barely 1,500,000 tons. This estimate shows an increase of 340,000 tons against last season's return, according to Mr Licht's forecast. There has been very little alteration in the German sowings, which have had to be kept down under the adverse economic conditions, and no doubt the German beet growers have been very much discouraged by the poor remunerative results that were secured during the last season under conditions of Government control. There is every reason for believing that larger sowings will be made in the coming year for the next crop; thus it may be claimed that the complete restoration of the Continental beet industry is well in sight.

The most striking feature about the recuperation that has taken place already in the Continental crops is the astonishing advance made by Czecho-Slovakia. The production of that country has doubled in two seasons. The Czecho-Slovakian beet crop this season is estimated at 1,450,000 tons, which is practically equal to the German crop, and to be compared with well over a million tons for last season. This should give an exportable surplus of no fewer than 1,000,000 tons, as the domestic needs of Czecho-Slovakia are not likely to absorb more than 450,000 tons. Making allowance for a moderate further increase in the Cuban and Java crops, given a continuation of normal weather conditions in the growing areas, and allowing for the possibility of the European beet crops not turning out fully equal to anticipations, the world's total production of sugar for the current crop year should reach 21½ million tons, against 19,650,000 tons for the past season. On this basis the returns for the three seasons which preceded the war—which varied between 16,000,000 tons and 18,500,000 tons, will be substantially exceeded. Messrs. Willett and Gray, the well-known American trade authority, according to their last conservative estimate, put the increase in this season's world production at close on 1,600,000 tons. This would make the aggregate outturn about 21½ million tons, but their returns relating to the European beet crops will have to be revised in the light of the latest estimates from the recognised Continental experts. More recent news from the Continent states that the roots still in the soil are autumnal weather, and the figures given above will turn out to be approximately correct. The favourable comparison it is now possible to make with the pre-war sugar resources are extremely interesting, and they suggest that the time is coming when the European markets will be more independent of American speculative influences, notwithstanding the fact that the proportion of cane crops to the world's sugar production is much greater than it

was before 1914. The matter of the speedy restoration of the Continental beet industry is one that deserves the closest attention, having regard to the future of the world's commodity markets, and the influence upon the industry in this country. Summing up every point for and against the actual commodity, the prospects of cheaper sugar in the coming year are hopeful, and it is doubtful whether the United States will be able to influence world parities in the way she has done for several years.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WITH election day in the United States less than three weeks distant at the time of writing, the most experienced observers find the political visibility still distressingly low, but the devout partisans of the contending parties all profess serene confidence in their prospects, and produce impressive figures in confirmation of their optimism. The campaign has had all the usual complications of a three-cornered fight. The Democrats and the Progressives have, save in isolated patches of the country, tended to leave one another severely alone. Mr Davis, while confessing an admiration for Senator La Follette's services, has bewailed his strictures upon the Supreme Court, and Mr La Follette, while declaring that Mr. Davis is a highly estimable person, has regretted his hopeless subservience to Wall Street; but they have sedulously avoided any mutually destructive campaign of abuse and recrimination. Each of the opposition parties has reserved its main fire for the Republican administration and sought to take full advantage of the many joints in its armour which administrative corruption and misfeasance have exposed. The Teapot Dome episode which forced the resignation of two Cabinet Ministers, the scandal of the Veterans' Bureau, the admitted corruption of the Attorney-General's Department, and other seamy disclosures have revealed fields of official iniquity ready for the sickle of the reformer. The Republican party has, therefore, been on the defensive from the first, and since Mr Coolidge's platform gifts are not conspicuous, it has put the energetic and vivacious General Dawes in the forefront of the battle. General Dawes was in politics long before he was a banker; indeed the Controllorship of the Currency, which was the prelude to his banking career, came as a direct reward for his services to McKinley during the 1896 campaign. Therefore the game comes easily back to him, and he has the gift of forceful and picturesque speech. Up to date he has applied it chiefly to the verbal demolition of the Progressives. He has fastened upon Senator La Follette's proposal to draw the teeth of the Supreme Court in regard to its powers of veto upon Federal legislation, and has been appealing for a nation-wide rally to its defence, to all the strange fund of reverence for the Constitution which is implanted in the American bosom. Curtail the powers of the Supreme Court, he argues, and the waters will be let loose, liberty will be endangered, the sacred rights of property will be in constant peril at the hands of revolutionaries, and the very foundations of the Republic will crumble and decay. The open support of La Follette by the Socialist party has also given him another useful weapon, and he and his allies are denouncing La Follette as a red revolutionary (from which he is very distantly removed), and branding him as a complaisant ally of the Bolsheviks. But the supreme Republican card is the old prosperity and "full dinner-pail" cry. Strenuous efforts are being made to persuade not only the business and professional classes, but also the workers that whereas the re-election of Coolidge will mean a renewed burst of great prosperity, his defeat will spell immediate commercial depression and serious unemployment. Undoubtedly the rapid rise in grain prices has been a very fortunate development for the Republicans, and they are seeking in devious ways, which scarcely bear examination, to claim credit for it. Some play is also being made with recent events at Geneva, and it is pointed out that if Republican wisdom had not kept the United States out of the League

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - £1,250,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits - £1,606,457

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

Over 180 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. W. F. BLACK, Deputy Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted

in 1919 its withdrawal would now have become imperative owing to the attitude of Japan and the new protocol.

Mr Davis, the Democratic candidate, has been making very able speeches, and has probably made many converts among his audiences, but in a vast country like the United States the platform appeal is limited in its effect. He has with great courage continued to advocate American adherence to the League, but his party and his chief associates are less enthusiastic about it, and prefer to concentrate upon the domestic misdeeds of the Republicans. Mr Davis has very sound fiscal views, and his arraignment of the iniquities of the Fordney-McCumber tariff has been very effective, but the tariff is not a serious issue in the present contest. Prohibition and the Ku Klux Klan are important local issues in many States, but have no national significance. The Democrats promise better and more honest government, but they make no suggestions of radical changes in the administrative system or economic structure of the country. On the other hand Senator La Follette and his allies boldly assert that their goal is the rescue of the country from the monopolistic and oppressive grip of a group of powerful privileged interests which, working their will through the politicians of the two old parties, have controlled the destinies of the Republic for half a century. They have not followed the example of Roosevelt's Progressive party in 1912, and propounded an extensive and definite programme of reform, but content themselves with declaring that the first task is to change the spirit and personnel of the administration at Washington, and that the reforms will follow. Senator La Follette has now found himself able to make a series of speeches at important centres, and at present he is occupying the limelight with his vigorous attacks upon the existing political and economic order. The Republicans are charging that a secret bargain has been arrived at whereby if the election is thrown to Congress the Democrats will be given the Presidency and all the power and patronage associated with it under promise of pursuing a radical programme; but the charge is strenuously denied on both sides. However, there is evidence of some local bargaining in different States, especially where the Progressives are running no candidates for the Houses of Congress. Supporters of La Follette will support Democratic candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives, and expect that their candidate as a *quid pro quo* will be backed by the beneficiaries at the expense of Davis. The Republicans are devoting much energy to convincing conservative Democrats that Mr Coolidge is the only effective bulwark against menacing forces of darkness; but it is a difficult task. It is perhaps easier than the accurate appraisal of party prospects for November 4th, but out of the wealth of material offered by various appraisers in the American Press some forecast may be attempted.

President Coolidge naturally finds his greatest strength in the New England tier of States and the central industrial regions, where the stiff Protectionism of the Fordney-McCumber tariff is highly palatable; New England also has a special partiality for him as native son. Accordingly, there may be credited with reasonable certainty to the Republican column the six New England States with their aggregate of 42 votes in the Electoral College, and likewise New Jersey (14), Pennsylvania (38), Ohio (24), Indiana (15), Michigan (15), and Illinois (29). Ohio and Indiana are less certainly Republican than the others, but the intervention of La Follette will probably enable the

Republicans to carry them by a minority vote. Outside of these areas, Oregon is a traditionally Republican State, and Utah and Wyoming, in their anxiety to preserve the high duties on sugar and wool respectively, are likely to yield substantial majorities for Coolidge. Therefore, the Republican quota of safe votes can be placed at about 189, which is still 77 short of the required moiety of the Electoral College.

Mr Davis, the Democratic candidate, on his part, is equally certain of 139 votes from a dozen States located in the area known as the "Solid South." Of this dozen, only two (Tennessee and Kentucky) have ever deviated since the Civil War from their steadfast allegiance to the Democratic Party. He has also excellent prospects in a group of half-a-dozen designated "border States," because they impinge upon the "Solid South," and have many economic and social contacts with it. Local sentiment will give him the eight votes of his home State of West Virginia, and on the same side should be found Maryland (8), Missouri (18), Oklahoma (10), Arizona (3), Nevada (3), which would add altogether 50 votes to Mr Davis's total, and bring him to a parity with Mr Coolidge. Leaving the West, with its hundred odd votes, out of consideration for the moment, the possession of a lead in the East and South will mainly depend upon the issue of the crucial contest in the great State of New York, with its 45 votes. It is generally accepted that it will go to one of the two old parties like the other Eastern States, and the one which captures it will thereby be brought within a measurable distance of a clear majority in the Electoral College. In the past, New York has been very fickle in its political allegiance; the city itself usually gives a large Democratic majority, but the hinterland is staunchly Republican. The Democrats have a great asset in Governor "Al" Smith, who was a formidable candidate for the presidential nomination of his party, and is now running again for his present office, and is expected to defeat Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the Republican candidate, for the Governorship. The calculation of the Democrats is that Governor Smith's popularity and skill as a campaigner will carry their presidential ticket to victory in New York; but the Republicans aver that thousands of working-class voters who will support Governor Smith will mark their Presidential ballot for La Follette and throw the State's vote to Coolidge. But there is one vital difference in the position of the Republicans and the Democrats. Whereas the former have some prospect, if they carried New York, of making up the balance of the required 266 votes from the region known as the West, the Democrats can cherish no such hope. In many Western States the Democratic Party has suffered wholesale erosion through the attraction of the voters which normally support it to the Progressive movement, and only the skeleton of an organisation remains. In the West the only serious battle is between Coolidge and La Follette, and, therefore, even if the Democrats carried New York, it is difficult to see how Mr Davis, unless aided by supernatural luck or an unexpected landslide, can secure more than 240 votes in the College.

But unless the portents deceive, President Coolidge's chances of a clear majority are not markedly better. Even if he carried New York, in addition to the States allocated to him, he would still be some 30 votes short of the clear majority, and it will be a very hard task to wrest this number from the West in its present mood. To La Follette his opponents concede Wisconsin (13), Minnesota (12), N. Dakota (5), Montana (4), and Washington (7), and his chances in Iowa (13), Nebraska (8), Kansas (10), and S. Dakota (5) are rated excellent. Iowa is a pivotal State, which has usually given a large Republican majority, but, to-day, candid Republicans regard it as almost lost beyond hope to the Progressives, since Senator Brookhart, a Republican who is seeking re-election, broke into open rebellion, attacked General Dawes for his complicity in a strange banking transaction in Chicago, demanding his resignation as Vice-Presidential candidate, and assailed President Coolidge as the subservient tool of Wall street. Brookhart, who is a prominent agrarian leader, has been repudiated by his party, and is now ranked as an ally of La Follette; he commands, however, great influence with the farmers of

the Middle-West, and the prediction is freely made that his open defection will cost the Republicans not only Iowa, but also the adjacent States of Nebraska, Kansas, and S. Dakota, which are similar in economic structure and political tendencies to Iowa. La Follette would be the beneficiary of this insurgency, and such a development would give him 77 out of the hundred odd votes available in the West. Even if he failed to pick up some more from California (13), Colorado (6), and Idaho (4), he would be in a position to veto the election of Coolidge and throw the issue to Congress. To-day, Coolidge can only rely with any certainty upon three small States in the West, and half-a-dozen are clearly hostile; to possess a chance of victory, he must carry the majority of a group of Western States, where the odds are decidedly against him, and the task seems almost beyond his power.

Indeed, it is noticeable that even zealous Republican partisans do not claim for their candidate many more than 300 votes in the Electoral College, and some, even including such doubtful States as New York and California, pitch their estimate as low as 290; even 300 leaves an ominously narrow margin of safety. Colonel George Harvey, lately American Ambassador in London, who enjoys a great reputation as a political prophet, has publicly proclaimed his opinion that President Coolidge will fall 48 votes short of a clear majority unless a remarkable change in public opinion takes place before election, and Republican papers and orators have been basing on this an appeal to the electors to vote Republican, and thereby avert the perils and confusions of an election by Congress. The Democrats and Progressives, however, have available the damaging retort that under no circumstances is the Republican Party likely to control Congress, and that the re-election of Coolidge simply means government by deadlock and worse confusion.

Notes of the Week.

Some Election Statistics.—The election figures are as yet incomplete, and we must defer until next week a detailed analysis of them. But it is possible now to set out, for the 600 seats for which results have been declared, the main statistics and their meaning. A summary of votes given and seats obtained reads as follows:—

	Conservative.	Liberal.	Labour.	Other Parties.
Aggregate votes.....	7,367,569 ..	2,897,193 ..	5,471,180 ..	181,040
Seats.....	403 ..	36 ..	150 ..	11
Percentage of votes obtained	46.1 % ..	18.1 % ..	34.2 % ..	1.6 %
Percentage of seats obtained	67.2 % ..	6 % ..	25 % ..	1.8 %

From this it will be seen that our present system of voting has been of very great assistance to the Conservatives, and has worked to the great detriment of Liberals and Labour. Indeed, if seats were in strict proportion to aggregate votes, the Liberal party would have obtained more than three times as many seats as actually fall to their lot. Another striking point in the statistics is the heavy polling. Leaving aside Northern Ireland and the uncontested seats, the total electorate in the 600 constituencies was 19,948,798, as compared with 19,173,754, an increase of 775,044. But the total number of votes recorded rose from 14,186,438 to 16,016,992, an increase of 1,830,554. The poll was therefore around the 80 per cent. level for the whole country—an unusually high proportion. The movements in the polls of the various parties as compared with a year ago are as follows:—Conservatives, + 2,007,879; Labour, + 1,122,801; Liberals - 1,354,380. For those who like to trace the fortunes of the parties a little further back, the following comparison of representations in the House of Commons may be of interest:—

	At Dissolution.	Elected
	1922.	Oct. 1924 (a)
Conservative ..	505	403
Coalition	396	258
Liberal	35	36
Labour	75	150
Others	92	11

* Including Irish members, of whom 73 were Sinn Féiners.
(a) 15 results to be declared.

If we deduct the 50 Coalition Liberals from the Conservative Coalition figure for 1923, we get at that time a Conservative total of 346. Mr Baldwin's plunge robbed him of 88 seats. Mr MacDonald's plunge has restored to him these 88 seats and 57 more. The Liberals are reduced practically to the figure to which the Independent Liberals had climbed through by-election victories by 1922 after the terrific rout of 1918.

Security Prices and the Election.—The monthly calculation of the market valuation of securities conducted by the *Bankers' Magazine*, though only taking us to October 20th, shows the remarkable difference between the effects of an approaching Election upon security prices this year and in December, 1923. We set out below the indices for the pre-election months of 1923 and 1924:—

	Fixed Interest.	Variable Dividend.	Total.
1923.			
October	114.8	117.0	115.5
November	111.8	117.1	113.6
1924.			
September	113.1	120.7	115.6
October	113.5	121.9	116.2

The Election of 1923 was held in the first week of December, and the bulk of the fall in the total during November was due to the drop in gilt-edged securities. This year, up to October 20th, there has been a substantial rise in both sections. In the month ended October 20, 1924, the market value of 365 representative securities increased by £33,723,000, or 0.5 per cent., fixed interest stocks rising by £11,857,000, or 0.3 per cent., and variable dividend securities by £21,866,000, or 1.0 per cent. British and Indian Funds alone rose in market value by £8,335,000, or 0.2 per cent. From October 20th onward there was a general hardening tendency, which was followed on Thursday, when the nature of the Election results became known, by a sharp upward movement all round, as may be seen from the following table of prices at various dates of a few representative securities:—

	Lowest, 1924.	Price Oct. 1, 1924.	Price Oct. 28, 1924.	Price Oct. 30, 1924.	Price Oct. 31, 1924.
5% War Loan	98½	102½	100½	100½	101½
3% Local Loans	62½	66½	66½	67½	67½
3½% Conversion Loan ..	74½	77½	78½	79½	79½
4% Funding Loan	84½	89½	90	90½	91
India 3%	52½	55	56	56½	58
London, Midland, and					
Scottish, Ord.	94½	97	100½	102	102½
Watney, Combe, Reid,					
Def. Stock	161½	251½	247½	265½	265½
Vickers, Ord., £1	8/3	9/3	10/6	11/-	12/-
Fine Cotton Spinners, £1	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

Five per cent. War Loan was quoted ex-dividend on Tuesday, and this brought in buyers at a price which looked relatively cheap. This week's sharp rise has sent prices to a figure which exceeds in many cases the highest hitherto recorded this year.

Mexico and Great Britain.—A correspondent writes:—President Obregon's Government has retaliated on Great Britain for her postponement of recognition in an unforeseen but characteristic fashion. All the Mexican Consulates in Great Britain will be closed henceforth, and the officials are leaving the country, save one, who remains as "archivist"—a Mexican Mr Cummins. The British Consuls in Mexico, however, will be allowed to remain if our Government should so decide. The present Mexican Government is ultra-Nationalist and self-confident, and President Calles, so far as can be judged, will adopt the same attitude. Moreover, his visit to Berlin has brought him under the influence of the German commercial classes, who are doubtless not sorry to see a hindrance imposed to the competition of British goods. The decision, probably owing to the elections, has attracted little attention in the English Press, and Mexican securities have not been much affected. British goods, as has been pointed out, can still reach Mexico, though the Customs formalities will be more complicated, and their cost will be shifted to the importer. But the present interruption cannot last long. A strong feel-

BANK OF ATHENS

Paid-up Capital
Drs. 72,000,000

With offices in all the principal towns in Greece, Egypt, Cyprus and Crete, the Bank extends exceptional facilities for Export and Import Trade between Great Britain and the Near East generally.

Enquiries Invited.

London: 22, Fenchurch St.
E.C.3.
New York: 25, Pine Street

Head Office: ATHENS.

ing has repeatedly manifested itself in the City in favour of the full resumption of diplomatic and commercial relations. British interests in Mexican undertakings are large, and must remain so; and the growing dependence of Mexico on the United States must increase the American readiness to take over Mexican securities, while a stable Mexican Government will come to a saner view of the interests of Mexican trade.

The Chinese Civil War.—In Northern China the situation changes almost daily, but its salient feature is the failure of the efforts of Feng Yu-hsiang, "the Christian general," to stop the war. Wu Pei-fu, transferred to a command in Tibet by a decree which President Tsao-Kun was apparently kept in office to sign, has made preparations to recapture Peking, besides holding back Chang Tso-lin's advance. He is said by his adherents to be supported by the Tuchuns and armies of six or seven provinces, and by virtually the whole Chinese fleet, though its support cannot help him much. Troops from these armies are stated to be moving northwards to support him, and he himself is directing operations from Tientsin. Meanwhile, however, his troops on the Shanhaikwan front have been outflanked and taken in rear by a section of Chang Tso-lin's army, which now occupies Langchow, about 100 miles south-east of Shanhaikwan, and 120 miles from Tientsin, on the railway connecting these two points. Wu Pei-fu, however, had already moved most of his troops from Shanhaikwan in time to save them; so they are still available to resist Chang Tso-lin's advance. President Tsao-Kun has now resigned—the report that he had done so last week was premature—but Feng Yu-hsiang is maintaining the Peking Cabinet in office pending the arrival of Tuan Chi-jui, ex-Premier and leader of the Anfu party, who may be the head of a new Government. Feng Yu-hsiang has offered large rewards for Wu Pei-fu's capture or assassination, thereby losing what was left of his character as a Christian general. Chang Tso-lin's relations with Feng Yu-hsiang are doubtful, but it seems clear that, whichever side wins, he means to maintain his hold on Manchuria. Meanwhile, the telegraph and telephone lines from Peking are open, and foreigners are freely going in and out. Arrangements are being made to defend the Legation quarter, and a small Japanese force is guarding the railway to Tientsin and a zone around it, in conformity with the agreement made after the Boxer rising of 1900. No Power proposes to intervene further than may be necessary to protect the lives and property of its subjects, and the Chinese preference of negotiation to fighting gives hope that some sort of

settlement may be reached—though the individualism of the Tuchuns, and the weakness of the politicians, indicate that it may not be lasting.

Another Estimate of National Income.—At his address to the Institution of Civil Engineers on Tuesday last on "The Economic Position of Great Britain," Mr Edgar Crammond, in reviewing the principal economic changes which have taken place since 1914, put forward some estimates of the movements in the total national income. Starting from a nominal amount of £2,400 millions in 1914, he estimated that it rose to its maximum of about £4,600 millions in 1920, and after falling below £3,000 millions in 1922, rose to £3,300 millions in 1923. These figures are similar for most years to our estimates published in the *Economist* of October 24th, the principal difference being that for 1920, our figure for that year being £5,225 millions. Mr Crammond also gave estimates of national expenditure for 1923, and compared it with a previous estimate for the year 1907. According to these figures, national services required 19.4 per cent. of the national income in 1923, as against 8.5 per cent. in 1907. The amount going to depreciation and maintenance of capital and to new investments at home and abroad he puts at only 9.7 per cent. of the total, as against 23.7 per cent. for 1907. This bears out our suggestion in last week's issue that the savings of the nation are now on a very much smaller scale than before the war.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The Department of Commerce of the United States Government has published a further report on the cotton crop for this season, the condition on October 16th being given as 54.7 per cent., against 53.5 per cent. on October 1st, and 55.4 per cent. on September 16th. No statement was issued at a corresponding date last year, but on October 25, 1923, the condition was given as 47.8 per cent. After allowing 4.56 per cent. for abandoned acreage, the indicated crop is 12,675,000 bales, exclusive of linters, against 12,499,000 bales a fortnight earlier, and 10,248,000 bales on October 25, 1923. According to the Government, during the fortnight warm and dry weather was exceptionally favourable to the plants, especially in the eastern sections of the belt. Picking and ginning are progressing rapidly. Up to October 17th a total of 7,600,000 bales of cotton has been ginned, compared with 6,409,000 bales at the same time last year. On these statistics being published there was a fall in prices in the New York market, but a little later the loss was recovered, chiefly owing to extensive trade buying at the lower prices. The estimates of the United States Government relating to the cotton crop are generally conservative, and most people expect a yield of about 13,000,000 bales, exclusive of linters, as compared with 10,200,000 bales for last season.

The Prospects for Stock Exchange Markets.—Our Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—The dust of political conflict aroused by the intensive General Election campaign will subside the more quickly by reason of the fierceness with which the storm blew in every conceivable direction; the temporary influences that the Election exercised over Stock Exchange prices will now give place to a calmer and more settled consideration of the outlook. Instead of markets being dull and dispirited for lack of attention during the campaign, the spirit of financial enterprise waxed, rather than waned, during the three weeks that led up to the Election. Many Stock Exchange members have enjoyed the busiest month which this year has brought them up to the present. November is regarded as a time in which investment and speculation should be reasonably active, and, from the purely investment point of view, the prospects indicate that the new month which starts to-day is not likely to fall short of expectations in the way of maintaining seasonal tradition. The pressure to buy gilt-edged stocks is remarkable, and the Treasury must be observing with quiet satisfaction the advance in such prices, since this will enable the successful carrying on of its policy to induce holders of the 5 per cent. War Loan to exchange their stock into the 4½ per

cent. Conversion Loan. This latter pays £4 12s 6d per cent. on the money, or 3s 6d per cent. more than the longer-dated 3½ per cent. issue. Other British Government securities, Funding, Victory, Local Loans, &c., yield barely 4½ per cent. There are few Colonial Trustee stocks that pay the round 5 per cent. on the money, and the Union of South Africa's offer of the large amount of eight millions stock in 5 per cents. at 99½ met with a remarkably flattering response, while the recently-offered Queensland Fives, which came out at 97½, stand at 3 premium already. In the Home Railway list, the gilt-edged debentures yield barely 4½ per cent.; the best-class preferences just under 5 per cent. In the groups of commercial and industrial companies, some of the safest preferences return no more than 5 to 5½ per cent. on the money. In spite of the continual new issues that are being made—some publicly and others semi-privately—the demand from the investor is sufficient to absorb practically everything which is offered. The Stock Exchange broker knows the difficulty that exists for finding really good stock to pay 6 per cent. on the money with safety, and, although special circumstances obtain in the rubber list, expectation being fastened on future prospects, the yields now obtainable from the leading shares in that department are astonishingly small considering the speculative character of the trade. These various examples are quoted in order to show how ready investment is at the present time to take sound stock, and the same line of country is perceptible amongst people who favour industrial ordinary shares. Such companies as Courtaulds and Imperial Tobacco, with their huge following of shareholders, are as popular as ever, in spite of the modest return which the shares offer at present prices. Fortunately, the public predilection for purchases of industrials is strongly marked in favour of solid concerns. During the past six months there has been very little disposition to buy mere gambling counters, and, without wishing to disparage good-class mining shares, it is worth mentioning that the speculative investor prefers to put his money into companies whose shares offer better security than can be obtained from mines. For at least two years the impression has prevailed that Stock Exchange prices are bound to give way as soon as industry revives sufficiently to demand capital for its own uses, and the same argument is heard to-day in protest against the levels to which gilt-edged and many other stocks and shares have attained. Nevertheless, the Stock Exchange markets give no indication of any setback in the prices of genuine investments, and, with the winter at hand, the chance of a sudden capital-demanding revival in the national industries is not likely to check the flow of money into Stock Exchange securities.

The Revised York-Antwerp Rules.—The revision and enlargement of the York-Antwerp Rules, 1890, which, as recorded in the *Economist* of September 20th, was carried out at the Stockholm Conference of the International Law Association, seems to be meeting with the approval of those who incorporate these rules of general average in their shipping and marine insurance contracts. The lead in the matter was given, after the Stockholm Conference had submitted the amended Rules for the consideration of commercial and shipping interests in general, by France. The Paris underwriters, as represented by the Comité des Assureurs Maritimes de Paris, passed the first resolution in favour of the adoption of the York-Antwerp Rules, 1924. Similar action was taken by the French shipowners, the Conseil du Comité Central des Armateurs de France a few days later recommending its members to replace the date 1890 by the date 1924 in charter-parties and bills of lading. A further resolution by a body representative of all the underwriters who do business in France followed. In the meantime, no steps were taken on this side of the Channel, except by the British National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, which referred the matter for investigation to a sub-committee. On Thursday last, however, the Committee of Lloyd's Underwriters' Association expressed their approval of the new Rules. The Institute of London Underwriters is also understood to be taking the matter into consideration, and it may be anticipated further that

the organisations representative of shipowners and of various bodies of commercial men will shortly make known their views. The "Institute clauses" commonly incorporated in marine insurance documents will need some revision of wording, besides the insertion of the date 1924 in the title of the Rules, and it will probably be convenient that some definite date should be adopted as from which the use of the new Rules should become general, though, of course, it is already open to any contracting parties to incorporate them at any time as part of the terms of their contract. The reference hitherto has been, in many instances, to "the York-Antwerp Rules," without naming any date by way of more complete identification. Now that a revised version, denoted by the date "1924" as part of the title, has become current, it will certainly be desirable, for the avoidance of doubt and disputes, that the full title, including the year, should be used in any incorporation of the Rules by reference.

Brewing and Barley Prospects.—An agricultural correspondent writes:—To-day the Barley and Brewers' Exhibition opens at Islington, remaining open till Friday next. The occasion, which recurs annually, is one for much debate and consideration as to the area to be sown with barley for the forthcoming year. On the present outlook it is possible to encourage sowings. The consumption of beer in Great Britain is not diminishing, and, with increased economic stability, is likely to improve. On the Continent such consumption is increasing. The Latin countries are drinking beer more and more every year. Continental exports of malting barley to Great Britain in 1925 are likely to be quite trivial, for while Czecho-Slovakia and Poland increase their production, demand anticipates this, and German breweries book the produce in advance. Anatolia, which once took the International Barley Prize at this same show (the exhibit of English growers in N.W. Anatolia, not far from the site of Troy!), has an extent of fit and friable soil, but since the Greco-Turkish War all progressive agriculture has ceased. The United States' barley-growers have been more or less converted by prohibition into cultivators of low-grade feed for pigs. They used to grow 448 lbs barley, aiming at 20 bushels per acre and 15s per cwt. They now grow 384 lbs barley, aiming at 28 bushels, to balance a fall in price to 10s per cwt. On a broad view of agriculture, there is a net decline from 5 to 4, only, but in Great Britain malting barley imports alone need be considered, and America in 1925 will send us no appreciable quantity of malting barley. The Canadian Dominion is in a state of anarchy over prohibition, and until the "wets" or the "dries" obtain, either of them, a decisive victory, malting barley cultivation will languish. In 1924 Canada has sent us practically no malting barley. South America sends a small quota of Chilean, worth 20s to 24s per cwt, and most highly esteemed, but no English grower need be concerned over these few and precious quality consignments. Argentina grows feeding barley almost exclusively. Australia and New Zealand can grow splendid malting barley, but they only produce very sparingly. Good barley needs laborious tillage, and shoulder work is not at a premium in Australasia. The British grower for the maltster has no occasion to occupy himself with barley from this quarter. The conclusion, therefore, is that no crop capable of yielding well on British soil affords at the present moment a better prospect of paying a good dividend than malting barley. This crop exacts little or no manure, but "lives" by its three ploughings, its good harrowing, and its careful threshing. These things depend on agricultural labour, which at the present time in Great Britain is plentiful, efficient, and, alas! almost too cheap.

Cotton Mill Shares.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Increasing activity has shown itself in the cotton mill share market in Oldham and Manchester during the past week. Dealings have been on a big scale, and nearly equal to the boom of 1919-20. The extensive buying has been due to the distinctly brighter outlook for the industry, which has been confirmed by the decision of the Master Spinners' Federation to recommend the owners of mills using American cotton to work

longer hours. In your issue of September 20th you published a table of comparative share quotations. Below is given the same table with the current quotations for the shares. It should be mentioned that in each case the shares are of the nominal value of £1, on which 10s has been paid up:—

	July 30, 1924.	Sept. 17, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.
Argyll.....	2 3 .. 3 7½ .. 8 4½		
Belgian.....	0 7½ .. 1 6 .. 3 3		
Boundary.....	1 3 .. 3 1½ .. 5 0		
Briar.....	2 3 .. 4 6 .. 6 1½		
Butterworth Hall.....	1 1½ .. 2 4½ .. 4 4½		
Cairo.....	5 0 .. 6 9 .. 8 4½		
Cavendish.....	0 6 .. 1 7½ .. 4 0		
Commercial.....	2 9 .. 4 9 .. 6 6		
Crown.....	4 6 .. 6 3 .. 7 10½		
Fern.....	5 1½ .. 7 6 .. 9 6		
Ivy.....	1 7½ .. 3 0 .. 4 0		
Melbourne.....	5 3 .. 6 4½ .. 8 6		
Monarch.....	5 7½ .. 7 7½ .. 8 9		
Ram.....	1 4½ .. 2 7½ .. 5 7½		
Swan.....	8 10½ .. 10 3 .. 15 9		
Warwick.....	2 4½ .. 3 4½ .. 6 4½		

The rise in certain instances has been striking, and some dealers who bought heavily rather more than a month ago have been able to secure big profits. It is feared in some quarters that the upward movement in values is being overdone, but it must be remembered that many of these companies, after running their mills at a loss for three years, are now selling their production at a fair profit. In numerous instances substantial adverse balances will have to be removed before dividends can be paid, but the outlook from the point of view of shareholders is undoubtedly healthier than for a long time back.

Dalgely's Progress.—Dalgely and Co., Limited, continue to follow their prosperous course. This well-known firm of Australasian merchants are able to present record figures in their accounts for the year ended June 30, 1924. Shareholders are rewarded by having a distribution of 17 per cent., free of tax, as against 15 per cent. a year ago. This is made up by the usual dividend of 10 per cent., and a bonus of 7s per share, which is equal to another 7 per cent. A summary of past years' results is set out below:—

Year Ended June 30.	Profits.	Expenses and Taxes.	Deben- ture Interest.	Prof. Div.	Ord. Div.	Rate.	Reserve, £s.	Carried Forward.
1906....	£ 371,591	£ 148,171	£ 114,439	£ ..	£ 70,000	7	£ 40,000	£ 55,381
1910....	542,534	198,362	122,364	25,000	80,000	8	110,000	77,579
1914....	570,510	245,434	105,593	25,000	80,000	8	10,000	197,016
1915....	582,097	258,048	107,377	25,000	80,000	8	100,000	208,687
1916....	643,931	322,210	107,864	25,000	100,000	10	100,000	197,544
1917....	861,793	484,448	107,119	25,000	130,000	13	210,000	102,771
1918....	875,369	510,304	104,065	25,000	140,000	14	85,000	113,770
1919....	857,773	494,475	101,141	25,000	140,000	14	90,000	120,928
1920....	957,298	566,470	98,251	25,000	150,000	15	110,000	128,506
1921....	689,168	445,176	103,386	25,000	100,000	10	60,000	84,112
1922....	775,660	408,280	114,591	25,000	150,000	15	60,000	101,901
1923....	920,977	552,587	114,228	25,000	150,000	15	65,000	116,063
1924....	986,979	551,039	111,952	25,000	170,000	17	75,000	170,052

Overhead expenses are £392,493, as against £380,190 for the previous year. Interest absorbs £111,952, as compared with £114,228, while taxation is slightly lower at £158,545, as against £172,397. The reduction here is on account of English taxation. Australasian taxation is £68,943, as against comparative figures of £60,341, a slight increase, while home taxation is down to £89,603, as compared with £112,055. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in our usual column. It is to be noticed that cash at £812,470 is lower, while bills, debtors and advances are higher. The report states that seasonal conditions in Australia for the past year have, on the whole, been favourable. The North-West of West Australia suffered, and is still suffering, from a very severe drought, but the rainfall in the rest of the State, and in the other States of the Commonwealth, may be described as satisfactory. Splendid rains have recently fallen over nearly the whole continent, and a bounteous harvest seems assured, whilst the wool clip promises to show a substantial increase over last year. Prices for all the commodities in which the company is interested have ruled on a high

level, and the community generally should be prospering. In New Zealand, broadly speaking, the season has been good. Prices for lamb have been maintained, whilst beef has recently shown a welcome improvement. Dairy produce exports have shown excellent returns. The exchange position still continues to be most unsatisfactory, and, although measures have been taken in Australia to extend the selling season, wool buyers may have great difficulty in arranging adequate credit facilities. It has been announced, however, by the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank that the clip and crop will be lifted without undue dislocation, as a satisfactory arrangement has been come to by all the Australian banks.

Castner-Kellner Alkali.—The directors are able to show a record in the profits of the Castner-Kellner Alkali Company, Limited, for the year ended September 30, 1923. The report vouchsafes no information as to the year's trading, or as to the reason for the improvement, but from the table below it will be seen that in the past few years there have been considerable fluctuations in earnings:—

	Profit.	Debt Interest.	Renewal and Depreciation.	Reserve and Carry Forward.	Dividend.
	£	£	£	£	%
1905	52,358	10,153	23,205	1,000	18,000
1909	134,154	9,313	35,000	26,841	63,000
1910	164,554	8,986	32,500	44,318	78,750
1911	178,853	8,789	32,500	47,564	90,000
1912	177,063	8,682	32,500	45,880	90,000
1913	172,348	8,372	32,500	29,382	106,094
1914	174,150	8,275	32,500	21,917	116,458
1915	260,805	8,056	50,000	52,749	150,000
1916	262,208	7,706	50,000	23,252	181,250
1917	263,322	7,648	50,000	45,078	200,000
1918	261,339	7,598	50,000	48,819	200,000
1919	190,655	7,598	50,000	51,876	130,000
1920	283,854	7,598	60,000	48,132	220,000
1921	153,086	7,512	50,000	13,706	130,000
1922	249,225	7,436	nil	55,494	200,000
1923	272,990	7,351	nil	101,331	200,000
1924	297,343	7,351	nil	111,331	200,000

The report states that the directors consider the depreciation reserve account, now standing at £737,500, is at the present time ample, and therefore they do not propose to add to it on this occasion. But £75,000 has been allocated to a suspense account. We have previously drawn attention to the fact that this balance-sheet might show a more liquid position. Total assets amount to £2,890,734. Out of this there is a "cash" item of £49,224, bills receivable £1,042, debtors £169,272, against creditors £678,782, a reserve investment account of £79,364, and "other investments" £227,659, which may or may not represent marketable securities. The analysed balance-sheet will be found on a later page.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The affairs of this important Australian enterprise have come to the front during the past week in connection with the receipt of the full text of the annual report and the proceedings at the meeting, as well as the news of a possible arrangement with Vickers, Limited. In regard to the latter, the general manager of the Proprietary company, at a luncheon given in Sydney, announced that Vickers had offered to associate with the company for the purpose of the manufacture of armour plate and shells at its Newcastle works (N.S.W.). From this it would appear that the scheme is as yet quite in the tentative stage; still, the statement exerted a favourable influence upon the market price of the shares. The actual report and accounts, of course, enable a better comparison to be made with the results of 1922-23. The balance brought in from working account figures at £529,800, as against only £157,700, and this was supplemented by £149,300 "taxes over provided and refunds," as well as by £15,000 law costs put back. The great bulk of these two items was swallowed up by a special depreciation allowance; nevertheless, a net profit remained of £279,300 in place of a loss of £106,100. Then £100,000 taken from reserve last year was replaced, leaving £201,200 to be carried forward. Thus the way has been cleared for the resumption of dividends. By further redemptions, the "A" debentures first series have been reduced to £296,500, the second

series to £223,900, and the "B" debentures to £1,255,800. The surplus of cash assets over liabilities (excluding the debentures) amounts to rather more than £1,000,000. In previous years, operations at the steel works have been interrupted by disputes amongst transport and other workers; during the twelve months ended April 30, 1924, continuity was obtained in all departments. Hence a noteworthy expansion occurred in the output—not only as compared with 1922-23, which suffered in a particular degree from labour trouble, but also as compared with 1921-22. In addition, work—on somewhat changed lines—was resumed at Broken Hill, where it had practically been in abeyance since 1919. The shareholders will doubtless note with satisfaction that the demand for steel is such as to impel the erection of two open-hearth furnaces, supplementary to the three in operation. In the course of his address at the meeting, the chairman of the company, dealing with the question of competition, said: "One semi-finished product being imported into England is steel wire rods. These subsequently are drawn into wire and wire products. About 25 per cent. of British manufacture is added to these dumped Continental rods, and the products are, in turn, imported into Australia under the British Preferential Tariff." A pointed illustration of the difficulties attendant upon protection!

Sherwood Starr.—From the low level of 2½ established earlier in the year, the shares of this Rhodesian enterprise have lately advanced to well over £4. In part the movement has been due to the expanding profits, and in part to the expectation that the report to June 30th would make a good showing. As crushing did not commence until March last, the earnings naturally do not run into big figures; the net profit amounts to £9,700, of which £6,000 is placed to reserve. In some quarters an interim dividend is hoped for in December. The ore reserves are estimated at 60,700 tons, average value, 22.3 dwts. The quantity represents about 2½ years' supply for the mill at the current rate of output. Without going into technical details, the "profit in sight" may be stated at some £180,000. Consequently, a purchaser of the shares at present price would be paying about £2 5s for the possibilities of the future. It seems quite enough, especially having regard to the erratic nature of the deposits in Rhodesia.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—FOREIGN TRADE—AN INVESTMENT TRUST ORGANISED—EUROPEAN LOANS — PROPOSED RAILROAD CONSOLIDATIONS — CRUDE RUBBER ADVANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 21.

AMERICAN export trade showed an abnormal increase in September. According to Department of Commerce figures, the total value of exports was \$427,000,000, representing a gain of \$97,000,000, or nearly 30 per cent. over August of this year, and of 12 per cent. over September a year ago. The total is slightly larger than that for December, 1923, when export trade reached the greatest value recorded since February, 1921, while the increase over August is the largest reported for any month since 1920. The big gain last month probably reflects the unusually heavy movement of grain to Europe, principally wheat. Imports also increased, the total value amounting to \$285,000,000, or 12 per cent. more than in August, and also 12 per cent. above September, 1923, but considerably below the monthly totals from October, 1923, to May, 1924. The September returns show that gold imports declined to the lowest monthly total of this year, aggregating only \$6,550,000, as against \$27,800,000 in September of last year. American export and import trade combined, Secretary of Commerce Hoover says, shows an increase of about 30 per cent. over pre-war figures, representing roughly a 40 per cent. gain in imports and 20 per cent.

in exports; this, he believes, is a greater quantitative increase over pre-war totals than is shown by any other country. These figures, he remarks, seem to indicate that the United States is taking a larger position in the world's foreign trade, and this position has been improving in the last three years.

Organisation of a \$30,000,000 investment trust, known as the United States and Foreign Securities Corporation, has just been completed by a group of New York bankers and associates. The new concern is patterned after the investment trusts which have long been in operation in England and on the Continent, and is the first undertaking of its kind in the American market. It has been financed through the public offering of 6 per cent. cumulative first preferred stock at \$100 a share, with a bonus of one share of common stock with each share of first preferred. Its capitalisation consists of 250,000 shares of 6 per cent. cumulative first preferred, 50,000 shares of 6 per cent. cumulative second preferred, and 1,000,000 shares of common, all of no par value. The entire offering was quickly taken, subscription books being closed almost immediately after the formal opening. The corporation's business will be international in scope, buying diversified securities and paying dividends from the return on such holdings. The board of directors includes prominent bankers, trust company officials, and industrialists in leading business and financial centres of this country, including New York, Chicago, Cleveland, and San Francisco. Some of the bankers identified with the recently formed American and Continental Corporation are also interested in this new enterprise, but the only connection between these two corporations, it is said, will be the ownership of about 25 per cent. of the stock of the American and Continental by the investment trust corporation. The former was created to carry on a foreign and international banking business exclusively, with Germany as its first field of operations, whereas the United States and Foreign Securities Corporation will be more strictly an investing institution, that is, its principal function will be to invest its funds rather than to do a commercial business. While the bulk of this investment trust's holdings will probably be in domestic securities, including Government, State, railroad, and high-grade industrial bonds and stocks, about one-quarter of its holdings, according to present plans, will be in foreign bonds and stocks of proved value. Care will be exercised not to invest in securities which might impose upon the holder unlimited liability.

The above concerns are only two of a number of new enterprises which have been undertaken or are contemplated as a result of the improved European situation and outlook brought about by the adoption of the Dawes Plan and the successful flotation of the German international loan, together with increasing confidence that unusual opportunities are now presented for broadening American foreign trade. Another concern that is being organised here is to be known as the Equable Acceptance Company, with an initial capital of \$1,000,000, whose object will be to conduct in New York a business similar to that of the British merchant banker. Well-known domestic and international bankers are forming this company, which will seek to render an associate service in promoting domestic and foreign commerce of the United States "on a basis consistent with ethical acceptance and credit house practice." This service, it is said, will supplement financial facilities afforded by standard banking interests, with whom the new company will aim to co-operate, rather than compete. The new acceptance company will not receive deposits; it will operate on a secured basis only, and in addition to its other activities, it will serve, it is understood, as a representative of financial interests, including foreign.

Virtually all of the large banks here engaged in international business are receiving many requests for loans and credits from European countries, the applicants being Governments and municipalities, railroads, hydro-electric concerns, and various industries. The number of such requests has greatly increased since the German loan was floated recently. Most of the prospective borrowers are located in Central Europe, and it is reported that many bankers from Germany, Austria, Poland, and other countries contemplate visiting New York to negotiate loans and credits.

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



According to statistics just published by the Rubber Association, shipments of cord and fabric casings exceeded production in August for the third month in succession. With the publication of these figures, the crude rubber market here displayed further strength, smoked sheets selling at 32 cents a pound, a new high record for this year, and representing an advance of 1½ cents over the previous price. During the past month, crude rubber has soared about 5 cents a pound, the upturn being attributed principally to reports of depleted stocks here and in London, and to exceptional activity among automobile tyre manufacturers. The association's figures place tyre shipments in August at 3,757,542 tyres, as against 3,167,978 in July and 2,852,034 in August of last year. Production of casings in August reached 2,733,575, as compared with 2,187,116 in July and 2,355,915 in August a year ago. Shipments of balloon tyres have shown a marked increase. Since March of this year, when figures for this comparatively new type of casings were first compiled and published, monthly shipments have increased from 191,272 to 435,572 in August. In July they totalled 393,132. High-pressure tube inventories, as of August 31st, were 5,006,578, against 5,084,015 in July and 4,350,320 in August, 1923. In the solid tyre branch of the industry, inventories at the close of August amounted to 183,159, as compared with 202,850 at the end of July and 262,810 on August 31st of last year.

As a result of numerous conferences recently between officials of railroads concerned, and with the Inter-State Commerce Commission in Washington, plans have been submitted to the commission by three of the four largest trunk line interests for the formation of four principal Eastern systems. The suggested groupings differ materially from the consolidations originally proposed by the Commerce Commission. The fact that they have been approved, in the main, by the largest trunk line interests in this section will, no doubt, carry considerable weight with the commission in reaching a final recommendation regarding such consolidations.

FRANCE.—NEW LOAN—SOCIALISTS AND THE BUDGET—THE PRICE OF BREAD—WAGES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, October 29.

THE Chambers are due to meet again next Tuesday, and from then until Christmas, at least, a large proportion of the time of the Lower House will in all probability be occupied with the Budget Bill for 1925. The Finance Minister, M. Clementel, as set forth in this column a few weeks ago, has laid before the Finance Commission of the Chamber a comprehensive set of proposals, which he estimates will be sufficient to enable all the necessary money to be secured to meet the year's expenditure, and to leave a small surplus at the end of the period covered. The deficit on the current year is to be got rid of by the issue of some 4 milliard francs of ten-year bonds, redeemable (after the expiration of five years) by means of drawings, with a premium or bonus of 50 per cent. of their nominal value. What the rate of interest carried by these bonds will be has not yet been announced, although it is asserted that the new issue will be made early in November. It has now been discovered that, by a special provision of last year's Finance Act, Parliamentary authorisation will not be required for this issue (although it was officially and expressly stated a week or two ago that the projected loan could not be issued until after the sanction of Parliament had been secured). So far no serious objection has been raised to the Finance Minister's proposals in regard to the projected loan, but unfortunately the same thing cannot be said of the rest of his plans.

It is no secret that the Socialist section of M. Herriot's supporters are bitterly disappointed with M. Clementel's proposals in connection with the new Government's first Budget. They gave invaluable support to M. Herriot at the elections last May on the express condition that he would not only recognise the Russian Soviet Government, in the event of his being returned to power, but that he would also carry through a very wide sweeping general amnesty Bill (including the rehabilitation of MM. Caillaux and Malvy), and that his Budget should be unquestionably Socialist in character. In hundreds of constituencies the voters were told that sweeping reductions of taxation would follow the return of the Bloc des Gauches to power, and there was more than half a promise to the wage-earning classes that this should be ensured by some kind of tax on capital. The Socialists now insist that there is no sign in M. Clementel's proposals of this undertaking being carried out, and they are calling on M. Herriot, with no uncertain voice, to fulfil his election promises in this respect. The result is that at present there is a possibility that within the next few weeks, unless the Budget proposals now under consideration, are drastically modified, M. Herriot may find himself in much the same position as Mr Macdonald, when the latter was abandoned by the Liberals. The parallel is not exact, of course, because M. Herriot can rely on the circumstance that exactly those points in his fiscal programme that would be regarded as poison by his Socialist friends would probably be accepted as worthy of support by a large section of the official Opposition on the Right. The latter are by no means anxious to keep M. Herriot in office, however, and it is now regarded as quite within the bounds of possibility that he may be replaced by a "Ministry of Concentration" that would be less dependent on Socialist support.

The extent to which the revolt of the Socialists has gone may be judged from the fact that strong pressure has been brought on M. Clementel during the past few days with a view to the complete recasting of the Budget proposals. The proposal was actually made, at a meeting of deputies who form the "cartellist" majority of the Finance Commission of the Chamber, that this should be done, but it was not pressed to a vote. It was agreed instead that the Finance Minister should be asked to

adopt certain modifications that would be submitted to him. At a subsequent meeting, which took place at the Palais Bourbon last Saturday, and at which M. Loucheur (who is known to have ambitions to assume charge of the national finances) was present, these proposed modifications were discussed in detail. As the result, a letter was sent to M. Clementel urging him to embody in his Budget proposals a tax on capital and acquired wealth, a higher scale of assessment for income-tax in the case of large fortunes, an increase in the succession duties, the suppression of the exemption from taxation now enjoyed by holders of Rentes and other State Funds, and provisions for the transformation of all bearer bonds, or at least the coupons attached to them, into nominative securities, with a view to preventing fraud on the revenue authorities.

The wheat, flour, and bread prices problem is continuing to defy all attempts at solution. The price of bread, which is subject to periodical modification by prefectorial decree, according to changes in the wholesale prices of wheat and flour, has now been fixed at 1fr 35c per kilogramme in the Paris area. A further rise of a sou is expected shortly. These prices are considerably higher than any previously registered in this country. Many experts believe that before another three months the cost of bread will rise to such a figure as to be a serious danger to public order. In the grain trade it is predicted that bread will rise, in view of the general situation, to between 2fr and 2fr 50c per kilogramme. No attempt has been made to fix the price of wheat, and none is likely to be. The system of officially fixing the sale price of flour, which was adopted a few weeks ago, has been found unworkable, as millers found it possible to refuse deliveries, and many bakers were faced with the necessity of closing their shops. It has been replaced by a new law which requires the newly constituted Office des Céréales Panifiables to submit to the National Millers' Association a quotation for flour which, if it is agreed to by them, is established as the working basis. If, on the contrary, the millers' association declines to accept the price, the Office des Céréales has power to take the matter into its own hands and fix a price which is compulsory on the millers. This "semi-official quotation," as it is termed, is based on the average price of wheat during the previous fortnight, and was announced for the first time last Saturday, the figure accepted by the millers being 146fr per quintal. Yesterday this semi-official quotation was increased to 148fr, the daily average wheat quotations (as fixed by the Sworn Wheat-brokers' Association) having risen from 115fr 30c on October 15 to 119fr 25c on October 22. If this quotation is maintained, a further rise in the price of bread is inevitable.

Although the official index figure of retail prices now stands at 370 (as compared with 100 in July, 1914), all efforts to raise wages continue to be limited to political and constitutional means, and there is no sign of serious hardship. The Government, as might be expected, is showing distinctly favourable attention to demands on the part of various categories of public servants for improved conditions of service, and further rises in commodity prices may be expected to follow. Representations for increased pay by the employees on the State railways have been met by the Government by the promise of an immediate inquiry and of favourable consideration of their demands. The staffs of the private companies, it is anticipated, will also benefit. Out of a total of 420,000 railwaymen employed in this country, 350,000, it is alleged, are in receipt of less than 20fr a day, while many of them receive only 15fr. The pay of an unskilled railway employé, which was 4fr 85c in 1914, is now 15fr 96c per day. Most of the French pre-war strikes were ostensibly based on a demand for a minimum wage of 5fr per day.

French foreign trade returns for the first nine months of 1924 disclose that Great Britain remains France's best customer, and that she has absorbed exports to the value of 5,844,697,000fr this year, or 1,325,293,000fr more than during the corresponding period of 1923. British exports to France, on the contrary, have decreased by over 213,450,000fr this year, as compared with the first nine months of 1923, and amounted to only 3,581,000,000fr, as compared with 4,024,415,000fr worth sold to France by the United States.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—NEW REICHSBANK—INDUSTRY—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, October 28.

PREPARATIONS for the Reichstag elections are proceeding without much spirit. Out of the argument of the middle parties and the Socialists that the issue is for or against the Republic, no effective battle-cry can be made, in view of the ambiguous policy of the Cabinet in regard to collaborating with the German-Nationals, who are the most numerous of the parties which reject the Republic, and owing indeed to the ambiguous policy of the latter in their rejection policy. The Tariff and Commercial Treaties question also plays a very small rôle; the Socialists are still strongly against the proposed re-imposition of the food duties, but since the rise in grain prices, and the restoration of the export prohibition on grain, they have themselves hardly believed that the duties can be re-imposed. The Agricultural Council, which met last week, almost unanimously demanded the duties, but Prof. Sering, of Berlin, one of the most distinguished members, declared that duties would not help the farmers, and that it would be better to aim at reduction of production costs, to revise taxation with this aim, and to abolish altogether the injurious Sales Tax. A representative of the Government announced that there is no prospect of reducing taxation. The elections for the Hamburg State Council show a marked weakening of the Nationals, National Freedom party (extreme Right), and Communists, all opposition parties in the Reichstag, since the May General Election, and are interpreted as foreshadowing an increase of the middle parties in the coming Reichstag.

The Finance Ministry's return for the ten-day term October 11th-20th shows a large surplus due to the quarterly income, corporation, and sales tax payments. Receipts totalled 233,429,700 gold marks, and expenditure 179,731,100 gold marks, of which 120,000,000 gold marks were subventions to the states and municipalities. The separate account for posts, telegraphs, and telephones shows for the first five months of the financial year (April-August) a surplus of 50 million gold marks. This department is going over to commercial methods of accountancy, but the change has so far been only partly made. The official wholesale prices index number for October 21st had fallen further to 131.1, against a maximum this year of 133.7 on the 7th; the cost of living index number on the 22nd remained unchanged at 123, its highest point this year. The Prussian State Bank (Seehandlung) has followed the other banks in keeping accounts, henceforth, only in the new Reichsmark. The interest rate in business is still tending slowly to fall. The granting of the expected foreign credits to industry is not proceeding as rapidly as was expected after the success of the Reparations Loan; the Reichstag dissolution seems here to have had a delaying effect. The Gold Discount Bank has given notice to terminate the \$25,000,000 rediscount credit, which it received in New York. The same will probably be done in London and Zurich. This will have no effect upon the prolongation of existing exchange credits here. Only a small part—about 10 per cent.—of the credits were placed abroad, the main rediscounting being with the Reichsbank.

The Reichsbank's return for October 15th comes out in an entirely new form, assets and liabilities, regardless of their nature, being booked uniformly in new Reichsmarks. Therewith the anomaly of booking the gold reserve at its nominal total in paper marks beside the swollen totals of all other items disappears. The capital has been reduced from 180 million "marks" to 90 million Reichsmarks, and the intended addition to capital of 210,000,000 Reichsmarks is entered both as asset and liability. The gold reserve is booked at the rate of 1,392 Reichsmarks per metric lb of fine gold, the old 10 and 20 mark gold coins being booked as new Reichsmark coins of the same value. In the week preceding the return 18,900,000 Reichsmark of gold was acquired. Of the bank's holding of exchange, 204,541,000 Reichsmark are booked separately as "exchange valid as legal cover" (*deckungsfähig*), so that the legal cover total is 818,166,000 Reichsmark, while the rest of the exchange held is booked as heretofore under

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.BUENOS AYRES:
501 Bartolome Mitre.HAVANA:
Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Foreign exchange orders executed in the New York market for banking correspondents abroad. Commercial banking business of all descriptions transacted.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

"other assets." The gold cover of the note circulation is 43.9 per cent., the total legal cover 58.6 per cent. The bank's holding of Rentenmark notes now appears in "other assets." State and private deposits are no longer separated. The following is the complete return:—

	Reichsmarks.
Unpaid capital.....	210,000,000
Gold reserve (whereof 172,143,000 un-pledged abroad.....)	613,625,000
Legal cover exchange.....	204,541,000
Other bills and cheques.....	2,153,943,000
German token coins.....	59,359,000
Notes of other banks.....	15,947,000
Advances.....	77,517,000
Investments.....	929,901,000
Other assets.....	90,000,000
Old capital.....	210,000,000
New unpaid capital.....	900,000
Reserve funds.....	1,396,748,000
Note circulation.....	828,511,000
Deposits.....	800,000,000
Debt to Rentenbank.....	938,674,000
Other liabilities.....	

The employment figures from Berlin and some other towns indicate a continued improvement in industry. Definitive figures show in unoccupied territory 1,533,495 unemployed on January 1st (estimated in occupied territory, 1,500,000); March 1st, 1,167,785; June 1st, 208,258 (lowest figure of the year); August 1st, 328,028; October 1st, 319,553. For the whole Republic the first figures published are 566,957 for August 1st, and the last figures for October 1st, 519,161. The number of unemployed is, therefore, one-fifth or one-sixth of the number at the beginning of the year. New activity is reported in iron and steel, especially in rails, for which orders are booked for three months ahead. Textiles are also somewhat better. The Government's tariff plan foresees high duties on finished textiles, and the *Vorwärts* points out that fine yarns, which have largely come from England, are to bear higher duties than the qualities made at home. A number of prominent industrial leaders have protested against the plan to ratify the Washington Eight Hours' Day agreement. Raw sugar production in the new sugar year 1924-25 will reach, according to an estimate, 1,489,850 metric tons, against 1,146,891 tons in the past year.

Foreign trade in September showed a renewal of passivity. This was expected, owing to the recent decline in imports of raw and half-finished materials and manufactured goods and exhaustion of stocks. All these imports recovered in September, and there was a big increase of imports of foodstuffs as a result of the belated and unfavourable crops. Exports, with the exception of half-finished goods, declined. The figures are:—

	(In Thousands of Gold Marks.)		
	Sept.	Aug.	Jan.-Sept.
Live stock.....	7,934	4,945	60,540
Food and drink.....	206,684	152,426	1,544,229
Raw materials.....	223,901	148,317	2,575,793
Half-finished materials.....	58,537	42,371	587,814
Manufactures.....	121,436	89,142	1,275,735
Gold and silver.....	4,930	11,023	65,836
Totals.....	623,422	448,224	6,109,947
Live stock.....	1,550	1,957	6,928
Food and drink.....	34,543	50,398	284,465
Raw materials.....	40,607	43,835	295,281
Half-finished materials.....	42,766	37,054	297,413
Manufactures.....	442,822	454,687	3,658,015
Gold and silver.....	1,768	1,430	11,903
Totals.....	564,056	589,361	4,554,005

The largest increase (in value) in raw materials, as compared with August, was tobacco, but there were also large increases in cotton, silk, pelts and hides, oil seed, and coal. Exports of textiles slightly increased, and also leather goods, furniture, dyes; while rubber, pottery, and glass declined. Exports of rolling mill products and iron wares (other than machinery) were 97,485 metric tons, against 144,030 tons in August, and a monthly average of 193,097 tons in 1923; exports of machinery, 21,964 tons, against 24,224 tons in August, and a monthly average of 39,895 tons in 1922. Owing to conditions in occupied territory, this report, like all issued since the Ruhr occupation, is imperfect.

NORWAY.—NEW PARLIAMENT—ANOTHER BANK FAILURE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, October 24.

THE final results of the General Election held on October 20th for the new triennial Parliament (Storting), of Norway, that is to meet early next year, compare with those of the 1921 election as follows:—

	1921. Members.	1924. Members.
Conservatives and Liberals (Coalition)	57	54
Left (Radicals)	37	34
Socialists	8	8
Agrarians	17	22
Radical Labour Party	14	24
Communists	15	6
Radical People's Party	2	2

The most noteworthy features are the great reduction of the Moscow Communist Party, which has been deprived of its parliamentary leader, and the advance of the Agrarians. As will be seen, no individual party has obtained a majority, so that a coalition is inevitable. It may be anticipated that the Conservatives and Liberals will in most cases work harmoniously with the Agrarians, and if so, this coalition would give 76 votes, or the barest majority. And even the Left, in extreme cases, would side with them in opposition to the Communists, &c. On the whole, there is no likelihood of revolutionary or very radical legislation by the new Storting. Great doubt as yet exists as to how Prohibition—which was one of the chief objects of contention before the election—will fare; this will be known only when the question is put to the test.

Further bank troubles have to be recorded. Den norske Handelsbank has had to seek shelter under the Administration Act. When, a year ago, new directors were appointed and a considerable sum of money provided, it was hoped that confidence would return, and that the bank would be able to overcome its difficulties. The Communist party journal, it is claimed, is largely responsible for the calamity, having published leading articles of a very alarming nature concerning the bank. For a couple of years there has been a steady diminution in the amount of business done by the bank, so that the stoppage of payment did not cause much surprise, nor any serious financial difficulties for the community.

GREECE.—THE REFUGEE LOAN—PUBLIC WORKS—GREEK BANKS—FOREIGN TRADE—COST OF LIVING—EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, October 23.

THE Governor of the National Bank of Greece is leaving Athens in a day or two for London, in connection with the raising of the Refugee Loan, which will be concluded during November. The loan will be issued by a group of banks, headed by the Bank of England. A portion of the loan will be issued in America.

In consequence of negotiations carried out in London early this year, an English syndicate has sent to Athens during the summer two expert engineers for studying the question of erecting new plants for the generation and distribution of electric current in Athens and Piræus, as well as for the extension and development of the tramways. The present electric company is a Greek concern, while the tramways belong to a Belgian company. Negotiations are now in progress for a participation of

British, Belgian, and Greek capital in the above scheme. Similarly, proposals have been submitted by various foreign syndicates, including an American group, for the supplying of water to Athens. This matter is very pressing as the population is suffering greatly from the want of water, even for its most elementary needs. A decision on the proposals submitted is expected to be taken at the end of the month. To facilitate the study of the various public works of which Greece is in great need, and the collaboration of foreign capital in the construction of such works, a syndicate has been recently formed by the Greek banks under the leadership of the National Bank of Greece.

The progress of Greek banks since 1914 is shown in the following table containing figures for the principal banks in Greece:—

	End of 1914.	End of 1923.
Number of banks	7	20
Share capital and reserve funds	107,000,000 drachmæ 25,000,000 francs £551,000	533,000,000 drachmæ 30,000,000 francs £656,000
Deposits	481,000,000 drachmæ 6,000,000 drachmæ £25,000	4,659,000,000 drachmæ 132,000,000 drachmæ £50,000
Net profits	5,000,000 drachmæ £24,000	49,000,000 drachmæ £34,000
Profits distributed		

Foreign trade returns for the first six months of 1924 show some improvement as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, as the following table shows:—

(In million drachmæ).

	January to June.	1923.	1924.	Difference in 1924.
Imports	3,221	3,143	—	78
Exports	891	1,055	+	164
Excess of imports	2,330	2,088	—	242

Although the visible balance of trade is unfavourable for Greece, there is still a credit balance, owing to the invisible items of export. The principal of these are emigrants' remittances, estimated for 1923, one of the worst years, at not less than £5,000,000, and expected to exceed in 1924 £10,000,000. Moreover, the profits of the mercantile marine and the interest on Greek capital invested abroad are largely contributing towards turning the balance in favour of the country.

Index numbers for the cost of living in Athens have moved slightly downwards from 1,357 in August to 1,330 in September, as against 1,194.3 a year ago, 1,348.1, the record figure, in April, 1923, and 100 in 1914, the basis year. Exchange on London is rather steady at something less than 260 drachmæ to the pound sterling.

Letters to the Editor.

COLONIAL STOCKS AND SINKING FUNDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—During the early months of this year several Colonial loans matured, but in the case of some of the largest, amounting to no less than £33,000,000, no more than £320,000, barely 1 per cent., was actually paid by the borrower.

Beyond this latter comparatively insignificant sum, the whole was discharged by re-borrowing. It becomes, in fact, closely allied to a permanent debt, with, in addition, a recurring risk of difficulty arising on every date of maturity.

Although possibly allowable to a young and struggling community, this cannot be called sound finance in the case of a mature Dominion.

It will be thought, no doubt, that there are valuable assets, e.g., railways owned by the borrowers; but these are not readily realisable nor turned into cash to meet the liability; if the colony found a difficulty in borrowing, the same circumstances would be likely to cause a difficulty in the realisation of the assets of value.

The question of a sinking fund is not touched on in the Colonial Stock Act, 1900. Some revision of this Act, as well as consideration of the question by the borrowers, would seem very advisable.—Yours, &c.,
50 Cornhill, E.C. 3. ALFRED F. BUXTON.

Books and Publications.

RUSSIAN DEBTS AND RUSSIAN RECONSTRUCTION.*

THIS book is intended to furnish answers to three fundamental questions, viz.: (1) What are the amounts which any Russian Government would have to pay abroad on account of the various foreign obligations for which Russia is now held responsible? (2) What is involved in obtaining these amounts within the country by means of budgetary surpluses? and (3) what is involved in making these surpluses available abroad, and what is the probable Russian capacity to make such payments?

In endeavouring to answer these questions the authors find it necessary to discuss certain controlling factors in the economic history of Russia since the middle of last century, and particularly since the beginning of Russia's industrial revolution, which received its impetus under the régime of Count Witte just before the end of the century. A valuable chapter and appendix are devoted to the study of Russia's foreign indebtedness. The conclusion, answering question (1), is that Russia's obligations to foreign countries amount to 13,823 million gold roubles, of which 6,681 millions are for war borrowings and 7,142 millions for pre-war debts, both public and private. The principal creditors are Great Britain, France, the United States, and Belgium. The pre-war Government debt is held to the extent of 80 per cent. in France and 14 per cent. in Great Britain, and the war debt to the extent of 70 per cent. in Great Britain, 19 per cent. in France, and 7 per cent. in the United States. The industrial securities are held to the extent of 32 per cent. in France, 25 per cent. in Great Britain, 16 per cent. in Germany, 15 per cent. in Belgium, and 6 per cent. in the United States. The interest charges, making no allowance for amortisation, amount to 400 million roubles on the war debt and 320 million roubles on the various pre-war obligations.

With regard to Russia's future budget, the authors make the very questionable assumption that military and naval expenditure will be reduced to as little as one-quarter of the pre-war amount, which was 962 million roubles in 1913. Internal expenditure, as they point out, is reduced by the wiping out of the internal debt through inflation. As to revenue, they are fairly hopeful. Conditional on a rather speedy economic recovery of the country—a recovery which depends upon a substantial stabilisation of the currency and an efficient application of whatever loans may be extended for reconstruction—they believe that the total revenues may approximate to the 3,000 million roubles which they estimate to be required for the purpose of meeting expenditure. So far as the internal budget goes, therefore, the authors conclude that Russia may obtain a surplus sufficient to meet the interest on a considerable part, at any rate, of her foreign obligations.

But they do not think that she will be able to remit this surplus, since to do so would require a large excess of exports over imports, which is not likely to be capable of attainment. They point out that there was not a single year between 1892 and 1905 when the trade balance was sufficient to meet the service charges and the interest on the foreign indebtedness, and that there were only three years at the most, during the entire period to 1914, when resort to new borrowing was not necessary. The reason for this borrowing abroad was not, they maintain, that Russia set out to promote internal development, thus ex-

* "Russian Debts and Russian Reconstruction." By Leo Pavlovsky and Harold G. Moulton. (New York) McGraw Hill Book Company.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

TRANSACTS ALL BUSINESS USUALLY UNDERTAKEN BY AN EASTERN PLANTATION TRUST COMPANY, APPROVED ISSUES UNDERWRITTEN.

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

panding imports and giving rise to temporary difficulties in meeting foreign payments.

"In common with Russian economists, we are convinced that the process was the other way round. The Russian bureaucrats were quite content with the feudal economic system of the country; they were not interested in internal development, nor in modernisation of the Russian economic system. If anything, they were opposed to such development on the ground that it might undermine the existing political system. But they were vitally interested in keeping out of international bankruptcy, and in maintaining Russia's position in the world as a first-rate power."

Yet Russia was, in their view, undoubtedly exporting before the war to her maximum capacity. It was the generally accepted opinion both of Russian economists and of foreign students of Russian conditions that Russia was exporting more than the economic condition of the country warranted. As regards the future, the authors think that it must be a long time before Russia can export on the pre-war scale, because agricultural output will not, as they think, equal that of pre-war years for many years to come. In this connection, we are not sure that the authors make sufficient allowance for the notorious rapidity of recovery in agricultural countries when revival once begins. Making estimates on the assumption that with the aid of reconstruction loans Russia does return to the pre-war scale of economic activity, the authors believe that her favourable trade balance would not greatly exceed 100 million roubles a year. This amount, as they say, is sufficient merely to cover the interest charges on a reconstruction loan of about 1,400 million roubles, allowing for no margin of income above interest obligations. Thus, even if Russia should honour her existing debts, she cannot pay them.

It is no doubt true that a large part of foreign holdings in Russia must inevitably be written off as lost, but if Russian credit were to revive, following an acknowledgment of debts, we are inclined to think that part would be recoverable in course of time. We doubt whether Russia's capacity to make payments abroad, if and when revival occurs (say, in ten years' time), can really be predicted with any approach to accuracy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Merchant Navy, Vol. II. By Archibald Hurd. (London) John Murray. 21s net.

Trade Routes and Commerce of the Roman Empire. By M. P. Charlesworth. (London) Cambridge University Press. 12s 6d net.

India and the Empire. By Lord Meston, K.C.S.I., LL.D. New Way Series No. 10. (London) Daily News, Limited.

Family Allowances: The Remuneration of Labour According to Need. (Geneva) International Labour Office. 3s.

The Failure of State Railways. By Harold Cox. (London) Longmans, Green, and Co. 6d.

Journal des Économistes, October, 1924. (Paris) Librairie Félix Alcan. 8f.

Local Government Handbook, 1924. (London) Labour Publication Department. 3s net.

Le Solidarisme. By C. Bouglé. (Paris) Marcel Giard. 8f.

Swedish Ports. Published by A.-B. Gunnar Tisells. Tekniska Förlag, Stockholm.

Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs and Excise for the Year Ended March 31, 1924. (London) H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. 4s.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET,
November 5.

ACCOUNT,
November 6.

THE unexpected result of the General Election caused lively excitement and a pronounced rise throughout the Stock Exchange. Business suffered a good deal of interference by reason of the political fervour of the week, and on Thursday, when the figures were coming through every few minutes, it was not always an easy matter to deal, the difficulty being accentuated by the fact that prices were so good that holders of stock felt no disposition to sell. The volume of business before the results were published was of satisfactory dimensions, except in the mining markets. The Stock Exchange looks for a few years of stable government, and, therefore, of improving prices, allowance being made, of course, for such occasional setbacks as may come—for instance, when the immediate excitement aroused by the present election begins to subside.

Quotation of the War Loan ex dividend last Thursday morning gave the stock a cheap-looking appearance, and the price advanced to 101. Conversion $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., however, took the lead in this market with a substantial advance. Other British Government stocks became almost buoyant in tone. Union of South Africa scrip has risen to $\frac{1}{2}$ premium; the new Queensland to $3\frac{1}{2}$ premium. Gilt-edged stocks of every description and industrial debentures and preferences are in demand, and this in spite of statements that a mass of new issues is on the point of making its appearance. India Government stocks rose from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 points.

German sevens, after a dip to $4\frac{1}{2}$ premium, easily recovered to the extent of 10s per cent. French bonds are quiet, the railway issues showing strength. Russians are marked lower. Greek bonds have improved, in spite of rumours to the effect that there is a Greek loan coming before long.

The election news had the effect of causing sharp rises in Home Railway stocks. Great Western and North-Western led the way. Their rises were followed by improvements in Underground Income bonds and in the deferred stocks of the North-Eastern and Southern Railways. The market is good throughout. Argentine rails are also better, and a mild sensation was caused by violent rises in Cordoba Central and Entre Rios stocks. Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cent. debentures shot up from 60 to 68 upon publication of the report on the company by Messrs George A. Touche and Co. Brazilian Railway stocks are firm, and other foreign rails mostly hold their prices.

Rubber shares have enjoyed a miniature boomlet, with a substantial amount of business going on day by day, and the market showing signs of broadening. Tea shares have recovered from their flatness, and are again rising. A jump in the price of coffee this week attracted the attention of speculative investors, and prices of coffee shares are better. Textile shares are strong, a number of rises occurring in the popular favourites. Another spurt in tobacco shares fastened particularly upon Imperials, where dividend anticipations are declared to be responsible for the rise this week in the price of the shares.

The iron and steel market keeps good, advances occurring every day. Banking and insurance descriptions are higher where they have moved at all. The scarcity of insurance shares is becoming more and more marked. There is nothing much going on in the shipping department. Brewery stocks have moved up, hotels are harder, and the shares in the principal stores companies remain steady. Sudan Plantations improved, on the declaration of a dividend making 20 per cent. for the year, an increase of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Cable stocks are a strong market, and the wireless division firmed up, owing to the impression that the General Election has given broadcasting such an advertisement as is likely to reflect favourably upon Marconi profits. Amongst oil shares, one feature was a drop in Mexican Eagles by reason of the uncertainty felt as to the payment of the half-yearly dividend on the company's 7 per cent. first preference shares, due yesterday (Friday). Other oil shares, however, are better, and a long string of advances has occurred. Some of the trust companies' stocks show gains of several points. Various industrials have advanced, on the idea that protection of trade may become more general in the new Parliament.

The Kaffir Circus shared in the better tendency displayed by the House as a consequence of the General Election. The feature amongst South Africans is the way in which Tanganyikas and Zambesias have appreciated. The buying is thought to have come partly from New York, where the purchasers are said to be intrigued by the outlook for copper—the metal—over the next few years. Mexican Mining shares, after going better, reacted, but the movements were small in both directions. Malayan tins keep good, there being a continuance of Middle Eastern support. In other mining groups, both business and interest have been on a meagre scale.

NEW ISSUES.

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

Amount previously recorded.....	Nominal Capital.	Cash Sub- scription.	First Payment.	Further Li- ability.
.. 155,107,309 ..	£	£	£	£
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 25, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Oct. 25, 1924, Dr £2,450,000 ..	Dr £100,000	Dr £100,000		
To the Public—				
Union of South Africa, £8,000,000 ..	£	£	£	£
5% Inscribed Stock (red. at par 1940-60), iss. at 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	8,000,000	7,960,000	400,000	7,560,000
Total offered to the public ..	7,960,000	400,000	7,560,000	
To Shareholders only—				
Adelaide Electric Supply, 250,000 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % "C" Cum. Pref. Shs. of £1, iss. at par ..	250,000	250,000	125,000	125,000
Amari (Nigeria) Tin Mines, 200,000 Shares of 2s per Share, iss. at par, to Shareholders of Keffi Consolidated Tin Co. ..	20,000	20,000	5,000	15,000
Amboni Estates, 20,000 £1 Shrs., iss. at par ..	20,000	20,000		20,000
Total offered to shareholders ..	290,000	130,000	160,000	
Total offered for subscription to date				
1924 ..	163,257,309			163,257,309
1923 ..	245,928,421			245,928,421
1922 ..	543,593,574			543,593,574
1921 ..	253,617,936			253,617,936
1920 ..	325,583,250			325,583,250
1919 ..	963,857,123			963,857,123

Union of South Africa 5 per Cent. Inscribed Stock, 1940-1960.—Issue of £8,000,000 at £99 10s per cent. It is stated that £1,000,000 will be allotted to the Public Debt Commissioners of the Union. The loan is required for railways, harbours, irrigation works, land settlement, and other public works. Interest is payable on January 1st and July 1st of each year, and the principal is repayable in London at par in 1960, the Government of the Union of South Africa having the option to redeem the stock, in whole or in part, at par on or after July 1, 1940. It is pointed out in the prospectus that Union of South Africa debentures and stock, issued and payable in London, and the interest, the property of persons not domiciled in South Africa, are not subject to any taxes in the Union. The accumulated sinking funds for the redemption of debt amount to £11,647,000, and, in addition, debt has been extinguished to the extent of £18,436,000. An excellent trustee security at a reasonable price.

London County Council.—Issue of £3,000,000 London County bills. The London County Council give notice that tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Tuesday, November 4th, for London County bills to the amount of £2,000,000, to provide funds for capital expenditure in the current financial period. The bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000, or £10,000. They will be dated November 7, 1924, and will be payable at 12 months after that date, viz. on November 7, 1925. Tenders must specify the net amount per cent. which will be given for the amounts applied for; and tenders of private individuals must be made through a London banker. Bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England.

Antofagasta Nitrate Company.—Registered under the laws of the Republic of Chile. Share capital, \$96,000,000, at \$40 to £1, equals £2,400,000. There are 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debentures outstanding for £466,700. For public information only, particulars are published in the Press of an issue of £400,000 of 7 per cent. second mortgage debenture stock. This debenture stock will rank immediately after the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first debentures, and will constitute a second charge on all the eight oficinas owned by the company, with lands and nitrate grounds covering an area of about 64 square miles. Redemption by purchase up to or drawings at 102 per cent. will be effected by a sinking fund of not less than £28,000 per annum, to begin in 1926 and end by 1940. The proceeds of the issue are being applied to the enlargement of plants on two existing oficinas and the erection of a new oficina on other grounds. For 1923 the company made a net profit of £520,000 after the payment of debenture interest, and after providing for depreciation, 12 per cent. was distributed on the share capital and £179,800 transferred to reserves. Interest and sinking fund charges on the first debentures require about £64,000 per annum, the interest item being reduced annually by the operation of the sinking fund, while interest and sinking fund on the 7 per cent. debentures will require about £56,000 per annum. This stock has been acquired from the company at 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and placed at 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There are risks involved, but the issue is not without attractions.

The York Town and Blackwater Gas Company.—This is an offer for sale by tender of £10,000 of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. perpetual debenture stock, at a minimum price of par, and £10,000 of new ordinary additional shares, which are of £10 each, and rank for a standard dividend of 7 per cent., subject

to a sliding scale. The ordinary shares are offered at a minimum price of issue, namely, £12 per share, which indicates a return—the present dividend being 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—of £7 5s 10d per cent. As against a net revenue of £6,400, taken on the basis of 1923, the debenture stock interest, including that on the amount now offered, requires only £1,900. The company has been working since 1859. Two small issues, suitable for local investors, but regard should be paid to the narrow market for such securities.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
War 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1925-28 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Canada 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-25 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Loans 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1925-45 ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Stock ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1925-47 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1925-31 ..	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1925-42 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1933 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Funding Loan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-32 ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Victory Bonds 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1923-33 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Conversion Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1924-34 ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Consols 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	U. of S.A. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1930-40 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish Land Stock 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Victoria 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1924-34 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Local Loans 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	W. Aust. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1930-40 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Great Western Ord. 108 $\frac{1}{2}$..	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Ord. "A" ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
London & North-Eastern ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Ord. "B" ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Pref. Ord. ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Pref. Ord. ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Do Def. Ord. ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Def. Ord. ..	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
London, Mid., and ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Electric ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Scottish Ord. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do "A" (10) ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Metropolitan ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Metropolitan District ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$			

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Barclays B (£1. lpd.) ..	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Nat. Bank of S. Africa ..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered Bk of India ..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	National Provincial ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds (£5 with £1 ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Standard of S. Africa ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Midland (£12, with ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Westminster Bank ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Nat. Bank of Egypt ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$			

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Erie ..	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do Non-cum Pref. ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Do 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Pref. ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$			

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Antofagasta Cons. ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina ..	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
B.A. and Pacific ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Railway ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 1st Pref. ..	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Buenos Ayres Wes. ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 2nd Pref. ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific ..	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	San Paulo ..	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Argentine ..	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	United Havana ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Argentine 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1886-7-100 ..	100	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1924 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Austrian 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Guar. 95 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Japanese 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1910 ..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Belgian 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1924 ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Fund. 1914 ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1896 ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Peru 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Corp. Pref. ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Do 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Portugal 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1912 ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese (New) ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1906 ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
French 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Do 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Seine (Dept.) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Greek 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1884 ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Siam 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Anglo-American "A" ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi Canada ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Marconi Wireless ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi Marine ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$

Security	Price	Change	Security	Price	Change
Aerated Bread (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Linggi Plantns (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Amal. Cottons (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Liver Brs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cmp Pr (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cmp Pr (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
and Co. (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cmp Pr (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Ass. Phild. Cement (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Lister (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Barker, John (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Lobbs Oilfields (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
B'ham Small Arms (£1) ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons (£1) & Co. (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
British Traction (£100) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle (£10) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
British-American ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Nobel Industries (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Tobacco (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Pekin (20) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Plantations ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Investments (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Courtauld (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Shell Transport (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Smithfield & Argentine ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Dorman, Long (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Meat (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Cold Storage ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cum. Pref. (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Forestal Land (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Do 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Cmp Pr (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Furness, Withy (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	United Dairies (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands and Low- ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	United Serdang (20) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
lands Rubber (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	United Tobacco (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa (20) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers (£1) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$
			Waynes Del. Stk. ..	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ $\frac{1}{2}$ </

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

GROSS EARNINGS RECORD.
EFFICIENT OPERATING METHODS.

The sixty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the company's offices, 132 Gresham House, Old Broad street, London, E.C., Mr Robert Miller (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr R. C. Volkers, C.I.E.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—The report of the directors on the accounts of the undertaking for the year 1923-24 has been sent to all the shareholders, and, with your permission, I propose to take it as read.

The report sets forth in detail the results of the working of the undertaking for the year; but, before asking you to approve and adopt the report, together with the accounts and balance-sheet which accompany it, I propose, according to my usual custom, to touch on the more salient points and to add for your information such remarks on the future prospects of the undertaking as may be of interest to you.

The gross earnings for the year were Rs. 779 lakhs, which gives an average of Rs. 543 per mile per week, and Rs. 6.37 per train mile. This figure of gross earnings exceeds the corresponding figure of the previous year by Rs. 18 lakhs, and is the highest on record. You will see from the results given on page five of the report that during the five years ended March, 1923-24, the gross earnings have increased by nearly Rs. 121.5 lakhs, or 18.45 per cent., against an increase in the mean mileage worked of 63.88 miles, or 2.37 per cent. That is a very satisfactory result in face of the tardy recovery of universal trade. Although, as I have said, the gross earnings of the year 1923-24 are the highest on record, they are to some extent a disappointment. We had been in expectation of attaining gross earnings of about Rs. 800 lakhs; but, as you are doubtless aware, the East Coast line for a length of some 175 miles was practically wrecked by the unprecedented cyclone of November 17 and 18, 1923. That catastrophe, apart from adding considerably to the working expenses in carrying out the reconstruction of the line and bridges both in the year the accounts of which we are now considering and in the following year, resulted practically in the suspension of all traffic on the East Coast line for a period of five weeks, a factor which contributed largely to the gross earnings realised for the year falling short of expectations. That the loss was not, in fact, greater was due entirely to the expedition with which the line was rendered fit to restore through traffic, and our engineers are to be congratulated on the efficient and rapid manner in which they carried the work through in face of great difficulties and with much privation and hardship to themselves. The line has now been completely restored and fortified.

Passenger traffic shows an increase for the year of 467,000 in total numbers carried, and of Rs. 11½ lakhs in fares received. Goods traffic, too, shows an increase both in total tonnage carried and in freights received, the former being 911,000 tons and the latter Rs. 6 lakhs. The improvement in total gross earnings during the year amounts to Rs. 18½ lakhs, or 2.40 per cent. This increase, though relatively small, is hopeful, as indicating the gradual, if tardy, recovery of trade.

WORKING EXPENSES.

Working expenses during the year show an increase of Rs. 21½ lakhs, or 4.41 per cent. To some extent the restoration of the East Coast line accounts for the expense, as a substantial portion of the expenditure incurred on that account had to be met from the revenue of the year. I would, however, remind you of the warning I gave last year as to the impossibility of retaining for long, without detriment to the efficient upkeep and working of the railway, the reduction, more or less arbitrarily made, in the legitimate requirements for ordinary working expenses, in order to compensate, as far as possible, for the slow revival of trade, and at the same time to make provision for carrying out the arrears of renewals and replacements that had, perforce, to be postponed during the period of the Great War. You will recognise, I am sure, that there is a claim—I may even say a first claim—on any increase in gross earnings to ease the existing strain on the curtailed provision for working expenses of keeping the line up to a standard of safety and providing for the efficient working of the traffic till such time as equilibrium is restored.

PROSPECTS.

As regards the prospects of the railway during the current year 1924-25, I am glad to be able to tell you that, so far, the gross

earnings show a marked improvement in the corresponding figures of the previous year. The total increase up to September 20, 1924, amounts to the very satisfactory figure of Rs. 34.25 lakhs. This improvement has been brought about in large measure through the introduction of up-to-date methods of operating traffic. During the last two or three years the system of train control has gradually been installed on the main line, and a marked improvement has resulted in the working of trains. Then it became evident that, in view of the great increase that has occurred in the volume of traffic in recent years, the time had come for the separation of the work of operating traffic from the commercial part of traffic working, as is done on the principal railways in this country and also in America. Accordingly, we have evered the two businesses and appointed a transportation manager to initiate and carry through the work of operating traffic, and the results have been very satisfactory. We have better distribution of empty wagons, less empty running in trains, and a more rapid movement of traffic. It is an axiom on railways that traffic breeds traffic, and I might enlarge on this and say that the rapid movement of traffic does more towards the growth of traffic than anything else. Nothing inspires traders with greater confidence than the knowledge that they will get their goods moved to destination without delay. With this assurance in mind they can confidently take advantage of a rising market to purchase the commodity in demand at the source of its production, and to consign it by the transporting agency to the place where it is required for use or for export. In forming the separate transportation department we are aiming to give the trader that confidence so far as transportation by the railway is concerned, and in order that we may have the means of operating effectively on the traffic we are adding regularly to the rolling stock of the line. Thus you will notice from the report that 30 locomotives and 532 wagons of the 5 foot 6 inch-gauge were under supply last year. These are now coming into use on the line. This year we have under order 47 locomotives and 579 wagons of the same gauge, which will be shipped before the close of the year.

PROGRESS OF NEW LINES.

In the matter of new construction, substantial progress has been made in the construction of the lines leading to the South Karanpura coalfield. The Talchir coalfield railway is also progressing satisfactorily. We confidently expect, as soon as these lines have been carried through to completion, a very considerable increase in the coal traffic. The Amda Jamda Railway is expected to be completed throughout in a month or two, and is already carrying a fair volume of traffic, principally iron ore. It has also made possible the mining of manganese in the vicinity of Jamda, and a traffic in that mineral is springing up.

I believe the time has now come when we may look for the early commencement of work on the Raipur Parbatipur Chord from the Central Provinces to Vizagapatam and on the harbour to the latter port. These two schemes I might aptly describe as the coping stones of the work represented by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway system. They will add materially to the prosperity of the railway, the former by opening out a new country of very great area, which at the present moment is stagnant for the want of efficient means of transportation, and the latter by providing a convenient port for the exportation of the produce which will be forthcoming when the Chord line is built.

With these remarks, and if none of you have any questions to ask or remarks to make, I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors, together with the accounts and balance-sheets appended thereto, be approved and adopted."

Mr Frederick Schooling seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

The Chairman next moved: "That the sanction of the company be and is hereby given to the declaration by the board of a final dividend at the rate of 15s per £100 ordinary stock for the financial year ended March 31, 1924, in addition to the guaranteed interest and interim dividend already paid for such period, such amounts to be paid to the members on the register on December 31, 1924, with half-year's guaranteed interest at the rate of 3½ per cent.

per annum then payable, less English income-tax on the whole amount."

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (managing director), seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Sir T. R. Wynne, seconded by Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., the retiring directors (Mr G. A. Anderson and Mr A. Brereton, C.S.I.) were re-elected.

Mr D. McGechie proposed that the auditors (Messrs Gérard Van de Linde and Son and Messrs W. B. Peat and Co.) be reappointed, which was seconded by Mr A. C. Carr, and passed unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

UNITED DAIRIES, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR'S RESULTS.

INCREASED TURNOVER AND PROFITS.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of United Dairies, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen street, London, Mr Joseph H. Maggs (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr John Butler, A.C.A.) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The net profit brought into this year's balance-sheet—omitting shillings and pence—amounts to £506,541, an increase on last year's figures of £37,917. To this must be added the £101,544 brought forward from the previous year, making a total of £608,085. After providing for the final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 9 per cent., we have recommended the transfer of £100,000 to reserve and the provision of £30,000 for scholarships at agricultural colleges, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £73,603. The reserve fund will then stand at £350,000, plus the premiums on the recent issue of ordinary shares, less the expenses of the issue.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Turning to the balance-sheet, you will note that the issued capital, other than the recent public issue, has been increased by 78,596 preference and 30,494 ordinary shares, this increase being mainly in respect of the purchase of shares in the Belgravia Dairy Company, Limited, and the preference shares of Thew, Hooker, and Gilbey, Limited.

What is usually the next item on the balance-sheet, mortgages, has entirely disappeared, and I think you will agree with me that the balance-sheet looks nicer without it.

Sundry creditors and credit balances are higher by £316,600. These are, as I have previously explained, mainly in connection with subsidiary companies; their dividends and management charges not being actually paid at the date of the balance sheet, the figure is at its highest point then. Under this heading is also included provision for taxation. The insurance fund is higher by about £6,000.

On the asset side, investments and loans in subsidiary companies are about £250,000 higher. The increase in investments is mainly due to the purchase of the Belgravia Dairy Company's shares, and loans are higher by £141,000.

Our 5 per cent. War stock at £209,385 is unaltered, and we have added to our gilt-edged investments £100,000 of 3½ per cent. 1925-28 War stock. These investments are in the balance sheet at cost price, which at the date of the balance-sheet was about £2,700 below market price.

Freehold and leasehold properties at £471,523 are up by £94,500. In this connection it will be of additional interest to those of you who are temperance enthusiasts to know that in connection with our bottled milk developments we have purchased during the year a large factory with a railway siding in West London which was built for beer bottling, and a fine freehold brewery in South London with a magnificent water supply, so essential for refrigeration purposes.

NEW SITE PURCHASED.

To cope with our ever-increasing utensil business we found it necessary to obtain additional works, and were fortunate to find them close to our Park Royal factory. These magnificent premises are being rapidly equipped for our purposes, and will be a great help to the Dairy Supply Company.

We have purchased a large site in East London, big premises for distributing in South-West London, and in several cases have acquired the freeholds of shops occupied by various subsidiary companies. I have no hesitation in saying that these freeholds have been acquired on very favourable terms. Considerable capital expenditure will be involved in equipping these properties, for which purpose the new issue provides.

Sundry debtors and debit balances.—This item is up by £182,000, and in the main represents subsidiary companies' transactions. Cash at £274,227 is higher by £120,000, and includes the amount received in respect of the new issue. Expenses of issue is only

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED
ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

a temporary entry, and will be cleared against premiums on the issue.

INCREASED TURNOVER AND PROFIT.

The profit and loss account reflects the increase in business, and is helped by the reduction in corporation profits tax and profit on temporary investments. The increase of £37,917 (except for a portion of the "twopences," the remainder having been brought in last year) has been earned on a turnover exceeding that of the previous year by over £1,600,000. It is by the frequent turnover of our capital, at a very small rate of profit, that we are enabled to achieve results which in the aggregate allow of the payment of satisfactory dividends on that portion of our capital represented by ordinary shares, many of which, of course, were issued to the public and the shareholders at a premium.

Our butter sales show an increase of over 4,500,000 lbs, and our sales of eggs are higher by 20 millions. These figures show that our buying departments are soundly organised, and that the public is quick to appreciate the value given in our shops.

MILK CONSUMPTION.

Deliveries of milk by farmers to our subsidiary companies exceed those of the previous year by over 10,000,000 gallons. Although looming largest, perhaps, in the eyes of the public, our retail milk sales represent comparatively only a small percentage of our large turnover.

Milk is one of the few commodities of food in daily use that has not advanced in price this year, and undoubtedly represents the best food value obtainable for the money expended. I would take this opportunity of urging every milk distributor and milk producer to support the publicity campaign, for which it is clear there is vital need.

Colonel Arthur S. Barham, C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS, LIMITED.

INCREASED BUSINESS—SOUND POSITION.

The twenty-third annual ordinary general meeting of Raphael Tuck and Sons, Limited, was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Your directors are meeting you to-day under conditions which, contrary to expectation, are very little different from those which have prevailed for quite a number of years, and which are necessarily reflected to the same degree in the report and balance-sheet of the past year's trading which we are placing before you. I refer to the Christmas, New Year, birthday, and general greeting card department. This, as ever, leads the way in the extent, volume, and value of its turnover, and continues to constitute one of the strong pillars of the business of the company. It is fortunate that the efforts of the Christmas and greeting card department are so well continued, for the book and calendar departments are endeavouring to run it a close race.

The volume of the trade of this department during the past year suffered, as it was bound to suffer, from the high rate of postage on picture postcards, which all our efforts of the past four years have not yet succeeded in bringing down. It is sincerely to be hoped that, whichever of the great parties of State succeeds in gaining the suffrages at to-morrow's eventful election, will at last decide to deal with this important question of postage in an imperial spirit, and recognise that cheap postage and good trade go hand in hand. In the interval we have fully maintained the production of the necessary range of novelties so essential in this fascinating picture postcard department, paying particular attention to the publications of standard subjects, the regular call for which may be relied upon from year to year.

This new department, equipped with the latest machinery, is now in full running order, and the beautiful designs in doyleys, dish papers, and plate papers turned out by this department have already taken a leading position in the market. The new wing of Raphael House, quite an important structure, is all but completed, and while the recent builders' strike has somewhat delayed operations, it is now only a question of two or three months before this valuable additional site is occupied.

CURRENT YEAR'S BUSINESS.

The business in the current year has shown quite a considerable advance over every one of the corresponding months of last year, and the actual goods already dispatched amount to an appreciable percentage over the same period. This I consider a highly satisfactory showing, due largely to the very splendid collection of novelties we are showing in all departments, but partly also to the added impetus given by our admittedly fine and well-placed exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition, fitly entitled a Temple of Art. The concentrated show of our varied art departments in this structure, admittedly one of the most concise and beautiful in the whole Palace of Industry, has given to millions of visitors, many of them from overseas, a real idea of the world's art service carried on by this company at Raphael House, and there can be little doubt that this valuable propaganda will bear fruit for years to come.

Having reviewed the salient features of the balance-sheet, the Chairman said: I venture to think you will recognise that in the presentation of this report your directors have been guided by the claims of sound finance, and that the advent of better conditions in the world's trade will continue further to strengthen the very satisfactory position of your company. The recommendation of your directors is the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the six months to the end of April, 1924, at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, making with the interim dividend paid a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle seconded the motion. In doing so he said there had been a very remarkable increase in business during the current year—both in orders received and in the actual output of goods. He thought the company might look forward to a "bumper" year. He wished, in connection with the accounts, to draw particular attention to the company's tremendously powerful position in the matter of reserves, which were sufficient to cover eight or nine years' dividends on the preference shares.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Mr Gustave Tuck (vice-chairman), who proposed the re-election of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Mr Desmond A. Tuck as directors, said that Raphael Tuck's books and calendars were more popular than ever. For lovers of Dickens they had recently published a beautiful volume of "Character Sketches from Dickens." This book had been edited by Mr B. W. Matz, the greatest living authority on Dickens and his works. Mrs Kate Perugini, Charles Dickens's daughter, had specially written an introduction in which she dealt with the home life of her father and his writings. All the coloured drawings, which numbered 30, were the work of Mr Harold Copping. The Raphael House Library stood unrivalled, with its 32 peerless volumes.

The motion was duly seconded, and passed unanimously.

ENGLISH AND DUTCH MEAT COMPANY, LIMITED.
SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR'S TRADING.

The first annual ordinary general meeting of the members of the English and Dutch Meat Company, Limited, was held, on Tuesday, the 28th ultimo, at Holland House, 1-4, Bury street, London, E.C., Mr A. G. Kroller (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr P. E. Lechner) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—With your permission I propose to adopt the usual course and ask you to take the report and accounts as read. (Agreed.) This is our first annual

general meeting, and I am indeed glad to be able to present to you accounts as satisfactory as those which are now before you for the first year's trading. This, as you know, in a new undertaking, is always a difficult period, as it takes some time before everything is thoroughly organised and the different departments work harmoniously together; but we have been able in this instance to bring to the assistance of the company the whole organisation of William H. Muller and Co., both in the Argentine and in Europe, as well as the thorough knowledge of our English agent of the meat trade.

COMPANY'S MODERN EQUIPMENT.

We have, at the same time, modern storage capacity at the Hook of Holland and in Bremerhaven in Germany; we are equipped with refrigerating cars, and in times of reduced demand in the meat market, which happens periodically, without such storage accommodation the meat would have to be realised at the best prices possible. The factory we purchased in the Argentine has now been thoroughly equipped, and although, in order to bring it on to entirely modern and economic lines we shall have to invest some more capital in the plant, we can say that, on the whole, it has been working very well during the last nine months, and we are confident that our cost of production of frozen meat, f.o.b. steamer is as low as that of any other factory out there.

CATTLE PRICES.

During the first half-year cattle prices in the Argentine ruled low, as for years past there has been a considerable over-production of cattle, more or less a reflection of the war period, when the demand for frozen and chilled meat for the fighting armies was so great; but, latterly, cattle prices have stiffened, and, the rate of exchange having also improved, the margin of profit was reduced. On the other hand, selling prices on the Continent have since moved upwards, and I have, therefore, every confidence that the coming year will again show satisfactory results.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

There are a few items in the balance-sheet upon which you may wish to have some explanation, viz., the trade investments at cost on the assets side, these represent the two cold stores with complete equipment to which I have already referred, which are situated in Holland and Germany. The stocks are taken at cost, and, therefore, compared with realised prices, contain an appreciable reserve. You will notice that the cash position of the company is a good one, and that our credit facilities are satisfactory, which, in a business like ours, is a very essential matter, seeing that at times there are heavy stocks to carry and that there are always big shipments afloat which have to be financed.

THE PROFIT.

The trading profit of approximately £290,000 covers our requirements for debenture interest nearly five times, and the net profit, which is arrived at after allowing £48,000 for depreciation, will permit us to declare a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum on the shares. We also propose to write off £20,000 for preliminary expenses, and £11,000 off the goodwill; the balance of about £80,000, subject to provision for taxation, it is proposed to carry forward to the next account.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., less income-tax.

Lieut.-Colonel Woodbine Parish, C.B.E., seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The election of Mr Walter Henderson-Cleland as a director was confirmed, and the auditors, Messrs Whitney, Smith, and Whitney, having been reappointed, the proceedings terminated.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts

(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXOQUEUR.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1924, to Oct. 25, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1923, to Oct. 27, 1923.	RECEIPTS. Week Ended Oct. 25, 1924.	Week Ended Oct. 27, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England....	..	5,069,613	5,442,655	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
	..	6,631,614	6,818,157	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs.....	101,800,000	56,938,000	72,790,000	2,835,000	2,892,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	75,681,000	81,542,000	1,596,000	1,534,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,477,000	4,050,000	122,000	122,000
Stamps.....	56,000,000	34,630,000	30,120,000	1,230,000	1,440,000
Land Tax.....	21,000,000	10,610,000	11,030,000	180,000	410,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty.....	1,250,000	660,000	530,000	..	..
Property & Income Tax.....	265,000,000	117,702,000	118,236,000	1,545,000	2,326,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	26,020,000	22,250,000	370,000	400,000
Excise Profits Duties, &c.....	8,000,000	9,770,000	12,290,000	230,000	430,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	20,000,000	30,400,000	28,600,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	30,400,000	560,000	150,000	100,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	..	..	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	8,063,646	8,299,172	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	7,045,420	8,375,953	308,606	330,000
Ordinary Receipts.....	30,000,000	16,168,261	21,842,508	..	..
Special Receipts.....	..	398,855,337	420,515,534	10,444,606	11,484,000
Revenue.....	794,050,000	405,486,941	427,333,811	..	..
Total, inc. Balance.....	..	..	..	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	5,790,000	4,480,000	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1921 and 1924.....	..	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	..	260,719	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	..	140,000	270,000	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills.....	..	1,366,227,000	1,423,323,000	50,360,000	48,889,000
By National Savings Certificates.....	..	15,750,000	35,200,000	600,000	400,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33.....	..	13,521,620	29,208,627	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	..	504,659,000	507,705,000	4,400,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....	..	..	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	..	562,521	186,598	..	..
Total.....	..	2,316,924,910	2,431,204,171	65,804,606	60,773,000

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (Including Supplementary Grants.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1924, to Oct. 25, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1923, to Oct. 27, 1923.	ISSUES. Week Ended Oct. 25, 1924.	Week Ended Oct. 27, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	186,658,788	184,333,269	444,599	348,403
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	15,602,561	21,524,455	48,706	584,000
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	3,876,044	3,327,044	..	..
Payments to Local Tax Authorities.....	13,150,000	5,187,891	5,658,012	500,000	500,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,627,484	2,207,884	223,747	..
Land Settlement.....	750,000	341,855	380,318	14,772	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	1,371,464	1,541,307	14,645	250,487
Supply Services.....	408,919,000	205,900,512	210,168,676	6,000,000	4,625,000
Expenditure.....	793,759,000	421,566,396	425,140,965	7,246,469	6,307,870

	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1924, to Oct. 25, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1923, to Oct. 27, 1923.	ISSUES. Week Ended Oct. 25, 1924.	Week Ended Oct. 27, 1923.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion.....	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921.....	330,000	820,000	80,000	550,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1921 and 1924.....	5,150,000	3,620,000	400,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	310,719	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed.....	5,780,000	4,010,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills.....	1,335,975,000	1,404,075,000	47,475,000	47,580,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates.....	18,050,000	20,000,000	550,000	600,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....	6,404,373	32,222,296	100,000	87,940
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....	50	6,381,184	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	520,379,500	527,041,000	10,199,000	5,350,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners.....	23,109	50,081	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....	2,314,048,929	2,428,106,522	66,050,469	60,475,810
Bank of Ireland.....	2,033,327	2,157,626	156,116	158,189
Bank of Scotland.....	842,654	939,959	89,747	139,001
Total.....	2,875,981	3,097,585	245,863	297,100

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 63 of 1924.

Treasury, October 27, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan.....	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
3% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock.....	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds.....	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	813
4% Funding Loan.....	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds.....	..	323	219	229	185	150	150	150	150
Exchequer Bonds.....	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
National Savings Certificates.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,128
Other Debt*.....	..	51	51	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	..	15	1,107	1,121	878	618	652	688	619
Treasury Bills.....	..	1,203	1,107	1,121	878	618	652	688	619
Temporary Advances.....	..	15	1,107	1,121	878	618	652	688	619
Other Capital Liabilities.....	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,662
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,785

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Oct. 27, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Oct. 25, '24.	Oct. 25, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	£ 174,561,500	£ 186,155,500	£ 170,435,000	£ 5,799,000
Advances by Bank of England	..	..	..	..
Advances by Public Deptm'ts	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding	..	..	..	..
Total Floating Debt	809,846,500	774,475,500	789,050,000	2,399,000

* Includes £43,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

				Redemption Account.							
Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments	Reserve Account.								
				Silver Coin.	Gold Coin and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes	Ratio to Notes	Notes Given	Notes Secured	Balance	Ratio of Assets to Liabilities
1923.											
Mar. 29.....	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	19,480	15%	151,479	177			
June 28.....	295,374	13,338	5,000	28,500	19,480	15%	152,312	180			
Sept. 27.....	289,127	12,648	5,000	27,000	21,180	16%	146,466	187			
Dec. 27.....	301,337	12,972	7,000	27,000	21,180	16%	156,922	189			
1924.											
Mar. 28.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	141,294	180			
June 27.....	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	142,446	193			
Sept. 27.....	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	138,295	169			
Dec. 26.....	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16%	155,032	140			
1924.											
Mar. 26.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	136,867	130			
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	146,198	140			
Sept. 24.....	285,592	12,297	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	141,185	144			
Oct. 15.....	287,090	12,513	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	142,850	133			
Oct. 22.....	285,218	12,234	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	140,869	133			
Oct. 29.....	285,025	12,098	7,000	27,000	22,450	17%	140,582	91			

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Nov. 3—Nov. 8 were opened on Oct. 31, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £57,395,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 7d. about 86 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 10d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £33,500,000; in bonds nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Sept. 26, 1924.	£40,000,000	£63,960,000	3 12 4 7	nil
Oct. 3.	40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3 99	nil
Oct. 10.	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9 13	nil
Oct. 17.	35,000,000	57,670,000	3 14 11 17	nil
Oct. 24.	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 3 74	nil
Oct. 31.	35,000,000	57,395,000	3 12 10 66	nil

Tenders will be received on Nov. 7, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - £8,048,905
CLAIMS PAID - £33,813,270

Accidents and illness.
Employers' Liability. Fidelity Guarantees.
Burglary, Fire, Motor Cars, Public Liability.
Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts.
Executive Ships and Trusteeships.

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, October 29, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,412,245	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion ..	126,662,245
146,412,245		146,412,245	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities ..	41,788,443
Reserve	3,098,217	Other securities	76,203,838
Public deposits	13,989,141	Notes	22,820,070
Other deposits	110,981,608	Gold and silver coin ..	1,822,258
Seven-day & other bills ..	12,643		
142,634,609		142,634,609	

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

Date.	Amount, Oct. 29, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Reserve	3,098,217	+ 2,763	- 18,388
Public deposits	13,989,141	- 768,594	+ 2,545,242
Other deposits	110,981,608	- 1,515,742	+ 3,144,874
Government securities ..	41,788,443	- 680,000	+ 515,063
Other securities	76,203,838	- 912,509	+ 4,183,566
Reserve	24,642,328	- 689,787	+ 2,010,921
Note circulation	123,592,175	+ 686,545	+ 1,200,555
Coin and bullion	128,484,503	+ 3,242	+ 810,566
% of reserve to liabilities ..	192%	- 8%	+ 2%

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to October 15.....	27,451,590	1,254,744	2,286,075	30,992,409
Oct. 22	625,126	31,651	58,020	714,797
Oct. 29	626,238	30,004	51,502	707,744
Total to date 1924	28,702,954	1,316,399	2,395,597	32,414,950
Do	26,873,000	1,292,945	2,355,391	30,521,336
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 1,829,954	+ 23,454	+ 40,206	+ 1,893,614
%	+ 6 1/2 %	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 6 1/2 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1924	32,702,954	1,574,661	2,806,185	37,113,800
Increase or decrease in 1924 ..	+ 432,581	+ 28,096	+ 4,531	+ 465,208
%	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 1 1/2 %	+ 0 1/2 %	+ 1 1/2 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of September.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Oct. 25.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	25	25		
	5	5	5	5
BIRMINGHAM.....	7,992,000	9,292,000	96,262,500	98,599,500
BRISTOL.....	4,515,000	4,971,000	48,885,000	49,289,000
DUBLIN.....			255,472,400	231,117,700
HULL.....	3,857,000	4,566,000	45,350,400	45,677,500
LEEDS.....	3,554,000	3,575,000	42,933,800	42,836,900
LEICESTER.....	2,801,000	3,067,000	30,938,700	32,379,500
LIVERPOOL.....	32,413,000	37,248,000	336,337,900	389,894,400
MANCHESTER.....	54,694,000	65,167,000	622,992,000	648,053,700
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.....	7,449,000	7,015,000	85,633,200	85,288,300
NOTTINGHAM.....	2,221,000	2,587,000	26,175,000	26,409,000
SHEFFIELD.....	4,321,000	4,300,000	48,094,600	44,972,800
Total	123,817,000	141,658,000		

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Bulgaria appeared in the *Economist* of August 23; Roumania in September 27; German Gold Discount, German Rentenbank, and Greece in October 11; Canada, Germany, Denmark, Russia and Egypt in October 18. Lithuania, Danzig, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Italy in October 25.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 26, 1923.
Resources.				
Total gold reserve	3,044,220	3,037,380	3,045,950	3,136,410
Legal tender notes and silver reserve ..	87,400	83,310	85,890	72,710
Bills discounted for member banks	223,240	263,080	265,390	836,240
Bills bought in open market	168,660	197,260	175,390	179,750
Government obligations owned	582,830	598,520	581,220	88,190
All other resources	86,770	86,580	86,540	69,390
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	23,000	62,660	37,550	28,820
Other deposits	2,178,850	2,215,550	2,218,000	1,894,720
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation ..	1,751,700	1,767,260	1,757,450	2,265,350
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation				530
Capital and surplus	12,930	12,790	12,750	23,210
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined ..	79.2 %	77.1 %	78 %	78.8 %

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1923.
Assets.						
Gold coin and bullion	551	551	551	551	549	533
Gold certificates	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,102
Subsidiary coin	50	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted	4,429	4,227	3,997	3,909	4,470	4,850
Loans and advances to Govt. ..	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,250
Investments	423	423	423	423	423	17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	152	153	153	153	153	40
Notes in circulation	10,521	10,418	10,013	10,083	10,365	10,582
Bankers' deposits	4,570	4,565	4,765	4,579	4,638	5,194
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public ..	69.9 %	70.4 %	71.3 %	71.9 %	70.3 %	68.2 %

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Sept. 5, 1924.	Oct. 5, 1923.
Assets.						
Total securities	16,73,17	16,77,85	16,76,51	16,76,74	16,75,31	12,78,15
Loans	15,81,42	16,13,47	16,04,50	16,04,50	16,04,50	14,38,23
Cash credits	37,28,82	37,66,85	38,19,35	41,53,49	41,53,49	31,25,75
Inland bills	5,53,74	5,61,20	5,65,82	5,73,73	5,59,83	4,41,89
Foreign bills	16,67	16,86	16,47	19,23	18,67	21,39
Dead stock	2,63,25	2,63,04	2,61,99	2,61,74	2,60,94	2,43,76
Balance with other banks ..	1,37,99	1,35,16	1,37,99	1,43,21	1,33,37	7,22
Cash	25,46,05	25,49,86	27,84,82	26,53,48	27,41,22	37,24,84
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50
Total deposits	94,35,73	97,81,65	98,31,61	1,02,03,28	1,02,84,70	92,78,31
The above includes—						
Deposits in Lond'n	1,406	1,239	1,544	1,289	1,240	208
Advances in Lond'n	472	463	461	464	471	330
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	1,053	910	1,198	955	886	42

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Sept. 6, 1924.	Sept. 29, 1923.
Assets.					
Cash and bullion	1,118,759	1,115,737	1,115,653	1,114,883	1,114,991
Discounts	261,081	196,652	190,248	219,799	515,663
Advances	276,199	267,639	264,463	289,361	215,325
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	1,239,337	1,150,443	1,143,840	1,199,175	1,460,210
Govt. deposits	935,099	959,557	964,818	963,651	883,063
Other deposits	76,056	79,190	77,391	78,037	160,887

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Oct. 30, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Position May 29, 1924.
Assets.						
Gold coin and bullion	5,544,430	5,544,321	5,544,268	5,539,233	5,539,233	3,730,825
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	302,388	302,388	302,097	302,097	302,097	302,097
Discounts and advances	8,150,587	7,734,684	7,664,792	8,181,775	8,181,775	6,320,775
Advances to the State	22,700,000	22,700,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	40,528,503	40,459,510	40,569,979	37,848,181	37,848,181	5,811,875
Government deposits	15,088	18,838	12,656	23,526	23,526	183,700
Private deposits	1,952,843	1,737,348	1,772,953	2,332,320	2,332,320	846,959

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1923.	Position May 29, 1924.
Assets.						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	355,616	357,592	356,154	355,307	350,343	322,859
Securities	1,303,199	1,254,290	1,222,033	1,235,849	1,016,526	697,808
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	7,573,447	7,617,350	7,623,802	7,627,295	7,124,737	694,128
Current accounts	319,364	263,598	263,598	263,598	263,598	118,128

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Oct. 27, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1923.	Position May 30, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	489,345	497,678	510,128	512,670	581,775	163,092
Silver	10,854	10,854	10,343	10,453	9,088	8,436
Discounts and advances	356,414	355,188	353,495	367,325	363,346	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	957,698	963,105	971,983	981,991	1,016,254	316,632
Deposits	23,287	22,142	18,000	20,950	30,889	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Oct. 27, 1923.	Position May 30, 1914.
Assets.						
Gold	206,750	215,750	216,000	216,000	160,616	22,971
Silver					61,339	29,785
Discounts, advances, and other investments	172,410	174,580	170,460	166,000	171,746	77,567
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,000	275,000	275,500	269,500	259,535	109,499
Deposits and bills payable	114,000	123,000	119,000	121,500	140,244	11,250

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks.*

	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.
ASSETS.		
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	210,000	210,000
Gold and bullion	630,502	613,625
Of which deposited abroad	177,703	172,143
Reserve in foreign currencies	210,167	204,541
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,173,709	2,153,943
Silver and other coin	61,557	59,459
Notes of other German banks	nil	nil
Advances	16,765	15,947
Investments	77,509	77,517
Other assets	947,418	929,901
LIABILITIES.		
Reduced capital	90,000	90,000
Increase of capital (amount of shares not yet issued)	210,000	210,000
Reserve	900	900
Notes and circulation	1,315,121	1,396,748
Other daily maturing obligations	986,391	828,511
Loan from Rentenbank	800,000	800,000
Other liabilities	927,215	938,674

LONDON RATES.

	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 27, 1924.	Oct. 28, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
4 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
6 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
3 months'	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposit allowances: Banks	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.			
		Short						
		Loans.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Oct.	1924.	2 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4	3 1/8	3 7/8	4 1/8	4 1/2
	17.....	2 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4	3 1/8	3 7/8	4 1/8	4 1/2
	24.....	2 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4	3 1/8	3 7/8	4 1/8	4 1/2
	31.....	2 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4	3 1/8	3 7/8	4 1/8	4 1/2

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924	5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923	5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923	7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924	6
Belgrade	Sept. 1, 1923	9	Prague	May 27, 1924	8
Berlin	Sept. 15, 1923	5 1/2	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924	8
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923	90	Rome	July 11, 1922	5 1/2
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Sofia .....	.....	7
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924	12 1/2	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923	5 1/2
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924	6	Swiss Bank	.....	.....
Christiana	Nov. 10, 1923	7	places	July 14, 1923	4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924	7	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919	8
Danish	Sept. 11, 1924	10	Vienna	Aug. 12, 1924	15
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924	9	Warsaw	(See note below)	.....
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923	9			
New York Federal Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924	3	Irish	July 5, 1923	5

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6 1/2% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, as from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3 1/2 per cent. to 4 1/2 per cent.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Nov. 2, 1923.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	76.25-35	86.38-43
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20.43	14.24-34	18.19-34
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	31.5/318,000	317/322,000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24.02	152 1/2-153	150 1/2-151 1/2
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	23.40-55	23.45-65
Reval	Estons. mk. to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	167 1/2-172 1/2	169 1/2-172 1/2
Riga	latas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	935-955	23.50-55
Baku	lei to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	75/90,000	800-810
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	24.02	340/358,000	340/358,000
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	110	770-795	825-845
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	450-500	615-625
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	370-390	311-316
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	12.107	11.52-52 1/2	11.44-44 1/2
Christiana	kroner to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	90.15-25	93.65-70
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18.159	29.88-93	31.52-57
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18.159	16.96-99	16.87-90
Helsingfors	mark to £1	T.T.	18.159	26.92-99	26.13-18
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	168 1/2-169 1/2	178 1/2-180
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	285-295	257-260
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	100 1/2-100 1/2	103.50-60
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25.22 1/2	25.10-14	23.36-39
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	25.22 1/2	33.57-60	33.58-61
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	53 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	97 1/2	97 1/2-98	97 1/2-98
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4.46-46 1/2	4.49 1/2-45 1/2	4.51 1/2-46 1/2
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	4.46-46 1/2	4.49 1/2-45 1/2	4.51 1/2-46 1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pence to peso	T.T.	4.46-46 1/2	4.49 1/2-45 1/2	4.51 1/2-46 1/2
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	4.46-46 1/2	4.49 1/2-45 1/2	4.51 1/2-46 1/2
Valparaiso	pence to peso	T.T.	4.46-46 1/2	4.49 1/2-45 1/2	4.51 1/2-46 1/2
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	13.33	10 1/2-10 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2
Mexico	pence to dols.	T.T.	10 to 1s	10 1/2-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 1/2

† Rate for previous day.

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 872 chervonetz.
£1,000 " 1932 "

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Nov. 1, 1923.	Oct. 2, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.
Oil money	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Time money (90 days mixed oil)	5	3	3	3	3	3
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Non-members—eligible, 90 days	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2

Rates of Exchange.	Par Level.	Nov. 1, 1923.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.
New York on—					
London—					
60 days	Dollars for £1	4.8666	4.45	4.4549	4.4736
Cable		4.48	4.48	4.4899	4.4974
Cheques		4.4775	4.4775	4.4861	4.4936
Paris—					
60 days	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	5.86	5.2499	5.2299
Brussels		19.30	5.01	4.8399	4.8049
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19.30	17.815	19.199	19.239
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	19.30	4.495	4.3624	4.3474
Vienna	Cents for 1 krone	20.26	0.0141	0.0141	0.0141
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19.30	13.355	13.434	13.439
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40.195	38.81	39.119	39.249
Copenhagen			17.17	17.284	17.259
Christiania	Cents for 1 kroner	26.80	15.02	14.149	14.289
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	19.30	1.55	1.7374	1.7374
Montreal	Can. Cents for \$1	100	139.00	100.00	100.03
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49.85	48.7	38.30	38.75
Hong Kong	Cents for H. Kong \$	..	51.4	55.15	55.85
Calcutta	Cents for 1 Shng. tael	..	69.5	57.50	56.25
Buenos Aires	Gold pesos for \$100	103.65	31.18	33.75	33.86
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32.42	138.25	118.50	119.50
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	20.60	9.09	11.25	11.25

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	10.00	Sight London	Oct. 25 23.80
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	5.25	"	Oct. 28 23.30
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £20.	100	"	Oct. 28 90.75
Nicaragua	Corobas to £	4.8665	"	Oct. 28 4.80
San Salvador	Colonos to £	9.73	"	Oct. 25 9.05
Guatemala	Pesos to £	90.23	"	Oct. 25 270.00
Costa Rica	Colonos to £	10.45	"	Oct. 10 18.00
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19.20	"	Sept. 20 17.88

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.				Union of South Africa.			
	From Oct. 20, 1924.				From Oct. 20, 1924.			
	London on South Africa.				South Africa on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
					(a)			
T.T.	1 1/2	% prem.	3	% prem.	3	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.
Demand	1 1/2	% prem.	2 1/2	% prem.	3 1/2	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.
30 days	1 1/2	% prem.	2 1/2	% prem.	3 1/2	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.
60 days	1 1/2	% prem.	2 1/2	% prem.	3 1/2	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.
90 days	1 1/2	% prem.	2 1/2	% prem.	3 1/2	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.
120 days	1 1/2	% prem.	2 1/2	% prem.	3 1/2	% dis.	2 1/2	% dis.

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.								
	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tralia.	New Zeal'nd
T.T.								
Demand	101	99½	103½	101½	96½	97½	97½	99½
30 days	100½	98½	103½	101½	96½	97½	97½	99½
60 days	99½	98½	..	..	95½	97½	97½	99½
90 days	99½	97½	..	..	95½	96½	96½	98½

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on October 28th, 1924, for Rs100,00,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India. The result was as below:—

	Rate.	Applications.	Allotments.		Allotments.	Average Rate.
Bills	1/5 1/2	Rs. 1,00,000	Rs. nil	%	Rs.	
		1,00,000	nil	..	..	..
Def. T.T.	1/5 1/2	11,00,000	11,00,000	100	Def. T.T.	18-004 1/2
	1/6	59,00,000	57,02,000	96.64	Calcutta.	18-004 1/2
	1/5 1/2	18,00,000	nil	..	Bombay.	18-031 1/2
					Madras.	18-031 1/2
					Karachi.	18-031 1/2
Imm. T.T.	1/6 1/2	1,00,000	1,00,000	100	Imm. T.T.	18-031 1/2
	1/6 1/2	31,50,000	30,98,000	98.32	Calcutta.	18-031 1/2
	1/6	5,00,000	nil	..	Bombay.	18-031 1/2
					Madras.	18-031 1/2
					Karachi.	18-031 1/2
		126,50,000	100,00,000	..	..	..

On November 4th 100 lacs will be offered.

BULLION.
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended October 29, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
From—	To—
British West Africa	Russia
British South Africa	Netherlands
Other countries	West Coast of Africa
	British India
	Straits Settlements
	Other countries
Total declared value of imports	Total declared value of exports
458,507	140,741

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on October 29th, as follows:—

GOLD.

The moderate supplies of gold available this week have been taken on account of India, the Continent, and the trade.

SILVER.

Owing to persistent sales on China account, and to a lack of the support given in recent weeks from the United States, a considerable fall has taken place in prices. Indian inquiry has not been active, and bear covering has naturally been reluctant in the face of the uneasy tendency shown by the market. It remains to be seen whether the lower level now reached will attract the Continent, which has of late taken but little interest. Unless renewal of demand sets in on Continental coinage account, prices cannot resist China selling, and a better market must await the time when China reverses its attitude owing to a price being reached which encourages bear covering. The silver production of Czechoslovakia for 1923 is returned as 21,844 kilogrammes, valued at Kc. 15,287,999.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 7.	Oct. 15.	Oct. 22.
Notes in circulation	17,892 ..	17,956 ..	17,987
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,547 ..	8,612 ..	8,643
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India ..	2,232 ..	2,232 ..	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	5,713 ..	5,713 ..	5,713
Securities (British Government) ..	1,400 ..	1,399 ..	1,399

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Oct. 24, 1924.	(c) Week ended Oct. 25, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 43 Weeks, 1924.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western.....	3,754	234,000	353,000	587,000	1,171,000	1,450,000	26,264,000	27,435,000	
Do for 1923.....	3,747	217,000	355,000	572,000	1,144,000	1,509,000	26,713,000	28,262,000	
London & N.E. (c).....	6,722	407,000	710,000	1,117,000	1,962,000	2,926,000	48,889,000	50,855,000	
Do same period 1923.....	6,702	373,000	718,000	1,031,000	1,911,000	3,112,000	50,536,000	53,652,000	
London, Mid., & Scottish.....	6,942	568,000	916,000	1,484,000	2,811,000	3,724,000	65,398,000	68,212,000	
Do for 1923.....	6,941	542,000	901,000	1,443,000	2,774,000	3,850,000	65,200,000	68,974,000	
Southern.....	2,146	300,000	130,000	430,000	1,469,000	1,950,000	19,610,000	20,569,000	
Do for 1923.....	2,146	280,000	121,000	402,000	1,470,000	1,983,000	19,786,000	20,769,000	
Metropolitan (c).....	799	43,140	3,912	47,052	169,161	167,831	1,865,992	1,865,992	
Do for 1923.....	799	43,175	3,815	47,052	169,161	167,831	1,865,992	1,865,992	
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	243,248	..	..	10,303,659	10,303,659	
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	229,207	..	..	9,764,727	9,764,727	
London & Sub. Group (c).....	..	..	..	37,557	..	..	1,674,760	1,674,760	
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	37,756	..	..	1,724,345	1,724,345	
Belfast & Co. Down (b).....	80	1,393	1,040	4,433	201,901	52,433	243,357	243,357	
Dublin and S. East (b).....	160	5,545	3,137	8,682	275,901	148,056	423,957	423,957	
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b).....	562	16,100	20,850	36,950	830,900	879,550	1,710,450	1,710,450	
Gt. Sth. & Western (b).....	1,151	23,382	38,586	61,968	1,052,374	1,346,001	2,398,375	2,398,375	
Midland Gt. West. (b).....	538	9,400	17,352	26,752	406,997	625,987	1,032,984	1,032,984	

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -

INDIAN.

			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal.....	25 weeks	Sept. 27	1,072	349,000	+ 23,553	70,91,982
Bombay & N. Western.....	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,062	6,155,000	- 17,419	1,62,49,174
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	4,660,000	+ 33,000	14,99,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	19,390,000	- 42,000	6,32,11,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	5,66,875	- 37,130	1,63,56,476
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	89,000	- 12,980	2,11,857
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	31,08,000	- 97,000	9,91,07,000
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	24,42,500	+ 1,65,500	7,80,13,685
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	16,90,000	- 88,126	5,98,39,451
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	36,902	+ 1,077	14,63,445
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	37,176	- 4,386	17,04,076
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	9,65,237	+ 61,324	2,34,88,632
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	25 weeks	Oct. 18	2,800	9,65,237	+ 61,324	2,34,88,632

ARGENTINE (a).

			£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	17 weeks	Oct. 25	754	14,800	+ 2,500	218,500
Argentine Trans.	16 weeks	Oct. 18	118	2,821	- 1,668	41,097
B. A. and Pacific	17 weeks	Oct. 25	3,362	146,000	+ 2,631,000	373,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	17 weeks	Oct. 25	3,948	200,000	+ 30,000	3,267,000
B. A. & Gt. Southern	17 weeks	Oct. 25	3,948	73,000	+ 17,000	1,122,000
B. A. Western	17 weeks	Oct. 25	1,882	92,000	+ 3,000	1,623,000
B. A. Western	17 weeks	Oct. 25	1,882	34,000	- 1,000	586,000
Central Argentine	17 weeks	Oct. 25	3,305	218,000	+ 16,000	3,755,000
Cordoba Central	17 weeks	Oct. 25	1,205	58,000	+ 5,000	1,146,000
Entre Rios	17 weeks	Oct. 25	729	27,000	+ 6,100	358,300

CANADIAN.

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Canadian National....	42 weeks	Oct. 21	22,680	5,141,398	- 761,020	187,647,233
Canadian Pacific....	42 weeks	Oct. 21	13,814	4,395,000	- 866,000	141,760,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Gt. West. of Brasil....	43 weeks	Oct. 25	1,011	13,300	+ 2,100	385,900
Leopoldina	43 weeks	Oct. 25	1,831	41,150	+ 9,837	1,304,934
San Paulo	43 weeks	Oct. 25	1,534	29,326	- 1,520	1,888,041

CHILEAN.

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Antofagasta	43 weeks	Oct. 25	838	44,755	+ 6,165	1,632,806
Nitrato (4-monthly).....	41 weeks	Oct. 15	366	44,515	+ 25,366	764,750

CUBAN.

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Havana Central	17 weeks	Oct. 25	1,249	57,566	+ 4,162	1,097,671
United of Havana.....	17 weeks	Oct. 25	1,249	57,566	+ 4,162	1,097,671

URUGUAYAN.

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Uruguay	17 weeks	Oct. 25	273	26,945	- 58	374,074
C. Urug. (East. Ext.).....	17 weeks	Oct. 25	311	5,014	- 193	68,376
C. Urug. (North. Ext.).....	17 weeks	Oct. 25	185	2,979	- 347	37,901
C. Urug. (West. Ext.).....	17 weeks	Oct. 25	211	2,644	+ 193	40,647

OTHER OVERSEAS.

			\$	\$	\$	\$
Alcoy and Gandia	43 weeks	Oct. 25	33	15,000	+ 3,000	974,350
Egyptian Delta	27 weeks	Oct. 18	575	15,502	+ 4,274	161,943
Gt. Southn. of Spain.....	42 weeks	Oct. 18	104	146,613	- 105,310	4,321,703
Mexican Railway	16 weeks	Oct. 18	432	216,500	+ 17,900	4,107,500
New Cape Central	40 weeks	Oct. 18	4	2,638	- 266	106,284
Paraguay Central	17 weeks	Oct. 18	274	5,080	+ 1,820	75,120
Salvador	17 weeks	Oct. 18	100	3,083	+ 602	43,775

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine....	43 weeks	Oct. 28	329	\$87,799	+ 969	3,738,156	+ 12
Burley Corporation	1 week	25	12	\$3,041	- 24	6,74,306	- 176
Calcutta Tramways	43 weeks	25	354	\$119,247	+ 10,095	6,74,306	+ 6,74
Chatham & District	41 weeks	16	15	\$1,592	- 82	60,375	- 5
Egyptian Markets	42 weeks	23	..	\$2,398	+ 415	85,928	+ 7
Glasgow Corporation	21 weeks	25	106	\$46,306	- 285	935,984	- 17
Tramways	2 weeks	15	..	\$1,841	- 77	4,081	- 5
Isle of Thanet Trams	33 weeks	Aug. 27	288	1,614	- 65	47,599	- 5
Lanarkshire Trams	30 weeks	Oct. 25	124	\$25,024	+ 860	751,635	- 72
Liverpool Corporation	29 weeks	22	163	80,534	- 4,506	2,349,302	- 176
Tramways	44 weeks	15	..	Rs 49,972	- 3,475	9,67,633	- 35
L.C.C. Tramways	43 weeks	26	..	\$5,100	+ 1,580	188,277	+ 31
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	38 weeks	25	..	\$14,611	+ 1,587	548,974	+ 127
Pernambuco Trams							
Singapore Trams							

* Combined revenue.

Reports and Notices.

We are officially informed that the period for the deposit of Portuguese Government bonds for stamping in accordance with the decrees of June 3, 1924, has been extended to December 31st next.

The directors of the Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited, announce that Mr Edward B. Orme has been elected to a seat on the board.

The British South Africa Company will cease to act as agent for the Southern Rhodesia Government on October 31, 1924, after which date all communications concerning that territory as regards administrative matter should be addressed to the Secretary to the High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia, Crown House, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.

On and after to-day the registered office of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, will be situated at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C. 2.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

BAHIA (STATE OF).—Under the scheme arranged with the State of Bahia in December last, further funds have been received by the Ethelburga Syndicate, Limited, sufficient to pay the coupon dated November 1, 1922, on the bonds of the 1904 loan. The total amount received under the scheme to date is 6,500 contos of reis, equivalent to approximately £157,000.

BULGARIAN 6 PER CENT. LOAN, 1892.—Bondholders are notified that all coupons and drawn bonds due for payment up to and including July, 1918, will be payable on and after February 1, 1925, in Sofia only. The Imperial Ottoman Bank, 25, Austin Friars, E.C. 2, therefore notify holders that on and after that date such coupons and drawn bonds will only be received for collection of the sums due from the Bulgarian Government.

GUATEMALA (4 PER CENT. EXTERNAL DEBT).—The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received the sum of £56,240 for the service of the above debt for the year 1924-1925.

NICARAGUA GOLD BONDS, 1909.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received a telegram from the bankers in New York notifying the payment of the October, 1924, instalment of the debt service in accordance with the arrangement of May 25, 1912.

THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD)

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ...	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...	£8,916,880
PAID-UP CAPITAL ...	£2,229,188
RESERVE FUND ...	£2,883,335
UNCALLED CAPITAL ...	£6,887,495
Total ...	£11,808,998

Board of Directors.
 William Relferson Arbuthnot, Esq., Chairman.
 Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.,
 Edward Clifton Brown, Esq.,
 Stanley Christopherson, Esq.,
 Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.,
 James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., G.C.S.I.,
 Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.,
 Horace Peel, Esq.,
 Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.,
 William Smart, Esq.,
 Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
 G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

Senior General Manager in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey,
 Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson,
 London Manager—Francis Shipton. Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4
London Wall Branch: 63, London Wall, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.
(Opposite the Royal Colonial Institute.)
NEW YORK AGENCY: 67 WALL STREET.
HAMBURG AGENCY: Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53 SCHAUENBURGER-STRASSE.

Over 320 Branches, Sub-Branches and Agencies in SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and **DEPOSITS** RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened at the Branches in Africa on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BILLS NEGOTIATED AND COLLECTED.
DRAFTS ISSUED, MAIL AND TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES MADE.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE business transacted.
LETTERS OF CREDIT AND COMMERCIAL CREDITS established.
TRAVELLER'S LETTERS OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of the world.

PURCHASES AND SALES of Stocks and Shares effected either through the Bank's Brokers or through Brokers selected by Customers.

DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received and **COUPONS COLLECTED.**
STRONGROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuable Documents.

ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and **EXHIBITOR AND TRUSTEE** business undertaken. (Realised.)
INCOME TAX—Claims for recovery of Income Tax undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company,	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distri- bution.	Appropriation.						Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.	
					Prefe- rence.	Ordinary.	Rate.					
												Amount.	Amount.	Rate.
					£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%	
Backus and Johnston's	June 30	3,180	13,049	16,229	13,800	4,262	5	7,212	4,755	6,529	nil	
Bristol United	Sept. 30	38,677	62,483	101,160	4,500	41,400	15	5,169	40,851	56,246	15	
Hammond's, Bradford	Sept. 30	9,165	45,174	54,339	..	22,500	15	18,000	9,339	42,087	15	
Hodgson's, Kingston	Sept. 30	18,226	29,476	47,702	..	21,700	14	7,000	19,002	26,769	14	
Financial, Land, &c.												
Atlas Securities	Dec. 31	Dr 4,555	536	Dr 4,015	25,000	170,000	17½	75,000	Dr 4,019	254,161	15½	
Dalgety and Co.	June 30	116,063	323,989	440,052	..	7,266	5	..	13,800	8,622	nil	
International Financial Society..	Sept. 30	1,381	20,685	21,066	..	6,125	5	..	7,105	3,359	10	
Port Madryn (Argentina).....	June 30	6,836	6,394	13,230	..	25,375	Ord. 35	..	..	57,106	Ord. 35	
Realisation and Debenture Cor- poration of Scotland	Aug. 31	..	63,246	63,246	3,255	23,450	D15/7½	11,166	..	17½(b)	17½(b)	
Sudan Plantations Syndicate ...	June 30	168,631	112,934	281,565	..	105,000	20	..	176,565	85,082	17½(b)	
Gas.												
Southampton Gaslight.....	June 30*	1,006	15,314	16,320	..	16,193	5	..	127	22,542	5½	
Rubber, &c.												
Bukit Kajang	June 30	13,820	8,126	21,946	..	6,250	5	..	12,696	12,342	5	
Ceylon Land and Produce	June 30	10,025	39,880	49,905	3,000	30,250	25	6,000	10,655	32,083	45	
Dwa Plantations	June 30	1,173	4,152	5,325	..	4,076	15	..	1,249	..	..	
Galang Besar	June 30	1,199	392	1,591	..	..	..	..	1,591	1,168	..	
Insulinde (Sumatra)	June 30	4,665	2,905	7,570	..	4,847	4	..	2,723	4,086	3	
Jong-Landor	June 30	12,618	6,243	18,861	..	6,265	7	..	12,596	12,172	12½	
Mambau (F.M.S.)	June 30	600	2,429	3,029	1,600	..	..	500	929	5,765	4	
Patani Para	June 30	..	2,744	2,744	..	..	..	1,795	949	..	..	
Tea.												
Korale Estates	June 30	5,139	17,741	22,880	(a) 17,238	..	..	4,500	1,142	11,150	..	
Telegraphs and Telephones.												
Montevideo Telephone	July 31	10,107	22,700	32,807	..	10,857	5	10,000	11,950	17,182	5	
Tramways.												
Cape Electric	June 30	14,865	48,732	63,597	..	29,473	6½	20,000	14,124	51,855	6½	
Trusts.												
East of Scotland	Sept. 30	1,951	9,360	11,311	4,728	3,468	5½	1,000	2,115	8,018	5	
Second Edinburgh Investment ..	Sept. 30	71,957	47,746	119,703	10,462	23,250	15	..	85,991	45,517	15	
Other Companies.												
Agar, Cross, and Co.	June 30*	37,039	240,499	277,538	21,000	87,097	15½	130,000	39,441	..	..	
Castner-Kellner Alkali	Sept. 30	36,331	280,755	317,086	..	220,000	22	75,000	22,086	255,836	20	
D. and W. Murray	July 19	21,567	128,276	149,843	70,000	45,000	10½	20,000	14,843	143,636	10½	
Erinoid	Aug. 31	6,418	27,171	33,589	..	13,092	7	14,000	6,497	17,125	4	
Lancashire Waggon	Sept. 30*	1,796	4,047	5,843	1,260	540	10½	2,000	2,043	3,375	10½	
North of Scotland Milling	Sept. 30	797	2,852	3,649	999	2,199	15	..	451	..	..	
Sena Sugar Estates	Dec. 31	11,162	258,886	270,048	..	180,000	15	60,000	30,048	35,125	24	
Tongareva Palm Oil	June 30	..	930	930	..	..	..	930	..	..	..	

fully-paid shares representing one-third of the ordinary share capital of the new company.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS, LIMITED.—Number of miles flown for the month of September was 110,345; miles flown since April 1st, 544,130. Ton miles for September, 58,793; ton miles since April 1st, 277,433. Receipts for September, £36,319. Total receipts since April 1st, £153,395.

LAGUNAS SYNDICATE, LIMITED.—Having been debarred by its obligations to its debenture holders from paying any dividends to the shareholders for some years, the company proposes to ask the debenture holders to agree to a modification of those obligations. In return for this concession, the company would at once redeem at par about a third of the outstanding debentures and increase the interest on the balance to 6 per cent., whilst guaranteeing to redeem the whole issue within 10 years. A meeting of the debenture holders has been called for Tuesday, November 4th next, at 12 o'clock, at Winchester House, E.C.

MONTEVIDEO TELEPHONE.—The report for year ended July 31, 1924, shows a net profit of £22,700, against £17,182 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is again 5 per cent. The sum of £10,000 is put to reserve, and £11,950 carried forward, against £10,107 brought in. In the last report the directors informed the shareholders of the losses sustained by the company as a result of the action of the Uruguayan Government. The directors are pleased to state that the loss in subscribers has now been made good, but the abnormal working expenses have prevented any material improvement being shown in the profits. At the last meeting of shareholders the chairman explained the position of the company with regard to the ad-referendum agreement entered into with the Postmaster-General on June 30, 1922, for the sale of the company's undertaking in Uruguay, and at the present time the position remains unaltered.

SENA SUGAR ESTATES.—After deducting London expenses' debenture interest and providing for redemption and taxation, the profit for the year 1923 amounted to £253,020, as compared with £35,125 in preceding year. The balance of Corporation Profits Tax has been agreed with the Inland Revenue at £3,960, thereby reducing the amount carried forward from 1922 to £11,162. An adjustment of excess profits duty liability resulted in a refund to the company of £5,866. This, together with the net profit for the year and the carry forward previously mentioned, gives a total amount of £270,048 to be appropriated. The directors are transferring £30,000 to general reserve, £30,000 to depreciation reserve, and recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, making, with the interim dividend of 7 per cent., less tax, paid in April last, 15 per cent., less tax, for the year, as compared with 2½ per cent. for 1922. There will then remain £30,048, which it is proposed to carry forward to 1924.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.—The report for year ended June 30, 1924, reveals a net profit of £112,934, against £85,082 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is 20 per cent. for the year, which absorbed £105,000. This compares with a dividend of 17½ per cent. in preceding year, which absorbed £78,750. The carry forward is £176,565, against £168,631 brought in to the accounts. In May last 150,000 new shares (£1) were offered to shareholders at £3 10s per share, all of which were taken up. The issued capital now stands at £600,000.

TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, LIMITED.—Gross revenue for September, 1924, kw. hours sold, 115,002,000, 4,213,000 yen. Sterling equivalent at par of exchange, £431,481.

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS.—Well No. 32 on the El Mene Field, Buchivacoa, was brought into production on October 22nd, with an estimated daily output of 1,500 barrels. The well is under perfect control, and the oil shows a gravity of 35 deg. Beaume.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Weather conditions generally have not been altogether favourable for agricultural pursuits, but farmers were able to make fair progress with autumn cultivation during fine intervals. With threshings on a larger scale supplies of native wheat were more plentiful, but trade proceeded quietly, with prices ranging from 12s 6d to 13s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions generally firm, in sympathy with higher forward offers, though somewhat irregular. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 66s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 60s, No. 1 Northern Duluth 62s, ex ship, and choice white Karachi landed 64s, all per 496 lbs. In the floating and forward cargo section business was somewhat restricted, but holders generally

adopted an attitude of reserve in face of firmer cables from North America and Argentina. Sales include No. 2 hard winter November at 59s 6d, Australian early January 63s 6d net, and ditto January-February 15th 63s 7½d per 480 lbs, c.i.f. Maize cargoes in better support, and prices hardened. Steamers of La Plata early October sold 44s and resold at 45s, November-December 47s 3d to 47s 6d, December-January 47s 9d to 49s, and January-February 48s 10½d per 480 lbs, c.i.f. terms. Flour trade quiet, and official prices of standard straight run reduced by 1s per sack to 51s, patents quoted 53s to 54s, town whites 51s, delivered in metropolitan area. Imported quietly steady. Manitoba patents range from 49s to 52s as to quality, Minnesota 50s to 51s, Australian 47s 6d, all ex store, and Kansas straights 47s to 48s, all per 280 lbs. Barley dull and feeding descriptions again easier. Californian quoted 70s to 72s, Chilian Chevalier 83s to 88s, Polish 60s to 70s, ex store per 448 lbs. Danubian ex ship 40s, ditto landed 41s 6d, American malting 48 lbs ex ship to arrive 40s, Persian ex ship 40s. Russian landed 43s per 400 lbs. English ranges from 12s 6d to 24s as to quality, per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize steady, quiet. Plate ex ship 46s, landed 47s 6d, Bessarabian 48s 6d, Odessa 47s 6d, both landed, all per 480 lbs. Oats quiet and easier. Plate ex ship 29s 6d, landed 32s, No. 2 Canadian Western ex ship 34s, white clipped American 38 lbs 30s 6d, landed 33s per 320 lbs, English 10s to 11s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Oatmeal quiet. London made flaked 20s 6d, rolled oats 20s, medium also fine cut 20s, coarse and medium pinhead 20s, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s 6d to 21s 6d, American rolled oats 20s per cwt. Millers' offals quietly steady. Broad bran quoted 9s 9d, middlings 10s 6d, fine ditto 13s, bags included, ex mill. Light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 9d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, ground oats 14s 9d, all per cwt, free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Oct. 25	Cwts. 324,559	Cwts. 430,038	Cwts. 596,961	Cwts. 344,403
8 weeks to Oct. 25	1,915,683	3,404,953	3,199,749	3,176,428
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 13 0	s d 9 1	s d 9 6½	s d 10

"The Magic of Islam"

NORTH AFRICAN MOTOR TOURS

24 Distinct Optional Itineraries for Tours from London both at fixed dates or dates to suit independent travellers, covering the whole of

Algeria Tunisia Morocco (French)

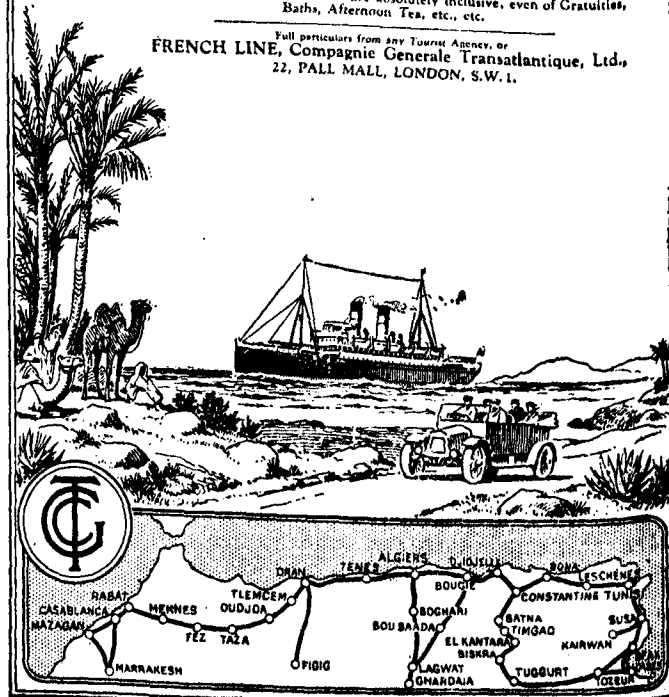
RABAT, MARRAKESH (Morocco City), FEZ, FIGIG, LAGWAT, BOU SAADA, BISKRA, CONSTANTINE, TUGGURT, TUNIS, KAIRWAN, TIMGAD, CARTHAGE. The palm-clad OASES of the SAHARA. The snow-capped Atlas. Across the Sahara by 12-wheeled Desert Cars.

LONDON TO ALGIERS IN TWO DAYS

Company's own Express Mail Steamers from Marseilles and Bordeaux. Company's own Hotels (24) the wonder of North Africa. Company's own Luxurious Private Cars.

Special feature: The fares are absolutely inclusive, even of Gratuities, Baths, Afternoon Tea, etc., etc.

Full particulars from any Tourist Agency, or FRENCH LINE, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Ltd., 22, Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.



The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Oct. 18	Cwts. 371,114	Cwts. 672,796	Cwts. 173,907	s d 12 8	s d 17 2	s d 10 4
Oct. 25	324,559	631,722	149,256	13 0	17 3	10 7
1920	327,750	569,539	58,082	21 1	25 11	19 6
1921	344,404	519,050	50,254	10 5	13 11	8 9
1922	596,961	483,107	90,934	9 8	11 6	9 6
1923	430,038	626,921	87,628	9 1	10 7	8 8

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated October 30th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Prior to the Election results, there has been more business doing in pig-iron, and still more inquiries are coming out. Prices are stiffening, and makers will not sell No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. below 80s, and are holding out for 88s for mixed numbers East Coast hematite pig-iron. Manufactured iron and steel: The position is more favourable, and a good many negotiations are going on, which are expected to result in business. Prices are quoted as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; steel rails, £9; iron bars, £12. Iron ore: This market is still idle, but with the improved signs in the iron and steel trade, it is expected that consumers will shortly come on to the market for their requirements of iron ore. Meantime stocks are fairly heavy. The nominal price of best Rubio is 21s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The undertone on the Cardiff coal market is improving. There has not been any notable movement yet in current prices; smalls are decidedly firmer, and quotations for large coal qualities are steady; but contracts are being placed on an extending scale for supplies over next year, and merchants are becoming more eager to cover for their future requirements. The Admiralty authorities have this week applied for tenders of prices and quantities for the service of the fleet and the depots, and although the quantity of coal now supplied to the British Admiralty is relatively small compared with that supplied in pre-war years, it is large enough to exercise a considerable influence on the level of 1925 contract values. The current quotations of best Admiralties for next year's supplies are in the neighbourhood of 27s, for second-class Admiralties between 26s and 26s 6d, and for smalls they range between 14s and 16s. These are low prices when related to the prevailing cost of production, but with more regular work costs may be reduced. The market this week has been more interested in the General Election than in current business, and the general impression is that the return of a Conservative Government with an independent majority will have a stimulating effect on enterprise, and that this will re-act favourably on the coal trade.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; second Admiralties, 25s to 26s; best drys, 27s 6d to 27s 9d; Black Veins, 24s to 25s; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 23s 6d; best bunker smalls, 15s to 16s; ordinary cargo smalls, 11s to 13s; coking smalls, 15s 6d to 16s; anthracite Big Vein, large, 45s to 50s; Red Vein, large, 34s 6d to 35s 6d; machine-made cobbles, 55s to 57s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; rubbly culm, 11s 3d to 13s 9d; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; coke for export, 47s 6d to 50s; patent fuel, 25s 6d to 27s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 26s 9d to 27s. There has been no material change this week in the Welsh steel and tinplate markets. Tinplate prices have been firmly maintained at about the minimum figures, and there are a fair number of inquiries from Continental buyers. The steel trade outlook is a little brighter.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The overseas demand for railway steel continues on a restricted scale. Business in mining steel is poor, with the exception of hollow drill steel for the South African goldfields. The market for ferro-alloys used in special steels is quite at a standstill. The output of Sheffield in the aggregate is undoubtedly lower than a few months ago. The call for steel sheets, cold-rolled steel, motor steel, wire, and hand tools continues fairly good, and some Russian orders for files, saws, and engineers' small tools are on hand. Plate and cutlery makers are well employed on season orders, but not much business is coming forward for silverware. Coal trade conditions are the same as last reported, with a tendency downward rather than upward, and prices vary according to the prospects of immediate business. The market may be said to have gone to pieces as regards secondary qualities and small fuel. The least unsteady are hards, gas, and house coal.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—A better tone is noticeable generally in the iron and steel markets—pig-iron orders have increased, and although the output is still on a restricted basis, there is a tendency towards steadier conditions. The shipments from Glasgow last week totalled 1,243 tons, of which 1,006 tons went abroad. Steel works have been having a very thin time, but inquiry is somewhat improved, and the elections being now out of the way, anticipation of better business is general. Structural firms have good work in hand, and a considerable amount of important inquiry is being dealt with in this line, which is reckoned a good sign of reviving trade in iron and steel. Bar iron makers are doing very little, and as regards sheets, a few of the makers, having finished the contracts which have kept them busy for the last few months, are finding new work very difficult to procure, despite the

recent reduction in prices. Galvanised sheet makers are well booked up, but prices have been forced down, and, despite the advance in spelter, orders cannot be got for December delivery at more than £17 15s per ton. Offers at 10s below this figure are being made from India, but no business is done at this basis. Two cargo steamers of special type have been secured by Clyde shipbuilders this week.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(BY OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

A slight change for the better in the hematite pig-iron trade in the north-west of England is to be detected in the last week of this month. It is true that the production of the eleven furnaces that are in operation between Workington and Carnforth is in excess of demand, and that in consequence additions are still being made to the stocks, now amounting, it is stated, to 70,000 tons; but there does appear at last to be a prospect of more orders, and larger orders being available, and of a return, however slow, to more favourable conditions than have been experienced for over a year. The outlook in the local steel trade, it is said, is brightening, and makers are talking of greater activity in their rolling mills. If that really proves to be the case there will, of course, be a considerable local outlet for the make of iron, the larger portion of which is at present going to the Midlands and Scotland, and a very small part of which is being exported to America and to the Continent. The volume of inquiry is reported to be more satisfactory this week. As confidence is restored, the disposition of users to contract at present prices for future needs will undoubtedly harden. It will be a pleasant experience, whenever it comes, for smelters to do business on other than a hand-to-mouth scale. Prices are not yet affected, and Bessemer mixed numbers remain at the low level to which they have recently dropped. That is to say, Bessemer mixed numbers are £5 per ton delivered at Glasgow, £5 5s per ton at Sheffield, and £5 10s at Birmingham. Low-phosphorous iron is in fairly steady request by high-class steel makers in the Sheffield district. As far as the steel trade is concerned, operations are on an unimportant scale, and rails are not being rolled at either Workington or Barrow. Native hematite iron ore is largely in local demand. Owners complain of the prices at which they are having to sell. Thus, superior sorts of low-phosphorous ore are quoted between 21s and 23s 6d per ton, and ordinary kinds at 16s 6d to 17s 6d per ton. No change is recorded in the state of the coal trade, which is as hard hit as ever by the successful competition offered in the Irish market by Scotch and Lancashire collieries. Little coal can be sold for export to Ireland at a time when best round at 25s, f.o.b., house nuts at 23s, and steam nuts at 21s, f.o.b., are fully 3s per ton above the Lancashire and Scotch figures. Best gas coal for shipment to Ireland is 25s, f.o.b., and 29s to 30s at local works. Best round locally is 38s 2d at pit. Best steam for the local works is 30s, and washed steam 29s per ton delivered. Coke, the whole make of which is absorbed by the smelters here, is 23s to 24s per ton, according to carbon content. East Coast coke supplies to the district are again above 6,000 tons this week.

METALS.

The market for tin opened the week with a very steady tone, but subsequently displayed marked irregularity in sympathy with fluctuating Eastern advices, though prices ruled firmer on balance, with a fair business passing especially in forward positions. Standard, cash, sold from £256 to £253 and up to £258 5s, with three months fluctuating between £260-£255 and £260 15s. Copper in good demand, but prices slightly irregular, with dealings in standard, cash, at £63 17s 6d-£62 12s 6d, and finally registered at £63 11s 3d, three months £65-£64 7s 6d and £64 15s. Lead active, irregular and easier. Good soft foreign pig quoted



Head Office: 7, PRINCES STREET, E.C.2.

Regd. Offices: 7, TOKENHOUSE YD., E.C.2.

During alterations to premises transferred to—

25-31, MOORGATE, E.C.2.

Banking Facilities.

BRITAIN'S enterprise across the seas needs the service of a banking organisation specialising in individual markets. The Bank of London & South America Limited concentrates on the Latin-American market—with branches or agents at every point of commercial importance.

Monthly Trade Review and Status Reports sent on Application.

Paid-up Capital and Reserve Fund £7,140,000

BANK OF LONDON & SOUTH AMERICA LIMITED.

Formerly THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED, with which is amalgamated THE LONDON & BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

MANCHESTER. BRADFORD.

Amalgamated with LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 41s, f.o.b.

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—OCTOBER 30.

Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.
English—King Edwards... 10 0 11 0	Blackland—
British Queens... 8 6 9 6	King Edwards... 9 0 0 0
Majestic... 8 6 9 6	Evergoods... 8 0 8 6

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.	COCOA—Duty, British grown 9.4d. foreign 11s. cwt. 78 0 85 0	BRANDY—Cognac, 100 0 115 0	GUAYACIN—Guayacil, 75 0 100 0	RUBBER—British grown 9.4d. foreign 11s. cwt. 78 0 85 0	INDIA RUBBER—lb. 1 10 0	PROVISIONS—Butter—per cwt. 210 0 224 0	SPICES—Pepper, lb. 1 10 0
LONDON, FRIDAY.	COCOA—Duty, British grown 9.4d. foreign 11s. cwt. 78 0 85 0	BRANDY—Cognac, 100 0 115 0	GUAYACIN—Guayacil, 75 0 100 0	RUBBER—British grown 9.4d. foreign 11s. cwt. 78 0 85 0	INDIA RUBBER—lb. 1 10 0	PROVISIONS—Butter—per cwt. 210 0 224 0	SPICES—Pepper, lb. 1 10 0

Insurance.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE CO., LTD., 50 Finsbury square, London, E.C.2. Premium Income exceeds £1,500,000. Funds exceed £4,000,000. Claims paid exceed £7,500,000. Annual Reports and Prospectuses can be obtained on application.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office: OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER.

(For the year ending December 31st, 1923.)
ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS £7,500,000.
ASSETS EXCEED £26,000,000.
CLAIMS PAID EXCEED £40,000,000.

"Facts are stubborn things"

DELAY IS DANGEROUS.

Make immediate provision for all risks by insuring with the
PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.

Notice is hereby given that the new 5% COUPONS for the 1st Mortgage Debentures (1912 and 1914 issues) are now ready to be issued in EXCHANGE for the existing 4% Coupons, and for this purpose the Debentures, with Coupons, should now be forwarded to the Secretary of the Company at its offices, 37 Threadneedle street, London, E.C.2.

TENDERS FOR LONDON COUNTY BILLS.

1. The London County Council hereby give notice that Tenders will be received at the Chief Cashier's Office, at the Bank of England, on Tuesday, the 4th proximo, at One o'clock, for London County Bills to be issued in conformity with the Act 2 and 3 Geo. 5, ch. cv., to the amount of £2,000,000 (two million pounds), to provide funds for capital expenditure in the current financial period authorised by the Act 14 and 15 Geo. 5, ch. lx.

2. The Bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000, or £10,000. They will be dated the 7th day of November, 1924, and will be payable at twelve months after that date, viz., on the 7th day of November, 1925.

3. The Tenders must specify the net amount per cent. which will be given for the amounts applied for; and the Tenders of Private Individuals must be made through a London Banker.

4. The Bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England.

5. The persons whose Tenders are accepted will be informed of the same on Wednesday, the 5th proximo, and payment in full of the amounts of the accepted Tenders must be made to the Bank of England not later than Two o'clock on Friday, the 7th proximo.

6. The London County Council reserve the right of rejecting any Tenders.

7. Tenders should be on the printed form, which can be obtained at this Office and at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, or at any of the Branches of that Bank.

C. D. JOHNSON,
Comptroller of the Council.
The County Hall,
Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.
29th October, 1924.

GOUVERNEMENT IMPERIAL DU JAPON.

EMPRUNT 4% DE 1910. Fr. 450,000,000. Notice is hereby given that the COUPONS due 15th November, 1924, will be PAID on and subsequently (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons, which must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment, will be paid at the rate of exchange on Paris ruling at the time of their presentation. —For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, K. YANO, Manager.
9 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.
31st October, 1924.

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-eighth Ordinary General Meeting of THE CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED,

will be held at the Company's Office, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 12th day of November, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon, to receive and consider the Report of the Directors and the Statement of Accounts to be then presented; to elect Directors and Auditors and to fix their remuneration; to declare a Dividend; and to transact the other ordinary business of the Company.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 6th to the 12th November, 1924, both days inclusive.

Dated this 15th day of October, 1924.
By Order, F. HAINES, Secretary.
1 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London, E.C.2.
N.B.—Holders of Share Warrants wishing to vote at the above Meeting should deposit the Share Warrants at the Registered Office of the Company on or before Saturday, the 8th day of November, 1924.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1924.

No. 4,237.

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Issued by the Company may be obtained on application from the Head Office or any of the Offices or Agencies of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF
BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 210,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.
London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers: D. A. HORNER,
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Every facility provided to Letter of Credit holders, and all other exchange operations transacted by Italian branches, particularly at the Chief Office and Sub-Offices in Rome.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italcordi, Cannon, London."

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	717	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		Is Unemployment Inevitable?	740
Mr Baldwin's Choice.....	719	Books Received	741
The American Election.....	720	Stock Exchange News—	
Insurance Costs and Profits ..	721	The Stock Markets.....	741
Our Index Number	722	New Issues	742
The Stock Exchange Boom ..	723	Active Securities	743
Election Statistics	723	Company Meetings	743
Conditions in Cuba	725	Government Returns—	
Glass Trade Progress.....	725	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Notes of the Week—		by Public Tender	745
The New Cabinet	727	Currency Notes Account ..	745
The Municipal Elections ..	727	Public Income and Expenditure	745
The League Council & Turkey ..	727	National Debt.....	745
The New Phase in China ..	728	Bankers' Gazette—	
Conditions in Hong Kong..	728	Bank of England	745
Index of "Free" Shipping ..	729	Clearing Returns	746
Freights	729	Overseas Bank Returns ..	746
Customs and Excise Duties ..	729	Loan and Discount Rates..	747
Coal Trade Finances	730	Rates of Exchange.....	747
Trade Prospects in India ..	730	Overseas Bank Rates.....	748
Egyptian Cotton Crop	730	India Council Bills and	
The Changed Outlook for Oil ..	731	Transfers	748
The Lead Market	731	Imports and Exports of	
American Cotton-Growers'		Gold	748
Exchange.....	731	Gold and Silver Prices ...	749
Low Temperature Carbonisation	731	Company News—	
Recovery in Japan	732	Weekly Traffic Returns....	749
Conditions in Colombia ..	732	Dividend Announcements..	750
The Warble Pest in Cattle ..	732	Mining Outputs	750
Mersey Docks and Harbour ..	733	Oil Outputs	751
United of Havana	733	Reports and Notices	751
Broken Hill Prosperity	733	Profit and Loss Accounts..	752
Gold Fields Rhodesian	734	Commercial Reports—	
Overseas Correspondence—		Corn Trade	753
United States	734	Iron and Coal Trade	753
France	735	Metals	753
Germany	736	Wool Trade	754
Canada	737	Cotton Trade	754
Australia	738	Vegetable Oils.....	754
Denmark	739	Hide and Leather Trades..	755
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Produce Markets..	755
Import and Export Prices ..	739	Price Current	756

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Quarterly, 12s 6d; Half-yearly, £1 9s 6d; Yearly, £2 18s 6d. Colonies and Abroad, £3 15s 6d per Annum.

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C.2. Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

LACK of maturing Treasury bills soon used up the surplus of credit, and on Wednesday a large amount had to be borrowed from the Bank of England. After that the market, having apparently borrowed more than was necessary, found itself amply supplied with funds. Discount rates, having been slightly harder, eased again, and fine three-months' bank bills were quoted at 3 1/4-3 1/2 per cent., with the accent on the lower fraction. The London

County Council placed £2,000,000 yearling bills at a fraction under 4 per cent., and was thought to have done very well.

	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return showed increases of £255,000 in the note circulation and £10,000 in the stock of gold, and a consequent decrease of £245,000 in the Reserve. Other securities rose by £2,388,000, a good deal less than is believed to have been borrowed on Wednesday, and Government securities declined by £1,330,000. Nevertheless, Public deposits expanded by nearly 2½ millions, and so other deposits were over a million and a half lower on balance. Currency notes outstanding were increased this week by £2,387,000 to £287,411,700, which includes £1,364,700 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £236,597,000, or £11,593,900 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

A large volume of business has been transacted on the Stock Exchange this week, and the settlement is spoken of as the biggest this year. Most of the business has been of the buying order, but towards the end of the week there has been some profit taking, and the slight reaction in prices can only be described as wholesome and salutary after the unchecked and rapid advance of the past fortnight. All sections have taken part in the upward movement, industrials being particularly in demand this week. Gilt-edged stocks and home rails close a trifle below the best, but the tone is firm. Rubber shares have been very active on the further rise in the price of the raw material, but oils show a little irregularity owing, it would appear, to the erratic movements of Mexican Eagles. Considerably more attention has been paid to the Kaffir market, and buying from the Cape and Paris has assisted the upward movement in prices.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Although in some sections of industry recent political events have influenced markets, our Manchester correspondent reports that business in the cotton trade is quieter, adding that there is still a disposition to anticipate lower values. Our Bradford correspondent, however, reports that "the clearing up of the political situation here and in the United States" has improved the market. The pig-iron market is brisk, prices having moved upward during the week, while in manufactured iron and steel conditions are much better. Our Sheffield correspondent strikes a note of caution, referring to the "tide of confidence," and suggests that time will show whether this sentiment is justified. Tin is lower, and copper shows signs of weakness. Linseed oil is easier on the week. Brisk competition was noticeable for tea, while the rubber market, although opening firm, assumed a quieter tone later. Other details of markets and prices will be found in those pages of our paper devoted to the reports of our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market the outstanding feature has been the further rapid improvement in sterling values. As measured by the dollar, the market was quiet for the first half of the week, although between October 30th and November 4th the rate had moved up from \$4.52 3-5 to \$4.54 1-8. On Wednesday there was another sharp rise to \$4.56 1-8, and at one time on Thursday the quotation was as high as \$4.57 1-8, though afterwards there was some reaction to a closing price of \$4.56 1-8. Yesterday morn-

ing the rate was again slightly firmer at \$4.56 1-8. Forward quotations are 1/8 cent per month below spot. Although the improved trade position and the greater freedom with which America is now lending money abroad may to some extent justify this movement, there is no doubt that a large part of the rise is a sentimental reaction from the election results, and a general feeling that stable conditions and trade development may be expected. It is possible that this optimism may continue and find a further reflection in still higher rates, but on the whole perhaps some slight reaction may be expected. Of the currencies moving with the dollar, Switzerland, as was to be expected, has gone in our favour from 23.51 1/2 to 23.70 1/2, Stockholm from 17.00 to 17.05 1/2, Vienna from 319.500 to 322.000, Warsaw from 23.50 to 23.75, Berlin from 19.05 to 19.20. Amsterdam, however, has moved against us from 11.48 1/2 to 11.47 1/2. After some slight recovery the Paris rate became unsteady, and an unfavourable view of the Government's financial position and the new loan proposals drove up the quotation to at one time on Thursday as high as 87.85, compared with 86.30 on the 30th. Afterwards there was some recovery, and yesterday morning the quotation was given as 87. During the same period Brussels moved from 94.05 to 94.95. For Paris francs one month forward were quoted at 30 centimes, for Brussels at 10 centimes, over spot. After its recent depreciation to 104.17 1/2 on the 30th, the lira at first showed some recovery, but in the last two days has broken away again to 105 1/8 yesterday morning, and in general the position in Italy is looked on with some misgiving. Madrid, too, has continued to depreciate from 33.58 to 33.82 1/2. In Northern Europe, Copenhagen and Christiania rates are only slightly higher, but Helsingfors shows a move up from 179 1/2 to 181 1/2. In Eastern Europe, Budapest maintains its stable ratio with sterling, while both Prague and Belgrade have depreciated slightly. Bucharest, after some recovery, remains about the same at 805. In the East the rupee has fallen in value from 15 6 3-64d to 15 5 31-32d, and the yen is also cheaper at 15 8 1-2d, as compared with 15 8 17-32d. Selling from China and America brought down the price of silver, and although there was a slight recovery after the middle of the week, the tone remains easy. Hong-kong stands at 25 4 1-2d, as compared with 25 5 1-2d, and Shanghai at 35 4 1-2d, as compared with 35 5d a week ago. In South America, Rio has moved down very slightly from 5 31-32d to 5 27-32d. Buenos Aires, on the other hand, has appreciated from 44 11-32d to 44 1-2d, and Monte Video from 48 1-2d to 48 3-4d, while Valparaiso, after some depreciation, has recovered to 39.60, as compared with 39.70 pesos a week ago.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 1st:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	8,350	From Revenue	10,082
Interest, &c., on Debt	7,337	Increase in Debt	6,930
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	782		
Increase in Exchequer balances	43		
	17,012		17,012

The Revenue for the week was well maintained at £10,082,000, against £10,900,142 in the corresponding week last year. Customs were slightly lower at £1,810,000, against £1,959,000, but Excise was up at £1,491,000, against £1,343,000. Estate Duties brought in £850,000, as compared with £880,000. Property and Income-tax was lower at £3,147,000, against £3,916,000, and Super-tax at £350,000, against £360,000. Post Office receipts amounted to £1,500,000, there being no change as compared with last year. Ordinary and Special receipts were both nil, against £247,823 and £57,841 respectively last year. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £6,930,500, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Public Department Advances	5,510	Treasury Bills	461
Bank of England Advances	1,750	National War Bonds repaid	51
Sundries	175		
	+ 7,435		- 511

The floating debt was increased by £6,810,000 to £705,860,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to November 1).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	438,534,712	Raised by Revenue ..	408,937,327
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,711,425
		Amount borrowed ..	25,885,960
Total	438,534,712	Total	438,534,712
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

MR BALDWIN'S CHOICE.

THE political situation has developed according to plan. After a delay of a few days devoted to an inconclusive investigation into the authenticity of the Zinovieff letter, Mr Ramsay MacDonald tendered his resignation to the King on Tuesday. Mr Baldwin within an hour accepted His Majesty's invitation to form a Government, and has shown such promptitude in the task that his cabinet yesterday took over the seals of office from their Labour predecessors. Mr Baldwin enters on his second Premiership not only with the greatest homogeneous majority enjoyed by any Conservative Premier since the Reform Bill, but also with the confidence of the business world behind him, with the goodwill of a great majority of the country, and with a general respect which his reputation for candour and integrity have earned for him. He is thus presented with a unique opportunity. Equally he is faced with a unique responsibility. To sacrifice a comfortable majority and to return to office with his majority multiplied five-fold, all within the space of ten months, is an experience unprecedented in English political history. It is an experience from which Mr Baldwin will only profit if he does some very hard thinking about the chain of circumstances which has played into his hands in so amazing a fashion. To appraise his responsibility he must clear his mind of the elation of victory and fasten his vision on the time four or five years hence when he must submit the account of his stewardship to the judgment of the people. Fortune will never forgive any party for two consecutive political miscalculations. The miscalculation of last year has been retrieved; but a lack of vision and of a sense of proportion in the policy of Mr Baldwin's second administration would in all probability lead to something far more serious than mere party disaster.

To realise the truth of this fact it is necessary to study the election statistics, which we analyse on a later page. In a contest which was taken by the country to be first and foremost a battle between Socialism and anti-Socialism, the Socialist party won more than a million new adherents and polled over 5½ million votes out of a total poll of a little more than 16½ millions. The rise in the Labour vote is a feature of the election, to which the Conservative Press have paid most inadequate attention. It rests more with Mr Baldwin than it does with Mr MacDonald or any other man whether at the next election there is to be another and far more sensational advance in the vote for Socialism. He inherits office with a majority abundantly sufficient to carry any measure he may propound, and at a time when economic, industrial, and social problems cry out for enlightened and progressive handling. He has, at the same time, among his followers a powerful element of the "Die Hard" and the reactionary. If this element is allowed to call the tune of Conservative policy and to guide it in the direction of retrograde measures and non-progressive administration, then one thing is tolerably certain: During the period of this Government's rule the

ranks of Socialists will be steadily swollen, not merely by the normal workings of distress, discontent, and class antagonism, but by the accession of the young and the ardent spirits, who, seeing reaction on the right will revolt to the far left. If cause for such a movement is given by the new Government it may easily gather a momentum which will sweep aside the Liberal party's efforts at revival, and swing the pendulum so far from right to left as to bring a Socialist Government not only into office, but into power with an independent majority. That this danger is not imaginary is shown by the undisguised rejoicing with which the British election results have been hailed in Moscow. This rejoicing is based on the view that moderates have been eliminated and that Britain is left with a naked struggle between the classes, which in due course will lead to victory for the extreme left. If the new Government carries into its legislation and administration the spirit of class antagonism in which some of its supporters fought the recent election, the Moscow prophecy may come dangerously near to fulfilment. We retain our belief in the underlying commonsense and sound judgment of the British people. But it is possible to conceive a position in which the blunders of politicians might give these national characteristics inadequate opportunity to function. Those on either wing of politics who try, as many on both extremes tried in the recent election, to degrade British politics into a mere death struggle between Socialism and capitalism, between the "haves" and the "have nots," are lighting a conflagration which even the underlying soundness of the nation might not succeed in quenching.

Look at the matter from another angle. We hear from the Labour party to-day two voices. On the one hand we have Mr Thomas, one of the outstanding successes of the Labour Cabinet, who said, at the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield, on Tuesday: "We have got to establish confidence. Don't let us keep up this damnable talk of class warfare." And, on the other hand, Mr Wheatley, who at a Glasgow meeting on Sunday consoled himself with the thought that the overwhelming Conservative victory "would considerably hasten the end of the capitalist system of society." We have also the Liberal party, which, though insignificant in Parliamentary strength, still polled three million votes under the most adverse circumstances imaginable, and is entering on a struggle to build up public support for a policy of sane progress without revolution, fiscal, economic, or social. Mr Baldwin will not hold the reins for ever. There must be an alternative Government. Into whose hands will Conservative policy play? Will it arm or disarm the extremists of the left? That is the fundamental problem which Mr Baldwin has to face. We look to him to face it with honesty, imagination, and courage. He is not lacking in these three qualities. We venture to suggest to him that the most propitious approach to his great task would be through a gesture which demands all three qualities. No move would create more assurance in the country regarding his devotion to democratic principles than the promise of immediate legislation to reform our electoral system, and to ensure that, be his party interests what they may, all future Parliaments will faithfully reflect—as this Parliament so signally fails to do—the real will of the electorate.

The personnel of the Cabinet goes some way towards allaying our fears as to the spirit in which Mr Baldwin shoulders his task. Of Mr Churchill's political gyrations we have been among the severest of critics. But he is a strong, efficient, and fearless administrator, and as such should be capable as Chancellor of the Exchequer of insisting that the field for public economy is fully and relentlessly explored—a task for which his abundant experience of the spending departments further qualifies him. There are two other important aspects of his appointment. In a career not noted for political consistency he has hitherto shown a consistent devotion to Free Trade principles of which he has displayed a thorough grasp, and his presence at the Treasury should be a safeguard against flirtations with tariff tinkering, the fears of which would otherwise be increased by the presence of Mr Amery, that unrepentant apostle of Protection and Imperial Preference, at the Colonial Office. The other point is that in making this appointment Mr Baldwin (undaunted by the storm raised by his offer of office to Mr McKenna in his previous

Government) has at the outset shown himself strong enough to override the claims of mere party loyalty, and to face the acute displeasure of the Die Hard element in his party. Of the other appointments the most notable are those of Mr Austen Chamberlain as Foreign Minister, and Lord Birkenhead as Secretary of State for India. The former is definitely preferable to Lord Curzon. Mr Chamberlain approaches the intricate problems of European policy with a clean slate, without any load of past mistakes and mistrust, and with, we believe, a mentality capable of recognising and continuing the good work in Europe which Mr MacDonald has begun. We are glad to see that his appointment has had a quite favourable reception in Paris. With him, we hope (although an official statement is lacking at the moment) he will have Lord Robert Cecil, whose deep knowledge and understanding of the League of Nations Mr Baldwin will do exceedingly well to utilise. The introduction of Lord Birkenhead to the India Office is a bold experiment that promises well for the enlightened conduct of Indian affairs at a crucial moment, if we may base our judgment on his memorable speech in the House of Lords in 1920 on the Amritsar massacre.

Altogether we believe that the country in general, and in particular the business community, which does not greatly concern itself with conflicting claims of individuals on the score of party loyalty, will consider that Mr Baldwin has, on the whole, made a good beginning. When he meets the House we trust that both he and Mr Austen Chamberlain, who was naturally marked out as Leader in the Commons, will remember both the lessons of the last Parliament and the circumstances of the recent election. Mr MacDonald fell because he and his lieutenants refused to take into account the implications of their position, and, spurning the normal method of consultation, rushed beyond the limits that could be tolerated by those on whose votes they depended. Let Mr Baldwin and Mr Chamberlain reflect that, if the votes cast at the polls were accurately and proportionately represented at Westminster, they would not have a clear majority over all parties. If they bear this constantly in mind they will guide their policy so as not to outrage either by retrograde measures or by fiscal revolution, those upon whose votes, under a more perfect electoral system, they might have been dependent in the House of Commons.

THE AMERICAN ELECTION.

THE overwhelming victory of Mr Coolidge this week seemed as unlikely last spring, when the "Oil Scandal" was in full hue and cry, as Mr Baldwin's victory seemed after the decisive vote given against Protection by the electorate of Great Britain. Latterly, students of economic and social tendencies have been warning the American people that the margin of undeveloped wealth on which they have lived for a century is coming to an end, and that they will have to adapt themselves to the conditions already existing in Europe. The horizon of politics, however, is notoriously shorter than that of scientific observation, and the present election results are an illustration of this fact, which economic observers, especially, are tempted to overlook. The returns mean that the average American elector has not yet begun to feel the pinch of the shoe, or at any rate not to realise which shoe it is that pinches. He still prefers the opportunities of his traditional system to the untried paths of social and constitutional change. The Fordney tariff may penalise the consumer to the profit of big business; members of the administration may corruptly play with the nation's oil reserves; the Senate may indulge its sensitiveness for its constitutional prerogative by sabotaging the relations between the United States and Japan; the Klansmen may emulate the Fascisti. But still there seems enough prosperity to go round if the little fish are only left alone to browse quietly by the side of the great sharks and whales. Oil-wells still seem bottomless, the Pacific an impassable gulf, the American constitution sacred, American liberty

impregnable. The ordinary American citizen is not yet disturbed by the big problems beyond his horizon, but he is outraged by proposals to remodel (if ever so little) the familiar foreground of political and social institutions in which he still expects to lead a profitable existence.

These broadly are the considerations which appear to mould, almost unconsciously perhaps, the general attitude of the people of the United States towards political problems. Of the actual influences that decided the result of this particular election campaign, a clearer and more definite analysis is possible. Mr Coolidge's victory was due perhaps more than anything else to the intense propaganda directed towards showing that, while his return would provide the conditions necessary to continued prosperity, no other party could hope for victory outright, and that if an inconclusive result threw the election into Congress, economic progress would be seriously impeded by the prolongation for several months of political uncertainty. The rise in wheat prices was a stroke of good fortune for the President, for it took the edge off the farmers' discontent, while the maintenance of high wage levels and signs of reviving trade restrained the forces of Labour from deserting the Republican candidate. In the long run the oil scandals, the supposed trump card of the Progressives, played a comparatively small part in influencing the result. As an election factor they were outweighed by the public belief in the personal integrity of the President—a belief which was reinforced a fortnight before polling day by the publication of an income-tax return showing Mr Coolidge's liability to tax to be on a small scale. Much has been said in this country of the influence of the British swing to conservatism on the result of the American elections; but well-placed observers in the United States consider this influence to have been slight. The part played by Ku Klux Klan has been greatly exaggerated, while the prohibition question and the League of Nations were largely avoided by party speakers, and did not figure as prominently as was expected. The Republicans directed much of their fire against Mr La Follette's proposal for railway nationalisation, and an effect was produced by the argument that higher wages for the employees would lead to an increase in farmers' freight charges. Fierce resistance was also offered to the Progressive proposal to give Congress the power to override the decisions of the Supreme Court. The sum total of these various factors affords sufficient explanation of Mr Coolidge's triumph. Much was made during the campaign of the fact that in 1920 less than half the electors voted, but the fact is that the ballot paper is so extraordinarily complicated that it inevitably disfranchises a large proportion of the lowest class voters.

The electoral votes secured by the Progressives, like the seats secured by the Labour party, may not give a full measure of the real support which they have won in the country, and the electoral factor just mentioned must be taken into consideration. But the return of a Progressive President or a Progressive Congress will not be practical politics for many years. The Democrats, again, may be in danger of suffering severely from the squeeze between the Progressives and the Republicans; but the inroads so far made upon their domain are trifling compared with those which British Liberalism has suffered, and they can still rely upon a solid South. By implication, the Republicans themselves have a longer rope than Mr Baldwin.

In home politics, Mr Coolidge's victory means "no change" for four years. The Fordney Tariff will continue, the farmers' revolt has missed fire. The nation will rest secure in the feeling that the "Reds," and even the "Pinks," have been put in their place; and the Administration, which in these circumstances would anyway not be stimulated to violent legislative activity, will be further restrained by the fact that the Republicans will not in all probability retain the initiative in the Senate when the new Congress assembles next year. It is more interesting, perhaps, to estimate the bearing of the Presidential election on American foreign policy. The defeat of Mr Davis is, of course, in a way a set-back to the cause of the League, for the Democratic candidate was in favour of American participation, and had the courage to say so in his acceptance speech. On the other hand, this was a personal policy in which his party were following him—after past experiences—with some hesitation. The

exigencies of office might have compelled Mr Davis to modify his policy—at any rate, until it became apparent whether the present members of the League were going to adopt the Arbitration Protocol. Meanwhile, Mr Coolidge's victory has carried General Dawes to the vice-presidency, and whatever may have been his share in producing the celebrated report which bears his name, it is evident that an administration in which he holds that position must continue to support, from a safe distance perhaps, that policy of European reconstruction for which the Dawes Report stands. It is even more important that Mr Hughes will presumably remain at the head of the State Department. As the originator and guiding spirit of the Washington Conference, he has shown himself a master of constructive international statesmanship; but he is at the mercy of the Senate, which has the last word on foreign policy, and only this year the Senate, in their handling of the Japanese problem in connection with the new immigration law, have undone some of his most important work. The last Senate, indeed, has done much towards wrecking the foreign policy of the Administration, and it is here that the sense of a boundless margin, which still dominates the American mind, is likely to have the most dangerous consequences, for in regard to the Pacific this is nothing but a delusion. The international situation round the shores of the Pacific is as tense and strained as it is on the Continent of Europe; but the last Senate has not shown that spirit of restraint, accommodation and constructive purpose which was so conspicuous in the proceedings of the last Assembly at Geneva. Much, therefore may turn upon the composition of the new Senate which is to meet next year. At present it is conjectured that, while the Republicans will have a small plurality over the Democrats, the Progressive senators will hold the balance between them. If this forecast proves right, Mr Hughes may have an easier task; and while we cannot yet look forward to the entry of America into the League, we may hope that the spirit of the Washington Conference will assert itself powerfully in the conduct of her foreign affairs. There is a considerable body of opinion in the United States favourable and sympathetic towards the League, and we may feel disappointed that it has not operated more effectively in the election campaign. But we see no reason why Europe as a whole, and Britain and France in particular, should not share the feelings of confidence and satisfaction with which the American people are entrusting the conduct of their part in international affairs to the experienced and statesmanlike hands of Mr Hughes and General Dawes.

INSURANCE COSTS AND PROFITS.

No subject is of greater importance to insurance companies with great fire and accident departments than the relation of working costs, including taxation, to the margin of net profit realised on the premium income. Working costs in proportion to net premium income have for many years past shown a strong tendency to rise. The peak now seems to have been passed, and some reduction to be in sight, but relatively to net premiums costs of working, including commissions to agents, are from eight to ten per cent. of the premiums higher than they were even thirty years ago. And seeing that the net profit, out of which conflagration and other emergency reserves have to be built up, comes from what is left of the premiums after claims, working costs, taxation, and provision for current liabilities have been deducted, the problem before insurance managers of securing an adequate margin has become increasingly delicate and difficult.

It is significant that the problem of working costs and profits has in its various aspects formed the subject of the presidential addresses to the Insurance Institute of London both by Mr Sketch, of the Phoenix and Norwich Union Companies, in October, 1923, and by Mr Reynolds, of the Guardian, in October, 1924. Mr Rutter, Governor of the London and Lancashire, and one of the most

eminent insurance managers of his generation, also discussed the same problem at the general meeting this year of his company. It is all to the good that insurance managers should place their cards on the table, and take the public into their confidence. For the security and efficiency of insurance as an essential part of the business machine depends wholly upon public confidence in the men who conduct it, and on the principles by which they work.

Mr Sketch pointed out that, according to the tabulated returns of the leading fire companies, the ratio of working costs to net premiums was 30 per cent. in 1883, and had risen to 41.5 per cent. in 1922. He was at some pains to explain that part of this advance in the figures as shown was misleading. Forty years ago there was little reinsurance except between the companies; now the greater part of the large reinsurance business which has developed is placed by treaty with reinsurance companies which transact no direct business at all. "Although," he said, "the reinsurance company pays a higher commission than is paid away by the direct writing company, the excess commission does not equal the overhead cost of the direct writing company, and therefore the cost of the net business is increased." From information placed privately at Mr Sketch's disposal by the companies, he concluded that the distribution of reinsurance now adversely affects the net expense ratio by no less than 6 per cent. of the net premiums as shown in the companies' accounts. So that the true comparative increase in the proportion of working costs to net premiums in the 40 years was not 11.5 per cent. of the net premiums, but no more than 5.5 per cent. Of this actual increase, 2 per cent. was represented by taxation, which was out of the control of the companies. Mr Sketch made the further point—one quite admissible as between the public who pay premiums and the companies which administer fire insurance business—that the profits in terms of the premiums should be distributed over a much larger premium income than that set out in the published accounts (which, under the Assurance Companies Act are net), and that the percentage of profit earned on the turnover is considerably less than that applicable to the net income. And when we are considering the question of net profits actually realised, it should be borne in mind that taxation of all kinds on underwriting profits advanced from 23 per cent. in 1914 to 47 per cent. in 1923.

Mr Rutter, of the London and Lancashire, approached the subject of the relation of net profits to net premiums from a different angle. He endeavoured to bring out what the proportion of the net premiums remains to the companies as available profit, as shown in the actual published accounts in normal years, years, that is to say, which are free from great conflagration, or from the direct disturbances of war. For his examination Mr Rutter took the five years 1910 to 1914 (a period subsequent to the devastating fire in San Francisco), and the five years 1919 to 1923. His figures took in 20 companies for 1910-1914, and for 1919-1922, but he had not before him for 1923 more than the figures for 16 companies. Mr Rutter came to the conclusion that "totalling those ten years for all those companies representative of the best administration in this or any other country, we find that after deducting all charges of every kind and taxation, there remains a net residue, available to the companies for their own use and benefit, of actually not more than 4.78 per cent. of the net premiums."

Then we have Mr Reynolds, of the Guardian, as the latest exponent of the net earnings of fire insurance companies. Mr Reynolds took the ten years 1914-1923 for 17 companies, a period which included the abnormal years of the war. He made his calculations in the same manner as that adopted by Mr Rutter, and obtained the result that the surplus worked out at 5 per cent. of the net premiums, or only about one-fourth of 1 per cent. higher than Mr Rutter's figure for normal years before and after the war. Incidentally during Mr Reynolds' ten-year period large sums had to be provided for the depreciation of securities, a depreciation which the subsequent market advance in security values fortunately made good. "It does not necessarily follow," he said, "that when trade is good throughout the world the insurance companies' underwriting profits are certainly higher (they may, in fact, be lower), but it invariably implies a

fall in the prices of Stock Exchange securities," which has to be provided for out of the underwriting surplus.

The valuable statistical researches of Mr Sketch, Mr Reynolds, and Mr Rutter clearly bring out certain points which are worthy of attention. Much of the increase in working costs may be accounted for, but it remains as a charge on net premium income. We may agree with Mr Sketch that 6 per cent. of the increase in expense ratios to premiums is due to the development of reinsurance, and that a further 2 per cent. is accounted for by increased taxation. Yet for the moment both these occasions for increase remain, and have to be dealt with. They must be met somehow, and do in practice involve a reduction in the margin of underwriting profits, out of which alone emergency reserves can be built up, and the incalculable risks of the future be anticipated. This underwriting surplus, taking one year with another—whether it be Mr Rutter's 4.78 per cent. of the net premiums in normal years, or Mr Reynolds' 5 per cent. in years that were some normal and some abnormal—is not divided among shareholders in the form of dividends. Dividends are paid almost entirely out of the receipts from interest on invested reserves. The underwriting surplus is the basis of security for the future. Current liabilities are provided for by means of the reserve of premiums set aside for unexpired risks. But the liabilities of the unknown future—the risk of conflagration, of wars, of depreciation of assets of political disturbances, of adverse legislation—could not be confronted at all were it not for this essential underwriting surplus of net premiums which, taking one year with another, leaves about 5 per cent. of those premiums at the disposal of insurance managers and directors. Five per cent. of net turnover is a very narrow margin upon which to finance a business which involves all the incalculable risks of fire insurance. We can understand with this narrow margin before them fire insurance managers are doing their individual and collective utmost to cut down the too high percentage of working costs.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

A FURTHER substantial advance in wholesale prices of commodities in October has produced an increase of 118 points in our Index Number, raising the total to 4847. This is the highest point touched since September, 1921, and compares with 4320 at this time last year. Last month increases were the general rule, only a few minor declines being registered, and the tone in most markets points to an improvement in the outlook. The table appended shows the changes in the five groups, and in the total:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Timber, Oils, &c.).	Total.	%
Base (avg. 1901-5) ..	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914 ..	579	352	616 $\frac{1}{2}$	464 $\frac{1}{2}$	553	2588	118.6
Dec., 1915 ..	897	446	731	711 $\frac{1}{2}$	848 $\frac{1}{2}$	3634	165.1
Nov., 1918 ..	1289	782 $\frac{1}{2}$	1848	903	1389 $\frac{1}{2}$	6212	282.6
Dec., 1917 ..	1286 $\frac{1}{2}$	686	1684 $\frac{1}{2}$	839 $\frac{1}{2}$	1348 $\frac{1}{2}$	5845	265.2
Mar., 1920 ..	1508	914	2074 $\frac{1}{2}$	1246	1709 $\frac{1}{2}$	6352	379.6
Dec., 1921 ..	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
Dec., 1922 ..	921 $\frac{1}{2}$	636	1106	762	931 $\frac{1}{2}$	4357	198.0
Dec., 1923 ..	861	706	1184 $\frac{1}{2}$	705	807 $\frac{1}{2}$	4264	193.8
June, 1923 ..	815 $\frac{1}{2}$	773 $\frac{1}{2}$	1177 $\frac{1}{2}$	773 $\frac{1}{2}$	761	4301	195.6
Dec., 1924 ..	853	815 $\frac{1}{2}$	1382 $\frac{1}{2}$	774	755	4580	208.2
Mar., 1924 ..	897 $\frac{1}{2}$	843 $\frac{1}{2}$	1513 $\frac{1}{2}$	805	780 $\frac{1}{2}$	4640	210.9
June ..	914	736 $\frac{1}{2}$	1347	764	769 $\frac{1}{2}$	4531	205.9
July ..	951 $\frac{1}{2}$	732	1423 $\frac{1}{2}$	777	773	4657	211.7
Aug. ..	941	744 $\frac{1}{2}$	1385 $\frac{1}{2}$	781	774	4626	210.8
Sept. ..	1003	777 $\frac{1}{2}$	1395 $\frac{1}{2}$	762 $\frac{1}{2}$	790 $\frac{1}{2}$	4729	214.9
Oct. ..	1027 $\frac{1}{2}$	786 $\frac{1}{2}$	1442 $\frac{1}{2}$	782 $\frac{1}{2}$	808	4847	220.8

More than half the month's increase occurred in primary foodstuffs and textiles. In the former group, potatoes and cereals, with the exception of barley, were mainly responsible for the increase of 24 points in the total, but meat was lower. Flour prices, though a trifle higher on balance than at the end of September, have been reduced during the last week. In subsidiary foodstuffs, a sharp rise in coffee was partially offset by slight reductions in tea and sugar. In the textile group, cotton and cotton

manufactures were higher, and jute and flax also advanced, but wool was practically unchanged. According to Messrs W. F. Malcolm's flax market report, the general tone of the flax market has been considerably firmer during the past fortnight, and a number of transactions in the new crop has been carried through in this country. Crop reports are everywhere good. On the cotton trade, Messrs Robt. Barbour and Brother, Limited, write in their monthly report:—

Fluctuations in the raw material have been numerous and at times incisive, but whilst spinners have shown an adaptability in raising their rates on a rise, they have also displayed a marked aversion to lower them on a decline. The end of the season is now in sight, and prices should tend to become more stabilised, but larger crop ideas have certainly been revived, and the ideal weather conditions which have prevailed in the cotton belt during the first fortnight of the month are reflected in the latest Bureau figures indicating a yield of 12,675,000 bales, exclusive of linters. Assisted by good harvests and the rise in exchange, the aggregate business put through for India has been quite considerable and varied in character. The demand for printing cloths has been one of the conspicuous features of the month, and Egypt, the Levant, South America, and West Africa have all shared in the welcome activity in this section. China, of course, continues to disappoint, but, according to present advices, auctions are to be resumed, and the smallness of stocks in Shanghai—only a fraction of what they were in 1913—gives promise of free operations as soon as peaceful conditions are restored.

In the minerals section, though iron prices are a trifle lower than a month ago, reports from all the principal centres speak of a change for the better during the latter part of the month, and of a growth in demand. Both lead and tin are substantially higher on the month, and there was a slight rise in copper. Some explanation of the sharp rise in lead prices is given in a Note of the Week in a later column. In the miscellaneous section the most prominent feature was a rise in the price of raw rubber, but owing to the low level to which the quotation has fallen in relation to the base figure, the effect of the change upon the group total is proportionately small. Oils, oilseeds, and tallow are also higher.

In the next table we show the changes in the index number of each separate commodity in comparison with the figure for the end of September, the figure 50 representing in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cotton, A	125	+ 2	Copper	53	+ 1
English	100	+ 1	Cotton, B	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 8	Minerals	782 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 20
Flour	100	+ 2	Yarn	148 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 8			
Barley	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cloth	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 5			
Oats	84	+ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wool, Eng.	185	+ 2	Baltic timber	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
Potatoes	119	+ 19	Do Aust.	159	+ 2	Amer. timber	59	..
Rice	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Silk	107	+ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leather	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
Beef	73	+ 6	Flax	181 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Petroleum	108	..
Mutton	84	+ 2	Hemp	79	..	Oils	61	+ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	84	+ 11	Jute	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oilseed	94	+ 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cereals & meat	1,027 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Textiles	1,442 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 47	Tallow	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2	Pig-iron	86	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Indigo	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
Coffee	140	+ 17	Steel rails	75	..	Crystals	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar, cane	123	+ 4	Iron bars	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber	18	+ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar, beet	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coal, steam	132	+ 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Miscellaneous	808	+ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter	110	+ 3	House coal	88	..	Total	4,847	+ 118
Tobacco	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	Lead	154	+ 18			
Other foods	786 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 9	Tin	102	+ 10 $\frac{1}{2}$			

These changes raise the percentage increase over the pre-war level from 84.4 to 89 per cent. Recent movements in this figure, and in similar percentages for the individual groups, may be seen in our final table, in which the indices for July, 1914, are taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914 ..	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918 ..	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919 ..	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920 ..	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1921 ..	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1922 ..	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
Dec., 1923 ..	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
Dec., 1924 ..	148	231	225	167	136	178.6
Mar., 1924 ..	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
June ..	158	210	219	164	139	176.6
July ..	164	208	231	167	140	181.6
Aug. ..	162	211	225	168	140	180.4
Sept. ..	173	221	226	164	143	184.4
Oct. ..	177	224	234	169	146	189.0

Twelve months ago the increase shown in the total over July, 1914, was 67.6 per cent., and those of the five groups were as follows:—Cereals and meat, 42 per cent.; other food, 122 per cent.; textiles, 97 per cent.; minerals, 58 per cent.; miscellaneous, 34 per cent.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE BOOM.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THE pressure of Labour apprehension which bent down prices to the point of nervousness having been relaxed by the assumption that a stable Government is now in power, both prices and business have sprung violently upwards, and the Stock Exchange settlement on Thursday turned out to be, in many offices, the heaviest which this year has afforded. City hotels were full of Stock Exchange staffs on Wednesday night, and the City electric light companies should do well by reason of the burning of the midnight current far into the small hours of the morning. Appearances point at present to the probability of the end-November settlement being a still heavier one than that which has just concluded.

These matters of domestic interest have an application to circles wider than those intimately connected with the House, in that they give the public an idea of what is happening, and of the fact that the marking-up of prices is not a purely artificial affair, but is due to the volume of actual business that is taking place. One popular explanation of the rise is that prices had been lowered to levels which were unjustified, though, where uncertainty and political nervousness clouded the atmosphere, it was a difficult matter to say to what extent this fall in values had been overdone. It is easier, however, to take it for granted that the present recovery has gone too far. On paper, many prices are standing higher than they ought to do, regarded from the standpoint of dividend performance and future outlook. Ordinary shares in industrial companies ought, theoretically speaking, to pay from 8 to 10 per cent. on the money, for the risk involved in the purchase of junior stocks and shares must be compensated by the high return which these should yield to the purchaser. Eight to ten per cent. on the money, however, is a criterion that the public are declining to bother about at the present time. Such fireworks displays as this week has provided in tobacco shares, for example, in many of the textiles, in iron and steel shares, in breweries—to take only a few of the most prominent examples—has carried prices well beneath the 10 per cent. standard of yield. Such popular speculative counters as Shells, Courtaulds, Imperial Tobacco, Anglo-Dutch, and others yield so much less than double figures that present prices would seem to be decidedly over-valued if dividends only are taken into account. It will require, moreover, very considerable additions to the dividends which are at present being paid for the rates to give a purchaser at to-day's prices anything approximating 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the money. In the fever of financial excitement, in the keen desire to get into the swim of speculation where money-making on the bull tack seems to be so easy and so rapid, the public are in danger of losing that sense of financial proportion which can be relied upon to keep prices at reasonable levels when optimism no longer calls the tune.

The sensational rises will have the effect of bringing out quantities of new issues. Already it is known that a dozen or more of new companies contemplate immediate application to the public for capital requirements. Diverging into the field of prophecy, it may be supposed that one of the effects of the Unionist resumption of power will be the formation of a number of trust companies. The opportunities which open out on every side are tempting to this particular form of finance. They are likely to attract the support of the public, who, being desirous of spreading their risks as widely as possible, are not averse from undertaking such a policy through the medium of investment in trust companies' shares. The existing list of stocks in trust companies is a lengthy one, but so tightly held are these stocks that it is no exaggeration to say there is hardly any appreciable amount of supply with which to satisfy the demand that now exists. New trust companies are not likely to engage

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1884.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

in the purchase of ordinary stocks and shares commanding high prices in the markets to-day. The companies' main aim will be to finance new ventures, and to pick up low-priced stocks in which there is a fair chance of capital appreciation, rather than to put money into the stocks and shares after which the public is rushing so ardently to-day. It may seem a little unkind to suggest that, after the way in which investment and speculation have wandered in the wilderness during the period of Labour uncertainty, the first buoyancy should have carried prices too far. Holders of the stocks and shares in which there has been such remarkable activity during the past few days may be advised, however, to consider the question of taking profits upon a part of their holdings. The balance will then remain at prices which can be regarded with complete complacency, and the money realised by this policy can be employed in those markets to which the breathless bullishness of the post-Election boom has not yet extended.

ELECTION STATISTICS.

In our last issue, in a Note of the Week, we gave some of the main statistics of the General Election so far as they were then available. The results for the three seats for the Scottish Universities will not be known until next Thursday, but we now have the figures for 612 seats. The anomalous results produced by our present electoral system have never been so strikingly illustrated as they are by the figures for the 1924 election, which we give below, comparing this year's votes and seats with those of the 1923 election, when the division of seats corresponded considerably more closely with the voting:—

	December, 1923.				
	Votes.	Candidates.		Seats.	
		Contest-ing.	Unop-posed.	Won.	Total.
Conservative	5,544,540	500	35	223	258
% of total	(86 %)	(:6 %)	(70 %)	(89 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)	(48 %)
Labour	4,508,504	420	3	189	192
% of total	(8 %)	(80 %)	(6 %)	(33 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)	(31 %)
Liberal	4,314,202	443	11	146	156
% of total	(24 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)	(32 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)	(28 %)	(26 %)	(26 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)
Other	265,420	30	1	7	9
% of total	(1 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)	(2 %)	(2 %)	(1 %)	(1 $\frac{1}{2}$ %)
	14,632,666	1,393	50	565	615

	October, 1924.				
	Votes.	Candidates.		Seats.	
		Contest-ing.	Unop-posed.	Won.	Total.
Conservative	7,927,717	518	16	397	413
% of total	(48 %)	(87 %)	(50 %)	(68 %)	(68 %)
Labour	5,518,018	500	9	139	148
% of total	(33 %)	(86 %)	(28 %)	(24 %)	(24 %)
Liberal	2,903,210	333	6	33	39
% of total	(17 %)	(24 %)	(19 %)	(6 %)	(6 %)
Other	293,239	42	1	11	12
% of total	(2 %)	(3 %)	(3 %)	(2 %)	(2 %)
	16,642,184	1,393	32	580	615

The Liberal party has been by far the greatest sufferer, having secured 17 per cent. of the total vote, but a representation of only 6 per cent. The Labour party has suffered in a less degree from the split vote, which has, on the other hand, been of immense advantage to the Conservatives, who, with 48 per cent. of the total poll, secure 68 per cent. of the contested seats. Last year the contested Conservative seats cost on the average 24,900 votes, this year the figure is 20,000. Last year's Labour seats cost 24,000 votes, and this year's 39,700; last year's Liberal seats cost 29,500 votes, and this year's no less than 87,900. The total electorate had increased by about three-quarters of a million, the votes polled rose by over two millions, the proportion of abstainers being reduced to an unusually low level.

The mere fact that 8½ million votes were polled for Labour and Liberal candidates, who obtained 187 seats, and that less than 8 million votes polled for the Conservatives obtained for them 411 seats, should stamp the present system of electing members to the House of Commons as one that no Government should tolerate, especially a Government which bases itself upon its "stability." With so large a majority of the electors at the mercy of the Government chosen by a minority of the voters, one of the principal elements of "stability" is clearly absent. The Conservatives last year polled 5½ million votes and obtained 258 seats; the Labour party polling about the same number of votes this year obtain only 150 seats. The Conservatives increased their poll by about 2 million votes, and have secured at least 150 more seats. The Labour party have increased their total poll by a million votes, and have 40 seats fewer than last year. The Liberal party polling about three million votes, obtain less than 40 seats, a result which compares most unequally with either the Conservative or Labour representation in the House of Commons. It would be a wise and statesmanlike act for the Conservative Government to introduce as soon as possible a Bill to amend the present electoral system, so as to secure a near approximation to the principle of "one man, one vote," which is supposed to be the law of this country.

In our issue of September 27th we presented a series of tables showing how the counties of Great Britain were represented in the House of Commons which was elected last December. The great change that has taken place in the constitution of the House appears from the following tables, which are constructed upon the same lines:—

TABLE I.—Containing 12 COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from 14 to 66 MEMBERS to the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
Lancashire	66	42	19	5	Stafford	18	6	10	2
London	62	39	20	3	Middlesex	17	14	3	..
Yorkshire	57	27	24	6	Warwick	17	16	1	..
Lancark	22	9	13	..	Glamorgan	16	4	12	..
Essex	20	15	4	1	Kent	15	15	..	..
Durham	18	7	10	1	Cheshire	14	14	..	..
Total of above	245	139	90	16	Total of above	97	69	26	2

1923 Election.

245	68	104	53	97	49	33	15
-----	----	-----	----	----	----	----	----

The Conservatives now hold 208 seats out of the total of 342 shown in the table, the Labour party 116, and the Liberals 18 seats. The Conservatives have gained 71 seats in these 12 counties, 50 at the expense of the Liberals and 21 from Labour, and actually hold 4 more seats in Lancashire than they held in 1922, 3 more seats in Yorkshire, 4 more seats in Lancarkshire, 2 more in Essex, 3 more in Durham, 1 more in Staffordshire and in Kent, and 3 more in Cheshire, but have lost 5 seats in London since 1922, and 1 in Warwickshire, and retain the same number of seats in Middlesex and Glamorgan. We hope that Mr Baldwin will realise that his Lancashire sweep (among others) would have been impossible had not Lancashire believed implicitly in his pledge not to introduce a tariff.

TABLE II.—Containing 16 COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from 6 to 13 MEMBERS to the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
Hampshire	13	13	..	..	Sussex	9	9	..	..
Surrey	12	12	..	..	Norfolk	8	8	..	..
Devon	11	10	1	..	Midlothian & Peebles	8	4	3	1
Gloucester	11	11	..	..	Leicester	7	7	..	..
Northumberland	10	4	4	2	Somerset	7	7	..	..
Derby	10	10	..	..	Worcester	6	6	..	..
Lincoln	9	1	1	1	Suffolk	6	6	..	..
Nottingham	9	6	3	..	Monmouth	6	6	..	..
Total of above	85	66	16	3	Total of above	57	46	9	2

1923 ELECTION.

85	48	16	21	57	24	15	18
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Of the 142 seats in these 16 counties, the Conservatives now hold 112, compared with 72 at the 1923 election; the Labour party hold 25 compared with 31 last year; and the Liberals hold only 5 seats compared with 39 at the December election. The Conservatives hold all the seats in 6 of the 16 counties, the Labour party have gained 2 seats in Northumberland, and held their own in Lincoln, Nottingham, and Midlothian, but have lost 3 seats in Norfolk and 1 in each of the counties of Gloucester, Derby, Leicester, Somerset, and Suffolk.

TABLE III.—Containing 25 COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN which each Return from 2 to 5 MEMBERS to the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Counties of Great Britain.	Total Seats.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
Cumberland	5	4	1	..	Oxford	5	5	..	..
Wiltshire	5	5	..	..	Bedford	5	5	..	..
Northampton	5	4	1	..	Buckingham	5	5	..	..
Cornwall	5	5	..	..	Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty	5	5	..	..
Hertford	5	5	..	..	Stirling & Clackmannan	5	5	..	..
Aberdeen and Kincardine	5	4	1	..	Cambridge	5	5	..	..
Dorset	4	4	..	..	Hereford	4	4	..	..
Shropshire	4	4	..	..	Perth and Kinross	4	4	..	..
Berkshire	4	4	..	..	Dumbarton	4	4	..	..
Ayr and Bute	4	3	1	..	Carmarvon	4	4	..	..
Renfrew	4	3	1	..	Carmarthen	4	4	..	..
Forfar	4	1	2	1	Denbigh	4	4	..	..
Fife	4	1	3	..	Total of above	58	47	9	2
Total of above	58	47	9	2	Total of above	30	18	4	8

1923 ELECTION.

58	19	18	21	30	9	7	14
----	----	----	----	----	---	---	----

Of the 88 members returned by the 25 counties, and grouped counties in the above table, the Conservatives now claim 64, compared with 28 returned to the last Parliament. In that Parliament Liberals held 35 seats, against the 10 which they now hold; and the Labour party held 25 seats, compared with the 13 which they still retain. They lost 2 seats in Cumberland and 2 in Northampton, and 1 in each of the counties of Ayr and Bute, Renfrew, Stirling and Clackmannan, Shropshire, Berkshire, and Dumbarton and Denbigh.

TABLE IV.—Containing 19 COUNTIES and GROUPS of COUNTIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, which each Return 1 MEMBER to the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Counties of Great Britain.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Counties of Great Britain.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
Westmorland	1	..	..	Roxburgh and Selkirk	1	..	..
Huntingdon	1	..	..	Orkney and Zetland	..	..	1
Argyll	1	..	..	Anglesey	..	..	1
Berwick and Had. dington	1	..	..	Cardigan	..	..	1
Caithness and Sutherland	..	..	1	Flint	1	..	..
Bank	1	..	..	Merioneth	..	..	1
Dumfries	1	..	..	Montgomery	..	..	1
Galloway	1	..	..	Pembroke	1	..	..
Linlithgow	1	..	..	Brecon and Radnor	1	..	..
Moray and Nairn	1	..	..	Total of above	9	..	1
Total of above	9	..	1	Total of above	4	..	5

1923 ELECTION.

2	2	6	1	..	8
---	---	---	---	----	---

At the election in last December the Liberals won 14 of the 19 seats; they now hold only 6, the Conservatives having won the other 8 seats as well as the 2 seats won by Labour last year. The keenness with which the election was fought is testified to by the fact that in only 5 of the 71 Scottish county and burghs did the majorities of the successful candidates fall below a thousand votes, and that Wales polled almost as well by giving majorities

over 1,000 in all except three instances. Time alone I show whether the Liberal land policy failed to appeal to the agricultural areas, or whether it merely failed to get the polling because it was produced too late to be derstood.

CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE advices received from Cuba indicate that the financial like the political—conditions of that country remain in unsatisfactory and unsettled state. Economic circles would appear not, as yet, to have recovered from the crisis which, owing to speculation in sugar, occurred out this time of the year in 1920. It will be remembered that a moratorium was proclaimed, first until December 1, 1920, and thereafter prolonged until February 1, 1921. The political agitation in progress since early in 1922, accompanied by violent charges of corruption against members of the Government; the removal of General Carlos García-Vélez (formerly Cuban Envoy Extraordinary and Minister-Plenipotentiary in London) from his administrative post, and his subsequent appearance as an active opponent of the Executive; have had, of unnaturally, their repercussion upon the economic situation. The affairs of certain banking firms, largely engaged in sugar, tobacco, and other speculative undertakings, remain unliquidated, although it is thought that less unforeseen complications arise in the particular case mentioned, matters will be adjusted by the end of the current year.

In an island of such vast natural resources as that of Cuba, one that is capable of attracting large investments of foreign capital, the absence of any sound banking system is remarkable. From this drawback the Republic has suffered ever since its emancipation from Spanish rule. There has been no precise or categorical legislation which would serve as a guarantee for the influx of that capital which is of such vital importance to the welfare of any young and progressive State. In an almost entirely agricultural country it is felt that banks, founded for the purpose of making long-time loans or loans on mortgage, ought not to be permitted to issue notes payable to bearer on demand. The amount of call deposits sanctioned should be correspondingly restricted. The commercial community in Cuba is still seeking a well-devised banking system sufficiently armoured for safeguarding the interests of the public in these and other respects, thus rendering the monetary institutions of the island of real use. In spite of certain minor reforms that have been introduced (but not always observed), the complaint is still rife that banking in Cuba is conducted under loose conditions. The laws in force are, at best, cumbersome, vague, and but inadequately adapted to the urgent needs of the financial community. Powers possessed by the banks are deemed to be too broad to inspire complete confidence; while the different classes of business handled, in which clients' funds are invested, are not clearly enough defined. Banking operations are not subject to the careful regulation and official inspection which prudence requires, with the result that there is an ever-present danger of mismanagement, injudicious investment, and incurrence of bad debts.

Towards the end of 1922 a tentative central banking system for Cuba was suggested. The institution was to be known as the Central Bank for Cuba, and to have a \$4,000,000 capital, paid up at once, one-half to be held by the Government; one-quarter by banks (including branches of foreign banks); and one-quarter by the public. Foreign capital was to be invited to participate in the public shareholding, and the shares were to be exempt from all Cuban taxes. Much opposition, however, has always been manifested to the establishment of a central bank with note-issuing power, on the ground that this might be used to the country's detriment. On the other hand, plans similar in many respects to the United States Federal Reserve system have been proposed.

Something of the difficulties experienced in the liquidation of the 1920 financial débâcle may be gleaned from the notice recently issued by the Liquidation Board of the Banco Español de la Isla de Cuba. This institution, like others that then failed, has been in the hands of the Bank Liquidation Commission. Much ill-informed criticism has been passed upon the alleged slowness of procedure.

The Commission, however, has had under its control 18 banks and no fewer than 300 branches, with assets aggregating \$170,664,962 and liabilities of \$142,118,004. No fewer than 3,998 cases were submitted; of these by far the greater part have now been decided. Considering the difficulties that the Commission has encountered, more particularly in the direction of finding a market for many of the highest-class securities held by the banks, there appears to exist little cause for the severe strictures passed upon its necessarily extended operations.

There are at present over 120 banks (compared with more than 360 before the 1920 crash) actively operating in Cuba. In this total, foreign branches are included. The Royal Bank of Canada, for example, which took over many of the Trust Company of Cuba's accounts relating to real estate and various fields of insurance, has about 60 such branches in various parts of the island; while the National City Bank of New York operates about 23 branches, having abandoned two. The failure of domestic institutions has naturally brought about a more favourable view concerning foreign banks. Two new houses are about to be established, one, dedicated particularly to the interests of retailers, to be known as the Banco-Hispano Cubano, with an authorised capital of \$5,000,000 and its principal office in Habana; and the other a branch of the Chinese Merchants' Bank, Limited, with a capital of \$500,000 and head offices in the capital. It is thought that Chinese participation in banking arrangements will become much more extensive in the near future, particularly in regard to the increased trade now established in the shipment of rice to the island.

The process of debt liquidation has been aided latterly by the improved trade position still prevalent. For the past financial year the foreign commerce of the country resulted in a total importation of \$267,627,876, against \$180,757,840 for the previous year; but exports increased over the same period from \$331,379,091 to \$418,119,979. Of this considerable volume of trade the United Kingdom claimed exports of goods to Cuba to the value of \$13,051,901, compared with \$9,106,000 for the previous year; while Cuban exports to the United Kingdom fell away from \$37,964,250 to \$30,407,435. As might have been expected, the United States, with its extraordinarily favourable position under the Cuban tariff, considerably increased the volume of its commerce with the island, importing goods worth \$366,639,782, against \$266,510,511 for the previous year; and exporting commodities worth \$180,230,840, compared with \$120,713,766 for the same period in 1922.

GLASS TRADE PROGRESS.

THERE are signs of slow but steady progress in the British glass trade. This industry, which has long been looked upon as a sort of Cinderella in the commercial world, has undoubtedly had a chequered history. During the 'fifties of last century its position appeared to be secure enough, but for 10 or 15 years afterwards competition from abroad made itself felt more and more acutely. After a lull, which continued for a full decade, this increased again in the succeeding years right down to 1903. A reverse process then began, and the industry's fortunes improved steadily for a whole decade, until the terrible war of 1914 imposed its paralysing ban. Now that more normal conditions in trade and commerce are being gradually re-established, it is satisfactory to find that the progressive tendency has been resumed. Here are the overseas trade records for the nine months to September in the last three years:—

GLASS and GLASSWARE (in Thousand £).				
Nine Months to September.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	
Imports	3,288	3,135	3,276	3,276
Re-exports	49	55	73	73
Net imports	3,239	3,080	3,203	3,203
British exports	1,545	1,795	1,877	1,877
Excess of imports	1,694	1,285	1,326	1,326

The steady rise of exports is particularly noticeable, as contrasted with the comparatively stationary imports. They were in 1922 considerably under one-half of the net

imports, and are this year materially over one-half of them. This will appear sufficiently striking when we remember that about the beginning of the present century exports were substantially less than one-third of the net imports.

This improvement apparently has no connection with the efforts made during the post-war boom to stimulate the industry by introducing large amounts of new capital. That movement might have done much good had it been wisely managed. It was spoiled by rash financial methods, and has quite probably done more harm than good to the trade, as it certainly has to the investing public.

A wide survey of the industry's records, covering the past 65 years, will show that the renaissance began about ten years before the war. Here are the imports and exports since 1859:—

BRITAIN'S OVERSEA TRADE IN GLASS AND GLASSWARE.
(Thousand £.)

Five-year Averages.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports.
1859-63	333 ..	650 ..	317 ..
1864-68	725 ..	781 ..	56 ..
1869-73	1,104 ..	1,013 ..	91 ..
1874-78	1,825 ..	956 ..	869 ..
1879-83	1,662 ..	966 ..	696 ..
1884-88	1,675 ..	1,024 ..	651 ..
1889-93	2,209 ..	975 ..	1,234 ..
1894-98	2,839 ..	831 ..	2,008 ..
1899-03	3,472 ..	1,041 ..	2,431 ..
1904-08	3,173 ..	1,230 ..	1,943 ..
1909-13	3,097 ..	1,653 ..	1,444 ..
1914-18	1,614 ..	1,267 ..	347 ..
Single Years.			
1919	3,458 ..	1,461 ..	1,997 ..
1920	8,507 ..	3,211 ..	5,296 ..
1921	4,623 ..	2,175 ..	2,448 ..
1922	4,475 ..	2,089 ..	2,386 ..
1923	4,366 ..	2,353 ..	2,013 ..

Re-exports are not easily available for the whole of this period, and are not of material consequence, so they have been omitted.

It will be seen that after a slight struggle, which decreased the excess of imports during the 'seventies and 'eighties, the trade steadily lost ground, until in the five years to 1903 exports were only 30 per cent. of the imports. In the next five years the proportion rose to nearly 40 per cent., and during the five years ending with 1913 advanced still further to 50 per cent. This more favourable proportion was lost during the post-war boom, but it was more than re-established in 1923, when exports were nearly 54 per cent. of the imports. Reference to the first table will show that even this has now been bettered, for during the nine months to September, 1924, exports were about 57 per cent. of the imports. It seems clear that since the opening years of the present century our glass-makers have gained materially in competitive strength. It is to be hoped that they will improve their organisation and methods still further, for with the expected settlement of European affairs competition will probably be more keen in the coming years, though Continental producers will certainly not have everything in their favour.

In the year before the war (1913) more than three-fourths of the goods landed on these shores came from Belgium and Germany—Belgium having slightly the advantage over her fellow-competitor, in that she supplied us with about 42 per cent. of our imports, against Germany's 36 per cent. Experience since the war seems to indicate that these two countries and Czecho-Slovakia will in future be the main shippers to this market. If so, then a few considerations with regard to them will be of much interest to our producers. At times since the close of the war Belgian exporters have been temporarily assisted by a rapid depreciation of their currency in the money markets of the world. But since the comparative steadiness of the Belgian franc around 90 has been achieved, the internal and external value of the currency seems to have been approximately equalised, so that this advantage will no longer be enjoyed by Belgian producers. Indeed, any improvement in currency which the European settlement brings about may be expected to operate as a check to them temporarily, at all events. As to Germany, her reparation and other burdens are sufficiently onerous to prevent her from sweeping everything before her. She

will have to make all possible efforts to increase her exports in this as in every other trade, but how far the existing handicaps will permit her to do so remains to be seen. It seems, at all events, quite probable that competition from that quarter will be no keener than in pre-war days. That this was not insuperable is shown by the achievements of our manufacturers during the ten years to 1913, as recorded in the table already considered, and what our producers did then they should be able to do again.

A convincing proof of the progress already made is obtained by contrasting the average excess of imports for the five years to 1903 (£2,431,000) with the excess of £2,013,000 shown for last year. Excluding bottles, imports in 1900 were valued at a little under £1 2s per cwt. The corresponding figure for 1923 was over £2 5s per cwt. Plainly, the excess of imports last year must have been in quantity much less than half of what it was at the beginning of the century. Or, to put it in another way, we may say that if the prices of 1900 had continued to prevail, the excess of exports in 1923 would have been, not £2,013,000, but £984,000.

Unfortunately, the records of quantities are not sufficiently perfect to be given in great detail, but in three large groups they may be used without undue distortion of results. Here, then, is a comparison with the last pre-war year, 1913:—

IMPORTS.	1913.			1923.			Dec.
	Thous. Cwts.	£.	per Cwt.	Thous. Cwts.	£.	per Cwt.	
Plate and sheet*	1,684	1,249	0.8	876	1,576	1.8	808
Other glass	997	1,385	1.4	658	1,963	3.0	339
	2,681	2,634	1.0	1,534	3,539	2.3	1,147
	Thous. Gross.	£.	per Gross.	Thous. Gross.	£.	per Gross.	Thous. Gross.
Bottles and jars	1,924	815	0.4	1,090	827	0.8	834
	Thous. Cwts.	£.	per Cwt.	Thous. Cwts.	£.	per Cwt.	Thous. Cwts.
Plate and sheet*	852	895	1.0	750	1,642	2.2	102
Other glass	83	313	3.7	40	413	10.3	43
	935	1,208	1.3	790	2,055	2.6	145
	Thous. Gross.	£.	per Gross.	Thous. Gross.	£.	per Gross.	Thous. Gross.
Bottles and jars	974	606	0.6	266	298	1.1	708

* A small and unimportant amount of glass "not elsewhere specified" is unavoidably included in imports and exports.

It will be seen that quantities show a considerable reduction all round. But whereas imports of foreign goods have fallen by 1,147,000 cwts, exports of British goods have dropped by only 145,000 cwts. It is in plate and sheet glass that the efforts of our manufacturers have met with most success. In 1913 they shipped only half the quantity imported, while in 1923 the proportion was raised to seven-eighths.

As to prices, it may be said that they have roughly increased by about 100 per cent. all round, though too much stress must not be laid on the average figures, because of the many different qualities of glassware they cover.

Unfortunately, we do not yet know whence the imports for 1923 were derived. For 1922, however, Belgium still sent us about 42 per cent. of the total value, while Germany's proportion had sunk to about 17 per cent. It is notable, however, that Czecho-Slovakia appears as the supplier of no less than 21 per cent. of the total value of imports. Thus these three countries were responsible for 80 per cent. or more of the shipments landed here in 1922.

As regards the varieties of goods supplied, Germany's contribution was well spread all over the list, whereas Czecho-Slovakia's was mostly concentrated on domestic and fancy glassware, globes and shades. Vastly the greater proportion of Belgium's consignments consisted of plate and sheet glass, though in domestic and fancy glassware she also sent a large amount, the value being second only to that from Czecho-Slovakia, while Germany ranked as a very bad third.

Evidently these are the three countries to be watched in future—and mainly in domestic and fancy glassware, where imports greatly exceed exports. In the value of

plate and sheet glass, as shown by the preceding table, British firms have established a balance of exports, and the experience of the last four years is instructive:—

PLATE AND SHEET GLASS (Thousand £.).					
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	
Imports	2,280 ..	1,355 ..	1,548 ..	1,526 ..	
Exports	1,548 ..	1,048 ..	1,230 ..	1,602 ..	
Excess of imports ..	732 ..	307 ..	318 ..	..	
" " exports ..	..	..	..	..	76

There seems to be no essential reason why our manufacturers should not ultimately do as well in domestic and fancy glassware as they have done in plate and sheet glass. That they will succeed in this is the hope of all who believe in the future of the British glass trade.

Notes of the Week.

The New Cabinet.—Mr Baldwin issued on Thursday night the list of his new Cabinet, which is as follows:—

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, and Leader of the House of Commons.	Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Leader of the House of Commons.	Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P.
Lord Privy Seal.	Most Hon. the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords.	Most Hon. the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
Lord Chancellor.	Rt. Hon. Viscount Cave, G.C.M.G., K.C.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.	Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, C.H., M.P.
Secretary of State for Home Affairs.	Rt. Hon. Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Bt., M.P.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.	Rt. Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, M.P.
Secretary of State for War.	Rt. Hon. Sir L. Worthington-Evans, Bt., C.B.E., M.P.
Secretary of State for India.	Rt. Hon. the Earl of Birkenhead, K.C.
Secretary of State for Air.	Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., C.M.G., M.P.
First Lord of the Admiralty.	Rt. Hon. W. C. Bridgeman, M.P.
President of the Board of Trade.	Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, K.B.E., M.C., M.P.
Minister of Health.	Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.	Rt. Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P.
Secretary for Scotland.	Rt. Hon. Sir John Gilmour, Bt., M.P.
President of the Board of Education.	Lord Eustace Percy, M.P.
Minister of Labour.	Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bt., M.P.
Attorney-General.	Rt. Hon. Sir Douglas McGarel Hogg, K.C., M.P.

On a previous page we have passed comment upon the appointments of Mr Churchill, Mr Austen Chamberlain, and Lord Birkenhead. With one or two reservations, we should describe Mr Baldwin's team as the strongest that could have been chosen from the available candidates. Inevitably, one regrets the absence of the veteran Earl Balfour, who only this week, in a speech at a complimentary dinner to Mr Owen B. Young, proved that he has lost none of the vision, mental alertness, and eloquence of past days. Lord Derby, in view of the Conservative sweep in Lancashire, is a surprising absentee, while Sir Robert Horne finds himself unable to relinquish his business obligations. Lord Robert Cecil's name does not appear, but we hope to hear that he will resume his work as liaison officer with the League of Nations. Apart from these omissions, and from the unexpected appointment of Mr. Bridgeman at the Admiralty, the list provides little powder and shot to the critic, unless he be swayed by the obsession of party claims. It is, without doubt, a stronger Cabinet—stronger both in administrative and debating power—than that over which Mr. Baldwin presided a year ago; and it is far happier as regards the division of strength between the Lords and Commons. Mr Baldwin has obviously been at pains to correct the weakness of the Treasury Bench, which was at times painfully obvious during his last administration. Of prentice

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

One of the largest and strongest Banks in America. Resources of \$300,000,000.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

hands there are only two. Lord Eustace Percy is a new, and young, broom at the Ministry of Education, where he will find scope for the streak of liberal thought of which in the more hide-bound sections of his party he is sternly suspected. The other newcomer to high office is Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, who, at the Ministry of Labour, will have no reason to complain of opportunity to win his spurs. How the team will pull together remains to be seen. The task of driving it will tax to the full those qualities of courage and independence which the new Premier has shown in its selection.

The Municipal Elections.—The annual municipal elections were held last Saturday in all the boroughs of England and Wales outside London. Statistics of four score of electoral areas show that there were about 950 seats to be filled, and 1,678 candidates sought to obtain them. Of these, 300 were returned unopposed, Conservatives 127, Liberals 69, Labour 54, and Independents 50. In the contests for the remaining 650 seats Labour appears to have run little short of 500 candidates, of whom only 154 were elected. There is a tendency in the Press to regard this as a dramatic failure of Labour's "massed attack." But a careful study of such figures as are available shows that commentators who take this line are as far from the heart of the truth as those who, in their appraisal of the Conservative success in the Parliamentary elections, ignore the increase of a million votes in the Labour poll. Labour, it appears, made in these areas a net gain of about 20 seats, the Conservatives gaining 8, Liberals losing 24, and the Independents 4. If there is any room for surprise in these figures it is not that Labour failed to record bigger gains, but that the Conservatives' sweeping victory in Parliamentary representation failed to reflect itself more clearly in the very same week in the choice of representatives for municipal councils. The Liberals, it will be seen, while suffering a loss of seats which was inevitable under the circumstances, suffered very much less severely than in the Parliamentary contest.

The League Council and Turkey.—A correspondent writes:—The special meeting of the Council of the League of Nations, summoned at the request of the British Government, took place in Brussels last week, and cleared up satisfactorily, at any rate on paper, the two questions upon which complaints had been lodged against the Turkish Government. The first was the settlement of the differences of interpretation regarding the *status quo* line to be observed between Turkey and Iraq pending the final settlement of the frontier by the Council, and the other was a complaint from the Greeks that the Turkish authorities had violated the Lausanne Agreement dealing with the compulsory exchange of Greeks and Turks. In both cases the Council was in the happy position of having the declaration of all parties in advance that they would accept its decisions. The Turks tacitly abandoned their ridiculous claim that the *status quo* intended was the one existing at the time of the Council's resolution last September, just after they had sent their troops into territory hitherto administered by Iraq, and instead took the ground, which was by no means so unreasonable, that Great Britain had frequently varied and extended her claims regarding the frontier line. They declared themselves quite ready, however, to accept the *status quo* as it existed in July, 1923, at the date of the signature of the Treaty of Lausanne—as obviously

intended by the Council's resolution of last September—and what the Council had to do was as far as possible to define that line. This was roughly in accordance with the proposals presented to the Council by Lord Parmoor, with a little modification of 10 kilometres in favour of the Turks in the western end and a small modification in favour of the British in the middle-east of the line. The line was accepted by both parties, and it means that the Turks will have to withdraw their troops from the area where recent incidents have occurred. It is to be hoped that they will observe this decision without any more quibbling. The Greek case regarding the Greeks in Constantinople was not too strong. The Lausanne Convention excluded from the compulsory exchange all Greeks who were established in Constantinople in October, 1918, and the Greeks asserted that the Turks had rounded up a large number of these and other Greeks on their own initiative and without the authority of the Mixed Commission, which has full competence to decide all matters involving exchanges. This Commission is comprised of four Greeks and four Turks, with three neutrals appointed by the Council of the League, and it has been endeavouring to settle for some time the interpretation of the word "established," upon which differences have arisen. The Greeks say that the Turks had, by the withdrawal of their first delegate, caused a cessation in the meetings of the Commission in order to have their hands free, but General De Lara, the Spanish President of the Commission, said that the Commission was still studying the problem, and that, with regard to the rounding up of Greeks in Constantinople, they were mainly those who had been designated for compulsory exchange, but who had not left within the time limit prescribed by the Commission. Turkish police had certainly made some serious mistakes which the Commission had succeeded in having put right, but he informed the Council that, apart from this, the Turkish authorities had done nothing to encroach upon or impede the work of the Commission. General De Lara, in fact, seemed somewhat annoyed that the matter should have been brought to the Council over the heads of the Commission. The Council received from both the Greek and Turkish delegates expressions of confidence in the Commission, and it therefore asked the Commission to hurry up with its decision on the interpretation of the word "established," informing it that if it found legal difficulties too great, it could always go to the Court, through the Council or through the two Governments, for a decision. It asked the Commission to keep it informed of the progress that was being made, and General De Lara promised that this should be done. It also expressed the hope that nothing would be done meanwhile to prejudice the effects of such a decision, and both parties agreed. Incidentally, both parties raised the question of the treatment of properly established Greeks in Constantinople and Turks in Western Thrace under the heading of protection of minorities, each party accusing the other of non-fulfilment of treaty terms. They were invited to send to the Secretary-General of the League detailed statements, so that the Council may take up the matter at its next meeting in Rome on December 8th.

The New Phase in China.—The developments that have taken place at Peking are more surprising than ever. For the moment, at any rate, the civil war appears to be practically suspended, not as had been expected, through a victory for Wu Pei-fu, but by his decisive defeat. Some 30,000 of his troops were surrounded towards the end of last week at Shanhaikwan by Chang Tso-lin's forces, and compelled to surrender; the rest, said to have numbered 50,000, were attacked by Feng Yu-hsiang's army near the mouth of the Pei-ho, at Taku; and the forces sent to relieve Wu by the Tuchuns of the Central Provinces were blocked at Langchow, the junction of the Lung-hai and Tientsin-Pukow railways, by Shantung troops supporting Feng Yu-hsiang. Wu Pei-fu himself escaped on a Chinese cruiser, and was able to embark a portion of his army on transports; and he has gone southwards with them to continue his resistance, but it seems probable that any attempt to land them will be withstood. The Tuchun of Hupeh is stated to have sent troops north-

wards, who have occupied Lo-yang in Wu Pei-fu's interest, but it seems very doubtful if they can do more. Meanwhile, Chang Tso-lin's advance guard has reached Tientsin; Dr Yen, the Chih-li Prime Minister, has followed the example of President Tsao-Kun by resigning, and Feng Yu-hsiang has set up a new Ministry, which, contrary to expectation, contains no member of the growing Anfu party, but is made up of two of his own supporters, Huang Fu and Dr. C. T. Wang, who respectively are Premier and Foreign Minister, two supporters of Chang Tso-lin, who become respectively Ministers of the Interior and of Agriculture and Commerce, one member, the Minister of Justice, who is non-partisan, and one, the Minister of Marine, who has supported Wu Pei-fu. The first two are Westernised Chinese, who have studied for years in Japan and the United States, and have had some political experience; the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Wang Nai-Ping, has held the same office previously, but does not appear to have studied abroad. This Ministry is regarded as provisional, pending the election of a new President, and the Peace Conference, which will not assemble, however, till two months hence; its first act has been to take over the Imperial quarter of Peking, and compel the young Emperor—stripped in 1912 of all but his religious functions—to abdicate altogether; it has reduced the allowance (never yet paid) appropriated in that year to the disestablished Manchu dynasty, and granted him permission to reside anywhere within the jurisdiction of the Chinese Government. Probably this step is intended to preclude a restoration of the Monarchy, and is due to the influence of the envoy of Soviet Russia. Sun Yat-sen is coming North to attend the Conference, but it seems hardly likely that he can retain his hold on Canton meanwhile. But will the Tuchuns of the Central Provinces accept Wu Pei-fu's defeat, and will Feng Yu-hsiang and Chang Tso-lin come to an agreement? And will Tuan Chi-jui, the leader of the revived Anfu party, claim a share in the Government? As the Chih-li party has gone to pieces, it is possible that an Anfu Government may be set up with Tuan Chi-jui as President, and more or less accessible to Japanese influence, but subject to Chang Tso-lin's control. The future rests not with the politicians, but with the military leaders, and they will negotiate rather than resume warfare. But it seems likely that whatever Government emerges will be demonstratively Nationalist.

Conditions in Hong Kong.—Our correspondent, writing on October 1st, says:—We are constantly reminded by our local orators that "Shipping is the colony's life-blood," and the busy state of the harbour of Hong Kong fully confirms this. One day last week there were no less than 101 ocean-going vessels in port ranging from a Pacific liner of 22,000 tons down to the humble coaster. British steamers, of course, preponderated, there being 38 of them, while the Japanese numbered 14, American 11, Portuguese and Chinese 9 each, Norwegian 8, Dutch 5, Swedish 3, and Chilean and Danish 2 each. Of the nations not represented, France, Italy, Spain, and Germany each have one or more lines which call here, and a Russian steamer has since come in showing us for the first time the Soviet flag. The presence of so many vessels involves the employment of numerous small craft, and the constant coming and going of launches, lighters, junks, and sampans gives the impression that business is brisk. Yet the opposite is the case, and most of the cargo arriving is added to the heavy stocks lying in the godowns, while there is very little China produce to be loaded for Europe or America. The past few weeks have seen large arrivals of woollen piece-goods, and, according to Bradford advices, exports to the Far East during July exceeded all previous records. It is at present too early to judge whether the big quantities of woollens ordered for this winter can be digested by the market, but clearances for the past month have been quite up to the average, and the position may be better than appears on the surface. Everything depends on the political situation, and the one hopeful sign is that the running sore of maladministration is coming to a head in Canton, leaving the other cities and towns of the province in a healthier condition than they have been for some time past. Apart from an occa-

sional piracy and bandit outrage, there has been a period of quietness for most districts outside the Canton area during the past month or six weeks. If, therefore, Sun Yat Sen can be forced to depart from Canton, or persuaded to take a trip abroad, there is no reason why Kwantung should not enjoy a breathing space which would enable the city fathers of Canton to consolidate their position, and out of the present chaos evolve an administration in closer accord with the wishes of the people, and one which will afford some protection to the commercial interests of the province.

Index of "Free" Shipping Freights.—The October figure of our Index of Shipping Freights, based on fixtures in the free market for whole cargoes, is 134.43. The rise for the month amount to 4.56 per cent., the average level of freights, as measured by our index, being now 7 per cent. higher than in the corresponding month of last year. The movements of the various groups in the index are indicated in the following table:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	529.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December.....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.57
December, 1923.....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February.....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March.....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April.....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May.....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June.....	128.56	135.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37
July.....	123.66	121.87	121.91	120.13	114.69	121.96	120.70
August.....	120.45	128.10	119.94	118.97	113.31	128.19	121.49
September.....	117.90	138.94	123.20	124.93	122.19	144.22	128.56
October.....	118.80	143.09	125.96	126.59	135.47	156.68	134.43

The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	103.70	- 4.92	S. America—outwards.....	98.63	+ 4.38
Bay—outwards.....	128.44	- 1.83	" homewards.....	153.29	+ 1.35
" homewards.....	128.91	+ 1.47	India—outwards.....	117.90	- 1.39
Mediterranean—outwards.....	142.71	+ 6.46	" homewards.....	135.98	+ 7.51
" homewards.....	108.44	+ 6.32	Far East, &c.....	135.47	+ 13.28
North America.....	143.09	+ 4.15	Australia.....	156.68	+ 12.46

The volume of space chartered during the month fell short of the exceptional amount taken up in September. Shippers were disposed to await the outcome of the various imminent elections before extending their commitments, while sharp fluctuations in grain prices following the recent heavy purchases on European account tended to restrict forward chartering by merchants. In the latter half of the month freights from both Americas registered a moderate reaction, but there were no signs of any undue excess of tonnage as yet pressing on markets, in spite of the substantial amount of idle shipping recommissioned during the third quarter of the year. The requirements of Australian exporters, and of the Burmah rice crop, caused a sharp advance in the Far East and Australian groups. The indices for outward routes, particularly in near European waters, continued, as a whole, to reflect slow exports of British coal, but coal freights to the Mediterranean were slightly firmer, and there were signs of broadening in the volume of homeward ore cargoes forthcoming from that quarter, though without much effect on rates. A comparison between the outward and homeward indices for the Mediterranean and South America respectively in the above table illustrates curiously the effect which relative changes in the volume of homeward cargoes appear to have had since our pre-war base period on the transportation costs which different purchasers of British coal have to bear. The relation of

ALL BRANCHES OF
INTERNATIONAL BANKING
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK
16 WALL STREET
LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendôme

the index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

Month.	1913 = 100.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January.....	194.59	..	131.60	..	117.11
February.....	164.54	..	135.76	..	123.78
March.....	162.17	..	135.53	..	122.09
April.....	147.48	..	129.46	..	117.22
May.....	158.42	..	125.12	..	114.27
June.....	165.73	..	117.45	..	108.62
July.....	169.87	..	114.52	..	103.75
August.....	170.60	..	113.16	..	104.43
September.....	154.47	..	110.37	..	110.50
October.....	141.85	..	114.42	..	115.55
November.....	136.47	..	119.43	..	..
December.....	134.66	..	117.39	..	..
Mean for year.....	158.40	..	122.02	..	109.69

The autumnal rise in tramp freights would already seem to have made more than normal seasonal progress. Having regard to the early closing of the St Lawrence, it is doubtful if freights during the remainder of this year can be raised to any materially higher figure through movements of grain alone. While the results of European harvests indicate the necessity for substantial transportation of cereals from overseas throughout the winter, assured recovery of tramp shipping to a stable margin of profit is conditional on a further general increase in the demand for raw materials on the part of producers.

Customs and Excise Duties.—The annual report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs and Excise for the year ended March 31, 1924,* elaborates in detail the figures already given in the Finance Accounts for 1923-24. As a result of adjustments with the Free State in respect of Customs and Excise revenue in 1922-23 there was a net amount of £2,888,000 due from the Free State. Of this sum £2,250,000 was paid in 1923-24, and the balance carried forward to the current year. We reproduce in the table below some interesting figures given in the report showing the consumption of Empire and foreign goods in 1923-24 under Imperial preference:—

	Quantities Retained for Consumption.			Proportion of Empire Goods to Total.
	At Full Rate.	At Preferential Rate.	Total.	
Spirits.....galls.	1,023,000	1,494,000	2,517,000	58.3
Wine.....galls.	13,120,000	715,000	13,835,000	5.2
Tea.....lbs.	44,592,000	332,411,000	377,003,000	88.2
Raw cocoa.....cwts.	64,000	796,000	860,000	92.6
Coffee.....cwts.	163,000	149,000	312,000	47.9
Sugar.....cwts.	21,646,000	7,354,000	29,000,000	25.4
Dried fruits.....cwts.	2,507,000	301,000	2,808,000	10.7
Tobacco.....lbs.	119,441,000	9,369,300	128,810,000	7.3
Motor cars.....£	3,117,000	1,787,000	4,904,000	36.4
Musical instruments.....£	967,000	5,000	972,000	0.5
Cinematograph films ft.	100,331,000	249,000	100,580,000	0.2

Imperial preference was instituted by section 8 of the Finance Act, 1919, and has been in force since June 2, 1919, for tea, and since September 1, 1919, for the other articles to which it applies. Most of the foreign tea in

* H.M. Stationery Office. 4s net.

1923-24 came from Java and Sumatra, and only about 3 per cent. from China. India sent 60.84 per cent. of the total and Ceylon 27.48 per cent. The quantity of beer consumed in 1922-23 was 19.8 million standard barrels, and the consumption in 1923-24, if the duty had not been altered, was estimated at 19 million barrels. The reduction of duty was expected to cause consumption to rise to 20.9 million barrels, and in the event this was slightly exceeded, the actual amount being 21 million barrels, an increase of 6 per cent. on the consumption of the previous year. The consumption of wine has been rising continuously since 1921-22. In 1922-23 it was probably about 12 million gallons, and the Budget estimate for 1923-24 was placed at £3 millions, representing a consumption of 12½ million gallons, but the actual receipts were £3,369,000, representing 13.8 million gallons. The duties on dried fruits—currants, raisins, figs and plums—fluctuate considerably from year to year. In 1923-24 all headings except plums yielded more, and the total revenue was £928,000, against £816,000 in 1922-23. The report adds that the quantities of raisins received from Australia and South Africa, and of currants from Australia are increasing steadily, and represented about 19 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively of the total consumed in 1923-24. The quantity of Empire preserved plums, mainly from South Africa, has also increased, and amounted to nearly 5 per cent. of the total, but there were no Empire dried figs. The quantity of home-grown tobacco retained for consumption was only 5,000 lbs, representing a revenue of £1,400, as compared with 15,000 lbs and a revenue of £5,000 in the preceding year. No further orders were issued by the Board of Trade under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1921. Depreciated Currency Duty remained in force, as regards the articles of German origin specified in the orders previously issued, the amount received being £248,000, of which over £117,000 was for fabric gloves. The revenue from the Key Industry Duty was £383,000, against £334,000 in 1922-23.

Coal Trade Finances.—The joint audits for the South Wales coalfield continue to show losses. That for September has been announced this week, and it gives a deficit of £158,552 on an output of 3,779,447 tons. This is the fourth month in succession when the revenue of the industry has been less than the outlay. In June there was a loss of £241,198, in July of £72, in August of £230,021, and in September of £158,552, making a total loss for the four months of nearly £630,000. There is no precedent for so heavy a loss, averaging, as it does, about 10d per ton, over so long a period. The output in September was slightly greater than in August, when production suffered a great deal from the holidays, and this fact was responsible for a decrease of about 2d per ton in the labour cost of production, and of 2½d per ton in other costs. The average price realised was, at 18s 10d, about 1d per ton higher than that obtained in August. The general wage rate in November is maintained at the minimum of 42.22 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates, but the wage certified by the auditors as payable within the terms of the national agreement was only 17.6 per cent., or 24.62 per cent. less than the minimum, and that difference has to be met by the sacrifice on the part of the owners of both their standard profits and their share of the surplus available after meeting standard charges, and the total deficiency carried forward has been increased as a result of the September audit to over £2,500,000.

Trade Prospects in India.—Mr T. M. Ainscough, the British Senior Trade Commissioner in India, has this week issued his report* for the year ending June last. In his opinion, there is an immense amount of latent purchasing power in the country which will be translated into actual buying if only manufacturers' prices can be reduced, and if only some degree of stability in cotton goods prices could be reached which would engender confidence. After four years of unprecedented depression it is now possible to sound a note of guarded optimism.

* H.M. Stationery Office. 3s net.

Stocks of imported cotton goods throughout India are very light. During the past year the demand has been insistent, and the relative meagreness of the actual transactions put through is solely due to the high and fluctuating prices caused by the constant variations in the value of raw cotton. It is pointed out that during the last three years India has experienced good monsoons, and considerable prosperity in the country districts. In discussing the tariff question, Mr Ainscough says that recent debates in the Assembly on the Steel Industry (Protection) Act show clearly that the members are by no means unanimously Protectionist in their sympathies, and representatives of the agricultural provinces have voiced the case of the poorer classes, for whom Protection in any form would be disadvantageous. Reference is made in the report to political influences on trade in India. The boycott of foreign goods for a time appeared to have serious possibilities, but the results have not been so detrimental to the Lancashire trade as might have been expected. In the opinion of Mr Ainscough, it is doubtful whether this movement has so far had any appreciable effect on the imports of British goods. The system of organised opposition to British trade and influence is merely a temporary phase which will pass away.

Egyptian Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The Egyptian cotton crop for this season is not likely to be so large as expected a month or two ago, when it was thought in some quarters that the output would be nearly 8,000,000 cantars and a record. This week the Alexandria Produce Association has published an estimate of 6,970,000 cantars. From the point of view of Lancashire spinners, a serious development is the decline in the production of Sakellaridis, and it is probable that the amount of this quality will only be about 3,000,000 cantars, against 4,500,000 cantars in 1923-24. Prices for Sakellaridis have recently advanced rapidly, and are now at a premium of nearly 8d per lb on brown descriptions. Numerous spinners who have produced yarns from Sakellaridis are turning their machinery on to other qualities. A move of this kind, however, is not easily accomplished, and the shortage of supplies is having a very disturbing effect upon trade. It is rather difficult to obtain reliable information, but extensive speculative operations are undoubtedly taking place in the Alexandria market, and there is a fear of a break in prices any day. It may be mentioned that with regard to the mills in Lancashire using American cotton, the increase in working hours has come into operation this week, the factories now running 32 hours a week instead of 26½. It is not likely that the Masters' Federation will make any further change in the short time scheme just at present, but the trade situation is being watched very closely, and when the facts justify an alteration a further recommendation will be made. Trade conditions remain healthier, but it is realised that progress in increasing output will have to be accomplished slowly in order to avoid the loss of the ground recently gained.

The Changed Outlook for Oil.—The depression in the American oil industry seems to be passing. It had been part of the measures taken to curtail over-production that pipe-line runs should be "pro-rated" by some pipe-line companies, and that other purchasing companies, while taking delivery of crude oil offered by producers, should pay for only half, charging a monthly storage rental on the unpurchased half. During last month "pro-rating" came to an end, and purchasing companies generally took and paid for all the crude oil offered. These were the first signs of better conditions. Since September 13th there has been a steady decline in the daily average rate of American crude oil production. The following figures are those of the American Petroleum Institute:—

U.S. DAILY AVERAGE CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN BARRELS.			
September 13	2,041,460	October 4	2,010,450
" 20	2,038,850	" 11	1,984,000
" 27	2,024,350	" 18	1,971,350
		" 23	1,957,700

A decline of 83,750 barrels in the daily production within this short period is an important consideration. Another is the continued increase in the consumption of fuel oil. The

seasonal falling off in gasoline consumption generally commences in November, but the demand for fuel oil is said to be much stronger now than at this period last year. There has developed a more extensive use of fuel oil for firing the boilers that heat public buildings, hotels, apartment houses, and even private houses. From the domestic labour-saving point of view, the advantages of fuel oil over coal are immense. At the same time, the demand for fuel oil for ships' bunkers steadily increases as more and more ships are converted to oil burning or constructed with Diesel engines. Fuel oil is a product which in bulk accounts for over 50 per cent. of every barrel of crude oil produced. It is therefore possible that this changed demand may lead to an actual increase in the winter consumption of crude oil by refineries, and so obviate the seasonal banking up of stocks. The existing accumulation of stocks is, however, enormous. At the beginning of the year stocks of both crude oil and refined oil products in the United States amounted to 475,278,236 barrels; at the end of August they amounted to 515,899,304 barrels, the equivalent of nearly eight months' supply at the August rate of consumption. During September it is reported that, for the first time this year, stocks of crude oil have been drawn upon. Already prices have begun to move in an upward direction. The heavy crude oils, from which fuel oil is manufactured, were the first to reflect the changed conditions. At the end of September the price of Smackover (Arkansas) crude oil was advanced by 15 cents, and on October 11th by 10 cents, reaching 85 cents a barrel. Higher prices were subsequently demanded in fuel oil bunkering contracts, both in this country and America, for deliveries in 1925. Light crude oils have not yet been advanced, but the reduction in the price of mid-Continent crude oils on September 27th was believed to be the end of the downward wave in the price cycle. The price range of mid-Continent crude oils at the beginning of the year was from 75 cents to \$1.25 per barrel. By March 8th it had risen to \$1.25-\$2.25 per barrel. In May it began to decline, and at the end of September was back at the range of 75 cents to \$1.25 per barrel. The wholesale prices of gasoline have also begun to rise in certain districts. The existing accumulation of surplus stocks are, however, a sufficient safeguard against any sharp rebound in oil prices generally, and there is still the possibility of the daily crude oil output rising again above the 2,000,000 mark as new discoveries or extensions of the newly-discovered fields are made.

The Lead Market.—Considerable interest has this week been displayed in the lead position. Supplies, despite the high level of prices, continue on a very small scale, the arrivals for October having been very moderate. The supplies in public warehouses are down to one single ton, and this shows how acute the general position is, although there are stocks in other hands. English lead has again touched £40 per ton, and foreign for very prompt arrival made anything from £38 up to £38 17s 6d. There has been a very heavy turnover, with a lot of speculative buying, but, of course, at this high level the position must be regarded as somewhat dangerous. The market in the States is very strong, and while this has no direct bearing on the course of the market here, it has a sentimental influence, and the active demand in American circles attracts the bulk of the Mexican supplies. Germany is a very heavy buyer of lead, and all of this is not for speculative account. The returns show that Germany last year only produced about 35,000 tons of lead, against 188,000 tons in 1913, and there has been no material expansion this year. Germany is likely to require large quantities of pig-lead for some time to come, and there is not the slightest sign of any change as regards supplies. In 1920, lead on the London market went over £50 per ton, and it is quite likely that foreign lead will rise to over £40 here before the close of the present year. The highest touched in 1921 was £31, and in the following year prices never went above £27. Last year the market advanced to close on £32 for a brief period, and current rates may be regarded as very satisfactory to the base

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

metal producers. There is absolutely no surplus anywhere, and if the demand goes on expanding there is bound to be a serious shortage.

The American Cotton-Growers' Exchange.—The Federal Trade Commission, amid its numerous other activities, useful and otherwise, has lately completed an investigation of co-operative cotton marketing associations, writes a correspondent, and has compared the operating costs of these associations with those of private firms for the season 1922-23. This comparison seems to show that co-operative selling is more profitable than individual selling, and the F.T.C. therefore accords its blessing to these associations. The State Bank Division of the American Bankers' Association has also affirmed its faith "in the wisdom of the orderly marketing of crops, and in the efficiency of the co-operative marketing idea." And the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association is of the same mind. With such stately approval the newly-formed exchange should go on its way rejoicing. The exchange consists of a federation of numerous co-operative associations, with a total membership of about 250,000 cotton growers, and it has just lately moved its headquarters to Memphis. The total business transacted has increased from \$40,000,000 three years ago, when the exchange was first established, to \$120,000,000 for the season just closed—1923-24. Offices and branches have been established in nearly every important spinning centre in the world, including Liverpool, Bremen, Havre, and Kobe. Every type of cotton grown in the States is handled by the exchange, and a special form of contract with the farmers has been drawn up, under which the farmers undertake to deliver their entire crops for a period of years. The main policy of the exchange is to avoid speculation and violent fluctuations, to obtain a fair price for the grower, and—implied in this latter—to avoid also what is called "country damage," by prompt warehousing without undue exposure to the weather. The cotton from each member is graded and placed with other lots or pools of cotton of like quality, grade, or staple. Each pool is handled separately, and the farmer gets the average price of the season that is obtained for the pool into which his cotton is placed.

Low Temperature Carbonisation.—It is important, because it is rare, to obtain an impartial, disinterested opinion on the merits of the low temperature carbonisation of coal process. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which has been empowered by the Government to make tests at the public expense of plants for the low temperature carbonisation of bituminous coal, has lately published a test carried out by the Director of Fuel Research on the plant of the Low Temperature Carbonisation, Limited, at Barnsley.* This company claims to have established the commercial success of its process. It has made much of its fourteen year contract with the City of Nottingham for the supply of gas for which it is erecting a low temperature carbonisation plant to treat 1,000 tons of coal a day, and is making arrangements for the disposal locally of the output of smokeless fuel. It is, therefore, important at this stage to have the unbiased opinion of the Director of Fuel Research. The test he made was carried out on an installation of "Parker" low temperature retorts at the Barnsley works, consisting of two units, each capable of carbonising 50 tons of coal per 24 hours. The coal used was Dalton Main (Rother-

* H.M. Stationery Office. 9d net.

ham). The products obtained were regarded by the Director as satisfactory both in quantity and quality. The yields per ton of coal were as follows:—Coke, 13.92 cwt.; gas, 5,620 cubic feet, or 39.6 therms; tar, 18.62 gallons; liquor, 26 gallons; crude spirit, 1.78 gallons; and ammonium sulphate, 13.55 lbs. These yields were on the average slightly better than those which have been obtained with similar coal on an intermediate scale at the Government fuel research station. The coke or smokeless fuel produced was of a suitable size—in one to three inch pieces. It was not friable, and when burnt in a household grate was readily ignited and gave a good hot fire, though without much flame. Certain defects in the plant showed themselves during the course of the trial, but it is considered there should be no difficulty in overcoming these defects in future designs. These results are certainly encouraging, but Dr C. H. Lander, who succeeded the late Sir George Beilby as Director of Fuel Research, was careful to point out in his report that no attempt was made to pronounce on the commercial possibilities of the plant. The likelihood of commercial success, he stated, could only finally be judged after working the plant under a steady load for a long period, and comparing local costs of operation with prices realised for the products in available markets. The test merely demonstrated that the products obtained from the Dalton Main (Rotherham) coal were satisfactory in quantity and quality, but whether the process of Low Temperature Carbonisation, Limited, is capable of treating satisfactorily the various qualities of coal produced in Great Britain is still unproved. There is nothing, in fact, in this latest test to cancel the opinion previously expressed by the Fuel Research Board that "no single process (of low temperature carbonisation) has yet become established which would be suitable for application on a national scale." The best demonstration of the commercial success of the process will be when the Low Temperature Carbonisation, Limited, produces a balance-sheet with a substantial surplus.

Recovery in Japan.—The report from the Acting-Commercial Counsellor of the British Embassy at Tokyo, just issued by the Overseas Trade Department,* necessarily deals in the main with the consequences of last year's earthquake, and their bearing on production, exchange, and foreign trade. The area primarily affected measured 6,000 square miles, with 420 miles of railway; the losses in killed and wounded—some 200,000—and in property exceeded those in the Chinese and Russian wars together; three-fifths of Tokyo was destroyed, and the whole of Yokohama; the direct loss, naturally exaggerated at first, is estimated in the Report as between 2,500 and 5,000 million yen. Enormous stocks of warehoused goods of all sorts were destroyed, chiefly sugar, rice, piece goods, raw wool, timber, and petroleum—the loss is estimated at 111 million yen in one company's warehouses alone. The railway lines, bridges, and rolling stock suffered severely; but, though many small factories were destroyed utterly, and large ones crippled, the productive capacity of the country is not so, for the chief industrial region was untouched. British and foreign firms are recovering, but there is a tendency to shift their headquarters to Kobe. The disaster followed a season of diminished cereal crops. The relief measures are fully described, and the attention of economists directed to their effects, many of them unforeseen. Reconstruction is proceeding slowly, ambitious plans having been turned down as too expensive; the expenditure allotted is 1,295 million yen, spread over ten years. The rebuilding has been rapid, but not solid. The disaster naturally intensified the adverse trade balance, which has existed since 1920, and has caused much alarm, and also its effects on the national finances, and the foreign exchange. Japanese as well as European observers attribute it mainly to the high cost of native products, and the low efficiency of native labour, features which appear throughout the accounts given of the various trades; but the Report ascribes the first rather to defective organisation and high rates of profit, and points out that Japan is affected by the world-wide trade depression, that raw material, fertilisers, and some other imports ultimately tend

by their use to readjust the balance, that "invisible imports" are apt to be overlooked, and that the workers' standard of life is rising permanently—so that, we presume their efficiency may be increased. But some articles, formerly little consumed and all imported, are now largely consumed and made in Japan. Efforts were made by the Bank of Japan and the Yokohama Specie Bank, under Government influence, to modify the adverse exchange by refusing to finance certain import transactions, and by "pegging" the exchange rates. They do not appear to have been altogether successful, and they led to the raising of loans abroad at rates disquieting to Japanese observers. Efforts have been made by industrialists and others to attract foreign capital, for which the Report regards Japan as a profitable field. All this part of the Report deserves careful study by professed economists, but no adequate summary of it is possible here. The import trade is now necessarily abnormal; building materials, and some foreign articles, formerly luxuries, will continue to come in, but the depreciated exchange will reduce the volume of imports, and the Government, for reasons of economy, will endeavour to check them. British importers "must come for the trade, not write for it"; a hasty visit will not suffice, and they should maintain a local representative. Among the exports, of which very full particulars are given, we can only mention silk, the staple export, raw silk alone in 1921-23 being over one-third the value of the whole export of goods. Before the earthquake it had suffered from high prices and declining quality, and the destruction of 30,000 bales raised the price and encouraged the use of substitutes; artificial silk is a dangerous competitor. Interesting reports are appended on the trade of Formosa and Dairen. Both received a severe set-back from the disaster, but there was a notable increase in the exports from Dairen.

Conditions in Colombia.—A correspondent writes:—While financial conditions in Colombia remain far from satisfactory, as may be judged from the closing down by the Royal Bank of Canada of its Barranquilla—and only—branch in that Republic, late reports show that some improvement has been noted. With a population of six millions, the national foreign debt of Colombia stands at \$8.39 (gold) *per capita*, which is less than that of any of the other South American States, comparing favourably with \$52.14 *per capita* for Brazil (population 30,350,000), and with \$86.51 *per capita* for Chile (population 4,127,000). Continuance of the present trade improvement, however, depends largely upon coffee prices. At time of writing these are high, and the condition of the crop, which is said to be exceptionally large, is placed well beyond any danger from unfavourable weather. The increase in the consumption of Colombian coffee abroad, particularly in the United States, has become very marked of late. Whereas in 1920 North America took from Colombia 12.9 per cent. of the total quantity and 13.1 per cent. of all imported values (against 60.2 per cent. and 61.5 per cent. derived from Brazil), the figures for 1921 rose respectively to 15.7 per cent. and 20.7 per cent., and in 1922 to 18.9 per cent. and 23.8 per cent. It is clear that, with an average export trade of 147,187,386 lbs, Colombia, in regard to coffee exports, has now become an active rival to Brazil, and stands second on the list of the world's coffee producers. To-day, Colombia supplies about one-fifth of all the Americans' coffee requirements, and in return for which receives nearly one-fourth of expenditures by the United States upon this produce. For the current calendar year the Colombian Government anticipates a national income of 38,285,397 pesos* and an expenditure of 42,965,953 pesos, thus leaving a deficit of 4,680,556 pesos. This will, it is hoped, be covered by a foreign loan now being negotiated.

The Warble Pest in Cattle.—For many years past butchers and tanners have been agitating for official action to prevent the huge losses caused by the action of the warble fly in cattle. Thousands of hides are annually damaged by warble holes in the prime parts, whilst warbled meat is another fruitful source of loss to

* 1 peso = \$0.973 United States currency, or 1.0266 pesos to \$1; the average during the month of March last was 1.0121; in February, 1.0270; and in January, 1.0254.

the butcher, to say nothing of the pain inflicted on cattle by this pernicious maggot. The matter was again brought into prominence at the recent meeting of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders, when the chairman referred to the interest taken by the Government, since the war, in agriculture. He thought the time had come for legislation to extirpate the warble fly in cattle, as he considered it was the cause of an annual loss of about four million pounds to the community. He held that farmers should be compelled to treat cattle for the warble fly, just as they had been forced to do in the case of sheep scab. The difficulty in finding the right preparation had been overcome, but they were told its application would mean an increase in officials to see that its application was enforced. During the conference an interesting letter was read from the manager of the Danish Hide Association, in which it was stated that for upwards of 25 years efforts had been made to interest Danish peasants in the warble question without result. Four years ago, however, the Danish Parliament passed an Act making it compulsory on the part of owners to treat their cattle, and statistics showed that in four years Denmark was practically free from warbles. In September, 1920, the proportion of infected cattle was 16½ per cent., whilst in September, 1924, this had fallen to 2½ per cent. One member of the federation stated that he had experimented on a herd of 53 cows, and that he found not a single beast was infected with the warble maggot. The feeling was general that the time was now opportune to press upon Parliament the necessity for legislation, and a resolution was carried to this effect.

Mersey Docks and Harbour.—The accounts for the year ended July 1, 1924, of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board show that rates and dues produced £2,460,700, an increase of £60,300 over the previous year. The report suggests that this figure, which is our barometer of the state of trade, "is even more satisfactory than it appears, as the increase is not only in the dues on vessels, but in the dues on goods—and the increase follows on the increase of the previous year." The tonnage of ships paying dues is the greatest, with the exception of 1914 and 1915, and amounted to 18,574,144 tons, an increase of 494,565 tons on the previous year. Total receipts, at £3,301,000, are £37,100 higher than in the previous year, and the surplus of revenue over expenditure, after transferring £100,000 to sinking fund, is £15,800. The board have decided to spend about £30,000 in the provision of up-to-date electric machinery for the grain discharging and handling plant at the Birkenhead Grain Warehouses. The quantity of grain dealt with by the Board during the past year was about 50 per cent. more than in the preceding year.

United of Havana.—The report for the year ended June 30th of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, bears out the favourable impression created by the raising of the ordinary dividend from 6 to 7 per cent. There was an increase of over 14 per cent. in gross receipts and of 9 per cent. in expenditure, the profit per train mile working out at 5s 10d, or 10d more than in the preceding year. Net receipts thus rose by £305,300, or 23.4 per cent., the ratio of expenditure to receipts falling from 65.42 to 62.58 per cent. These good results are enhanced by the gain in exchange, which amounted to £188,300, as against £54,600 in the preceding year. The balance available is thus £451,000 higher at £1,825,100. The following table compares results for the past four years:—

	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£
Railway receipts	6,329,669	3,893,949	3,765,534	4,296,094
Railway expenses	4,848,142	2,729,956	2,463,264	2,688,548
Ratio	(76.59 %)	(70.11 %)	(65.42 %)	(62.58 %)
Other receipts (less charges)	1,481,527	1,163,993	1,302,270	1,607,546
	328,703	278,442	71,893	217,540
Fixed charges, &c. (less sundry inc.)	1,810,230	1,442,435	1,374,163	1,825,086
To reserve	1,162,521	929,793	793,061	820,928
Dividends	439,987	105,000	571,123	350,000
Ordinary rate	4 %	4 %	6 %	7 %

British and Cuban taxes require £262,500, or £26,500 more, and the general renewals reserve account is credited with £350,000, as against nothing a year ago. After making these appropriations, and paying the 5 per cent. preference dividend, and the 7 per cent. ordinary dividend, there remains £234,500, or £17,500 more, to be carried forward. The increase in total receipts reflects the prosperous state of the country throughout the year. Passenger receipts increased by £102,600, while the tonnage of goods and livestock traffic rose by 1,766,200 tons, with an increase in receipts of £334,200 tons. Of the increase of £225,300 in expenditure, £127,900 occurs under the head of locomotive running, and £76,700 under traffic expenses. The outstanding feature of the year for the company was the increase in the Cuban sugar crop, which at the time of writing amounted to 4,060,000 tons of an estimated value of \$400 millions, compared with last year's figure of 3,700,000 tons of an estimated value of \$410 millions. Sugar cane and products supplied over 78 per cent. of the total tonnage moved, but only 46 per cent. of the freight revenue. Revenue from sugar traffic increased by £195,800, or 22 per cent. The manager's report states that since the close of the financial year weekly receipts have shown satisfactory increases. "The prospects for an increased sugar crop are good, and estimates of 4,500,000 tons are being made."

Broken Hill Prosperity.—Our mining correspondent writes:—The strength recently exhibited by the market for the shares of the Barrier Range group of silver-lead-zinc-producing companies is in some cases a reflex of increased dividends and in others an anticipation of benefits to come. Thus the premier undertaking—the North Broken Hill—has declared a distribution of 4s per share, following upon three others this year of 3s apiece. The Broken Hill South's latest dividend—2s 6d per share—showed no increase upon the two preceding declarations, but the balance carried forward at June 30th last was double that brought in. The full text of the report for the past financial year is now available, and contains much interesting information. There is, for example, the point that considerably more than one-half of the gross profit came from crude ore, whereas in the immediately preceding periods the greater proportion was derived from the treatment of dump slimes. Including somewhat increased receipts relative to earlier operations, the gross profit for 1923-24 amounts to £536,200, in place of £382,900. Depreciation absorbed much the same as before, but taxation called for £70,000, as against only £30,000; at £80,000, the appropriation for plant and development shows no change. The net earnings figure was £458,400, as compared with £322,800 in 1922-23. The expansion is due mainly to the advance in the price of lead, the average for the other metals being virtually as before, while the effect of the enhanced production from crude ore was partially offset by the decrease in the yield from dump slime. The last of the unoxidised portion of the material just mentioned was put through in April. On the other hand, the granular zinc flotation plant started regular work in March, and the results are reported to be satisfactory. Owing to the fire at the Central mine, the cost of producing lead concentrates rose by about 7s per ton; but for this, the directors state, there would have been a reduction. The mine is now in a position to supply 6,000 tons of crude ore per week, as against an average of 4,600 last year; the current session will also get the full benefit of the treatment of the current production of zinc. At 3,650,000 tons, the ore reserves display a moderate increase; the total represents something like 12 years' supply for the mill. Exclusive of shares in other companies costing £392,900, the cash assets show a surplus of £840,500, as against £596,400 twelve months previously. Of the increase, £52,500 is accounted for by the sale of the shares taken up in the British-Australian Broken Hill, since absorbed by the North Broken Hill—though why these shares should have been realised is not quite clear. On the basis of the recent rate of dividend, the shares give the attractive yield of 15 per cent. Other companies of the group are the Sulphide Corporation and the Zinc Corporation. The former, which is also, of course, a treatment undertaking,

* H.M. Stationery Office. 2s 6d net.

has lately resumed production at its Central mine. The latter paid one-half the fixed dividend on its preference shares in June last, whereas in respect of 1923 the shareholders had to wait until October; the balance dividend on the preference, with 2s interim on both classes of shares, has just been declared. The reorganised mill commenced the yield of lead and zinc concentrates about the middle of the current year.

Gold Fields Rhodesian.—The shareholders in this finance enterprise, which had paid a steady 10 per cent. for some half-dozen years, lately received a shock in the shape of the announcement that there would be no final dividend for 1923-24. Nor was the effect of the news much diminished by the declaration of an interim dividend at the reduced rate of 2½ per cent. The accounts issued during the past week show a profit of only £84,900, in place of £127,300, and the increased amount of £36,500 falls to be written off mining properties. These include the Legion claims, taken up some twelve months ago, upon which a large amount of exploratory work was done with disappointing results. With the exception of the Falcon Mines—whose future is described by the consulting engineer as doubtful—the position of the undertakings in which the company is principally interested appear hopeful. The directors announce that since the close of the financial year, the company's holding of shares (30,000) in the Cam and Motor "has been disposed of at satisfactory profit." The realisation was certainly not carried out in such a way as to occasion the minimum of disturbance to the market.

A MEETING of the Institute of Bankers will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 1924, at 5.30 p.m., in the Hall of the Grocers' Company, Princes street, E.C., at which the Inaugural Address will be given by the President, Sir Herbert Hambling, Bart.

At the meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, on the 18th inst., to be held in the hall of the Royal Society of Arts, John street, Adelphi, W.C. 2, at 5.15 p.m., the president, Mr G. Udny Yule, C.B.E., M.A., F.R.S., will deliver his inaugural address, "The Growth of Population and the Factors which Control It."

THE Royal Colonial Institute announces a meeting at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue, W.C. 2, on Tuesday, November 11, 1924, at 3.30 p.m., at which a paper on "The Development of Tropical Agriculture in the West Indies" (with lantern illustrations), will be read by Sir Arthur Shipley, G.B.E. Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., will preside.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—CROP CONDITIONS—TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK—INCOME-TAX PUBLICITY—SUGAR COMPANIES MERGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, October 28.

LATEST reports as to grain crops indicate that the condition of corn has improved over most of the belt since October 1st, as a result of mild, clear weather, and a large acreage has matured under better conditions than had been anticipated. Generally the crop has dried well and is now being harvested. Except in northern sections, chiefly Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota, no extensive damage from frost has been reported, although a hard frost on October 20th injured the late unmaturing corn. One authority estimates the total yield at 41,000,000 bushels over the Government's October 1st forecast, in 12 States. He figures the crop for that area at 1,754,000,000 bushels, as against the Government's report of 2,180,000,000 last year. Of merchantable corn there is said to be 1,090,000,000 bushels, or 62 per cent. of the total crop, as compared with 1,750,000,000 bushels last year. This would point to a total corn harvest of 2,500,000,000 bushels, as against

3,046,000,000 last year. Farm reserves at present are placed at 120,000,000 to 125,000,000 bushels, compared with 83,000,000 bushels a year ago. Winter wheat seeding is progressing well and nearing completion; early seeded winter wheat has a good stand throughout most of the South-West. During the past week prices of all grains have declined under liquidation, profit-taking and short-selling. At Chicago, cash premiums on hard winter wheat have disappeared. Export buying of grains continues fairly active, but the volume of business is not so large as heretofore. Marketing of grains is still heavy and greater than the average, with the result that farmers in the North-West are being urged to limit sales of grains destined for terminal points in order to prevent congestion at the latter. In this connection it is noteworthy that for the week ending October 23rd exports of wheat, including flour, from the United States and Canada, according to *Bradstreet's*, again broke all records, totalling 17,739,823 bushels, as compared with 13,497,277 bushels in the preceding week, and 10,040,935 in the corresponding week of last year. For the 16 weeks ended October 23rd exports aggregated 146,531,600 bushels, against 108,543,748 in the like period a year ago.

The Department of Agriculture reports that the composite condition of all crops in this country on October 1st, or at time of harvest, was 3½ per cent. below their 10-year average on that date, as against a condition of 4 per cent. below that average on September 1st. Final yields per acre last year were approximately 3.9 per cent. under the average. This year's total acreage in cultivated crops was about one-tenth of 1 per cent. less than last year's. Taking 100 as representing the average, the highest condition shown for this year is that reported for North Dakota, 141.9 per cent.; Kansas is second with 119.8 per cent., and Oklahoma third with 116.2 per cent. Washington shows the lowest condition, 68.7 per cent.

Several favourable developments recently seem to promise a quickening of trade and industry after the election. If the results be encouraging and reassuring, many orders that have been deferred will undoubtedly be placed, and will serve to stimulate business, at least for a while, in various directions; but no big boom seems likely in the immediate future.

Although the trade and industrial revival which began late in the summer has been checked, the volume of business this autumn has been considerably larger than a year ago. Railroad freight traffic during the week ended October 18th was, in fact, the largest ever recorded, according to statistics compiled by the American Railway Association. In its summary, issued this week, of general business and financial conditions in the twelve Federal Reserve districts of this country, the Federal Reserve Board in Washington reports that its index of production in basic industries, after allowing for seasonal variations, rose 9 per cent. in September—the first increase recorded since last January. Factory employment increased 2 per cent., reflecting larger working forces in nearly all reporting industries, and average weekly earnings of industrial workers were slightly higher owing to a decrease in part-time employment. Building contracts awarded showed a small seasonal decline in September, but were larger than a year ago. Wholesale trade was 11 per cent. greater than in August, while retail trade showed more than the usual seasonal increase, and sales of department stores and mail order houses were considerably above those of September a year ago.

As previously mentioned in this correspondence, the textile industry, except possibly in some sections of the South, has not shared in such improvement as has taken place. Following the passing of the American Woolen Company dividend last month, the recent action of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company—the largest cotton goods producer in the United States—in suspending dividends for the first time in 84 years, very plainly shows how acute has been this year's depression in the New England cotton, woollen, and worsted manufacturing industries, while the past four years, in fact, have been extremely poor ones.

About a week ago, one of the most obnoxious provisions of the Revenue Act passed at the last session of Congress, namely, that providing for publicity of

Federal income-tax payments, was put into force through an announcement by the Internal Revenue and Treasury Departments at Washington that lists of taxpayers, showing the amounts of income-tax paid by each, had been opened to public inspection. Many newspapers here and elsewhere immediately printed long lists, selected from the records, and continue to do so. Publication of this income-tax data has raised a storm of indignation and resentment all over the country. All the objections to this radical feature of the law, voiced while it was pending, are now being expressed even more vehemently. A great deal of confusion and difference of opinion, even among high Government officials, exists, owing to the fact that one section of the law makes it a misdemeanour for any Government official to divulge or for any person to publish, any income return or any part thereof, or source of income, profits, losses or expenditures appearing in any income-tax return; while another section apparently provides, or has been so interpreted, for such publication. This particular feature of the Act was strongly condemned by President Coolidge when he reluctantly signed the Bill, and in view of the widespread protests which its enforcement has aroused, efforts will no doubt be made to repeal or modify it.

Another European loan has just been floated here, consisting of \$30,000,000 Swedish Government 30-year 5½ per cent. gold bonds, and representing a new external loan. The bonds, dated November 1, 1924, were priced to investors at 99½, and interest to yield slightly more than 5.50 per cent. The proceeds, it is stated, are to be used for meeting, partly, recent capital expenditures by the Swedish Government for posts, telegraphs and telephones, State railroads, hydro-electric developments, loans to aid agriculture, loans to privately-owned railroads and miscellaneous State enterprises.

The merger of two large sugar companies operating in Cuba and other islands of the West Indies has just been consummated here. The concerns are the Cuban Dominican Sugar Company and the Sugar Estates of Oriente, Inc., whose combined assets are placed at \$90,000,000. In connection with this consolidation, the Cuban Dominican Sugar Company successfully floated an issue of \$15,000,000 first lien, 20-year sinking fund 7½ per cent. gold bonds dated November 1, 1924, which were offered for public subscription at 97½ to yield about 7½ per cent. The combine, designed to effect substantial operating economies, makes the Cuban Dominican, through its control of developed mill properties and cane lands, one of the world's largest producers of raw cane sugar. It gives this company twelve modern sugar centrals, of which seven are located in Cuba and the others in the Dominican Republic; these centrals will be supplied from acreage which during the 1924-1925 season will produce, it is estimated, 2,400,000 bags of raw sugar. The consolidation involves a total of 510,877 acres of owned and controlled lands.

FRANCE.—AUTUMN SESSION—PROPOSED FRANCO-GERMAN STEEL TRUST—IRON AND STEEL OUTPUT—NEW LOAN TERMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 5.

THE Chambers re-assembled yesterday for the special autumn session, and there is every indication that legislators, so far as the Chamber is concerned, are likely to experience an exceptionally lively time. Socialists and Communists gave every sign, by disorderly scenes at this initial sitting, that they are determined to leave no stone unturned to transform at least some of their projects into law, and it will evidently require all M. Herriot's firmness to enable him to keep his mixed and unruly followers in order. The prospects of the Cabinet are nevertheless rosier than they appeared likely to be a week ago. The Socialist Federations, who seemed at one time likely to vote a very conditional kind of support to the Government during the coming session, have apparently reconsidered their attitude. After a good deal of discussion, their national congress on Sunday decided by a large majority to continue to accord M. Herriot their support, and even to vote the Budget, which is a step the French

Parliamentary Socialists have refused to take for many years past. The dissatisfaction of the Socialist wing of M. Herriot's supporters with the Budget proposals at present before the country is as keen as ever, but reflection has convinced the advanced section of the majority that to abstain from voting the Budget because it does not in their opinion impose sufficiently heavy extra burdens on the hated bourgeoisie would only lead to the Herriot Government being replaced by a Cabinet with tendencies far more distasteful to Socialist ideas than the present one. On the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, the Socialists have decided to continue to support M. Herriot.

Exactly what amount of foundation there is for the persistent and circumstantial reports that are in circulation concerning negotiations between French and German iron and steel magnates, with a view to mutual action, it is difficult to ascertain. Reports published here from the Ruhr, from Berlin and other sources, insist that definite pourparlers have been in progress for some time with a view to the formation of a definite Franco-German Steel Trust, and that the plans are very far advanced. According to the *Matin*, it is proposed to divide the foreign markets into zones, and to arrange for export trade to be carried out on the basis of international agreements, of the kind urged some time ago by M. Loucheur. M. F. de Wendel, one of the moving spirits of the Comité des Forges, has taken the trouble formally to deny, in a letter to the *Echo de Paris*, that negotiations have at any time been in progress between French and German metallurgists with a view to forming a steel trust. The statement published by the *Vossische Zeitung* of Berlin, in a telegram from its Cologne correspondent, to the effect that French, German, Swedish, and Luxemburg steelmasters have agreed to enter into a working agreement, but that British metallurgical leaders have refused to join, while the Belgians have not yet replied, is also stated here to be without foundation.

It may be taken for granted, however, that in spite of official denials, there is good ground for believing that some kind of combination of the sort referred to is practically certain to be brought about in the near future. The steel and iron industries of the Ruhr have as great a need of French ore as the French steel and iron magnates have of coke and coal from the Ruhr. In the circumstances, common action on some well-organised plan is merely a question of time. In steel and iron circles here it is stated that the reports that have been published are at least premature, and that no negotiations have yet been begun on the important scale referred to in the reports that have been received from Germany. What is admitted, however, is that it is hoped that, within the next few days, agreements may be concluded for the reconstitution of the railway metal consortium as it existed before the war, and to which French, German, and Belgian producers belonged. This would obviously be a very significant first step towards the conclusion of agreements of a wider scope. It is not lost sight of here that any Franco-German steel and iron combination would inevitably find a policy of common action extremely valuable in aiding it to secure control of the Russian market, on which the attention of both French and German industrialists is now more keenly fixed than ever, by reason of the recent recognition of the Soviets by the Herriot Cabinet.

French steel production returns for September show that the total output for the month was 598,327 tons, as compared with 581,713 tons during August. This total includes 208,315 tons from liberated Lorraine, against 189,721 tons in the previous month. The total output of iron was 641,453 tons (of which 254,620 tons was from Lorraine), as compared with 655,829 tons (including 257,480 tons from Lorraine) in August. The output of steel for September, it will be noted, was within 100 tons of the record figure reached in May last.

The details of what the Finance Minister himself has described as "the first of the great consolidation loans" have now been published, and will be found curiously interesting. The loan, which is intended to liquidate the deficit of about four milliards arising from the present financial year, will consist of 10-year 5 per cent. Treasury bonds, issued in denominations of 500f, 1,000f, 10,000f, and 100,000f. The bonds, which are quite a new de-

parture in this country, will be issued at par, and will be redeemable by periodical drawings, as from the end of the fifth year after issue, with a bonus of 50 per cent. of the nominal value. Twenty thousand bonds of 500f, out of each million bonds issued, will be drawn for redemption during the sixth year after issue, 30,000 during the seventh, 40,000 during the eighth, 50,000 during the ninth, and the balance of 86,000 bonds during the tenth year. The Treasury, further, will buy in bonds from the Bourse, at par or below, to the extent of 3½ per cent. every year of the total nominal capital subscribed. These bonds, as usual with French Government issues, will be exempt from taxation, and the first half-yearly interest payments will date from October 25th last. The subscription lists will open on November 12th, and will remain open until December 10th, unless the Government shall think fit to close the lists meanwhile. The issue will be made in lots of 500,000f, and will be limited to France itself and Corsica. The bonds, which will be issued either to bearer or to order, must be paid for entirely in cash at the time of purchase.

The new issue, as will be seen, is ingeniously arranged to include many attractive features, and there is little doubt it will prove extremely popular. The yield works out at about 7.65 per cent., but French taste will undoubtedly be keenly interested in the fact that investors can rely upon increasing their capital by 50 per cent. within ten years, and in some cases in just over half this period. The effect of the announcement of the new issue on the quotation for the rente, however, has been serious. The Three per Cents., which stood at between 54 and 55 just before the elections last May, were quoted this evening at 48, the 1915 Fives have dropped from 71 to 58.70 in the same period, the 1920 Fives from 85.30 to 72.25, and the 1920 Sixes from 87.65 to 72.20. Much of this falling off has been due to the change of Government, but the drop has been considerably hastened during the past two or three weeks through enormous sales by small holders who are anxious to secure the ready money to invest in the pending new and more attractive issue.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—CURRENCY AND LOANS—INDUSTRY—FOREIGN TRADE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 4.

THE outcome of the English elections is not expected to have any material influence on international political affairs, except upon Anglo-Russian relations. Mr Ramsay MacDonald's policy in the Reparations question was not considered more favourable to Germany than would have been the policy of a Conservative or Liberal administration, and the Nationalists have not forgiven Mr MacDonald for putting through the Dawes plan without securing guarantees for immediate evacuation of the Ruhr. Concerning the effect upon international trade relations different views are held. Although the question of Free Trade *versus* Protection played no rôle in the elections, it is expected that in view of the wide room between the two extremes, of Mr Baldwin's past statements, and of the numerous new methods devised since the war for imposing indirect, unacknowledged Protection, England's policy in the next few years may take a semi-Protectionist colouring; and an agitation against foreign imports is expected. The electoral position here has undergone no change, and of tariffs and commercial treaties as factors influencing the result practically nothing is heard. The Government has issued new rules for execution of the "Industrial Burdens Law," under the Reparations settlement. As concerns bearing the bonds liabilities are defined: all "undertakings" (*Unternehmungen*), with the exception of agriculture, forestry, gardening, fisheries, viniculture, theatrical and other entertainments, banks, insurance, hotels, restaurants. Shipping, private railways, and tramways count as undertakings, but other communication concerns do not. The limit of exemption remains at 50,000 gold marks net property, as assessed under the Property Tax. As already reported, the above exempted undertakings, other than agriculture, are to be liable for contributing to the interest burden (though not liable for

capital), under another law; and the exemption limit in this case is lowered to concerns with net property of 20,000 gold marks. Thus, all except the smallest concerns will contribute towards the interest. The distributing of the liability will be done by the Finance Bureaux, the local taxation organs of the Finance Ministry.

The Cabinet has begun negotiations with the States for revising the subvention system. Reductions are proposed of the income-tax, corporation income-tax, and sales-tax, part of the yields of which go to the local governments. It is expected that the sales tax, which was lately reduced from 2½ to 2 per cent., will be fixed provisionally at 1½ per cent. At present there is practically no real income-tax, other than the 10 per cent. deducted quarterly from wages and salaries of up to 2,000 gold marks per quarter, and 20 per cent. over that sum. Trading and industrial concerns pay quarterly in advance sums based upon past business done, on the ground that the actual profits are not calculable quarter by quarter; and it is suspected that these payments, which are practically only a second sales tax, are being transferred to the consumers' shoulders. The Second Taxation Decree of last winter promised a regular income-tax and reassessment thereunder, the quarterly payments already made to be booked on account; but under this system some persons and concerns have paid in advance more than they can be assessed for. Even for wage and salary earners the present deduction tax is not properly graduated. The Finance Ministry has foreshadowed immediate slight abatements in the Bourse transfer tax, to be followed by a complete revision with the new Reichstag's consent. The Ministry declares that it is not altogether the undue height of the tax which injures Bourse business; the number of brokers and banks (which here do an active brokerage business) in Berlin has increased since 1914 nearly threefold, and is more than business can support.

The ordinance restoring freedom of dealing in exchange has been published, though it is not yet officially in force. Certain restrictions remain. Dealings in exchange may be effected only through authorised banks ("exchange banks"). Sales and purchases continue to be at the Bourse official rate. Dealings in futures are still forbidden, and the regulation of money-changing offices which deal in notes, coins, and travellers' credits continues. The right to buy foreign exchange freely without permission of a Finance Bureau is restored; the obligation to prove the economic necessity of an exchange purchase is removed, and banks are freed from the obligation to report exchange transactions. Sales of marks abroad are again legal, and travellers' rights to take money with them are no longer limited. The former provision makes it possible for exporters to give credit in, and to invoice in, marks. The continuing centralisation of exchange business in the hands of a limited number of banks will facilitate official intervention in case the new mark's stability is threatened.

Following the Prussian Government's pronouncement against unregulated municipal borrowing abroad, the Federal Government has decreed that States and municipalities may contract foreign loans only with the consent of the Finance Minister. A refusal of consent, however, requires the sanction of the Reichsrat. This decree (really a new law) comes out under Article 48 of the Constitution, which authorises the President of the Republic to over-ride the laws when security and order are threatened, and it is the most remarkable of many elastic applications of that Article. The Reichsbank's attempt to borrow money abroad. Berlin Municipality reports that it borrowed \$3,000,000 in New York before the above-mentioned decree appeared. Side by side with official agitation continues against foreigners for "speculating," charging usurious interest, and profiteering. The highest interest rates charged by foreigners are usually less than half of those Germans charge to one another. Newspapers have of late taken to publishing, for special opprobrium, the names of foreigners alleged to have made money, in quite legal if speculative ways, out of the former currency chaos, but the fact is ignored that Germany, by means of the easy speculation of re-

putiating her debts, has extracted vast sums out of the pockets of other, and sometimes of the same, foreigners. The note of the Press and of public bodies in this matter is false and improper, and is particularly inopportune at a time when foreigners are being again asked to trust German good faith.

The wholesale prices index number has fallen further to 128.5 (on October 28th). Nominal wages have of late risen by a very small percentage, but real wages have slightly declined. The industrial improvement continues. The last Berlin report shows a considerable drop in the number of publicly-supported unemployed. Bankruptcies in September numbered 850, against 895 in August; in the first half of October, 356. Railway traffic statistics show an increase after June. The Reichsrat has sanctioned the measure restoring dealings in futures in wheat, rye, oats, maize, and rye flour. This measure is expected to restore Berlin's pre-war position as a great centre of the Continental grain trade, and is a considerable gain to farmers. The negotiations for revival of the Steel Syndicate have led to an agreement, covering all home production of Thomas-Bessemer and Siemens-Martin raw steel. Details have not yet appeared. Only feelers have so far been made for an agreement with the French iron industry. The next step will be to negotiate for creation of separate syndicates for semi-finished material, construction forms, rails, bars, sheets, wire, and hoops. The interested concerns have demanded better Protection in the coming Tariff, including an increase of the pig-iron duty from 1 gold mark to 1.50 gold marks per double-centner. At a recent Dusseldorf meeting a similar demand was made, but iron and steel manufacturers are creating a special organisation to protect their interests against the raw material and half-finished material producers.

Foreign trade figures (including gold and silver) classified by Continents and countries have been issued for the first half of 1924 (in millions of gold marks):—

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.	
	Jan.-June, 1924.	Half-year's Average, 1913.		Jan.-June, 1924.	Half-year's Average, 1913.
Europe	2,418.6	3,116.7	Europe	2,063.6	3,885.3
America	1,217.1	1,530.5	America	451.5	779.7
Asia	428.6	534.5	Asia	242.1	274.1
Africa	211.7	257.6	Africa	59.3	108.1
Australia	206.7	163.8	Australia	10.8	52.1
	4,482.7	5,603.1		2,827.3	5,099.3

The proportions of trade on both sides with the chief Continents has not changed much. The United States leads as seller, with 17.8 per cent., against 15.3 in 1913; England's percentage is 9.9, against 9.7; and Argentina comes third with 6.2, against 4.8. France's percentage has fallen from 5.3 to 2.0. Chief buyers are the Netherlands, with 9.7, against 6.9; England, with 8.1, against 14.2; United States, 7.2, against 7.0; Czechoslovakia, 5.9; Switzerland, 5.5, against 5.3. France's figure, including Alsace-Lorraine, is 1.6, against 7.8 without Alsace-Lorraine, but the former figure does not include Reparations deliveries.

CANADA.—WEATHER AND CROPS—AUSTRALO-CANADIAN COMMERCIAL TREATY—THE DRIED FRUIT PREFERENCE—FEDERAL REVENUES—FORESTRY INDUSTRIES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, October 27.

WESTERN Canada has some reason to feel aggrieved at the luck which has been vouchsafed her farmers this year. The crop started well, but a series of misfortunes reduced it to modest dimensions. Then came compensation in the shape of a steady rise in prices, and there was every hope that the 1924 crop would be more profitable than that of 1923. Now, however, further misfortune has come in the shape of almost continuous wet weather, interrupted

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.
THE TRUST SPECIALISES IN PLANTATION FINANCE.
ADVANCES MADE UPON APPROVED SECURITY OF
ESTATES, SHARES OR DEBENTURES.
TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

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

only by two fine days at the end of September, and aggravated by some bad snowstorms, and the third week in October finds nearly half the crop unthreshed. Moreover, the extra harvest hands, tired of the lack of work, are drifting back in large numbers to the East and the United States, and in many districts threshing will be retarded through lack of help. The wet weather has done considerable damage to the grain, and reduced the grade of millions of bushels; an ominously large proportion of the ears already inspected have graded above No. 3, and many farmers who expected at least No. 3 will have to be content with No. 6, which cuts down their returns very seriously. What is equally serious, a very small part of the crop has been marketed, not one-third of the quantity at the corresponding date last year, and the prospect of so small a percentage of the crop being able to utilise the water route this autumn is worrying both the grain trade and the farmers. Since the stream of wheat supply from the country elevators has fallen to very modest dimensions, grain boats at the Lake ports cannot get cargoes, and freights have tumbled to 2½ cents per bushel down the Lakes. However, the ocean boats at Montreal are not similarly affected, because a great deal of American grain is being exported through Canadian channels. But the unfortunate delay in marketing the western crop has serious consequences for the business community, apart from the impairment of value. Farmers, being unwilling to increase their debts, will not purchase their winter supplies until they get their crop money, and until the farmers show a disposition to purchase freely, the country storekeepers will not place orders on any extensive scale. Hence wholesalers and manufacturers in the East are disappointed in not feeling the stimulus which they expected from the high prices available for the western grain crop. But they do admit that as the result of good crops in Eastern Canada, which have been safely housed and marketed, business conditions in the country districts show a marked improvement. A spell of good weather and a prolongation of navigation on the Lakes would soon remedy the situation in the West. The latest estimate of the western wheat crop comes from the North-West grain-dealers' Association, which puts it at 266,125,000 bushels, being some 25 millions less than the figure of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; the explanation is found chiefly in a large reduction of the acreage figures, presumably land which was sown but bereft of a crop of any value by the drought.

The long-drawn negotiations between the Canadian and Australian Governments have at last borne fruit in a commercial treaty which will come into force on a date to be fixed by mutual agreement. The chief beneficiaries in Canada will be the pulp and paper manufacturers, the exporters of canned fish and the motor manufacturers. For the latter, however, there is one fly in the ointment: the Australian Government insists that motors and their parts can only claim the benefit of the new preference when 75 per cent. of British labour has been employed in their manufacture. Hitherto only 25 per cent. was necessary, and the larger motor establishments in Canada, which are branches of great American corporations, will be seriously affected. It has been their practice to make up most of the parts in the United States, transport them to Canada, where the work of assembling is done, and then when the car was exported claim a 99 per cent. drawback on the duty paid on the parts. These happy arrangements may now have to be radically altered. The concessions made to Australia in connection with raisins and other dried fruit have had a mixed reception in Canada. Hitherto Canada has secured most of her dried fruit from California, under a duty of two-thirds of a cent per club. The duty on foreign imports of dried fruit is now raised to 3 cents, under powers secured in a Budget in anticipation of the Australian demand, and Australian dried fruit will enter free. The result hoped for

from this change is the transference of the Canadian market from Californian fruitgrowers to Australian, and the experiment should offer a good test of the preferential system. Meanwhile, there is a strenuous outcry from dealers and heavy consumers of dried fruits, who have contracted ahead for their supplies, and now face the prospect of paying higher prices or abrogating their contracts. Pressure is being employed at Ottawa to delay the operation of the Treaty at least till after the next Budget.

The first half of the present fiscal year closed on September 30th, and the Finance Department reports the collection in that period of ordinary revenue amounting to \$187,165,872, as against \$213,092,087 for the first half of the previous year. The decline already visible is more than the total decrease allowed for the whole year, and it does not improve matters that ordinary expenditures have risen from \$134,886,769 to \$136,385,123. The capital expenditures are just as high, and already the earnings of the national railways are 7½ million dollars behind last year's figures, so that the outlook for a good balance-sheet next March is dark. The chief source of revenue decline is found in the sales tax, where the changes both in the rate and the method of levy have cost over 20 million dollars already. The lumber business has struck a dull period. The Japanese demand, which was very brisk for months, has fallen off, and the civil war in China has affected the market there. With the slackening of the building boom in the United States exports to that market are much lower, and only the Australasian market has maintained its activity. However, with more and more prairie farmers turning to mixed agriculture, new buildings for stock are creating a good demand for lumber in these regions. But the expectation is that since stocks are fairly high, this winter's cut of lumber will be small. The pulp and paper industry is also feeling the effects of European competition in the American market, and newsprint is expected soon to be selling at \$70 per ton. In August exports of pulp and paper were valued at almost half a million dollars less than in July, and for the first eight months of 1924 they show a drop from 93 to 91½ million dollars.

AUSTRALIA.—TARIFF CHANGES—MONETARY CONDITIONS AND EXPORT TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, October 2.

ON September 26th the Commonwealth Government placed before Parliament (subject to future ratification) an agreement with Canada for tariff preferences on certain articles. The subject has been under consideration for many years past, and hitherto without result, so far as Australia is concerned. An arrangement between Canada and New Zealand was made some years ago, one of the effects being that New Zealand butter entered Canada at a lower rate of duty than Australian. Recently, however, the Australian Government has been desirous of obtaining a preference for Australian fruits in Canada, which is now to grant a preference of 1½d per lb on currants and raisins, 15 per cent. on dried apples, and ½d per lb on canned fruits. The preference in favour of Australian meat will be 1½d per lb; canned meats, 12½ per cent.; lard, 1d per lb; tallow, 10 per cent.; cheese, 1d per lb; butter, 1d per lb; and onions, 30 per cent., besides minor preferences. Australia will give preferences on Canadian fish, textile gloves (but not leather gloves, in which Australia has a growing industry), printing machines, newsprint paper, writing and typewriting paper, corsets, iron and steel pipes, goloshes, rubber sand boots, &c., and chassis and other vehicle parts. The preference on newsprint paper is expected to operate at the expense of Scandinavian paper imported into Australia, but not to affect imports from Britain. No preference is to be given by Australia on Canadian agricultural machinery. Altogether, the reductions in the Commonwealth tariff apply to twelve items, while the Canadian tariff is reduced on fourteen items. A considerable trade in Canadian goods has been built up in Australia without preference, the imports of Canadian origin for 1922-23 amounting to £5,064,253,

against £3,146,450 for 1921-22, £4,425,262 for 1920-21, £2,640,280 for 1919-20, and £2,844,050 for 1918-19. Australian exports to Canada are relatively small, amounting to £361,155 for 1922-23, against £365,451 for 1921-22, £139,068 for 1920-21, £302,033 for 1919-20, and £888,016 for 1918-19.

A change in the application of British preference was announced in the Commonwealth Parliament on September 30th by the Minister for Customs, Mr Pratten. In the case of goods partly manufactured in the United Kingdom, the proportion of labour and material required to entitle them to the British preferential rates is to be raised from 25 to 75 per cent. Where it is proved on inquiry that all possible processes of manufacture have been performed in the United Kingdom, preference will be allowed, provided that no goods of a kind produced in Australia will receive preference unless at least 50 per cent. of the works or factory cost consists of British labour or material. In the case of goods which have entered into the commerce of, or undergone manufacture in, a foreign country, and have been returned to the United Kingdom for completion, the total value of British labour and material will be taken into account, instead of as at present that portion added after return to the United Kingdom. This alteration does not require Parliamentary sanction, but will be carried out by a regulation which will come into operation on April 1, 1925. The new conditions will also apply to the reciprocal tariff agreements with New Zealand and South Africa.

The change has been criticised on the ground that, being made by regulation, it leaves no voice to Parliament, but the Prime Minister, Mr Bruce, has announced that the Ministry is considering whether it will be possible to afford an opportunity for discussion. The tendency of the change will be to increase the degree of protection in favour of Australian manufacturers, some of whom have desired the change for a considerable time past. The probable exact effect of the change in working is obscure, but iron and steel goods and textiles will be mainly affected.

The Australian maize market has declined during the last few months, owing to the larger crop, and to relieve the position, shipments are being made from Queensland to England. Some time ago a dumping duty was imposed on maize imported into Australia from South Africa, and the Australian growers are now agitating to have the revenue thus collected applied as a bounty on the export of Australian maize. It is also desired that the agreement with South Africa should be revised in order to give more protection to the Australian article. This year's sugar crop is also in excess of local consumption, and shipments are being made on a considerably lower basis than Australian local prices.

The monetary position continues somewhat stringent, three important factors being the heavy demand for financing exports of wool and other Australian produce; the Commonwealth loan of £10,300,000 closing on October 15th to provide, in part, for public works expenditure by the six States, and the steps that will require to be taken early next year to prepare for a conversion loan to meet War Loans for £68,813,950, maturing locally in December, 1925. The financing of wool, wheat and other exports is complicated not only by the high prices and ruling, but also by the currency restriction. It has been announced that the Note Issue Board has decided to increase the issue of notes up to £5,000,000, to be advanced to the banks as required at a rate of interest not exceeding 2 per cent. above the highest rate allowed by the £3,000,000 not later than June 30th, and as to securities to be lodged by the banks in London, against any advances so made in Australia. The rate of interest, in practice it is understood a lower rate would be charged. The requirement of a return of the notes by June and July next, however, gives rise to some question. As the tendency of bank deposits is to grow from year to year, especially with a good producing season, a larger amount of cash is required to be held by the banks to preserve their customary ratios to liabilities, whereas a limitation of the note currency (fresh gold being unobtainable as a practical business matter while the premium lasts) means

declining ratios. There is a tendency, therefore, to regulate operations without reference to the additional £5,000,000 of notes available under the above scheme, except for extreme use. This means a close regulation of wool credits, especially in their issue in the first place, and in many cases they are limited to December. Meanwhile the wool sales have opened at prices averaging between £35 and £40 per bale, which is much heavier than the average of a little under £30 for the 1923-24 season, and the wool bills coming to the banks are already running into large figures. The situation will be reviewed in November, when the programme of wool sales after Christmas will be considered, but from a financial point of view it is regarded as most desirable that the sales should be spread up to May or June next, in order to give opportunity for a more even balance between Australian import and export trade than with an earlier closing of the wool sales. The wheat crops, after the rainfall during September, now promise to yield well, while the area under crop is larger than last year. For a really good yield, however, a cool spring is wanted, which would not mean an early harvest.

DENMARK.—AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS—COMMODITY PRICES—NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, October 22.

THERE appears to be some inclination to believe that improvement in economic conditions is about to set in, and this may benefit industry, as it has already benefited the freight market. Agriculture in particular shows an improvement. For some weeks the butter market has been weaker, but on the 16th inst. there was once more a strong rise, which is only partly due to the rise of the sterling rate. As will be known in England, it is not only the strong English demand which entails a higher price for butter. The sale of Danish butter in the German market throughout the year has been very considerable. A consular report from Hamburg states that as far as can be seen about one-fifth of the Danish butter exports have gone to Germany, but from this must be deducted re-exports to the United States. During June and July the demand was smaller, and the natural explanation is that during these summer months the German production was considerable. Subsequently, however, Danish butter has met with an increased demand, and according to this report a strong demand is expected during the coming winter.

This information may be supplemented with some figures from the last published trade statistics, from which it appears that during January-August this year Denmark has exported Kr.445,400,000 of butter, cream, milk and cheese. The exports of Danish butter in casks and boxes aggregated 83,900,000 kilos, of which the United Kingdom purchased 59,700,000 kilos and Germany 15,900,000 kilos. During the corresponding period last year the total exports were 75,000,000 kilos, of which 62,700,000 kilos went to England and only about 500,000 kilos to Germany. For a number of other articles Germany has likewise become of importance for Danish agricultural exports. Its imports of living pigs were 3,844 head during January-August, 1923, while during the corresponding period this year the figure was 40,065 head. The quantity of cheese supplied was doubled, i.e., increased from 2,100,000 kilos to 4,200,000 kilos, and the exports of eggs were increased from 146,400 scores to 5,400,000 scores, while the United Kingdom purchased 24,200,000 scores in the eight months of 1923, but only about 21,000,000 scores this year, out of total exports of 26,200,000 and 27,200,000 scores respectively. The exports of pork were increased from 110,300,000 kilos to 130,800,000 kilos; of this 109,800,000 kilos and 129,400,000 kilos respectively went to the United Kingdom and 79,100 kilos and 750,700 kilos to Germany.

During September the wholesale price index of the *Finanstidende* shows a rise from 231 to 234 points. This increase is, however, entirely due to the figures of the food section, notably cereals, butter and eggs. Of other goods, only wool and cattle feeding stuffs show rises, the remainder either having maintained their price or declined slightly. The greatest declines have been for spun cotton, hides, petroleum, and metals. The Danish wholesale price

level is now 14 per cent. above that of the same time last year. In its trade report for September the *Finanstidende* points out that the number of unemployed is still appreciably lower than at the same time last year, viz., about 15,000, as against about 20,000, but there has been a slight seasonal increase.

It is possible that the credit restriction measures adopted by the Nationalbank and the private banks may to some extent retard business enterprise. Up to the present, however, it does not appear to have been a decisive hindrance. The net earnings of the Nationalbank have amounted to Kr.12,700,000, which amount has been written off on shares and foreign exchanges. Consequently there is no surplus for the year. In consideration of the generally satisfactory condition and prospects of the bank, the board has, however, considered it justifiable to distribute a dividend of 8 per cent. out of the dividend regulation fund.

At the opening of the Rigsdag early in October the State accounts for the financial year 1923-24 were produced. These accounts show an income of Kr.389,700,000 and an expenditure of Kr.402,300,000. The excess of expenditure has thus been Kr.12,600,000, to which must be added a deficit of Kr.33,400,000 on asset acquisition account, making a total deficit of Kr.46,000,000. Interest and other income from holdings and claims show a deficit of Kr.32,300,000, against a Budget surplus of Kr.7,300,000. But this is due to the writing off of the Kr.40,000,000 preference shares in the Landmandsbank, taken over by the State at the reconstruction of the bank in 1922. Without this writing off the working accounts would have shown a surplus of Kr.27,400,000. The dominant item of the income side of the accounts is, as usual, taxes and duties, which in 1923-24 brought an income of Kr.401,200,000 against the Budget figure of Kr.397,600,000.

The Budget for 1925-26 has been drawn up, partly on new lines, and a direct comparison with previous Budgets is therefore not possible. Income is put at Kr.368,800,000, and expenditure at Kr.360,800,000. The Budget surplus is thus Kr.7,800,000, which amount practically corresponds to a deficit on the asset acquisition account.

Letters to the Editor.

IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In an article dealing with overseas trade printed in your issue of November 1st, you give figures showing that from 1880-1924 the average price of our exports has been continuously rising relatively to the average price of our imports, so that there has been a continuous increase in the quantity of imports brought home in exchange for a representative ton of our exported produce.

The natural inference from these figures is that this persistent alteration in relative prices indicates a change in the conditions of international trade, which results in a substantial gain to this country. You throw out hints to the effect that this conclusion is subject to some qualification. May I suggest that when these qualifications are set out more fully their effect is so considerable as largely to destroy the favourable character of the conclusion? Leaving out of account that effect of the change which diminishes the volume of our exports and results in unemployment in our exporting trades, these qualifications may be set down under three heads:—

1. It would seem that such commodities as wheat, cotton, wool, ores, timber, and so on, which together make up about one-half of the value of our imports, can have undergone no appreciable change in quality; whereas there must have been during the period in question a very great improvement in the quality of the cotton and woollen goods, the machinery, railway material and ships which formed the bulk of our exports. Of this alteration in the quality of the representative ton of exports the Board of Trade returns take no account.

2. A part of the fall in the average price of imports relatively to that of exports must be due to the inclusion in that price of the cost of ever-cheapening transport services. If those services were supplied wholly by foreigners

the inclusion of their cost would be appropriate. But as the services are supplied mainly by ourselves, it would seem that a significant comparison of changes in import and export prices would require that both should be reckoned f.o.b. Assuming that to be done, there still remains a final qualification.

3. Our greatest single export, the value of shipping services supplied by us to foreigners, is not included in the exports, whose average price is given. If it were included, as it should be for the purpose of this particular comparison, it seems very probable that the average values of our exports, especially in the last few years, would be substantially lower than they are.

It is not suggested that these three qualifications destroy the possibility that we have been making some gain from a more favourable rate of interchange between exports and imports. But they do seem to suggest that the probable amount of that gain is far less than appears from a comparison of the raw figures.—Yours, &c.,

Emmanuel College, Cambridge, F. LAVINGTON.
November 3rd, 1924.

Books and Publications.

"IS UNEMPLOYMENT INEVITABLE?"

THE slow but steady improvement in the weekly statistics of unemployment during the first half of 1924 has lulled many observers into the feeling that the disease is gradually curing itself by a kind of economic *vis medicatrix* while doctors busy themselves with diagnosis, prescription and consultation. Others, less easily satisfied, have realised that there has been little more in this improvement than that kind of seasonal change the movement from winter to summer conditions would "normally" bring about, and the fundamental betterment for which we all look eagerly is still tarrying. A slight set-back in June, and a more definite one in recent weeks, turn our thoughts to the doctors, and even the surgeons, once again with a desperate feeling that we are still only fumbling, rule of thumb fashion, at the most baffling problem of our times. But we know, at the same time, that with the best knowledge, and no mistakes, with the best surgery, and no reactions, all cures must take time and infinite study and patience; and even those practical business men who are intolerant of all highbrow efforts to register exact facts and draw generalisations therefrom, and of other similar academic and professional pursuits, are dumb before the present prospect and the utter futility of meeting it with the puny and irrelevant "experience" upon which they would like to rely. No greater service to our age can be rendered than patient work in a scientific spirit on the problem. No greater disservice is possible than the hasty prescription of remedies, ill-considered and conceived in a spirit of social prejudice or political animus. The authors of the "Third Winter of Unemployment" form a band whose experience and knowledge touch most aspects of the subject. Messrs W. T. Layton (chairman), J. J. Astor, A. L. Bowley, Robert Grant, J. H. Jones, S. J. Pybus, B. Seeborn Rowntree, D. Spring Rice, and F. D. Stuart, have devoted themselves to a continued attack upon the problem, in a new volume, "Is Unemployment Inevitable?—an Analysis and a Forecast," bringing their investigations up to date. Their method has been to obtain economic and statistical memoranda from distinguished authorities on particular problems, notes upon the prospects of staple industries from well-known representatives, and to present them with an introductory report of a general character. Professor Pigou contributes a characteristic chapter on "Correctives of the Trade Cycle," which incidentally does much to reveal his present position on the problem of stabilisation and managed currencies. Even a "discount policy directed towards price stabilisation.....must involve (for the Bank of England) a course of action considerably less consonant with its own private interest than has ever been required of it up to the present time." It probably carries with it "supersession of such institutions by central

* Macmillan and Co., Limited. 8s 6d.

banks definitely organised as departments of Government." His examination of deliberate alterations of "time demands" and "time supplies" by consumers and producers is clear and original, but action to be effective (and not to entail undue sacrifice upon those who take it) must be general and concerted. Professor Cassel's article, "The problem of finding employment," will be for many British readers the most important single contribution in the volume, for the simple reason that the trenchant statements on British conditions come with greater force from a foreign critic. His comments on the relation between reparations and protection, on German competition, on the effects of taxation on cost of production, will be unpalatable reading for many business men, and there is hardly a fallacy (or partial truth) finding expression in industrial circles to-day which is not severely handled. Professor Moritz Bonn writes on "The Effects of Currency Inflation," mainly as illustrated in Germany's recent experience, but the contribution is more effective as a summary of past events than any kind of answer to the subject question of the book. Dr. C. K. Hobson is responsible for "The Export of Capital in Relation to Unemployment," dealing with the reaction of the development of other countries upon our conditions, and the desirability of the exercise of governmental control over export of capital. Professor J. H. Jones takes the "Future of British Industry," and deals especially with the fears that arise from the burden of heavier direct taxation than our competitors, which, while not exactly groundless, are only too prominent a feature in our industrial pessimism.

This is a solid book of nearly 400 pages, and only a small proportion of business men will read it in this form. Several of the chapters are suitable to make a series of pamphlets which, to those who like their economics in manageable doses, might reach a wider public. They would be valuable in clearing away misapprehensions and erroneous views, and do not rely for their force upon their cumulative effect.

Part III. consists of very detailed and thorough studies of the position and prospects of various industries. "Agriculture" (Sir A. D. Hall) shows that British farming can contribute but little of practical importance to the unemployment problem. "The Coal Industry" (Mr Wallace Thornycroft), "Iron and Steel Trade" (Mr Harold Jeans), "Engineering" (P. Horsfall), "Shipbuilding" (Professor J. H. Jones), "Cotton" (Professor G. W. Daniels), "Woolen and Worsted" (Mr A. N. Shimmis), "Port Facilities" (Mr Clement Jones) make a group of studies of great value. Their combined effect tends to lead to more pessimistic conclusions than the general chapters dealing with conditions as a whole, in the earlier part of the book.

Part IV. contains Dr Bowley's invaluable statistical inquiries into future population, the effect of adjusting rates of wages in accordance with the level of prices and the state of trade, and (with F. D. Stuart) the possibility of regularising the demand for labour by advancement or retardation of public works. One of his most important conclusions tends to set at rest the concern raised by Mr Keynes in the *Manchester Guardian* Supplements in the view that for many years to come over a quarter million new workers would come into production as a net addition. Dr Bowley shows that if emigration continues on the same scale as in the years preceding 1911, there will be a net annual increase of 65,000 men and 88,000 women up to 1931, and thereafter a diminution of 6,000 men and 12,000 women annually up to 1941. Even without any emigration the first annual increase would be 140,000 men and 40,000 women seeking employment, and 47,000 men per annum thereafter. With emigration at recent rates, the next ten years holds out the prospect of an increase of 90,000 men and 30,000 women seeking employment. The Committee's conclusion is that the problem of an increase in the working population is one of the next few years only, and that normal emigration should reduce this to small dimensions—indeed, to the dimensions of a problem which would disappear if the school age were raised to 16. While these facts are of great importance, there is in this work, as in other works on the whole treatment of population, a failure to state the position which lies beyond the fixed

"work-fund" idea. This is not, of course, intentional, but it means that those who instinctively hold the notion that there is a certain quantity of work to go round, would not repeatedly find a correction of their fallacy in such a way as other fallacy-holders would be brought up short, again and again in these pages. It would have been useful to insist first upon the main principle that every addition to the population is not only a potential producer but also a potential consumer, and that an increasing population makes work for itself. This leads direct to the real problem whether in an already well-developed country the association of land and capital and general industrial institutions with these population increases, is capable of maintaining an undiminished *per capita* figure of combined yield. In other words, while the annual amount of production in the country may increase, can it increase otherwise than at a diminishing rate per head? At what point of development does a country pass its optimum *per capita* yield? Some recent American writers have held the view that even in the United States this maximum average has been passed, and that it is better to prohibit further immigration and maintain the present balance between human and natural forces in production than seek absolute increases in wealth with a diminishing amount per head of the population.

The anonymous survey and forecast summarising the whole matter, occupying the first 85 pages of the book, is an extremely competent piece of work, and the reader is left speculating as to the dominant responsibility for it. It may be said that it leads the reader to a somewhat more optimistic frame of mind than the separate contributions relating to the different industries.

What is the answer to the subject title "Is Unemployment Inevitable?" It cannot clearly be drawn by the casual reader. Every reader must work hard to secure his own answer, but it appears to be "Yes, within limits. But those limits may be considerably less than we experience to-day, and may be progressively diminished." The ways in which the point of minimum unemployment may be lowered cannot be sketched in a review. We can see clearly the irrevocable dependence of our population upon its foreign trade if the present high standard of life is to be continued. The necessity for a wider knowledge of economic facts on the part of all who lead our commercial life in their own protection and that of the workers, and also the necessity for a wider appreciation of economic facts on the part of the workers if they are not to make business impossible is patent. This book should go a long way in the campaign of enlightenment.

It is not too much to say that "Is Unemployment Inevitable?" is a positive arsenal of facts and principles, the most comprehensive we have available, and that within its pages the reader of one hundred years hence will find more clearly and graphically than anywhere else a statement of Britain's economic position and the hopes and fears which filled our minds five years after the conclusion of the Great War.

J. C. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Financial Reform.* By Henry Higgs. (London) Macmillan and Co. 6s net.
The Theory of the Leisure Class. By Thorstein Veblen. (London) George Allen and Unwin. 10s 6d net.
The Vested Interests. By Thorstein Veblen. (London) George Allen and Unwin. 5s net.
Absentee Ownership. By Thorstein Veblen. (London) George Allen and Unwin. 10s 6d net.
The A.B.C. of Foreign Exchanges. By George Clare. 6th Edition, revised by Norman Crump. (London) Macmillan and Co. 4s 6d net.
Industrial Psychology and the Production of Wealth. By H. D. Harrison. (London) Methuen and Co. 5s net.
Justice in Dealings on Aristotle's Plan. By Henry Lowenfeld. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.
The Failure of State Railways. By Harold Cox. (London) Longmans, Green, and Co. 6d.
The Purpose of Education. By St George Lane Fox Pitt. (London) Cambridge University Press. 4s net.
Public Speaking for Business Men. By Sidney F. Wicks. (London) Methuen and Co. 6s net.

- Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, No. 3, 1924. (London) John Murray. 3s 6d net.
The Sociological Review—October, 1924. (London) Sociological Publications, Limited. 5s.
Oil Facts and Figures. (London) F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16 Copthall avenue, E.C. 2. 1s 6d.
Journal du Droit International—Juillet-Octobre, 1924. (Paris) G. Godde, 27 Place Dauphine. 20f.
Riksgäldskontoret, 1923-24. (Stockholm) K. L. Beckmar's Boktryckeri.
Annual Report of the South Australian Railways Commissioner, 1923-24. (Adelaide) Railway Commissioner's Office.
New South Wales Statistical Register for 1922-23. Part X., Meteorology; Part XI., Manufactures and Works. (Sydney) Published by authority of the New South Wales Government.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

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

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, November 19. ACCOUNT, November 20.

STOCK EXCHANGE markets have been called upon this week to deal with a very considerable volume of business, the bulk of which has been concerned with the purchase of stock by people who are feeling more confident than they have done for years past in the matter of home politics. The return to power of the Unionist Government served to set alight a flame of optimism which carried up prices to high levels in the industrial market. Other parts of the House shared in the buoyant feeling, and Stock Exchange members have been overwhelmed with business, mostly, as already mentioned, of the buying order. Towards the end of the week, a slight check was administered to the upward career of prices, and the stiffening of money rates has been quoted as a reason for the assumption that it may be well to display a little caution on the top of the hundreds of rises which the markets display. Many Stock Exchange staffs worked continuously, without going home, from Wednesday morning until Thursday night.

The War Loan has remained close to 101 throughout the week, and British Government stocks are firm, without any special feature. Indian Government securities went up without exception, and this resulted in a hardening of prices amongst Indian railway stocks. The latest issued Union of South Africa scrip strengthened to $\frac{1}{4}$ premium, the new Queensland to $\frac{3}{4}$ premium, but there are well-informed whippers of substantial new issues to come in the near future, and these have the effect of keeping back a certain amount of capital that prefers to wait for what opportunities may be offered in the near future for the employment of money. The Stock Exchange is not looking for any rise in the Bank rate this year; at the same time, the hint of dearer money afforded by renewed borrowing from the Bank of England is not lost upon the investing public.

In the foreign market, German Sevens touched 6 premium on the issue price of 92 before the price shaded off a little. Dealings have begun in the French portion of the German loan; the price of the fully-paid scrip stands about a couple of points, allowing for the £2 English stamp duty, below that of the British portion. French bonds have been dull. Paris has taken a hand in some of its favourite stocks, and hoisted Tintos on account of the rise in copper. Peruvian Corporations have been strong, and the $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Hungarian spurred to 92.

Home Railways came in for investment attention, and a long catalogue of rises is the result. London, Midland, and Scottish touched 105 before the price gave way on official denial of the rumours that the directors intended to split the stock. Argentine Railway stocks are good, more particularly Cordoba Centrals, Entre Rios, and Central Uruguay. The Canadian Railway bonds, after a brisk recovery, went back on profit-taking. Mexican Rails are a little better. Anto-

fagasta, Leopoldina, and United of Havana have been advanced.

The rubber market is seething with bullishness by reason of a rise in the produce to 15 6d per lb. There has been an enormous turnover of shares during the past few business days. The tea market is also better, and dramatic rises took place amongst the few coffee shares in which there is anything approaching a Stock Exchange market. The oil market complains that it is being damaged by the way in which the price of Mexican Eagles moves violently up and down on wire-pulling by people who get advance information. Strength in Shells was offset by an abrupt drop in Venezuelans, where many thousands of shares were turned out in the course of one half-hour. The tobacco market has been booming, and textiles were run up to what seemed—on the companies' dividend performances—very exalted figures. The iron and steel market, after a continuous rise of several days, halted in its stride, and prices fell below the best, in company with those of many other industrial shares.

Dunlops were run up; stores shares went steadily ahead; the brewery market provided a dozen strong features; electric lighting shares expanded, on the idea that the two London Bills will be safely passed by the new Parliament; Hudson's Bays enjoyed a mild boomlet; shipping shares, insurance, and banking made less sensational improvements, but all moved on the same upward plane.

Shrewd people who have been taking substantial profits on previous purchases of industrial shares are regarding Kaffirs with a certain amount of favour, in consequence of the high yields which most of the dividend-payers afford. Buying on this account, supplemented by support from the Cape and Paris, has served to put a brighter complexion upon the price-list as a whole, and there are a good many rises shown by South Africans, more especially those in the gold market. The sharp rise in sterling suggests, of course, that gold will come down, but for the moment this factor is either disregarded as a practical consideration, or else countered by the consolatory expectation that a fall in gold will automatically help to reduce costs. Chartered are now ex dividend, and attract a measure of support by those who consider the shares a good lock-up. The excitement in Tanganyikas and Zambesias subsided to some extent. Shares in certain of the land companies responded with sharp rises to a little demand, some of which came, curiously enough, from the Middle East, which hitherto had been confining its attentions mainly to tin shares, where further improvements stand out in most of the good Malaysians. West Africans are also a little better. There is not much doing in Mexican or Canadian mining shares, but the mining markets, speaking generally, are enjoying more public interest than they have done for some time past.

The Stock Exchange Committee have confirmed the rule permitting a broker to charge, at his discretion, one commission only on the purchase and sale of shares effected in the same account or in the account following.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£163,257,309	..	..	..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 1, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Nov. 1, 1924, Dr £2,450,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
To the Public—				
Southern Railway, £2,000,000 5% Pref. Stk. (less £1,000,000 for redemption of existing Pref. Stk.) (red. at par, 1924), issued at 98½ %	1,000,000	995,000	50,000	945,000
Great Northern Investment Trust, 75,000 Shares of £10, at par	750,000	750,000	37,500	712,500
Matthew Brown and Co., Ltd., 150,000 7% Cum. Pref. of £1, issued at 21s	150,000	157,500	18,750	138,750
Bukit Tupah Rubber Estates, 77,000 Shares of £1, at par	77,000	77,000	9,625	67,375
Warth Mills (1924), 180,000 Shares, 10s, at par	90,000	90,000	22,500	67,500
Total offered to the public	2,069,500	2,069,500	138,375	1,931,125
To Shareholders only—				
Union Bank of Australia, 100,000 Shares, £15, of which £5 is called up at £11 p.s.	500,000	1,100,000	275,000	825,000
Amalgamated (Rubber) Finance Co., 2,500,000 Shares of 2s, at par	250,000	250,000	62,500	187,500
Klanang Province, 124,424 Shares of 2s, at 4s p.s.	12,442	24,884	6,221	18,663
Jantar Nigeria Co., 109,527 Shares of 3s, at par	16,429	16,429	5,476	10,953
Total offered to shareholders	1,391,313	349,197	1,042,116	..
Total offered for subscription to date	166,718,122	1925	271,333,173	..
1924	251,490,921	1924	578,985,650	..
1923	548,842,208	1923	388,978,203	..
1922	284,729,636	1922	367,549,666	..
1921	333,852,670	1921	1,036,069,951	..
1920	968,538,103	1920	1,393,381,441	..

Southern Railway Company.—This is an issue of £2,000,000 5 per cent. "redeemable" preference stock at 99½ per cent. The net proceeds of this issue will be applied in redeeming the existing £1,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable preference stock (1924), and in providing for the general purposes of the company's undertaking. The new stock, which constitutes a trustee investment, will rank *pari passu* with the existing 5 per cent. preference stock, and will be redeemed at par on December 31, 1924. The dividend will be payable half-yearly in August and March "only out of the amount available for dividend in each year." The issue has been underwritten for 1 per cent. together with an overriding commission of ½ per cent. An excellent security which was well received.

The Great Northern Investment Trust, Limited.—Authorised share capital £1,000,000, divided into shares of £10 each. This is an offer for subscription of 75,000 shares at par. The prospectus states that applications for 50,000 shares have already been received, and will be allotted in full. When fully paid, the shares will be converted into preference and ordinary shares in the proportions of 60 per cent. of the former and 40 per cent. of the latter. The preference shares will be entitled to a cumulative dividend of 5 per cent. and to priority as to capital. The articles of association provide that except in the case of British Government securities, not more than 10 per cent. of the combined subscribed share capital, debenture capital, and loans for the time being shall be invested in any one security, and no investment shall be made in any security upon which the liability is unlimited. This company has been formed to conduct the usual business of an investment company. Preliminary expenses are estimated at £13,500, and will be borne by the company. Some prominent business men are on the board, and shareholders have reasonable grounds for optimism.

Matthew Brown and Co., Limited.—Authorised share capital £800,000. There have been already issued 395,004 ordinary shares of £1 each, and there are now offered 150,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 at 21s each. The company has no debentures. The additional money is required for the purpose of providing funds for the purchase of a property at Hindley. The original business was established in Preston in 1830, and was formed into a limited company 45 years later, since when several kindred undertakings in Preston and Blackburn have been acquired. The company, it is stated, has paid regular dividends on its ordinary capital, recent rates of distribution having been 14 per cent. for each of the two years to September 30th last and 15 per cent. for each of the three previous years. Profits are shown for the past six years. These are amply sufficient to cover the preference dividend. Net assets amount to £586,800, which, together with the sum received from the present issue, provides a very substantial margin for the present preference issue. A well-secured industrial share, but consideration should be paid to the future of the industry.

Amalgamated (Rubber) Finance Company, Limited.—Authorised capital £250,000, divided into shares of 2s each. Particulars are published for information only of an offer of 2,500,000 shares of 2s each. The above shares are being offered as "rights" to the shareholders of the Amalgamated Rubber Estates, Limited, in the proportion of one share for every two shares held in Amalgamated Rubber Estates. The object of the company is to provide any necessary finance which may be required in the acquisition of estates so geographically situated that they can be amalgamated with the estates already held by Amalgamated Rubber Estates, Limited. The subscription of 625,000 shares of 2s each has been guaranteed by Messrs Zorn and Leigh-Hunt for a commission of 6 per cent.

Warth Mills (1924), Limited.—Authorised capital £90,000, divided into shares of 10s each. This is an issue of 179,597 shares at par. The Warth mills are at Bury, and for many years they were run by J. and J. Mellor, Limited. They were closed in 1923 by a company, bearing a similar name, who acquired them in 1920. It is stated that the plant and machinery have been maintained in excellent condition. According to the rating of the Spinners' Federation, the mills contain the equivalent of 91,682 spindles (part being ring and part mule), and also 736 looms. They have an adequate water supply, and skilled workers living in close proximity to the mills are available. It has also been decided to issue first cent. per annum, free of tax. The proceeds of the two issues will be applied in satisfaction of the purchase price—namely, £160,000—and to provide working capital. A speculative, but interesting venture.

The Bukit Tupah Rubber Estates, Limited.—Capital £85,000, divided into shares of £1 each. This is an issue of 77,000 shares. The company has been formed to acquire as a going concern, as from October 1, 1924, the Bukit Tupah and Tupah Bahru Rubber Estates, situated in the district of Bedong in the State of Kedah, Malaya. The estates are held under Government grants in perpetuity at a quit rent of about 1s 2d per acre, and have a total area of 2,064 acres.

The Bukit Tupah Rubber Estates is a property that was jointly acquired and developed by the Eastern International Rubber and Produce Trust and the British and Continental Plantations Trust, each of which owns a 50 per cent. interest. These two concerns will retain a large interest in the company, as out of the total share issue of 77,000 of £1 each, 50,000 will go to the two vendor companies, and the balance of £27,000 is offered for public subscription at par. Applications from shareholders of the two trusts referred to will receive special consideration. The purchase price of £60,000 is equal to about £36 10s per acre. A proposition which no doubt was supported by shareholders in the trusts.

East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.—This is an offer for sale by tender of £28,000 of 5 per cent. irredeemable debenture stock. The minimum price at which offers will be received is 95, at which level the stock, if obtained, would yield £5 5s 3d per cent. running income in perpetuity. The company was incorporated in 1877 to supply a district of about 120 square miles in the area named in the title. During the year ended June last the company earned a net revenue of £8,025. Debenture interest, including that on the issue now to be made, requires £1,640, thus leaving a satisfactory margin for safety, but regard should be paid to the narrow market for such an issue.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
War 5%, 1925-28	96½	96½	—
Loans 5%, 1925-45	97½	97½	—
Loans 5%, 1929-42	101½	101½	—
Funding Loan 4%	91	91	—
Victory Bonds 4%	93½	93½	—
Conversion Loan 3%	79½	79½	—
Consols 3%	58½	58½	—
Irish Land Stock 2½%	61	61	—
Local Loans 3%	67½	67½	—
Aust. 5% 1931-41	105	105	—
Canada 4% 1926-35	101½	101½	—
India 5% 1926-31	66½	66½	—
Do 5% 1926-31	113	113	—
Do 5% 1932	102½	102½	—
Do 4%	87	87	—
N.S.W. 5% 1922-32	102	102	—
Nigeria 5% 1924-29	115	115	—
U. of S.A. 6% 1924-40	104	104	—
Victoria 5% 1924-34	102	102	—
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40	105	105	—

British Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Great Western, Ord.	111½	111½	—
London & North-Eastern 5% Pref. Ord.	81½	82½	+ 1
Do Def. Ord.	32	31½	- ½
London, Mid., and Scottish, Ord.	102½	103½	+ 1
Metropolitan 7%	78	78½	+ ½
Metropolitan District, 5%	53½	53½	—
Southern, Ord. "A"	41½	41½	—
Do Ord. "B"	37	37	—
Do Pref. Ord.	82½	83½	+ 1
Do Def. Ord.	44	43½	- ½
Underground Electric (Ord.)	27	27	—
Do "A" (1)	83	83	—
Do Ind. Bds. (£100)	99½	99½	—

Banks.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Nat. Bank of S. Africa 6% ..	62	62	—
National Provincial, (20, with 4 paid) ..	10½	11	+ ½
Standard of S. Africa (20, with 5 paid) ..	11	11½	+ ½
Westminster Bank (20, with 5 paid) ..	17½	17½	—

American Railroads.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Chesapeake & Ohio	92	93	+ 1
Erie	30	31	+ 1
Do 4% 1st Pref.	42	42	—
Southern	73	76	+ 3
Do Non-cum Pref. 6% ..	85	84	- 1

Colonial and Foreign Railways.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Antioquia Cons.	88	90½	+ 2½
B.A. and Pacific	82½	82½	—
B.A. Gt. Southern	88½	88	- ½
Buenos Ayres West. 82½d ..	82	82	—
Canadian Pacific	106	106	—
Central Argentine	76	76½	+ ½
Argentine 5%, 1888-7	100	100	—
American 5% Guar. 95½ ..	96	96	—
Belgian 3%	73	73	—
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914	75	75	—
Chilean 4%, 1895	86	86	—
Do 7½%	102½	102½	—
Chinese 5%, 1912	68	69	+ 1
Egyptian 4%	76½	75½	- 1
French 5%	224	22	- 202
Do 4%	182	18	- 164
Greek 5%, 1894	56½	56½	—
Hungarian 7½%, 1924-30 ..	92½	92½	—
Japanese 4% 1910	63	63	—
Do 5% 1924	91½	92	+ ½
Mexican Cons. 1899	37	37	—
Peruvian Corp. Pref.	84½	84½	—
S. Afr. 5%	25½	25½	—
Portuguese (New)	27½	27½	—
Russian 5%, 1906	6	6	—
Spanish 4%	64	64	—
Seine (Dept.) 7%	104	103½	- ½
Siam 7%	107	107	—

Foreign Government Securities.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A"	23½	24½	+ 1
Marconi Wireless	12	12	—
Marconi Canada	18	18	—
Marconi Marine	18	18	—
Aerated Bread (1)	18	18	—
Amal. Cottons (1)	18	18	—
Anglo Persian Oil (1)	28	28	—
Armstrong (1) W.A.	28	28	—
Am. Pined. Cottons (1)	28	28	—
Barker, John (1)	28	28	—
B. & S. Small Arms (1)	28	28	—
Brazil Traction (100)	57	55½	- 1½
British-American Tobacco (1)	58½	58½	—
Burmah Oil (1)	58½	58½	—
Coca (1) and P. (1)	28	28	—
Consolidated (1)	28	28	—
Conard (1)	28	28	—
Dorman, Long (1)	28	28	—
Dunlop Rubber (1)	28	28	—
Fine Cotton Spinnings (1)	28	28	—
Forestal Land (1)	28	28	—
Furness, Withy (1)	28	28	—
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (1) ..	18	18	—
Imperial Tobacco (1)	42	42	—
Linggi Plantations (1) ..	18	18	—
Lipton (1)	18	18	—
Lever Bros. (1)	18	18	—
Do 8% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—
Do 5% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—
Lester (1)	18	18	—
Lothian Oilfields (1)	18	18	—
Lyons (1) & Co. (1)	18	18	—
Mexican Eagle (100) ..	18	18	—
Nobel Industries (1)	18	18	—
Pekin (1)	18	18	—
Rubber Plantations Investment (1) ..	18	18	—
Shell Transport (1)	18	18	—
Smithfield Argentine Meat (1)	18	18	—
Union Cold Storage 8% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—
Do 7% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—
United Dairies (1)	18	18	—
United Serango (1)	18	18	—
United Tobacco (1)	18	18	—
Vallambrosa (1)	18	18	—
Vickers (1)	18	18	—
Westney Def. Stk.	18	18	—

Telegraphs.			
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-American "A"	23½	24½	+ 1
Marconi Wireless	12	12	—
Marconi Canada	18	18	—
Marconi Marine	18	18	—

Miscellaneous.				
Aerated Bread (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Amal. Cottons (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Anglo Persian Oil (1) ..	28	35	+	7
Armstrong (1) W.A.	28	28	—	—
Am. Pined. Cottons (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Barker, John (1) ..	28	31	+	3
B. & S. Small Arms (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Brazil Traction (100) ..	57	55½	-	1½
British-American Tobacco (1) ..	58½	58½	—	—
Burmah Oil (1) ..	58½	58½	—	—
Coca (1) and P. (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Consolidated (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Conard (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Dorman, Long (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Dunlop Rubber (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Fine Cotton Spinnings (1) ..	28	31	+	3
Forestal Land (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Furness, Withy (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Imperial Tobacco (1) ..	42	42	—	—
Linggi Plantations (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Lipton (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Lever Bros. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Do 8% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Do 5% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Lester (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Lothian Oilfields (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Lyons (1) & Co. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Mexican Eagle (100) ..	18	18	—	—
Nobel Industries (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Pekin (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Rubber Plantations Investment (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Shell Transport (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Smithfield Argentine Meat (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Union Cold Storage 8% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Do 7% Cum. Pref. (1) ..	18	18	—	—
United Dairies (1) ..	18	18	—	—
United Serango (1) ..	18	18	—	—
United Tobacco (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Vallambrosa (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Vickers (1) ..	18	18	—	—
Westney Def. Stk.	26½	186½	+	160

of 1s 3d was certainly very satisfactory. The realised price for the coffee was £3 3s 9d per picul, being 1s per picul less than the amount realised the previous year. This price of £3 3s 9d was, however, a very good one, as the coffee market was in rather a depressed condition during the autumn of 1923, and in any case the slight decrease in price was more than offset by the very much larger crop.

The final result of the year's working was a profit of £20,587, which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, gave a total of £29,745. Out of this sum it was proposed to declare to-day a dividend of 10 per cent., which would absorb £16,000, and to carry forward the balance of £13,745 to next year.

Dealing with the current year, the Chairman said it would be noted that the company, which was voluntarily restricting its output in accordance with the R.G.A. policy, was entitled to produce 665,000 lb of rubber for the current year on a 60 per cent. basis. No forward contracts were in existence for the current year, but when he told them that a very large portion of this year's crop was still in hand unsold, he thought shareholders might take it that a fair average price could be relied upon for the year's output. Their output for 1924 would be slightly lowered by the reduction in the export allowance which took place on the 1st of this month, but they would be amply recouped by higher prices. There need be no fear in the minds of the shareholders that this reduction in output allowances would not be made good by several releases during 1925, when everybody expected that still higher prices would be forthcoming, and several 10 per cent. releases were expected to take place; should this not be so, a shortage of rubber must ensue, as the motor trade was advancing by leaps and bounds all over the world. They were hoping that the export allowance for 1925 would average not less than 70 per cent., and this added not only 10 per cent. to the figures they gave to the shareholders, but would add one-sixth to the allowance for 1924. Their rubber interests were therefore extremely promising. With regard to coffee, the position also looked very healthy, and this year showed a distinct improvement on last year. The condition of the estates generally was entirely satisfactory.

The report was unanimously adopted.

NORTH ANANTAPUR GOLD MINES, LIMITED. AMALGAMATION OF COPPER INTERESTS.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the North Anantapur Gold Mines, Limited, was held, on the 4th instant, at 6 Queen street place, London, Mr V. Herbert Smith (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr W. L. Bayley, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: In the directors' last annual report shareholders were informed that mining and milling operations at the North Anantapur mine had been discontinued, and that a limited amount of exploratory work had been carried out at the Gooty property, situate in Madras Presidency, over which the company holds a prospecting licence from the Government. Work has been continued, as explained in the directors' report, and I think you will agree that the results obtained offer considerable encouragement. A special inspection of the property has been made by a consulting mining engineer from the Kolar goldfield, who states that the Gooty area certainly merits further testing. It is the directors' intention to carry on further exploratory work.

Referring to the Sideshur copper area, he said:—It having become evident that many advantages would be found in an amalgamation of interests with the Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, who are the owners of the adjoining mining property, an arrangement was arrived at which is set forth in the directors' report. Each company has been allotted its due proportion of shares of 2s each, credited with 1s per share as paid, and under the scheme every shareholder has the same liability per share. Our proportion is 300,000 shares of 2s each in the Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, which company has a nominal capital of £225,000. Our company is subscribing £15,000 to be used in the development of the amalgamated properties as a whole, and under this agreement the Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, defray all mining expenses at the Sideshur block as from June 30, 1924.

The Mosaboni mine, which is the most important area owned by the Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, we are informed, is developing in a most satisfactory manner. The reserves are computed at 188,106 tons of profitable ore, and the present mining operations are rapidly adding to this total.

With regard to the Anglo-Canadian Explorers, Limited, the chairman of that company, at the last annual meeting, stated that the outlook was very encouraging, and offered good ground for satisfaction.

A circular issued this month by the Sumatra Mining Exploration, Limited, discloses an encouraging position at the property in Sumatra.

The Chairman then gave particulars from Mr Thomas Pryor's report, and after dealt with Mr Grimshaw's circulars.

The Hon. Lionel Holland, J.P. (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Nov. 10—Nov. 15 were opened on Nov. 7, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £59,080,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 3d, about 60 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 6d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £34,000,000; in bonds £1,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Oct. 3, 1924.	£40,000,000	59,345,000	3 14 3-89	94 10 0
Oct. 10.	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9-13	nil
Oct. 17.	35,000,000	57,670,000	3 14 11-17	nil
Oct. 24.	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 3-74	nil
Oct. 31.	35,000,000	57,395,000	3 12 10-66	nil
Nov. 7.	35,000,000	59,080,000	3 14 1-6	94 10 0

Tenders will be received on Nov. 15, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £30,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.						
			Silver Coins.	Gold Coins and Bullion.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.	
Mar. 23, 1922.	£300,351	14,255	5,000	38,500	19,480	15-9	261,479	177	
June 23.	295,374	13,338	5,000	38,500	19,480	15-9	254,313	180	
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	7,000	37,000	21,150	15-9	244,456	189	
Dec. 17.	301,337	12,872	7,000	37,000	21,150	15-9	258,922	137	
Mar. 23, 1923.	285,616	12,318	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	241,294	180	
June 23.	285,503	12,516	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	242,446	183	
Sept. 27.	282,784	12,401	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	238,596	140	
Dec. 28.	299,070	12,571	7,000	37,000	22,450	16-5	255,032	169	
Mar. 23, 1924.	281,538	11,908	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-6	236,867	130	
June 23.	290,316	12,472	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-0	246,198	140	
Sept. 24.	285,529	12,277	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	241,185	184	
Oct. 22.	285,318	12,234	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	240,869	133	
Oct. 29.	285,025	12,098	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-3	240,582	91	
Nov. 5.	287,412	12,277	7,000	37,000	22,450	17-2	243,080	159	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £300,000,000, for 1921 at £317,565,200, for 1922 at £309,888,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £246,190,900.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from		Receipts.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Nov. 1, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Nov. 3, 1923.	Week Ended Nov. 1, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 3, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England	..	5,089,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland	..	1,568,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.		6,657,614	6,818,167	..	..
Customs	101,800,000	58,748,000	74,749,000	1,810,000	1,959,000
Excise	135,900,000	77,179,000	82,885,000	1,491,000	1,343,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	15,800,000	4,811,000	4,050,000	134,000	..
Stamps, &c., Duties	56,000,000	35,486,000	31,200,000	880,000	880,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	1,250,000	860,000	540,000	..	10,000
Property & Income Tax	265,000,000	120,849,000	128,159,000	3,147,000	3,916,000
Super Tax	61,000,000	26,370,000	22,610,000	350,000	360,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	20,000,000	9,990,000	12,650,000	220,000	360,000
Post Office	53,500,000	31,900,000	30,100,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Crown Lands	900,000	630,000	560,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	12,350,000	8,063,846	8,375,650	..	78,478
Miscellaneous	11,850,000	7,045,420	8,623,776	..	247,873
Ordinary Receipts	30,000,000	16,168,261	21,900,350	..	57,841
Special Receipts	..	794,050,000	406,637,377	431,415,776	10,900,142
Revenue	..	415,568,541	438,233,943	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion	..	..	65,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	..	73,782	..	73,782
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	5,790,000	4,480,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1921 and 1924	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	4,000	..	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	260,719	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	400,000	880,000	250,000	550,000	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills	1,415,403,000	1,470,357,000	48,176,000	47,034,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	16,300,000	35,550,000	550,000	350,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	13,581,690	29,208,697	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	513,669,000	519,455,000	9,010,000	11,750,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired	23,109	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments in respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921	562,521	195,688	..	9,390	..
Total	4,386,002,910	2,507,871,121	69,078,000	70,887,044	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues.	
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Nov. 1, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Nov. 3, 1923.	Week Ended Nov. 1, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 3, 1923.
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	193,995,876	192,651,910	7,337,291	8,318,641
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	16,102,561	22,024,455	500,000	500,000
Road Fund	15,000,000	3,876,044	3,527,044	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	5,837,891	5,707,205	650,000	49,193
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	2,702,484	2,282,884	75,000	75,000
Land Settlement—					
Other Consolidated Fund	750,000	354,382	381,962	12,427	1,644
Other Consolidated Fund	2,440,000	1,415,062	1,551,396	43,598	10,089
Supply Services	408,919,000	214,250,512	216,526,876	8,350,000	6,358,200
Expenditure	793,759,000	438,534,712	444,453,732	16,968,316	15,312,767
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion	..	5,000	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	400,000	820,000	70,000	..	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1921 and 1924	5,150,000	3,970,000	..	350,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	6,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	316,195	..	5,476	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	5,790,000	4,480,000	10,000	470,000	..
Repayment of amounts borrowed..	1,385,605,000	1,449,315,000	49,630,000	45,240,000	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills	18,600,000	20,700,000	550,000	700,000	..
Principal of National Savings Certificates	6,464,373	32,222,296	50,000	..	..
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	50	6,981,184	..	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loans Act, 1914 to 1919	522,129,500	535,741,000	1,750,000	8,700,000	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	..	50,081	..	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	23,109	..	..	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	65,214	..	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	2,035,727	2,022,117	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland	894,462	869,715	41,808	29,756	..
Total	2,920,189	2,991,832	43,808	105,753	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 60 of 1924.

Treasury, November 3, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	..	684	683	686	686
4% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,925	2,036	2,096	2,166	2,166	2,166
National War Bonds	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	963	994	830	813	813
4% Funding Loan	..	409	406	401	399	400	396	396	396
4% Victory Bonds	..	350	357	347	336	326	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds	..	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
Exchequer Bonds	..	267	274	285	342	367	368	363	363
Other Debt	..	1,306	1,131	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,138	1,128	1,128
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	..	616	652	588	619	619
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	1,107	1,131	178	194	208	186	177
Temporary Advances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,641	7,666
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,732

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Nov. 3, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Nov. 1, '24.	Week Ended Nov. 1, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	..	..	..	..
Outstanding—				

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
 London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities	40,458,443
Reserve	1,325,693	Other securities	78,592,064
Public deposits	16,406,074	Notes	22,566,225
Other deposits	109,352,057	Gold and silver coin ..	1,831,234
Seven-day & other bills	11,142		

143,447,966 143,447,966

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Nov. 5, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Best	3,125,693	+ 27,476	+ 16,732
Public deposits	16,406,074	+ 2,416,933	+ 1,943,923
Other deposits	109,352,057	+ 1,629,551	+ 8,301,285
Government securities	40,458,443	+ 1,330,000	+ 2,330,063
Other securities	78,592,064	+ 2,388,726	+ 6,942,131
Notes	22,566,225	+ 2,388,726	+ 1,831,234
Gold and silver coin	1,831,234	+ 254,930	+ 1,018,800
% of reserve to liabilities	198%	+ 8%	+ 8%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
Oct. 1	128,426,147	122,288,835	128,080,392	120,473,972	25,887,312	204.4
8	128,481,074	124,484,485	124,748,432	118,645,067	23,746,589	19
15	128,481,745	123,450,130	127,324,228	120,814,854	24,784,013	19
22	128,487,745	122,905,630	127,255,085	119,584,790	25,312,115	19
29	128,484,503	123,592,175	124,970,749	117,392,291	24,642,328	19
Nov. 5	128,494,564	123,847,105	125,758,131	119,050,507	24,397,459	19

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to October 22	28,076,716	1,286,395	2,344,095	31,707,206
Oct. 29	626,238	30,004	51,502	707,744
Nov. 5	780,960	32,862	59,484	873,306
Total to date 1924	29,483,912	1,349,261	2,455,081	33,288,254
Do 1923	27,476,362	1,324,903	2,415,936	31,217,201
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 2,007,552	+ 24,358	+ 39,145	+ 2,071,055
%	+ 7.3 %	+ 1.8 %	+ 1.6 %	+ 6.6 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,808,165	37,163,461
Increase or decrease in 1923	+ 510,262	+ 28,096	+ 4,489	+ 533,865
%	+ 1.6 %	+ 1.8 %	+ 0.2 %	+ 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of October.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Nov. 1.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	26	25		
	£	£	£	£
BIRMINGHAM.....	9,905,000	10,110,000	99,441,400	100,959,600
BRISTOL.....	4,091,000	5,564,000	49,613,100	50,477,000
DUBLIN.....			260 85 ..200	236 319 6
HULL.....	4,797,000	5,415,000	46,914,400	46,701,500
LEEDS.....	4,080,000	4,111,000	44,052,000	43,991,900
LEICESTER.....	3,196,000	3,164,000	31,715,500	33,037,900
LIVERPOOL.....	38,335,000	44,274,000	345,782,100	399,028,800
MANCHESTER.....	68,368,000	70,486,000	639,310,600	663,741,700
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.....	8,170,000	7,546,000	87,784,800	87,056,500
NOTTINGHAM.....	2,762,000	2,812,000	26,832,600	26,947,900
SHEFFIELD.....	4,791,000	4,442,000	49,541,900	45,537,200
Total.....	148,498,000	157,954,000	..	..

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The late return of the Bank of Bulgaria appeared in the *Economist* of August 23; Roumania in September 27; German Gold Discount and German Rentenbank in October 11; Canada and Egypt in October 18; Lithuania in October 23; Japan, Reich bank, Norway, Poland, Hungary, and Jugoslavay in November 1.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Nov. 2, 1924.
Resources	3,043,830	3,044,220	3,037,380	3,111,080
Total gold reserve	87,770	87,400	83,310	80,070
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	222,570	223,240	261,080	283,800
Bills discounted for member banks	2,540	19,760	197,260	204,700
Bills bought in open market	584,200	582,830	5,852,000	9,180
Government obligations owned	87,490	86,770	86,580	69,050
All other resources				
LIABILITIES				
Government deposits	28,270	23,200	62,660	40,330
Other deposits	2,189,700	2,178,850	2,216,560	1,918,330
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,766,620	1,751,700	1,767,260	2,224,870
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	13,310	12,930	12,790	2,200
All other liabilities	332,870	332,830	332,932	328,100
Capital and surplus				
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	78.6%	79.2%	77.1%	76.3%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 13, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1923.
ASSETS						
Gold coin and bullion	551	551	551	551	551	533
Gold certificates	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,102
Subsidiary coin	50	50	50	50	50	125
Bills discounted	4,272	4,272	4,272	4,272	4,272	4,586
Loans and advances to Govt.	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,250
Investments	423	423	423	423	423	17
LIABILITIES						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	152	152	153	153	153	40
Notes in circulation	10,335	10,521	10,418	10,013	10,013	10,310
Bankers' deposits	4,576	4,570	4,565	4,765	4,579	5,500
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	70.7%	69.9%	70.4%	71.3%	71.9%	69.3%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Sept. 19, 1924.	Sept. 12, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1923.
ASSETS						
Total securities	16,749	16,749	16,749	16,749	16,749	16,749
Loans	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706
Cash credits	36,983	37,282	37,282	37,282	37,282	37,282
Inland bills	5,574	5,574	5,574	5,574	5,574	5,574
Foreign bills	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706	15,706
Dead stock	2,647	2,647	2,647	2,647	2,647	2,647
Bank with other banks	1,502	1,579	1,361	1,795	1,433	1,121
Cash	22,971	25,465	28,298	27,842	26,534	35,558
LIABILITIES						
Capital paid up	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625	5,625
Reserve	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570	4,570
Total deposits	91,216	94,357	97,815	98,617	1,02,092	93,506
The above includes —						
Deposits in London	1,251	1,406	1,329	1,544	1,289	89
Advances in London	476	472	463	461	464	327
Cash, &c., at other banks						
Banks in London	870	1,053	910	1,198	955	69

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Nov. 6, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 5, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS					
Gold coin and bullion	5,544,543	5,544,430	5,544,321	5,539,332	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	303,483	302,483	302,483	302,483	302,483
Discounts and advances	8,566,489	8,150,387	7,734,684	5,681,219	632,650
Advances to the State	23,100,000	22,700,000	22,700,000	23,100,000	2,327,775
LIABILITIES					
Notes	40,705,280	40,528,503	40,459,510	3,804,173	5,811,875
Government deposits	15,728	15,048	8,838	23,321	183,700
Private deposits	1,921,835	1,952,843	1,737,348	1,988,726	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
ASSETS						
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	356,077	355,616	357,592	356,134	352,259	322,550
Securities	1,346,152	1,303,199	1,254,290	1,222,033	1,024,505	897,800
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	7,629,580	7,573,447	7,617,250	7,623,602	7,381,195	934,150
Current accounts	301,435	319,364	238,592	219,362	234,316	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Nov. 3, 1924.	Oct. 27, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1924.	Nov. 5, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS						
Gold	481,500	480,345	497,678	510,128	581,773	163,092
Securities	10,540	10,854	10,570	10,343	7,170	8,436
Discounts and advances	408,418	356,414	355,188	353,495	396,996	153,504
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	998,969	957,698	963,105	971,983	1,038,101	316,633
Deposits	23,625	23,287	22,142	18,000	28,233	6,016

BANK OF JAPAN.—In florins (000's omitted).

	Nov. 1, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Nov. 3, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
ASSETS						
Gold	209,000	206,750	215,750	216,000	160,690	22,971
Silver	172,670	172,410	174,580	170,460	166,572	77,287
Discounts, advances, and other investments						
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	276,000	276,000	275,000	275,500	262,511	109,499
Deposits and bills payable	117,500	114,000	123,000	119,000	130,842	11,250

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
ASSETS						
Gold	505,323	505,057	505,076	504,867	527,498	171,775
Silver	63,219	94,051	92,940	92,609	94,280	18,350
Assets & advances	284,654	266,325	282,809	303,760	333,228	103,000
LIABILITIES						
Notes in circulation	88,153	826,14	833,843	861,732	927,424	275,925
Deposits	116,95	157,956	157,662	110,930	84,870	34,750

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

	Oct. 31, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
ASSETS						
Coin and bullion	209,529	209,540	209,544	209,554	209,554	209,554
Loans & discounts	516,482	476,731	499,683	480,010	499,683	480,010
Debtors abroad	25,600	35,137	25,027	15,918	37,544	24,102
Securities	8,799	8,515	8,001	8,001	8,476	11,988
LIABILITIES						
Circulation	495,122	472,726	471,089	470,344	471,258	157,266
Deposits	7,898	70,442	84,054	84,309	41,713	6,696

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

840		Nov. 1,	Oct. 25,	Oct. 18,	Oct. 11,	Nov. 3,	May 31,
850	ASSETS.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1923.	1924.
	Gold.....	240,139	242,580	243,670	245,202	272,287	104,801
330	Balance abroad						10
340	and foreign bills						10
350	59,597	62,354	61,816	60,945	28,868	111,806	7
360	Swedish and for.						11
370	gov. securities..	55,057	55,322	55,871	57,956	149,856	7
380	Discoun'ts & loans	380,483	353,228	363,561	369,758	379,866	7
390	LIABILITIES.						7
400	Notes in circula'tn	543,269	489,075	498,439	514,957	582,556	10
410	Deposits at notice	118,196	138,653	150,797	145,961		10
420	%						

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.	%	Changed.	%
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924 .. 5	Madrid	Mar. 21, 1923 .. 6
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923 .. 7	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924 .. 6
Belgrade	Jan. 14, 1923 .. 7	Prague	May 27, 1924 .. 6
Berlin	Sept. 15, 1923 .. 6	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924 .. 8
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923 .. 5	Rome	July 11, 1922 .. 5
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 .. 5	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923 .. 5
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924 .. 12	Swiss Bank .....	.. ..
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924 .. 6	Sofia	July 14, 1923 .. 4
Christiana	Nov. 10, 1923 .. 7	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919 .. 8
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924 .. 7	Vienna	Nov. 6, 1924 .. 13
Danzig	Sept. 11, 1924 .. 10	Warsaw	(See note below)
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924 .. 9		
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923 .. 9		
New York Federal Reserve ..	Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3		

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 6% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6½% for agricultural bills (not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, as from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 9, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.
Call money	5	3	3	3	3	3
Time money (90 days mixed coll.)	5	3	3	3	3	3
Bank acceptances:—						
Members—eligible, 90 days	4½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Ineligible, 90 days	5½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Par Level.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.
London—				
50 days	4.8666	4.4025	4.4736	4.4919
Cable	4.8666	4.4356	4.4974	4.5189
Cheques	4.8666	4.4356	4.4974	4.5189
Paris	19.30	5.8275	5.2393	5.2374
Brussels	19.30	4.935	4.8049	4.8074
Switzerland	19.30	17.73	19.239	19.244
Italy	19.30	4.435	4.3474	4.3449
Vienna	20.26	40.141	40.141	40.141
Madrid	16.30	13.24	13.439	13.473
Amsterdam	40.195	38.5	39.249	39.391
Copenhagen	16.9	17.259	17.281	17.40
Christiana	26.80	14.4	14.289	14.304
Stockholm	26.37	26.624	26.619	26.79
Athens	19.30	1.54	1.7374	1.7399
Montreal	100	100.00	100.03	100
Yokohama	49.85	51.45	55.85	54.875
Hong Kong	49.85	51.45	55.85	54.875
Shanghai	31	33.86	34.104	34.187
Calcutta	105.65	138.9	119.50	118.50
Buenos Aires	32.42	8.65	11.35	11.25
Rio de Janeiro	20.60	12	11.25	11.25
Valparaiso	20.60	12	11.25	11.25

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to \$	10.00	Sight London	Nov. 4 23.15
Venezuela	Bolivares to \$	15.25	"	Oct. 28 23.30
Colombia (Bogota) ..	Pesos to \$20.	100	"	Nov. 4 91.50
Nicaragua	Colonias to \$	4.8665	"	Oct. 20 4.80
San Salvador	Colonias to \$	9.73	"	Nov. 3 9.15
Guatemala	Pesos to \$	90.23	"	Oct. 31 270.00
Costa Rica	Colonias to \$	10.45	"	Oct. 10 18.00
Bolivia	Pence to Boliviano	19.20	"	Sept. 20 17.8

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.	Union of South Africa.
	From Oct. 20, 1924.	From Oct. 20, 1924.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	11% prem.	3% prem.
30 days	12% prem.	3% dis.
60 days	13% prem.	3% dis.
90 days	14% prem.	3% dis.
120 days	15% prem.	3% dis.

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T.s. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London.
	Buying.	Selling.
	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	101	103
30 days	100.7	102.3
60 days	99.7	101.3
90 days	99.4	101.0

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on November 4, 1924, for Rs100,00,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India. The result was as below:—

Bills	Rate.	Applications.	Allotments.	Allotments.	Average Rate.
1/5½	Rs. 10,000	Rs. nil	% ..	Bills—	
1/5½	1,00,000	nil	..	Calcutta..	..
				Bombay..	..
				Madras..	..
				Karachi..	..
Def. T.T. ...	1/6	5,00,000	5,00,000	100	Def. T.T.
1/5½	17,00,000	17,00,000	100	Calcutta..	17.9778
				Bombay..	17.9693
				Madras..	..
				Karachi..	..
Imm. T.T. ...	1/5½	10,00,000	nil	..	Imm. T.T.
				Calcutta..	..
				Bombay..	..
				Madras..	..
				Karachi..	..
					22,00,000
					22,00,000
					22,00,000

On November 11th 100 lacs will be offered.

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended November 5, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
United States of America ..	425	Sweden	137,800
British South Africa	479,781	Denmark	730
Kenya	2,730	Poland (inc. Danzig) ..	7,420
British Guiana	2,234	France	2,750
		Egypt	4,600
		Aden	1,000
		British India	402,328
		Other countries	1,600
Total declared value of imports	485,160	Total declared value of exports	558,263

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 5th as follows:—

GOLD.

A moderate amount of gold came on offer this week, and was absorbed by India, the Continent, and the trade. Ontario's gold production during the first half of 1924 is reported as follows:—Ore, 1,376,326 tons, 571,248 ounces; value, \$11,810,054.

SILVER.

A renewal of selling from China, owing probably to the course of events arising from the civil war in that country, coincided with a strong recovery in the sterling rate with the United States of America, and fresh falls ensued in the price of silver. The quotations for cash and forward reached 34½d on the 3rd inst. (a lower figure than any recorded since the date exactly two months previous). The mark, however, was overshoot, and a rally occurred yesterday of ½d. To-day, however, there was a slight reaction of ¼d. Some support has come from the Continent during the week, and naturally bear covering was encouraged by lower prices. America has been rather disposed to sell.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 15.	Oct. 22.	Oct. 31.
Notes in circulation	17,956	17,987	18,098
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,612	8,643	8,653
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	5,713	5,713	5,713
Securities (Indian Government) ..	1,399	1,399	1,500
Securities (British Government) ..			

The silver coinage during the week ending 31st ult. amounted to five lacs of rupees. The stock in Shanghai on the 1st inst. consisted of about 48,600,000 ounces in sycee, 44,500,000 dollars, and 1,280 silver bars, as compared with about 47,400,000 ounces in sycee, 44,000,000 dollars, and 3,600 silver bars on the 25th ult. Statistics for the month of October last are appended:—

	BAR SILVER—Per Oz. Standard.	BAR GOLD.
	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.
	d	s d
Highest price	36½	36½
Lowest	34½	34½
Average	35.386	35.347

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Date.	Silver.
	s d	Cash.	Forward.	Cash.
Nov. 1....	91 9	34½	34½	Nov. 16, 1918.. 48½
3....	91 3	34½	34½	14, 1919.. 65½
4....	92 1	34½	34½	12, 1920.. 53½
5....	92 2	34½	34½	11, 1921.. 38½
6....	90 9	34½	34½	10, 1922.. 33
7....	90 10	34½	34½	9, 1923.. 32½

NOTICES.

On and after Monday, November 10th, the business of the Power of Attorney Office, Bank of England, will be conducted at 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches as follows:—140 High street, High Barnet, Herts (Mr H. W. Allaway, manager); 91 High street, Thornton Heath, Surrey (Mr J. W. Binney, manager); 76 Westow hill, Upper Norwood, London, S.E. 19 (Mr L. Taylor, manager); 65 Mutley Plain, Plymouth (Mr P. Scutt, manager); and 140 Sutton road, Chester road, Birmingham (Mr B. Vause, manager). Additional offices have also been opened in Burbage, near Hinkley; 102 High street, Cricklade, Wilts; and in Canterbury road, Lymington, near Folkestone. The business of the two Wakefield branches has been amalgamated, and is now conducted in new premises at 66 and 68 Westgate.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 397 Wimborne road, Moordown, Bournemouth, under the management of Mr R. Dobell, of the Winton branch, Bournemouth.

The Bank of Montreal has been advised by their head office in Montreal, by cable dated November 3rd, that Major-General S. C. Mewburn, K.C., C.M.G., of Hamilton, Ont., has been elected to this bank's board of directors.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Oct. 31, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	(c) Week ended Nov. 2, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 44 Weeks, 1924.	Passengers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	224,000	339,000	563,000	11,989,000	3,754	224,000	339,000	563,000	11,989,000	224,000	339,000	563,000
Do for 1923	3,751	223,000	349,000	572,000	11,841,000	3,751	223,000	349,000	572,000	11,841,000	223,000	349,000	572,000
London & N. Eastern (c) ..	6,722	376,000	721,000	1,097,000	20,005,000	6,722	376,000	721,000	1,097,000	20,005,000	376,000	721,000	1,097,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	380,000	743,000	1,123,000	19,791,000	6,702	380,000	743,000	1,123,000	19,791,000	380,000	743,000	1,123,000
London, Mid. & Scottish ..	6,943	530,000	896,000	1,426,000	28,800,000	6,943	530,000	896,000	1,426,000	28,800,000	530,000	896,000	1,426,000
Do for 1923	6,942	542,000	890,000	1,432,000	28,350,000	6,942	542,000	890,000	1,432,000	28,350,000	542,000	890,000	1,432,000
Southern	2,155	290,900	136,300	427,200	14,950,000	2,155	290,900	136,300	427,200	14,950,000	290,900	136,300	427,200
Do for 1923	2,142	284,900	124,400	409,300	14,987,000	2,142	284,900	124,400	409,300	14,987,000	284,900	124,400	409,300
Metropolitan (c)	794	41,248	5,911	47,159	1,739,405	794	41,248	5,911	47,159	1,739,405	41,248	5,911	47,159
Do for 1923	794	41,248	5,911	47,159	1,739,405	794	41,248	5,911	47,159	1,739,405	41,248	5,911	47,159
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	234,850	..	..	..	..	234,850	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	234,850	..	..	..	..	234,850	..	..	..
London & S.W. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	37,159	..	..	..	..	37,159	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	37,159	..	..	..	..	37,159	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	3,523	1,171	4,694	205,424	80	3,523	1,171	4,694	205,424	3,523	1,171	4,694
Dublin and S. East (b) ..	160	6,203	2,849	9,052	282,104	160	6,203	2,849	9,052	282,104	6,203	2,849	9,052
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b) ..	562	16,000	23,350	39,350	846,900	562	16,000	23,350	39,350	846,900	16,000	23,350	39,350
Gt. Sth. & Western (b) ..	1,151	23,928	37,066	59,994	1,075,309	1,151	23,928	37,066	59,994	1,075,309	23,928	37,066	59,994
Midland Gt. West. (b) ..	538	9,872	19,107	28,979	416,869	538	9,872	19,107	28,979	416,869	9,872	19,107	28,979

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	27 weeks	Oct. 4	1,072	3,61,000	+ 42,138	74,52,982	+ 10,94,953
Barsi Lk. Ry.	27 weeks	11	118	32,400	+ 6,200	9,29,600	+ 74,200
Bengal & N. Western ..	11 days	11	2,063	6,71,500	- 42,664	6,71,500	- 42,664
Bombay Nagpur	26 weeks	Sept. 30	2,900	20,35,000	+ 1,25,000	40,17,513	+ 35,50,948
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	31 weeks	Nov. 1	1,242	17,24,000	- 313,000	6,68,91,000	+ 45,74,000
Burma	26 weeks	Sept. 20	1,342	5,68,875	+ 37,130	1,65,55,476	+ 3,69,528
Delhi Umballa Kalpa ..	4 weeks	Oct. 3	335	17,000	- 4,685	8,28,867	- 48,574
East Indian	31 weeks	Nov. 1	2,873	31,50,000	- 2,85,000	1,02,57,000	- 69,97,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	30 weeks	Oct. 25	3,175A	26,25,100	+ 2,48,200	8,06,38,785	+ 10,38,924
Madras & C. Mahr. ...	26 weeks	Sept. 30	3,029	16,90,000	- 88,126	3,98,39,453	+ 23,42,942
Moolah'd & Kumsom ..	26 weeks	30	259	49,032	+ 10,234	15,12,477	+ 1,60,610
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	26 weeks	30	314	56,209	- 2,553	17,60,283	+ 1,41,226
South Indian	25 weeks	20	1,877	9,65,327	+ 61,304	2,34,38,630	+ 3,46,203

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Last Year	Previous Year
Railways.					
Bombay, Buroda, &c.	£1 10% 12	Jan. 1	Quarterly	7	6
Illinois Central	12	Dec. 1	Quarterly	11	11
United of Havana	12	Dec. 1	Less tax	14	14
Uruguay Northern, Pref.	15	Dec. 1	Less tax	14	14
Banks.					
Royal Bank of Scotland	15	Dec. 1	Less tax	14	14
Insurance.					
Western Alliance Reinsurance	3% 3	Nov. 29	Less tax 4/6 in £	10	6
Mining.					
Alaska Treadwell Gold	\$1 p.s. 15	Nov. 28	Less tax	10	6
Consolidated Gold of S. Africa	2/ p.s. 12	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Golden Horseshoe Estates	9 p.s. 12	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	6
Kopetdagh Mines	12 1/2	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	6
Mount Lyell	2/ p.s. 12	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	6
North Broken Hill	2/ p.s. 12	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	6
Tekka Tin	2/ p.s. 12	Dec. 15	Less tax	10	6
Tea and Rubber.					
Amalgamated Tea	7 1/2% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £	10	6
Anglo-American Tea	5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Asahan Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Assam Consolidated Tea, Pref.	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Bandar Sumatra Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Bengal United Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
British Asam Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
British Darjeeling Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
British Goodrich Rubber, Pref.	2 1/2% 7 1/2	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	6
Broomie Rubber	2 1/2% 7 1/2	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	6
Central Sumatra Rubber, Pref.	2 1/2% 7 1/2	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	6
Changkat Salak Rubber and Tin, Pref. Ord.	2 1/2% 7 1/2	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	6
Do Def.	2 1/2% 7 1/2	Nov. 30	Less tax	10	6
Chubwa Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Consolidated Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Dekhari Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Djasinga Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Doars Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Dooloogran Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Empire of India and Ceylon Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Gingla Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Halem Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Imperial Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Jalpur Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Kanan Devan Hills Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Kenny Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Langkon North Borneo Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Lewa Rubber, Tea, Pref.	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Nedecm Tea, Pref.	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Single Tea	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Tanjong Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Tea Corporation	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Tenom Borneo Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Tillyfour Rubber	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Other Companies.					
Aberdeen Commercial	3% 3	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Aberdeen Trust	3% 3	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Aberfoyle Slate Quarries	6% 6	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Adelaide Electric	6% 6	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
African Produce	7% 7	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Albert Baker	5% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries	1 1/3 p.s. 13	Nov. 20	Less tax	10	6
Amazon Steam (in liq.)	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Ankels Nitrate	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Anglo-Perian Oil	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Argentine Southern Land	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Ashby's Staines Brewery	5% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Australian Mercantile Land	5% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Barrow, Hepburn & Gale, Pref.	5% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Blantyre and East Africa	5% 5	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Brampton Brewery	1/ p.s. 1	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
British Automatic	5% 5	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
British Empire Trust, Cum. Pref.	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
British Motor Trust, Ord.	10% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Do (Employers)	2 1/6 p.s. 2	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Broomhill Collieries	5% 5	Dec. 18	Less tax	10	6
Brunner, Mond	7% 7	Nov. 15	Less tax	10	6
Cannock Electric	3% 3	Nov. 15	Less tax	10	6
Chester Northgate Brewery	10% 8	Dec. 8	Less tax	10	6
City of London Real Property	10% 8	Dec. 8	Less tax	10	6
Coventry Chain	10% 8	Dec. 8	Less tax	10	6
Dublin Steam Pack	10% 8	Dec. 8	Less tax	10	6
Electric Co. structure	6% 6	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Elr Solinning	7 1/6 p.s. 7	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Fitch and Sons	4% 4	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Gartside Brewery	1 1/6 p.s. 1	Nov. 29	Less tax	10	6
Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds	5% 5	Dec. 19	Less tax	10	6
Hammond's Bradford Brewery	10% 8	Dec. 19	Less tax	10	6
Hotel Cecil	10% 8	Dec. 19	Less tax	10	6
Hugh Baird	5% 5	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Hircombe Hotel	4 1/2% 4	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Indian and General Invest., Def.	10% 8	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
J. and P. Coats	10% 8	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Joseph Stocks	10% 8	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Kenward and Court	7 1/2% 7	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Langdale's Chemical Manure	10% 8	Nov. 1	Less tax	10	6
Madras Electric	4% 4	Nov. 7	Less tax	10	6
Mansell, Hunt, & Co.	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Meters	7% 7	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Metropolitan Industrial Dwell-	7% 7	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Mount Kembla Collieries	2 1/2% 2	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Nantyl's Ironworks, Pref.	2 1/2% 2	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Nautilus Steam	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
New Zealand & Australian Land	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Nitrate Producers' Steamship	7 1/2% 7	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Parson's Marine Steam	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Portlith and Spencer	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
Reversionary Association	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
S. and W. Borlford	5% 5	Nov. 18	Less tax	10	6
"Sanitas," Pref.	9% 9	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Santa Catalina Nitrate	15% 15	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Smith's Nitrate	15% 15	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
South and Dominion Trust	8% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
South Sea Island Investment, Def.	8% 8	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Swan Spinning	13 p.s. 13	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6
Thomas Gater, Bradford	13 p.s. 13	Dec. 1	Less tax	10	6

Thomas Owen	10%	Less tax	10%
Trinidad Leaseholds	12 1/2%	Less tax	10%
Triumph Cycle	7 1/2%	Less tax	10%
Trust and Loan of Canada	6%	Less tax	10%
Tube Investment	6%	Less tax	10%
United British Steamship	6%	Less tax	10%
Wall Paper Manufacturers, Ord.	6%	Less tax	10%
Do Def.	10%	Less tax	10%
Wm. Cory	10%	Less tax	10%
Wm. Goodacre	10%	Less tax	10%
Wm. Hancock, Def.	8%	Less tax	10%

BROWN, BAYLEY'S STEEL WORKS.—The directors propose to pay five months dividends on the preference shares, amounting to £10,417, thereby discharging the arrears down to July 31, 1922.

ISLE OF THANET ELECTRIC SUPPLY.—Company announces dividend for year ended Sept. 30, 1924, on 6 per cent. cumulative preference share capital. (At June, 1924, the preference dividend was in arrear from July, 1910. Arrears were satisfied by issue of preference shares from reserve, the rate also being increased from 5 to 6 per cent.)

ZINC CORPORATION.—Dividend of 2s per share on the preference shares, being the last half of the fixed preferential dividend for 1924, and also an interim participating dividend of 2s per share on both the preference and ordinary shares, payable on January 1st, less tax at 2s 8d in the £.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.	Gold Recovered.			
	Mill.	Yards.	Mill.	Yards.	Total.
Gold.					
Ashanti	7,770	..	..	..	7,770
Associated	5,946	..	..	..	5,946
Balgathat	3,400	..	..	..	3,400
Blackwater	3,278	..	..	..	3,278
Cam and Motor	16,400	..	..	..	16,400
Champion Reef	10,370	19,899	3,987	828	4,815
Chosen Syndicate	1,472	..	..	..	1,472
Golden Horseshoe	10,488	..	..	..	10,488
Menzies Consolidated	19,610	31,668	9,221	1,379	10,671
Mysore	12,005	18,672	5,362	789	6,051
Nundydoo	13,500	950	8,628	82	8,710
Oreogum	6,300	889	..	..	3,013
Oriental Consolidated	2,300	..	..	..	1,090
Resende	7,731	..	..	..	8,195
Sherwood Star	18,059	..	..	..	18,017
South Kalgurl	..	..	..	..	5,623
Walhi	..	..	..	..	36,822

(a) Including premia.

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.		
Aramayo	250	133,000 oss silver.
Bangrin	23	..
Bis chi	60	..
Chenderiang	18	Est. value, £2,572.
Deebok	24	..
El-Lands Nigeria	34	30 tons tin concentrates.
Filani	49	Tin concentrates
Gevor	43	Black tin.
Gopeng	16	Est. value, £12,135; est. cost, £1,745.
Idris Hydraulic	83	Est. value, £2,187; est. cost, £682.
Jos Tin	224	..
Kamunting	109	Est. value, £15,983.
Keil	..	Produced 50 tons; shipped 66 tons; realised for month 43 tons. Approx. value, £7,525.
Kinta	383	Value, £5,542; cost, £1,167.
Lahat	183	Est. value, £2,685; est. cost, £2,638.
M-layan	774	Value, £11,265; cost, £6,927.
Monguna	10	..
Mongu	50	..
Naraguta Extended	32	Despatched 27 tons.
North Ropp	6	..
Pahang Consolidated	153,000	Tons treated, Black tin, 199 tons; alluvial, 16 tons.
Pataling	47	..
Pa o	6	Est. value, £217; est. cost, £254.
Pengkalan	36	Est. value, £5,015; est. cost, £1,400.
Premier Hydraulic	15	..
Rambutan	50	Est. value, £2,040; est. cost, £740.
Rayfield	50	Shipped, 51 tons.
Ropp	157	..
Siamese	1284	..
South Perak	564	Est. value, £8,400; est. cost, £2,000.
Sungei Besi	48	Est. value, £6,873; est. cost, £3,675.
Tekka	31	Est. value, £4,375; est. cost, £1,295.
Tekka Taiping	39	Est. value, £5,630; est. cost, £2,530.
Tongkah Harbour	44	..
Tonoh	50	Est. value, £7,420; est. cost, £4,142.
Coal.		
Blackhill	21,039	..
Coalbrook	19,281	..
Lundee	46,975	..
East Kent	4,740	..
Natal Navigation	52,480	..
South African	62,488	..
Tweefontein United	62,278	..
Vryheid	37,551	..
Wankie	..	..
Copper.		
Indian	..	17,500 tons 4-5 per cent.; 410 tons 2-62 per cent.
New Guinea	..	470 tons matte produced, containing 54 tons copper, 90 oss gold.
Union Minière du Haut Katanga	7,546	..
Miscellaneous.		
Crown Diamond	2,537	Carats.
New Vail River	1,175	Carats.
Rhodesia Broken Hill	417	Carats. Value, £11,473.
Transvaal Silver	478	Long tons of silver lead, containing 54,368 oss of fine silver.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—19,620 tons crude ore and 10,424 tons of de-leaded alloy residues were treated and produced 3,430 tons of lead concentrates, assaying 47 per cent. lead and 19 oss silver per ton; also 5,515 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 47 per cent. zinc.

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED.—22,876 tons of ore were mined. 21,880 tons of ore were milled, producing 10,836 tons of lead concentrates. 10,297 tons of lead-bearing material were smelted, producing 4,267 tons of lead. Refinery produced 23,000 oss were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Experimental plant produced 1,865 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 10-37 oss silver, 8-58 per cent. lead, and 45-51 per cent. zinc. In addition to above 315 tons copper matte was produced from the treatment of 1,297 tons copper ore and accumulated smelting products, as well as 200 tons antimonial lead.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of October was approximately 10,450 tons, and the oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, amounted to about 7,650 tons.

GENERAL PETROLEUM COMPANY OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—The estimated gross production of crude oil for the month of October was approximately 1,400 tons, and the oil delivered to United British Refineries, Limited, amounted to about 955 tons.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—The production for October is cable as 17,478 tons.

STEAUA ROMANA.—The production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of October was 24,420 tons, as compared with 24,120 tons during the month of September.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—Oil produced during October, 21,200 tons; oil purchased during October from other companies, 7,850 tons.

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD, LIMITED.—The combined production for week ending Wednesday, October 29, 1924, amounted to 862 tons.

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.—Production of crude oil from the La Rosa Field for the four weeks ending October 25, 1924, was 47,504 metric tons. (Production for the previous five weeks having been 72,504 metric tons.)

Reports and Notices.

Mr W. G. Walton, F.F.A., who since 1902 has held the position of actuary to the Scottish Provident Institution, has expressed his desire to retire after 50 years of active business life 37 of which have been spent in the head office of the institution. To succeed Mr Walton the board have appointed Mr John R. Armstrong, F.F.A., and Mr. James Davie, F.F.A., has been appointed assistant actuary. Mr Armstrong and Mr Davie have for many years been members of the head office staff.

Lord Stanley, M.C., M.P., has joined the board of directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company, Limited.

Mr George Glass Hooper has been elected chairman of the Barranquilla Railway and Pier Company, Limited, in succession to Mr James Anderson, retired, and Mr Frederick Belcher has been appointed managing director.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

GREEK DEBT.—The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek debt from January 1st to September 30, 1924, compared with those from January 14th to September 30, 1923:—

	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs
Gross receipts, September, 1924 ..	Drachmas. 10,187,550.95	Drachmas. 41,658,500.00
Do do do 1923	8,981,292.05	(d) 29,584,902.45
Estimated receipts for nine months (Law of Control) 1924 ..	21,675,000.00	8,025,000.00
months (Law of Control) 1923 ..	20,645,685.00	7,644,890.45
Actual receipts for 1924 (nine months)	80,125,795.55	(b) 305,759,394.05
Actual receipts for 1923 (nine months)	70,698,242.75	(e) 180,470,661.65

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		£	%
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
Com. Bank of Spanish America...	June 30	645	38,432	39,077	..	..	..	38,800	277	38,644
Breweries.										
Ansell's.....	Sept. 30	83,101	146,984	230,085	17,500	75,000	12½	50,000	87,585	..
Ashby's, Staines.....	Sept. 30	25,091	35,344	60,435	5,812	21,700	14	5,000	27,923	29,011
Kenward and Court	Sept. 30	2,304	14,507	16,811	..	12,500	10	1,000	3,311	11,451
Rochdale and Manor	Sept. 30	39,627	9,486	49,113	2,604	6,510	8	..	39,999	9,413
Financial, Land, &c.										
Australian Mercantile, Land, &c.	June 30	18,062	252,322	271,384	..	135,000	15½	50,000	86,384	202,263
London Maritime Investment...	Sept. 30	5,072	57,678	62,750	19,375	31,000	8	7,065	5,310	57,062
New Zealand & Australian Land.	Mar. 31	23,373	338,648	362,021	40,000	160,000	8½	140,061	21,960	246,198
Scottish Trust and Loan of Ceylon	Aug. 31	3,818	45,214	49,032	..	42,640	60	..	6,392	31,461
Hotels and Restaurants, &c.										
Hotel Cecil	Aug. 31	26,485	71,775	98,260	25,000	24,000	6	20,000	29,260	51,320
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Parsons Marine Steam Turbine..	June 30	30,156	16,372	46,528	..	15,846	7½	..	30,682	22,074
Nitrate.										
Santiago	June 30	10,196	12,420	22,616	..	12,000	7½	..	10,616	12,692
Rubber, &c.										
Broome (Selangor)	June 30	1,053	3,439	4,492	..	3,285	2½	..	1,207	6,121
Kenny (Selangor)	June 30	3,737	2,274	6,011	..	4,650	2½	..	1,361	4,422
Kuala Kubu	June 30	2,738	460	2,278	..	..	..	..	2,278	2,237
Lewa	June 30	279	878	1,157	858	..	..	..	299	1,144
Sengat	June 30	4,079	4,854	8,933	..	..	..	..	8,933	10,013
Sungei Buaya	June 30	11,869	14,930	26,799	..	21,485	15	..	5,314	17,412
Tanjong Malin	June 30	20,785	20,556	41,341	..	24,994	5	..	16,347	21,399
Shipping.										
W. Hartlepool Steam Navigation	Mar. 31	18,481	47,009	65,490	11,000	15,675	15½	20,000	18,815	69,782
Tramways.										
Lisbon Electric	Dec. 31	Dr 38,707	63,774	25,066	..	..	..	..	25,066	9,748
Trusts.										
Second Scottish Investment	Oct. 1	14,208	53,954	68,162	15,694	27,900	12	10,000	14,568	32,019
Other Companies.										
Coventry Chain	Aug. 31	10,215	71,573	81,788	3,255	36,037	15	30,000	12,496	56,119
Hugh Baird and Sons	Aug. 31	..	27,413	27,413	4,000	8,520	12	5,000	9,893	21,753
Metropolitan Industrial Dwellings	Sept. 29	30,167	17,338	47,405	4,000	5,750	6	..	39,655	15,895
S. and W. Berisford	Sept. 30	45,952	Dr 8,486	42,466	4,500	15,000	10	..	22,966	27,486

† Free of tax.

HOTEL CECIL, LIMITED.—The report to August 31, 1924, shows that the profit from trading account is increased from £76,673 to £97,429. The net profit, after providing for debenture interest, and other charges, including a sum of £20,000 appropriated for plant renewals, is £51,774, against £51,320 last year; to which has to be added the balance brought forward of £26,485, making a total of £78,260. The directors recommend this amount be appropriated as follows:—Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference shares, £25,000; dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £24,000; carried forward, £29,260.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S LAND SALES.

	For Quarter Ended October 31, 1924.		For Nine Months Ended October 31, 1924.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
Farm lands—				
Acres.....	6,002	14,266	16,160	39,323
Sold for	£17,504	£36,527	£45,714	£107,025
Total lots—Sold for	£413	£9,137	£10,809	£19,192
Total receipts	£74,638	£58,295	£247,894	£246,849

INVESTMENT TRUST CORPORATION, LIMITED.—The present authorised share capital of the corporation is £2,000,000, all of which has been issued and fully paid up and converted into £1,200,000 preferred stock and £800,000 deferred stock. The directors consider that it would be advisable that the stockholders should now authorise an increase in the share capital by the creation of a further 200,000 shares of £5 each, such additional capital to be issued in such amounts, at such times, and on such terms as the directors may decide. An extraordinary general meeting to authorise the proposed increase will be held on November 12th at Gresham House, Old Broad Street, at half-past two.

LISBON ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.—A notable improvement has taken place in the results of this Portuguese tramway undertaking during the year 1923. The net profit, after payment of debenture interest, has risen from £9,748 to £63,774. At end of 1922 the debit of profit and loss was £38,708. Thus there is now a credit of £25,066, which is carried forward. No dividend has been paid on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares since the 2½ per cent. paid for 1917. The dividend on the preference shares is £425,553 in £1 shares. The ordinary issued share capital is £634,026 in £1 shares. The ordinary shareholders have received no dividend since the 4½ per cent. paid for the year 1915. Passenger traffic increased from 75,862,877 in 1922 to 89,666,215 passengers for 1923. The rate of exchange at the beginning of 1923 stood at 2 11-32d, but by the end of the year had fallen to 1 57-64d. The report points out that "the improvement in the company's position recorded in the accounts was due to earnings in the early part of the year. The subsequent

fall in the exchange added considerably to the working costs, and brought about demands for higher wages, owing to the increased cost of living. Under the terms of the contracts existing at that time, this necessitated an application to the Municipality of Lisbon for an increase of tariffs, but our claims in this respect were only partially agreed to. The increase obtained took effect as from October 7, 1923, but did little more than cover the additional wages granted."

NATIONAL DISCOUNT.—The directors have decided, in view of the growth in the business of the company, to propose to the shareholders to authorise an increase of capital by the creation of a further 100,000 "B" shares, and to issue shortly approximately 55,000 of such shares. Detailed proposals to this effect will be laid before shareholders at the time of the general meeting in January next. If the proposals are approved, my directors intend to offer these shares to existing "A" and "B" shareholders, in accordance with the articles of association, in the proportion of one new share for every six held, at a premium of £3 10s, i.e., at the price of £6 per share.

SKODA WORKS.—We are informed that the amount necessary to meet the half-year's interest on the 8 per cent. first mortgage sterling debentures of the Skoda Works, due January 1, 1925, has been deposited with the National Provincial Bank, Limited, two calendar months prior to the date of payment, in accordance with the terms of the prospectus.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LIMITED.—Subject to final audit, the net profit for the year ended June 30, 1924, after writing off depreciation on buildings, refineries, wells, pipelines, tanks, and other plant, and allowing for corporation profits tax, amounts to £205,230. After adding the balance of £41,749 brought forward from the previous year, the total amount standing at the credit of the profit and loss account was £246,979, from which an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (less Trinidad and British income-tax), absorbing £52,462, was paid on June 24, 1924. At the annual general meeting to be held on Thursday, November 20, 1924, the directors will recommend the payment of a final dividend of 12½ per cent., less remuneration due to the directors under the articles of association, there remains £54,180 to be carried forward.

WHITEHALL ELECTRIC INVESTMENTS, LIMITED.—For the month of September, 1924, the following are the approximate net operating returns of the companies in which Whitehall Electric Investments, Limited, is interested:—Operating in Chili—Cia. Chilena de Electricidad, Limitada, £49,000; Cia. de Electricidad de Valparaíso, £9,500; Cia. Hidro-Eléctrica (Rental), £6,000. Operating in Mexico—Cia. Eléctrica de Tampico, S.A. (not received); Puebla Light, Power and Traction Company, £10,300; Vera Cruz Electric y Fuerza Motriz de Orizaba, S.A., £1,900; Cia. Eléctrica de Córdoba, S.A., £330. (Bullion exchange calculated at \$42.10 equal £1; Mexican exchange calculated at \$1 equal 24.5d.)

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

A spell of fine but cold weather has enabled farmers to resume field work, but owing to recent heavy rains ploughing and sowing operations are rendered difficult. Threshings, however, are on a fairly liberal scale, and increased quantities of native wheat are coming forward. Many of the samples are damp and unsatisfactory for milling purposes, and prices generally continue in a downward direction, while ranging from 11s 8d to 12s 6d per 112 lbs as to quality, free on rail. Imported grades move off quietly, and prices have further given way, though towards the close some recovery was made in view of higher forward offers. No 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 67s 9d, No 2 ditto 66s 6d, No 2 hard winter 63s, No 1 Northern Duluth 63s, and choice white Karachi 63s, all ex-ship terms per 496 lbs. Business in the floating and forward cargo section was confined to very moderate limits, buyers adopting an attitude of reserve owing to fluctuating advices from North and South America, but towards the close of the week a firmer tone set in with rather more inquiry from the near Continent. Steamers of Australian January-February 15th sold 62s 3d, No 2 hard winter October 9th bill of lading 57s, No 1 Northern Duluth October 22nd, 58s, and Barusso 63½ lbs January-February 59s, all per 480 lbs. Maize cargoes dull and easier on selling pressure. Steamer Plate December-January sold at 46s 10½d. Flour trade quiet, and prices again easier for all descriptions. London standard straight run quoted at 49s, patents 51s to 52s, town whites 49s per sack, delivered in Metropolitan area. All English country straights 43s 6d to 44s per sack, free on rail at London stations. Of imported, Manitoba patents range from 48s 6d to 51s, Minnesota 49s to 50s, and Australian 46s 6d to 47s, all per 280 lbs ex store. Barley dull and again easier. English quoted 12s to 22s 3d per 112 lbs, free on rail as to quality. Californian 70s-72s, Chilian Chevalier 80s to 88s, Polish 60s to 68s, ex store per 448 lbs. No 4 Canadian Western ex ship 39s, landed 40s 6d, Danubian ex ship 39s, American malting 38 lbs ex ship 39s, and Persian ditto 39s per 400 lbs. Maize quiet and easier. Plate ex ship 44s 6d, landed 46s, Bessarabian 47s, Odessa 40s, both landed per 480 lbs. Oats quietly steady. Plate ex ship quoted 20s 3d, landed 32s 3d, No 2 Canadian Western ex ship 33s 6d, landed 35s, white clipped American 38 lbs landed 32s, per 320 lbs. English quoted 9s 8d to 10s 9d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Oatmeal in better request. London made flaked, 20s, rolled oats 19s 6d, medium also fine cut 19s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 19s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal, 21s, American and Canadian rolled oats 20s cwt. Millers' offals quiet. Broad bran quoted 9s 3d, middlings 10s 3d, fine ditto 13s 3d, bags included ex mill. Light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 9d, feed oatmeal 12s 9d, and ground oats 14s 9d, all per cwt free on rail.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Nov. 1	Cwts. 290,357	Cwts. 348,875	Cwts. 571,688	Cwts. 315,167
9 weeks to Nov. 1	2,206,040	3,753,828	3,771,437	3,491,596
Average price of English wheat per	s d	s d	s d	s d
cwt.....	13 0	9 1	9 7½	10 3

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Oct. 25.....	Cwts. 324,559	Cwts. 631,722	Cwts. 149,256	13 0	17 3	10 7
Nov. 1.....	290,357	590,543	125,843	13 0	17 0	10 6
1920.....	371,413	707,725	61,286	21 1	26 0	19 2
1921.....	315,167	525,150	43,858	10 3	15 9	9 0
1922.....	571,688	578,057	95,965	9 9	11 1	9 6
1923.....	348,875	702,498	75,504	9 1	10 8	8 8

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated November 6, 1924, is as follows. Pig-iron: There has been a continued demand for pig-iron this week, and a considerable business has been done, with the result that makers have increased their prices, and No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is now put at 82s for prompt and 82s 6d for forward delivery. The position of the hematite market is also improved, and the price of mixed numbers East Coast hematite is now 88s. 6d. per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: In this department there is a much healthier tone, and one local works has just received an order for 24,000 tons of steel rails and sleepers. Prices, however, remain unchanged.—Steel ship plates, £9 15s.; steel ship angles, £9 10s.; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: The consumers still have large stocks, and are not making

further purchases for the time being, but prices are slightly firmer, with best Bilbao Rubio offered at 21s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield Correspondent writes:—The tide of confidence and buoyancy throughout the iron and steel trades continues to flow, but another week or more will be required to show whether this sentiment is justified. Up to the present time its only effect has been to increase the number of inquiries for raw and semi material, these being more numerous than for a long time past. So far as work and sales are concerned, the position is unchanged, and the volume of business passing is as restricted as ever. Higher prices for pig-iron are, however, being asked, especially for long contracts covering six months or so. The slump in crude steel has made no further progress, and the number of furnaces operating remains the same as before. Business in tool steels is poor, particularly on export account, and the call for saws, spades, shovels, farm and excavating tools has eased off lately, although the output continues fairly large, and overseas countries are buying on a considerable scale. There is a steady demand for railway steel, engineering castings and forgings, cold rolled steel, builders' tools and castings, and tramway trackwork. The requirements of the motor industry are heavy, and tending to expand, especially in the lorry and van departments. Coal owners are making heavy sacrifices in order to dispose of accumulations of fuel which are blocking their sidings. Market quotations are nominal for most qualities. Coke is almost a drug on the market, the stopping of so many furnaces lately having brought about an excess of production.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—No very tangible evidence of revival in the iron and steel trade to account for the feeling of hopefulness engendered by the conclusion of the elections can yet be said to exist. Certainly the pig-iron market has picked up somewhat, but that was only to be expected after the deep depression recently passed through, and there is a slight improvement in the home demand for finished iron and steel, but the export trade remains more or less dormant. Indian buyers are showing a little more interest, and some orders for sections and plates have been placed, while galvanised corrugated sheets have been bought for Calcutta at about £17 per ton. Black sheet makers are doing slightly better for home trade. Structural engineers are well employed, and this class of steel is in good demand. A large tonnage of shipbuilding was launched on the Clyde during October, but new contracts secured during the month were not sufficient to fill the gaps. The shipments of pig-iron from the Clyde for the week ending November 1st totalled 1,187 tons, of which 912 tons were on overseas account.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no material change in the position this week on the Cardiff coal market. For spot positions, prices have been unfavourably affected by the dearth of tonnage. The recent heavy gales have impeded the movements of shipping, particularly from the Bay ports, while a large number have been sheltering off the South Coast. Shippers with prompt vessels have been able to obtain parcels at "cut" prices, but for forward business colliery quotations have been maintained at their recently improved level. Although reduced, the output continues in excess of the demand, and it is feared that some more of the older pits will be abandoned. The September audit showed a heavy loss, and a further loss in October is inevitable.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; seconds, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; best dries, 27s 6d to 27s 9d; Black Veins, 24s to 25s; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 23s 6d; best bunker smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 12s 6d to 13s; coking smalls, 16s to 16s 6d; anthracite Big Vein, large, 45s to 50s; Red Vein, large, 33s 6d to 35s 6d; machine-made cobbles, 55s to 57s 6d; French nuts, 60s to 62s 6d; stove nuts, 60s to 61s; rubbly culm, 11s 3d to 11s 9d; coke for export, 47s 6d to 50s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 25s 6d to 27s 6d; pitwood, ex ship, 26s 9d to 27s.

In the tinplate trade business has been comparatively quiet, although inquiries have been a little more active. An important development has been the association of F. W. Gilbertson and Co., Limited, with the Grovesend Steel and Tinplate Company, for the sale of galvanised, corrugated, and plain steel sheets. The Grovesend Company is now a subsidiary of Richard Thomas and Co., and the combine controls between 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of the tinplate output.

METALS.

The market for tin opened with a steady tone, but subsequently became irregular and easier on selling pressure, and values are under those ruling at the close of last week. Offerings, however,

were fairly well absorbed, and business included standard cash at £259 10s, £257 15s, £256 and £257, and three months, £263 to £260 15s. Sales in the East were reported at £262 15s to £265, and down to £258 10s, c.i.f. terms. Copper: A fairly liberal business was done during the week, but values on balance disclosed slight weakness. Dealings in standard cash show an irregular decline at £64 to £64 1s 3d, £63 15s, and £63 7s 6d, with three months fluctuating between £65 to £65 3s 9d, £64 15s, and £64 10s per ton. Lead firmer, with moderate dealings. Good soft foreign pig quoted £38 12s 6d to £36 12s 6d as to position. English, £40 per ton. Spelter quiet and rather easier at £34 12s 6d to £34 6s 3d as to position. Antimony firm. English special brands quoted £59 10s to £60, foreign £50 to £51. Aluminium steady. Home trade quoted £125, export £130 ton. Quicksilver quiet. Spot, £10 10s to £11 per bottle.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—October 31, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.				Good Mid.				Same Period 1923.				Same Period 1922.			
		Good	Ord.	Low	Mid.	Good	Ord.	Low	Mid.	Good	Ord.	Low	Mid.	Good	Ord.	Low	Mid.
American.....	d	1193	1293	1358	1398	1463	1549	1649	1794	d	1351	1421	1476	d	1351	1421	1476
Brazilian.....	Mid	1333	1483	1583	1683	1783	1883	1983	2083	Fr	1333	1483	1583	Fr	1333	1483	1583
Ceara, Macelo, &c.....		1333	1483	1583	1683	1783	1883	1983	2083		1333	1483	1583		1333	1483	1583
Paralyba, Rio Grande, &c.....		1333	1483	1583	1683	1783	1883	1983	2083		1333	1483	1583		1333	1483	1583
Oears, &c.....		1333	1483	1583	1683	1783	1883	1983	2083		1333	1483	1583		1333	1483	1583
S&S Paulo.....		1358	1408	1468	1518	1568	1618	1668	1718		1358	1408	1468		1358	1408	1468
Egyptian.....		Fr	G	F	r	e	r	G	F	Fr	G	F	r	Fr	G	F	r
Upper.....		1615	1670	1725	1775	1835	1885	1935	1985		1615	1670	1725		1615	1670	1725
Sakellaris.....		2101	2155	2260	2360	2460	2560	2660	2760		2101	2155	2260		2101	2155	2260
Peruvian.....	Fr	1615	1655	1735	1815	1895	1975	2055	2135	Fr	1615	1655	1735	Fr	1615	1655	1735
Rough.....			2000	2100	2150							2000	2100				2150
Moderately Rough.....			1700	1800	1900							1700	1800				1900
Smooth.....		1508	1583	1658	1683	1708	1783	1858	1934		1508	1583	1658		1508	1583	1658
Tangier.....		1583	1633	1683	1733	1833	1750	1808	1884		1583	1633	1683		1583	1633	1683
Minhai.....			1800	1952	2050	2150		1770	1895			1800	1952		1770	1895	
West Indian, &c.....			1400	1375	1425	1475		1750				1400	1375		1400	1375	
Do.....			1380	1530	1630	1695	1750	1875	1975			1380	1530		1380	1530	1695
African, East, &c.....	1280	1380	1530	1630	1695	1750	1875	1975	1107	1275	1375	1475	1575	1675	1775	1875	1975
Do.....		Mid	Fr	M	Fr	M	Fr	M	Fr	Mid	Fr	M	Fr	Mid	Fr	M	Fr
Do.....		1343	1353	1373	1435	1573	1734	1744	1834		1343	1353	1373		1343	1353	1373
East Indian.....	G	Fr	r	e	r	G	F	r	G	Fr	r	e	r	G	Fr	r	e
Machine Ginned Surtee.....				1310	1350	1390		1685				1310	1350	1390		1685	
Machine Ginned Broach.....		1155	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1395	1475		1155	1195	1235		1155	1195	1235
Machine Ginned Bhownuggar.....	0660	1110	1160	1210	1260	1310	1355	1395	1475		1110	1160	1210		1110	1160	1210
Machine Ginned Omra No. 1.....	1170	1120	1170	1220	1270	1320	1335	1385	1435		1120	1170	1220		1120	1170	1220
Machine Ginned Omra No. 2.....			1145	1195	1245	1295	1365	1415	1465			1145	1195			1145	1195
Machine Ginned Khandesh.....		1070	1120	1170	1220	1270	1305	1355	1425		1070	1120	1170		1070	1120	1170
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	1235		1275				1365	1385	1440		1235		1275		1235		1275
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	1085	1125	1165	1205	1245	1285	1050	1090	1170		1085	1125	1165		1085	1125	1165
Machine Ginned Soinde.....	1075	1115	1155	1195	1235	1275	1040	1080	1160		1075	1115	1155		1075	1115	1155
Tinnivelly.....	1250	1290	1330				1550	1590			1250	1290	1330		1250	1290	1330
Machine-Soinde/Punjab			1140	1215	1300	1390						1140	1215	1300			
M. G. Western.....		1215	1255	1295			1300	1340			1215	1255	1295		1215	1255	1295
Western.....		1175	1215	1255							1175	1215	1255		1175	1215	1255
M.G. Northern.....		1240	1280	1320							1240	1280	1320		1240	1280	1320
Northern.....			1240					1165				1240				1165	
M. G. Ononada, Red.....	Fr	1275						1340			1275					1340	
China, Smyrna, &c.....									1100								1100

OILS.—Linseed irregular and easier. Spot, net, naked, 45s 3d; November-December, 43s 9d; January-April, 44s. Rape nominal.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on November 5th as follows:—The tallow market was quiet during the week, and prices were about 1s lower to-day. The best sorts have not declined to the same extent as inferior sorts. The stock in London on October 31st, as returned by the wharves, amounted to 8,077 packages, showing a decrease during the month of 2,151 packages. At auction to-day 1,288 casks tallow were offered, and 510 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 52s 6d; good to fair, 51s to 48s 6d; dull to dark, 45s to 44s; hard, 52s. Australian to 44s; sweet, 53s. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 49s. Present shipment from South America, 49s to 47s. 45s per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 6d; melted unchanged. Town tallow, Quotations are:—Town, 45s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 46s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 48s 6d; fair to dull, 47s to 46s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 41s, f.o.b.

Beasts—Herefords	6	8	7	2			
Shorthorns	6	0	6	8			
Devons	6	0	6	8			
Northols	..	..	..	..			
Scottish	..	..	..	..			
Irish	6	0	6	4			
Fat Cows	..	..	..	..			
Beasts—Heavy Bulls ..	..	..	..	..	nominal		
Canadian	..	..	..	..	nominal		
Sheep—Downs	..	..	..	..	11	0	11
Ewes	..	..	..	..	6	8	7
Crossbred	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scottish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Per Cwt.				Per Cwt.			
	s	d	d		s	d	d
English—King Edwards	.10	0	11	0	0	11	0
British Queens	.8	0	9	0	0	9	0
Majestic	.2	0	9	0	0	9	0

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.

COCA—Duty, British grown

94.4d. foreign 14a. cwt.

Trinidad, per cwt.

Granada

Guatemala

Guayaquil

Rahla, finest

COFFEE—British grown

94.4d. foreign 14a. cwt.

Good to fine

Costa Rica, ord. to mid

Good to fine

Central, ord. to mid

Mid. to fine

Columbian, ordinary

Do. good to low mid

Do. low to fine

CHERRY—

Acid, citric

Witic

Onale, net

Foreign

Alum lump, per ton

Do ground

Amalgam, per ton

White, spot

Sulphate

arsenic, lump, per ton

Do, per cwt.

Asbest

Powder

Bleaching pwr., p. ton

Borax, gran.

Do, white

Do powder

Oreum Tartar

967, powder

Calomel

Do Foreign

Do powder

Potash

Chlorate, net

Foreign

Do Foreign

Sulphate

Acetic

Sal-Ammoniac, per lb

Do, per cwt.

Crysal, per ton

Alkali

Onale

Sugar ref. white ton

Foreign white ton

Sulphate Quinine

English Brands

Foreign do

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per cwt.

Do, per

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 4,238.

HEAD OFFICE . . . EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Every description of Banking business transacted.

The Money Market	757	Stock Exchange News—	
Leading Articles—		The Stock Markets.....	781
The Second Chance	759	New Issues	781
The Position of Italy	760	Active Securities.....	783
Our Overseas Markets	761	Company Meetings	784
The Liberal Land Policy.—I.	762	Government Returns—	
The World's Production of		National Debt.....	788
Cereals	764	Public Income and Expen-	
The New Zealand Exchange		diture	788
Problem	765	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Problems of the Russian		by Public Tender	788
Economic Situation	766	Currency Notes Account ..	788
Notes of the Week—		Bankers' Gazette—	
Completing the Ministry ..	768	Bank of England	789
Wembley's Fate	768	Clearing Returns	789
A Banker on Unemployment	768	Overseas Bank Returns ..	789
Irish Free State Problems..	769	Monthly Statement of	
Remuneration in Govern-		London Clearing Banks..	790
ment Service	769	Loan and Discount Rates ..	791
Cotton Trade Hours	770	Rates of Exchange.....	791
American Cotton Crop	770	Overseas Bank Rates	791
The Development Commis-		India Council Bills and	
sion	770	Transfers	792
Scandinavia and U.S.		Bullion	792
Customs Inquiries	770	Gold and Silver Prices	792
Coal, Iron, & Steel Output	771	Company News—	
Spain and Morocco.....	771	Oil Outputs	793
Chinese Finance and Trade	772	Weekly Traffic Returns...	793
Electoral Reform in Chile..	772	Dividend Announcements ..	793
The Copper Market.....	772	Mining Outputs	794
Potato and Root Crops	773	Reports and Notices	794
Transvaal Gold Output	773	Profit and Loss Accounts ..	796
Kaffirs & the Gold Premium	773		
Overseas Correspondence			

United States	774	Commercial Reports—	
France	774	Corn Trade	795
Germany	776	Iron and Coal Trade	796
Austria	777	Overseas Trade Returns	797
Switzerland	778	Metals	797
Czecho-Slovakia	779	Wool Trade	798
Books and Publications—		Cotton Trade	798
Imperial Economics	779	Vegetable Oils	799
Mill's Autobiography	780	Hide and Leather Trades	799
Books Received	780	Overseas Produce Markets	799
		Price Current	799

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

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

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

Copies of the *Economist* may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.
Davies and Co., 25 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,
37 Avenue de l'Opera.

37 Avenue de L'Opera.

MONEY was plentiful in the early part of the week, but after a large amount had been repaid to the Bank of England, the supply was not too abundant. The discount market was not very receptive, partly owing to the low level at which the Other deposits were shown in the Bank return, and fine three months' bills were not taken below 3½ per cent.

	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return showed a decrease in the circulation, and a consequent increase in the Reserve of £976,000. Repayments by the market to the Bank were reflected in a decrease of 5½ millions in the Other securities, but there was a small increase in Government securities. Public deposits declined by half-a-million, and Other were nearly 4 millions lower. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £44,000 to £287,368,000, which includes £1,363,600 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £236,554,200, being £11,636,700 below the maximum for 1924.

At their meeting on Thursday, the directors of the Bank of England decided to recommend to the Court of Proprietors in April next that the Right Hon. Montagu Collet Norman be re-elected Governor for the ensuing year, 1925-26, and that Sir Alan Garrett Anderson be elected Deputy-Governor, in succession to Mr Cecil Lubbock, who will have held the Deputy-Governorship for two years. The decision to extend Mr Norman's period of office to six years, which is an unprecedented term, will be universally welcomed in financial circles, for continuity of control is as the present time just as desirable as ever, and Mr Norman has carried out his duties with conspicuous success. It is to be regretted that Mr Cecil Lubbock finds himself unable to continue his duties as Deputy-Governor owing to the pressure of his private business interests, but he will have an exceedingly able successor in Sir Alan Anderson, who is a partner in the firm of Anderson, Green, and Co., managers of the Orient Steam Navigation Company and a director of the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway.

The monthly statement for October of average weekly balances of the London clearing banks, printed in full on a later page, shows a considerable increase both in deposits and advances, as may be seen from the summary below of the figures of the nine English banks:—

(Million £.)

	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	June, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.3	118.7	119.2	119.4	119.4	119.4
Acceptances	96.1	99.2	85.3	75.7	75.5	83.2
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.)	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,651.9	1,616.9	1,612.4	1,634.5
Total liabilities	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,812.0	1,807.3	1,837.1
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	254.2	230.2	249.1	234.0	235.3	240.4
Money at call	111.3	93.5	108.1	101.7	107.9	103.8
Investments	363.8	361.7	349.3	346.0	340.1	336.6
Discounts	276.3	224.0	245.0	234.5	225.3	237.6
Loans and advances	756.5	785.5	791.7	792.0	794.8	807.0
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	123.4	126.2	113.2	103.8	103.9	111.7
Total assets	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,812.0	1,807.3	1,837.1

Advances, which have risen by over £12 millions, are at the highest point touched since the middle of 1921. Discounts have risen by a similar amount, and cash is £5 millions higher. Money at call and investments are each about £4 millions lower. Acceptances have increased by nearly £8 millions.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

A pronounced lull in the buying movement which followed the General Election has occurred in the Stock Exchange this week, and the volume of business has been considerably reduced. A large output of new capital issues, however, has been readily subscribed, and premiums established on those in which dealings have already begun. Gilt-edged stocks have been fairly steady, with a slight downward tendency, and Home Rails have receded after an early rise, but the reaction has been most pronounced in the industrial section. Rubber shares, too, have suffered from selling on a relapse in the price of the raw material, and oils have been erratic. Kaffir shares have suffered from the drop in the price of gold consequent on the rise in the dollar exchange, but there was a turn for the better towards the end of the week.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

After considerable business in pig-iron during the last fortnight, the market is somewhat steadier. Orders for steel continue to be placed, and the position is said to show signs of improvement. Our Sheffield correspondent refers to the confident sentiment in the iron and steel market. Tin prices, on balance, were better. The cotton industry this week has been under the influence of a hardening movement in the raw material. Our Bradford correspondent reports that wool is steadily moving to a higher level. Wheat inquiry improves, and maize is steady. Linseed oil is in better demand, and the market remains firm. The rubber position was easier, and sugar displayed further weakness, but brisk support was afforded to tea. Further details of markets will be found on later pages from our trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

There has been considerable activity in the Foreign Exchange market during the week, in connection chiefly with the sterling-dollar rate, and the feature has been, as before, the strength and steady appreciation of sterling. A good deal of speculation has been evident, and it has been said with some truth that the pace is being made too hot to last. With regard to this, we will confine ourselves to pointing out that the strength of sterling has up to now been sufficient to overcome the combined bear tendencies of heavy seasonal imports, which the October trade figures show to be heavier than usual, and diminished exports of gold. Secondly, much of the confidence displayed seems to be based on political and sentimental, as opposed to material and economic, factors. Finally, whilst the prospect of some continuity and stability of Government in the two countries, which are most important financially, justifies some optimism at the present time, the fact must not be overlooked that the improvement in the exchange rate of sterling has been disproportionate to its purchasing power in comparison with the dollar. Opening at 4.59½ on Saturday last, the rate advanced still further to 4.62½ on Monday. On Tuesday there was a slight setback, due to profit-taking, but on Thursday there was a recovery to 4.62½, and yesterday record high levels were reached at 4.64½. At the time of writing there has been a slight reaction to 4.63½. The franc has suffered throughout from a weakness which is more apparent than real, for it has maintained its previous levels in relation to the dollar almost unchanged. The apparent weakness is due to the fact that sterling has been stronger than both. The real position is, perhaps, better reflected in the latest returns of the Banque de France, which show a diminution of 100 millions under advances to the State, and a decrease of 70 millions in the note circulation. If the anticipations are realised of the issue of a large Government loan in New York, stated to be in the neighbourhood of 150 million dollars, the Banque de France would have at its disposal a permanent reserve abroad by means of which it should be possible to maintain a definite currency policy with lasting results in the direction of stabilisation. Paris opened at 87.65 on Saturday, improved to 87.10 on Tuesday, weakened again to 87.60 on Thursday, and yesterday was rather better at 87.50. Belgium moved generally in fairly close sympathy with Paris, the rate yesterday being 97.65. The lira showed hesitation and uncertainty in reflection of the clouds on the political horizon, and after opening at 105.80, broke to 107.40. A slight improvement was evident, but yesterday renewed weakness at 106.70. Similarly, Spain's troubles, internal and external, were reflected by the rate passing 34 pesetas to the £. Amsterdam, Switzerland, and Stockholm have all moved in our favour, the first from 11.48½ to 11.56, the second from 23.73 to 24.10, and the last from 17.07 to 17.30. Christiania has improved from 31.48 to 31.25; but nearly all the other Continental currencies have moved slightly in our favour. Of the South American exchanges, the milreis has been remarkably steady, considering the further news of revolutionary outbreaks; and after opening at 5½d, is better on balance for the week at 6 1-32d. Buenos Aires is rather weaker at 44½d, as against the opening

rate of 44½d. In the East, the rupee is ½d weaker at 15 5½d, and the yen is rather worse at 17½d, as against the opening rate of 18½d. The silver market has been influenced chiefly by the sterling-dollar exchange, and selling has followed freely from the States on the appreciation of sterling. The Continent has been both a buyer and a seller, and though India and China have also appeared as sellers, China has been buying on a small scale. Prices, which advanced to 34d on Wednesday, after showing a downward tendency during the week, are consequently again uncertain, but it is possible that present levels may be maintained. Hongkong and Shanghai both recovered ½d during the week, and now stand at 2s 4½d and 3s 3½d respectively.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 8th:—

(000's omitted.)			
EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	9,508	From Revenue	10,715
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,180	Increase in Debt	1,215
Sinking Fund	100		
Sundries	5		
Increase in Exchequer balances	137		
	11,930		11,930

The Revenue for the week amounted to £10,715,359, as compared with £10,788,014 for the corresponding period last year. Customs and Excise were slightly lower at £2,324,00, against £2,557,000, and £1,389,000, against £1,546,000, respectively. Property and Income-tax was up at £1,195,000, against £1,740,000, while Super-tax brought in £570,000, against £440,000. Post Office receipts stood at £1,300,000, showing an increase of £50,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £238,277, as compared with £13, and Special receipts to £1,230,086, against £1,370,001. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £1,214,522, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
	£		£
Public Department Advances	2,300	Bank of England Advances	1,750
Treasury Bonds	1,413	Treasury Bills	4,379
Other Debt	3,700	National War Bonds repaid	132
Sundries	58		
	+ 7,476		- 6,261

The floating debt was reduced by £3,790,000 to £792,070,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to November 1).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	450,327,907	Raised by Revenue ..	419,652,686
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,574,739
		Amount borrowed ..	27,100,482
Total	450,327,907	Total	450,327,907

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, London Maritime Investment, Dalgety and Co., and Sudan Plantations Syndicate. The Hon. Edmund W. Parker, at the meeting of Dalgety and Co., said that wool values were now on a very high level, but, according to reliable statistics, the world consumption of wool had far outstripped the production. There was at present a strong demand for fine wool, but an even keener demand for crossbreds, and this had resulted in the clearance of the whole of the stocks of B.A.W.R.A. wool. Mr F. Eckstein, at the meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, in answer to Press criticisms of their increase of capital, said that their concession had not yet begun, and that, as he had warned them in 1920, the remaining 150,000 shares would in time have to be issued.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

THE SECOND CHANCE.

SUCCESSIVE anniversaries of Armistice Day cast back our memories, with no loss of vividness as yet, to the day when the peoples of the world heaved their great sigh of relief that the fighting was over. Amid the exuberance of rejoicing for the war's conclusion clear thinking was hardly to be expected; and the public mind jumped to the hasty conclusion that the end of active war and suffering heralded the near return of real peace and happiness. As each year we recapture for a moment the emotions of that time, we cannot but feel a shock of disappointment at the measure of progress and recovery which the six intervening years have brought. To those who live through them six years are an age; to posterity they will seem but a brief period. And we doubt whether the historian who, free from the emotions and illusions of contemporaries, looks back with calm judgment upon these years, will pronounce the pace of progress and recovery, especially in our own country, to have been slow beyond reasonable expectation. We deem it slow to-day, because we could not assess the difficulties of restoring peace and calm in a Europe storm-tossed with passion. Nor could we rightly judge the extent of world impoverishment and its far-reaching effects. It has taken us six years to descend from the skies of illusion to the earth of hard facts. That the process was not quicker is due in part to the politicians. But politicians are but human beings, and in their search for short-cuts to prosperity they did but interpret the temper of the people, and fate for a time exaggerated their efforts. In 1918 the Coalition leaders cheerfully promised all the ingredients of a new heaven and a new earth, and sailed into power with overwhelming strength. In 1920 the temporary boom, caused by the emergency demands of the world's depleted markets, seemed for the moment to justify their boasts. Not until the boom waned did illusion really begin to fade. But even thereafter we had two Prime Ministers and two Governments each with their panacea for the unemployment which is the outward and visible sign in Great Britain of the internal ills of the economic world. Both have learnt their lesson, and so, we believe, have the people of this country. They know now that there is no short cut, fiscal, social, economic, financial, or political, to the restoration of prosperity. The main road is a painful one, but the only one; and the most that politicians can do is to face the facts honestly, to teach all sections of the nation to do the same, and to bend all their efforts towards guiding both internal and international forces into the channel of harmony and co-operation.

We are glad to be able to read something of this spirit of realisation into Mr Baldwin's review of his Government's task at the Guildhall banquet on Monday. He no longer proposes to restore prosperity by fiscal revolution. He no longer listens to the doctrine of tranquillity, which, though still dear to some of his followers, is as absurd in face of the problems of the day as was the glittering gamut of promises in the Coalition's programme of 1918, or Labour's election programme of a year ago. With the exception that Mr MacDonald and M. Herriot, as Mr Baldwin generously acknowledged, have given us a new basis of stability on the Continent, the new Premier faces very much the same problems as he faced during his last tenure of office. In a way that few men have had it before, he has his second chance. Many of us—most, perhaps—believe that, given a second chance, we should make a better use of our opportunities and avoid our failures. Sir James Barrie, in his great play, has reminded us that the fault "is not in our stars, but in ourselves," and that he is an exception who will not use his second chance just as he used his first. Will Mr Baldwin prove himself to be the exception? He can, and will, if he

adheres unflinchingly to the grasp of the situation, to the understanding of the meaning of the election, and to the determination for "ordered progress, not stagnation," which formed the theme of the first public speech of his second Premiership.

We do not propose to follow Mr Baldwin through his survey of his Government's task, which was on the whole admirable in tone and liberal in interpretation. That speech was made, perforce, before he had even met his Cabinet. Contact with colleagues and with his party stalwarts will bring him, we fear, within earshot of the siren voices that would lure him away from his course. In all the three main spheres of policy, foreign, Imperial, and social, these voices will be heard, and he will be put to the test. In the foreign sphere, the new Anglo-French harmony and the initiation of the Dawes Scheme is but a beginning. Problems such as those of the division of reparations, of inter-Allied debts, and of the Arbitration protocol, call for the full exercise of enlightened statesmanship in tune with a new atmosphere. Nor can the Russian problem be handled by a pure negation of the Labour Government's policy. For the blunder of the guaranteed loan must be substituted a firm but constructive policy, aimed at restoring on a proper basis the foundations of Anglo-Russian trade. Yet Mr Baldwin will, we know, be forcibly told that the election was won on the cry, "No dealings with Bolsheviks." Moreover, as we suggest in a later column, Mr Austen Chamberlain is not left free from the associations of the Curzon régime. In the Imperial problems the trial of strength will not be less severe. In India affairs have reached a stage where even the suspicion of retrograde policy might have the direst consequences. Mr Baldwin's references to Indian affairs were unexceptionable, and, as we have said before, Lord Birkenhead has given ground for hopes that such a blunder will not be committed. But the "Die-Hards" whom the new Secretary of State for India defied in 1920 have not changed their views or relaxed their energy. Dominion questions, too, have come to a point where important developments are over-due; and it is not altogether reassuring that the delicate questions of the machinery for liaison, consultation, and co-operation in matters—especially foreign affairs—which affect the Empire as a whole, will come mainly under the purview of a Colonial Minister whose obsession it is to look out upon Imperial matters through the blurred and distorted spectacles of Preference and Protection. In home affairs, while Mr Baldwin adumbrates lines of thoughtful and careful progress, there are those in his camp whose vision goes no further than demands to cut "the dole" and reduce the income-tax.

The more resolutely that Mr Baldwin resists dark counsels of reaction, the more assuredly will the country rally behind him. He will need all the support the country can give him. He will derive strength, we believe, from his Foreign Secretary (whose speech at Glasgow on Thursday, to a party meeting, showed balanced judgment in the face of temptation), and from his Chancellor—whom he calls, scarcely, perhaps, with the universal approval of his followers, the "Gog and Magog" of his Government. He will, we trust, receive even more efficacious help to steer his course from the Opposition, both at Westminster and in the country. Mr MacDonald and Mr Thomas, whose temper in defeat has been admirable, have shown in their post-election speeches a sound realisation of the services which the country expects his Majesty's Opposition to perform. Outside Parliament, the battle-scarred Liberal Party will be engaged in a giant effort to re-win public support for a national policy of progress without taint of extremism. If Mr Baldwin will keep his ear to the ground he will hear, as, indeed, he may learn from recent electoral experience, that the country is calling upon him to fulfil his Guildhall promise of ordered progress, to eschew rash experiment, but, above all, to avoid the error—which, rightly or wrongly, the country imputes to Mr MacDonald—of moving too far towards the extremists of his party.

THE POSITION OF ITALY

It was a happy circumstance that, at a moment when Italy was again approaching a crisis in her internal affairs, Mr Baldwin was able to look forward to action on our part which will confirm the good relations between Italy and Great Britain. All parties will approve the Prime Minister's announcement at the Guildhall Banquet that he intended to ask Parliament for an early ratification of the Jubaland Convention. By the cession of this strip of Kenya Colony to Italy we shall be discharging in full our obligations under the Treaty of London, in virtue of which Italy entered the war in 1915, and which laid down that she should receive equitable compensation from Great Britain and France, in the form of a rectification of frontiers, if these two Powers increased their holdings in Africa at Germany's expense as a result of the war. This obligation, which was rendered effective by the territorial terms of the Treaty of Versailles, has already been discharged by France, through a rectification in the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli. There will be a general agreement in this country that the performance of our part of the bargain ought not to be too long delayed.

From the point of view of Italian foreign policy, the completion of the Jubaland Convention will be a notable success for Signor Mussolini's Government. It will clear up satisfactorily the position of Italy in Africa, just as the final settlement of the Fiume question last March has cleared up her position in the Adriatic. At the same time, these territorial questions, important though they are, touch the prestige rather than the vital interests of Italy in her international relations. For Italy to-day one international problem dominates all the rest, and that, of course, is the problem of emigration. The blow which Italy suffered from the United States Restriction Law of 1921 has been repeated in the still more stringent law of 1924. In fact, the principal outlet for the growing surplus of the Italian population during the past quarter of a century has been practically closed, and no equivalent outlets are immediately available. The Argentine and Brazil cannot absorb the whole stream of Italian migration that is being diverted from North America; and the increasing stream which Italy is sending to the French Possessions in North-West Africa, and to France herself, is in danger of being permanently lost to the mother country. Thus Italy has still to solve the gravest problem of her international relations, and therefore she can hardly afford the indefinite continuance of that internal waste of energy which she has suffered since the war through the violent oscillation of her home politics from Communism at one extreme to Fascism at the other.

Whatever high doctrine may be preached by a Lenin or a Mussolini, a democratic parliamentary government is the only satisfactory political system for a great Western nation in the present age. For good or evil, this is the channel to which we have all of us committed our political progress, and at this stage progress cannot possibly be assisted by violent attempts to divert the current to the left or right of its established bed. This year, however, a series of fatalities has attended the struggle for the restoration of constitutionalism in Italy. The opening of Parliament last June was anticipated by the murder of Signor Matteotti, with the result that the Constitutional Opposition boycotted the Chamber, and the session was adjourned for six months; and now, again, the opening of Parliament on last Wednesday, November 12th, has been heralded by the unseemly disorders which attended the celebration of the victory demonstrations in Rome and Milan during the preceding week.

In Rome, on November 4th, a procession of ex-Service men, who were marching to lay a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Warrior, with a grandson of Garibaldi and the Italian counterpart of a "V.C." at their head, were attacked and dispersed with revolver shots by a party of Fascisti specially imported from the Veneto. With great difficulty the Carabinieri (assisted by the personal intervention of high Fascist functionaries) succeeded in restoring order and making it possible for the celebrations to proceed; but the incident is significant as the first open

breach between Fascism and the Association of Ex-Service Men, or Combattenti.

When the Fascist movement rose to prominence after the war, the main plank in its platform was that it stood for the ex-Service men against the Communists, and for the fruits of victory against defeatism; and, at the high tide of the national reaction against the Communist excesses of 1920, this claim was broadly accepted by the Italian people. The course of events since then demonstrates—what was suspected all along by sober observers in Italy and abroad—that Fascism was a mere symptom of this reaction, and that it therefore could not be a permanent factor in Italian political life. The Combattenti Association, who may claim with some justice to represent the ripe and experienced manhood of the country, supported Fascism so long as the fear of Communism remained the dominant feeling in the Italian mind; but, as this feeling wore off, the generation of Italians who had taken an active part in the war began to ask themselves whether there was really no safeguard against Communism except a perpetual Fascist dictatorship; and the murder of Signor Matteotti last June raised the further question whether the principal danger of lawlessness was not now to be found on the Fascist side. A few weeks after the murder, a Congress of the Combattenti Association was held at Assisi; a motion hostile to Signor Mussolini's Government was proposed, and, although the Fascist element in the Congress offered a strenuous resistance, a compromise resolution was eventually passed which demanded the full and absolute restoration of the authority of the law. Signor Mussolini did not fail to express his displeasure at this resolution, and, in the disturbances of last week, Fascism gave practical form to this censure by those methods which are peculiarly its own. This time, however, the Fascisti have joined battle against odds which they have not had to face before, for the phalanx on which they have hitherto relied is now arrayed in the opposite ranks. The ex-Service men have definitely gone into opposition, and Fascism has been left to depend upon the violence of inexperienced youths who have grown up since the war, and who are as ignorant of what they are doing as their contemporaries and fellow-dupes who have become the gladiators of Communism. This dependence, in the last resort, upon boys is characteristic of all the extreme reactionary movements in post-war Europe, and when it comes to a battle between the Young Guard and the Old Guard, the issue cannot be in doubt. Already the ex-service men are taking energetic measures. "The war was won by four million Italians, and not by boys in black shirts" is their watchword, and it shows a welcome return of common-sense. The leaders of the association, whose adherence to Fascism had been of inestimable value to that movement, have promptly resigned from the Fascist organisation, and last Monday, November 10th, the association published an exceedingly strong resolution regarding the outrages on the 4th. In this document the outrages are expressly asserted to have been the work of the Fascist party; the association goes on to declare, in the spirit of the Assisi resolution, that it will not be the tool of any political party, and it calls upon Parliament to take effective measures for the immediate restoration of the reign of law and the repression of factions.

This rally of the Italian ex-service men to Parliamentary Government is an encouraging sign, and it may be expected to strengthen the hands of the Constitutional Opposition very greatly. Signor Mussolini has retorted by prohibiting all political meetings until further notice, and repressive action against the Press; but, in the new temper of the Italian people, this will hardly assist his cause. Meanwhile, Parliament re-assembled last Wednesday (the 12th). The occasion was marked by the absence not only of the declared opposition (whose boycott continues), but of Signor Giolitti, who has been numbered officially among the Government's supporters. It remains to be seen whether the Government can carry on with the sole participation of the Fascist majority, and also whether that majority will hold together, or whether the revolt of the ex-service men will reflect itself among the parliamentary representatives of the Fascist party. On the whole, we may look forward with some confidence to important changes in the internal situation of Italy in the

near future. A constitutional régime seems in a fair way to being restored; and, as convinced constitutionalists ourselves, we may legitimately hope for this development, in the belief that it will be in the truest interests of Italy and her people. The road to this goal may not be altogether a smooth one, but they will, we believe, surmount the roughnesses and obstacles, and as they do so they will have with them the sympathy of the British people.

OUR OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THE Board of Trade returns for October do not show any signs whatever of being affected by the domestic political upheaval during the month. As compared with September, imports are nearly £20 millions up at the second highest total of the year, exports show an increase of over £5 millions, while re-exports are £3½ millions higher. The figures, however, are from some aspects not as satisfactory as could be desired, for although exports have expanded as compared with the previous month, they are by no means keeping pace with the expansion in imports. As compared with October, 1923, moreover, imports are £20 millions higher, but total exports are nearly a million lower, and we have an adverse balance of nearly £39 millions for the month, as compared with less than £17½ millions in the corresponding month last year. The figures for October and for the ten months compare with last year's totals as follows:—

MONTH OF OCTOBER.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in October, 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	99,927,488	120,458,328	+ 20,530,840	+ 20.6
British exports	71,322,931	68,586,638	- 2,736,293	- 3.8
Re-exports	11,146,961	12,931,489	+ 1,784,528	+ 16.0
Total exports	82,469,892	81,518,127	- 951,765	- 1.2
Excess of imports over total exports	17,457,596	38,940,201	+ 21,482,605	+ 123.2

FIRST TEN MONTHS.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	887,099,289	1,029,749,884	+ 142,650,595	+ 16.1
British exports	637,445,312	657,905,899	+ 20,460,587	+ 3.2
Re-exports	98,004,852	115,769,813	+ 17,764,961	+ 18.1
Total exports	735,450,164	773,675,712	+ 38,225,548	+ 5.2
Excess of imports over total exports	151,649,125	256,074,172	+ 104,425,047	+ 68.8

Some satisfaction may be derived from the fact that the increase in imports occurs almost entirely under the head of food and raw materials, the former category showing an increase of £12 millions, and the latter an increase of over £6½ millions as compared with October last year. Imports of grain and flour alone are up by nearly £5½ millions, which is to a considerable extent accounted for by higher prices, for while the quantity imported rose from 16.4 million cwts to 20.5 million cwts, the value rose from £7.8 millions to £13.2 millions. Among raw materials, wool imports show an increase of over £2 millions, cotton imports are nearly a million higher in value, and oils and oilseeds have risen by over a million. Rubber imports declined by £577,700. The conspicuous feature in imports of manufactured goods, which show an increase of over £2½ millions, is an increase of nearly a million in iron and steel. The decline in British exports for the month is due entirely to coal and iron and steel, which are down by £3½ millions and £1.4 millions respectively, France, Germany, Italy and Russia accounting for the greater part of the former. The rise in re-exports is due largely to rubber, which increased by £855,000, wool, cotton, and hides and skins.

The increase in imports for the ten months is made up of £43½ millions in food and drink, £64 millions in raw materials, and £34½ millions in manufactured goods. On the export side, food and drink are £10 millions higher, but owing to a drop of over £23 millions in coal exports,

raw materials show a decline of over £21 millions, but manufactured goods are £30½ millions higher than in the corresponding period of last year. Raw cotton, hides and skins and meat contribute substantially to the ten months' increase in re-exports.

The October returns contain the usual quarterly statistics giving the countries of origin and destination of our imports and exports. The official figures show foreign countries and the Dominions separately, and we have divided the former into two groups in order to show our trade with European countries separately. Our first table shows our imports from and exports to Continental countries in the first nine months of this year, together with the figures for the corresponding periods of preceding years:—

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER (000's omitted).

	IMPORTS FROM.				EXPORTS TO.			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
France	32,999	38,697	47,653	53,940	20,330	42,287	43,537	37,432
Italy	6,005	8,014	10,289	12,624	10,103	15,298	15,104	13,252
Switzerland ..	7,539	16,304	14,571	14,098	2,586	7,448	5,252	8,771
Spain	11,065	16,518	16,707	16,735	6,292	10,986	10,092	9,973
Portugal	2,805	4,538	4,045	4,638	3,888	5,706	6,702	6,544
Belgium	15,085	17,368	20,859	26,926	8,171	18,870	18,891	17,117
Germany	47,238	18,701	25,454	25,325	24,456	24,394	33,014	31,016
Austria	4,393	1,129	1,498	1,760	2,668	830	780	1,871
Hungary	1,200	221	490	444	159	115	115	254
Greece	3,134	1,979	2,726	1,505	2,404	2,995	2,602	4,119
Roumania	912	1,004	1,127	1,811	1,337	1,990	2,034	2,411
Turkey (Europe) ..	22,947	3,190	4,818	13,346	11,843	3,087	2,449	2,837
Russia	912	901	921	700	2,186	2,756	1,713	1,805
Finland	9,143	7,366	9,141	9,627	1,939	2,786	3,300	3,300
Sweden	5,524	12,813	14,982	16,302	5,538	8,738	9,906	10,552
Norway	18,557	8,050	8,792	8,430	4,962	9,047	6,332	6,522
Denmark	21,287	29,214	35,717	35,101	4,189	8,848	9,316	10,254
Netherlands	..	32,202	36,628	40,494	10,525	31,813	28,596	25,652
Poland	..	1,739	4,089	5,740	..	1,597	2,068	2,586
Czechoslovakia ..	..	3,599	5,762	9,670	..	611	653	1,013
Total	209,833	223,552	266,343	299,016	122,078	199,389	201,941	196,872

Many interesting points are brought out in this table. The first is the steady growth in the capacity of Europe to export, our total imports from the Continent having increased by nearly £33 millions as compared with 1923, and by £75½ millions as compared with 1922. The second is that Germany has not contributed to this year's increase, our imports from Germany in 1924 being actually slightly lower than in the corresponding period of last year. It may also be observed in passing that imports from Germany this year have been little more than half the value recorded in the first nine months of 1914, despite the increase in prices. The countries mainly responsible for this year's increase in imports are France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Russia, the last-named country showing a surprising increase from £4.8 millions to £13.3 millions. Only seven countries in the list show a decline on the import side, and these are all on a small scale. On the export side, the decline of £5 millions in the total is doubtless more than accounted for by the drop in coal exports, conspicuous declines being recorded in exports to France, Italy, Belgium, and Germany. Our exports to Germany are substantially higher than in 1914, though the increase is not commensurate with the change in prices. Russia has taken very slightly more than last year, but the amount imported by Russia is very small in comparison with her exports to us. It will be seen from a later table, however, that our re-exports to Russia have increased from £1.4 million to £5.8 millions. British exports to Holland show a substantial drop for the second year in succession.

Our next table gives the figures for the United States and other foreign countries:—

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER (000's omitted).

	IMPORTS FROM.				EXPORTS TO.			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
United States ..	95,789	158,849	142,985	160,787	27,253	40,735	45,027	39,188
Cuba	3,744	9,951	8,061	11,055	1,281	969	2,208	2,778
Mexico	1,422	7,185	4,777	4,739	484	1,544	1,969	1,751
Argentina	25,895	44,188	49,893	60,903	12,322	16,425	21,723	20,324
Brazil	6,230	6,028	4,828	4,253	5,281	7,572	8,255	9,487
Chile	4,370	3,641	4,581	9,280	3,385	4,052	5,158	3,882
Colombia	2,141	4,516	5,101	6,779	921	1,185	1,919	1,969
Peru	2,170	3,654	3,941	4,864	1,439	1,971	2,473	2,379
Uruguay	3,172	6,363	5,217	5,819	7,066	18,411	18,632	20,533
Japan	3,581	6,867	9,134	9,374	11,237	18,818	13,390	16,311
China	2,171	201	733	937	3,620	176	607	681
Turkey (Asia) ..	13,472	20,455	19,884	23,188	5,458	11,492	10,932	11,132
Siam	7,718	18,509	21,993	28,568	11,261	13,470	13,505	15,252
Other countries ..	171,875	290,407	281,128	330,546	91,008	136,820	145,858	145,867

There is here an even greater increase in imports, which is spread fairly evenly over the list. The increase in imports from the United States, taken in conjunction with the decline in British exports to that country, makes the firmness and recent spurt in the dollar exchange appear the more remarkable: doubts must, indeed, exist in face of such figures as these whether the present level of the exchange can be maintained. Imports from both Japan and China have slightly increased, while exports have in both cases expanded, but the increase in exports to Japan is, perhaps, not so marked as might have been expected. Exports to South America are a little lower.

The next table shows trade with the Dominions:—

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER (000's omitted).

	IMPORTS FROM.				EXPORTS TO.			
	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1914.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Irish Free State ..	20,844	36,806	19,061	37,397	13,981	18,276	14,782	32,096
Canada	28,945	51,970	40,966	43,694	26,252	45,051	42,596	20,690
Australia	20,252	40,750	36,641	40,446	7,332	11,116	11,059	44,789
New Zealand	36,715	39,914	56,690	61,926	54,933	69,123	67,309	14,888
India & Ceylon ..	8,889	12,518	10,265	12,411	14,684	18,924	19,920	22,880
South Africa	4,811	7,672	8,954	10,255	4,458	8,611	8,527	7,015
West Africa	376	1,997	3,092	2,495	3,691	5,090	5,723	6,384
Mauritius	10,039	5,673	7,191	1,214	1,765	2,418	2,581	834
Straits Settlements ..	1,893	1,871	1,114	1,941	1,765	2,418	2,581	2,638
Malay States	1,880	3,672	4,788	3,941	1,765	2,418	2,581	2,638
Other Possessions ..	6,106	11,841	13,590	15,479	10,477	18,423	23,871	22,342
Total	140,810	214,584	239,993	279,793	137,663	198,515	218,323	246,580

The very large increase shown in trade with the Irish Free State is due to the fact that the 1923 figures are for six months only, the separation in the statistics having only been made as from April 1st of that year. But after making allowance for this the expansion is of very satisfactory dimensions. For the last quarter imports are up by £5½ millions, and exports by £3 millions. In other directions also the figures have a healthy appearance. Among the imports there are only three decreases—Mauritius, Malay States, and West Indies—while in exports West Africa alone takes less from us. Imports from the Dominions represent 30.7 per cent. of total imports, as against 30.4 per cent. at this time last year, while exports to the Dominions are 41.8 per cent. of the total as against 38.5 per cent. last year.

Our final table gives re-exports to the principal countries:—

RE-EXPORTS—NINE MONTHS.
(000's omitted.)

To	1914.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
France	7,629	23,489	34,261	8,050	13,728	13,933	13,048
Italy	764	3,576	4,696	1,095	1,296	1,485	1,764
Belgium	4,888	9,927	15,713	6,832	8,352	6,857	7,688
Germany	13,347	4,135	20,174	17,352	13,643	14,308	21,293
Russia	5,419	2,488	3,782	821	623	1,373	5,833
Sweden	631	3,646	3,951	1,341	1,158	1,259	1,249
Norway	408	1,449	1,528	572	534	554	484
Denmark	474	4,916	3,389	1,084	906	1,371	1,289
Netherlands	3,831	17,408	10,411	6,676	4,744	5,682	5,647
United States	24,525	25,382	48,501	14,919	14,650	20,906	17,139
Japan	146	1,147	1,491	569	225	199	217
Other countries	4,864	5,435	12,370	8,731	6,477	6,669	7,778
Total for foreign countries	67,096	93,000	160,267	68,042	66,336	72,596	83,429
British Possessions	9,700	5,253	20,192	9,598	11,538	14,262	19,409
Total	76,796	98,253	180,459	77,640	77,874	86,858	102,838

The bulk of the increase in re-exports to foreign countries is accounted for by Germany and Russia, the figures for the United States showing a drop of nearly £4 millions. Of the increase in the case of the Dominions over £4 millions is in the Irish Free State figures. Re-exports to Australia are over a million higher, but elsewhere there is little change.

THE LIBERAL LAND POLICY.—I.

(BY AN AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE statement of policy issued by each of the three parties for the General Election contained more or less explicit indications of their proposals with regard to agriculture. The Labour party, in brief and rather vague terms, declared their intention of dealing with agricultural land so as to "secure its maximum productivity," a phrase which, in view of their previous declarations, was no doubt intended to cover the nationalisation of the land and of the means of agricultural production. Mr Baldwin pledged

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits • \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

the Unionist party to summon a conference in the hope of arriving at an agreed policy, and also gave his support to several practical proposals for the benefit of farmers. In both cases the questions dealt with were familiar, and have long been the subject of animated discussion. The manifesto of the Liberal party alone broke fresh ground, and threw into the arena of controversy a proposal which was entirely new in the country. From the political point of view, as representing the proposals of a party which, for the duration of the new Parliament, can have but little hope of influencing public policy, the suggestion may have only an academic interest, but nevertheless those who try to consider agricultural questions without party prejudice will be prepared to examine any new idea irrespective of its origin.

For long past many of those who are concerned for the future of British agriculture have been dubious about the continuance of the present land system in its present form. The land system of this country has been evolved from the old manorial system, and is, broadly speaking, based on tenancy, with a comparatively small leavening of occupying ownership. It has often been suggested that it would be in the national interest to increase very greatly the number of occupying owners, and indeed enthusiasts have sometimes advocated—or appeared to advocate—the wholesale substitution of peasant proprietors for the existing tenants. Another school of agrarian reformers has urged that large-scale farming should replace the existing diversified system of heterogeneous holdings. Much has been written in support of both these ideals and the advantages and disadvantages of both have been voluminously and volubly explained. But amid all the discussion no one has thought it necessary to suggest the means of attaining the desired object. It should be evident that a land system cannot be altered merely by argument. In the course of centuries, no doubt, the land system of any country will gradually adapt itself to changed conditions. Those who advocate drastic change give no indication of a desire to wait for the chances of slow evolution. They all profess to be in a hurry, but only those who propose nationalisation as a panacea have hitherto suggested a definite scheme.

In the Liberal land policy a definite scheme is propounded. It is claimed for it that it will adapt the present land system to modern requirements with the least possible disturbance of existing conditions. Such a claim is at least worthy of careful examination. The circumstances in which the scheme was put before the public were unfavourable to its impartial consideration. During an election it was not likely to be regarded without party bias, and neither commendation nor criticism could be entirely frank. It must be admitted also that it was first stated in terms which gave a minimum of information. The party manifesto, after the customary exordium about "the long-standing neglect of agriculture"—which, incidentally, is not accurate—proceeded to state that "real improvement.....can be achieved only by securing to land workers the fruit of their energy and enterprise

through a complete alteration in the system of land tenure. That system must be modified in accordance with modern necessities. The Liberal land policy contemplates a land tenure which would combine the advantages of ownership and of tenancy without the disadvantages of either.....The Liberal policy is to liberate farmers from the restrictions of an out-of-date land system; to liberate agricultural labourers from poverty and lack of opportunity; and to make the best use of all the land of the country in the interests of the whole community."

The phraseology of political proclamations must, of course, be judged by the rules of the game, and all of them are clouded with ambiguity. It would be difficult for anyone to gather precisely what the "complete alteration" alluded to meant. An explanation was offered in a statement issued immediately afterwards by the Liberal Publication Department, from which it could be gathered that it was proposed to establish a system of cultivating ownership to replace the present landlord and tenant system. The main outlines of the scheme are as follows:—

Every tenant of agricultural land will be converted into a "cultivating owner" with absolute security and full rights of ownership, including the right of their heirs to succeed, subject to two conditions:—

1. The payment of an annual rent equivalent to the present rental less "an allowance for repairs and management"; and
2. The proper cultivation of the land to the satisfaction of "competent local experts."

Landowners will be compensated "on the fair terms of receiving for themselves and their heirs the annual payment of their present net rents."

Farmers who now own their land will not be affected, but it is suggested that those who are handicapped by having bought their farms at high prices may have the option of being bought out by the State, "on the basis of the price paid by them," and given the status of cultivating owners.

The scheme assumes that two objects are desirable: (1) To give every occupier of agricultural land the incentive to ownership, and (2) to ensure that all agricultural land is put to its full economic use.

As to the desirability of these two objects, there is general concurrence, but it is commonly assumed that they cannot be attained without great disadvantages. The objections to ownership usually made are that it ties up capital which can be more profitably used in working the farm, and that it places the land under the absolute control of a man who may misuse or neglect it. To any suggested measures for ensuring the proper use of the land, it is objected that they involve interference with individual liberty and all the evils of State control.

The scheme outlined in the Liberal policy meets the first objection by establishing the occupier as an owner without compelling him to purchase the land. He would become, in fact, a perpetual tenant without any restrictive covenants or risk of eviction either by the will of the landlord or by a change in the ownership of the land. He would be in much the same legal position as a copyholder except that in place of "fines" at irregular intervals he and his successors would pay a fixed annual rent.

There are unquestionably practical administrative difficulties in devising means to prevent the misuse or neglect

of the land. Many farmers immediately assume that it involves dictatorial control such as that exercised during the war under "Dora." They have forgotten that the ephemeral Agricultural Act, 1920, included elaborate provisions enabling the Minister of Agriculture to interfere with, and if necessary evict, the occupier (whether owner or tenant) of any land which was not being cultivated according to the rules of good husbandry, and to deal in the same way with the owner of any agricultural estate which was "grossly mismanaged" so as to prejudice the production of food or the welfare of those engaged in the cultivation of the estate. These drastic powers were never exercised, because the Act was repealed almost as soon as it was passed, but they remain on the Statute Book as evidence of the assent of Parliament to the principle that the State has a right, and indeed a duty, to intervene if agricultural land is neglected or misused.

The importance to the nation of ensuring that all the small and steadily diminishing area of available agricultural land is properly used cannot be over-emphasised. There is one point in this connection which may be noted. The whole case for land nationalisation, as put forward by its advocates, rests on the argument that by that method—and by that method only—can the nation secure the full use of the land. There is no district where examples cannot be found of land which is either inefficiently farmed or deliberately neglected.

These are the stock-in-trade of Socialist orators. That there are other remedies for the admitted evil they either cannot see or will not admit. The scheme embodied in the Liberal policy is in consonance with the characteristic principles of Liberalism, i.e., to interfere with private enterprise only where the national interests imperatively demand it, and then only so far as, and no farther than, is necessary to achieve the object.

But acceptance of the desirability of the end in view and approval of the general principles on which the scheme is based are not sufficient to dispel the reasonable doubts of the community as to its practicability. It will be advisable, in another article, to examine it more closely in detail.

THE WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF CEREALS.

THE recent rise in cereal prices has called attention once again to the general problem of the world's food supply. It will be remembered that the virtual elimination of Russia, which before the war provided about 40 per cent. of the wheat which entered into international trade, led some people to take a very gloomy view of the future. For the time being, however, the great increase in the acreage down to cereals in Canada and the United States, together with a series of excellent harvests, enabled the New World to redress the balance of the Old. Last year, indeed, Mark Lane was filled to overflowing, and, as was pointed out in these columns recently,* wheat changed hands at a price equal to only some 125 per cent. of the 1913 level at a time when general prices stood at about 175 per cent. Not only was this the case, but the "noble cereal" had also fallen in value relatively to all the other principal cereals. This year, however, the situation is very different, and the statistics published in the current number of the "International Crop Report" of the International Institute of Agriculture merit the most careful attention. They relate, of course, only to the Northern Hemisphere, for really reliable data as to the probable crops in other producing centres will be available only in a few weeks' time.

The aggregate figures for the countries for which returns are to hand compare unfavourably with the corresponding totals of last year, as the following table shows:—

Crop.	Current Harvest as Percentage of Production in	
	1923.	Average, 1918-22.
Wheat	90.4	102.5
Rye	81.6	93.6
Barley	91.7	103.7
Oats	100.3	112.3
Maize	83.2	90.3

* Vide *Economist*, October 11, 1924, p. 564.

If we exclude Russia, about which reliable statistical returns are unobtainable, the countries which are included in the compilation of this table represent about 96 per cent. of the total wheat produced in the Northern Hemisphere, about 98 per cent. of the total rye, 85 per cent. of oats and maize, and 75 per cent. of barley. They therefore provide a fair indication of the general nature of this year's harvest, and, even as far as Russia is concerned, the vague official statement that the cereal crops in general are about 9 per cent. below those of last year bears out the general conclusion. The results themselves are due in the main to unfortunate climatic conditions, though in certain cases a reduction in acreage has also played its part.

In the following table will be found the area down to wheat during the last two years in the principal countries, together with the figures of total yield. Save in the case of India and of certain Eastern European countries, the acreage this year was slightly less than in 1923, the most noticeable falling off occurring in the United States. Curiously enough, however, this was one of the few countries to show an increase in the crop raised. The improvement in acreage in Roumania, on the other hand, is perhaps an earnest that that country, which was the fifth largest exporter in pre-war days, will once again come on to the world market in the not very distant future.

	WHEAT.		Yield.	
	Area.		(In Miln. Centals.)	
	(In Thousand Acres.)		(In Miln. Centals.)	
Western Europe—	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
England and Wales....	1,740	1,545	34.1	30.4
France	13,673	13,412	165.3	169.4
Germany	3,653	3,624	62.2	55.9
Italy	11,554	11,317	134.9	102.6
Spain	10,489	9,612	94.3	75.6
Eastern Europe—				
Bulgaria.....	2,303	2,159	21.7	22.8
Hungary	3,320	3,499	40.6	30.2
Poland	2,514	2,658	29.8	19.7
Roumania	6,648	7,839	61.3	..
Yugoslavia.....	3,843	4,071	36.6	42.0
America and India—				
Canada	22,672	22,505	285.0	175.0
United States	58,308	53,818	471.4	513.5
India	30,844	31,178	223.6	218.5

* 1 cental = 100 lbs.

These figures of yield, it must be remarked, are at present only preliminary, and may be subject to some adjustments later. The Canadian crop, for instance, on the basis of the most recent official estimate, is not likely to amount to much more than 164 million centals.

The position in the Argentine and in Australia promises fairly well at present, and, with an acreage slightly in excess of that of last year, a good average yield is hoped for. Should this indeed prove to be the case, the world's available supply of wheat, including stocks on hand, should be somewhere in the neighbourhood of the world's requirements. There does not thus appear to be any particular ground for anxiety, though the position is decidedly inferior to that last year, when the harvest sufficed to meet the demand and to provide a certain carry-over in addition. Finally, it is, of course, possible that increased prices will react on the demand, though this seems the less likely on account of the unsatisfactory nature of the rye crop. With but a trifling falling off in acreage, the yield in both Germany and Poland was decidedly less than last year. (Germany, 132 million centals, as against 158 millions; and Poland, 84 millions, compared with 131 millions in 1923.) In fact, rye did worse than any other of the principal cereals.

Despite one or two increases in acreage, the barley crop in the principal European countries was also inferior to that last year, though this cereal did well in America.

	BARLEY.		Yield.	
	Area.		(In Miln. Centals.)	
	(In Thousand Acres.)		(In Miln. Centals.)	
Europe—	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
England and Wales....	1,327	1,314	21.6	22.4
France	1,684	1,634	21.6	..
Germany	3,214	3,571	52.5	52.8
Spain	4,540	2,886	53.7	28.6
Hungary	1,237	1,081	13.1	7.2
Poland	2,964	3,011	36.5	27.5
Roumania	4,642	4,573	29.2	..
America—				
Canada	2,785	3,408	37.0	43.6
United States	7,905	7,558	95.1	96.5

The outstanding importance of the Argentine as a maize exporting country makes a summary of the available statistics relating to this cereal well-nigh worthless. In the United States, however, a slight increase in acreage has not prevented a very great fall in production (1,377 million quintals as against 1,710 millions last year), though both Hungary and Italy, whose figures appear tiny by comparison, have an increased yield to their credit, while reports from Roumania and Yugoslavia are decidedly favourable. The one cereal which did better this year than last is oats, though in this case the improvement, such as it is, appears to be due primarily to an increase in the area sown.

	OATS.		Yield.	
	Area.		(In Miln. Centals.)	
	(In Thousand Acres.)		(In Miln. Centals.)	
Europe—	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
England and Wales....	1,978	2,037	30.5	31.5
France	8,457	8,600	107.8	..
Germany	8,262	8,713	131.7	135.2
Poland	6,215	6,388	77.7	56.7
Roumania	3,325	3,056	20.1	..
America—				
Canada	14,388	14,481	191.8	157.7
United States	40,833	41,625	415.9	483.0

The relative failure of this year's cereal crop has, of course, already made itself felt upon prices. Not only have these moved more into line with the general price level, but in the case of certain quotations they are at present actually above the general index number, taking 1913 as the base year. While the poor quality of the wheat crop in certain European countries has prevented local agriculturists from taking full advantage of this change, it is, nevertheless, clear that much has already happened to get back to something more nearly approaching the pre-war relationship between the prices of cereals and those of manufactured goods. In addition, moreover, the prices of the different cereals, when compared with one another, are also much nearer the pre-war ratio than they were a year ago. This general process of returning to normal in the matter of the prices of essential foodstuffs is certainly somewhat painful, but it is none the less indispensable, and, from this point of view, this year's harvest returns are not therefore an unmixed evil.

THE NEW ZEALAND EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

(BY OUR CHRISTCHURCH CORRESPONDENT.)

THE exchange situation at the present time between London and New Zealand has caused a good deal of concern and comment, particularly among the farmers and exporters generally. The present rates of exchange show a considerable discount amounting to 45 per cent. in the local value of a London draft, and exporters are naturally concerned at this deduction from their cheques. There is a very great deal of popular misconception regarding exchange, and much loose talk about the toll that the bankers are said to be levying upon the farming community. The chairman of the Associated Banks has therefore found it necessary to issue a statement through the Press Association explaining the exact position, and showing that the New Zealand exporter, though undoubtedly in a difficult position, is better off than his fellow in Australia or South Africa.

The New Zealand exchange position is always tied very closely to that of Australia, since four of the six banks operating in New Zealand are primarily Australian institutions. There is also a natural tendency to use New Zealand and Australian demands for exchange accommodation in a compensatory manner. Much of the New Zealand difficulty at the present time is therefore to be found in Australian banking conditions, though New Zealand has contributed to the trouble. The outstanding fact of the situation is that funds have accumulated, largely by Government and local body borrowing in London, to such an extent that it is difficult to shift the credits to Australia and New Zealand.

In the endeavour to shift the credits overseas, the banks resort to a timid application of the time-honoured device of adjusting the exchange rates in order presumably to check the demand for money in New Zealand and en-

WESTMINSTER BANK

LIMITED

Affiliated Abroad
Westminster Foreign Bank Limited
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseille, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp
Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or
Agents in all the principal cities and towns
of the United Kingdom and has
correspondents throughout
the World

Head Office: 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2

courage the demand for money in London, or in other words to discourage New Zealand exports and encourage imports. Until recently the margin between the buying and selling rates appeared, after allowance was made for interest, to be on the excessive side. Criticism was freely levelled against the banks in this particular, though the fact that keeping so much money in London earning low rates deprived the banks of the opportunity of lending at the higher New Zealand rates, and must have taken away from any undue profit gained from the wide rates. The profits of the banks from all sources have, however, been substantial, and in the new rates just made public there has been a welcome narrowing of the margin that places this criticism of the banks out of court.

It is still open to question, however, whether in moving the rates of exchange timidly against exporters and in favour of importers the banks have accomplished much beyond irritating local opinion. The inducement given to increased importation is small, and not likely to be effective, while the only discouragement to export will be that a certain proportion of the producers' returns will be swallowed up in exchange. There will be little discouragement of import into Britain, because the effect on prices will be small.

The fact is that New Zealand and Australia have, but do not recognise, a credit-exchange standard which works in a similar way to the more familiar gold-exchange standards of pre-war times. The rates of exchange are virtually fixed, and the level of prices in the Dominions is kept at a stable relation with British prices by the use of a credit fund in London. When this credit fund accumulates the banks in New Zealand loosen their policy of advances, the increased purchasing power thus made available stimulates imports, and so the credit fund in London is reduced. This process is quite simple and logical, and there is no necessity for any shift in the exchange rates at all. Readjustment can be brought about more easily and directly by alteration of the banks' policy in New Zealand.

Such shifts in the exchange rates as have occurred recently are too trifling to bring about effective readjustment. If it was seriously intended to use them for this purpose the premium on imports would have to be much higher than it is at the present time, and the check to exports much greater. But, as a matter of fact, the alteration which has taken place is largely formal and traditional, or, in the political slang of the day, merely a gesture of good intentions. There is no reason why the banks in New Zealand should not institute a fixed exchange rate at par, with just sufficient margin between the buying and selling rates on either side of par to give them current interest and a reasonable commission. This would mean the recognition of the fact of a credit exchange standard, which would clear the way for steps to be taken to get at the real source of the difficulties, instead of timidly following traditional banking practice.

The main difficulty has already been indicated in the large borrowings of recent months on behalf not only of the Commonwealth and Dominion Governments, but also of the separate States and of local bodies. Such borrowings can be transferred to New Zealand and Australia only by an increase of imports relative to exports, and there is, as previous communications to the *Economist* have indicated, a marked indication in the trade returns that this process is going on. Such a transference may be effected directly by the import of constructional materials for Government enterprises, such as the various public works, or indirectly by the freer advance of credit in New Zealand to the Government for the payment of labour, local contracts, &c., increasing the volume of purchasing power available, and so stimulating the demand for imports of a general character.

The direct process is going on freely at the present time; but there are various hindrances to the indirect process of stimulating imports. Many of these hindrances are to be found in the rather difficult financial condition of most businesses after the depression of 1920-1; but the chief obstacle is undoubtedly the policy of cautious advances being pursued by the banks. The action of the Commonwealth Notes Board in resisting the demand for extra currency sufficient to give a basis for the necessary extra credit to bring in the imports is typical; but, though there is so much restriction on note issue in New Zealand, the same effect is produced by the cautious limitation of advances.

It must be remembered also that all restrictions upon imports such as are imposed by a high protective tariff have a boomerang effect in this connection. The Australian tariff is higher than that in New Zealand, Australian interference with the credit exchange standard is more direct, and therefore the exchange position of Australia is worse. If the primary producers of these Dominions ever had any doubt as to who bears the cost of protection to local industries, the present exchange position ought to prove to them quite clearly that in order to keep British imports from coming into their countries they must consent to a substantial deduction from their cheques for the produce they export.

The remedy for the exchange situation, in other words, does not lie in any new scheme for Imperial currency (most of such schemes smelling strongly of inflation), or even in a return to the gold standard, but simply in an equivalence of imports and exports once more. This equivalence can be reached only by one of two methods, or a combination of both of them—viz., a heavy reduction in the volume of borrowing upon the London market, or else the removal of the existing barriers to the freest possible importation of goods from overseas. In other words, the Australasian colonies are being taught the old lesson that they cannot expect to borrow from other countries and refuse to take their loans in the shape of imports. The combination of extensive borrowing with efforts at local self-sufficiency would be ludicrous if the joke were not so patently upon the farmer, who has had difficulties enough in recent years.

The latest New Zealand banking statistics illustrate the truth of the contentions put forward above. As pointed out months ago in the *Economist*, the seasonal strain has come round again, and has reduced the margin of deposits over advances to very nearly the same low point as in the corresponding quarter of 1923, with every prospect of strain developing in the last quarter of the year once more. The actual figures are:—

Quarter.	Deposits. £ m.	Advances. £ m.	Excess Advances. £ m.	Deposits. £ m.
March, 1923 ..	43.5	42.5	..	0.9
June, 1923	45.7	41.7	..	4.0
Sept., 1923	43.9	42.8	..	1.1
Dec., 1923	42.8	46.2	3.3	..
March, 1924 ..	47.0	44.4	..	2.6
June, 1924	47.6	43.9	..	3.7
Sept., 1924	45.1	43.9	..	1.2

In this table the stability of the advances, except for the period of heavy importation in December quarter, 1923, and March quarter, 1924, will be evident at a glance. This stability is the result of the firm hand kept by the New Zealand banks over advances which lie within their power more perhaps than in any other country. The ominous seasonal movement will also be evident.

PROBLEMS OF THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

VERY significant developments have marked the economic policy of Soviet Russia since the beginning of this year. Lenin's much-boasted New Economic Policy, initiated some three years ago, had permitted to a large extent a return to private enterprise in industry and internal trade. The beginnings of a new, if limited, prosperity in Russia can be traced from the time of this change. But following closely upon the death of Lenin in January this year, there was a further turn in the situation. The more extreme elements in the Communist Party gained the upper hand, and private enterprise again fell into disfavour. The view was taken that the New Economic Policy had done its work, and that the country had recovered sufficiently to make possible the re-introduction of Communistic principles into economic life. Accordingly, since the early part of this year the State has been steadily expropriating and resuming control of industry and internal commerce. The present position may be summarised as follows: Retail trade in towns, and even in the country, has to some considerable extent been taken over by the Government and its subsidiary organisations; industry and wholesale trade are now almost entirely in the hands of the State.

Some of the more outward manifestations of the improved economic situation that had been reached early this year are well known. Improved transport and improved labour conditions, and, above all, the substitution of a stable currency in the form of State banknotes (chervontsy) for the depreciating Soviet paper—a change that was finally completed in the summer—were some of the most noteworthy improvements; but better technical methods in the Finance and certain other Departments, as well as the very definite rise in production, were also signs of great interest. The effect of these changes of policy during the past year and a half may be traced by the published statistics of the Soviet Government:—

Index.	Average, January to March, 1923.	Novem- ber, 1923.	Average, January to March, 1924.	June, 1924.
Production, heavy industries....	100	142	148	153
Do light industries	100	129	132	127
Turnover on Moscow wholesale trade market	100	154	175	139
Trade (generally)	100	169	164	147
Rail transport, combined index..	100	127	123	132

The maximum was reached in the early months of the present year. Since then there has been no definite progress; there has in nearly every case been a falling off in production, though the traffic carried by rail appears to have risen.

The main facts of the present position of the currency are already well known. Issues of depreciating "Soviet" notes ceased in March, and were gradually exchanged at a very low rate for the new "Treasury Notes," silver and copper coins, and temporary copeck "bonds." These new issues were in roubles and copecks, having the fixed relation of ten roubles to the chervonet; this established the rouble at the nominal gold equivalent of the pre-war rouble. Issues of silver coin amounted, up to October 1, 1924, to 49 million roubles; the issues of copper coins and "bonds" (small change) were not large. Accurate accounts of these Treasury issues are published. The account for October 1st shows that the total was 276 million roubles, of which 202 millions consisted of Treasury notes. The State Treasury held chervontsy to the amount of 130 millions as cover for the issue. The total of chervontsy in circulation was 346 millions on October 1st; thus the total circulation was 622 millions. Regarded per head of population, this issue appears small—approximately four roubles, as compared with about 13½ just before the war.

The issues of chervontsy, on which the whole circulation is based, have grown steadily up to the present

month. The total issued (including those held by the Treasury and by the State Bank), amounted to 235 millions on October 1, 1923, 280 millions by January 1, 1924, 338 millions on April 1st, and 518 millions on October 1st. The State Bank (Gosbank) issues accurate monthly statements which are of considerable interest as giving an indication of the way in which issues took place. From October 1, 1923, to April 1, 1924, issues were made mainly against precious metals and foreign currency; issues increased by 103 millions, and the holding of precious metals, &c., by 143 millions. Since April the item precious metals, &c., has remained practically unchanged, but issues increased in the five months to September 1st by 124 millions. Loans and discounts, on the other hand, increased by 135 millions in the same five months. The whole expansion is in part attributable to the development of trade, as well, of course, to the necessity of making up for the enormous denudation of currency following upon extreme depreciation. Whereas, however, trade expansion accounts for much of the increase up to April 1st, it is clear that this is not strictly the case after that date; industry and trade have, during this second period, been "financed" to the extent of some 135 millions without any increase of production—at a time when, in fact, there was a small falling off in trade and industry. This latter period coincides with the renewed effort to put Communism into stricter practice in Russia, and critics of the Soviet Government will be quick to notice that the change of policy has been followed, apparently, by an increase in the demands of State-run industries for support from the banks, together with a definite check to the partial recovery of trade and production that marked the year 1923.

It is too soon at present, however, to draw final conclusions. The check to prosperity which commenced last spring, and the consequent necessity of supporting the State-run industries by the expansion of banking credits, may also be traced in some measure to the rise in prices during the past 18 months. The official wholesale price-index rose from 129 in March, 1923 (1913 prices = 100), to 167 in October, 1923, 180 in January, 1924, and a maximum of 213 in May last. In June and July the figure fell to just below 200, but was 209 in August. The cost-of-living figure for Moscow also reached a maximum of 225 in May, and in August was 216. High costs have undoubtedly had a depressing influence on trade during the summer.

The test of the new policy of the Soviet Government lies in the near future. It is not likely to be abandoned at present; on the contrary, it will probably be pursued in the most thorough-going way. Great interest centres, therefore, in the programme for the financial year that began on October 1st last. The published figures of expenditure for the previous twelve months show that the Treasury subsidised industry to the extent of 212 million roubles. To this must be added the support which, as explained above, has been derived from the Government banks. The question arises how far it will be possible to continue one or both of these forms of assistance during the present financial year. We must first consider the possibility of the continuance of support from the banks. This would involve the continued expansion of credit and of the circulation, a prospect which, having regard to the small total circulation compared with the pre-war total, might at first sight be regarded as not undesirable. But the factors involved in the comparison are very complicated, and the main guide must be the visible signs—in particular, the course of internal prices. The steady rise of prices that has already accompanied the expansion of the currency is very significant. The check administered to this rise since May is also interesting, but may be only temporary; it is certain that the Government has made great efforts to arrest the upward tendency, and that these efforts will not be relaxed in the future. The future course of prices would appear to be connected insolubly with the big underlying problem of the future of industry and with the closely allied problem of the State Budget.

In the Budget of 1924-25, out of a total expenditure of 1,267 million roubles (railways taken net), 170 millions is provided for subsidies to industry. (The Government's published figures have been adopted.) Below are figures

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Accepts funds from banking correspondents for
investment in designated American Securities,
Bank Acceptances, U.S. Government Bonds, etc.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

showing this Budget compared with the actual out-turn for 1923-24. (Published figures have again been taken.)

	Actual Revenue, 1923-24.	Estimated Revenue, 1924-25.	Actual Expenditure, 1923-24.	Estimated Expenditure, 1924-25.
Taxation	609	821	341	362
Post Office and other revenue	161	236	389	465
Internal loans, issues of currency, & other special receipts covering deficit of ordinary revenue ..	462	210	38	..
	1,231	1,267	1,231	1,267
Army and Fleet			217	270
Civil departments			212	170
Railway deficit			34	..
Reserve funds and Treasury expenses Subventions to In- dustry, &c.				
Other expenditure...				

The reduction of subventions to industry from 212 millions to 170 is a sign that the outlook of the framers of the Budget was optimistic. This optimism is seen also in the greatly increased estimated returns of taxation, and in the anticipated disappearance of the railway deficit. As a result of these increases, provision has been made for additional expenditure.

It is worth while noticing on what grounds these estimates are based. It has been explained in an official publication that, as a rough estimate, the national income may be expected to increase by 500 million roubles in the twelve months commencing October 1st. This estimate is itself based on the assumption that the income of agriculture will remain stationary, but that there will be a rise of 25 per cent. in industrial production. In view of recent published figures (quoted above), it would be difficult to regard this forecast as having any very sure foundation. Two-fifths of this increase is to go to swell the yield of taxation. Of this 200 millions, however, some 80 millions is to be derived from the tax on agriculture which does not coincide with the anticipation that the revenue of agriculture will remain stationary. Moreover, the poor harvest this year makes the 80 millions increase seem very unlikely in any case, and estimates will very probably have to be revised when more accurate statistics of the harvest are available.

It is similarly anticipated that increased trade and production will wipe out the railway deficit. On the expenditure side, increased wages and salaries account for a large part of the additions; another cause is the general increase in prices. It is clear that the actual working out of the Budget will be the cause of considerable anxiety to the Government.

Russia is at the moment still benefiting from the revival of prosperity that resulted from the return to private enterprise, limited though it was, three years ago. Some order has in that time been brought to the finances of the State, and—the sign of the revival most striking in the popular view—the currency was reformed. The reversal of policy at the beginning of this year, and the new experiment in State expropriation and control, seems already to have checked the upward movement; but it cannot yet be said that the experiment has failed—still less that it has succeeded. It was started in favourable circumstances, and the State industries have benefited by the expansion of credit and the increase of the circulation to a point not, perhaps, very far from the present requirements of the country. Just where that point lies it would be hazardous to guess, though high prices suggest that it may be quite close now. The problem of the near future is whether the demands, hitherto insatiable, of the State-run industries and the State Budget will permit of a check being placed in time to avoid a repetition of the complete economic chaos of three years ago.

Notes of the Week.

Completing the Ministry.—By the appointment of a Chancellor of the Duchy and of 26 Under-Secretaries and junior members of the Government, Mr Baldwin has completed his Ministry, and he has done nothing to spoil the impressions derived from his original Cabinet selection. In appointing Viscount Cecil to the Chancellorship of the Duchy, a post which leaves its occupant leisure to become a free-lance, the Premier has it in mind, we presume, that he should act as the liaison officer between the Cabinet and the League of Nations and as principal British delegate at Geneva. This appointment, though obvious, is very welcome. During the last exceedingly important League Assembly we had occasion to complain of Great Britain's inadequate representation, and of the lack of cohesion between the Government and the delegates. These very serious faults should now be removed. Of the junior appointments, that of the Duchess of Atholl to be Under-Secretary of Education is one of the most interesting. It is a post to the solution of whose problems a well-qualified woman can bring a special contribution, and the Duchess is by no means lacking in qualification. Nevertheless, it is perhaps a little surprising that the choice both of the Secretary and of the Under-Secretary for Education should have been made from the ranks of those without Ministerial experience. Colonel Ashley, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport when the London Traffic Bill was drafted, becomes head of that department, while Lord Bledisloe places his wide agricultural experience at the service of the nation as Under-Secretary for Agriculture. Mr Ronald McNeil returns to the post of Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, which he held under Lord Curzon, and the fact of both official spokesmen for the Foreign Office being in the House of Commons presumably means that Lord Curzon will again answer for the Foreign Office in the House of Lords. We could have wished that Mr Austen Chamberlain had been left more free from the tentacles of the old régime. In this, we think, Mr Baldwin has made one of his very few obvious mistakes in completing his Ministry.

Wembley's Fate.—It has been assumed in some quarters, even among the higher officials of the Exhibition, that Mr Baldwin's Guildhall statement definitely assures the re-opening of Wembley next year. Such an interpretation cannot fairly be read into the Premier's careful phrases. What he did was to affirm the Government's intention of giving the Exhibition a new lease of life providing—and the proviso is all-important—that they were properly supported in other quarters. It may be as well to put on record his actual words:—

We do not intend that this great enterprise shall come to an untimely end. Practically the whole of the capital expenditure has already been incurred, and the cost of reopening the Exhibition next year, and allowing many more millions of people to see it, will not be great. In this matter we do not stand alone, and we cannot ourselves assume the whole burden, but if the Dominions and the great industries of this country are prepared to do their part, we will do ours, and we will ask Parliament to provide a fresh and sufficient guarantee in addition to that already promised, provided that we are adequately and properly supported by the other parties concerned. We believe that, taking the long view of the future of our country, the assumption of this potential liability is fully justified, even in times when the strictest economy is indispensable in the public service.

But what are the chances that Mr Baldwin's proviso will be fulfilled? South Africa, India, and New Zealand have decided not to participate again, while Lancashire, according to the *Manchester Guardian* (whose pronouncement is supported by evidence from other quarters), is dead against it, and in some other leading industrial areas the proposal for a re-opening is viewed with distinct disfavour. On the other hand, Canada, Australia, London (for obvious reasons), and the British chambers of commerce favour it. There is no doubt that, while exhibitors in certain lines are well satisfied, hosts of manufacturers in some of the big industries feel that the results received from their large expenditure at Wembley do not warrant its repetition. Of course, weight attaches to the argument that re-opening, while demanding comparatively small addition

to capital expenditure, would recoup guarantors from loss. To leave the great artificial city derelict after one year savours of economic waste. Moreover, the continuance of so magnificent an advertisement of British and Imperial wares, and so telling an educational instrument cannot fail to appeal to us. Nevertheless, we doubt very much whether an unrepresentative and emasculated Wembley is worth re-opening or a worthy object for fresh grants from public funds. As Mr Baldwin's words imply, the question of re-opening must mainly depend on whether "adequate" support will be forthcoming. At present it looks as if it will not. But it will not be an easy problem for the Government to decide what degree of support merits the epithet "adequate."

A Banker on Unemployment.—To say anything new about the elements of the unemployment problem is well-nigh impossible. But if Sir Herbert Hambling fell short of this miraculous achievement in his Presidential address to the Bankers' Institute, on Wednesday, he at least succeeded in grasping essentials with a sure touch, and illuminating his theme with a wealth of lucidity and sound economic reasoning. Let us quote: "We as a nation must export in order to live, and the foreign consumer will not buy goods from us when he can get the same goods cheaper elsewhere. We can only continue to work shorter hours and receive higher wages than our competitors if we can turn out goods in those shortened hours of at least equal quantity and quality, and at no higher cost per unit. There are no short cuts to prosperity, and if we are to maintain or improve our standard of living it can only be done by maintaining or increasing our efficiency. This is the very first step in the cure of our social disease. We must improve our general standard of living by earning higher wages or higher profits, not merely by demanding them. We cannot, in short, consume more than we produce." From the doctrine of full value in work and service for wages received, Sir Herbert Hambling turned to the equally vital question of the removal of the suspicion which obstructs the full co-operation of Labour and Capital. In this connection he pleads for a "wider diffusion of knowledge"—a phrase which we hope he would agree to extend to cover the fuller publicity regarding the finances and operations of industrial enterprises—and proceeds to the following argument:—"Labour and Capital are partners in industry. Each has its function—each is indispensable, and each is entitled to its just reward. Disagreement is due to a lack of appreciation of the fact that the interests of Capital and Labour are identical. The partnership breaks down when either party acts in the belief that its own sectional interest can be served at the expense of the other. That exploitation of the worker has existed in the past, no student of industrial history can deny. I believe also that no student of industrial history can doubt that in the long run it has been as disastrous for the employer as for the employed. Yet there is the other side, and I think this also cannot be denied. There is a possibility of exploitation by Labour—exploitation of the employer and exploitation of the community. This also is disastrous to Labour as well as to Capital. Industrial peace depends upon a willingness to co-operate, and co-operation is the recognition of mutual interest. When it is fully realised that high wages and high profits go together—that they are indeed dependent upon each other—there should be less room for acute disagreement. Labour is suspicious that effort on the part of the wage earner enriches only the employer, and while there are employers who attempt to increase profits, not by better organisation, but merely at the expense of Labour, this suspicion will continue. It is suspicion at the root of the fallacy that there is only a certain limited amount of work and that the less one man does the more there will be for another—a misconception which is so largely responsible for low wages, small total profits and much unemployment. This suspicion must be removed, and it can only be removed by the mutual acceptance of the fact that the wages fund is the product of co-operation between Labour and Capital." Sir Herbert believes that a reduction in production costs is not synonymous with a reduction in wages, and holds the maintenance of a high standard of living to be not incompatible with increased trade, and the absorption of

the surplus over normal unemployment. "We have to realise that only when we can produce at a price that will enable the world to buy, can we hope to reduce to the normal the percentage of workers unemployed. The first thing we must do, therefore, is to face the necessity of reducing costs of production. This, I firmly believe, is not a question of cutting down wages or reducing profits—it is certainly not a question of cutting down the total wages or the total of profits. But it is a question of giving greater value for the wages paid and more efficient service for the profits earned." The address did not lose in value because a strain of optimism mingled with a stern facing of economic fact.

Irish Free State Problems.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—There is a large number of bye-elections pending in the Free State which will afford a fairly comprehensive test of the development of opinion. Five constituencies—four in the West, both north and south, and one in Dublin—poll next week. Soon after nine more follow suit for the purpose of replacing Mr Joseph M'Grath's National group, which recently resigned. There are many voters with grievances, and more with criticisms—both having their origin in Government administrative policy. Some months back the *quidnuncs* were busy prophesying the coming of a de Valera triumph for this very reason, but at present his prospects are not very bright. More and more the general public realises that in the view of himself and his rather irregularly regimental followers everything hinges upon the immediate obtaining of "independence," and that this involves denouncing the Treaty and a resumption of war conditions. Even the most exasperated critic or grievance monger cannot see how that would improve matters, or ease the pinching of the administrative shoe. Consequently, although, as before, the de Valera candidates may have fairly substantial minorities of youngsters and soreheads and feminists, their only hope or chance of success—save in isolated cases—depends upon the apathy of the electorate. Stability is, more and more, becoming the desideratum of the public which realises that it is the condition precedent to the effecting of reforms or the redress of grievances. The bye-election campaign is bringing out bit by bit the plans of the Government as to internal policy. For a Government depending upon popular support it does little to keep touch with its public, and it uses the popular Chamber less as a representative centre for deliberation, and the formation of opinion, than as an instrument for recording its approval of policies evolved and adopted in private. Piecing together the fragmentary allusions to coming policy, one can perceive the general outlines of a policy which, if boldly and comprehensively stated, might do much to commend the Government to the voters at large. It aims apparently at economic development by Government-aided schemes, and by an extension of the existing tentative system of protective tariffs for the assistance of industries which do or should exist locally. Thoughtful economists have long realised that Ireland represents a very special case, which cuts somewhat athwart conventional lines of fiscal controversy. Ireland, owing to the bad harvest and lack of employment, is threatened this winter with a widespread prevalence of distress which will emphasise the urgency for Government action. The Government is promising improvement loans to farmers, arterial drainage schemes, the subsidising of a sugar beet industry, and a great Shannon electrical power scheme which is to produce a huge volume of unprecedentedly cheap electrical power. It is doubtful, of course, if any of them can help, save by inspiring hope, during the coming winter. But with improving world conditions and stability assured at home, a programme of this sort, if executed with energy, prudence and insight, should go far after a while to give a most needed stimulus to a healthy development of economic activity. Whatever may be thought of fiscal experiments from the standpoint of pure theory, there can be no doubt of the benefits which may accrue from providing cheap power, and from arterial drainage, and land improvement.

LEGAL & GENERAL
ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED
ALL INSURANCE
 EXCEPT MARINE
Head Office
10 FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4
ESTABLISHED 1836 General Manager W. A. HORMAN, F.I.A.

Remuneration in Government Service.—A correspondent writes:—The fate of the Report of the Committee on the Pay of State Servants evokes the saddest reflections on the paralysing influence of the present phase of democratic politics on governments of the Right and Left alike. This Committee of business men (Sir Alan Anderson, the Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, and Sir W. Peter Rylands), appointed to review the standards of remuneration of the civil service and fighting forces, reported more than a year ago that the average cost per head (officers and men) of the Navy had increased since 1914 by 140 per cent., the Army by 115 per cent., and the Civil Service proper by 63, or, including manipulative and industrial staffs, by 102 per cent. The cash paid to the individual A.B. in the Navy and to the infantry recruit stood at 175 per cent. over 1914 levels, though wages in the mercantile marine, after rising in 1919 to a peak increase of 174 per cent., had by 1923 fallen to 70 per cent. above 1914; while if the total emoluments of the sailor, soldier and airman in cash and kind are taken into account, including the new allowances to married men, the disproportion is still more striking. Official evidence before the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons (Third Report, July, 1923) gave the emoluments of a fully trained infantry private, with wife and two children, as 69s a week as compared with an average of 43s for industrial unskilled labour; and for an Army mechanic similarly circumstanced, 83s as against a civilian average of 59s. The Committee accordingly recommended, for all the fighting services, important reductions in the pay of future entrants, both men and junior officers, based on a scheme which the heads of the Army had themselves put forward. The pay of civil servants of the administrative and clerical classes, falling automatically with the cost of living as it does under the bonus system, and the wages of industrial staffs, based mainly on the rates paid in private employment, were found to be generally reasonable; but in some important instances the wages of large manipulative classes, following too exclusively the path of the sheltered trades, needed reconsideration of unnecessarily high maxima. Apart from this, the most important recommendation for the Civil Service was an extension of the working hours in London from seven to eight hours daily, as in the provinces. These recommendations, if adopted, would have led to reductions of millions in the annual estimates, and nowhere in the whole Budget is there so clear a case for savings on such a scale; but nothing is so unpopular as the actual carrying through of economies, and the Conservative government last autumn effectually shelved the report by referring it for consideration to a fresh Cabinet Committee, appointed under the shadow of imminent dissolution, while the Labour Government neither announced reference of the Report to a new Committee, nor took any steps to act on its recommendations. The cut of 5½ per cent. in the pay of all officers of the fighting services, made last July, is a routine cost-of-living adjustment of which notice was given in 1919, and does not affect men; but to pass over such an obvious opportunity for introducing the lower scales of pay recommended by the Committee seems to show that there is no definite intention of giving the taxpayer his due relief in this matter. On the other hand, the Labour Government has not entirely abstained from action counter to the Report. The practice, founded on a resolution of the House of Commons, by which the wages of government industrial

employees are based on those paid by good private employers, was accepted by the Committee as satisfactory, but it led to the men in the Woolwich factories suffering the same large cuts as those in the outside engineering industry. On appeal by the Woolwich men, the Labour Government, without reference to the Industrial Court or other independent authority, and without formulating any new principle for the determination of wages, granted an arbitrary increase of 6s a week above the level paid in the industry, thus destroying the non-political basis on which the wisdom of former Parliaments had placed government wages, and leaving them to the operation of the forces which have made municipal wages in certain localities a byword. Unfortunately, in all these matters, which so closely affect the incomes of considerable bodies of voters, neither of the other parties has so far identified itself openly with the interests of the taxpayer, while the advocates of economy in the last House remained in the position described by Speaker Lowther in 1918*: without a properly equipped Estimates Committee, they "get no look-in, and have no ties binding them together, and no influence with the Whips." Everything points towards an era of painful lessons to be learned before we are willing to work out in earnest our economic salvation. Will the new Parliament be any better in this respect than the last?

Cotton Trade Hours.—Important developments are taking place at the present time in the spinning mills using American cotton in Lancashire. From last February up to the end of October the factories worked only 26½ hours per week instead of the usual 48 hours. Owing to the improvement in trade, there was an agitation for the Masters' Federation to revise the short-time scheme, and it was decided that from the beginning of November the mills should run 32 hours per week. Since that decision was reached, it has been urged that production should be increased to a further extent. The position has been considered by the Masters' Federation, and it has been decided to take a ballot of the members using American cotton, the proposal being that from the beginning of December the mills should run 39½ hours per week, leaving production curtailed to the extent of 8½ hours per week, which is equal to one day. The Committee of the Federation strongly recommend the members to vote in favour of this scheme, and to be carried it will be necessary for it to be supported by the owners of 80 per cent. of the spindles. The result of the ballot will be announced on November 24th. In trading circles there is some fear that the necessary percentage of votes will not be obtained. Numerous companies are now anxious to make their own arrangements as to production. If the mills go on full time, however, there is a danger of the benefits recently derived from concerted action being lost, and in the opinion of the Federation Committee full-time working will mean the accumulation of unprofitable stocks of yarn. It is pointed out that there is a great shortage of weavers, which accounts for many looms being stopped. This means that the requirements of cloth manufacturers for yarn must, to some extent, be limited. It may be pointed out that out of the 56,000,000 spindles in Lancashire about 36,000,000 use American cotton. Short time means high overhead charges, and if sufficient work can be obtained to warrant full production, the costs of spinners will be considerably reduced, and they will be able to sell yarn at lower prices than at present.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Late last week the Department of Agriculture of the United States Government published important statistics relating to the cotton crop for this season. The condition of the growth on October 31st was given as 55.9 per cent., against 54.7 per cent. on October 18th and 53.5 per cent. on October 1st. The current report indicates an output of 12,816,000 bales, excluding linters, against a final production for last season of about 10,200,000 bales. It has also been announced that up to the end of October the amount of cotton ginned was 9,695,000 bales, as compared with 7,601,000 bales a fortnight earlier. Although these figures were, if anything, rather better than expected, prices have tended to advance.

* Ninth Report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure.

In trading circles more attention is now being centred on the question of consumption during the next twelve months. The mills in Lancashire are likely to run longer hours, and there are reports of signs of a trade revival in the United States. Last season the consumption of American cotton was about 11,200,000 bales, and was much smaller than for several years back. According to some authorities, the requirements of users this season will be fully 12,500,000 bales.

The Development Commission.—The fourteenth report of the Development Commissioners for the year ended March 31st last* shows that the total advances recommended during the year amounted to £480,700, of which £387,200 was for agriculture and rural industries, £93,200 for fisheries and harbours, and £300 for reclamation of land. The total in 1922-23 was £511,600. Administrative expenses were £10,100, as compared with £11,600 in the preceding year. The report explains that advances from the Development Fund for the present fall into two categories, those from the original Fund set up by the Act of 1909, and those from the Fund provided by the Corn Production Acts (Repeal) Act, 1921. The latter, or Special Fund, is restricted in its application to England and Wales. It is used to extend work of a type that was initiated or aided by grants from the original Fund, and thus forms, in part, a supplement to the original Fund, but it cannot be used for all the purposes contemplated by the Act of 1909. Although there was a balance of £748,800 in the Special Fund at March 31, 1923, it was necessary to add to the original Fund during the year, in order that continued support might be given to the objects aided from it, and a sum of £250,000 was voted by Parliament for the purpose. This was the first payment into the Fund made since 1911-12. The Commission's activities are mainly centred upon assistance in the development of agriculture and rural industries, and it is claimed that the attempt to create an Intelligence service, competent to advise on the technical and economic questions affecting these industries, has been amply justified. During the past year nearly 2,000 inquiries were received, and some 30,000 pamphlets dealing with the practical aspects of various country industries were circulated. The grants made from the Development Fund are largely expended in assisting agricultural research and education. The total of the grants recommended for these purposes in the year amounted to £372,200. Under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and of the Scottish Board of Agriculture, much has recently been done to improve the system of agricultural education. New institutions have been created, the staffs at existing teaching centres have been strengthened, while travelling lecturers have been provided in nearly all counties. The teacher's task, however, is a difficult one, and it has been found that satisfactory education—satisfactory, that is, in the sense that it reacts on the industry—is only possible when research is in progress, and the Commissioners justly claim that, apart from the demands of the industry itself, "the expenditure of a small share of the nation's funds in promoting agricultural research is justified by way of an insurance policy." Much importance is attached to securing publicity for the results of research, and great efforts in this direction are being made by the agricultural departments. Among the agencies for bringing the results of research to the direct notice of farmers, the Advisory Service is specially effective, and this service is being extended both by the inclusion of new subjects, such as economics, and by making further appointments in connection with subjects like agricultural chemistry, to which the farmer has long been accustomed to look for aid.

Scandinavia and U.S. Customs Inquiries.—A Swedish correspondent writes:—The procedure of making investigations into the costs of production of goods made abroad, which is prescribed in the U.S.A. customs legislation, has aroused serious dissatisfaction in the Scandinavian business world. It has recently been the object of common action on the part of the National Committees of the International Chamber of Commerce for the countries

* H.M. Stationery Office. 4s net.

of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. American legislation presupposes that the U.S. Treasury Department shall be entitled to carry out investigations abroad with regard to such articles of commerce as are imported into the United States, and further lays down in Article 510 of the American Customs Tariff now in force, that the Secretary of the Treasury may issue import prohibitions against the goods of such manufacturers as refuse to place certain information at the disposal of the Treasury Department's representatives. The authority to carry out such investigations abroad is also enjoyed by the U.S. Tariff Commission for the purpose of obtaining general material and information on customs matters or for investigations concerning the possible grounds for imposing additional customs charges. In a communication addressed to the International Chamber of Commerce, the above-mentioned National Committees therefore point out that on repeated occasions they had had their attention drawn to cases in which representatives of the U.S. Treasury Department have visited Scandinavian industrial undertakings with the object of eliciting particulars as to the costs of production, export, and manufacture. In such cases it has happened that the representatives of the Treasury Department have demanded access to the books and documents of the undertaking, under the threat that if this were not agreed to, the particular undertaking should be prevented from importing into U.S.A. Apart from the question of whether it is in conformity with accepted international custom that officials of a foreign country—even outside the ranks of ordinary diplomatic representation—should, under the threat of reprisals according to the law of their own country, take such official action as has been indicated within the jurisdiction of another country, it has been pointed out, with force, that to accede to the claims made from the side of U.S.A. would imply a revelation of business secrets to which the directors and controllers of several undertakings do not consider that they can agree, both on practical grounds and from reasons of principle. This point of view has been considered so much the more decisive, as the home authorities of the various countries do not exercise any such compulsion. For these reasons, the National Committees urge that, *inter alia*, the International Chamber of Commerce should make known to the proper American authorities, in a suitably framed representation, through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce or otherwise, the strong dissatisfaction called forth by the American methods of investigation as practised. Investigations of this kind have also been made in several other European countries, and it is said that they have called forth a great indignation in the business world of these countries, the more so since their own authorities are not supposed to be allowed to demand corresponding information. It is, therefore, to be expected that these countries, too, will join the Scandinavian countries in their action in this matter, which, with regard to its consequences, is certainly of international importance.

Coal, Iron, and Steel Output.—When allowance is made for the extra working day, the figures of production of iron and steel, just issued by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers for October, show very little change compared with September. Pig-iron production amounted to 586,400 tons, compared with 569,200 tons, and steel production to 678,500 tons, compared with 645,000 tons. There was a net gain of one in the number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month, seven furnaces having been blown in as against six damped down or blown out; this is the first occasion since February when an increase in the number of furnaces operating has been recorded. The imports of iron and steel in October amounted to 241,300 tons, a figure which has only once been exceeded—viz., in May last, when they amounted to 300,100 tons. Imports so far this year have averaged 200,000 tons per month, or some 14,000 tons monthly more than in 1913. Exports, on the other hand, which were 309,200 tons in October, have averaged 324,000 tons, compared with 414,100 tons monthly in 1913. These figures are extremely disappointing when the war-time extensions are remembered, and the only redeeming feature seems to lie in the probability of an increase in Continental costs, and therefore of prices. It is generally believed that prices on the Continent are unremunerative,

and this seems to be the explanation of the widespread rumours which have appeared, but been promptly denied, as to the formation of an international iron and steel trust. The belief that tariffs will be imposed on Lorraine steel entering Germany after January 10th, and thus raise prices, has diverted Continental production from the British market for the present. The following table compares the imports of various classes of iron and steel in 1913 and this year:—

	Average Monthly Imports.	
	1913.	1924.
	Tons.	Tons.
Pig-iron	18,000	24,900
Billets, blooms, and slabs	42,800	59,300
Iron bars, rods, shapes, &c.	16,700	21,700
Sheet and tinplate bars	28,800	30,000
Steel bars, rods, angles, &c.	11,100	10,900
Steel girders, beams, joists, &c.	9,100	7,700
Plates and sheets	14,100	11,800
Total, including other items	185,900	199,500

It will be seen that the increases have mostly been in semi-finished material, but in recent months there has been a tendency for the imports of finished steel, particularly ship-building material, to increase. The output of coal in the five weeks ending November 1st averaged 5,098,000 tons, compared with 5,107,000 tons per week in the four weeks ending September 29th. Exports of coal amounted to 4,932,900 tons, a decrease of 165,000 tons compared with September. Of the total, 1,117,700 tons went to France, 504,100 tons to Italy, 480,500 tons to Germany, 306,200 tons to Sweden, and 301,400 tons to Denmark. Exports of metallurgical coke amounted to 168,800 tons, compared with 179,000 tons in September.

Spain and Morocco.—The plan of the Spanish Directory for reducing the extent of the occupied territory in Morocco involves the combination of strenuous efforts to withdraw the outlying garrisons with attempts to negotiate peace. Sharp fighting has taken place in the relief of the Wad Lau garrison, south of Sheshuan, in the Western region round Loraiche, and even near the road from Tangier to Tetuan; and there appears still to be some danger that the Anjera tribe, hitherto friendly as a whole, which holds the district between Tetuan and the Mediterranean, may be provoked by the punishment inflicted on one hostile section of it to rise *en masse* and cut off the Spanish communications between Tetuan and the coast. The Directory has announced that the 1921 class of the army must for the present be retained on active service, and the 1924 class called up, "for an inexorable campaign of punishment," which will, when it has succeeded, "rid Spain of a useless territory," and so relieve her of her gravest burden. To this end, meanwhile, the Marquis de Estella is reported to be attempting to negotiate with Abdul Krim, the Moorish leader, and it is to be hoped that he will succeed. For, as Marshal Lyautey has pointed out in an interview with the *Times* correspondent at Tangier (where the Marshal's ship had called on its way to Rabat), the conflict has set up serious unrest in the French Protectorate, especially in a border district on the south of the Spanish zone which France has not yet occupied; the Tangier international loan seems likely to be affected; and the unrest may, by reflex action, unsettle the whole Moslem world. To Great Britain and France this is a serious danger, and its first effects may involve complications between France and Spain. But Abdul Krim has probably been encouraged by the insurgent successes, and he is stated to allege that the presence of British subjects at his headquarters—who may be agents of mining syndicates, or merely gun-running adventurers—implies the support of the British Government. Spanish opinion appears to accept the continued fighting as a necessity, but the Press censorship, though recently somewhat relaxed, is still strict, and probably the organisers of the abortive outbreak at Barcelona last week, and of the frontier raid at Vera, counted on popular resentment at the continuance of the operations in Morocco. These outbreaks do not appear to have been dangerous; they were probably the work of Anarchists or independent

Republicans rather than Catalan Home Rulers, and as futile as the Fenian efforts in 1866 and 1867 to invade Canada and capture Chester Castle. Revolution cannot succeed without the army, and until recently it has been assumed that the army supports the Moroccan campaign.

Chinese Finance and Trade.—The "resiliency" of the trading propensities of the Chinese people amidst adverse conditions is effectively brought out in the Report (to June, 1924), just issued by the Overseas Trade Department,* from the acting British Commercial Counsellor at Shanghai. He dwells on the local disorder and brigandage, which during the 18 months under review became worse; on the deplorable plight, more especially of Szechuen and Kwangtung, of the Chinese-managed railways of the Canton merchants; and on the straits of the Peking Government, which has some \$7,000,000 of annual revenue to meet an expenditure of \$128,000,000, and can depend only on trifling local imposts and the surplus, already heavily mortgaged, of the salt gabelle. Yet at every local intermission of disturbance, trade shows signs of revival. Unfortunately, the disorder has impaired the traditional Chinese honesty; contracts are frequently repudiated, goods extensively adulterated; treaty rights are more and more disregarded; and the import and export trades and the freight market are injured (especially since the German firms resumed their activity) by excessive competition, which forces up prices and creates a false impression of demand. The railways, though officially stated to be earning large profits, find their revenues intercepted and their traffic interrupted; their permanent-way and rolling stock are deteriorating; some \$70,000,000 are due to foreign firms for material; and total default on their obligations is only averted by ruinous borrowing. Only two lines are earning a profit, the Shanghai-Nanking and the Lungshai, both under foreign control. Yet the extra-mural half of the Peking-Mukden Railway earned nearly as much in 1923-24 as the whole line did in 1922-23. The tonnage of shipping at Shanghai increased, as also the direct trade with various other ports, but the increase was mainly due to excessive competition. River and coastal traffic seems to have done better; the proposed improvement of the Yang-tse navigation, however, would be far more costly than the results would justify. Road construction is extensively projected and in progress, and affords work for disbanded soldiers; but the roads are not properly constructed or maintained, and are only fit for light motor traffic at best. Aviation is still an industry of the future, save for an instructional line started this spring between Mukden and Newchwang; wireless is desired for coasting steamers, and a school is projected at Hong Kong. Broadcasting is impracticable outside the foreign settlement at Shanghai. Industry, hampered by the disorders, has developed only near the larger Treaty ports; cotton manufacture has been kept back by the cost and adulteration of material, but was better at Wuchang and Hankow than at Shanghai; shipbuilding for coastal and river traffic and repair work did fairly well; labour agitation has lessened and strikes have been fewer, but the workers, it is said, obstruct measures for their welfare. Mining is interfered with by the disorders, and the present conditions of foreign concessions are not encouraging; coal mining, however, shows a marked increase. Full details are given of the leading imports and exports. The import of piece goods fell off, that of woollen goods increased to over-abundance; railway supplies, much needed, are restricted through the difficulty of getting payment; electric light plants in the great cities are extending, but supplied mostly by German firms; the rebuilding of the business quarters of some Treaty ports stimulates the import of building material. Of exports, black tea suffered latterly from Indian competition; green tea did better; camphor is being displaced by the synthetic product; silk suffered from a poor crop and high prices, and the severe competition of artificial silk will necessitate lowering production costs; the market was only temporarily affected by the Japanese earthquake. Among minor exports were (from Shanghai alone) nearly

two million taels' worth of sets of "Mah Jong." British manufacturers desiring to open business in China are advised, unless they establish their own sales organisation, to deal with British rather than Chinese firms, and with the latter only on a cash basis. Prophecy as to Chinese affairs is never advisable, but the "resiliency" of the Chinese trader in adversity is a hopeful sign.

Electoral Reform in Chile.—The Provisional Government of Chile has announced an important change in the Constitution. It has issued a decree fixing the election of a new President for May 10, 1925, not, as hitherto, by an Electoral College chosen by the voters—a device borrowed from the Constitution of the United States—but by a direct vote of the people. Apparently the register is to be revised—it is not clear whether the franchise is to be narrowed—and provision is to be made against bribery, forgery of names in the register, "repeating," and violence at the elections. A General Election of both Houses of Congress will be held at the same time, and the new House will act as a Constituent Assembly, and ratify or revise the new Constitutional reforms. It will then meet on August 25th as a Congress, to proclaim the new President or to elect one if the candidate who headed the poll on May 10th has not obtained an absolute majority. On September 18th the President will take office, and the Provisional Government will retire. The method of the reforms is unconstitutional, but the reforms themselves are salutary. The provisions for purity of election appear to be urgently needed; the Presidential election by two stages, devised by the founders of the United States as a check on democracy, has long become a mere form there, and in Chile in 1920 it failed to work satisfactorily. The first result gave the Conservative candidate a majority of one vote in the College; after several recounts Señor Alessandri, who has just been compelled to resign, was declared to have been elected President by a majority of two. The new arrangement will, at any rate, avoid such uncertainties—though, until the Chilean masses are better educated and more politically minded, it may be doubted whether it will check malpractices at elections.

The Copper Market.—The strength and activity in Wall Street has spread to the American copper market, and during the past week there has been a large business done both in the United States and on this side. This has had a very beneficial effect on values, and while the rise in sterling has held the advance back to some extent prices have gone ahead steadily. The statistical position of copper is very sound, the unsold surplus of refined in the States at the present time being 122,500 tons. The stocks at Havre amount to 5,832 tons, while stocks in official warehouses in this country stand at 38,078 tons; thus the total stocks for the States and Europe are about 166,500 tons. Seeing that the American refiners always have on hand 40,000 tons in the process of refining, the present state of supplies must be regarded as very favourable for producers. In New York several thousand tons of electrolytic copper have been sold at 13½ to 13¾ cents per lb, and one or two of the large producers have temporarily withdrawn offers. It would be difficult at the moment to purchase a large line of copper at anything under 14 cents for December shipment. The dealers here report a big business in fine copper, and this is a very healthy sign. During the last day or two some large purchases have been made by the cable-makers, and wire bars for December arrival have been sold at £67 17s 6d to £68, with £68 10s now asked. In view of the large amount of electrical work now in progress this demand should continue, and certainly users are not too well covered. Since electrolytic in New York crossed the 13 cents mark there has been a steady expansion in business, and the producers there have the position well in hand. There is every reason to believe that both Germany and France will take more copper over the next few months. This would help sentiment considerably, and assist the market to recover its position. The world production of copper for the first nine months of 1924 is estimated at 1,082,500 tons. Of this quantity the United States contributed 667,153 tons, South America 170,000 tons, Canada 19,720 tons, and South Africa 71,000 tons. The consumption

during that period could not have been less than 1,150,000 tons; thus, despite the full output of the commodity, with prospects of a bigger tonnage in the South American and South African sections, the general position of the markets everywhere may be regarded as healthy. The United States exports for September amounted to over 40,000 tons. Of this quantity Germany absorbed 12,000 tons, France 8,250 tons, and Great Britain 5,750 tons. The German demand is expected to expand considerably in the near future once the elections are over, and it certainly looks as though prices should go higher before the close of the year.

Potato and Root Crops.—The monthly agricultural report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that the dry, sunny days of the second week of October allowed the corn harvest to be completed in most parts of Wales and the North. There were still small areas to clear on high-lying farms at the end of the month. The bulk of the potatoes has now been lifted, but owing to the wet state of the ground very many have been stored in dirty condition. On the whole the tubers are small. Over the whole of England and Wales the crop is now considered to be a little smaller than was expected a month ago, and is estimated at 5.8 tons per acre. The estimated total production of 2,615,000 tons is 143,000 tons less than last year. The pulling of mangolds was proceeding at the date of the report, but, on the whole, less than half the crop had been lifted at the end of October. The yield over the whole country is now estimated at 19.7 tons per acre, about half a ton more than a month ago, and three-fourths of a ton above average. The total production is estimated at 7,674,000 tons, against 6,944,000 tons in 1923. Few turnips and swedes have been lifted as yet, and in most districts these crops have made very fair growth during October, so that yields are likely to be rather heavier than anticipated a month ago. Early sown crops are about average in the west, but the later sowings are small. The average yield throughout England and Wales is forecast at 13.8 tons per acre, or nearly 1½ tons above the ten years' average, and the estimated total production of 11,495,000 tons is 616,000 tons more than last year. Good crops of sugar beet are now being lifted and sent into the factories; in some districts rather a large number of roots have run to seed.

Transvaal Gold Output.—A notable improvement in Transvaal gold output took place during the month of October, 1924. The output of fine gold rose from 799,422 ounces secured in September, 1924, to the October output of 827,583 ounces, which is almost up to the July figure of 829,437 ounces. The output figures for the ten months of each year since 1918 show the recovery in the gold output that has taken place during that period:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January..	714,182	676,059	670,503	651,593	639,728	764,469	796,768
February..	659,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	639,728	764,469	796,768
March ..	696,341	712,379	707,036	671,183	639,728	764,469	796,768
April	717,000	694,944	686,979	681,382	511,338	743,651	768,923
May	741,317	724,995	699,041	687,776	689,786	786,564	809,003
June	727,696	702,379	715,967	678,480	675,697	755,309	773,063
July	736,199	725,497	738,099	689,555	730,635	764,306	829,437
August	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490	769,371	809,571
September	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089	739,504	799,422
October..	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,842	827,583
Total (10 months)	7,120,614	7,001,930	6,887,673	6,728,433	5,464,922	7,571,572	7,970,048
November	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	...
December	641,245	650,791	632,215	661,847	750,712	778,849	...
Total (12 months)	8,420,560	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	...

In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of each of the past eight months by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Mar., 1924.	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924.
Gold mines	176,483	173,022	172,586	174,198	174,347	175,770	177,406	177,954
Coal mines	15,763	15,800	15,863	16,042	16,574	15,486	15,458	15,304
Diamond	3,170	2,762	2,863	2,999	3,155	3,025	2,952	2,884
	195,416	191,584	191,312	193,239	194,076	194,281	195,816	196,142

It is satisfactory to note that the number of natives employed at the gold mines continues to increase.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

ENQUIRIES INVITED ON ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS IN RESPECT OF EASTERN PLANTATIONS. ADVANCES MADE ON APPROVED SECURITY. SECURITIES PURCHASED OR UNDERWRITTEN.

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

Kaffirs and the Gold Premium.—Our mining correspondent writes:—It was expected in market circles that in the event of the recent election resulting satisfactorily from the Conservative standpoint, Kaffir shares would be given a run in anticipation of the December dividend declarations. The movement started according to programme, but was nipped in the bud by the decline in the currency price of gold resulting from the improvement in the sterling exchange on New York. For last month's production the principal Transvaal groups took a valuation of 91s 6d, a figure which compares with this year's maximum of 97s in respect of January. During the past few days the price of gold has fluctuated around 90s, the normal figure, of course, being 85s. It will therefore be of interest to indicate the extent to which the various companies are dependent upon the gold premium. We give a schedule of the more important companies, setting out the profit for the September quarter, with the proportion thereof in amount and in percentage due to the difference between the normal and the realised quotation for the precious metal—approximate figures:—

	Profit for Quarter (£)	Gold Prem. Included (£)	Proportion of A. to B. %
Aurora West	8,580	2,600	30
Brakpan	147,100	22,700	15
City Deep	204,850	31,900	16
Consolidated Main Reef	34,600	13,450	39
Crown Mines	264,400	52,500	20
Durban Deep	6,380	8,240	...
East Rand Proprietary	47,600	26,300	55
Ferriera Deep	17,500	6,900	40
Geduld Proprietary	141,600	19,800	14
Geldenhuis Deep	11,450	12,330	...
Government Areas	593,400	58,000	10
Langlaagte Estate	76,560	21,000	27
Meyer and Charlton	50,100	6,000	12
Moyar and Charlton	180,350	21,670	12
Modder B.	215,160	18,900	9
Modder Deep	12,640	7,900	60
Modder East	17,570	9,800	56
New Kleinfontein	450,000	45,900	10
New Modderfontein	118,700	19,300	16
New State Areas	14,060	11,600	78
Nourse Mines	167,550	41,770	25
Randfontein Estates	7,130	1,830	26
Robinson Gold	135,300	19,650	15
Robinson Deep	42,400	11,100	26
Rose Deep	42,400	13,100	31
Simmer and Jack	196,700	23,900	12
Springs Mines	36,070	8,320	23
Van Ryn Gold	227,650	24,070	11
Van Ryn Deep	34,900	13,820	40
Village Deep	12,070	7,720	63
West Rand Consolidated	80,950	11,550	14
West Springs	21,800	8,800	40
Witwatersrand (Knights)	34,800	9,300	27

It will be seen that in two cases—the Durban Deep and the Geldenhuis Deep—there would have been an operating loss but for the premium. In several other examples the bulk of the earnings is thus accounted for. The showing made by the richer mines—such as the Government Areas and the New Modder—is favourable. As time goes on the decline in the gold premium will be largely, if not entirely, compensated for by reductions in working costs and saving on exchange transactions. In the meantime, the earnings of some of the mines will be affected in an appreciable degree.

THE Royal Society of Arts announces that under the Peter Le Neve Foster Trust the council offer a prize of £25 for an essay on "The Effect of Trade Union Regulations on Industrial Output." Intending competitors must send in their essays not later than March 31, 1925, to the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

* H.M. Stationery Office. 1s 6d net.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—STEEL CORPORATION'S EARNINGS —SEPTEMBER RAILROAD FIGURES—U.S. LEND- INGS ABROAD.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 4.

ALTHOUGH it had generally been expected that earnings of the United States Steel Corporation would show a material decrease for the third quarter of the year, as compared with preceding quarters, the actual result for the three months ending September 30th is considered remarkably good in view of the depression in the steel industry last summer and the fact that lower prices for steel products prevailed in September. The corporation again demonstrated its ability to earn fairly satisfactory profits even in such periods. Net earnings for the past quarter amounted to \$30,718,415, as compared with \$41,381,039 for the three months ended June 30th, and \$47,053,680 in the third quarter of 1923. Surplus available for dividends in the September quarter of this year was \$15,078,110. Although operations of the corporation's plants dropped to about 40 per cent. of capacity in July, net earnings for that month totalled \$10,430,105, or at the annual rate of \$125,000,000 approximately. Both operations and shipments increased substantially in September, but profits were somewhat less than in July, owing apparently to the decline of about \$2 a ton in steel prices. The abolition of the "Pittsburgh plus" method of basing prices was a contributory factor. The directors declared the regular preferred and common dividends, including an extra dividend, as heretofore, of 50 cents on the common stock, despite the fact that net earnings were \$10,662,624 less than in the preceding quarter and fell short of dividend requirements by \$122,102. This deficit for the quarter compares with a surplus of \$8,575,079 for the three months ended June 30th of this year, and with \$5,078,479 for the quarter ended September 30th a year ago. The corporation's earnings statements for the first nine months of 1924 and 1923 compare as follows:—

NINE MONTHS' EARNINGS.		
	Sept. 30, 1923.	Sept. 30, 1924.
Net earnings	129,691,930 \$..	122,114,899
Depreciation, sinking fund, &c.	38,410,310 ..	36,899,200
Net income	91,281,620 ..	85,275,699
Interest, &c.	14,891,522 ..	14,503,462
Balance	76,390,098 ..	70,772,237
Prof. dividends	18,014,757 ..	18,914,757
Common divs. reg.	19,061,343 ..	26,685,879
Common divs. ext.	1,270,756 ..	7,624,536
Surplus	37,143,242 ..	25,171,601
Reserve for improvements	20,000,000 ..	..
Surplus	17,143,242 ..	25,171,601

Since last July new business has steadily increased, and operations have expanded until the corporation's plants are now running at an average of about 63 per cent. of capacity. A large volume of steel orders has been held back pending the outcome of the Presidential election, and there is now every reason to expect a further increase in bookings and operations, and possibly a firmer price tendency.

Financial results of railroad operations for the month of September have attracted more than usual attention, because the net operating income of all first-class carriers in the United States amounted to \$116,718,000. This is not only by far the largest total of any month this year, but surpasses all high records since July, 1918, when these railroads reported \$138,155,848. The showing for September compares with \$92,426,800 in the corresponding month of last year. The September net operating income is equivalent to an annual return at the rate of 5.60 per cent. on the tentative valuation of property investment, as against 4.40 per cent. a year ago. Although net income made a new high monthly record for a number of years, gross earnings for September, totalling \$540,741,000, were

\$5,225,000, or 1 per cent. less than in the same month of last year. Operating expenses, on the other hand, amounting to \$381,573,750, were \$35,052,400, or 8.4 per cent. below those of September, 1923. This decrease in operating costs was due, partly, to a cut of \$23,919,000, or nearly 12 per cent., in maintenance expenditures. In September maintenance of way expenses also showed a reduction of \$3,866,680, or 5 per cent., from the like month of last year, while the outlay for maintenance of equipment was \$20,052,300, or 16 per cent., less. The operating ratio of 70.56 compares with 76.31 in September of 1923, and is the lowest percentage reported for any month since July, 1918.

Foreign loans floated in the United States thus far in 1924 have exceeded one billion dollars in the aggregate, and indications are that the total for this year may approximate \$1,500,000,000. Among the more important issues placed here are upwards of 20, the individual amounts ranging from \$3,000,000 to \$150,000,000, the latter being the Japanese loan. The second largest offering was the \$110,000,000 German bonds, and the list includes several \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000 loans, besides the \$50,000,000 Mexican bonds which are understood to have been sold to American investors during the past month. The 20 odd issues referred to make a total of \$675,150,000; all other foreign borrowing is figured at about \$332,769,000 in a reliable compilation just published, bringing the aggregate up to \$1,007,919,000. This is a new high record in such financing, and compares with \$242,845,000 foreign financing in American markets in 1923, \$431,305,000 in 1922, \$379,270,000 in 1921, and \$291,000,000 in 1920.

One of the largest trust companies here has gathered facts and figures which show that in liquidating portions of their war debts to the United States, and in arranging to discharge such obligations through funding agreements, European countries have actually accomplished more than, perhaps, they are generally credited with. According to these statistics, the debtor nations have thus far paid to the United States \$850,000,000 in interest on their war-time borrowings, in addition to a total exceeding \$300,000,000 on the principal. The total interest mentioned includes some \$8,000,000 from Russia, although the impression had prevailed in some quarters that not much could be expected from that country. A month or so ago, an agreement was reached between the Government of Lithuania and the United States Treasury Department for the funding of that country's war debt of some \$6,000,000. Lithuania, therefore, is the fourth of 20 countries, which secured loans from the United States in connection with the war, to arrange a definite programme for settling such accounts, with provision for interest and sinking fund payments. The other countries that have taken such steps are Great Britain, Finland, and Hungary. Owing largely to the adoption of such a plan by Great Britain some time ago, the total amount of foreign war indebtedness thus funded now exceeds \$4,593,000,000, or 38.6 per cent. of the aggregate of \$11,888,000,000 of principal and interest owed to the United States, according to the trust company's compilation.

FRANCE.—REASONS FOR THE NEW LOAN—A CAPITAL TAX?—PRICES—FRANCO-GERMAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 12.

THE opening of the subscription lists for the new issue of Treasury bonds, or the new internal loan, as it is being indifferently called, which took place to-day, has given rise to a violent controversy as to the precise object for which the money is being borrowed. M. Herriot's own explanation in the Chamber was that, "after four years of incoherent finance," the present Government found itself faced with the question of "filling a deficit of four milliards which others have created," by failing to provide sufficient money to meet the expenditure of the present financial year. It is now becoming clear that this explanation of the object of the present loan is, to say the least, inaccurate, and it may be as well, to prevent mis-

leading conclusions being arrived at, that the facts concerning the origin of the loan should be stated.

So far as can be gathered, these indicate that the object of the loan is not to furnish money that ought properly to have been raised by taxation, but merely to provide the Treasury with sufficient ready money to enable it to avoid a repetition of those periods of "tightness" that have been frequent during the years since the war, and have undoubtedly resulted in considerably prejudicing French credit. The present loan was certainly authorised by Presidential decree on October 30th last, but its real initial authorisation is to be found in Article 3 of the law of December 28, 1923, by which the Minister of Finances was empowered "to issue in 1924, for the service of the Treasury, short-term bonds for an amount not exceeding 13,000,000,000." By a further law passed by the Poincaré Government on March 23rd last, the issue of 13 milliards of short-term Treasury bonds authorised for issue in 1924 was reduced to 7 milliards, with the stipulation that the term of these bonds must not exceed ten years. Of this total, 4 milliards was allocated to the Ordinary Budget and the balance to the Special Budget for Recoverable Expenditure. The 1923 Budget, it is universally admitted, actually resulted in a surplus, and there is now every reason to believe, it is claimed, that the end of the current financial year, in view of the satisfactory manner in which revenue is coming in, will also show a balance on the right side. Owing to unavoidably late distribution of the demand notes for the current year's taxes, however, and the fact that money is needed to meet heavy items of expenditure that cannot wait until cash is available from the usual sources, the present issue of new Treasury bonds has become imperative, to enable the Treasury to carry on meanwhile. The alternative, of course, would be to resort to inflation, with all its attendant evils, and this, as well as any further increase of the Funded Debt, both the late and the present Governments have determined to avoid.

An important factor in the mechanism of the new issue is that subscriptions for the new bonds, which are issued at par, must be paid in full and solely in cash. As this provision will necessarily involve payment in bank notes, the Treasury will thus be provided with means to make at the end of the year the stipulated annual reduction of the amount it has borrowed from the Bank of France (notwithstanding the fact that a large proportion of the notes thus received will undoubtedly be returned to circulation through the making of the payments which it is the object of the issue to render possible). The bonds, as already stated, are to be issued in instalments of half a milliard, and the lists will be closed as soon as sufficient have been absorbed to meet requirements. Taking into consideration that the whole issue will be redeemed within ten years at 150 per cent. of the par value, it is now officially announced that the new bonds may be regarded as yielding 8.50 per cent.

The Government's new Bill for the repression of illicit speculation has been met with a storm of opposition from the Chambers of Commerce and other organisations representing the industrial interests of the country, and is already obviously meeting with a good deal of objection in the Cabinet itself. This is evident from the fact that the Minister of Commerce, when approached on the subject, has declined all responsibility for the measure, and has referred those who have approached him on the matter to the judicial officers of the Government, by whom the Bill has been put forward. Another subject in which intense interest is being displayed is the intentions of the Government in regard to the imposition of a capital tax. The Radical and Radical Socialist group of the Chamber, after an exhaustive discussion of the Budget proposals, has sent a deputation to the Premier, urging the imposition of a "tax on wealth," to replace some of the existing taxes which bear especially on the less wealthy classes. What reply M. Herriot gave is unknown to the public, but it is hinted that the Premier has not yet decided to include it in his programme. An effort to "draw" him last Friday, and elicit a plain "yes" or "no" answer, resulted in M. Herriot refusing to deal with the question on the eve of the issue of an appeal to the investors of the country, and the discussion of the matter was adjourned by a vote of 333 to 117.

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



The index number of wholesale prices for October, which has been issued by the Statistique Générale, fixes the general index figure for the 45 categories included at 507, as compared with 496 at the end of September, and 487 at the end of August. The return shows that wholesale prices have now returned to the level of January last, when it was fixed at 505. The detailed figures, based on 100, as representing the wholesale prices of the corresponding articles in July, 1914, are as follows:—

Classification.	No. of Categories.	End of the Month of—		
		Oct.	Sept.	Aug.
General index figure	45	507	496	487
Foodstuffs, general figure	20	445	440	431
Vegetable foods	8	451	425	408
Animal foods	8	434	441	427
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	4	456	469	492
Raw materials, general figure ..	25	562	545	536
Minerals and metals	7	484	458	474
Textiles	6	701	704	672
Various	12	526	502	491

The outstanding feature of the table is the extraordinary manner in which the general figure has been swollen for many months past, owing to the effect the depreciation of the franc has had in relation to the price of cotton and other raw materials imported by the textile industry. Textile raw materials, however, have been practically unchanged during the past two months, whereas metallurgical raw materials (principally copper), which fell 16 points in September, have again risen by 26 points. Speaking generally, wholesale prices now stand at a slightly higher average level than in 1920. The index figure for retail prices in Paris at the end of October, embracing 13 selected foodstuffs and other articles of common necessity, is returned by the local committee at 383 (as compared with 374 at the end of September, 384 in February last, and 392 in March), or 283 per cent. higher than in 1914. The maximum was recorded in November, 1920, with 326 per cent. increase in Paris, and 352 per cent. in great towns of over 100,000 inhabitants.

In view of the categorical denial issued on behalf of the

Comité des Forges, to the effect that not only has no collective agreement been signed between the French and the German metallurgical groups, with a view to the formation of a trust, but that no negotiations of the kind spoken of have even been entered upon, the French Press has since devoted itself principally to demonstrating that, even if the reports emanating from Germany are unfounded, such an international agreement would be nothing new. Before the war, it is pointed out, very close relations existed between French and German metallurgists, and these relations were precisely based on the exchange of Lorraine ore against Westphalian coke. French exports of iron ore enabled that commodity to be extracted at a lower cost, and consequently kept down the cost price of pig-iron. Germany's difficulty at present is that, owing to the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, she is worse off than ever for iron ore, and has to fall back on Swedish ore, the price of which is too high for ordinary manufacture. She is therefore compelled again to fall back on French ore (which has the additional advantage of carrying with it its own smelting element), if she is to recover her iron export trade. France, on the other hand, by her recovery of Alsace-Lorraine, has brought within her frontier a number of very important plants which formerly belonged to German firms. Her requirements in the form of coke are therefore much greater than before the war. Now, even in 1914, France was unable to produce sufficient coke to meet her own needs. However much the collieries in the Nord may increase their output of coke, France will still be unable, in view of her fresh responsibilities, to obtain all she requires within her own frontiers, therefore she must necessarily fall back for the deficit on Westphalia.

In these conditions it is regarded here as only natural that the pre-war system of exchanging German coke against French ore should be resumed, and French opinion fails to see in what respect this would be prejudicial to British interests. In any event, the prospect of the new Franco-German commercial treaty being concluded shortly, coupled with the belief which persists that, in spite of denials, there is still "something in" the reports that have recently been in circulation, have had a stimulating effect on the French metallurgical industry. In view of an expected rise in prices, new orders are reported on every hand, and this, together with the fact that holders are hastening to take up their options, has given rise to a feeling of unusual optimism. Whether formal negotiations have yet begun or not, it is regarded as inevitable that a policy of international agreements, so far as the metallurgical industry is concerned, will follow the conclusion of the new Franco-German commercial treaty.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—TARIFF—FINANCIAL REFORM—CURRENCY—INDUSTRY—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 11.

CABINET speakers on electoral subjects are increasingly turning their backs on the German-Nationalist Party, and proclaiming for the present coalition grouping of Centre, People's Party, and Democrats, although at best this group cannot have an absolute majority in the coming Reichstag. The reason for this policy is that there are further indications of a weakening of the German-National vote. The State elections in Anhalt brought marked increases in the Social-Democratic and German-Democratic votes, the sufferers being the Communists, who lost heavily. In this election the Right parties, including the German-Nationals, neither won nor lost; but sentiment generally seems to be moving against them. Dr Marx declares that the strengthening of the Coalition would provide guarantees for a sound policy, and expresses the hope that the three parties will co-operate in the coming Reichstag elections. The foreign policy pursued during the past year must, says Dr Marx, be maintained.

The deliberations of the Reichswirtschaftsrat on the tariff question have been provisionally concluded. The only subject under consideration, however, was a so-called "minor Tariff project," which provides for changes in about a fourth of the items in the Tariff of

1902. The result of the deliberations will be published in detail after the Cabinet has examined the recommendations; meantime, there is published only a declaration on the question of principle. Germany's policy, says the declaration, should be to work for untrammelled international trade by means of a general lowering of Tariff walls, this to be attained by commercial treaties. The high-Protectionist demands of business groups in various countries should not be allowed to hinder the attainment of this aim. Germany's interest requires a prosperous agriculture, which will, as far as possible, meet the home demand for food, and also requires that as far as possible her demand for raw and half-finished materials should be covered by home production. But measures taken to ensure these aims should not be of a kind which would hamper the export of high-value (industrial) products. Any duties which reduced the country's ability to compete abroad would be too high. Ability to export depends largely upon buying-power at home, owing to the fact that a good home market means production in great volume, making production cheap, therefore the duties on foreign industrial goods must be moderate; too high prices for such goods would burden consumers and reduce their power to buy home goods. A second resolution recommends defensive measures against dumping, and a multiplication of duty rates against countries which discriminate against German goods. The Government is understood to be considering supplementary duties against "exchange dumping," to vary according to fluctuations in the exchanges of countries with depreciated currencies.

A provisional financial reform has been rushed through under the useful Article 48 of the Constitution. Agreement with the States on this question was come to only with difficulty, opposition being both to the use of Article 48 and to the contents of the Government's scheme. The States were interested through the fact that they receive 20 per cent. of the yield of the Sales Tax and 90 per cent. of the yield of the income-tax. They consented on the condition that the Republic's subventions in December to March should not be lower than the average subventions in August and September, 1924. The reform reduces the Sales Tax from 2 (until lately 2½) per cent. to 1½ per cent., and the Sales Tax on Luxuries from 15 to 10 per cent. Income-tax collected on the basis of assessment is not reduced; but where the tax is deducted from wages the exempted part of income is raised from 50 to 60 marks a month. The exemptions on the basis of family conditions are extended. Incomes of unmarried persons are exempt up to 875 marks a year, of childless couples up to 889 marks, couples with one child 906 marks, and so on, families with eight children being exempted up to 2,000 marks. The advance income-tax instalments required from industry, trade, and agriculture are reduced 25 per cent. The Bourse transfers stamp duties have been reduced by 50 and 60 per cent., and the stamp duty on foreign exchange transactions by 75 and 50 per cent., according to class of transaction. All these stamp duties were abnormally high, being imposed during the inflation time for currency considerations, and the reduced transfer duty is still much higher than before the war. In this not on dealings in Gold Loan and Dollar Treasury Bills, have been reduced. The Government expects that the loss from the above tax reductions will be made good as the result of improvement in trade. The definitive income-tax has yet to come. The Finance Ministry's return for the third ten-day term of October shows revenue received 261,508,091 marks, expenditure 245,261,623 marks. The new mark as "Reichsmark" now appears in official accounts, and in future is to be understood under "mark" where not otherwise stated.

The demand for exchange has considerably declined as a result of the restoration of free dealing. The Reichsbank is now acquiring gold at an accelerated rate; the return for October 31st shows an addition of 63,722,000 marks, which is more than three times the recent weekly average. The large increase of 467,809,000 marks in circulation is a result of demands for month-end settlements. Gold cover is 39 per cent. of circulation, combined gold and exchange cover 52 per cent. Deposits fell by 277,663,000 marks to 708,728,000 marks. The Foreign Trade Association protests against the policy of

leht extinction and hoarding of money pursued by the Republic and the municipalities, and estimates the free funds in the hands of public bodies at 3½ milliard marks. The Railway Corporation and the Reichspost are also stated to be accumulating cash. As ground for demanding a simplification of the taxation system, the Association mentions that a person carrying on industry in his own building must annually make 67 to 78 tax declarations and 71 to 81 separate payments. The credit situation slowly improves, but the new awakening of industry and home trade is accompanied by increased demands for money. Conclusion of credit agreements with American finance are stated to be hampered by uncertainty as to the security, owing to the priority of Reparations bonds. The suggestion is made that the credit-givers acquire the Reparations bonds imposed on the borrowing concerns, and unite them with their loans as first mortgages. Several attempts by municipalities to borrow in America are held up by the recent decree requiring official sanction for such deals.

The labour market has much improved. Publicly supported unemployed in the whole Republic on October 15th numbered 473,023, against 574,424 one month earlier. In the Rhine Province there are 110,000 unemployed, of whom many have had no work for a year. Unskilled workers make up most of the total. The cost of living index number on November 5th remained unchanged at 123; the wholesale index number has dropped further to 126.6. An official report states that in September German food prices were 96 per cent. of English and 93.4 per cent. of American; German industrial raw material prices 102.6 per cent. of English and 104.5 per cent. of American. The Prussian Trade Ministry's monthly report admits only a slow improvement in industry. In the cotton industry conditions are satisfactory, and in linen improved. For silk there is a great demand, but lack of capital hampers production. Since the beginning of the month the iron and steel trade has revived, so that semi-finished material has already run short. Blooms cannot be had at all. Sheets are in great demand by home consumers, but export is dull, as is the home and export market for tubes. Prices have risen, being approximately, per metric ton ex works: blooms, 103-105 marks; billets, 108-110 marks; slabs, 118 marks; bars, 120-122 marks; thin sheets (½ mm.), 180 marks. The iron consuming manufacturers continue to oppose the demand for higher duties on raw and semi-finished materials. The existing duties on these products, they declare, add between 5 and 6½ per cent. to the production cost of machines. Prices of machinery tended to fall in October.

On the first two days of this week the stock market, after long dullness and a weak tendency, had a sudden revival, with considerable dealing and a marked rise in quotations. The reasons for this are the reduction in the transfer tax, and a new declaration by the Cabinet on the "Aufwertung" of loans. The declaration came first, and induced new speculative purchases of loans, although the Government's intentions were by no means made clear. The declaration merely said that, as a result of the favourable financial position, the already announced plan for relieving indigent loan-holders would be extended. Rumour declared that this meant some kind of all-round "Aufwertung," but the declaration implicitly denied this design by announcing that speculators, which means all persons who bought since the currency depreciation, would get nothing. The new bull movement, therefore, seems to be no better justified than the old. The Hamburg-America Company's new gold mark balance-sheet has been published. As the company has not increased its ordinary share capital in recent years, and issued only 75,000,000 marks of preference shares, the scaling down of its capital in the ratio of 10 to 3 is due to losses of shipping, not, as with most other companies, to capital inflation. The new capital is 54,000,000 marks ordinary shares and 11,000,000 preferred. The Hamburg-South America Company, which had doubled its pre-war capital of 25,000,000 marks, has scaled down to 20,000,000 marks.

An analysis published in the *Berliner Tageblatt* of 251 companies, whose shares are quoted in Berlin, which have so far issued gold mark balance-sheets, shows in general the result of the re-valuation of assets and liabilities. The 251 are just one-third of all Berlin-quoted concerns. Total

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.

EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.
AGENTS AND SECRETARIES OF RUBBER, TEA
AND PRODUCE COMPANIES.

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

peace capital was 1,967 million gold marks, paper mark capital on the eve of re-valuation 19,337 million paper marks, new gold mark capital 2,927 million gold marks. Average scaling down is in the ratio 8.4 to 1. The ratio of pre-war to new gold mark capital is 1 to 1.17. The increase in value since 1914 of the companies' net property, as shown by the last figures, is mainly due to the fact that, while assets other than liquid capital did not depreciate in gold value, and often appreciated, secured debts declined very much. Analysis by groups confirms this. Ratio of pre-war capital of banks (of which, however, the most important have not yet published gold mark balance-sheets) to new gold mark capital is 3.3 to 1, because the banks' chief asset was their money capital, which depreciated; whereas the ratio for chemicals concerns, which have often greatly expanded their plant, is 1 to 2.8, while the ratio for light railways and tramways is 1 to 4, not because of expansion of assets, but because this group before the war had particularly heavy bonds and mortgages, which have nearly all disappeared. The gold mark balance-sheets of the four "D" banks are expected, at latest, in a fortnight.

AUSTRIA.—POLITICS—STATE FINANCE—TRADE BALANCE—STATE RAILWAYS—TARIFF BILL—NATIONAL BANK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, November 1.

THE Social Democrat Party in Austria has recently become more active, and there have been some rather lively discussions in Parliament in which the Opposition tried to make the Finance Minister responsible for the bankruptcies of certain banks and other incidents in connection with the present financial crisis. There is no doubt that the Government's control over the banks and over the formation of companies has failed, and that the public, which believed in the efficiency of this control, has suffered severe losses. During the inflation period, however, mistakes were made not only by the Christian Socialists, but also by the Social Democrats, but the latter are trying to utilise them to their political advantage. They seem to think that the general depression caused by the economic crisis would greatly increase the number of votes in their favour in general elections, and this is, of course, a motive which greatly hinders progress in Parliamentary work.

The Budget for 1925 shows a deficit of 585 milliard kronen, as against 1,166 milliard kronen for 1924. Public administration shows a deficit of 1,255 milliard kronen, whilst the Monopoly shows a profit of 1,425 milliard kronen; the Treasury, however, has to pay subsidies amounting to 598 milliard kronen to the State Railways Company and 155 milliard kronen to State enterprises. The Finance Minister intends covering it out of the League of Nations' Loan, and hopes that the actual deficit will be lower than that estimated. Of the State enterprises, the Post, the Post-Savings Bank, and the Forestry Administration are working at a profit, whilst the mines, the State printing office, and the State theatres still show considerable losses.

The financial and economic crisis has become less acute, but, nevertheless, still continues. During October two small banks of purely local character—the Nordische-Oesterreichische Bank and the Wiener Bank, both superfluous banks founded during the inflation period—have closed down. The difficulties of the financier Castiglioni may possibly be settled; an Italian syndicate, led by the Banca Commerciale, is co-operating with some Viennese and German banks to put the necessary credits at his disposal in order to meet his obligations.

Owing to the dismissal of clerks in banks and other commercial houses, unemployment has increased from

74,181 in September to 77,968 in October. The Government is taking measures to alleviate the situation. It has reduced a number of taxes in order to lower cost of production, and, moreover, the Finance Minister has declared himself ready to forgo the Turnover Tax on flour in order to reduce the price of bread and thereby influence the general cost of living. Unfortunately the Municipal Council of Vienna still declines to consider reducing the very heavy municipal taxes by which the existence of hotels, theatres, and places of amusement is threatened. The present municipal taxes are 20,200 times as high as in 1913, whilst the factor of depreciation of money is only 14,400. At any rate, it is generally hoped that the action of the Government will bring about good results, and a certain amount of confidence can, in fact, be noted.

The statistics regarding the balance of trade for the first eight months of this year show a total value of imports of 1,446 million gold kronen, and a total value of exports of 761 million gold kronen, which corresponds to a deficit of 685 million gold kronen. The deficit for the same period last year amounted to only 397 million gold kronen. This deterioration in the balance of trade is attributable to the fact that imports of livestock, food-stuffs, liquor and raw materials have considerably increased, whilst the export of finished goods shows an increase of only 44 millions, and the export of mineral fuel and livestock have gone down nearly to half. It is true that since July signs of improvement can be noticed, but it will hardly be possible to make up the unfavourable result of the first half-year by an improvement during the last four months of the year.

Since the State railways were converted from a State enterprise into a purely commercial concern, the result of their reconstruction has made very good progress. During the first six months of this year their deficit amounted to only 27½ millions, against 375 million kronen in the same period last year. The State Railways Company now, of course, does not accept any tender unconditionally, as was previously the case, and has, by promoting competition, succeeded in forcing prices down.

Although the new Tariff Bill has already been passed by Parliament, it has not yet been put into force. The reason for this delay is that it is feared its introduction would cause a further increase in the cost of living, which during the last month has continuously risen. The Government hopes that the negotiations now pending for Commercial Treaties with the Succession States will lead to such results that it will be possible to put into force the rates agreed upon in the treaties, and not the higher rates of the Tariff Bill.

The improvement in the position of the National Bank has made further progress. The gold reserve rose between September 15th and October 23rd from 3,640 to 3,911 milliard kronen, whilst the total number of bills discounted went down during the same period from 3,052 to 2,555 milliard kronen. The Bank will, therefore, reduce the Bank rate from 15 to 12 per cent. in the near future; this is all the more feasible as bills can now be already discounted on the Stock Exchange below the official Bank rate. Private banks have in the meantime also reduced their terms for credits by 2½ per cent., which, reckoning upon the forthcoming decrease of the Bank rate, will altogether reduce the cost of bank credits by 5½ per cent.

SWITZERLAND.—IMPROVING TRADE—NATIONAL ACCOUNTS—SURPLUS EXPECTED IN 1926—COURSE OF MONEY RATES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, November 10.

THE Swiss trade returns for the third quarter of the present year show that the general situation is gradually improving. Since the middle of last year progress was recorded at the end of each quarter, and though the present figures of foreign trade are still far from reaching the pre-war totals, they are very gratifying indeed. From July 1st to September 30th, the value of imports reached a total of £24,761,560 (619,039,000fr), compared with £20,604,120 (515,103,000fr) during the corresponding period of 1923; as for exports, they totalled £19,908,360

(497,709,000fr), as against £18,522,320 (463,058,000fr) during the third quarter of 1923. Compared with the previous quarter, the trade returns of the third quarter of 1924 show that the export of watches increased by nearly £640,000, of silk by £112,000, of cheese by £232,000, of condensed milk by £164,000, of machines by £105,920; on the other hand, there was a drop in the exportation of embroideries, cotton goods, and straw. The export of Swiss watches to England is on the increase, as it is greatly facilitated by the abolition of the McKenna duties, but, on the other hand, Britain made smaller purchases of embroideries than during last spring.

Imports of vegetable and mineral raw materials have risen, and a careful study of statistics shows that they were not only used for home consumption, but also for manufacturing and re-exporting purposes, a sign that Swiss industries had important orders from other countries. From January 1st to July 30, 1924, the value of imports amounted to £72,022,360 (1,800,559,000fr), an increase of £10,055,440 on the corresponding period of 1923, while exports totalled £61,035,960 (1,525,899,000fr) for the same period, or £10,244,480 more than in 1923. It is very encouraging to note that while imports rose by nearly 14 per cent. when compared with 1923, the rise in exports reached over 16½ per cent.; it is true that there is an adverse balance of £10,986,400, but it is partly compensated by the important receipts of the Hotel and Foreigners' Industry during the last winter and summer seasons.

The general improvement in the economic situation is also shown by the fact that unemployment has so much decreased that it is now almost non-existent in some cantons, and that—from January 1st to October 31st—customs duties yielded over £6 millions, so that it is probable that, at the end of the year, they will show an increase of nearly £1 million on the 1923 figures. This will greatly help the Federal Government to reduce its deficit for the current year; the Federal Budget estimates for 1924 provided for a deficit of £1,530,560 (38,264,000fr), which will be probably brought down to nearly £1,400,000.

The Federal Budget estimates for 1925 are the following:—

	£	Franks.
Expenditure	12,206,800	305,170,000
Revenue	11,546,400	288,660,000
Deficit	660,400	16,510,000

The expenditure for the Federal loans' services and interests is estimated at £4,680,000, that for the Army at £3,400,000, while the remaining £4,126,800 cover the expenses of the various Federal Departments and Services, including the subsidies granted to the cantons for public works, education, &c. On the other hand, the interests of the Federal properties, capital, and investments are estimated at £800,000, while Customs duties are estimated to yield £6 millions, and the taxes on "coupons," insurance premiums, &c., nearly £4 millions.

Federal Councillor M. Musy, the Chief of the Finance Department, recently stated that in 1926 revenue will far exceed expenditure, which is being progressively reduced by means of drastic economies, which are already applied in all the Federal services, and the effect of which will be felt in the course of the next two years; moreover, a second instalment of the "War Tax" will be paid up during the next two years, and add many million francs to the Federal revenue.

Since 1913 the accounts of the Swiss Federal Government have every year shown a deficit, which was partly met by borrowing, so that the National Debt rose from £5,850,800 in 1913 to £82,158,000 in 1923, and the floating debt from £2,240,000 in 1914 to £8,702,720 in 1923; calculated per head of population, the total Federal debt amounted to £17 6s in 1913, and it now reaches £43 2s. From 1913 to 1924 the deficits of the Federal Government's accounts were the following:—

	£	Franks.
1913	214,141	3,826,227
1914	901,325	3,981,470
1915	862,060	5,102,878
1916	665,818	3,176,307
1917	2,030,000	1,818,750
1918	2,475,787	1,400,000

These deficits were the consequence of the expenses resulting from the war, the mobilisation and upkeep of the army from 1914 to 1918, the general rise in prices, the increase of salaries of officials, the grant of subsidies to unemployed and industries, and so on.

There has been in Switzerland since the beginning of 1923 a gradual rise in money rates. In January, 1924, some State loans were issued at 5 per cent., but later the interest rose to 5½ per cent. in May and to 5.6 to 5.7 per cent. since then. As regards industrial loans, their minimum interest is generally 6 per cent., and the interest on banking issues oscillates between 5½ and 6 per cent., while the discount rate of the National Bank remains at 4 per cent., as in January last. The reason of that increase may perhaps be found in the fact that important investments were made abroad in 1922, when there was a menace of a capital levy, but it is more probable that it is the result of general impoverishment, of the decrease in the purchasing value of money, and in the value of income.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—BUDGET—COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH HUNGARY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, November 6.

SINCE the reassembling of Parliament at the end of October, the most important business has been the report of the Foreign Minister (Dr Benes) on the work done at the last Assembly of the League, and the introduction of the Budget by the Minister of Finance (Dr Becka). In his speech, Dr Becka emphasised, as the greatest needs of the country in finance, that the exchange should be further stabilised, that a foreign loan should be obtained to allow of the complete removal of the uncovered note issue, and that the problem of "personal expenditure"—salaries of Government officials—must be solved.

The total expenditure for the year 1925 is estimated at 15,974 milliards Czech korun, while the total income is expected to be 15,702 milliards, leaving a deficit of 272 millions, to which must be added 1,319 millions for Government expenditure upon "unremunerative" undertakings, such as roads, buildings, &c. The total saving during the year amounts to 1,240 million Czech krns., but had there been no reduction in the national income, it would have been 1,909 millions. The figures for 1924 and 1925, in milliards of Czech krns., are:—

	1924.	1925.
Expenditure	16.99	15.97
Income	16.39	15.70
"Unremunerative" expenditure ..	2.229	1.319
Deficit	.602	.272

It is impossible to pass any criticism upon the State income for 1925, as the figures for the enterprises under Government control are not available for the years 1923 and 1924. Nor can the precise amount of the internal debt be calculated, as the Fourth State Loan is not yet closed, and the liquidation of the Austrian debt is incomplete. This lack of consolidation of the State debt is shown more clearly in every succeeding Budget, and the new foreign loan should be used primarily for consolidation purposes.

The increase of the national debt (excluding that inherited from Austria) has been:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
In milliards of Czech krns.	+ 4.31	+ 2.70	+ 0.80
In millions of gold francs	+ 539	+ 412	+ 122

While the deficit in the Budget is small (272 million krns.), and is 330 million krns. less than for the year 1924, what is far more important is that the total amount of the expenditure is so high, and there is a reduction of the national income. The whole difficulty seems to lie in the failure to adapt State finance to the increased exchange. After 1919 the exchange was adapted to the post-war conditions then prevailing. The value of the exchange sank low, but this decrease had to be balanced by an increase in Budget expenditure in 1921. Three years ago, when deflation was decided upon, it was forgotten that under the circumstances a "deflation Budget" was necessary, and time is bringing in its revenge. If the Czech crown could have been stabilised at 8-10 gold francs per 100 Czech krns., as Czech financiers seem to have expected, it would

have been a different matter. But the following is the actual state of things:—

Year.	Expenditure (in Billiards of Krns.).	Average Course of Exchange (100 Czech Krns. in Gold Francs).	Expenditure (in Millions of Gold Francs).
1919	8.62	23.00	1.983
1920	15.28	7.75	.854
1921	21.20	6.50	1.278
1922	22.77	12.50	2.847
1923	22.20	15.25	3.386
1924	19.30	15.25	3.043
Total	97.71	..	13.391

Assuming that the gold franc exchange becomes stable at about 15, it can be seen that to get back to the 1922 position, expenditure must be reduced to 13 milliard krns. Only then can real savings be talked of, and the present taxes are a levy on capital. It is impossible to reduce one very heavy item—the interest and amortisation of the State debt. This debt has increased in its internal value parallel with the exchange, and now represents an annual expenditure of 1½ milliard krns.

Mere financial considerations clearly point to a decrease in "personal expenditure"—which, in the last and the present Budgets, amounts to 8 milliards. But political reasons prevent a radical treatment of this question. Only a gradual reduction of the number of State employees (their salaries are already too low), and a reform of State administration, can accomplish anything. All reductions in expenditure up to the present have been in real expenditure. The State has become a smaller consumer and production is lower. The period of deflation has been marked by an increase of unproductive, as against productive, expenditure. The danger from the uncovered bank-notes is not yet removed, and if the estimated income given in this year's Budget is not reached, then something drastic may be necessary in a year's time.

The proposed Commercial Treaty with Hungary will be based upon a reduction of Czech agricultural duties in return for a reduction of Hungarian taxes, which at present are exorbitant. Taxes reach in some cases to 100 per cent. of the cost of the goods. But Hungary cannot supply herself with industrial products (especially textiles), and if the Czech manufacturers can give the long credits which the Hungarian traders really need, then an important and increased market will be opened to Czecho-Slovakia.

Books and Publications.

IMPERIAL ECONOMICS.

A BOOK, even a book on economic history, is a work of art, and to discuss half of it is difficult, though, no doubt, there were good reasons for publishing the first volume of Professor Knowles' "Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire,"* while the second volume was only partly written. The half-book is welcome, but not till the other volume is available can the work be fairly viewed.

That the writing is able, the materials well digested, and the information clearly presented, no one will doubt who knows Professor Knowles' similar work on Great Britain which was issued three years ago. The present is a mightier task. The materials were scattered and not easily accessible, or even lacking entirely, in the sense that the economic history of large parts of the Empire has not yet been reduced to literary form. The task of the reader, it may perhaps be said in passing, would have been lightened by clearer sub-division of the text, along with a freer use of sub-headings, or the introduction of side notes. The authoress possibly was so immersed in the subject that she failed to appreciate how helpful these aids may be to a student. She has tackled the immense problem bravely, and has not sought to narrow it. She has wisely lived up to her faith that "all modern economic history should be treated on comparative lines." She has not forgotten, as so many writers on Empire do forget, that

* "The Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire." By L. C. A. Knowles. (London) George Routledge and Sons Limited. 1924. 10s 6d net.

there is, after all, the rest of the world, that other part, on sea trading intercourse with which the very existence of Great Britain depends.

The present volume contains an introductory part on the Empire as a whole, and then deals with the Tropics and Sub-tropics. A large section is devoted to India. The further volume yet to come is to sketch the economic histories of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, the history of emigration and of preferential commercial relations.

Professor Knowles hurls at us staggering masses of detail about the British Empire, which is so vast, so varied, so complex, and, above all, in every aspect, so commercial. "The field," as she says, "is boundless," and "it is a tale of new worlds in the making." British overseas expansion, as Professor Knowles points out, did not, till late in the eighteenth century, go beyond the establishment of trading outposts. Then, for nearly a hundred years, inland Continental expansion went on, and it was not till after 1870 that, with the development of new and improved means of communication, the British Empire, besides attaining an increased coherence, reached its period of unparalleled growth. But "the new Empire, like the old, is based on commerce."

It is impossible, in following the expansion of this commerce, not to notice how involved with war and bloodshed trade has been. Under the old colonial system nations struggled for colonies in order to control markets and supplies of raw materials, and the development of the newer colonial empire by a policy of constructive imperialism has again been backed by force. For instance, the Australians, as Professor Knowles points out, could not keep out Chinese or Japanese "were it not for the naval power of Great Britain in the background." This has been expressed in similar but broader terms by another writer, who has called attention to dangers which may arise "if the whites persist in excluding the yellow and the brown races by violence from half-empty territories in which they desire to settle."

With these present-day problems of empire this history, which does not extend beyond 1914, is not directly concerned, though, in turning the pages, no one can fail to have current anxieties in mind. Though Britain in the past occupied territories in part to keep other Powers out, British policy has not been in the main one of exclusion, but of the "open door." The foundations on which British expansion has proceeded have been sounder and more likely to endure than those of some other European Powers. Detailed study of how the present position has been reached, in which this book is most helpful, is very necessary for a right appreciation of the economic factors at present operating in the world. It is essential that the historian should be as far as possible impartial. In this instance the historian does not seem to lean to any party opinion, though those who doubt the complete accuracy of the view of the world to be obtained through Birmingham spectacles may mark a query in the margin beside the reference to Joseph Chamberlain as "the great imperial statesman."

It is in its references to more recent events that this economic history opens more controversial ground, but here the fact that the work, so far as published, is not yet complete, makes it necessary to defer further comment. The problems with the historical basis of which Professor Knowles is dealing are, however, so urgent that the completion of her contribution to their study will be awaited with the greatest interest.

MILL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

THE autobiography of John Stuart Mill has at last found a well-deserved place in the excellent series of "World's Classics," published by the Oxford University Press. It has unfortunately not been possible to obtain the permission of the present owners of the manuscript to reproduce the complete text verbatim, so the present edition is identical with the first, which was published by Mill's step-daughter, 51 years ago. The omissions, we are told in the able introduction contributed by Mr. Harold Laski, amount in all to some half a dozen pages, and relate principally to Mill's relations with his father and his wife. In addition to the autobiography itself, however,

this volume contains six speeches, most of which were delivered by Mill when still a very young man, before the London Debating Society, and which have not hitherto been published. They help to complete our knowledge of Mill's intellectual development during this very important period in his life. The fact, moreover, that he himself should think it worth while keeping throughout his life the manuscript of a speech delivered when he was seventeen, is typical of the interest he always took in his own intellectual development. The autobiography itself, however, is the supreme example of the way in which the author was often wont to regard himself as a case for study, and this attitude of cold detachment is almost inhuman in its scientific objectivity. But this is far from giving a complete picture of the man himself, and Mr Laski has certainly done well to bring into prominence in his short introduction the broad human sympathies and the crusading zeal of one who embodied most of what was best in his own age, and who did much to achieve what we are nowadays only apt to take for granted.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Constitution of the United States. By James M. Beck, LL.D. (London) Humphrey Milford. 12s 6d net.

Economics of Iron and Steel. By H. J. Skelton. Second edition. (London) Stevens and Sons and H. J. Skelton and Co., Limited.

International Trade Finance. By George W. Edwards. (New York) Henry Holt.

International Mercantile Diary and Year-Book. (London) The Syren and Shipping, Limited. 7s 6d.

Three Textile Raw Materials and Their Manufacture. Published by the International Acceptance Bank of New York.

This little book deals in a most interesting manner with the production, manufacture, and marketing of cotton, wool, and silk, the first two parts being written by Mr James P. Warburg, vice-president of the bank, and the section on silk by Mr Benjamin Strong, Jr. Numerous photographs showing the important operations involved greatly add to the interest of the lay reader.

La Lithuanie en Chiffres. Album de Diagrammes. (Lithuania) Le Bureau Central de Statistique du Ministère des Finances.

Bulletin de l'Institut International de Statistique. Tome XXI. (The Hague) W. P. Van Stockum et Fils.

Bulletin Mensuel de l'Office Permanent de l'Institut International de Statistique. Octobre, 1924. (The Hague) W. P. Van Stockum et Fils. 1.50 florins.

Boletín del Consejo Superior Bancario. November, 1924. (Madrid) Apartado de Correos, 744.

A monthly review of Spanish banking statistics.

Review of the Netherlands Indian Tariff Law. (Government edition.) (The Hague) Official Printing Office.

Alliance Assurance, 1824-1924. (London) Alliance Assurance Company, Limited.

A Council of Industry. By Philip Guedalla. "New Way" Series No. 11. (London) Daily News, Limited. 6d.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2 :-

Annual Statement of Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions—1923. Volume III. £1 7s 6d.

This volume contains particulars of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom to the principal and other countries during each of the years 1920-1923.

Standing Orders of the House of Commons. Part I., Public Business. Part II., Private Business, with table of fees and index. 1924. 3s.

Ministry of Transport—Railway Statistics, Great Britain. No. 57, August, 1924. 3s.

The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture. November, 1924. 6d.

League of Nations, Fifth Assembly; Arbitration, Security, and Reduction of Armaments. 9d.

Protocol and Resolutions adopted by the Assembly, and Report by the First and Third Committees of the Assembly.

War Compensation Court: Fourth Report (dated October 21, 1924). 6s.

Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau: the Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries: Statistics, 1920-1922; Iron and Steel. 2s.

Development Commission: Fourteenth Report of the Commissioners: Year ended March 31, 1924. 4s.

Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom. October, 1924. 6s.

Aliens Order, 1920. Return of Alien Passengers Landed, Embarked, and Refused Leave to Land during the Three Months ended September 30, 1924. 2d.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of **EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.**

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 188, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester.
Bradford Foreign Branch 13, Market Street, Bradford.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, November 19. ACCOUNT, November 20.

The tide in Stock Exchange affairs has been running less in favour of the bulls than of the bears. A very noticeable lull occurred in the previous buying movement initiated by the Unionist victory. People began to take a more sober view of values. Amongst industrials, the decline in volume of business became very marked. Yet new issues are still eagerly snapped up; every sound offer is secure of a ready response from the investor and the stag. Talk of tighter money is no longer heard.

The new Sudan Fours ran up to 2 premium when the market in them developed on Thursday. Applicants received scanty allotments, so great was the rush for the stock. Stag sales reduced the premium to 1½. On Friday (yesterday) the market opened in the new 5 per cent. preference stock recently offered at 99½ by the Southern Railway, and a modest premium was established.

The War Loan remained close to 101 throughout the week. Other British Government stocks have been dull. In the foreign market, German Sevens keep about 5½ premium. French issues hang fire. Brazilians are better in places. There is not much doing in foreigners as a whole, Chinese, Mexican, Peruvian, and other speculative bonds being somewhat neglected.

Home Rails have moved rather aimlessly. Prices went up a little, to recede very promptly. The market is what the Stock Exchange calls stupid. Argentine railway stocks took on a tired appearance as the week advanced. There was quiet selling of these and other foreign railway issues, Leopoldinas standing out, exceptionally, with strength.

Rubber shares went back unanimously, upon a decline in the price of the produce, which brought in sellers to every section of the market. The tea group is, however, harder, and the coffee shares hold a good part of their recent gain. The oil market has been disturbed by violent fluctuations in Venezuela. Business fell away in tobacco shares, taking prices with it. Textiles have been in somewhat similar case, though Courtaulds yielded none of their ground. Appointment of a Food Commission caused uneasiness to people who had been speculating in shares likely to be affected by a finding that food prices are capable of reduction. The iron and steel list drooped on the reports from the Weardale Steel, Richardson Westgarth, Platts, and Horden Collieries companies. Shipping shares keep steady. Insurance investments stand higher on the week, and the banking list continues fairly popular. Brewery stocks reacted from their recent best. The cable and wireless markets were disposed to dullness. Motor descriptions received languid attention, and the illumination shares, gas and electric, merely marked time. Bournemouth and

Poole Electric suffered a smart drop upon contradiction of the rumour that the Bournemouth Corporation will take over the company.

The Kafir market has been troubled by fears of a further drop in the price of gold resulting from the improvement, in our favour, of the New York rate of exchange. This induced mild sales, but the market turned better towards the end of the week. Rhodesian and diamond shares have been uninteresting. Amongst Canadians, Selukwes enjoyed a spurt. Burmah Corporations were the main feature of strength in the base-metal market. Mid Eastern tin shares met with a little support from Rangoon and Singapore, but the stock was readily supplied. A fall in Ropps became checked by the declaration of a third interim dividend of 20 per cent. on these 4s. shares. Indian mines have attracted no active attention. Mexicans were a little dull, and the copper share market afforded no feature of interest during the week.

The Hon. Gilbert Johnstone has resigned from the Stock Exchange Committee, and an election will be held, next Thursday week, of another member to fill the vacancy.

NEW ISSUES.

The new issues of the week and the current year have been as follows :-

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£166,718,122	£	£	£

ISSUES OF THE WEEK—

4% Treasury Bonds, £1,000,000, at 94½% (November 7, 1924).....	945,000	£	£	£
--	---------	---	---	---

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 8, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Nov. 8, 1924, Dr. £2,450,000	£	£	£	£
--	---	---	---	---

To the Public—Sudan Government, £1,500,000 4% Stock (red. 1950-74), issued at 86%.....

City of Leicester, £1,500,000 4% Stock (red. 1945-55 at par), issued at 98½%.....	1,500,000	1,290,000	75,000	1,215,000
---	-----------	-----------	--------	-----------

Spillers' Milling and Associated Industries, £1,000,000 5½% 10-year Sinking Fund Notes (repayable at par, Dec., 1934), at 98%.....	1,000,000	980,000	100,000	88,000
--	-----------	---------	---------	--------

Mid-European Corporation, 60,000 Shares of £10, at £10 10s.....	60,000	630,000	150,000	480,000
---	--------	---------	---------	---------

Hild and Co., Limited, 160,000 8% Cum. Pref. Shares of 10s, at par.....	80,000	80,000	16,000	64,000
---	--------	--------	--------	--------

Do 400,000 Ordinary Shares of 1s, at par.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	..
---	--------	--------	--------	----

Maldstone and District Motor Services, 35,000 Shares of £1, at par.....	35,000	35,000	8,750	26,250
---	--------	--------	-------	--------

Total offered to the public.....	4,512,500	444,750	4,067,750	..
----------------------------------	-----------	---------	-----------	----

To Shareholders only—Kallidjonek Rubber, 7,500 Shrs. of £1, issued at 30s.....	7,500	11,250	1,875	9,375
--	-------	--------	-------	-------

Malayalam Plantations, 130,860 £1 Shares, issued at 32s 6d.....	130,860	212,735	212,735	..
---	---------	---------	---------	----

Simpas Reefs, 40,000 Shares of 5s, issued at 7s.....	10,000	14,000	2,000	12,000
--	--------	--------	-------	--------

Total offered to shareholders.....	237,885	216,610	21,375	..
------------------------------------	---------	---------	--------	----

Total offered for subscription to date in—	1923.....	1924.....	1925.....	1926.....
--	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

1923.....	172,413,607	1924.....	251,921,921	1925.....	271,393,173
-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------

1924.....	550,161,508	1925.....	304,445,486	1926.....	573,675,660
-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------

1925.....	341,254,043	1926.....	973,486,531	1927.....	388,978,205
-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------	-----------	-------------

1926.....	1,036,069,961	1927.....	1,393,381,441	1928.....	367,549,666
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	-------------

1927.....	1,393,381,441	1928.....	1,393,381,441	1929.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1928.....	1,393,381,441	1929.....	1,393,381,441	1930.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1929.....	1,393,381,441	1930.....	1,393,381,441	1931.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1930.....	1,393,381,441	1931.....	1,393,381,441	1932.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1931.....	1,393,381,441	1932.....	1,393,381,441	1933.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1932.....	1,393,381,441	1933.....	1,393,381,441	1934.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1933.....	1,393,381,441	1934.....	1,393,381,441	1935.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1934.....	1,393,381,441	1935.....	1,393,381,441	1936.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1935.....	1,393,381,441	1936.....	1,393,381,441	1937.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1936.....	1,393,381,441	1937.....	1,393,381,441	1938.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1937.....	1,393,381,441	1938.....	1,393,381,441	1939.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1938.....	1,393,381,441	1939.....	1,393,381,441	1940.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1939.....	1,393,381,441	1940.....	1,393,381,441	1941.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1940.....	1,393,381,441	1941.....	1,393,381,441	1942.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1941.....	1,393,381,441	1942.....	1,393,381,441	1943.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1942.....	1,393,381,441	1943.....	1,393,381,441	1944.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1943.....	1,393,381,441	1944.....	1,393,381,441	1945.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1944.....	1,393,381,441	1945.....	1,393,381,441	1946.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1945.....	1,393,381,441	1946.....	1,393,381,441	1947.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1946.....	1,393,381,441	1947.....	1,393,381,441	1948.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1947.....	1,393,381,441	1948.....	1,393,381,441	1949.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1948.....	1,393,381,441	1949.....	1,393,381,441	1950.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1949.....	1,393,381,441	1950.....	1,393,381,441	1951.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1950.....	1,393,381,441	1951.....	1,393,381,441	1952.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1951.....	1,393,381,441	1952.....	1,393,381,441	1953.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1952.....	1,393,381,441	1953.....	1,393,381,441	1954.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1953.....	1,393,381,441	1954.....	1,393,381,441	1955.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1954.....	1,393,381,441	1955.....	1,393,381,441	1956.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1955.....	1,393,381,441	1956.....	1,393,381,441	1957.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1956.....	1,393,381,441	1957.....	1,393,381,441	1958.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1957.....	1,393,381,441	1958.....	1,393,381,441	1959.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1958.....	1,393,381,441	1959.....	1,393,381,441	1960.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1959.....	1,393,381,441	1960.....	1,393,381,441	1961.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1960.....	1,393,381,441	1961.....	1,393,381,441	1962.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1961.....	1,393,381,441	1962.....	1,393,381,441	1963.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1962.....	1,393,381,441	1963.....	1,393,381,441	1964.....	1,393,381,441
-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------	---------------

1963.....	1,393,38
-----------	----------

purpose of repaying sums amounting to £100,000 which will fall due before May 15, 1925. The £500,000 stock now issued is identical in all respects with £1,500,000 stock already issued, and the first interest payment on the new stock will be made on May 15th next. The stock is redeemable at par on May 15, 1960, but the Corporation will have the option of redeeming at par the whole of the outstanding amount of the issue at any time on and after May 15, 1920, on giving three calendar months' notice by post and by public advertisement. The Corporation have negotiated the sale of the stock at the price of £96 18s per cent. These details are taken from a statement advertised in compliance with regulations of the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, in connection with an application for leave to deal in the stock.

City of Leicester.—Issue of £1,500,000 Corporation 4½ per cent. redeemable stock at 98½ per cent. The loan is redeemable between 1945 and 1955. The flat yield works out at £4 16s 5d, and, calculating for redemption at the earliest date, the return on a purchase is approximately 4½ per cent. Interest and principal of the loan are secured upon all property rates and revenues of the Corporation. The rateable value of the city is £1,386,321, and a rate of 1d in the £ produces £5,308, while its total outstanding debt is £5,888,268, of which £4,263,783 is stated to be in reproductive undertakings. A redemption fund will be established and invested under the supervision of the Ministry of Health for the repayment of the loans represented by the stock. This is an excellent investment.

City of Wellington.—Issue of £387,900 5 per cent. debentures, redeemable December 1, 1940. The Union Bank of Australia advertise particulars of this issue, describing it as the balance of the Wellington City Water Supply Loan, 1920. This loan, together with interest and sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, is secured on a special rate on all rateable property in the city of Wellington, exclusive of the borough of Miramar. This special rate will yield an annual sum of £51,744, but the corporation has power to increase the rate if necessary. The revenue of the city in the year 1910-11 amounted to £402,735; in 1923-24 it was £1,308,355. The population was 64,372 in 1911, but by 1924 it had grown to 90,940; the rateable value is £14,488,330, as against £9,991,484 in that year. The loan is free from all New Zealand taxes, unless held by persons domiciled in the Dominion of New Zealand.

Spillers' Milling and Associated Industries, Limited.—Authorized share capital, £5,200,000, of which £3,794,971 has been issued, and is fully paid. This is an offer for sale of £1,000,000 5½ per cent. 10-year sinking fund notes at 98 per cent. The company is an association of British interests engaged in the manufacture and distribution of flour and kindred products. The associated companies own mills, factories, and warehouses throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, well situated to facilitate handling of raw materials and products both for export and domestic markets. The net assets of the combined companies after the present financing will amount to £8,502,302. It is stated that the average profits of the company for the last two years cover the interest requirements of the notes more than five and a-half times. The proceeds of the issue will be used for paying off bank loans incurred for the acquisition and extension of Canadian and other interests, and for additional working capital rendered necessary by increased prices of cereals. The company will each year, commencing with December 1, 1925, make payments to Barclays Bank, as trustees, sufficient, when accumulated at compound interest, to provide for the redemption of the entire issue by maturity. These sums will be invested in British Government securities, or placed on deposit with Barclays Bank, and will constitute the security for the notes. The company will reserve the right to apply the whole or any part of the sinking fund in the purchase of notes on the market. Notes purchased will be cancelled and delivered to the trustees. The trust deed will provide that if the company shall create any mortgages or charges (except in favour of bankers to secure temporary loans and overdrafts in the ordinary course of business) the notes shall be secured as to principal and interest *pari passu* with or in priority to such mortgages or charges. A good industrial security.

The Mid-European Corporation, Limited.—Authorized capital, £1,000,000, in shares of £10 each. The issued capital amounts to £400,000, and 60,000 shares of £10 each are now offered at £10 10s per share. The undertaking was formed in June last for the purpose of investing its funds in Central Europe to take advantage of the high rates of interest offered for capital on the Continent. The authorized capital was originally £500,000 in £10 shares, 40,000 of which were subscribed privately at par; 39,990 of these shares have been called up to the extent of £7 10s per share, and the remaining ten have been paid up in full. The uncalled balance of £99,975 will be called up so as to be payable with the final instalment payable on the shares of the present issue. The bulk of the available capital, it is stated, has already been employed in making advances to various Continental undertakings of good standing, and in connection with these advances the corporation has

acquired options over blocks of shares. To enable the corporation to deal with business now offered by some of the most important concerns on the Continent, the directors decided to increase the capital to £1,000,000. The corporation is in co-operation with the following banks and bankers abroad:—L. Behrens and Sohne, in Hamburg; Niederösterreichische Escompte-Gesellschaft, in Vienna; Comptoir d'Escompte de Geneve, in Geneva; and Pester Ungarische Commercial Bank, in Budapest. The names of the directors are an indication that shareholders will have men at the helm who understand economic conditions prevailing on the Continent.

Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Limited.—Authorized capital £1,000,000, of which £700,000 has been issued. The loan capital is £500,000, in 6½ per cent. (free of income-tax) first mortgage bonds. An advertisement in the Press gives details of the issued bonds. These amount to £350,000, in 6½ per cent., tax free, first mortgage bonds, which were sold as to £210,000 for cash at 90 per cent. between January and November, 1921, the remaining £140,000 being issued and available as security. The issue is secured as a specific charge on freeholds, and as a first floating charge on the undertaking, property, and assets of the company. The bonds are redeemable at 102 on January 1, 1936, or on any January 1 or July 1 before that date. The profits of the company, before paying debenture interest, were £92,317 for 1923, £40,938 for 1922, and £26,018 for 1921. What the value of the assets may be we are not informed.

Wandsworth, Wimbledon, and Epsom District Gas Company.—Authorized stock capital £1,812,471, of which there has been paid up (including premiums) £1,262,003. The authorized loan capital is £906,235, of which there has been borrowed £268,590. Tenders are invited for £280,000 of new capital. This comprises £150,000 4 per cent. irredeemable debenture stock at the minimum price of 79 per cent., £100,000 of 5 per cent. preference stock at the minimum price of 94 per cent., and £30,000 of ordinary stock at the minimum price of 102 per cent. The company's profits for 1923 were £101,000, and exceeded debenture and preference charges, including those on the stocks now issued, by £76,500, and a dividend of £6 9s 6d was paid on the ordinary capital. On the basis of the minimum prices at which tenders will be accepted, the preferred debentures yield £5 1s 3d per cent., the preference stock £5 6s 5d per cent., and the ordinary stock £6 7s per cent. The sales of gas for the year ended December 31st last were 14,137,459 therms, equivalent to 3,007,970,000 cubic feet, an increase of 5.7 over the previous year. The new capital now being raised will be utilised in repaying mortgages and part of a loan from the company's bankers obtained for extensions of the works, plant, mains, &c., necessary to enable the constantly increasing demands for gas to be met. A good utility undertaking investment.

Consolidated African Selection Trust, Limited.—Authorized capital £250,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of 5s each. The issued capital amounts to £224,335. Debentures have been authorised for £150,000, of which £125,000 have been issued. The company has been formed to acquire the issued share capital of African Selection Trust and Anglo-African Exploration, the note issue of the former company and the debentures being secured as a specific first charge on the whole of the shares and notes so acquired, and as a floating charge over the undertaking and other assets of the company. All the debentures issued have been subscribed at 95 for cash, and are repayable at 110 by March, 1941, by annual drawings; the right is reserved, however, to pay them off at 110 at any time on three months' notice. In the voluminous details published in the Press to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, it is mentioned that the African Selection Trust and the Anglo-African Exploration were formed to acquire mining concessions covering alluvial diamond deposits in the Akim district, Gold Coast, West Africa. In a paragraph we notice it is stated that "Prospecting in the concession has put in sight in excess of 2,500,000 carats." To what extent debenture holders can regard these deposits as security is a matter which no doubt has already been discussed.

Hide and Co., Limited.—Authorized capital, £100,000, divided into 100,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of 10s each and 400,000 ordinary shares of 10s each. This is an issue of the whole of the capital at par. This undertaking has been formed to acquire the business of Hide and Co., drapers, costumiers, milliners, furriers, and furniture and carpet warehousemen, of Kingston-on-Thames. Of the ordinary shares, 240,000 have been subscribed in cash by the directors and others, and the remaining 160,000 are now offered at par to subscribers for preference shares. The business, which was established about 1740, is being acquired as from August 15, 1924, free from all liabilities up to that date. The advertised abridged prospectus states that "the purchase consideration payable by the company has been fixed under agreement No. 2, specified in the full prospectus." Yet it is suggested to investors that they should subscribe on the information given in the abridged prospectus!

Maidstone and District Motor Services, Limited.—Authorized share capital £250,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 175,000 are issued and fully paid. The company has not issued any debentures, and we are informed that the assets are free from charge. This is an issue of 35,000 ordinary shares at par. The company was formed in 1911, and the present issue will rank *pari passu* with the existing ordinary shares. The fleet of omnibuses and motor coaches owned by the company numbers 137. Profits are shown in the prospectus for the past four years. It is stated that the dividend for the year to March 31st last was 10 per cent., and that an interim dividend of 5 per cent. has been paid for the current year. The issue will be utilised to purchase additional vehicles, &c. The information offered is sufficient to indicate to investors that it is a profitable utility undertaking.

North Rong River Tin Company, Limited.—Authorized capital £35,000, divided into shares of 2s each, of which 290,007 have been issued. The company was incorporated in June, 1924, to acquire mining properties in Nigeria and elsewhere. Prospecting licences have been purchased for £25,000 in cash, plus "varying royalties." The 290,007 shares mentioned above were issued privately at par. Of this number, 220,000 were underwritten. Apparently the shares will shortly be placed on the market, for these details are given in connection with announcement in the public Press having regard to a Stock Exchange quotation.

Mini Mini (Nyasaland).—Authorized capital £25,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 22,070 have been issued. The company was incorporated on January 1st last to acquire the property known as the Mini Mini Estate, situated at Mlanje, Nyasaland. The estate comprises 1,470 acres freehold and 115 acres leasehold, and the area planted with tea is 300 acres. The purchase consideration was £15,000, as to £5,000 in cash and £10,000 left on mortgage at 6 per cent. The crop for the first accounting period of six months was 58,549 lbs, which realised an average price of 1s. 4.34d. It is proposed to plant up an additional 145 acres during the next 12 months. The direction of the concern is in experienced hands.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Yield	Price	Yield		Price	Yield	Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week		Week	Week		Week
War 3½, 1925-28	86½	96½	Aust. 6½, 1931-41	105	105				
Loans 4½, 1925-45	87½	97½	Canada 4½, 1920-25	100	100				
4½, 1925-47	100	101	India 3½, Block	67½	67½				
4½, 1925-48	100	100	Do 7½, 1926-31	103	103				
Funding Loan 4½	90	90	Do 5½, 1932	103	103				
Victory Bonds 4½	93	93	Do 4½, 1933	87½	87½				
Conversion Loan 4½	79	79	N.S.W. 6½, 1922-32	100	100				
Consols 2½	58	58	Nigeria 6½, 1949-73	115	115				
Irish Land Stock 2½	60	60	U. of S.A. 6½, 1930-40	104	104				
Local Loans 3½	67½	67½	Victoria 5½, 1924-34	102	102				
			W. Aust. 6½, 1930-40	105	105				

British Railways.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Great Western, Ord.	111½	110½	Southern, Ord. "A"	41½	40½
London & North-Eastern	82½	82½	Do Ord. "B"	10½	10
5½ Pref. Ord.	82½	82½	Do Pref. Ord.	84	83½
Do Del. Ord.	31	31	Do Del. Ord.	43	43
Scottish, Ord.	103½	102½	Underground Electric	24	24
Metropolitan, Ord.	76½	77½	Do "A" (1)	99	99
Metropolitan District	53½	53½	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	99½	99½

Banks.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Barclays B. (£1, 10d)	23	23½	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	61	62
Chartered Bk of India	20½	21½	National Provincial	11	11½
Lloyds (£5 with 1d)	3½	3½	Standard of S. Africa	11½	11½
Midland (£12, with 2d paid)	8½	8½	Westminster Bank	17½	17½
Nat. Bank of Egypt	25½	26½			
(£10)					

American Railroads.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Chesapeake & Ohio	93	93	Southern	76	77
Erie	31	32	Do Non-cum Pref.	84	84
Do 4½ 1st Pref.	42	42			

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Antofagasta Cons.	90½	89½	Leopoldville	28½	30
B.A. and Pacific	82½	81½	Mexican Railway	9	9
B.A. & G. Southern	88	86½	Do 1st Pref.	27	27
Buenos Ayres West.	82	80½	Do 2nd Pref.	15	15
Canadian Pacific	165	165	San Paulo	156	157
Central Argentine	76½	75	United Havana	90½	89

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Argentine 5½, 1886-7	100	100	Hungarian 7½, 1924	92	92
Austrian 6½ Guar.	96	96½	Japanese 4½, 1910	63	63
Belgian 3½	73	73	Do 5½, 1924	32	32
Brazil 6½ Fund, 1914	71	71	Mexican Cons. 1889	37	38½
Chilian 4½, 1896	86	85½	Peruvian Corp. Pref.	35	34
Do 7½	101½	101½	P.L.M. 6½	94	94
Chinese 5½, 1912	69	68	Portuguese (New)	27	27
Egyptian 4½	75	75	Russian 5½, 1906	6	7
French 4½	18	18	Spanish 4½	64	64
Do 4½	18	18	Seine (Dept.) 7½	103	104
German 3½ Loan	118	118	Siam 7½	107	107
Do 7½, 1924	51pm	51pm			

Telegraphs.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Anglo-American "A"	24½	24½	Marconi Canada	13½	13½
Marconi Wireless	13	13	Marconi Marine	13½	13½

Miscellaneous.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Aerated Bread (£1)	13	13	Linggi Plantations (£1)	13½	13½
Amal. Cottons (£1)	3½	3½	Lipton (£1)	17½	17½
Anglo Persian Oil (£1)	3½	3½	Lever Bros 7½ Cum Pref (£1)	17½	17½
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	3½	3½	Do 8½ Cum A Pref (£1)	17½	17½
and Co. (£1)	3½	3½	Do 10½ Cum A Pref (£1)	17½	17½
Ass. Portland Cement (£1)	3½	3½	Lister (£1)	17½	17½
Barker, John (£1)	3½	3½	Loeb's Oilfields (£1)	10½	10½
B'ham Small Arms (£1)	3½	3½	Lyons (J. & Co. (£1)	43½	43½
Brail Tracton (£100)	55½	58½	Mexican Eagle (£10)	4	4
British-American	55½	58½	Nobel Industries (£1)	13½	13½
Tobacco (£1)	51½	51½	Pekin (2)	33½	33½
Burmah Oil (£1)	51½	51½	Rubber Plantations	17½	17½
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	3½	3½	Investment (£1)	17½	17½
Courtauld (£1)	28½	28½	Shell Transport (£1)	48	48
Cunard (£1)	1	1	Meat (£1)	33½	33½
Dorman, Long (£1)	17½	17½	Union Cold Storage	17½	17½
Dunlop Rubber (£1)	35	35	6½ Cum. Pref. (£1)	17½	17½
Fine Cotton Spinners	24½	24½	Do 7½ Cum. Pref. (£1)	17½	17½
Forestal Land (£1)	17½	17½	United Dairies (£1)	13½	13½
Furness, Withy (£1)	17½	17½	United Berdang (£1)	17½	17½
Highlands and Low-	17½	17½	United Tobacco (£1)	43½	43½
lands Rubber (£1)	17½	17½	Vallambrosa (2)	43½	43½
Hudson's Bay (£1)	51½	51½	Vickers (£1)	17½	17½
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	41	41	Watney Def. Stk.	185½	184½

Mines.

	Price	Yield		Price	Yield
	Week	Week		Week	Week
Brakpan (£1)	33	33	Knights	4	4
Broken Hill Prop. (£1)	17½	17½	Modderfontein (10)	43½	43½
Chartered (£1)	43½	43½	Modderfont. "B" (5)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	43½	43½	Modderfont. Deep (6)	24	24
Crown Mines (10)	43½	43½	Premier Def. (2/6)	6	6
De Beers Def. (£24)	11½	11½	Rand Mines (5)	3	3
East Rand Prop. (£1)	43½	43½	Selukwe	3	3
Geduld (£1)	43½	43½	Rio Tinto (£5)	35	35
Gov. Gold Areas	7½	7½	Spring Mines (£1)	21½	21½

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	September, 1924.			October, 1924.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	13,000	14,073	1,835	13,500	14,838	2,012
Brakpan ..	69,000	119,501	43,757	79,000	135,389	55,250
City Deep ..	95,000	174,197	67,571	99,000	176,765	64,948
Consolidated Main Reef ..	56,600	78,984	14,209	57,500	81,107	13,840
Crown Mines (10s shares) ..	208,000	287,314	84,471	223,000	293,641	85,944
Durban Roadport Deep ..	34,400	48,201	4,033	36,700	51,519	6,039
East Rand Proprietary ..	133,500	145,964	16,136	140,000	149,225	16,576
Farreira Deep ..	35,200	38,735	6,394	34,000	38,696	5,709
Geduld Proprietary ..	69,000	110,018	45,588	71,000	111,347	46,014
Geduld Deep ..	66,100	69,237	4,544	67,600	68,644	3,378
Glynn's Lydenburg ..	4,170	5,688	116	4,000	6,144	1,403
Government Areas ..	159,000	335,844	203,144	169,000	347,753	212,164
Kleinfontein, New ..	93,000	115,133	23,189	92,000	115,386	23,331
Langlaagte Estate ..	21,034	21,738	1,396	13,742	15,741	480
Langlaagte Vlei ..	14,900	32,295	15,506	14,000	33,101	16,104
Meyer and Charlton ..	68,000	119,746	59,248	67,000	119,704	57,462
Modderfontein B. ..	44,100	106,632	71,576	45,500	108,660	72,619
Modderfontein Deep Levels ..	29,600	43,953	3,486	30,500	44,190	2,235
Modderfontein East ..	123,000	267,981	160,236	127,000	271,370	163,855
Modderfontein, New (24 sha.) ..	65,000	110,256	41,172	67,000	110,967	41,033
New State Areas ..	50,500	63,509	5,470	53,300	65,472	5,881
Nourse Mines ..	22,200	21,215	3,002	23,000	21,716	4,411
Primrose, New ..	201,000	234,932	57,869	209,000	246,619	58,411
Randall's State Estates ..	9,000	9,573	1,073	9,500	9,919	1,078
Robinson (25 shares) ..	75,000	109,580	11,465	59,000	69,478	11,267
Robinson Deep ..	58,500	77,786	9,500	91,100	81,354	18,079
Rose Deep ..	86,000	74,009	15,566	91,100	81,354	18,079
Simmer and Jack ..	65,200	133,730	65,311	67,600	135,390	66,480
Spring Mines ..	11,000	27,879	7,425	11,400	28,499	7,444
Sub-Nigel ..	16,100	27,359	9,073	16,620	24,065	6,204
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates ..	37,500	46,377	14,932	38,500	46,332	15,404
Van Ryn Deep ..	67,500	136,338	75,046	68,000	138,170	75,044
Village Deep ..	53,500	75,292	17,786	51,700	64,395	8,342
West Rand Consolidated ..	38,000	43,331	4,030	40,000	44,596	4,030
West Springs ..	39,700	65,318	26,526	39,400	65,122	25,141
Witwatersrand Deep ..	47,000	47,867	6,005	50,000	48,245	6,000
Witwatersrand (Knight's) ..	31,500	34,444	3,203	34,700	36,053	3,209
Wolhuter ..						

c £4 11s 6d per fine oz.

c £4 8s 3d net per fine oz.

£4 9s 6d net per fine oz. * Loss.

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

FURTHER CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations, Syndicate, Limited, was held, on the 12th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, Mr F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: This is our seventeenth annual meeting, and for the seventeenth time I have the privilege of addressing you and putting before you a statement which I trust you will find not wholly unsatisfactory, in spite of the fact that we are still in the stage of development, and that in the Gezira, through no fault of ours, the 1923-24 season has been a bad cotton year. On the other hand, at Zeidab, our most northerly plantation, we had a good cotton year, and this, combined with the ruling high cotton prices, enabled this station to give us a fair return for the money invested there.

In the Gezira we suffered from three misfortunes. The first adverse factor was "Blackarm," which is a bacterial disease. The second was "Thrips," which is an insect pest, and number three, our ginning factory at Wad Medani was completely gutted by fire in the middle of our picking season. Our headquarters staff in the Sudan, however, rose to the occasion, and within four weeks we had more than half of the gins running again, and two weeks later the remainder. When you consider how remote Wad Medani is from the resources of civilisation, you will, I think, agree with me that this was a notable achievement. As regards the Blackarm, we were hopeful at the beginning of the season of having found a way to stamp out this disease by a special treatment of our cotton seed, but I regret to say Blackarm has again made its appearance this year, and we have to try some other expedient. For the Thrips we have likewise so far found no remedy.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

If you will turn now to the balance-sheet you will see that our capital has been raised from £450,000 to £600,000, and to-day the whole of the 150,000 new shares have been issued and paid for, with the result that the share premium account stands to-day at £1,013,000, as against £805,883 on June 30th, the end of our financial year. When your board decided in May this year to raise fresh working capital, I noticed in the Press remarks to the effect that shareholders would be well advised if they would find out why all this money was required, considering that our concession had nearly run out. Well, ladies and gentlemen, our concession has not yet begun, and for the rest I can assure you that this additional money is not required for a joy ride. When raising the capital of our syndicate in March, 1920, from £300,000 to £750,000, I stated that in all probability the whole of this increase would in time have to be issued. That is exactly what is going to happen, and in time I shall have to come to you again for more money by the issue of the remaining 150,000 shares. May I say at once that when this takes place we hope to put before you a scheme for the rearrangement of our capital which I have no doubt will gain your full approval, and which will do away with our share premium account.

While on this subject I can tell you that we have now all the money in hand for the completion of the development and equipment necessary for the 300,000 acres area. We have, however, still to provide for a sufficient working capital, and, to give you an idea of our requirements in this respect, I want to mention just one or two items. Advances to tenants during a full working year will amount to roughly £400,000. Railway carriage and steamer freights to bring our cotton home (leaving cotton seed out of my calculation), £400,000. Ginning expenses, including sacks, bags, salaries, and other incidental expenses, will likewise run into several hundred thousand pounds. These figures need not

frighten you; they do not alarm us, because the more we have to pay in this respect the better we shall be pleased, as big expenditure under these headings can only mean big cotton crops.

The Hosh reserve account has been increased from £80,000 to £140,000. To the Wad Nari reserve account we have put down—being the first year in operation—the sum of £70,000.

STAFF PROVIDENT FUND.

Our staff provident fund stands now at £22,500, provided you again sanction this year's contribution of £7,500 towards this most necessary item. Your board is now engaged in working out a scheme by which we intend to change the present basis into a mutually contributory scheme. Roughly the idea is as follows:—Approved members of our Sudan staff will be allowed to become members of a provident fund to be invested in trustee securities in the names of trustees. To this fund equal contributions on the basis of a percentage of salary will be made by the employee and the company, and, on leaving the service of the company, a member of the fund will receive a capital sum representing his own accumulated contributions, plus, subject to good conduct and length of service, a proportion of the whole of the accumulated contributions made on his behalf by the company. If we succeed in establishing this basis, and if our staff agrees to these conditions, the present fund will disappear and we shall use the whole of this money by granting paid-up policies to some of our older employees, who have borne the burden and the heat and the ups and downs of the leaner times during which we were learning our experience. It is hardly necessary for me to commend this action to your favourable consideration, as we have and always have had an excellent and loyal staff, for whom we cannot do too much.

Creditors total £207,000, against £129,000 last year. Most of this has been settled since we closed our books.

INSTALLATION EXPENDITURE.

On the credit side you find an increase of about £5,000 in the Zeidab pumping installation account, due to the completion of the new Diesel engine. Heavy additions had to be made to the general development account, as well as to canalisation buildings and furniture, agricultural implements and light railway accounts, all due to the progress made with the big scheme.

Stock of cotton figures at £337,000, against £123,000 the year before. Our total shipments of cotton came to 17,679 bales, of which we had only disposed of 8,221 bales on June 30th. Our valuations for the unsold stock were naturally based on conservative lines. Within the last few days we have sold the balance of our stock, so that we are now starting with a clean sheet for the coming crop.

KASSALA COTTON COMPANY.

You will notice that our shareholding in the Kassala Cotton Company is unchanged. At the annual meeting of this company, held in May this year, the chairman explained to the shareholders that the board had some uneasiness regarding possible activities on the part of the Italian Government in Eritrea. These difficulties still exist, but negotiations are in progress on the subject, and we still hope for a satisfactory settlement. Meanwhile, I can inform you that the Kassala Cotton Company has this year—their first year—something like 15,000 feddans under cotton.

One very pleasing feature in connection with our work there is the apparent keen desire of the native population to become tenants under our partnership scheme. As a matter of fact, tenants offered themselves for more than double the area for which water was available.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN BRAZIL.

A new item under this heading is 15,000 shares in the Brazil Plantations Syndicate, and, regarding this holding, I would like to say a word or two, as it has been mentioned to me that our taking an active part in this new undertaking showed a feeling of distrust in our Sudan venture. Ladies and gentlemen, nothing could be further from the truth; we always had, and still have, the greatest confidence in the Sudan as a cotton-producing country, and our work there and the results we have achieved so far speak for themselves. It is, however, our ambition gradually to make our syndicate into a holding or parent concern.

The prospects for profitable cotton-growing in the world are good. You can pick and choose interests in other parts of the globe, and we have for this purpose the best staff in the world, and why should we not make use of this advantage? In this matter, too, please do not be alarmed, as your board is guided by conservative principles and acts with caution. Now, ever since I have been connected with cotton-growing, I have made it my business to keep *au courant* with what is going on in other countries in this respect, and for years past I have been convinced that in time to come Brazil will be one of the really big cotton-growing countries in the world. For the moment the Brazil Plantations Syndicate has acquired two small estates, one the Fazenda Santa Emilia, and the other Fazenda Cayua, with an area of 8,500 acres. The Brazil Plantations Syndicate is fortunate to have our colleague

Lord Lovat as its chairman. He hopes to pay his second visit to Brazil early next year, and I hope to accompany him.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

To return to the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, our financial position is good, as the figures in our balance-sheet show. Now, if you will look for a moment at the profit and loss account, you will see that our total gross profits amount to about £251,000. Against this our general expenses and cultivation expenses are a good deal higher than last year, owing to a largely increased staff and owing to the duplication of our cotton area. The net profit, after liberal writing off, is therefore £113,000. Against this we paid you, in July, an interim dividend of 10 per cent., amounting to £45,000, and we now propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., which will amount to £60,000, absorbing £105,000 in all.

The balance carried forward stands now at the splendid figure of £176,500. It has been the policy of your board gradually to build up this reserve with the idea of having a dividend equalisation account, and we shall not hesitate to draw thereon in case of need. Our business is an agricultural one, which means that we are subject to good and medium crops—we never have had an entire failure—and we therefore consider it wise to take precautions.

WORK AT THE STATIONS.

Now a word or two about the work done at our stations. At Zeidab we have completed the new installation of a Diesel oil engine, and the plant is working satisfactorily. We believe that the plant will result in considerable economies in running expenses. As already mentioned, we have had a very satisfactory year, and, as far as I can judge at present, the coming season promises to be an equally good one, as we have picked already about 11,500 kantars and shipped about 1,000 bales, part of which is already sold at a fair price. In the Gezira, on the other hand, unfortunately, for the reasons already stated, our cotton crop from all stations has not been good, as I saw myself, and it resulted in a yield of just under three kantars per feddan. This year we have a similar acreage—namely, about 20,000 feddans—under cotton in the Gezira, and the latest reports from our managing director are, I regret to say, not altogether satisfactory, inasmuch as both black-arm and thrips are again general over all our Gezira cotton fields. Luckily, so far, blackarm does not appear to have done much damage, but thrips are on the increase. To summarise, I would call our prospects for this season fair.

The Sudan Government has in June this year given us definite notice that the Makwar Dam should be completed next year, and that gravitation water will be supplied to us in time for the 1925-26 crop. If this forecast proves correct, it will mean that our concession will date from July, 1925, which is important for you to know and to make a note of. Under these circumstances we are working to have a very considerable area ready for cultivation in July, 1925, and, if all goes well, I hope to be in a position to announce to you in 1926-27 that we have achieved what we originally set out to do—namely, to have 100,000 acres under cotton in the Gezira.

THE 300,000 ACRES AREA.

In this connection I may tell you that we had to remodel to some extent our previous scheme for twenty stations on the 300,000 acres area. We have added this year to our report a plan showing a division of this acreage into nineteen stations. This was done to facilitate the necessary water control, which is a highly technical matter, and on which I need not enlarge. We have started ploughing on the extended areas, and I feel sure you will be pleased to hear that of the 300,000 acres we have completed so far the development of 225,000 acres and the canalisation of 200,000 acres. In our housing programme—namely, houses, offices, stores, &c.—

of the nineteen stations we have finished about two-thirds, and the remainder will be finished by July next year. Our requirements in ploughing engines and other heavy implements are mostly on the spot, and in working order. Of our four new big ginning factories, the first one will be completed by the end of this month, the second by the end of December, and the two remaining will be finished some time next year.

RESEARCH WORK.

At our last annual meeting I mentioned that a commission, consisting of Sir John Russell, of Rothamstead, and of Dr Martin Leake, of India, and now Principal of the Trinidad Research Station, had been appointed for the purpose of advising the Sudan Government, the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and your syndicate regarding scientific research work relating to cotton planting. Their valuable report has been handed in, studied, and adopted in most of its recommendations. The three parties mentioned contribute towards the expenses. We, on our part, undertake the running of a seed farm under an expert. Our relations with the Sudan Government are good, and our work has been unaffected by political conditions.

COTTON POSSIBILITIES IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS.

During my annual trip to the Sudan at the beginning of the year, Mr MacIntyre, our managing director, and I paid a visit to the Nuba Mountains Province, which is situated between the White Nile and Kordofan, with a view to investigating the possibilities of cotton growing in that district. It is our considered opinion that in years to come this province will prove a valuable cotton-growing area, and, whether we have anything to do with it or not, a large amount of cotton will be grown there. You have there the three essentials necessary for success in this respect, namely:—(1) Large tracts of land with good soil; (2) the necessary rainfall for germinating the seed and ripening into cotton; (3) real cotton climatic conditions. On the other hand, you have, as in every new country, considerable difficulties to contend with, chiefly the lack of communications. There are also other points which require careful study and investigation. But, when all is said and done, difficulties are there to be overcome, and, as mentioned before, I hope I shall live to see in the Nuba Mountains a flourishing cotton industry. What the Sudan really wants is money for the construction of lines of communication free of interest for a number of years.

Mr J. A. Hutton seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, was held, on the 12th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London. The Right Hon. Lord Ashfield, P.C., presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Last year I foreshadowed that we might look for a definite improvement in our business, and that expectation, I think you will agree, has been fully realised during the year under review. You will have observed that the gross receipts of the railways have increased by £530,000, or approximately 14 per cent., over the previous year. On the other hand, the working expenses have increased by £225,000, or about 9 per cent. The net receipts show an increase of £305,000, or 23 per cent., while the ratio of expenditure to receipts was 62.60 per cent., against 65.40 per cent., or a reduction of 2.80 per cent. This improved result is



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	£8,731,560
Reserve Fund	£4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	£4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York) and

BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

due, in a large measure, to the greater prosperity which the Island of Cuba has enjoyed, and which is reflected in the earnings from passenger and general goods traffic, and in particular to the much heavier sugar traffic.

PASSENGER AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

The earnings from passengers were £1,253,000, against £1,150,000 for the previous year—an increase of £103,000, or nearly 9 per cent. The receipts from general goods traffic were £1,257,000, against £1,118,000—an increase of £139,000, or nearly 12½ per cent. Sugar traffic produced the greatest increase, the earnings from that source being £1,078,000, against £882,000, an increase of £196,000, or over 22 per cent. The increase in sundry receipts, which is directly attributable to the heavier sugar traffic, amounts to £74,000, or 19½ per cent. With the exception of livestock traffic, ferry and Guanabacoa service, and receipts from public telegrams, which show small decreases, every item of receipts has contributed to the improvement which has taken place in the gross receipts during the year under review. This year we have carried nearly 35 per cent. of the total sugar crop of the island, compared with about 31 per cent. in the previous year. On the expenditure side of the accounts, most of the departments show an increase in costs during the year.

The total tonnage of goods traffic handled during the year amounted to nearly 13,000,000 tons, an increase of 1,726,000 tons. Of that total 9,738,000 tons is represented by sugar traffic, while public traffic, apart from sugar and livestock traffic, reached a total of 2,743,000 tons, or an increase of 349,000 tons.

I visited Cuba in September last, so that I might make myself familiar with matters connected with your undertakings. The train service appears to meet the requirements of the public, and is economically worked. The rolling stock is well maintained, and the permanent way, especially where it has been ballasted, is in good condition. Considerable ballasting and renewal of sleepers is being done, and I think that the money which is being spent for these purposes is a wise and necessary expenditure. There are several stations which are somewhat antiquated, and which do not provide proper accommodation for our passengers; these will require rebuilding. As far as the physical condition of your property is concerned, I can give you a good report. I wish that I might be able to say the same about the labour situation.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

It was my good fortune to meet the President of Cuba, Dr Zayas, the President-elect, General Gerardo Machado, members of the Government, and other prominent people. Business conditions on the island are very satisfactory. In a cable recently received from the acting general manager, Mr Mason, the cane crop for the current year is estimated at a very high figure. He says: "Prospects for the coming crop are at present very favourable, and, given favourable weather conditions, I expect an increase in production of 10 per cent." When I come to place before you the prospects for the current year, I find myself in somewhat of a difficulty. Traffic receipts are satisfactory, the latest figures being for the week ended November 8th £60,625, an increase of £2,351, the aggregate for the period being £1,215,985, an increase of £121,250, but, on the other hand, our expenses for the current year will be higher owing to the increased cost of labour. You have been told that the crop for the coming season is estimated at 4,500,000 tons, and this should benefit your railways.

I mentioned last year the law which had been recently enacted, and which, amongst other things, authorised the consolidation of the existing railway systems of the island. During the months which have intervened the Cuba Railroad and its allied company and the Cuban Northern Railway have consolidated their interests, so that they may now be regarded as one system. This means that there are practically only two important railway systems on the island—yours and what is known as the Consolidated Railroads of Cuba. Of the two, yours is by far the larger and more important. No plan is under consideration which has for its object the consolidation of these two interests.

The report and accounts were agreed to.

DALGETY AND COMPANY, LIMITED. GRATIFYING RESULTS OF THE YEAR. PROSPECTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON.

The fortieth annual general meeting of Dalgety and Company, Limited, was held, on the 13th instant, at the head office, 65-68, Leadenhall street, London.

The Hon. Edmund W. Parker (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr C. D. Mackintosh Gow) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said that a year ago the directors had the pleasure of laying before the shareholders a very satisfactory statement of accounts, and it afforded them

greater pleasure to submit on the present occasion an even more gratifying result. Australia had, as usual, contributed largely to this result, but there had been a distinct improvement in the returns from New Zealand—an improvement which had commenced to manifest itself in the previous year. Trading in general between this country and the Commonwealth and the Dominion had, however, been severely hampered by the exchange position. Unfortunately, borrowing by the States and municipalities of the Commonwealth on the London market had continued during the year, thus adding to the funds held by the banks in London, and this, of course, had helped to aggravate the situation. If this borrowing would cease there seemed little doubt that the overseas exchange of goods would eventually rectify the exchange situation. Meantime, some temporary remedy had to be sought. The Federal Parliament had recently passed an Act which would alter the constitution of the Commonwealth Bank. This institution would now be governed by an independent board of directors, and would have control of the note issue of the Commonwealth, which up till recently had been in the hands of a body known as the Notes Issue Board. The bank had now undertaken to issue additional note currency to a substantial amount, and he hoped that this would help to relieve the situation. At the same time, it should be the policy of the Australian banks to continue reasonable restrictions of local credit, which would assist in preventing inflation, while not unduly hampering industry.

THE WOOL MARKET.

Reviewing the course of the wool market, the Chairman said it had been generally anticipated that the 1923-24 season would show a decrease in the Australian wool clip of about 250,000 bales, some estimates putting it at an even higher figure. The actual decrease, however, amounted to 138,000 bales, while the New Zealand clip showed an increase of just over 5,000 bales. Prices rose steadily after the opening of the Australian season in September, until, at the end of June, 1924, merinos showed an average rise of from 15 to 20 per cent., fine crossbreds about 25 to 30 per cent., and medium and coarse crossbreds from 65 to 75 per cent., and thus the value of the clips showed a marked increase. Actual sales in Australia and New Zealand for 1923-24 showed a decline of 207,244 bales, but the actual increase in value amounted to over £10,750,000. To put this in another form, the Australasian average value per bale for the 1923-24 season was given as £29 9s 9d, against an average of £22 9s 8d for the 1922-23 season—an average increase in value of over £7 per bale—a most satisfactory result for all growers. This year it was expected that the Australian clip would amount to somewhere about 2,000,000 bales, which would more than make up for last season's decrease. The New Zealand clip, on the other hand, would probably be about stationary. Values were now on a very high level—some people might consider them dangerously high—but according to reliable statistics the world consumption of wool had far outstripped the production. Comparing the prices ruling at the end of June, 1923, with those of to-day, merino wools were from 30 to 35 per cent. dearer, fine crossbreds 40 to 45 per cent. dearer, while medium and coarse crossbreds showed an extraordinary advance—as much as 90 to 100 per cent. There was at present, a strong demand for fine wools, but an even keener demand for crossbreds, and this had resulted in the clearance of the whole of the stocks of B.A.W.R.A. wool, the last bale being sold in Liverpool in May of this year.

ENCOURAGING NEW CLIP.

The character and condition of the first instalment of the new Australian clip were encouraging, the sheep cutting heavier fleeces generally, while the staple was sound and well grown. In many districts in the Eastern States the sheep would cut fully 2 lbs of wool per head more than last season. On the other hand, in the Northern parts of Western Australia the rainfall had been extremely light, and losses of stock had consequently been heavy.

A most important point affecting the lifting of the coming clip was the question of finance. The extreme delicacy of the financial position had naturally made it very difficult for buyers to open credits, so that in the absence of some improvement there was sure to be some difficulty in lifting the quantity allocated for sale in Australia before Christmas—namely, 850,000 bales. Prices had reached such a high level that very large sums were required by purchasers. The whole position practically depended upon the question of exchange, and he was glad to be able to state that an arrangement had been come to between the Commonwealth Bank and the Associated Australasian Banks whereby the Wool and Wheat Exchange would be partially pooled, after allowing for the varying incidence of the banks' business and resources. In order to do this the Commonwealth Bank would take its share by making available the additional currency required. Care would naturally be taken not to encourage inflation, and he expected that the issue of currency would be limited to the exceptional business to which it was intended that it should be applied. He hoped that the measures would be adequate to deal with the situation.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

The value of the dairy produce exports from the Commonwealth during the past season reached about £5,000,000. The average price realised for butter was 8s, and for cheese about 12s per cwt less than in the previous season, but, in spite of this fall, prices must still be satisfactory to producers. In New Zealand, exports of butter and cheese were about 5 per cent. less than the record figures of the previous season. The average price realised for butter showed a fall of 6s, and for cheese 10s per cwt. The approximate value of New Zealand butter imported into this country for the twelve months under review was nearly seventeen millions sterling. The Dominion still held the premier position in the world as an exporter of dairy produce; the company's business in this commodity had shown a very satisfactory expansion, and prospects for the coming season were encouraging. Prices for mutton and lamb were still at a satisfactory level for producers. The value of frozen meat exported from the Commonwealth for the period under review amounted to about £2,500,000, and from the Dominion about £8,000,000.

WHEAT CROP.

The Australian wheat crop for 1923-24 was about an average one as regarded quantity, while prices, especially towards the latter end of the season, were on a higher level than had prevailed since the war years. The total crop yield was about 126,000,000 bushels, of which some 39,000,000 bushels went into local consumption, leaving 87,000,000 bushels for export, either as wheat or in the form of flour. Good prices last season had resulted in a larger acreage being put under wheat this year, and, as the weather conditions had been most favourable, there was every indication that Australia would enjoy a bumper harvest, which should yield handsome prices, as on present appearances the world's wheat supply was considerably below the average. Considerable progress had been made in cotton-growing in Queensland.

The latest cables to hand were most satisfactory, and indicated that, with the exception of Western Australia and a small part of Queensland, the prospects for the current season in both Australia and New Zealand were very good.

THE ACCOUNTS—INCREASED BONUS.

Dealing with the accounts, the chairman mentioned that the market value of the reserve fund of £1,000,000 at June 30th last was £1,160,118. The net profits for the past year were £323,988, an increase of £69,826 upon the previous year, and, as that year's result was exceptionally good, the present figure must be regarded as approximating to the high-water mark. With £116,063 brought forward, there was an available total of £440,051. The dividend was being maintained at 10 per cent., free of English income-tax, but on this occasion the board had felt justified in recommending an increase of 2s per share in the bonus, making it 7s per share, also free of English income-tax. This bonus, however, should be looked upon as the outcome of exceptional results for the past year only, and he did not wish shareholders to regard it as a permanency. He hoped they would be able to maintain the dividend, but in a business of this nature they were exposed to so many risks, climatic and otherwise, that results must always fluctuate in a marked degree. At the same time, he did not anticipate any great falling off in the company's returns—at least during the current year. They were carrying forward the substantial sum of £170,051, in view of the grave anxiety caused by the exchange question, the directors considering it imperative for the company to be in a strong position, so as to meet any unexpected developments.

In reply to a question, the chairman said that in the current year the company should save something like £16,000 owing to the abolition of the corporation profits tax.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

LONDON MARITIME INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED. STEADY AND CONTINUOUS PROGRESS. LORD KYLSANT ON TRADE PROSPECTS.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the proprietors of the London Maritime Investment Company, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. Lord Kysant, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr O. A. Hall) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—This investment company has been established over 27 years, and has made steady and continuous progress. I have had the honour to be chairman since its incorporation in 1897.

The report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1924, which you have before you, set out clearly the financial position of the company, and do not call for special comment.

INCREASED PROFITS.

The net profit for the year shows a slight increase over that of the previous year, and amounts to £57,677, which, with the balance brought forward, makes a total sum of £62,749.

After providing for the payment of the dividend upon the preference stock and adding £7,065 to the reserve fund, we recommend the distribution of a final dividend upon the ordinary stock of 4 per cent., less income-tax, making, with the interim dividend already paid, a total of 8 per cent. for the year, and leaving £5,309 to be carried forward.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

Our reserve fund (separately invested in British Government securities) now amounts to £200,000, a substantial figure in relation to the size of our capital.

We have no debenture indebtedness, and a valuation of the company's assets showed that the capital and reserve fund were more than intact.

The company is thus in a strong financial position, which justifies the sound conservative policy we have always pursued.

TRADE OUTLOOK.

As an investment company our progress and prosperity are bound up with the general state of British trade, commerce, and shipping. It is, therefore, appropriate that I should say a few words on the present position and future outlook.

The City of London, which is still the centre of the financial world, has no politics save that it is a firm believer in business integrity, honesty, and stability, and the business community look to the new Government under Mr Baldwin to maintain these great British traditions.

No Government can secure good trade and employment, but it can ensure the conditions under which—given enterprise, hard work, and industrial peace—commerce may thrive and the prosperity of our country and Empire be not only assured, but greatly expanded.

SIGNS OF GRADUAL RECOVERY.

British business has been engaged in a severe struggle during the past three years, but I believe this country has not had since the war such an opportunity as now presents itself. There is a steadier state of affairs on the European Continent, with more stable exchanges, and there are many signs of gradual recovery in trade.

We now have in power a strong and stable Government, able to put into operation a clear and consistent policy, to which the country may turn for a period of peace and prosperity.

If, with good will, all concerned will set themselves to solve the problems that lie ahead and individually to do their best, I am confident we will see a real revival of trade, the steady reduction and gradual disappearance of unemployment, and the amelioration of the burdens of taxation which still press on industry and commerce.

I now have pleasure in proposing: "That the report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1924, as submitted be received and adopted, and that the dividend as therein recommended be declared and paid."

Mr George Dodd seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Mr George Dodd as a director of the company.

The resolution was seconded by Sir F. Vernon Thomson, K.B.E. (manager), and unanimously approved.

The auditors, Messrs Fookes, Hickman, and Co., were

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - - Fmk. 257,000,000
Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - - - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

reappointed, and, on the motion of Mr M. B. Snell, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and directors for the able manner in which they had conducted the company's affairs during the past year.

The proceedings then terminated.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3% War Stock	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666
4% War Stock	..	..	..	..	63	63	63	63	63
4% and 5% War Stock	..	..	..	..	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,166
4% Funding Loan	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820	813
4% Victory Bonds	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
Treasury Bonds	..	350	357	347	335	325	324	314	314
Exchequer Bonds	..	..	..	..	453	411	444	457	471
National Savings Certs.	..	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150
Other Debt	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,132
Treasury Bills	..	51	51	1,121	878	616	652	588	614
Temporary Advances	..	15	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107
Other Capital Liabilities	..	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,641	7,667
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,733

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Nov. 10, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Nov. 8, '24.	Nov. 8, '24.
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	173,615,500	186,155,500	178,245,000	1,750,000
Advances by Public Debt Office	638,210,000	588,320,000	613,825,000	4,340,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	811,271,500	774,475,500	792,070,000	3,792,000
Total Floating Debt	1,623,096,500	1,548,951,000	1,584,140,000	9,882,000

* Includes £86,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1924, to Nov. 8, 1924.	Receipts to Nov. 10, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 8, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 10, 1924.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England	..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland	..	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs	101,800,000	61,072,000	77,306,000	2,324,000	2,567,000
Excise	135,500,000	78,561,000	84,431,000	1,389,000	1,546,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	15,600,000	4,965,000	4,355,000	354,000	305,000
Stamps	56,000,000	36,250,000	31,900,000	770,000	500,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	21,000,000	11,800,000	11,350,000	550,000	130,000
Property & Income Tax	1,250,000	660,000	540,000	..	..
Excess Profits Tax	265,000,000	122,044,000	123,892,000	1,195,000	1,740,000
Corporation Profits Tax	61,000,000	26,940,000	23,050,000	570,000	440,000
Post Office	20,000,000	10,270,000	13,200,000	280,000	550,000
Crown Lands	53,500,000	33,200,000	31,350,000	1,300,000	1,250,000
Loans on Sundry	900,000	630,000	560,000	..	..
Miscellaneous	12,250,000	8,578,642	8,375,650	514,996	..
Ordinary Receipts	11,850,000	7,283,697	8,623,789	238,277	13
Special Receipts	30,000,000	17,396,347	23,270,351	1,230,386	1,370,000
Revenue	794,050,000	419,652,686	442,203,790	10,715,359	10,788,014
Total, Inc. Balance	..	426,284,300	449,021,967	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion	..	..	65,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	73,782	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	5,790,000	4,530,000	..	50,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1924	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	260,719	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	400,000	820,000	..	..	..
(c) For other issues:—					
By Treasury Bills	1,467,869,000	1,524,879,000	52,466,000	54,522,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	16,850,000	35,950,000	650,000	400,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	14,939,120	29,208,627	1,417,500	..	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	3,700,000	..	3,700,000	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	522,669,000	527,655,000	9,000,000	8,200,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired	23,105	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1914	577,041	195,688	14,520	..	..
Total	2,463,915,071	2,575,831,135	77,937,161	73,960,014	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (Including Supplementary Grants.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1924, to Nov. 8, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Nov. 1, 1923, to Nov. 8, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 8, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 10, 1924.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services—					
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	196,176,496	193,552,503	2,180,670	900,593
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	16,202,561	22,274,455	100,000	250,000
Road Fund	15,000,000	5,876,044	3,327,044	..	..
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	5,837,891	5,707,215	..	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	2,702,484	2,290,884	..	8,000
Land Settlement	750,000	354,282	387,542	..	5,580
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	1,419,751	1,571,264	4,689	19,868
Supply Services	408,915,000	223,758,398	222,006,411	9,507,886	5,479,542
Expenditure	793,759,000	450,327,907	451,117,315	11,793,195	6,663,583
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Bullion	..	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	430,000	820,000	30,000	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure	..	5,150,000	4,220,000	..	250,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	..	316,195	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—					
Repayment of amounts borrowed	..	5,790,000	4,480,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills	..	1,442,450,000	1,502,725,000	56,845,000	53,410,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	..	19,150,000	21,350,000	550,000	650,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	..	6,586,653	32,222,296	132,280	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	..	50	6,981,184	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	..	530,579,500	548,491,000	8,450,000	12,750,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	..	23,105	50,081	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	..	55,214	..	..
Balances in Exchequer—					
Nov. 8, '24	2,463,915,071	2,575,831,135	77,937,161	73,960,014	..
Nov. 10, '24	2,463,915,071	2,575,831,135	77,937,161	73,960,014	..
Nov. 12, '24	2,463,915,071	2,575,831,135	77,937,161	73,960,014	..

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 63 of 1924.
Treasury, November 10, 1924.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Nov. 17—Nov. 22 were opened on Nov. 14, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £52,975,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at 99 1/2 is 3d. about 48 per cent., and above in full; Saturday 99 1/2 is 6d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £29,950,000; in bonds, £50,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Oct. 10	35,000,000	60,710,000	3 13 9-13	..
Oct. 17	35,000,000	67,670,000	3 14 11-17	..
Oct. 24	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 3-74	..
Oct. 31	35,000,000	57,395,000	3 12 10-66	..
Nov. 7	35,000,000	59,080,000	3 14 1-6	94 10 0
Nov. 14	30,000,000	52,975,000	3 14 0-65	94 10 0

Tenders will be received on Nov. 21, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £35,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £3,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Coins Outstanding.	Investments in Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Notes Issued.	Notes in Circulation.	Notes in Bank.
1923.						
Mar. 29	300,351	14,255	5,000	28,500	13,460	129
June 28	295,378	15,338	8,000	28,500	13,460	129
Sept. 27	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Dec. 27	301,537	12,372	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
1924.						
Mar. 28	285,616	12,312	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
June 27	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Sept. 27	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Dec. 26	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
1924.						
Mar. 26	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
June 25	285,516	12,473	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Sept. 24	285,025	12,227	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Nov. 5	287,412	12,058	7,000	27,000	11,150	129
Nov. 12	287,358	12,277	7,000	27,000	11,150	129

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum statutory issue for 1920 fixed at £20,000,000, for 1921 at £31,555,200, for 1922 at £30,000,000, for 1923 at £37,000,000, and for 1924 at £34,150,000.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, November 12, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,415,485	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion	126,665,485
	146,415,485		146,415,485

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000	Government securities ..	40,898,443
Reserve	3,173,507	Other securities	72,821,486
Public deposits	15,862,522	Notes	23,545,165
Other deposits	105,493,504	Gold and silver coin ..	1,828,768
Seven-day & other bills ..	11,329		
	139,093,862		139,093,862

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Nov. 12, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Reserve	3,173,507	+ 47,814	+ 1,009
Public deposits	15,862,522	+ 543,552	+ 977,213
Other deposits	105,493,522	+ 3,858,535	+ 310,686
Government securities ..	40,898,443	+ 440,000	+ 2,820,063
Other securities	72,821,486	+ 5,770,578	+ 1,351,998
Notes	23,545,165	+ 976,474	+ 2,142,062
Gold and silver coin	1,828,768	+ 311	+ 808,227
% of reserve to liabilities ..	21%	+ 18%	+ 14%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.
1924.	£	£	£	£	%
Oct. 8	128,481,074	124,484,485	124,748,432	118,645,067	23,746,589
15	128,481,074	124,484,485	127,934,228	120,804,854	24,764,021
22	128,487,745	122,965,630	127,255,065	122,115,715	24,694,312
29	128,484,503	122,970,789	127,932,281	122,642,328	24,764,328
Nov. 5	128,494,564	123,877,105	128,758,131	119,060,507	26,397,459
12	128,494,263	123,870,320	121,356,026	113,719,929	25,937,933

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.
(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances, October, 1924.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins Limited.	Barclays Bank Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank Limited.	Midland Bank Limited.	National Provincial Bank Limited.	National Bank Limited.	Westminster Bank Limited.	Williams Bank Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.											
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England ..	6,444	32,023	1,460	2,847	34,591	51,488	28,274	4,110	27,726	3,961	192,924
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom ..	1,998	7,454	639	1,299	7,917	13,550	8,482	185	9,186	1,061	51,771
Items in transit ..	4,295	20,495	2,588	5,210	17,215	14,308	15,517	3,381	21,476	2,698	107,183
Money at call and short notice ..	3,122	37,255	2,184	1,078	51,859	47,274	42,442	2,859	49,528	2,847	240,448
Bills discounted ..	9,650	64,227	4,182	9,178	80,160	40,910	43,316	17,387	54,386	4,985	328,381
Investments ..	36,951	141,921	7,380	7,935	156,938	192,706	129,056	16,889	114,577	19,433	823,896
Advances to customers and other accounts ..	4,325	8,816	36	1,514	16,823	30,024	8,397	..	11,797	1,425	83,157
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c. ..	1,734	5,241	346	695	5,615	5,584	4,340	760	4,144	868	29,327
Bank premises account ..	..	7,454	..	..	6,580	5,848	2,754	..	2,992	..	25,628
Investments in affiliated banks ..	68,519	324,886	18,815	29,756	377,698	401,692	282,578	45,571	295,812	37,388	1,882,715
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up ..	2,349	15,592	800	1,060	14,372	11,976	9,479	1,500	9,052	1,875	68,055
Reserve fund ..	1,600	8,250	800	530	10,000	11,976	9,479	1,200	9,052	1,200	54,087
Current, deposit, and other accounts ..	60,245	292,228	17,178	26,484	336,503	347,716	255,222	39,640	265,898	32,888	1,674,002
Acceptances, endorsements, &c. ..	4,325	8,816	36	1,514	16,823	30,024	8,398	..	11,797	1,425	83,159
Notes in circulation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,231	13	..	3,244
Reduction of bank premises account ..	..	..	..	168	..	..	..	..	..	..	168
	68,519	324,886	18,815	29,756	377,698	401,692	282,578	45,571	295,812	37,388	1,882,715

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	210,750	209,000	206,750	215,750	160,677	22,971
Silver ..	..	..	..	..	62,219	29,785
Discounts, advances, and other investments ..	170,370	172,670	172,410	174,580	165,538	77,567
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	281,000	276,000	276,000	276,000	285,232	109,939
Deposits and bills payable ..	110,500	117,500	114,000	125,000	131,743	11,250

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	505,397	505,232	505,057	505,076	537,448	171,175
Silver ..	93,070	93,219	94,051	92,940	89,077	18,350
Assets & advances ..	290,749	284,654	286,325	282,809	325,625	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	857,885	882,153	826,114	833,843	905,934	275,925
Deposits ..	135,063	116,995	157,956	157,662	97,707	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 30, 1924.	Oct. 22, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Coin and bullion—Gold ..	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,286	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	36,980	36,749	36,720	18,753	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities ..	8,999	8,999	8,999	9,052	8,816
Discounts and loans ..	401,217	410,491	418,844	452,823	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	380,767	386,401	380,601	387,112	113,484
Deposits at notice ..	109,283	112,882	126,757	101,748	7,188

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Position May 24, 1914.
Gold ..	239,846	240,139	242,590	243,670	272,262	104,918
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	60,322	59,527	62,354	61,816	29,587	112,172
Swedish and for. Gov. securities ..	54,921	55,067	55,322	55,543	113,665	32,465
Discounts & loans ..	369,954	380,483	353,228	363,551	342,372	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	519,645	543,269	489,775	498,439	539,904	226,555
Deposits at notice ..	125,015	118,196	138,053	150,797	161,906	369,660

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. marks (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	43,285	43,285	43,285	42,704	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills ..	514,574	553,574	570,868	580,475	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities ..	498,642	498,642	498,642	571,482	21,826
Discounts and loans ..	788,208	794,811	823,649	747,111	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	1,257,529	1,227,401	1,256,465	1,365,311	123,941
Deposits at notice ..	359,101	451,712	450,503	389,109	21,225

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 5, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 22, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.
Total cash ..	15,372	16,363	16,218	12,898	3,085
Gold coin & bullion ..	23,533	23,598	23,598	15,789	12,993
Of which held abroad ..	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,506	24,466
Foreign banks ..	50,376	50,358	47,852	60,651	12,961
Discounts and loans ..	84,159	83,538	83,445	31,112	9,551
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ..	26,000	26,000	25,920	23,000	4,005
Capital paid up ..	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,214	8,000
Government deposits ..	79,505	80,162	79,221	39,931	16,697
Other deposits ..	51,800	51,332	49,461	42,704	16,996

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
Gold ..	28,932	28,452	25,382	25,223	25,116	16,392
Silver ..	54	39	35	25	18	249
Dollars, & sterling, &c. ..	58,903	55,639	50,503	49,392	49,250	40,371
Discount and credit ..	33,828	33,565	32,405	32,010	31,642	14,142
LIABILITIES.						
Capital ..	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
Banknotes in circulation ..	86,919	80,248	74,481	71,098	69,207	56,292
Deposits ..	33,995	34,535	35,518	37,078	37,800	9,088

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 20, 1924.
Gold ..	100,687	100,333	100,018	99,900
Foreign coin and balance with foreign banks ..	241,895	237,555	240,522	233,617
Private loans & discounts ..	261,576	253,164	245,899	243,019
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation ..	503,702	438,427	451,498	460,384
Deposits ..	60,069	105,996	90,887	64,810

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Bank ..	10,099,538	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520
Discounts & advances ..	2,359,025	2,032,705	2,028,562	2,052,162	1,926,541	1,533,721
Gold & silver holdings ..	1,050,274	1,050,708	1,050,707	1,050,623	1,050,643	1,078,282
Foreign bills and balances abroad ..	658,592	673,166	656,504	661,084	657,108	2,075,271
Other assets ..	287,080	224,404	222,618	221,144	220,318	387,416
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circ./ltm. ..	8,585,847	7,822,592	7,898,993	8,103,282	8,222,658	9,278,999
Deposits ..	4,487,109	4,824,251	4,725,976	4,557,203	4,309,226	4,804,061
Other liabilities ..	1,381,553	1,433,660	1,432,972	1,424,054	1,422,247	1,093,579

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

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In kronen (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
Gold ..	109,396,985	109,265,106	109,265,106	109,265,106	109,265,106	109,265,106
Foreign bills ..	4,032,485,096	3,801,408,235	3,832,118,880	3,832,118,880	3,832,118,880	3,832,118,880
Bills discounted ..	2,378,654,039	2,554,704,706	2,554,704,706	2,554,704,706	2,554,704,706	2,554,704,706
Treasury bills ..	2,202,105,729	2,209,606,329	2,209,606,329	2,209,606,329	2,209,606,329	2,209,606,329
LIABILITIES.						
Reserve fund ..	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011
Notes in circulation ..	8,213,003,193	7,341,938,680	7,666,577,999	7,666,577,999	7,666,577,999	7,666,577,999
Deposits ..	502,579,097	1,326,107,037	1,123,982,281	1,123,982,281	1,123,982,281	1,123,982,281

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	2,534,946	2,534,920	2,534,912	2,534,912	2,534,912	2,534,912
Silver ..	646,766	650,945	650,945	647,256	647,256	647,256
Loans & discounts ..	4,661,400	2,295,369	2,271,559	2,285,019	2,285,019	2,285,019
Spanish 4% stock ..	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills ..	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation ..	4,562,221	4,529,072	4,508,116	4,528,085	4,528,116	4,528,116
Deposits ..	873,042	916,899	925,192	926,680	914,589	914,589

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £m (000's omitted.)

ASSETS.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold ..	3,360	3,368	3,367	3,362	3,363	1,571
Govt. securities ..	51,244	45,942	46,138	47,901	39,165	2,084
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	32,590	26,511	26,352	28,055	27,100	2,400
Govt. deposits ..	14,733	14,387	15,058	14,996	8,890	2,315
Other deposits ..	15,563	14,897	14,543	14,133	12,365	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.
Metal reserve—			
Gold coin and bullion	503,376,949	512,873,392	504,084,483
Drafts and notes	1,658,674,110	1,586,530,660	1,548,338,198
Silver coin and bullion	13,301,037	13,301,012	13,301,040
Inland bills, warrants, and securities ..	1,372,885,111	1,844,669,080	1,800,211,414
Advances to the Treasury	1,976,454,877	1,976,454,877	1,976,454,877
LIABILITIES.			
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	432,186,164	432,186,664	432,186,664
Notes in circulation	4,635,090,073	4,074,486,997	4,131,356,382
Deposits, including bank accounts, deposits, &c.	1,465,356,429	1,807,144,309	1,657,681,585

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 894 chervonetz.
\$1,000 " " 1932 "

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year, 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador.....	Sucres to £.....	10-00	Sight London	Nov. 8 23.00
Venezuela.....	Bolivares to £.....	5-25	"	Nov. 6 23.65
Colombia (Bogota).....	Pesos to £20.....	100	"	Nov. 11 93.00
Nicaragua.....	Corobas to £.....	4-865	"	Oct. 30 4.80
San Salvador.....	Colonos to £.....	9-73	"	Nov. 8 9.20
Guatemala.....	Pesos to £.....	90-23	"	Nov. 8 273.50
Costa Rica.....	Colonos to £.....	10-45	"	Oct. 10 18.00
Bolivia.....	Pence to Boliviano.....	19-20	"	Oct. 4 17.75

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From Nov. 8, 1924.		From Nov. 8, 1924.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	101	99	103	101
Demand ..	101	99	103	101
30 days ..	100	98	102	100
60 days ..	99	97	101	99
90 days ..	98	96	100	98
120 days ..	97	95	99	97

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £100.
* No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.		Australia and New Zealand on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	101	99	103	101
Demand ..	101	99	103	101
30 days ..	100	98	102	100
60 days ..	99	97	101	99
90 days ..	98	96	100	98
120 days ..	97	95	99	97

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on November 11, 1924, for Rs100,00,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India, but no applications were received. Next week 100 lacs will again be offered.

The Government of India have announced that the total remittances to the Secretary of State for India from April 1 to October 31, 1924, were as follows:—

Council bills and telegraphic transfers	£ 1,949,000
Sterling purchased in India	27,560,000
Sterling taken over in London	700,000
	30,209,000

The total includes £1,000,000 remitted on account of the paper currency reserve.

BULLION.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on October 31, 1924:—

In India	Nil
In England—	£
Cash at the Bank of England	2,679
British Government securities—	
Value as on September 30, 1924	35,641,896
Since purchased (cost price)	4,538,233
	40,180,129

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, November 11, 1924

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 12th as follows:—

GOLD.

The moderate amount of gold available in the market here this week was readily absorbed on account of India. Large purchases of gold, shipment from Durban, have also been made on behalf of that country. Gold valued at \$3,000,000 has arrived in New York from Holland.

SILVER.

Again the market has been dominated by the exchange with the United States, and appreciation of sterling has been accompanied with free selling from that quarter. A sympathetic influence is exerted also in other ways, for the readiness of bears to take advantage of the opportunity to take profits is checked by rapidly falling prices, and China and India attach much importance to the cross rate. On Monday the quotation reached 33½d for cash, and 33½d for two months' delivery—the lowest fixed since August 18, when the prices for cash and forward delivery were both 33½d. The Continent has bought and sold, and both India and China have placed silver in the market, though the latter has also been a small purchaser.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 22.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.
Notes in circulation	17,987	18,098	18,022
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,643	8,653	8,578
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	5,713	5,713	5,713
Securities (Indian Government) ..	1,399	1,500	1,499

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 7th ult. The stock in Shanghai on the 8th inst. consisted of about 50,700,000 ozs in sycee, 44,500,000 dollars, and 2,650 silver bars, as compared with 48,600,000 ozs in sycee, 44,500,000 dollars, and 1,280 silver bars on the 1st inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.		Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver. Cash.
	s	d	Cash.	Forward.		
Nov. 8....	90	10	33 1/16	34	Nov. 23, 1918..	48 3/4
10....	90	2	33 1/16	34 1/16	21, 1919..	73 1/2
11....	89	8	33 1/16	34 1/16	19, 1920..	49 1/2
12....	90	2	34	34 1/16	18, 1921..	39
13....	90	0	34	34 1/16	17, 1922..	32 1/2
14....	89	6	33 7/16	33 1/16	16, 1923..	32 1/2

NOTICES.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 216 Chapel street, Salford, Manchester, and at 23 Red Bank road, Bispham, Blackpool, under the management of Mr H. W. Bond and Mr F. E. Wedge respectively.

The National Provincial Bank, Limited, announce that agency to the Stokesley branch is now open at High street, Swainby, the hours of business being Tuesdays, 11 a.m., to 1 p.m. An agency to Chipping Sodbury is now open at Wickwar, the hours of business being Mondays and Fridays, 10.15 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened new sub-branches at 333 Forest road, Walthamstow, E. 17, under the management of Mr O. S. Tyler (also manager of 10 St James street, Walthamstow, branch), and at Challow, under the management of Mr P. C. Grainger (also manager of Wantage branch). They have also opened a new branch at 17 Upper Tooting road, S.W. 17, under the management of Mr W. R. Smith.

The Bank of Montreal have received a cablegram from their head office advising that their Spokane branch was closed on November 10th.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Nov. 7, 1924.	(c) Week ended Nov. 9, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.
Great Western.....	3,754	218,000	335,000	553,000	1,206,000	1,220,000	1,517,000	2,737,000
Do for 1923.....	3,751	222,000	340,000	562,000	1,224,000	1,226,000	1,574,000	2,800,000
London & N. Eastern (c).....	6,722	365,000	689,000	1,054,000	2,037,000	2,037,000	3,067,000	5,104,000
Do same period 1923.....	6,722	369,000	709,000	1,078,000	2,056,000	2,056,000	3,257,000	5,313,000
London, Mid., & Scottish.....	6,942	529,000	889,000	1,418,000	2,926,000	2,926,000	3,903,000	6,829,000
Do for 1923.....	6,942	544,000	884,000	1,428,000	2,956,000	2,956,000	4,028,000	7,024,000
Southern.....	2,155	287,200	115,100	402,300	1,527,900	1,527,900	2,011,600	3,549,500
Do for 1923.....	2,142	272,400	114,000	386,400	1,526,000	1,526,000	2,011,600	3,547,600
Metropolitan (c).....	793	34,319	4,223	38,542	1,773,728	1,773,728	175,965	1,949,693
Do for 1923.....	793	34,319	4,223	38,542	1,773,728	1,773,728	175,965	1,949,693
Underground E.R. (c).....	..	..	..	242,321	..	..	..	242,321
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	242,321	..	..	..	242,321
London & Sub. Group (c).....	..	..	..	36,775	..	..	..	36,775
Do for 1923.....	..	..	..	36,775	..	..	..	36,775
Belfast & Co. Down (b).....	80	3,452	933	4,385	208,876	208,876	54,537	263,413
Dublin and S. East (b).....	160	4,957	3,638	8,595	287,061	287,061	154,543	441,604
Gt. Northern (Ireland) (b).....	562	18,050	15,550	33,600	864,950	864,950	918,450	1,783,400
Gt. Sth. & Western (b).....	1,151	21,341	37,339	58,680	1,096,643	1,096,643	1,420,496	2,517,139
Midland Gt. West. (b).....	538	9,358	13,655	23,013	426,227	426,227	658,749	1,084,976

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
INDIAN.					
Assam Bengal.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	1,072	3,500,000 + 21,678	78,02,982 + 11,16,831
Batala Ry.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	118	20,100 + 2,100	9,49,100 + 76,300
Bengal & N. Western.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	2,082	4,65,810 - 68,000	11,37,310 - 49,830
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	28 weeks	Oct. 11	1,280	22,51,000 - 7,168	4,24,37,813 + 34,82,267
Burma.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	1,342	10,70,520 + 80,810	1,84,26,389 + 5,14,769
Delhi Umbellakala.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	239	1,43,000 + 1,763	4,71,857 - 46,511
East Indian.....	32 weeks	Nov. 1	8,287	31,73,000 - 1,48,000	10,54,30,000 + 68,69,000
G. Indian Peninsula.....	31 weeks	Oct. 11	1,225	21,40,300 - 1,43,900	8,29,42,000 + 1,04,92,400
Madras & S. Mahr.....	29 weeks	Oct. 18	3,029	14,25,000 + 1,83,109	1,33,00,328 + 43,96,985
Rohilk'd & Kumaon.....	11 days	Nov. 1	259	46,624 - 35,035	46,694 - 35,035
Do Lucknow-Breilly.....	11 days	Nov. 1	314	60,381 - 2,741	60,381 - 2,741
South Indian.....	28 weeks	Oct. 11	1,877	14,11,448 - 94,885	2,63,21,701 - 11,08,691

ARGENTINE (a).

Argentine N.E.	19 weeks	Nov. 8	754	10,800 +	1,600	212,700 +	31,500
Argentine Trans.	19 weeks		8,260.2	3,403 -	1,356	49,893 +	20,532
B. A. and Pacific.....	19 weeks		4,713	120,000 +	5,271	2,893,000 +	368,729
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	19 weeks		8,349	202,000 +	20,000	3,665,000 +	594,000
B. A. Western.....	19 weeks		1,882	89,000 +	8,000	1,800,000 +	347,000
Central Argentine.....	19 weeks		3,305	203,000 +	4,000	4,162,000 +	315,000
Cordoba Central.....	19 weeks		8,120.2	56,000 +	6,500	1,253,600 +	103,000
Entre Rios.....	19 weeks		729	26,100 +	5,200	409,400 +	60,700

CANADIAN.

Canadian National.....	44 weeks	Nov. 7	22,680	5,201,834 - 179,887	200,527,217 - 112,499,005
Canadian Pacific.....	44 weeks	Nov. 7	14,025	4,507,000 - 890,000	153,082,000 - 6,771,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Gt. West. of Brasil.....	45 weeks	Nov. 8	1,011	17,600 + 5,900	419,100 - 1,400
Leopoldina.....	45 weeks	Nov. 8	1,831	36,693 + 11,558	1,387,152 + 216,099
San Paulo.....	45 weeks	Nov. 8	1,533	35,598 + 4,739	1,652,139 + 324,376

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta.....	45 weeks	Nov. 9	838	41,580 - 4,645	1,713,226 + 129,361
Nitrate (4-monthly).....	44 weeks	Oct. 31	366	47,081 + 27,180	811,831 + 172,947

CUBAN.

Havana Central.....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	1,250	12,655 + 382	227,880 + 5,970
United of Havana.....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	1,250	60,825 + 2,351	1,215,985 + 121,250

URUGUAYAN.

Central Uruguay.....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	838	28,782 - 2,216	431,926 + 5,130
C. Urug. (East. Ext.).....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	311	5,651 - 40	79,605 - 2,384
C. Urug. (North. Ext.).....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	185	2,589 - 452	43,254 - 3,843
C. Urug. (West. Ext.).....	19 weeks	Nov. 8	211	2,406 - 130	45,770 + 6,756

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Alcoy and Gandia.....	45 weeks	Nov. 8	33	Pa. 25,000 + 5,000	1,021,350 + 124,060
Egyptian Delta.....	29 weeks	Oct. 31	575	17,948 + 318	194,061 + 30,365
Gt. Southern of Spain.....	44 weeks	Nov. 1	104	Pa. 103,206 - 14,209	4,483,472 + 256,353
Chatham & District.....	44 weeks	Nov. 1	432	241,900 + 63,400	4,746,800 + 443,300
Mexican Railway.....	18 weeks	Oct. 18	205	3,066 + 160	111,972 + 2,885
New Cape Central.....	18 weeks	Nov. 1	274	4,650 + 1,400	79,780 + 10,300
Paraguay Central.....	18 weeks	Nov. 1	100	2,197 - 495	48,591 + 3,763
Salvador.....	18 weeks	Nov. 1	100	2,197 - 495	48,591 + 3,763

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Liverpool Corporation	32weeks	Nov. 8	124	\$24,932 +	1,514	801,290 -	6
Tramways ..	32weeks	12	163	\$28,177 +	2,184	2,583,352 -	15
L.C.C. Tramways ..	46weeks	Oct. 31	..	Rs 50.81 +	1,145	10,447 -	3
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	45weeks	Nov. 9	..	\$5,025 +	1,722	199,127 +	3
Pernambuco Trams ..	45weeks	..	..	\$14,610 +	873	578,339 +	12
Singapore Trams ..	40weeks	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Combined revenue.

CROSSES AND WINKWORTH CONSOLIDATED MILLS.—The directors announce that although the profits of the company and its associated companies show an improvement for the first six months of the financial year, they do not intend to make any dividend payment on the preference shares on January 1st. The dividend on these shares is in arrears as from March 31, 1922.

J. B. BROOKS.—With the proposed final dividend of 7½ per cent., the total dividend on the ordinary shares will be 10 per cent., less tax (the same), in addition to which a bonus of 1s per share, or 5 per cent., free of tax, is to be paid (the same).

J. LYON AND CO.—Interim dividend of 2s per share on the issued ordinary and "A" ordinary shares, and one-fifth of this amount (4s per share) on the issued proportional profit and "B" proportional profit shares, payable on December 1st.

THE EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY have declared the following dividends, payable on January 2nd:—\$1.25 per share on common stock; extra dividend of \$0.75 per share on common stock.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.		
Gold.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Abbotiokoon	6,920	..	..	..	13,792	..
Akim	..	..	..	..	166	..
Ashanti Native	..	..	..	..	1,100	..
Associated Gold of Western Australia	5,946	..	..	..	6,858	2,241
Boulder Perseverance	4,493	..	..	..	16,740	4,117
El Oro	38,980	..	..	..	\$158,002	..
Globe and Phoenix	6,279	..	..	..	5,141	(e) 7,597
Great Boulder Proprietary	10,121	..	..	..	22,772	..
Lake View and Star	7,500	..	..	..	15,392	2,250
Lonely Reef	5,600	..	..	..	(d) 7,265	..
Mexico Mines of El Oro	16,151	..	..	..	\$215,230	\$62,470
Oroya Links	3,320	..	..	..	(b) 10,467	..
Preston	8,650	2,927	..	..	12,591	..
Santa Gertrudes	828	..	..	..	\$2,005	..
Shanva	57,400	..	..	..	34,132	8,062
Sons of Gwalia	14,176	..	..	..	13,545	..
St John del Rey	..	..	..	..	(a) 30,000	..
Tomboy	18,000	..	..	..	80,000	..
Vipond	5,098	..	..	..	\$52,100	..
Wady Gabait	340	..	..	..	554	2,800

(a) Par value. (b) Including premium. (c) 90s per fine oz. (d) 94s per fine oz.

	Output.	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.			
Anglo Nigerian	13	4	..
Boro	..	..	..
East Pool	55.1	..	Black tin; 60 tons arsenic. Est. value, £9,136.
Janjar	30	..	..
Kaduna	21	..	..
Kaduna Prospectors	104	..	..
Lower Bishoi	40	..	Despatched 48 tons.
Naraguta	74	..	..
Nigerian Base Metals	94	..	..
Nigerian Consolidated	84	..	Concentrates sold, 64 tons.
Northern Nigerian	684	..	..
Renong	3	..	Despatched 6 tons.
Rukuba	10	..	Value, £9,000.
South Bukuru	514	..	..
Tavoy	3	..	..
Tarde Kerri	..	..	..
Copper.			
Poderosa	370	..	(metric). Assaying 28 per cent. copper.
Messina Development	13,470	..	Concentrates, 1,259 tons, containing 473 tons copper.
Namaqua	252	..	Blister copper.
Coal.			
Chinese Engineering	19,914	..	tons coal sold during week ended Nov. 1st.
East Kent	5,002	..	For week ending November 8th.
Miscellaneous.			
Burma Ruby	..	..	45,000 loads washed, producing Rs. 26,000 rubies.
Mining Corporation	119,323	..	ozs silver.
San Francisco Mines	13,620	..	treated; 2,280 tons lead concentrates; 2,501 tons zinc concentrates.
Zinc Corporation	18,645	..	treated, producing 4,008 tons lead concentrates, and 2,810 tons zinc concentrates.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—For the month of October the production was as follows:—38,300 tons of crude ore were treated, producing 6,720 tons lead concentrates, averaging 63.2 per cent. lead, 29.2 ozs silver per ton, and 7.4 per cent. zinc; also 6,050 tons zinc concentrates, averaging 47.6 per cent. zinc, 6.8 per cent. lead, and 7.9 ozs silver per ton.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER.—During October 4,140 tons of ore were produced; 4,273 tons with approximately 1,150 tons of quartz flux added were smelted, producing 445 tons of copper matte, assaying 34 per cent. as fouled in sand moulds.

Reports and Notices.

The Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain, having accepted the office of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has resigned his position as chairman of the British Shareholders Trust, Limited, and the directors have appointed their colleague, Sir Edmund Wyldbore-Smith, chairman of the company.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that Mr James Bland, of Messrs James Platt and Co., cotton merchants, Liverpool, has been appointed to a seat on the local board of directors attached to its Liverpool branch.

Mr Maurice William Henty has been appointed a director of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited.

Agreement for the amalgamation of Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co., Limited, and De Trey and Co., Limited, has now been signed, but it is subject to ratification of the shareholders.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the New Dimbula Company, Limited, held on the 11th inst., at the offices, 60 Gracechurch street, E.C., the resolutions embodying the capitalisation of part of the reserve and its distribution in the form of bonus shares were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT 5-15 YEAR TREASURY BONDS.—The Treasury give notice that, the Bank of England having certified that the average rate of discount at which Treasury bills were issued to the public during the half-year ended November 1, 1924, did not exceed 5½ per cent. per annum, no additional interest will be payable upon Treasury Bonds 1935 on the next interest date, viz., May 1, 1925.

BANKS.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.—The net profit for the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £502,502, against £430,348 in preceding year. The dividend is unchanged at 12½ per cent., free of income-tax. The carry forward is £130,102, against £112,600 brought in. The sum of £59,498 set aside last year in accordance with the articles of association has been appropriated to the purchase of £67,500 deferred inscribed deposit stock, which has been cancelled and the amount passed, as before, to the credit of bank premises. The expansion of the business calling for additional capital, the board have decided to make a further issue of shares. The issue will be one of 150,000 shares of £5 each, to be paid up to £3 per share, and will be offered in the first instance to the shareholders on the register at the date of the offer at the price of £5 per share, representing a premium of £2 per share, and in the proportion of one new share to each four shares then held. Fractions will be disregarded, and the directors will have power to deal with the shares representing the fractions, and with shares, if any, not taken up. The market price for the existing shares, £2 10s paid, was about £7½ on the 31st instant, this price including the dividend of 7½ per cent., tax free. The new shares, which will be offered on December 15th next, will rank for the final dividend to be declared in November, 1925. When the issue has been completed, it is proposed that the premium of £2 per share shall be applied in paying up 10s of the present uncalled liability of £2 10s per share on the 600,000 shares at present issued, bringing all the shares to a paid-up amount of £3 per share, with £2 uncalled, and thus, in effect, making the issue price of the new shares equivalent to par. The necessary resolution to give effect to the above proposals will be submitted to the meeting, and subsequently for confirmation as a special resolution to an extraordinary general meeting to be held on December 4th next.

MITSUBISHI BANK, LIMITED.—This Japanese banking institution has a subscribed capital of 50,000,000 yen. The paid-up capital is 30,000,000 yen. The reserve fund is 22,634,600 yen. Total assets are 387,428,040 yen. Cash stands at 25,121,738 yen. Government bonds stand at 43,058,453 yen, and other bonds and securities are at 37,809,066 yen. With regard to liabilities, deposits stand at 201,846,240 yen. The net profit for half-year ended June 30, 1924, is 4,236,374 yen. Balance brought in is 584,110 yen, making 4,820,484 yen. This has been allocated as follows:—To legal reserve fund, 500,000 yen. To special reserve fund, 1,500,000 yen. To pension reserve 200,000 yen. Bonus, 200,000 yen. Dividend, 10 per cent. per annum, 1,500,000 yen. Balance forward, 920,484 yen.

RUBBER, &c.

DJASINGA RUBBER AND PRODUCE.—The fourteenth annual report to June 30, 1924, reveals a net profit of £16,237, as against £21,591 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is unchanged at 4 per cent. The sum of £5,000 is put to reserve and £14,138 carried forward. Cost of production was 9.75d per lb, against 8.58d per lb in preceding year. Average net sale price was 11.15d per lb, as compared with 10.93d per lb. The tea crop was 374,177 lbs, as against 392,455 lbs. Cost of production was 10.28d per lb, as against 9.30d per lb. The average net price realised was 10.89d per lb, against 11.7d per lb in preceding year. The ordinary issued capital is £436,126 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares or debentures.

TANDONG RUBBER COMPANY.—The net profit for the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £26,091, as compared with £27,922 in the preceding year. The ordinary shareholders receive 10 per cent., the same as for the preceding year. The sum of £26,461 is carried forward, as against £25,370 brought into the accounts. The average net sale price, including the estimated value of the unsold portion of the crop, was 12.31d per lb, as compared with 12.63d per lb for the previous year. The cost of production, free on board at port of shipment, including commission to staff, depreciation, and London administration, was 8.69d per lb, as compared with 8.23d for the previous year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AMALGAMATED ANTHRACITE COLLIERIES.—The first report of this important undertaking for the period from June 16, 1923, to September 30, 1924, shows that the net profit is £255,988. The directors have transferred £69,530 to capital reserve fund, the dividends received from subsidiary companies out of profits earned prior to June 30, 1923. The ordinary shareholders receive 11½ per cent., absorbing £174,508, and £11,950 is carried forward. The issued capital is £2,007,507 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares or debentures.

ARGENTINE SOUTHERN LAND.—This concern has had a good year. Its net profit has risen from £33,179 to £69,559, and the dividend on the ordinary shares has risen from 5 to 8 per cent. The directors have put £25,000 to general reserve and £10,000 to livestock contingencies and renewals reserve. The sum of £18,580 is carried forward, against £26,021 brought in. The total assets are £773,999. Investments amount to £95,280, and are in British and Colonial Government stocks at or under market value. Cash is at £7,847. The ordinary issued capital is £525,000 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares or debentures.

BURBERRY, LIMITED.—The fifth report shows that the amount brought in from 1923 was £95,221. Deduct preference dividend for

six months to January 31, 1922, paid April 1, 1924, £37,500; preference dividend for six months to July 31, 1922, paid August 1, 1924, £37,500—£20,221. Add profit for the year to March 31, 1924, £98,823, which compares with £91,708 in preceding year, leaves £119,044, which the directors propose to utilise as follows:—In payment on December 1, 1924, of preference dividend for six months to January 31, 1923, £37,500; and to carry forward, £81,544. The directors consider the result of the company's operations to March 31, 1924, to be satisfactory, and state that the outlook for the future is encouraging. Having regard to the estimated present values of the freehold and leasehold premises and fixed plant, the directors have not considered it necessary to charge any depreciation in arriving at the profits for the year.

CARRONGROVE PAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.—The second annual report states that the gross profit for the year ended October 31st, 1924, amounts to £90,776, which, after adding the amount of £5,864 brought forward from last year (after realisation and writing off of investments, which now stand at nil in the company's books), makes a total of £96,640. After providing for depreciation, debenture interest, directors' fees, managing director's remuneration, and corporation profits tax, the balance available amounts to £54,657. The directors recommend the payment on December 1st of a dividend of 5 per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary shares, to carry to reserve fund £5,000, leaving to be carried forward to next year the sum of £29,507. During the year under review the directors have redeemed and cancelled £31,100 of the £300,000 debentures originally issued by the company.

HORDEN COLLIERIES, LIMITED.—This well-known concern has just issued its report and accounts to September 30, 1924. Net profits, after payment of debenture interest, amount to £250,536, against £330,903 secured in preceding year. Dividend has been reduced from 15 per cent., free of income-tax, to 12½ per cent., free of income-tax. The sum of £60,000 has been carried to reserve, making reserve £220,000, and £55,382 has been carried forward, against £52,346 brought into the accounts. The issued ordinary capital is £1,500,000 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares. There is £258,959 in 5 per cent. debenture stock outstanding. It is pointed out that the year has been marked by decreased home demand, and severe foreign competition, especially during the last few months.

INVERESK PAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.—The report for the 13 months ended October 31, 1924, shows a gross profit of £69,783, which, with the £11,368 brought forward from last year, amounts to £81,151. After providing for depreciation, debenture interest, the income-tax, &c., the balance available amounts to £52,686. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable December 1st, and to carry forward to next year the sum of £32,826. The report states that in February last an opportunity arose of acquiring a controlling interest in the Carrongrove Paper Mills, and the Inveresk Paper Co., Limited, purchased 111,333 of the 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each in the Carrongrove Company, at a total cost of £66,902.

LIVERPOOL NITRATE.—The forty-first annual report shows that this company has had a prosperous year. The net profit for year ended June 30, 1924, is £108,157, against £41,009 in preceding year. The ordinary dividend is 22½ per cent. for the year, against 15 per cent. for preceding year. The reserve has been strengthened by £24,660, while £24,283 has been written off properties. The issue of 57,725 new shares referred to in the previous report was duly made, and the called-up capital of the company is therefore now £350,000, in 350,000 shares of £1, fully paid. The company's properties appearing under the headings of the several oficinas in the last balance-sheet are shown in the present one in a new form, under rearranged headings, which the directors consider to be more convenient and advantageous.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.—We regret to announce that Mr Godfrey Isaacs has been obliged, under doctor's orders, to resign his position as managing director of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Limited, and of the Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Limited (which positions he has held for 15 years), and deputy-chairman of the board of directors of these companies. Both companies will continue to have the benefit of Mr Isaacs' assistance in a consultative capacity whenever the boards of directors so desire. The boards of directors of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Limited, and of the Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Limited, have appointed the Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway, P.C., to succeed Mr Isaacs as managing director and deputy-chairman of the respective companies. Mr Kellaway has been a member of the boards of these companies for the past two years, and has taken an active part in their management.

PERUVIAN CORPORATION.—A circular has been issued by the Peruvian Corporation to holders of debentures in the corporation to the effect that a scheme has been prepared whereby it is proposed (*inter alia*) permanently to restore the original fixed rate of 6 per cent. annual interest; to continue the redemption of debentures at 105 per cent. by annual drawings until April 1, 1945, or until repayment of the whole of the debentures, whichever be the earlier; to postpone the latest date for repayment of the debentures from April 1, 1926, to April 1, 1945; and to empower the corporation to accelerate redemption of the debentures at 105, with other provisions as stated in detail in the scheme. Fuller particulars of the scheme will be found in our advertisement columns.

WEARDALE STEEL, COAL, AND COKE.—The profits for year ended September 30th amounted to £166,221 (against £263,818 in the preceding year). Debenture interest absorbs £11,492. The fixed 6 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares absorbs £30,000, and a dividend at a similar rate on the deferred ordinary shares will take £13,500. Further dividends are proposed equal to 27 40ths per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and 1½ per cent.

on the deferred ordinary shares, and after placing £100,000 to reserve (against £170,000) the sum of £58,699 is carried forward. For previous year the total dividend on the preferred ordinary shares was 10 per cent., and on the deferred ordinary shares 14 8-9ths per cent.

Commercial Reports.

THE OORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Fair progress was made during the week with ploughing and seeding operations, though field work generally is somewhat hampered by the sodden state of the soil, and particularly on heavy lands. Threshings of native wheat are on a fairly liberal scale, but condition of samples leaves much to be desired, and a good deal is unsuitable for milling purposes. The demand runs on moderate lines, but prices are firmer in sympathy with the position of imported descriptions, quotations ranging from 12s to 12s 10d per 112 lbs, free on rail, as to quality. Imported kinds experienced a fair inquiry at irregular, but generally firmer rates in view of higher forward values. No 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 70s 9d, No 2 hard winter 64s 6d, No 1 Northern Duluth 64s 9d, choice white Karachi 63s 6d, all per 496 lbs ex ship terms. In the floating and forward cargo section a firmer tone ensued on higher cable advices from the United States, and adverse Argentine crop reports, while a better demand prevailed, especially for white descriptions. Steamers of Australian January sold 63s 9d to 65s, February 64s to 64s 6d, and sailers of ditto January-February 64s 6d to 64s 7½d, Barusso 63½ lbs January-February 63s 6d, Rosafe 63½ lbs, expected to load 17th inst., 64s per 480 lbs, c.i.f. terms. Maize cargoes generally quiet, but holders required full to dearer rates. Steamers of Plate afloat sold 44s 9d to 45s, and ditto December 16th-January 47s 6d per 480 lbs. Flour in moderate request, but prices were advanced in sympathy with wheat. London standard straight run quoted at 52s, patents 54s to 55s, town whites 52s per sack, delivered in metropolitan area. Imported

"The Magic of Islam"

NORTH AFRICAN MOTOR TOURS

24 Distinct Optional Itineraries for Tours from London both at fixed rates or dates to suit independent travellers, covering the whole of

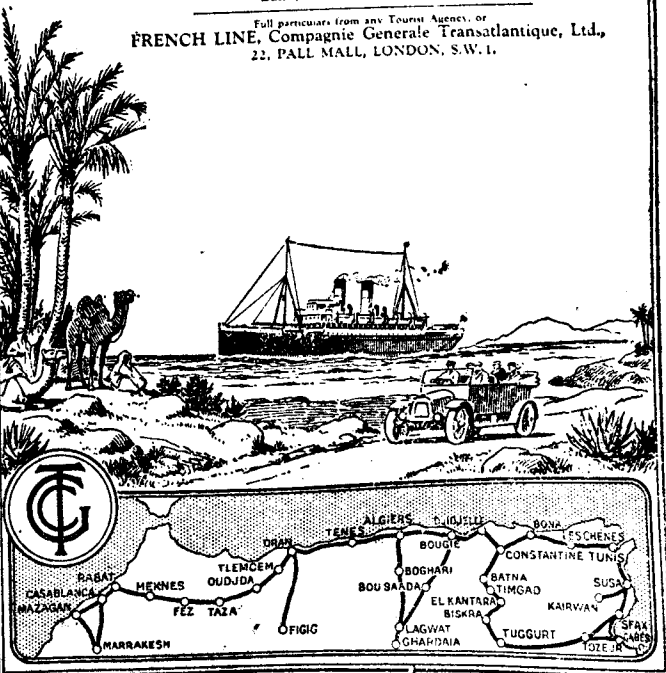
Algeria Tunisia Morocco (French)

RABAT, MARRAKESH (Morocco City), FEZ, FIGIG, LAGWAT, BOU SAADA, BISKRA, CONSTANTINE, TUGGURT, TUNIS, KAIRWAN, TIMGAD, CARTHAGE. The palm-clad OASES of the SAHARA. The snow-capped Atlas. Across the Sahara by 12-wheeled Desert Cars.

LONDON TO ALGIERS IN TWO DAYS

Company's own Express Mail Steamers from Marseilles and Bordeaux. Company's own Hotels (24) the wonder of North Africa. Company's own Luxurious Private Cars. The fares are absolutely inclusive, even of Gratuities. Special feature: Baths, Afternoon Tea, etc., etc.

Full particulars from any Tourist Agency, or FRENCH LINE, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Ltd., 22, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.



SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Pay- ment of Deben- ture Interest.	Amount Avail- able for Distrib- ution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Deprecia- tion, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Divi- dend.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.					
						Amount.	Amount.					Rate.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
English, Scottish, and Australian	June 30	112,600	502,502	615,102	..	187,500	12½	297,500	120,102	430,348	12½
Breweries.											
Boardmans' United	Sept. 30	392	11,818	12,210	10,336	1,744	1½	..	130	..	..
Bristol Brewery (Georges and Co.)	Sept. 30	76,197	151,778	227,975	18,600	87,480	18	40,862	81,033	125,923	16
Financial, Land, and Investment											
Argentine Southern Land	June 30	26,021	69,559	95,580	..	42,000	8	35,000	18,580	33,179	5
Delagoa Bay Development	June 30	971	5,552	6,523	1,142	..	..	..	5,381	..	..
London and Colonial Investment	Sept. 30	1,855	14,087	15,942	4,712	6,597	7	3,000	1,633	12,705	7½
Queen's Club Gardens Estate	Sept. 30	21,899	13,284	35,183	..	7,875	7½	..	27,308	9,946	6
Second Investors' Mortgage Security	Sept. 30	5,360	39,409	44,769	13,410	16,241	9	9,499	5,619	29,004	8
Iron, Coal, and Steel.											
Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries	Sept. 30	..	255,988	255,988	..	174,507	11½	69,530	11,951	..	..
Horden Collieries	Sept. 30	52,346	250,536	302,882	..	187,500	12½	60,000	55,382	330,903	15½
Motor and Cycle.											
J. B. Brooks and Co.	Aug. 31	14,056	47,123	61,179	3,875	25,500	15½	17,000	14,804	49,139	15½
Nitrate.											
Lagunas Syndicate	June 30	..	27,875	27,875	..	..	..	27,875	..	22,496	..
Liverpool	June 30	18,530	108,157	126,687	..	61,030	22½	48,951	16,706	41,009	15
Santa Catalina	June 30	84	21,099	21,183	..	17,775	22½	1,200	2,208	11,212	15
Rubber, &c.											
Anglo-Sumatra	May 31	8,141	18,628	26,769	..	13,300	20	5,000	8,469	9,919	20
Asahan	July 31	12,180	11,340	23,520	..	11,490	10	..	12,030	13,007	10
Central Sumatra	June 30	2,725	4,014	6,739	1,500	..	..	..	5,239	3,110	..
Djasinga	June 30	20,346	16,237	36,583	..	17,445	4	5,000	14,138	21,591	4
Killinghall	June 30	6,812	2,386	9,198	..	3,937	7½	..	5,261	5,944	10
Sungei Dangar	June 30	Dr 3,763	335	Dr 3,428	..	..	..	..	3,428	1,969	..
Sungei Siput	June 30	Dr 987	386	Dr 601	..	..	..	Dr 3,000	1,399	1,534	nil
Tandjong	June 30	25,370	26,091	51,461	..	25,000	10	..	26,461	27,922	10
Telegraphs and Telephones.											
Amazon Telegraph	June 30	303	4,263	4,566	..	..	..	1,500	3,066	Dr 6,370	..
Other Companies.											
African Lakes Corporation	Dec. 31	10,808	11,615	22,423	..	18,750	7½	..	3,673	25,456	5½
African Produce	Aug. 31	8,458	(m) 24,427	32,885	..	16,680	12	9,500	6,705	..	..
Blackpool Pier	Oct. 31	10,390	8,577	18,967	678	6,500	13½	2,000	9,789	7,972	13½
British Automatic	Sept. 30	11,662	66,184	77,846	..	40,000	10	28,298	9,548	65,820	10
Burberry's	Mar. 31	95,221	98,823	194,044	112,500	..	..	..	81,544	91,708	..
George M. Callender and Co.	June 30	218	6,356	6,574	2,411	1,000	20	2,500	663	5,064	20
"Irish Times"	Sept. 30	6,196	36,479	42,675	16,462	14,000	20½	3,000	9,213	22,464	5
Shops and Stores.											
Lawrence's Stores	Jan. 31	Dr 3,731	Dr 3,736	Dr 7,470	..	..	..	..	Dr 7,470	1,520	..

† Free of tax.

(m) Nine months.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

steady. Manitoba patents range from 40s 6d to 52s. Minnesota 45s 6d to 51s, and Australian 47s 6d, all per 280 lbs ex store. Barley steady. Californian 70s-73s, Chilian Chevalier 80s-88s, Polish ex store 62s-68s, per 448 lbs. No 4 Canadian Western ex ship 39s 6d, landed 41s, Danubian, Persian, also American malting (48 lbs), 39s 6d, all ex ship per 400 lbs. English ranges from 11s 9d to 23s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize quiet and easier. Plate ex ship 43s 6d, ditto landed 45s, and Odessa in latter position 45s, per 480 lbs. Oats quiet and easier on liberal arrivals of La Plata. Plate ex ship quoted 29s 3d, ditto landed new 30s 9d, No 2 Canadian Western ex ship 33s 3d, ditto landed 34s 9d, American white clipped 38 lbs landed 31s 3d, all per 320 lbs. English 8s 8d to 10s 10d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Millers' offalls quiet and tendency easier. Broad bran quoted 9s 3d, middlings 9s 9d, fine ditto 13s 3d, bags included ex mill. Light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 9d, feed oatmeal 10s 9d, ground oats 14s 9d, all per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal quietly steady. London-made flaked 20s, rolled oats 19s 6d, medium also fine cut 19s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 19s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 21s, American and Canadian rolled oats 20s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Nov. 8	Cwts. 235,409	Cwts. 322,761	Cwts. 579,063	Cwts. 243,505
10 weeks to Nov. 8	2,441,449	4,076,589	4,350,500	3,735,000
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 9	s d 9 1	s d 9 11	s d 10 3½

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Nov. 1	Cwts. 290,357	Cwts. 590,543	Cwts. 125,883	s d 13 0	s d 17 0	s d 10 6
Nov. 8	235,409	525,847	102,395	12 9	16 9	10 4
1923.						
Nov. 1	333,090	678,330	57,642	21 0	25 8	18 9
Nov. 8	243,506	510,546	57,709	10 3	13 8	9 3
1922.						
Nov. 1	579,064	516,807	91,878	9 11	11 10	9 9
Nov. 8	322,761	736,110	75,623	9 1	10 8	8 8

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated November 13, 1924, is as follows:—Pig-iron: After considerable business in pig-iron during the last fortnight, the market is somewhat steadier, although prices are firmly maintained at 82s per ton for No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. and 88s 6d per ton for East Coast mixed numbers hematite. Stocks must have been fairly well sold, but there is not any indication of more furnaces being restarted at present. Manufactured iron and steel: Orders for steel have been placed with local works, and their position is undoubtedly showing signs of improvement. Prices are unchanged as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: A fair amount of business has been put through for foreign ore during the last week or two, and prices are firmer. Sellers are quoting 22s 6d per ton for best Bilbao Rubio delivered c.i.f. Tees and other ores are quoted by sellers on this basis.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The confident sentiment in the iron and steel market continues, and is already justified by a slight increase in actual business. Trade, however, remains severely depressed in the pig-iron, steel billet, and crucible steel branches, although producers are stiffening their attitude regarding prices, and are disinclined to quote very far forward at the current quotations. Some branches of engineering are booking increased work, and an expanding demand for special steels, files, stainless steel, and mining requisites is reported. All prices are a slight balance to the good. Export trade is variable, with like a boom is being experienced, with prices generally satisfactory. There is a heavy demand for modern stove grates and kitchen ranges, and makers of gas and electric heaters and cookers are busy. Demand is rather easier for shovels, spades, picks, and farm and contractors' tools. Conditions in the fuel market are slightly continues poor, and there is much surplus coal about. For some time past there has been over-production in foundry and blast furnace coke, and it is hard to sell even at the current low prices. Quotations in the fuel market generally are nominal. South Yorkshire hards fetch 20s to 21s, and hand-picked branch is worth 32s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—The buoyant tone in iron and steel market is maintained. Values in pig-iron are

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended October 31.		Ten Months Ended October 31.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	7,804,741	13,224,062	79,775,047	94,733,520
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	418,703	946,747	4,703,579	6,503,795
C. Meat	8,098,649	8,275,711	93,972,968	89,217,808
D. Animals, living, for food	2,592,061	2,761,695	9,901,624	18,257,853
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	13,297,489	16,076,555	122,338,256	128,955,725
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	10,717,827	13,062,412	93,325,475	103,413,936
G. Tobacco	1,911,722	2,304,139	12,569,764	12,402,107
Total, Class I.	44,841,192	56,651,321	416,567,713	450,034,747
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,940	1,260	10,733	12,081
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	447,680	473,831	4,741,063	4,845,809
C. Iron ore and scrap	502,790	608,723	6,411,209	7,562,131
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,206,695	1,338,391	10,345,338	12,744,335
E. Wood and timber	5,676,714	6,318,193	39,125,203	42,563,504
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	12,359,205	13,213,887	59,965,340	87,963,079
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	1,878,969	3,903,990	43,263,297	61,924,923
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	229,293	205,440	1,358,400	1,517,097
I. Other textile materials	381,504	1,419,602	7,948,614	10,596,004
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, gums, and hides	3,207,299	4,508,871	37,405,717	42,870,036
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,493,289	2,046,631	14,158,249	18,145,036
L. Paper-making materials	1,066,986	1,092,455	9,644,007	9,328,108
M. Rubber	1,399,277	821,566	9,848,845	7,716,314
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,023,027	1,281,533	8,709,301	9,136,184
Total, Class II.	30,878,668	37,235,373	252,938,316	316,924,641
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	3,761	167	14,699	4,747
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	720,214	796,107	6,167,695	7,062,074
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,171,270	2,110,197	11,468,342	18,587,094
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	2,310,120	2,136,348	20,434,310	27,116,136
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	652,749	659,039	5,748,221	6,153,586
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	256,413	375,910	2,895,521	2,543,460
G. Machinery	775,334	936,516	7,748,372	8,688,494
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	434,852	476,826	3,812,089	4,371,354
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	798,410	892,087	7,251,595	7,653,398
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,053,152	1,231,281	9,630,620	12,390,135
K. Silk and silk manufactures	2,300,213	2,230,577	18,655,037	21,179,088
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,488,376	1,703,652	11,818,054	13,808,286
M. Apparel	1,803,475	1,925,053	14,214,809	15,998,185
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,215,916	1,340,961	11,184,229	12,221,654
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	2,859,320	2,682,419	29,725,223	33,473,364
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	988,713	1,257,933	9,822,144	11,460,429
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,474,549	1,411,913	11,061,870	11,816,306
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	599,233	759,346	6,209,607	7,697,493
S. Rubber manufactures	289,151	428,505	4,178,297	3,903,810
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,640,711	2,709,737	22,064,171	21,562,786
Total, Class III.	23,673,592	26,043,221	213,115,905	247,492,459
IV.—Animals, not for food	186,943	288,403	1,252,066	2,055,600
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles ..	347,093	240,010	3,225,289	3,242,437
Total	99,927,488	120,458,328	887,093,289	1,029,749,584

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Value F.O.B.).

	Month Ended October 31.		Ten Months Ended October 31.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	548,787	939,073	3,627,301	6,050,635
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	215,668	366,274	1,452,542	2,510,642
C. Meat	171,156	152,044	1,087,314	1,283,624
D. Animals living, for food	21,113	20,475	141,809	225,319
E. and F. Other food and drink	3,186,300	3,785,208	23,940,937	29,624,140
G. Tobacco	633,708	601,309	5,588,025	5,597,019
Total, Class I.	4,779,732	5,864,383	35,237,928	45,291,579
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	9,109,867	5,492,046	84,505,434	61,329,652
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	161,666	219,710	1,535,267	1,786,404
C. Iron ore and scrap	60,429	21,608	465,514	365,360
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	145,726	94,600	1,893,947	1,026,867
E. Wood and timber	55,786	55,405	380,219	540,163
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	121,891	147,234	1,345,347	1,482,050
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	704,000	1,348,861	8,020,425	9,546,383
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	9,348	3,222	97,244	97,482
I. Other textile materials	44,969	31,924	476,005	337,338
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	441,764	669,918	4,650,685	5,981,257
K. Hides and skins, undressed	162,189	157,268	1,381,311	1,091,253
L. Paper-making materials	150,764	165,760	1,977,808	1,524,654
M. Rubber	8,999	8,631	106,131	95,468
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	407,897	242,397	3,432,574	3,004,386
Total, Class II.	11,585,335	8,658,634	110,173,416	88,807,527
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,247,798	547,769	8,283,482	5,380,735
B. Earths, raw, glass, and abrasives	1,924,446	1,176,648	10,109,861	10,703,880
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	7,354,207	5,994,950	62,300,812	62,837,559
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,510,843	1,230,579	12,125,261	13,105,517
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	804,934	815,301	6,101,715	7,012,575
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	833,025	1,053,268	6,872,491	8,265,441
G. Machinery	3,736,635	4,012,374	37,364,450	36,575,665
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	206,412	234,216	1,464,539	1,863,388
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	15,960,721	16,610,655	148,870,259	165,824,246
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	5,155,618	5,188,947	53,500,307	56,296,151
K. Silk and silk manufactures	222,547	181,195	1,685,411	1,857,275
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,305,442	2,400,095	19,796,593	22,482,181
M. Apparel	2,725,257	3,105,991	22,073,031	25,381,343
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	2,572,429	2,161,962	21,414,145	21,272,591
O. Oils, fats, & resins, manufactured	678,796	726,883	5,691,162	7,450,489
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	557,148	603,331	4,702,013	5,721,211
Q. Paper and cardboard	963,893	857,473	7,133,390	7,698,788
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,831,557	1,916,582	23,941,725	21,701,683
S. Rubber manufactures	486,955	560,755	4,421,769	5,067,268
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	3,334,420	3,328,454	25,187,535	26,902,684
Total, Class III.	53,881,073	52,835,999	482,642,933	513,347,877
IV.—Animals, not for food	235,289	203,042	1,104,325	1,840,391
V.—Parcel Post	841,502	1,024,586	8,286,710	8,638,397
Total	71,322,931	68,586,634	377,445,312	657,905,895

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 7, 1924.

Description.	Good Ord.						Same Period 1923.						Same Period 1922.					
	Ord.		Low Mid.		Good Mid.		Ord.		Low Mid.		Good Mid.		Ord.		Low Mid.		Good Mid.	
	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
American	1160	1260	1325	1365	1400	1450	1707	1807	1862	1950	1950	1950	1450	1520	1575	1625	1650	1675
Brazilian :	Mid	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fne	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.
Fernan, Macelo, &c.	1295	1445	1545	...	...	...	1902	1907	...	...	...	...	1410	1525	...	...	...	...
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	1295	1445	1545	...	...	...	1902	1907	...	...	...	...	1410	1525	...	...	...	...
Ocara, &c.	1295	1445	1545	...	...	...	1902	1907	...	...	...	...	1410	1525	...	...	...	...
São Paulo	1320	1370	1420	...	...	...	1877	1952	...	...	...	...	1460	1520	...	...	...	...
Egyptian :	Fr.	G.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fne	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.	Fr.	Fr.	Gd.
Upper	1685	1740	1795	1855	1925	...	1935	2015	2055	...	...	...	1490	1590	1680	...	...	...
Sakellaridis	1600	2550	2550	2730	2800	...	1935	2950	2150	...	...	...	1615	1880	2090	...	...	...
Brown	1570	1805	1865	1915	1970	...	1935	2000	2080	...	...	...	1450	1480	1540	...	...	...
Peruvian :	Mid	Fr.	G.	Fr.	Gd.	Fne	Mid	Fr.	Gd.	Mid	Fr.	Gd.	Mid	Fr.	Gd.	Mid	Fr.	Gd.
Rough	...	...	2000	2100	2150	...	...	2000	...	...	...	...	...	...	1650	...	...	...
Moderately Rough	...	...	1700	1800	1900	...	...	1800	1950	...	...	...	...	1500	1625	...	...	...
Smooth	1470	1545	1620	1645	1670	...	1962	2037	2112	...	...	...	1560	1685	1820	...	...	...
Tangula	1570	1620	1670	1745	1845	...	1937	1987	2062	...	...	...	1560	1685	1810	...	...	...
Mitiñiti	...	...	1800	1950	2050	2150	...	1853	2052	...	...	...	...	1300	1550	...	...	...
West Indian, &c.	...	...	1375	1425	1475	...	...	1950	...	...	...	...	...	1500	...	...	...	...
Do Sea Island	...	...	2400	2550	2750	2900	...	1900	2400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
African, East, &c.	1255	1355	1515	1535	1640	1670	...	1600	1750	1850	...	...	1200	1375	1755	...	...	...
Do West	...	...	1305	1515	1535	1415	1535	...	1912	1922	2012	...	...	...	1410	1485	...	...
East Indian :	G	F	Fr	Gd.	F	G	Fne	Fr	Gd.	F	Fr	Gd.	F	Fr	Gd.	F	Fr	Gd.
Machine Ginned Surtee	...	...	1285	1325	1365	...	...	1810	...	...	...	...	...	...	1415	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Brooch	...	...	1130	1170	1210	1250	1920	1505	1545	1625	2245	1285	1365	1365	...	...	...	...
Mach. Ginned Bhowngroo	1035	1085	1135	1185	1235	1285	...	1250	1307	1400	...	...	1330	1380	1460	...	...	...
Mach. Ginned Oomra. No. 1	1345	1095	1135	1195	1235	1235	...	1630	1310	1410	...	...	1340	1410	1470	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Oomra. No. 2	...	...	1045	1095	1145	1195	1245	1280	1325	1385	...	...	1065	1145	1145	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Khandooli	...	...	1345	1395	1445	1495	1545	1210	1263	1360	...	...	990	1040	1120	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Khandoon	1210	...	1250	...	...	...	...	1490	...	...	...	...	1230	...	...	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Comptah	1060	1100	1140	1180	1220	1260	1175	1215	1295	895	845	925	...	...	...	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Bengal	1050	1390	1130	1170	1210	1250	1165	1205	1285	795	835	915	...	...	...	...	...	...
Machine Ginned Scinde	1225	1265	1305	...	...	...	1730	1740	...	...	...	...	1215	1455	...	...	...	...
American-Scinde, Punjab	...	...	1400	1415	1390	1340	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Western	...	1130	1170	1210	1250	...	1425	1465	...	...	...	...	1165	1205	...	...	...	...
Western	...	1150	1190	1230	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Northern	...	1215	1255	1295	...	...	...	...	...	1490	...	...	...	1230	...	...	...	...
Northern	...	1215	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
M. G. Oocoonada, Red	Fr.	1250	...	...	...	...	1465	...	...	...	...	...	1190	...	...	...	...	...
China, Smyrna, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

MANCHESTER, November 13.

The market this week has been under the influence of a hardening movement in raw cotton rates. It cannot be said, however, that this development has stimulated business in manufactured goods. Buyers at the moment seem very nervous as to operating freely at current prices. The opinion is gaining ground that values will be cheaper in the near future as a result of the increased production of yarn. In cloth for India the demand has been disappointing, and only scattered sales have taken place. Very limited buying has occurred for China. Some fairly encouraging contracts have been arranged for Egypt, and trade for South America continues rather better. Numerous manufacturers, however, find greater resistance from customers to present prices. It has been a quiet week in American yarns for home use, and quotations remain slightly more irregular. There has been some variation in Egyptian yarn prices, and trading has not been active.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Previous Weeks in 1924.					
	Price, Nov. 13, 1924.	Price, Nov. 6.	Price, Oct. 30.	Price, Oct. 23.	Price, Oct. 16.	Price, Oct. 9.
	d	d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Mid. American per lb	13/70	13/33	13/76	13/62	13/33	14/17
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair						
Egyptian per lb	25/00	25/50	25/85	24/70	24/85	25/00
Yarns—32's twist per lb	24/40	24/42	24/42	24/74	24/42	24/42
— 40's twist per lb	25/00	25/25	25/25	25/25	25/25	25/25
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	36/50	36/50	36/50	35/50	35/50	35/50
32-in. Printers, 116 yds. 16 by 16, 32's and 50's:						
36-in. Shirts, 76 yds. 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	37	0	56	9	36	9
36-in. ditto, 33 yds. 18 by 16, 10 lbs	19	6	19	9	20	0
32-in. ditto, 37 1/2 yds. 16 by 15, 8 1/2 lbs	18	0	17	9	18	0

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Nov. 13, 1924.	Corresponding dates in					
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	
		d	d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Mid. American per lb	13.70	20.05	15.39	10.88	14.70	24.56	
— Sakellariadis Fully Good Fair Egyptian per lb	25.00	21.80	19.25	20.75	34.00	40.50	
Yarns—32's twist per lb	24½	26	21½	19	35	49½	
— 40's twist per lb	25½	26½	21	18½	33	47	
— 60's twist (Egyptian) per lb	36½	33½	29½	34	49	78	
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	40	37	6	32	3	59	0.71
36-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	31	41	0	33	6	62	0.67
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	19	6	21	9	19	0	31
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs	18	2	0	17	6	18	26

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—All the cabled reports from the primary markets are definitely "bullish," and the price of the raw material is steadily moving to a higher level. The New Zealand selling season opens at

Wellington on Monday, and it is expected that demand will be keen, with prices against buyers. In this market there has been an active demand for wool and tops during the last few days, and in addition to the home requirements, some fair weights of crossbred matchings have been sold to America. It is now generally believed that United States mills will be large buyers in the near future, and this is another factor making for a strong market. Most qualities of tops have been dealt in during the week, but demand has especially favoured medium and low crossbreds, the price evidently being a strong incentive to buyers. Quotations to-day show a marked advance on those ruling a week ago. Warp 64's tops are firm at 80d, and super 60's at 81s 1d dearer at 74d. A similar rise is seen in average 56's at 51s, and 46's carded at 32d, while 40's prepared are $\frac{1}{2}$ d up at 29d per lb. All home-grown wools are firmly held, and prices show a distinct hardening tendency, stocks being comparatively light for the time of year.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Wool sales in Australia are gaining strength with the spread of confidence, and we attribute that as the chief reason for the steady, keen demand for wool at slightly advancing prices. The selling centres are now under way except those in New Zealand, where the first sale of the season opens at Wellington on Monday. Here, too, everything points to an excellent demand. Prices are certain to be higher than they were last season, and with New Zealand opening, the free sale of the new clips in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America will be well established. What amazes everyone is that wool auctions can be so well sustained at so many centres, for there appears to be no lack of buyers anywhere, and, what is perhaps as important, no lack of sterling to pay for the wool. Our advices this week from Australia indicate sales in sellers' favour, and we shall not be surprised if cables are received at the end of the week giving a slightly higher clean cost from several markets. There is no doubt that the calmer political outlook has contributed something to the spread of confidence, and although the unemployment trouble at home does not as yet show signs of much improvement, trade generally is slightly better, and we hope to see more spindles and looms running with the turn of the year.

Advance samples of wool received from Australia show that the clip is a good one, although in certain areas a fair amount of drought obtained. Still, the clip on the whole is much better than the previous one, rather deeper grown, and certainly on the majority of stations a bulkier clip has been cut. No one can find the least fault with its reception, and users generally must believe in a bigger consumption than last year, otherwise there would be some slackening in the demand in face of a certain increase on the top side of 200,000 bales. However, with political peace, and more business in the different countries in the world, the increase will all be needed.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

After a period of weakness, linseed oil has on a better demand, and influenced by dearer seed, recovered to £46 per ton naked ex Hull mill for prompt delivery and to the end of December, while oil from the new seed is at a premium of 7s 6d per ton over these prices. Demand for cotton oils during the week has been disappointing, and prices have been marked down, crude Egyptians now offering at £46 15s naked ex Hull mill. In the oilseed section old crop Plate linseed is firmly held and is dearer on the week at £22 12s 6d for shipment, while new crop has advanced to £22 17s 6d for January-February shipment. Ad-

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

Registered in Japan, 1899.

Capital Subscribed	-	-	-	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	-	-	-	Y52,500,000
Reserve	-	-	-	

Head Office - - - - - Y13,380,000
London Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
25 OLD BROAD STREET E.C.2

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

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

verse reports as to the growing crop have largely influenced the market. In sympathy with Alexandria prices of Egyptian cottonseed have continued to decline, black now offering by shippers at £13 17s 6d November-December.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

The market hide position remains firm, with a tendency toward advance. At Thursday's sales in Bermondsey, best ox again made from 7½d to 9½d, and seconds from 6½d to 8½d per lb. Best cows were withdrawn, seconds selling at 6½d to 7½d per lb. Calf were still dear, best selections selling from 8½d for heavy, to 15½d for lights. Wools sold from 8s to 17s 6d, and hogs from 8s 8d to 20s each. The imported hide market is steady, and 9½d has been paid for Montevideo ox, and 10d c.i.f. for Montevideos. Slight concessions in price are reported on dry River Plates, and this has induced business with this country. The Chicago position is cabled as steady, with best heavy packers now offering at 17 cents. Imports of wet hides to the end of October this year totalled 1,020,666 cwts, and of dry hides to 524,303 cwts.

The boot and shoe trade is patchy, but improving in centres where ladies' shoes are turned out. The export trade remains brisk, the value of British-made footwear increasing from £3,446,145 to £4,220,605 for the first ten months of 1923-24.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, November 14.

SUGAR.—The market for refined goods displayed further weakness, but at the lower level of prices a better demand prevailed, chiefly, however, for British standards, which show a decline of 1s 9d to 2s spot and 1s 6d per cwt forward delivery. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 38s 3d to 39s 3d; crushed, 36s 9d; granulated, fine, also coarse, 35s 4½d; No. 1, 35s 1½d, London; T.L.S., also No. 2, 34s 10½d; November delivery, 34s 9d; December, 34s 3d; and yellow crystals, spot, 31s 10½d. Imported continues in slow support, with white Java, spot, sold, at 32s to 32s 6d. American granulated, white, 34s 3d; Dutch granulated, 33s 6d. Forward business in Continental descriptions shows no improvement, but prices, altering being easier, marked a slight recovery. Meanwhile offerings continue on a liberal scale. Czecho granulated, ready,

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

THE PRICES IN THE FOLLOWING

LONDON, FRIDAY.		THE PRICES IN THE FOLLOWING		INDIA RUBBER—lb		PROVISIONS—		Muntok, fair White		8 11 1/2	
00000—Luty, British grown		DRUGS—		Para, fine hard spot		Butter—per cwt.		Black Singapore		8 52 0	
Good foreign 10-cwt.		Alphea, fine E.L., p. cwts		Plantation crepe		Do factory		White Siam		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cape, good to fine		INDIGO—per lb		Argentine		Pineapples		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Bala, Peru, per cwt		Bengal, good red vio		New Zealand		Onion—small sort		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Capivi		Mid-cord, fine		Danish		Do mid		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Camphor		Madras, dry leaf, good		Beacon, and—Irish		Cloves—Siam		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, finest		Do low to mid		Canadian		Penang		8 11 1/2	
COFFEE—British grown		Cinnamon, drop		Low to mid		Hams—Irish		Madagascar		8 11 1/2	
Good foreign 10-cwt		Cassia, fair to good		Hemp, per ton		New Zealand		Ginger—per cwt		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Manila, Nov. Jan.		Lard—Irish bladders		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		N.Z., high point, fair		American, 64lb		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Fork—per 8 lb		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Beef—cans per 8 lb		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Butcher		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Cheese—Can. Canadian		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		New Zealand		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good		Nov. Jan.		Swiss		Do do		8 11 1/2	
Good to fine		Cassia, fair to good									

CANNED GOODS.—Sardines continue very firm, and prices display a hardening tendency, in view of unfavourable fishing returns. Portuguese $\frac{1}{2}$ -flats quoted 3s 10½d to 4s 1½d; clubs, 4s 1½d to 4s 6d; 12 oz, 6s to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 11s to 12s 6d per dozen tins. Salmon in quiet request, but rates are well maintained, while values are likely to harden, so as to come into line with prices ruling for shipment. 1 lb

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on November 12th as follows:—The tallow market was steadier during the week, and prices were 9d dearer to-day. Last week's decline attracted buyers, and since spot supplies are becoming very limited a recovery resulted. At auction to-day 842 casks tallow were offered, and 809 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 52s 9d; good to fair, 52s to 50s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 45s 6d; hard, 52s 6d. Australian beef: Fine, 53s; good to fair, 50s to 49s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 45s 6d; sweet, 53s. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 49s. Present shipment from South America, 49s 6d to 48s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 45s per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 6d; melted stuff, 35s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 45s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 46s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 50s; fair to dull, 47s to 46s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 41s, f.o.b.

Per Cwt.				Per Cwt.			
	s	d			s	d	
English—King Edwards	10	0	11	0	Blackland—		
British Queens	8	6	9	0	King Edwards	9	0
Majestic	8	6	9	0	Evergoods	8	0

Telegrams: "Italcocredi, Cannon, London."
Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

MONEY has been scarce all through the week, and the Bank return shows that the Government is already piling up its balance with a view to the December interest payment on War Loan. A good deal of assistance was given indirectly to the market, indicated by a considerable increase in Other securities; but it did not suffice, and direct borrowing to a small extent from the Bank of

England was necessary on Thursday. Discount rates, however, were affected by the approach of the War Loan interest payment, and by demands based on the fact that bills are usually cheapest at this time of year. Fine three months' Bank bills were placed readily at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

	Nov. 21, 1924.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	5 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount (Call)	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills) ..	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed an increase, chiefly due to the reflux of notes from circulation of £638,000 in the Reserve. Government and Other securities increased by £870,000 and £3,173,000, and so 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions were added to deposits, of which Public took 3 and Other 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £1,488,000 to £285,880,000, which includes £1,362,800 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £235,067,100, being £13,123,800 below the maximum for the year.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Although the initial excitement which followed the declaration of the election results has to some extent subsided, business in many sections remains decidedly active, and Thursday's settlement was a heavy one. Gilt-edged stocks retain their strength in face of a strong new issue campaign, and at the same time there is a big flow of money from the investing public into a variety of industrial and speculative securities. Home Rails, however, continue to be neglected. A feature of the week has been another outburst of activity in tea shares, while rubber shares, after a relapse, rallied towards the end of the week. Oil market activity remains chiefly professional. Alternating support and sales from the Cape left leading Kafir shares mostly unchanged on the week.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The commodity markets were inclined to be irregular. On account of the high prices realised for crossbred wool in New Zealand, Bradford topmakers have revised their prices accordingly. Conditions in the cotton trade are quiet. Our coal correspondent reports a slight improvement on the Cardiff coal market. Inquiry has taken place for pig-iron for export, possibly owing to the rise in the price of Continental pig-iron. Steel works are getting more orders. Tin opened firm, but subsequently weakened, and copper followed on similar lines. Sugar was firmer, and tea moved upward. Rubber was quiet and easier. Wheat has declined. The hide market shows an advancing tendency. Further details of markets, together with prices, will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

After the recent period of excitement business on the foreign exchange market was last week again much quieter, but although there has been some slight depression in sterling, it is satisfactory to find that no sharp reaction has set in from the recent largely sentimental recovery. From \$4.64 on the 14th there was a sharp falling away in New York on a large offering of sterling bills and the closing of speculative accounts, which brought the rate in London on Monday afternoon to at one time as low as \$4.61 and to \$4.60 $\frac{1}{2}$ on Tuesday morning. After that there was a quiet recovery, till \$4.64 was again reached at one time on Wednesday, and though the rate has fallen away again, it showed yesterday morning, at \$4.63 $\frac{1}{2}$, signs of moderate firmness. Although it is still difficult to foresee the immediate future, there is an atmosphere of quiet confidence, which should prevent any too rapid relapse. Forward quotations stand at between $\frac{1}{8}$ below and par. The Paris rate, which stood at 87.55 at the close of the 14th, failed to keep up with sterling, and was as high at one time on the 19th as 88.55. Subsequently a good Bank of France

return and the expectation of an announcement of a New York loan before the end of the week brought a decided improvement to a quotation of 87.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ yesterday morning. With funds at its disposal in New York, there is no reason why for some time at least the Bank of France should not be able to maintain the franc at a satisfactorily stable level, but it is to be hoped that the mistake will not be repeated of attempting to bring about a sensationally rapid improvement. The Brussels rate has moved in much the same proportion as Paris, being quoted yesterday morning at 95.55, as compared with 95.75 a week ago. Forward quotations in Paris are 25.27 centimes per month above spot, in Brussels 5-8 centimes above. Of the currencies following the dollar, Vienna stands at 328,500, as compared with last week's 325,500, the recent political troubles having had no influence on the rate; Warsaw is 24.05 zloty, as compared with 24.00; Berlin is 19.45 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 19.47 $\frac{1}{2}$. Switzerland has also moved closely with gold, and stands at 24.01, as compared with 24.05 a week ago. The lira has remained fairly steady, with a slight tendency towards improvement, having moved from 106.90 to 106 $\frac{1}{2}$. Spain, in spite of its by no means satisfactory political outlook, has also recovered from 34.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 33.97 $\frac{1}{2}$. Amsterdam moved sharply against us at the beginning of the week in sympathy with the dollar, and still stands at 11.52 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 11.55 on the 14th. Among the northern countries, Stockholm, following the same course, is quoted at 17.24 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 17.27. Copenhagen, in spite of rumours of a loan in America, has depreciated again slightly from 26.24 to 26.27 $\frac{1}{2}$. Christiania, on the other hand, has recovered a little from 31.27 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 31.22 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Helsingfors, at 184, also shows an improvement. In the south-east, Budapest maintains its steady parity with sterling of 345,000, Prague has moved slightly against us to 154 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Bukarest has shown a rapid relapse, up to now unexplained, from 845 back to 900, after its recent period of improvement. In the East, the rupee is now quoted at 1s 6d, as compared with 1s 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d a week ago, but Japan is very slightly cheaper at 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 1s 7 31-32d. With the maintenance of the improvement in sterling and the absence of demand in the East and on the Continent, the silver market remains depressed, and the outlook for the immediate future is not bright. Hong Kong has moved down from 2s 5d to 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Shanghai from 3s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In South America, Rio, after some recovery, has depreciated to 5 31-32d, as compared with 6d a week ago. Buenos Aires, on the other hand, has improved in value from 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, after being up to 45d, while Monte Video stands at 51s, as compared with 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Valparaiso has improved slightly from 40 pesos to 39.90 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 15th:—

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	6,000	From Revenue	9,864
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,447	Increase in Debt	967
Sinking Fund	784		
Sundries	491		
Increase in Exchequer balances ..	109		
	10,831		10,831

The Revenue for the week amounted to £9,863,800, as compared with £14,981,700 for the corresponding week last year. Customs were a little higher, at £1,837,000, against £1,482,000, while Excise was considerably lower, at £1,741,000, against £6,749,000. Estate, &c., Duties brought in £1,140,000, as compared with £1,880,000. Property and Income-tax were lower at £1,217,000, against £2,204,000, but Super-tax, at £420,000, was £160,000 above last year's figure. Ordinary receipts reached £618,838, as compared with £236,750, while Special receipts brought in £1,000,000, against nil. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £967,000, and caused the following changes:—

	£		£
Treasury Bills	1,552	Public Department Advances ..	1,552
Treasury Bonds	945	Sundries	1,000
	2,497		2,552

The floating debt was increased by £350,000 to £792,420,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to November 15).

Total Expenditure ..	£ 461,050,017	Raised by Revenue ..	£ 429,516,524
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,466,011
		Amount borrowed ..	28,067,482
Total	461,050,017	Total	461,050,017
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.			
Ordinary Expenditure ..	£ 786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	£ 764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found particulars relating to the Bank of Poland and to the financial and economic situation in Greece, together with reports of the following companies:—English, Scottish, and Australian Bank; Australian Mercantile, Land and Finance Company; Killinghall (Rubber) Development Syndicate, Ansells Brewery, Piccadilly Hotel, and Hotel Cecil. Mr Andrew Williamson, at the meeting of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, said that the outlook for the pastoral and agricultural industries of the Commonwealth could hardly be better; for, with an increased wool clip and a bountiful harvest, record prices were ruling for wool, and good prices for wheat.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COST OF LIVING.

In his election address Mr Baldwin promised that, if returned to power, he would institute an inquiry into retail food prices. It so happens that he takes office at a moment when the upward curve in the cost of living is sharp, and public opinion has naturally fastened upon this pledge in no uncertain manner. The new Premier, for his part, has lost no time in redeeming it, and has already decided to appoint a Royal Commission, whose instructions are to produce an interim report as early as possible on the principal staple foods, leaving the rest of the ground of inquiry to be covered at the more leisurely pace usually adopted by such bodies. The insistence on an early interim report is obviously a wise political move. For, although we discern ground for hope that the bottom of the recent industrial depression has been passed, and that the total of our unemployed will diminish in the coming months, we have, nevertheless, to pass through another winter when unemployment, though declining, must remain on a large scale; and, unless we misread the situation, the period before us will differ from the recent winters, in that the unemployed will no longer enjoy the help of the existence of low prices for staple foods in comparison with the general level of commodity prices. Such being the circumstances, no Government, perhaps, could afford to present to the public an appearance of impotent inaction. The new Government, at any rate, is at pains to avoid conveying any such appearance.

It is to be hoped that Mr Baldwin and his colleagues will be equally careful to avoid another danger—that of allowing the public to believe that they can and will take effective artificial steps to cheapen the cost of living in a period which, one hopes, will see a steady recovery of trade. There are, it is true, some things which the directors of the nation's financial policy can do towards influencing the course of prices. But the most obvious of such steps are hardly practical politics at the moment, when the primary object must be to avoid placing any obstacles in the way of a trade expansion, which alone can reduce unemployment and lead to a justifiable rise in wage levels. To attempt the restriction of living costs by measures which might prevent expansion of trade and production would be just about as sensible as to burn down a house to roast a pig. We have no fear that the Government would be drawn into such a policy. But they would be wise, in our opinion, to educate the country frankly in the limitations of helpful Governmental action.

Assuming the rather dubious contingency of the Royal Commission reporting that in the matter of staple foods the public is being shamelessly exploited by rings and trusts, then popular clamour would drive the Government to legislative action. But with recent experience in mind, scepticism as to the efficacy of such efforts must be entertained, and the path of bureaucratic interference is in any case strewn with difficulties. Whatever the Commissioners may conclude about the "gap" between wholesale and retail prices, it is as well to remember that in a country which imports most of its food, the course of food prices depends largely on international factors. The recent rise in wheat, which is causing fears of a further rise in the cost of the loaf, is accounted for by the state of the world's harvests, which, in their turn, are conditioned mainly by the weather. Governments and Royal Commissions cannot bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion. The law of supply and demand is not one which they can repeal. It would be a great pity if a frame of mind which expects miracles is allowed to develop in the country.

It is absurd to expect those, employed or unemployed, workers or *rentiers*, who live on fixed incomes, to regard a rise in retail prices, especially in food prices, as anything but objectionable. Nevertheless there are aspects of the upward turn in prices, even of food prices, which are favourable points in the general trade outlook. Confidence that the fall in the general price level is over and a steady upward movement is probable is a primary condition of the expansion of enterprise; and the rather pronounced movement which has set in may in itself indicate that such expansion is beginning. Moreover, the rise in the world's price of wheat, while responsible for dearer flour and a dearer loaf, brings an overdue readjustment of the relation between agricultural produce and manufactured goods. This relation has of late been out of gear, to the disfavour of the agricultural populations. This has in itself been an important factor in restricting the overseas demand for British goods. More profitable conditions for farmers and for growers of some staple raw materials should serve to give in due course some fillip to our export trade, and consequently to bring some relief to just those British industries where unemployment is most serious.

There is, then, the bright side as well as the dark side to the picture of rising prices. It would, however, be a mistake to underestimate the difficulties which a substantial advance would entail. There is still a very large and important group of industries—mainly "sheltered" industries, or those not exposed to international competition—in which wage levels are regulated according to the movements in the Ministry of Labour's index figure of the cost of living. A sudden and substantial rise in this figure entails, after a short time lag, an equally sudden and substantial rise in the wages of an important section of the working community. Such a wage advance, if on a large scale, would in itself stimulate the rise in living costs, and give rise to fresh unrest and wage claims in the industries which are subject to international competition before those industries have felt a sufficient improvement to enable them to meet higher wage bills. If the rise in the cost of living is about to set in motion once more this train of events, which we have seen before, then the whole problem of wage standards will come to the fore as one of the most pressing of national questions. It would seem that the time has come to get away from the rigid adhesion to the cost-of-living index as a wage standard. In the long run the general level of wages must be governed by the level of wages which the export industries can afford to pay. Starting from that premise an expert enquiry is essentially desirable to explore the possibility of finding some post-war standard which, for the time being, would better reflect the economic conditions of the country as a whole. If such a standard could be found and accepted, it would, we believe, conduce far more than the present systems of wage regulation to the best interests of the wage-earning classes as a whole, and would at the same time, by eliminating sudden jolts and jars, and glaring anomalies and discrepancies, make for stability, and lessen for trade and industry as a whole their most formidable uncertainties and anxieties. Naturally the approach to

the problem is fraught with misconception and suspicion. Parliament is a body unsuited to take it up. For a Conservative Government to begin its life by appointing a Royal Commission on wages would, however carefully the *personnel* was selected, not be construed favourably by the Trade Unions or by wage-earners as a whole. Nevertheless, there is reason to believe that some Trade Union leaders (especially some of those who have just resumed their old tasks after Cabinet experience) are fully alive to the importance of those aspects of the problem upon which we have touched. We submit to leaders of industry, both of employers and employed, that the whole subject is one that would best and most fruitfully be discussed by a Parliament of Industry, such as has, on occasion, been suggested, and in an embryonic stage experimented with, by enlightened leaders of both sections. We hope the suggestion will be revived in the near future, and that wage standards will be among the first problems to engage the attention of a body, which might be an addition of immense importance to our national institutions.

THE TROUBLES IN EGYPT.

In the course of a single week, Egypt has been the scene of a rapid series of political events, all of them startling, and one of them very grave. Parliament reassembled on Wednesday, the 12th; Saad Zaghlul Pasha resigned the Premiership on Saturday, the 15th, and withdrew his resignation on the following day; on the Wednesday of the present week a murderous attack was made upon Sir Lee Stack, the Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, with, we regret to state, fatal results.

The Egyptian Parliament was opened last week, not inauspiciously, with a dignified and sensible speech from the Throne. The breakdown of the London negotiations between Zaghlul Pasha and Mr MacDonald was referred to very briefly, and while the Egyptian claim to the Sudan was reasserted in uncompromising terms, the language was not rhetorical or recriminatory. The speech went on to commend the efficiency of the internal administration of Egypt under the new *régime*, and to sketch with greater emphasis a future policy of internal development. The railways were to be improved, a merchant marine was to be established, provision was to be made for inland navigation, drainage, irrigation, the maintenance of the quality of Egyptian cotton, the increase of hospitals and dispensaries, the introduction of compulsory education, and the strengthening of the army. The concluding phrases, in which the Government was praised for having "kept the rights of Egypt intact" and "maintained cordial relations with foreign Powers," seemed to hint that Zaghlul Pasha intended to let the issues between Egypt and Great Britain lie until the Egyptian nation had put its own house in order, and had thus placed itself in a stronger position for returning to the charge on the questions of the security of the Canal and the sovereignty over the Sudan at some later date.

No observer from outside can doubt that, in the actual circumstances, this would be the wisest policy for any Egyptian Government to pursue, but, at the same time, it is probably the most difficult. Ever since the declaration of the British Protectorate over Egypt, after Turkey's intervention in the European War in 1914, Egyptian feeling has been working up towards a climax. The subsequent series of British concessions, following (if not occasioned by) successive outbreaks of violence on the Egyptian side, encouraged the false hope that the most sweeping programme of the extreme nationalists would be realised, and on this wave Zaghlul Pasha was carried into power. Both the extent and the limits of the British concessions up to date have, therefore, placed him in a difficult position towards his own followers. Since February, 1922, Egypt has been freer in her internal affairs than a statesman of Zaghlul Pasha's experience can really have expected to see her become at so early a date, and it is precisely in these internal affairs that the new national Government has most work to do. On the other hand, the Egyptian public—and especially the irre-

sponsible student class (whose undue influence is a symptom of political immaturity)—has had its attention concentrated, by many years of political agitation, upon those subjects which in 1922 the British Government reserved, and rightly reserved, because the Egyptian people cannot be in a position to deal with them properly until it has proved its political capacity in matters nearer at hand. Zaghlul Pasha, however, cannot, beyond a certain degree, disappoint the opinion that brought him into power, and that maintains him there. On some things he must speak with his followers' voice, even if the utterance leads nowhere; and this necessity largely explains the intransigence of his demands in London a few weeks ago, whereas the speech of last week may well reveal his personal appreciation of the realities. His resignation three days afterwards is a symptom of the difficulties which have long beset him in this false position.

Neither the resignation nor its withdrawal have been explained officially in any but the vaguest terms, but it is understood that the "intrigues" of which the Egyptian Prime Minister complained had emanated from the Palace, and that, as a condition of his return to office, a functionary of the King's household has been dismissed. The news of the resignation produced a national demonstration in Zaghlul's favour, as it was intended to do, and, indeed, this was only a repetition of the tactics which he pursued with the same success last June, after his position had been shaken by Lord Parmoor's blunt declaration that the British Government had no intention of relinquishing its rights in the Sudan. Zaghlul has obtained his vote of public confidence twice over, but it is a sign of weakness that he should need to have recourse to it twice over in six months, and unless he can now carry through his programme of internal reform, and at the same time bring his countrymen to see that this is the most important service that he can render them, his political future would seem to be precarious.

With Egyptian politics in this delicate state, the crime of last Wednesday has come as a shattering blow, of which it is still impossible to foresee the consequences, either for the internal politics of Egypt or for the relations between Egypt and Great Britain. The attempt was carefully prepared, and there is no doubt that it was political in character. Public opinion in Egypt, as well as in England, has already condemned the criminals, and expressed its sympathy for the Sirdar in the strongest terms, but a great deal depends on what official attitude is adopted by the British Government. While it is evident that the crime was not connived at, and still less inspired, by the Egyptian Government, or by any Egyptian subjects in positions of trust and responsibility, it might be argued that the irresponsible persons who perpetrated it had been corrupted by that atmosphere of exaltation and hatred which Zaghlul Pasha's partisans have deliberately created in Egypt in the course of their political struggle with Great Britain. In this sense the present Egyptian Government might be held responsible, and the opportunity might be seized for "making an example" with a retrospective effect, by subjecting the Egyptian Government to humiliating demands. That was how the Austrian Government argued in July, 1914—and that sufficiently condemns this line of policy. After all, if indirect responsibility is to be nicely appraised, our own mistakes and delays in the handling of the Egyptian question cannot be left out of consideration. It is more to the point to keep our eyes on the present, and to observe how the crime is actually being taken by the responsible leaders of the Egyptian nation, from Zaghlul Pasha downwards. There is no doubt, happily, that the Egyptian Prime Minister is deeply moved, that the Egyptian Government is taking energetic steps to arrest and punish the criminals, and that their action is being supported vigorously by Egyptian public opinion. Sir Lee Stack was popular in Egypt—particularly among the Egyptian officers who have served under him—and all reports affirm that the Egyptian nation is as much shocked and horrified at the crime as are its leaders. Wise statesmanship on both sides can make this grave occasion the point of departure for a better understanding, whereas an ill-considered gesture may do almost irreparable harm.

COAL UNDER THE DAWES SCHEME.

Few people seem to have a very clear idea of how the Dawes scheme and the London Agreement of last August are going to affect the coal export trade and the mining industry of this country. No authoritative statement has been published. During the recent General Election random references were made to the question by Mr Ramsay MacDonald and other Ministers in the Labour Government, but they were of a confusing and contradictory character, and instead of enlightening they confounded public opinion. There is one good reason for the failure of the Government, and of its departments, to give the trade the information it wants. They could have explained how far the arrangements under the Dawes scheme and the London agreement for the delivery of Reparation coals differ from those provided for under the Versailles Treaty and the Spa Agreement, but the Dawes plan is contingent on economic conditions in Germany, which cannot be clearly foreseen, while it also places in the hands of the Transfer Committee a discretionary administrative power which may, from time to time, fundamentally affect the policy governing the delivery of Reparation coals.

The purpose of this article will be to draw attention to some of the more important of the points in regard to which the Dawes scheme differs from that which it displaces. In the first place, the limitation of ten years imposed by the Treaty of Versailles on the delivery of Reparation coal to France, Belgium, and Italy has been, for all practical purposes, removed. Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was placed under an obligation to deliver to those three countries definitely specified annual quantities up to the end of June, 1929, when they would automatically cease, and complete freedom would be restored to Germany. Those terms were modified by the Spa Agreement, which fixed the total quantity to be delivered in any one year at about 20 million tons, distributed proportionately between Belgium, France, and Italy. No quantities or periods are fixed under the Dawes scheme. The programmes of Reparation deliveries are to be varied from time to time according to circumstances, and, apart from those programmes, Germany is given economic freedom to make the best commercial use out of her coal resources—as a matter of fact, she is to be encouraged in the exploitation of those resources with a view to providing maximum payments to the Allied and associated countries.

In the next place, the price principle governing the delivery of Reparation coal has been altered. Under the Treaty of Versailles the price to be paid for overland delivery was the German pit-head price to German nationals, plus the freight to French, Belgian, Italian, or Luxemburg frontiers, provided that the pit-head price did not exceed the pit-head price of British coal for export; and for sea delivery the German export price f.o.b. German ports, or the British export price British ports, whichever may be the lower. That was a principle that operated very prejudicially over a long period to the British coal export trade. France, Belgium, and Italy, but particularly France, gained enormously during the process of the depreciation of the mark. The extraordinarily low price, when measured in terms of francs or sterling, at which France obtained German coals enabled her to work a per-equation system that exercised a continuously depressing effect on British f.o.b. prices. Two steps have been taken in the Dawes scheme to prevent the recurrence of this evil. One of these is the attempt to establish a gold standard in Germany, and the other the laying down of the principle that deliveries must be made by means of commercial contracts passed under ordinary commercial conditions. In so far as these are effective they will be approved by the British coalowner and coal exporter. A gold standard will not only prevent the depreciation in the value of the mark from which the countries receiving Reparation coal benefited in the past, but it will also tend to raise the level of prices in Germany. It is true that during the 1921-23 deflation of German currency the German industrial debt was practi-

cally wiped out, but the authors of the Dawes scheme point out that the debt thus extinguished has been replaced by the new debt created for the purposes of the Dawes scheme, and by the principle of the scheme that internal taxation in Germany is to approximate to that ruling in the creditor countries. Given these conditions, the supply of Reparation coal will be not only on a nominal but on a real commercial basis.

In the third place, Germany is placed in a more favourable position than she was under the Treaty of Versailles for the exploitation of her coal resources for export purposes. The conditions in the mining industry, not only of France and Belgium, but also of Germany, are to-day vastly different from those existing when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. France is now producing practically as much coal as she did in 1913; moreover, her output, which in pre-war years had been almost stationary, is increasing at such a rate that it was recently estimated by Mr J. R. Cahill, H.M. Commercial Counsellor at the British Embassy in Paris, that two years hence it will amount to between 55 and 60 million tons, compared with a pre-war maximum output of about 41 million tons. In Belgium also the present rate of production is greater than that of 1913. Neither country is, therefore, in great need of German coal. All that France requires is an adequate supply of coke for the iron and steel industries in Lorraine. In Germany also there is at present a surplus production. The output capacity of the Reich is now at the rate of less than 130 million tons per annum, compared with the output of the German Empire of practically 190 million tons in 1913. Still, this much reduced output is beyond her requirements. The accumulated stocks of raw coal in the Ruhr alone are estimated at 3 million tons; there are also large stocks of lignite in Central and East Germany, and it is estimated that the present rate of output is approximately 800,000 tons per month more than the immediate requirements of the country. One of the chief causes of this low rate of consumption is the very depressed state of the iron and steel and other great coal-consuming industries of Germany. These are the circumstances under which the German colliery owners are being urged to exploit overseas markets, and the German Government to prohibit the importation of coal from Polish Silesia. The Dawes scheme places no obstacle in the way of the export of this surplus coal; on the contrary, it encourages such export, for the purpose of the Dawes scheme is to secure maximum Reparation payments for the Allied countries, and the Expert's Report states plainly that it is chiefly through her export trade that Germany must meet her debt obligations. While coal supply conditions on the Continent remain what they are to-day, the British coal trade must, therefore, face the certain prospect of greater competition from Germany. In that competition Germany will be helped by a longer working day in the mining industry and a lower cost of production. Much perturbation has been caused in South Wales coal trade circles by a report of an effort on the part of Germany to enter into an agreement with the Portuguese Government for a monopoly of supply to that country. The British Government has been asked to intervene in the interests of British exporters. Such intervention is impossible. It would be inconsistent with the text and purpose of the Dawes scheme. If Germany can supply coal to foreign countries at a lower price than this country can supply, we can have no grievance against her enterprise. Our only course is to offer coals at a relatively equal or lower price.

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING
BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

The situation, however, will be altered when German industries revive. In pre-war years, Germany exported over 34 million tons of coal, and, including Lorraine and the Saar, consumed 168½ million tons. She will not be able to export anything like that quantity with her mills and factories in full operation; then, and not until then, will there be offered to the British coal trade another and great opportunity for expansion.

THE LIBERAL LAND POLICY.—II.

(BY AN AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE total area of agricultural land in England and Wales is now 25,873,000 acres, being a reduction of 70,000 acres since last year. In 1914 the area was 27,114,000 acres, so that there has been a shrinkage of about 1¼ million acres in ten years. In 1923 (details for 1924 not being yet available) the land was divided into 411,673 holdings, of which 87,900, or 24 per cent., were owned or mainly owned, by the occupiers. Of the total farming area about 21 per cent. was occupied by the owners.

The proposal for enabling occupying owners to obtain relief from the burden consequent on purchase at excessive prices is an adjunct to the Liberal scheme, which may be considered separately. The number of tenants affected by the scheme would be about 324,000, although some of those who hold their land under county councils or other public authorities might possibly be excepted. The first point which arises is whether the scheme should be put into universal effect compulsorily, or whether it should be optional. If it were optional it certainly would not be universal. It may be confidently assumed that a substantial proportion of occupiers would prefer to go on as they are, and that these would include all those who had reason to fear that they would not pass the test of good cultivation. There would be some advantage, however, in beginning with an optional scheme, to become compulsory after an interval of, say, five years.

The assessment of a fair perpetual rent for each holding would be an extensive undertaking, but provided the basis were established it would present no insuperable difficulty. The basis, however, would not be easily settled. Already it has been suggested that to take the net rent as the basis savours of "confiscation." The introduction of this word was perhaps inevitable, but it is difficult to understand its relevance. Possibly some misunderstanding may account for it. It seems obvious that to charge the holding in perpetuity with the present full rent, and at the same time transfer from the landlord to the tenant the liability for maintenance and repairs, would be equivalent to a substantial increase of rent. Confusion may have arisen from the use of the word "management" instead of "maintenance." To make a deduction for the cost of management might perhaps savour of "confiscation" in a mild form. It is well known that the average landlord does not at present pocket the gross rentals. Landowners constantly complain of the very heavy cost of the upkeep of their estates, and sensational figures have been frequently published to demonstrate that gross rentals are wholly misleading as a measure of actual income. It can scarcely be argued that a landlord should be secured by the State in the receipt of his present gross rentals, and at the same time relieved of all outgoings. Of course, there is a great difference in the cost of upkeep on different estates, and also in the manner in which owners maintain them. One of the most obvious difficulties would arise in making fair assessments as between the landlord who has been niggardly and neglectful, and the landlord who has spent lavishly on buildings and equipment. To calculate a fair deduction on the basis merely of actual expenditure would give a premium to the bad landlord, and impose a penalty on the good one.

The actual assessment of fair rents would best be made in each case by a qualified agricultural valuer of the district. Long experience of, and intimate acquaintance with, the local conditions are essential for such a task. It

would probably be necessary to provide for an appeal against the valuer's decision to a competent tribunal, which should consist, mainly at least, of farmers and landlords in equal proportions.

The administrative machinery for ensuring that land is properly used may appear at first sight, to involve what is termed "bureaucratic control," which is the peculiar *bête noire* of farmers. The system set out in the Agricultural Act undoubtedly was open to this criticism, the decision being explicitly placed in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, qualified by an obligation to consult the County Agricultural Committees. It would not be difficult to devise a more satisfactory method. The sound principle to adopt would be that every farmer whose management was impeached should be entitled to be "judged by his peers." In other words, before being turned out of his farm for incompetence or neglect, he should have the right of appeal to a tribunal, or jury, of say three or five farmers of experience and repute in his own district. Suggestions have been made by theorists of the Labour party, and others, that judgment should be given by a body composed of representatives of various so-called interests, including "consumers." Nothing could be more absurd or unjust than to allow persons ignorant of farming practice to act as adjudicators on the question of efficient farming. It is said that farmers will not honestly judge a fellow farmer. That is an unfair aspersion. Farmers, like other Englishmen, when called upon to perform a public duty, may be trusted to perform it without fear or favour.

The arrangements for the eviction of men who misuse or neglect their holdings are at once the most essential and the most difficult part of the scheme, and will need very careful consideration. It is evident that they must include provisions for helping the farmer whose under-farming is due to misfortune and also for fair treatment of him who is proved to be incompetent.

The most damaging criticism which the Liberal land policy is likely to evoke is that it will require an "army of officials" to administer it. It is evident that it involves a somewhat extensive and elaborate organisation, but if, as is claimed, it places the land system on a basis which serves the national interest, this objection should not stand in the way. It would certainly be worth while. The nation has spent, and is spending, many millions on British agriculture. Notwithstanding all the expenditure there are those who persistently say not only that agriculture is neglected, but also that its position, and its production, get steadily worse. If this is true, the nation has been wasting money for the past thirty years. Since 1890, when a separate Department of the State was established to promote the interests of agriculture, large sums have been spent on agricultural education and research, relief of rates, improvement and protection of live stock and various other objects. An "army of officials" is now employed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the County Councils, the agricultural colleges, and the farm institutes. A special permanent commission established to promote agricultural development has disbursed, in the aggregate, a substantial sum. Notwithstanding all this expenditure and effort, the state of agriculture to-day is admittedly unsatisfactory. If real progress towards its re-habilitation could be made, the nation would not be likely to grudge the cost.

Nevertheless the scarecrow of the extension of officialdom would have to be seriously faced. Fairly examined it might well be found to be less formidable than it appears. If it were approached from the standpoint of making the fullest use of existing agencies it would be possible to construct an administrative machinery for the collection of rents from the cultivating owners, the payment of annuities to the landlords, and the inspection of farms, which would minimise the number of new officials required. The employment, for specific purposes on a "fee for the job" basis, of the thousands of estate agents and agricultural valuers throughout the country would enable the work to be done at comparatively small cost, and with only a limited number of whole-time officials.

What, above all, the Liberal land policy needs is frank discussion by those who are qualified to consider both its principles and its details. Vague commendation and uninformed or prejudiced criticism are alike useless. If the

conference of the three parties, or of the three agricultural classes, which Mr Baldwin has foreshadowed, should materialise, this contribution towards the solution of the agricultural problem cannot be excluded from their consideration.

SICKNESS INSURANCE FOR THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

IT was a happy thought on the part of the Insurance Institute of London to persuade so eminent a bodily and social physician as Lord Dawson of Penn to read a paper during the autumn session. Lord Dawson has the gift of imagination, and though his suggestions for extending sickness insurance to the middle and professional classes may seem impracticable at the moment, many other more visionary proposals have also seemed impracticable until they had been experimentally worked out and adopted. Lord Dawson pointed out that the middle classes, those earning not more than £1,200 a year, could not in present circumstances afford to be ill. Their small homes did not permit of the care for invalids and attention during sickness, therefore, had to be provided for outside the home. He did not want State aid or State control, but an organisation which had both freedom and flexibility. In short, what he had in mind was a system of sickness insurance which would be, at the same time, economically sound, and within the means of the class with which he was dealing. He suggested that some insurance company might experiment with a well thought out scheme in a selected local community. In that way an unknown insurance country would be explored. Sickness insurance would, he thought, serve to introduce life business, and to diminish life assurance claims.

The difficulties which beset Lord Dawson's interesting proposal are fairly obvious. There is already a tendency to meet under life policies periods of disability through illness. In one well-known instance a big life office is willing to advance an amount sufficient to meet the cost of a major operation. Accident companies commonly issue policies under which weekly disability payments are made when the assured are laid up by certain specified diseases. In a few cases policies have been issued covering disabilities from any kind of disease, but the cost has operated against them. As Mr Gray, of the Employers' Liability, put it in the discussion on Lord Dawson's paper, "The public showed an unwillingness to pay the price." Mr Levine, the Actuary of the Alliance, thought that the cost of the benefits which Lord Dawson would like to provide would be so great that the individual would have little left for life assurance or anything else. Sir Alfred Watson, the Government Actuary, saw great difficulty in forming a plan on which a policy could be devised and a rate of premium fixed. The solution of the difficulty of cost might, Mr Gray thought, come from the direction of collective family insurance. It seems to us, looking at the problem from a detached standpoint, that group or collective professional insurance might be a hopeful line of inquiry. If one set to work to devise group schemes of sickness insurance for, say, lawyers, or accountants, or Civil servants, or Stock Exchange men, we should at once be able to get at some reasonable data, and be able to experiment with rates. All rates of insurance, except for life assurance, are experimental, the result of trial and error. The experience upon which they may be accurately calculated has to be gained in practice.

A point, which was not made either by Lord Dawson or by his hearers, is that there exists little machinery in this country to give hospital attention and skilled medical care (especially for the middle classes) except in private nursing institutions, which are necessarily rather expensive. There are few, if any, public hospitals which take none but paying patients, and take them on the basis of actual cost. If we had a hospital service designed for Lord Dawson's middle classes, working on the basis of being self-supporting, and charging the lowest possible fees for operations, then there would at once be a basis upon which insurance policies covering the risks of sickness, involving transfer to these hospitals, could be calculated.

In Mr Henry Ford's remarkable and instructive book, "My Life and Work," he describes how he acquired and

ran just such a hospital as we have in mind. Mr Ford has in his career applied simple and sound business principles to the making of automobiles and farm tractors, to running a trade school for boys and a hospital for middle-class patients, and to making a bankrupt railway pay its way. The principles are those applied by every successful insurance company, and could be applied by every business which desires solid success rather than quick dividends. They are:—Supply the public with the best article at the lowest price, and build up the business out of its own earnings. Mr Ford started his motor factory in 1903 with a paid-up capital of \$28,000. No further capital has since been taken from outside. By 1919 the business had become so immensely valuable, by using its own earnings in development, that Mr Ford and his son had to pay \$12,500 a share (\$100 each) in order to get rid of the minority stockholders.

When Mr Ford took over the Detroit General Hospital and turned it into the Ford Hospital, he set out in characteristic fashion to make it stand on its own financial feet. He put up new buildings, so that each patient had a separate room and bath. All rooms were of one class. His twenty-one physicians and surgeons are whole-time employees of the hospital. Every patient on coming in is "vetted" independently by at least three doctors, in order to make as sure as possible of the correct diagnosis. There are no private nurses, but each case gets the nursing it requires. The fees charged cover hospital room, board, medical and surgical attendance, and nursing. Those fees, at the time when Mr Ford was writing in 1922, were four and a-half dollars (say £1) a day. The highest charge for a major operation was \$125. The hospital has a cost system just like a factory, and the charges are regulated so as just to make ends meet, including depreciation. What Mr Ford can do in Detroit we ought to be able to do in the large cities of this country. If we had "Ford Hospitals" here, then the costs of sickness among the middle and professional classes could be accurately gauged, and Lord Dawson's proposed scheme for insurance, against the expense of having to go to them, would follow as a matter of course.

CABLE COMPANIES' PROFITS.

IT is perhaps only natural to find that the great strides made by "wireless" transmission of messages are causing cable companies to commune with themselves. Occasionally the general public is taken into their confidence. Thus the Great Northern Telegraph Company have, as far as can be judged from the facts set forth, a very reasonable ground for complaint against certain Governments which have become interested financially as well as benevolently in radio stations. The Great Northern complain that—"Without competing with the cables at lower rates, telegraph administrations whose budgets have to bear the burden of non-profitable radio-stations, declare the wireless route to be the normal route, and transmit by wireless the greater part of the telegrams not expressly marked 'by cable' by the sender, thereby gaining larger gross profits. The above also applies to Sweden's traffic with Latvia and to Denmark's with Estonia."

In the figures of receipts and expenditure which we give below of some representative cable companies, there is really very little cause for alarm about wireless competition, as long as it is fair and not too heavily subsidised. In our first table we show gross receipts, working expenses, and net receipts of six representative concerns for the past three years:—

	Year.	Cuba Sub- marine.	Direct Spanish	Eastern Extension.	Great Northern (D'nm'rk)	West'n †
Gross receipts	1920	99,154	133,757	4,381,852	2,051,346	2,073,498
	1921	72,932	114,407	4,124,978	1,517,779	1,690,049
	1922	55,906	57,110	5,483,071	1,325,607	1,463,174
	1923	57,009	56,889	5,052,152	1,224,286	1,430,797
Working expenses	1920	41,347	107,446	3,512,799	1,410,671	1,330,961
	1921	50,846	121,935	2,803,446	1,079,047	1,132,501
	1922	41,018	94,267	2,491,822	856,414	1,103,185
	1923	38,906	70,848	2,061,342	1,054,136	938,572
Net receipts	1920	57,807	26,311	1,069,057	640,675	742,537
	1921	22,086	Dr 7.28	1,321,530	438,732	557,548
	1922	14,883	2,843	997,249	363,193	359,989
	1923	18,103	16,041	990,810	368,150	492,225

† Accounts made up to June 30th.

Regarding this decrease of £437,000 in the revenue of the Eastern, a certain amount of this may be attributed to the reopening of Indo-European Telegraph Company's overland route to India, the remainder to trade depression spread over the whole of the company's system.

The Great Northern can show better figures, although it inveighs against competitors and hints that it will not permit lower rates from other undertakings "to continue for any length of time."

In our next table we show working expenses, also expenses for taxation purposes during the past three years:—

	Working Expenses Proper.			Excess Profits Duty, Corporation Profits Tax, Income-Tax, &c.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Cuba Submarine.....	£ 33,010	£ 31,321	£ 34,684	£ 17,836	£ 9,697	£ 4,222
Direct Spanish	95,177	87,689	64,769	25,637	6,577	2,081
Eastern	2,518,101	2,194,095	1,854,972	285,345	297,727	241,015
Eastern Extension.....	1,012,371	1,075,378	985,094	184,853	231,267	200,086
Great Northern.....	1,079,047	956,414	1,054,136			
Western	871,793	906,474	782,745	260,708	196,711	155,827

It must be admitted that cable companies set an excellent example to other public undertakings in the way in which they give details of receipts and working expenses. The Western Cable Company, for instance, supplies in its accounts a statement of expenses in London, a statement of general expenses at stations, expenses concerning maintenance of cables, and a list of securities comprising reserve funds. In the case of the Western, gross receipts amounted to £1,430,797, against £1,463,174 in 1922. Thanks, however, to a saving in working expenses which totalled £938,572, in contrast with £1,103,185, net receipts were £132,236 to the good at £492,225.

How the various companies distributed their profits is shown below:—

Company.	Prior Charges, Pref. Div., &c.	Ord. Dividends.			Amount 1923 Dividend	Placed to Reserve, &c.	+ or - in Carry Forward.
		1921.	1922.	1923.			
Cuba Submarine	£ 5,000	% 7½	% 7½	% 5½	£ 8,000	£ 6,000	+ £ 477
Direct Spanish	5,000	10½	10½	10½	6,465	5,000	+ 1,576
Eastern	150,000	10½	10½	10½	500,000	300,000	+ 5,166
Eastern Extension	30,096	10½	10½	10½	400,000	250,000	+ 25,561
Great Northern.....		22	22	22	330,000	33,333	+ 2,317
Western	32,747	10½	10½	10½	311,895	150,000	- 2,416

† Free of income-tax.

The Cuba Submarine announced that in view of the possible adverse effect on its revenue on account of assisting to form the "All-Red Route" to the British West Indies and the consequent diversion of traffic from its system, the board deemed it prudent to forego the recommendation of a bonus on its ordinary shares. Other undertakings maintain their distribution rates. Allocations to reserve are lower than those of a year ago, with three exceptions. The Eastern Extension and Great Northern remain the same, while the Direct Spanish this year places away £5,000, as against £4,500 taken from reserves in their previous accounts. The Eastern reserves £100,000 less.

In our fourth table we show the principal liabilities and assets over the past three years:—

Company.		Total Capital.		Reserves.		Book Value of Cable, &c.		Cash and Investments.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cuba Submarine	1921	220,000	124,529	232,876	142,049				
	1922	220,000	120,649	231,353	131,313				
	1923	220,000	127,801	231,722	134,998				
Direct Spanish	1921	94,655	166,643	90,925	158,882				
	1922	94,655	148,525	89,920	157,110				
	1923	94,655	162,210	89,920	163,988				
Eastern....	1921	9,000,000	3,069,636	11,080,159	1,737,955				
	1922	9,000,000	2,502,140	11,649,755	1,656,333				
	1923	9,000,000	2,408,691	11,336,992	1,724,699				
Eastern Extension	1921	4,752,400	3,754,018	5,053,466	3,516,176				
	1922	4,752,400	3,083,684	5,092,695	3,975,667				
	1923	4,752,400	3,101,205	5,111,109	3,845,994				
Great Northern	1921	1,500,000	4,198,854	2,019,572	5,125,890				
	1922	1,500,000	4,106,966	2,058,185	4,584,700				
	1923	1,500,000	4,286,126	2,082,976	4,936,405				
Western ..	1921-22	3,937,625	3,097,297	4,364,325	2,408,097				
	1922-23	3,937,625	2,757,264	4,346,362	2,680,407				
	1923-24	3,937,625	2,705,772	4,402,714	2,737,437				

In most cases balance-sheet figures display a monotonous regularity. A noteworthy feature is afforded by the fact that, of the six companies included in the group, none has made any change in capital for the past three years. The Eastern Extension and Great Northern have both increased reserves over the three years. A decrease is noticeable for the Eastern, while the Western, after a setback in 1922-23, has now increased reserves to £4,402,714. The Cuba Submarine, together with the International Ocean Telegraph Company, is entitled, under a perpetual agreement of 1870, to a considerable proportion of the traffic of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. The latter undertaking has intimated its inability to continue business owing to the fact that the competitive Government service has meant the withdrawal of the subsidy and certain special grants. The directors, therefore, advise acceptance of the offer of the Cuba Submarine to purchase the ordinary and preference shares of the West India Company for 1s and 2s 6d respectively, the first preference shares at 5s and the debentures at the rate of £65 per £100.

Our concluding table shows how prices of cable securities have fluctuated over two years, pre-war prices, current quotations, and yields being added for comparative purposes:—

Name.	Prices of 1923.		Prices of 1924 (to Oct. 31).		Price July 27, 1914.		Price End of 1923.		Price Nov. 19, 1924.		Yield.	
	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.	£	%
Cuba Submarine (£10)	8	5½	7½	6½	7½	6½	7½	6½	7½	6½	17	2 9
Direct Spanish (£5)	9½	8½	9½	8½	9½	8½	9½	8½	9½	8½	15	14 9
Eastern ord. stock	190½	160	175	155½	130½	164	170½	157	170½	157	5	6 9
Do 3½% cum. pref.	71	65	67½	63	77½	67½	65½	65	65½	65	5	6 9
Do 4% irred. deb.	82½	79	82	79	96½	81½	79½	79½	79½	79½	5	0 9
Eastern Extension (£10)	19½	16½	17½	15½	123	17	17½	17½	17½	17½	15	16 0
Do 4% deb. stock	82½	78½	81½	77	97½	81½	79½	79½	79½	79½	5	1 9
Gr. North. (Denmark) (£10)	30½	25½	30	26½	32½	28½	30½	30½	30½	30½	7	5 0
Western (£10)	19	15½	17½	15½	13½	16	16½	16½	16½	16½	16	3 0
Do 4% deb. stock	81½	79	81½	78	96½	81½	80½	80½	80½	80½	5	1 6

† Free of income-tax.

The cable share market is still one of the steadiest amongst industrial securities, and the shares are fairly closely held. The decline in values on the ordinary shares or stocks in the past year has not been so pronounced, and the following authoritative view will probably bring good cheer to those investors who have doubts as to the future. Sir John Denison-Pender, chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company, at its annual meeting, referring in June last to wireless developments, stated:— "Nothing has transpired since last we met to alter in any way the opinions which I have previously expressed. There is little doubt that though wireless has demonstrated its great practical value in very many different ways, it still remains true that the submarine cable, with its world-wide privacy of transmission and freedom from atmospheric disturbances, is the most reliable, swift, and secret method of international communication. I can only state with confidence that the Associated Cable Companies to-day are more highly efficient in every way than during any other period in their history, and the efficiency of to-day must in future years continue to improve as it always has in comparison with the past."

BRITISH PORT FACILITIES.

WHEN, about a year ago, foreign shipowners called attention to delays at British ports owing to the absence of modern loading and discharging facilities, the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom took up the challenge, and, with commendable promptitude, appointed a committee to inquire into the matter and report on the position of British as compared with Continental ports. By May the committee had dealt with British ports other than London, and its report, so far as then complete, was discussed in the *Economist* of May 31st. Since then matters seem to have moved very slowly, but the completed report has been issued this week. The earlier portion has been revised, the London section added, and some comparative figures stated in an appendix.

In its completed form the report, running to nearly 300 pages (apart from some general conclusions as to railway facilities, port entrances, docks, loading and dis-

charging methods), consists mainly of very numerous detailed recommendations as to what would be desirable in the way of such matters as replacement of cranes by others of more effective kind, improved lighting of certain sheds and quays, repair of warehouse floors, and so on. The visiting sub-committees very rightly invoked the assistance of the port authorities, and stirred up local interest. Indeed, the general drift of the report seems to indicate that the effect of the inquiry in the various ports visited was a main consideration at the expense of the comparative aspect, which is the really vital point. The committee remarks with satisfaction on the fact that its investigations quickened local interest, and helped to crystallise the ideas of the port authorities.

In the London section the committee acknowledges the assistance it received from the Port Authority, and is careful to explain that its recommendations are not tendered as criticisms of the authority. The hope, nevertheless, is expressed that the recommendations may accelerate the coming of the improvements into existence. This tone throughout the report, and the neglect of the comparative aspect, rather suggests that the foreign criticisms had a good deal of foundation.

So far as the question of comparison has been dealt with, the result brought out is that the average total port disbursements at United Kingdom ports is about 67 per cent. higher than at Continental ports. Twelve unnamed British ports are compared with Antwerp, Rotterdam, Havre and Dunkirk, and it is pointed out that if Hamburg had been taken instead of Havre, which is rather a dear port, the comparison would have been still more favourable to Continental ports.

As distinguished from questions of time and cost, the existing facilities at British ports are not compared with those at Continental ports, though this point of comparison was specifically mentioned in the resolution for the appointment of the committee. The report does not discuss the efficiency of the loading and discharging facilities at Continental ports, and it cannot be gathered that the committee has devoted any attention to this. In the London section, however, the committee observes that "the object of this report is to hasten the day when the loading and discharging facilities of the port of London will be such as will make it, from the point of view of facilities, as well as volume of trade, the greatest port in the world."

The assumption here, in the comparison which is introduced between London and all other ports, that, in volume of trade, London is the greatest, will scarcely stand examination. London, according to the statistics of net shipping tonnage entering and leaving issued by the British and by the United States Governments, is considerably outdistanced by New York, the following being the figures in millions of tons:—

	—London.—		—New York.—	
	In.	Out.	In.	Out.
1920	11.8	9.8	17.4	15
1921	13.5	11.1	16.6	15.3
1922	15	12.4	18.7	15.7

These figures, bringing the information down to the latest date covered by the official returns, relate to foreign as distinguished from coasting trade. The latter, in London, is approximately 4 millions each way. The corresponding New York figures are not published, but there is reason to believe that the inclusion of coasting trade would make the result even more unfavourable to London. It is unfortunate that the Committee, in this instance, where it did institute a comparison, should have stated the matter in a sense opposite to that which the figures establish.

Now that the report can be considered as a whole, it remains a disappointing document. It sets out to reply to a criticism, and answers it very imperfectly, tacitly admitting the charge, which indeed, as the previous reference in the *Economist* mentioned, was publicly admitted by one of the members of the committee, who stated that there was ample justification for the complaints.

If not a reply to criticism, the report may perhaps be regarded in the light in which it is put forward in the note prefixed to it, namely, as the carefully considered views of a shipowners' committee, assisted by representatives of the Federation of British Industries, and of the Associa-

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Collections effected and documentary credits established in all parts of the United States for banking correspondents abroad.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

tion of British Chambers of Commerce. Even so the document is marred by confusion of thought. In many instances improvement schemes are, it is stated, in operation or contemplation. Apparently a number of the suggestions in the report overlap what is already in hand, or intended to be done. The extent of this overlapping is by no means clear, and this leaves the reader in a state of uncertainty as to the extent to which the port authorities really are tackling the problems before them.

Valuable up to a point though the report may be as an expression of the views of shipowners and commercial men, the question of the modernisation of our ports—vital to our trade—requires more comprehensive and vigorous consideration and treatment. This *ex parte* statement provides a certain amount of material for consideration, but fails to give an adequate lead.

ELECTION STATISTICS.—II.

LONG after the new Parliament, whose assembly has been postponed until December 2nd, has settled down to work, the study of the remarkable figures of the recent election will continue. Let us hope, too, that the historian of the future will write of the 1924 election as the classic election which showed up the anomalies of our electoral system so clearly that it compelled Parliament to adopt a new system, better calculated to reflect at Westminster the expressed will of the people. Considerable interest has been shown in the series of tables, which we printed in our issue of October 18th, dealing with the rivalry of the parties in the counties of Great Britain as shown by the figures of the General Election of 1923. Obviously more interest still attaches to similar investigation dealing with the recent election. The following tables, therefore, are constructed on the same plan as those which appeared in our former article.

TABLE showing the COUNTIES in which each of the THREE PARTIES obtained more seats than the other TWO PARTIES in October, 1924.

Conservative Counties—48.				Liberal Counties—9.			
	Con.	Other			Lib.	Other	
Kent	15	..	Dumfries	1	..	Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty ..	3
Cheshire	14	..	Galloway	1	..	Carnarvon	2
Hampshire	13	..	Linlithgow	1	..	Demigh	2
Surrey	12	..	Moray and Nairn ..	1	..	Caithness and Sutherland ..	1
Sussex	9	..	Roxburgh and Selkirk	1	..	Orkney & Zetland ..	1
Somerset	7	..	Brecon & Radnor ..	1	..	Anglesey	1
Worcester	6	..	Flint	1	..	Cardigan	1
Wiltshire	6	..	Pembroke	1	..	Merioneth	1
Hertford	5	..	Launceston	42	24	Montgomery	1
London	39	23	London	39	23		
Berkshire	4	..	Warwick	16	1		
Dorset	4	..	Essex	15	5		
Shropshire	3	..	Middlesex	14	3		
Bedford	3	..	Devon	10	1		
Buckingham	3	..	Lincoln	8	1		
Cambridge	3	..	Gloucester	8	3		
Oxford	3	..	Leicester	6	1		
Hereford	2	..	Norfolk	6	2		
Perth and Kinross ..	2	..	Nottingham	6	3		
Westmorland	1	..	Cumberland	4	1		
Huntingdon	1	..	Northampton	4	1		
Argyll	1	..	Aberdeen & Kincardine	4	1		
Berwick & Haddington ..	1	..	Ayr and Bute	3	1		

In the corresponding table for the 1923 General Election the Liberals were seen to dominate in 23 counties, or grouped counties, but only to have obtained 48 seats in

them. Now they dominate only in nine counties, in which they hold 13 seats. The Conservatives last December dominated in 18 counties, but obtained 102 seats in them. This year they dominate in 48 counties, and hold 323 seats in them, against 70 seats held by Liberals and the Labour Party. Last year the Labour Party dominated in 11 counties and held 59 seats in them; this year they dominate in eight counties and hold 60 seats, against 37 held by the other two Parties. They have gained seats in Stafford and Northumberland, have held their own in Durham and Monmouth; have lost three seats in Lanark, and have lost their supremacy in Cumberland and Northampton and Dumfriesshire, as well as their seats in the single-membered counties of Berwick and Haddington, and Linlithgow.

The most striking feature in the table, and one not likely ever to be reproduced, is the fact that in 33 counties the Conservatives hold all the seats, and although 13 of these counties are single-membered counties, the result is no less remarkable. In eight other counties they hold 55 seats, against eight held by the other two Parties:—

Conservative.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Labour.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.	Liberal.	Con.	Lab.	Lib.
Derby	5	4	1	Forfarshire	1	2	1	Carmarthenshire	1	1	1
Midlothian	4	3	1	Dumfriesshire	1	1	1				
Renfrew	2	1	1	Carmarthenshire	1	1	1				
Dumfriesshire	1	1	1								

In four counties the Conservatives gained half the total of county seats; in three counties Labour gained half the total; and in Carmarthenshire the Liberals gained one out of two seats. Yorkshire returned 27 Conservatives, 24 Labour members, and six Liberals.

TABLE comparing the SEATS WON by the CONSERVATIVES in the COUNTIES in October, 1924, with those WON in December, 1923.

Counties.	1923.	1924.	Gain.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Gain.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Gain.
Lancashire	21	42	21	Gloucester	6	6	0	Fife	1	1	0
London	23	39	16	Nottingham	4	4	0	Stirling and Clackmannan	1	1	0
Yorkshire	20	27	7	Suffolk	2	2	0	Huntingdon	1	1	0
Essex	8	15	7	Glamorgan	2	2	0	Argyll	1	1	0
Cheshire	7	14	7	Cumberland	2	2	0	Banff	1	1	0
Devon	4	10	6	Northampton	2	2	0	Berwick and Haddington	1	1	0
Somerset	1	7	6	Aberdeen and Kincardine	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Middlesex	9	14	5	Cardinal	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Norfolk	1	6	5	Shropshire	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Leicestershire	1	6	5	Bedford	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Cambridgeshire	1	5	4	Buckingham	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Lincoln	1	5	4	Sussex	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Wiltshire	1	5	4	Stafford	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Durham	4	7	3	Derby	4	5	1	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Kent	12	15	3	Hertford	4	5	1	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Hampshire	10	13	3	Northumberland	4	5	1	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Lincoln	5	8	3	Dorset	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Midlothian	1	4	3	Ayr and Bute	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Berkshire	1	4	3	Worcester	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Renfrew	1	4	3	Monmouth	2	2	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
Warwick	14	16	2	Hereford	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
				Westmorland	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
				Moray and Nairn	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0
				Roxburgh and Selkirk	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0

The above table shows the success of a political lifetime. Even the most ardent Conservative can hardly hope to see a repetition of this tremendous sweep.

TABLE comparing the SEATS WON or LOST by the LIBERALS in the COUNTIES in October, 1924, with those WON in December, 1923.

Counties.	1923.	1924.	Won or Lost.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Lost.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Lost.
Denbigh	1	2	1	Dorset	1	1	0	Berkshire	2	2	0
Inverness, Ross, and Cromarty	2	3	1	Shropshire	1	1	0	Bedford	2	2	0
Carmarvon	2	3	1	Oxford	1	1	0	Buckingham	2	2	0
Derby	1	1	0	Cambridge	1	1	0	Aberdeen and Kincardine	2	2	0
Anglesey	1	1	0	Huntingdon	1	1	0	Durham	4	1	3
Cardigan	1	1	0	Argyll	1	1	0	Leicester	4	1	3
Carmarthen	1	1	0	Banff	1	1	0	Midlothian	4	1	3
Merioneth	1	1	0	Dumfriesshire	1	1	0	Peablies	4	1	3
Montgomery	1	1	0	Fife	1	1	0	Northumberland	3	3	0
Caithness and Sutherland	1	1	0	Galloway	1	1	0	Lincoln	3	3	0
Orkney & Zetland	1	1	0	Perth & Kinross	1	1	0	Wiltshire	4	4	0
Essex	2	1	1	Brecon and Radnor	1	1	0	Cheshire	5	5	0
Gloucester	2	1	1	Flint	1	1	0	Somerset	5	5	0
Renfrew	2	1	1	Pembroke	1	1	0	Cornwall	5	5	0
Forfar	2	1	1	Stafford	4	2	2	Devon	7	1	6
Glamorgan	1	1	0	Norfolk	3	1	2	Yorkshire	14	6	8
Kent	1	1	0	Middlesex	2	2	0	London	13	3	10
Sussex	1	1	0	Warwick	2	2	0	Lancashire	22	5	17
Suffolk	1	1	0	Hampshire	2	2	0				
Hertford	1	1	0	Nottingham	2	2	0				

In Denbighshire the Liberals gained one seat. In ten other counties they held their own. In each of 23 counties they lost a seat. In each of ten other counties they lost two seats; in five other counties they lost three seats in each; in Wiltshire four; in the next three counties they lost five seats in each; in Devon six; in Yorkshire eight; in London ten; and in Lancashire 17.

TABLE comparing the SEATS WON or LOST by the LABOUR PARTY in the GENERAL ELECTION of October, 1924, with those WON in December, 1923.

Counties.	1923.	1924.	Gain.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Loss.	Counties.	1923.	1924.	Loss.
Northumberland	4	6	2	Glamorgan	13	12	1	Denbigh	1	1	0
Yorkshire	23	24	1	Derby	5	4	1	Linlithgow	1	1	0
Stafford	9	0	9	Gloucester	5	2	3	London	22	20	2
Durham	10	10	0	Stirling & Clack.	3	2	1	Cumberland	3	1	2
Monmouth	4	4	0	Cardinal	3	2	1	Northampton	3	1	2
Nottingham	3	3	0	Ayr and Bute	2	1	1	Kent	2	1	1
Midlothian	3	3	0	Dumfriesshire	2	1	1	Cheshire	2	1	1
Forfar	2	2	0	Somerset	1	1	0	Renfrew	2	1	1
Fife	2	2	0	Shropshire	1	1	0	Middlesex	2	1	1
Warwick	1	1	0	Berkshire	1	1	0	Norfolk	4	3	1
Lincoln	1	1	0	Bedford	1	1	0	Lancashire	23	19	4
Aberdeen and Kincardine	1	1	0	Berwick and Haddington	1	1	0	Essex	10	4	6
Carmarthen	1	1	0								

With so little assistance from its Press compared with the almost universal onslaught upon Labour candidates, as the representatives of a Communism from which they had publicly dissociated themselves, it is astonishing to find that the Labour hold upon the great counties has not been greatly shaken. A gain of two in Northumberland and of one in Yorkshire and of another in Stafford is very significant. And Labour's continued hold upon Durham, Monmouth, Nottingham, and Midlothian betokens an enthusiasm on the part of its supporters that suggests further gains for that party in these areas at the next election.

Notes of the Week.

Reparations Recovery.—The first important step taken by Mr Parker Gilbert, the Agent-General for Reparation Payments, has caused something of a flutter in political circles. In a letter dated November 14th, he informed the German Finance Minister that, as from December 1st next, the German Government will not be credited with sums paid by it to exporters in reimbursement of deductions made from their invoices on account of any Reparation Recovery Acts. He states that this is a matter which is solely within the competence of the Transfer Committee under the Dawes plan. Until further action is taken by the committee, therefore, any sums which may be required for this purpose will be paid by the Agent-General himself. It is, of course, beyond all doubt that action taken by individual creditors must not be allowed to interfere with the smooth working of the Dawes plan viewed as a whole. The British Reparation Recovery Act, with its levy of 26 per cent. on German imports, has, in the past, proved one of the principal sources of payment to Great Britain under the head of reparations, though it is highly debatable how far this item has been paid by Germany, or whether it has not rather been money found, in part at least, by the British consumer of German goods. However this may be, the establishment of the Transfer Committee has changed the situation completely, and, on every count, a general settlement is greatly to be preferred to separate bargains between the several Allied Powers and Germany. A further element is added when it is borne in mind that, though the British Reparation Recovery Act represented above all an attempt to collect reparations, the same cannot be said of its French counterpart, which only came into force on October 1st last,* that is to say, after a general settlement had been reached on the basis of the Dawes Report. Deprived, thus, of its essential justification, it is not uncharitable to assume that its main purpose was to provide increased bargaining power for the French negotiators who were about to discuss a new commercial treaty with Germany. Under these circumstances a considerable amount of speculation has arisen, especially, perhaps, in German circles, as to what this latest decision of the Agent-General may ultimately lead to. The 26 per cent. duty is naturally very unpopular amongst German exporters, and there is now considerable agitation for its removal. At first sight, indeed, it hardly seems calculated to lead to that revival of international trade which, as is now fairly generally recognised, is the principal hope for European reconstruction. A further objection arises

* The French Act was actually passed in 1921, but the decree putting it into force was issued only last September.

when we consider the question of the division of the proceeds among the States entitled thereto. It is true that it has not yet happened that a country has actually received more in this manner than it was actually entitled to as total reparations during any given period. The case, however, might conceivably arise under the reduced scale of payments embodied in the Dawes plan, irrespective of any redistribution of the spoils on some basis other than that agreed upon at Spa. Practically, from the purely financial point of view, it can now make no difference either to the British or the German Governments as to whether this particular form of levy is maintained or not. The question is regarded as simply one of the mode of transfer of funds from Germany to the Allies, and has nothing to do, in principle, either with the total payments to be made, or with the redistribution of these payments as between those entitled thereto. In consequence, it would appear that the Transfer Committee has, in effect, laid down that it alone is to decide as to the extent to which the mechanism of import duties of this kind is henceforth to be utilised for the transfer of funds from Germany abroad. The official British view, however, appears to be that payments under the Reparation Recovery Act are exactly on a par with deliveries in kind. Even if this method, however, which has certain obvious disadvantages, were to be continued, it would, of course, still be open to the various Governments to impose differential import duties against German goods, but in that case it would be an avowed policy of Protection, and could not be pursued under the guise of Reparations. Under these circumstances, particular importance attaches to the discussions for a commercial treaty with Germany, which are now being carried on by both Great Britain and France. The Germans are pressing for the complete withdrawal of the differential duty, but it is as yet too soon to tell what the final outcome will be.

The New Austrian Government.—When in September last the Austrian Chancellor, Dr Seipel, returned from Geneva to Vienna, he had given two definite pledges to the League of Nations—to reorganise the Federal Constitution and to bring the State budgets and taxation laws into accordance with the Federal budget, as prescribed by the Geneva Protocols of 1922. Realising, as he said, in his farewell manifesto to the Austrian National Assembly that he has found his collaborators lacking in their grasp of the seriousness of Austria's position, and believing that the country could stand on its own feet, he has resigned office and has made his foremost critic his successor. Dr Rudolf Ramek, the new Chancellor, has for long been the leader of the Federalist section of the Christian Socialist Party. Since without the co-operation of the Pan-Germans the Christian Socialists could not command a majority in Parliament, he has formed a coalition cabinet by appointing the two leaders of the Pan-German Party, Dr Leopold Waber as Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice, and Dr Hans Schuerff as Minister of Trade and Transport. The important post of Minister of Finance has been given to one Dr Jakob Ahrer, leader of the Styrian Federalists, and hitherto only known as organiser of Heimwehren in his country. The only Minister of international repute is Dr Heinrich Mataja, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and leader of the Viennese section of the Christian Socialist Party. Though Dr Seipel's resignation is to be deeply regretted, it is reassuring to learn that the new Cabinet has already pledged itself officially to stand by the Protocols and to carry out the decisions of the League. The political outlook, however, seems somewhat uncertain, since the Social Democratic Party, the only alternative Government, has not yet shown its hand. Much, if not all, will depend upon the tact and ability of the Commissioner-General. Since the municipality of Vienna is in the hands of the Social Democrats, who are strongly centralistic, the reorganisation and redistribution of the various State finances will be a matter demanding the most delicate handling. At present the economic and financial situation seems to be definitely improving, and it would be disastrous to Austria should confidence in its Government or business community receive another shock in the near future.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3.
Capital Authorised ... £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital ... 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

Exchequer Bond Conversion.—Uncertainty as to how the Treasury would tackle the problem of meeting the maturity on February 1st next of £134 millions of 5½ per cent. Exchequer bonds, has been set at rest by the offer made to holders this week. Two options of conversion are offered for each £100 nominal of 5½ per cent. Exchequer bonds—either £100 of 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan 1940-44, together with a cash payment of £2 5s, or £100 4½ per cent. Treasury bonds, 1934. The latter is likely to appeal especially to holders in the money market, since the 4½ per cent. Treasury bonds may be payable on February 1st in any year from 1927 to 1933, inclusive, at the option either of the Treasury or of the holder, provided notice is given during the month of January of the preceding year. The bonds are thus virtually anything from a two to a ten year security, at the option of the holder, and are thus likely to make a strong appeal to banks and insurance companies and other large holders into whose hands a large proportion of the maturing bonds have by now probably found their way. By this conversion operation the Treasury takes a further satisfactory step in the process of reducing the burden of the annual debt charge. The list of applications will be closed on or before December 6th next, and the success of the operation would appear to be assured.

U.S. Customs Enquiries Abroad.—In our last issue we printed a comment from a Swedish correspondent on the dissatisfaction caused in Scandinavia by the demands for information made by United States Customs officials. This question was considered at a meeting of the Council of the International Chamber of Commerce at Paris on November 7th. The British delegates at the meeting included Dr Walter Leaf, Sir Alan Anderson, Sir Arthur Balfour, and Sir Algernon Firth. The following statement has been issued:—"The Council received and regarded with anxiety protests concerning investigations carried out in certain European countries by officials of the Customs and Treasury Departments of the United States Government, in accordance with the American Tariff Act. Complaints had been made as to the methods of carrying out investigation for the purpose of securing information as to exports, costs of production, &c., of firms exporting to the United States of America, and attention was drawn to the fact that, unless the demands for the production of accounts and documents are met, the commodities of the particular firms concerned would be prohibited from import into the United States of America. Apparently, the practices referred to have caused considerable feeling in a number of European countries. The Council of the International Chamber felt that requests for information concerning secrets of production go beyond the limits justified by ordinary precaution which a country may take in order to control its imports, and has appealed to the American National Committee to intervene with the competent authorities in order to make known the justifiable fears entertained by exporters in different countries." The American authorities will, we trust, realise that the anxiety expressed is real and important, and is by no means confined to Scandinavia.

The Chinese Civil War.—As some observers had expected, Feng-Yu-Hsiang and Chang Tso-lin, who now control the Peking Government, are attempting to induce Tuan Chi-jui, the leader of the Anfu party when it was

crushed by Wu Pei-fu in 1920, to return to political life as President of China; and Sun Yat-Sen is on his way north to confer with them, though it seems very doubtful if the Cantonese will permit him to return. It is stated that this Conference will propose constitutional reforms affecting the Administration, the Army, and the judicial system, and will summon a Constituent Assembly to ratify them. As this Assembly will represent the provinces, it seems likely that the reforms will tend to diminish the centralisation established by the existing Constitution, a change which will, at any rate, make the machinery of Government more easily workable. Meanwhile, Wu Pei-fu and the group of Tuchuns supporting him, who claim to control nine provinces, have set up an independent State, with its capital at Wuchang, on the Yang-tse, opposite Hankow; but it is stated that if Feng Yu-Hsiang and Chang Tso-lin could be eliminated, Wu Pei-fu would be prepared to come to terms with the Peking Government. Military operations will be suspended for the next two months of the winter, so that there will be ample opportunity for negotiation, but in Chinese affairs prediction is seldom possible.

Employment in October.—Employment, on the whole showed a further decline in October, according to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. The trade union percentage of unemployment rose from 8.6 at the end of September to 8.7 at the end of October, while between September 22nd and October 27th the percentage unemployed among the 11,508,000 workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland rose from 10.8 to 11.1. The monthly movements of the trade union unemployment percentage over a number of years are shown below:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	7.4
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	7.9
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	8.6
October	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	8.7
November ..	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..
December ..	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

It will be seen that the pace of the unemployment increase had by the end of October substantially slackened, and such statistics relating to November as are obtainable at the moment suggest that a slight improvement has already set in. The cotton trade figure for October is decidedly good, the unemployment percentage in this industry having declined last month by 2.7 per cent. The total of registered unemployed at October 27th was 1,247,000, as compared with 1,243,000 a month before, and 1,340,000 a year ago.

Cost of Living.—A sudden jump in the cost of living in October is recorded by the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, whose index number rose by four points last month, namely, from 76 per cent. to 80 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. How this percentage has moved month by month over recent years is shown below:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.—All items. (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January ..	85.90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February ..	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April	90.95	110	132	133	82	74	73
May	95.100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July	100.105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70
August	110	115	155	122	81	71	71
September ..	110	115	161	120	79	73	72
October	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76
November ..	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80
December ..	120	125	169	99	80	77	..

The increase in October is entirely due to increases, partly seasonal, in retail food prices. For food alone the average increase at November 1st over the pre-war level was 79 per cent., as compared with 72 per cent. at October 1st. The most important increase in prices affected eggs (½d each on the average), potatoes (1d per 7 lbs), flour (nearly 1d per 7 lbs), and bread (between ½d and ¾d per 4 lbs.) While sugar became on the average about ½d per lb cheaper, milk, butter, bacon, tea, and cheese all became dearer in October.

Money in the Stock Markets.—The Stock Exchange is frequently the butt for a gentle gibe from those who study questions of theoretical finance and economics, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent. It is constantly declared by the better-informed that the Stock Exchange views about money are too often those of the amateur who repeats, parrotwise, the talk which emanates from any quarter, whether it be well-instructed or not. Yet the Stock Exchange is compelled by force of circumstances to voice its own views on the subject, inasmuch as its members are daily consulted by clients who require to know the tendency of the money market as such, and who look for City opinion as a rough guide to their investment or speculation policy. The public ask, for instance, at the present time and with daily persistence, how it is that gilt-edged stocks should remain so strong, and that speculative investments, of which tea shares happen to be a typical example, continue to advance in price, the motive power in both cases being supplied, not by mere speculation, but by the actual money which is being invested in very substantial sums in the securities and the shares. The carry-over last Monday and Tuesday in this week was expected to reveal a fairly heavy, and none too substantial, bull position, owing to the rises which had occurred previously on the strength of the Unionist Election victory, rises that had been brought about by an exceptional rush of buying. The contangoes showed, however, that, contrary to general expectation, the bull account was of proportions easily manageable. There was a little selling for cash on the part of people unable to pay for their shares, or to carry them over, but this was negligible in comparison with the tide of buying that had taken place in the earlier part of the month. On Wednesday and Thursday it became obvious that the public were paying for most of the tea shares which they had bought, and this happened also in other industrials, substantial lines of stock being lifted from the markets in large and small amounts. Concurrently, subscription lists for gilt-edged stocks have closed with a snap. There are very few new issues with any pretensions to sound character which nowadays fail to secure immediate response from the public. Offhand, the reason for this eagerness to apply for new stock can be ascribed to the stags. Their activities are the bane, at the present time, of real investors who find their allotments drastically cut down in stock which they require for permanent holding, but which the energy of the stag brigade prevents them from obtaining. It is perfectly clear that the stags are out in full force, but the fact remains that when allotments appear the market in most cases starts at a premium, the stag stock is readily taken, and the price rises to a level above that at which the stock came out. Real money, that is to say, is available for the absorption of new issues, tea shares, Kaffirs, and other investment and speculative descriptions which appeal to the public. The Stock Exchange is frankly puzzled to account for the amount of money seeking employment. No doubt the position might be very different if trade and industry were enjoying material revival throughout the country. The Stock Exchange apprehension that a trade revival will lead to liberal sales of investment and other stocks, in order that the money may be released for industrial purposes, is still premature. Those who contend that gilt-edged prices stand too high, having regard to the incidence of the income and super-taxes, are fair to confess that nothing in the present aspect of markets suggests the likelihood of a break occurring amongst sound securities. That money accumulates, and at a rate more rapid than the ordinary man conceives possible, is a well-accepted axiom, though it is puzzling to understand how such accumula-

tion can take place if industry continues dormant for any lengthy period of time, and, thereby, fails to provide the fresh money which to-day is pouring into stocks and shares. That ordinary man knows, too, that if he wants to buy stock, he frequently has to sell something else in order to pay for it, but the anomaly presents itself of prices going up all round. Absorption of new issues and of industrial shares is exercising no unfavourable effect upon prices in other departments, nor is it bringing about any such accession of selling as would appear to be the obvious corollary to heavy purchases of stock in certain directions. Brokers find themselves hard put to it for suggestions that shall satisfy clients who demand sound investments to pay a reasonable rate of interest on the money, and, at the same time, that possess a chance of capital appreciation. This does not imply any gambling streak on the part of the investor. It is a natural trait which finds apt illustration in the comparative dearthness of the 3½ per cent. Conversion stock as matched against the price of the 4½ per cent. Conversion, the difference being due to the fact that in the latter case there is little chance of improvement in price, whereas the 3½ per cent. stock, standing at 79½, is deemed to possess a wider scope for a probable rise.

U.S. Ballot Complexities.—In this country voters at a General Election are only required to make one, or at most two, crosses on the ballot paper. Even so, many papers are "spoilt." After examining a facsimile of an American ballot paper used in the recent Presidential Election, we are left wondering that any American ballot paper is ever filled up without a mistake. On this particular paper the voter is asked to make no less than 48 marks, his vote being required in the case of candidates for no less than 22 offices, while two questions are put to the referendum. This, we are told, is a comparatively simple document. In one State the ballot paper contained, in addition to everything else, no less than 41 referendum questions. No longer is there any reason for surprise that less than half the American electorate goes to the poll at all. If ballot papers here were on the American pattern, we should regard 30 per cent. as a good poll. Some American authorities argue that the smallness of the poll does not matter at all. All those who are "really interested" vote. That is all that is wanted. Our American friends doubtless know their own business best. But the argument does not, in our ears, possess a democratic ring. Obviously, ballot paper complexities place a very formidable obstacle in the way of any party which relies to any great extent on the least educated classes of the population. One newspaper which has come into our hands reproduces the ballot to which we refer, and offers guidance as to how it should be marked. But its guidance is not always very definite. Of the candidates for the State Senate and General Assembly it says: "They are a poor bunch; use your own judgment."

Anglo-Persian Oil.—The speech of the chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company at the annual general meeting on November 25th will be the more eagerly awaited, seeing that the accounts and report now presented for the year ending March, 1924, are singularly unilluminating. The net profit (£2,507,866) is slightly lower than that of the previous year (£2,689,143), but chiefly in view of the large saving in Corporation Profits Tax (£104,011 for 1923, as against £402,764 for 1921 and 1922), the amount available for distribution is slightly higher. The appropriation of £665,000 to debenture redemption, preference share, and general reserves, and the payment of the preference share dividends, allow the ordinary share dividend to be maintained at 10 per cent., the carry forward being £1,746,643. On this basis the ordinary shares at £3 yield only £3 6s 8d per cent. to the investor. The follow-

ALL BRANCHES OF
INTERNATIONAL BANKING
**BANKERS TRUST
COMPANY**
HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK
16 WALL STREET
LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendome

ing statement compares the trading results over the last seven years:—

March 31.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Profit.....	1,517,215	2,287,886	3,577,607	5,277,627	3,988,164	3,266,269	3,069,636
Fees and legal expenses	11,095	9,909	10,626	15,176	11,310	13,820	19,746
Deb and other interest	116,560	86,575	152,500	245,312	242,187	235,937	240,521
Income-tax	125,179	430,387	500,632	181,935	9,699	118,744	118,744
Royalty to Persian Gov.	81,002	55,418	322,479	463,484	422,351	317,670	174,759
New issue expenses, &c.	42,839	..	..	235,302	135,543	..	..
Special appropriations	175,547	..	50,000	..	..	..	..
Net profit.....	1,090,172	2,010,805	2,378,513	5,892,479	3,130,381	2,689,143	2,507,866
Brought forward	19,537	454,723	275,528	*56,313	1,646,792	1,739,173	1,777,788
Ex. Profits Duty reserves	1,103,709	2,465,528	2,653,841	3,948,792	4,779,173	4,428,316	4,285,654
Deb. redemp. reserve ..	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Preference reserve	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	150,000
General reserve, &c.	200,000	400,000	675,000	555,000	600,000	495,000	415,000
Preference dividend	120,000	160,000	310,000	400,000	795,000	875,000	875,000
Ordinary dividend	204,986	300,000	627,863	1,215,000	1,245,000	777,764	895,000
Carried forward	454,723	275,528	275,528	(20%)	(20%)	(10%)	(10%)
				919,978	1,646,792	1,739,173	1,777,788

* E.P.D. 1919-20, £854,665, deducted. † Corporation Profits Tax, 1921 and 1922.

The balance-sheet is yet another example of the kind that conceals more than it discloses. The first item on the assets side is one of £28,159,699, and in it is hidden some of the most important operations of the company. The following record of this item, as it appeared in the last four balance-sheets, seems to call for some explanation from the chairman:—

	March, 1921.	March, 1922.	March, 1923.	March, 1924.
Purchase price of concession, shares in sundry companies	12,012,894	22,022,759	28,061,242	28,159,700
Advances to associated companies	4,542,384	..	..	..

For 1922, when the two items were lumped into one, Sir Charles Greenway stated that the advances to associated companies amounted to £7,399,938, leaving £14,822,821 as the purchase price of concession and shares in sundry companies. For 1923 he explained that the increase of £6,000,000 was due chiefly to advances to associated companies, so that a division of the item as it stands, almost unchanged, at March 31, 1924, may be roughly made as £13,300,000 for advances to associated companies and £14,800,000 for purchase price of concession and shares in sundry companies. These advances were made to avoid the issue of fresh capital by the associated companies, such as the National Oil Refineries for the construction of the Llandoverly refinery, the British Tanker Company for the building of the tankers, Scottish Oils for the construction of another refinery, and so on. If the Anglo-Persian is conducting these vast operations through subsidiary companies, which it finances to the extent of over £13,000,000, shareholders have a right to see the balance-sheets of these companies, as well as the details of the "shares in sundry companies." The public, which is interested through the Government's holding, has the right to protest against the cloaking of these important financial operations by one single unintelligible item in the parent company's balance-sheet. This sort of accountancy permitted the Anglo-Persian to sink and lose a large sum in the Scottish-American Oil and Transport Company without showing it clearly in the accounts. It is certainly more satisfactory to note, in the last balance-sheet, that no further millions have had to be written off reserves, but if the losses on prospecting opera-

tions outside Persia have now been written off, and if the writing-down of the tanker fleet, as well as the depreciation of the new and costly refineries, has been properly provided for out of profits, it is clearly in the interests of the Anglo-Persian to publish the full facts. Of the prospects for the current year no doubt Sir Charles Greenway will give some indication at the meeting on Tuesday. On the one hand, the tendency of oil prices has been downward for three-quarters of the trading year, but, on the other hand, the company is said to have completed its capital outlays on new works, while the cost of drilling operations in the Argentine is now being met out of revenue from oil and gas, at last happily produced. The continued extension of the company's main producing fields, and the discovery of oil at Kishni, an island in the Persian Gulf which is more accessible and less subject to political disturbances, are the most satisfactory items in the directors' report.

Royal Bank of Scotland.—The report for the year ended October 11th of the Royal Bank of Scotland is the first to appear since the acquisition by the bank in January last of Messrs Drummond. In April last, £440,000 new stock was issued to the proprietors, and these two events account for some of the changes shown in the accounts. The stock was issued at a premium which produced a sum of £660,000, and this has been added to the Rest. Though the acquisition of the business of Messrs Drummond has only affected the accounts for nine months of the period under review, net profits, at £452,400, show an increase of over £26,000. We are sorry to find that the bank has taken a retrograde step in the presentation of its accounts, and now follows the all too common practice of showing only net profits, instead of giving gross profits and expenditure. Unfortunately, the number of banks which give these figures, instead of increasing, is year by year diminishing. The dividend is raised from 14 to 14½ per cent., and, being paid on a larger capital for the second part of the year, requires £281,000, against £214,000 last year. A sum of £20,000 is written off premises and property, and £30,000 is carried to pensions reserve, these allocations being the same as at this time last year. The balance of £121,400 is added to the Rest, which, with the premium of £660,000 on the new stock, now amounts to £2,347,400. Messrs Drummonds were allotted £60,000 of stock as part of the purchase price, and the paid-up capital is therefore £500,000 higher at £2,500,000. Deposits stand nearly £2 millions higher at £39½ millions, and advances have risen by over a million to £14 millions, while investments in British Government securities, at £15 millions, show an increase of £2 millions. Freehold property in London has increased, as a result of the purchase of Messrs Drummonds' premises at Charing Cross, from £125,000 to £509,600.

Burma Corporation.—Our mining correspondent writes—The history of this Anglo-Indian undertaking furnishes a notable example of inflation, deflation, and substantial recovery. At one time, both in 1919 and 1920, the £1 shares of the former London registered company were dealt in around £14. Early in the last-named year the assets were transferred to a company registered in Rangoon, with a capital of 20,000,000 ten-rupee shares, whereof 13,541,700 were allotted, fully paid, in the proportion of 14 to every old £1 share. Following this transaction, the price of the shares sagged away until in both 1921 and 1922 it was in the neighbourhood of 5s. Even during the current year there have been transactions at under 9s; but in recent months the market has shown an improving tendency, until at the beginning of this week the price touched 16s, or within measurable distance of the best of 1920. The recovery in the share market has been due to a number of factors—the payment of increasing dividends, the advance in the price of lead, the expansion in the monthly returns, the expectation that the report for 1923-24 would indicate a strong position, the completion of the liquidation of a block of 100,000 shares out of the holding of a trust company, and the "tying up" of 4,000,000 shares as a result of their acquisition by the National Smelting Corporation. The optimistic anticipations with reference to the report for the year to

June 30th last prove to have been fully warranted. We summarise the results for the latest period, in contrast with those for 1922, and for the half-year to June, 1923, to which a statement was made up in pursuance of the decision to alter the date of the financial year:—

	Year 1922.	Half-Year 1923.	Year 1923-24.
Ore mined	172,000	118,600	277,200
Yield refined lead	39,200	21,650	47,100
Yield fine silver	4,191,800	2,266,900	5,114,700
Working profit	667,000	412,100	1,073,400
Debiture interest	79,000	38,050	71,400
Depreciation, &c.	128,800	71,500	199,000
Taxes	75,700	43,900	128,400
To reserve	100,000	50,000	100,000
Net profit	283,500	208,600	574,600
Dividends	..	451,000	620,700
Brought forward	..	631,000	488,200
Carried forward	631,000	488,200	442,100
Reserve	347,650	397,650	529,100

* Including bad debts.

The only item calling for comment is that of dividends. In the 1923-24 accounts, dividends Nos. 1 and 2 of 4 annas each are treated as coming out of the balance shown at the end of June, 1923, but it is obvious that the larger moiety was in reality provided by the earnings of 1922. No. 3 dividend of 5 annas was paid during August, and a further distribution of 6 annas per share is now declared for disbursement in February. Following the official procedure, we have treated this as relative to 1923-24; it will involve trenching upon the carry-forward to a moderate extent. The appropriation account might advantageously be modified, so as to give a clearer picture of the actual position. With regard to the production, last year's output of lead showed an expansion of 20 per cent. over that of 1922, silver of 22 per cent.; while taking the second half of 1923-24, in contrast with the six months ended June, 1923, the increases are 11½ and 12½ per cent. respectively. During the past half-year, refined lead averaged £32 6s, as against £26 18s for the six months ended June, 1923; the price of the metal is now about £39. Silver shows a slight falling off in price. This product, however, is of much less importance than the other. It is interesting to note that the corporation's outturn of zinc and copper is now assuming importance. Further extensions to the works are in progress. At 4,514,800 tons, value 22.5 ozs silver, 25.2 per cent. lead, and 16.6 per cent. zinc, the ore reserves show virtually no change as compared with the preceding estimate. The quantity represents something like 15 years' supply at the current enhanced scale of operations. Hence the position in this respect is a strong one; it is also strong financially. The last balance-sheet includes investments to the tune of £796,000, consisting entirely of Indian Government bonds and the corporation's own debenture stock purchased in the open market. At the same time, the current quotation of the shares, which reduces the yield to about 7 per cent., appears to discount the prospects of the near future.

De Beers Consolidated.—The report for 1923-24 of this gigantic South African undertaking, made available by cable, shows an increase of £600,000 in the diamond sales (£3,452,500), but an expansion of only £111,000 in the balance available (£1,864,200). The apparent anomaly is explained by the circumstance that during the year mining was resumed at the Wessleton property; in 1922-23, operations had been confined to washing; hence, mainly, an expansion in the working expenses from £963,000 to £1,817,000. Investments brought in the increased interest of £301,700, but profits on sales were only £4,600, as against £92,100. The earnings of the year to June, 1923, were absorbed by the accumulated arrears and the current dividends on the preference shares. Out of the profits of the past session, 10s has been paid on the deferred shares; an interim distribution of at least like amount is expected to be announced in the early future. During the post-war period of inflation the shareholders received three half-yearly dividends of 30s apiece, but after the 10s disbursed in respect of the initial six months of 1920-21 there were three barren years, due partly to the general slump and partly to the sales of stones confiscated by the Bolsheviks. The De Beers

directors report that in 1923-24 the diamond market remained steady, and they add "it is gratifying to record that there has been an increase in the sales as compared with the previous year." The selling "pool" expires on December 31st; but, doubtless, the agreement will be renewed, subject possibly to some slight modifications.

East Rand Proprietary.—Matters in connection with the agitation for a transfer of the control of this Witwatersrand concern are reaching an acute stage. To the elaborate "Memorandum" of the Shareholders' Committee the present management has issued a concise reply, and is preparing an answer in detail. An enterprising daily contemporary has published a cable from Johannesburg giving local views and comments. Our space only permits reference to a few of the more important points raised. The Shareholders' Committee lay much stress upon "lack of development," and argue this to have been responsible for the shrinkage in the ore reserves. Yet the figures they quote show that in 1915 (the last year of the alleged "Farrar" control) the ore reserves decreased by 600,000 tons to 4,800,000 tons, despite the performance of an increased development footage. In 1917, when the footage was only 2,000 less than in the previous year, the reserves dropped by 1,468,000 tons to 2,732,000 tons; while at the end of 1919, when no more than 13,900 feet of work was done, they stood at 2,634,400 tons. Thus was justified the policy of restricting development to the more promising areas. The lack of relation between the value of the reserves and the value of the ore crushed is explained by the circumstance that the tonnage available was so little ahead of the mill, and was so scattered that a large proportion of the rock crushed had to be taken from reclamation work. Then, in regard to the financial position, "cash and cash assets," upon which so much stress is laid, includes stores, sums owing, and shares in co-operative enterprises. Examination of the latest balance-sheet indicates that the actual available resources, after providing for liabilities, stood at £317,200, as against the £551,200 stated in the "Memorandum." The comparison of the results secured in recent years with those of periods when the company's ore reserves amounted to between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 tons of higher value is as futile as the contrast between the results of the Crown Mines and of the East Rand—and for much the same reason. "Fanciful" would be a polite description of some of the statements and calculations put forward in the "Memorandum." The position of the mine—as already mentioned in our columns—has recently taken a distinct change for the better, and we consider that the transfer of the control out of the hands of the able and experienced Central Mining group would not be in the interests of the general body of shareholders.

Consolidated Gold Fields.—During the year ended June 30, 1922, the position of this Kaffir finance undertaking was such as to entail the postponement of the dividends on the two issues of preference shares. In 1922-23 matters so far improved that the directors were able to disburse 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and for the past year 10 per cent. is to be paid. The accounts indicate that the increase in the balance available is due more to savings than to gains. In other words, only £88,700 is now required to cover depreciation on investments, whereas in respect of 1922-23, the sum of £182,000 had to be deducted from the profits of the operating company. The profits and receipts now figure at £521,600, as against £460,200. For the difference the disbursements of the subsidiary Robinson Deep Company are doubtless largely responsible. The balance-sheet indicates that the company has reduced its cash advances, and expanded its participations, more particularly in "properties and ventures," which at £553,300, are £80,300 up. Uncalled capital on investments continues heavy; indeed, it has increased to over £1,000,000. A distinct change for the better appears to have taken place in the company's American industrial interests, several of which have gone through trying experiences. The output of the South American Gold and Platinum Company scores a further growth, and with capital expenditure practically completed, earnings should become available for distribution.

The position of the Gold Fields' principal South African interests has been dealt with in our columns as occasion arose, but reference may be made to one of the points of general interest embodied in the reports of the resident director in Johannesburg, and the consulting engineer. It is the development of the use of the "wet" heavy type of jackhammer in place of the lighter "dry" machine. The result has been an increase of more than 100 per cent. in the mechanical efficiency, irrespective of other advantages and economies. "The jackhammer," observes the consulting engineer, "possesses to a large extent the flexibility of the hammer boy, with the added advantage of requiring a comparatively small supply of native labour for breaking ground." The latter is a feature of special importance, in view of the shortage of coloured workers which handicapped several of the mines last year. One gratifying outcome of the reduction in costs is the new lease of life secured by the Simmer and Jack. With the fresh block of 542 claims the period of working—which had become very short—is expected to be extended by 16 years, and dividends of 20 per cent. per annum for some time are forecast.

Joshua Hoyle and Sons.—The higher level of profits recorded a year ago by Joshua Hoyle and Sons has been maintained in the year ended September 30th last. Trading conditions, says the report, have been more difficult than in the preceding year, and "under all the circumstances the result is considered satisfactory. An improvement, which is so far maintained, became manifest about the end of the financial year." As will be seen from the comparative summary below, profits were about £1,000 higher at £194,100, and the ordinary dividend is maintained at 5 per cent. :—

Year Ended Sept. 30.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Profit	£ 289,507	£ 108,837	£ 110,697	£ 193,187	£ 194,118
Brought forward	39,249	88,476	48,486	15,652	18,183
Debiture interest	328,756	197,313	159,183	208,819	212,301
Preference dividend....	52,315	52,315	52,500	79,371	79,696
Ordinary dividend	97,931	96,512	18,499	53,375	54,250
	(25 %)	(12½ %)	(2½ %)*	(5 %)	(5 %)
Renewals & reserves, &c.	90,034	..	20,000	27,390	25,000
Carried forward	88,476	48,486	15,653	18,183	22,355

* Free of tax.

Renewals and reserve fund is credited with £25,000, and now stands at £225,000. A drawing of debentures during the year raises the total redeemed to £35,500, leaving £1,464,500 still outstanding. Ordinary loans on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet show an increase of £85,800, but creditors have been reduced by £31,000. Cash and debtors are £120,000 higher, but stock-in-trade has fallen by £78,700. The property item at £2,189,100, shows an increase of £29,000. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in another column. The report mentions that the company's position regarding taxation is approaching a settlement, and it is estimated that full provision for all liability has been made in the accounts.

Wall Paper Manufacturers.—Conditions have evidently been favourable for the Wall Paper Manufacturers, Limited. In accounts for the year ended August 31, 1924, profits amounted to £751,852. For the corresponding period in 1922 these were £701,958, falling to £635,681 in 1923. Profits included a sum of £25,353, being a further amount recovered from the German Government for the company's claim in respect of the German business. The directors state that this matter has now been settled, a payment of 15s in the £ having been received through the Clearing Office and included in the profits as shown above. A final dividend on the ordinary shares of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and a dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 2½ per cent. on the deferred shares is recommended, after placing £25,000 to special reserve for income-tax, and £200,000 to the general reserve. Total assets now amount to £7,027,927, as against £6,682,743; and, viewed as a whole—with one exception, namely,

investments in subsidiary companies at £1,624,844—the balance-sheet is a fairly comprehensive statement of affairs.

India Rubber, Gutta Percha.—Again an improvement is shown in the accounts of the India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company, Limited, for the year ended August 31, 1924. It would be interesting to know, however, to what extent refunds of Excess Profits Duty were responsible for the increase. The following table shows results over a number of years:—

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.*	1922.*	1923.*	1924.
Gross profit ..	176,855	388,127	357,768	359,349	Dr 149,640	166,490	311,150	320,407
General ex- penses, &c.	82,435	134,773	147,666	204,790	205,907	193,075	154,193	158,411
Depreciation ..	3,008	44,956	72,257	32,370	40,632	10,150	4,239	4,013
Deb. interest ..	23,861	44,807	44,931	28,889	30,949	37,671	36,374	36,666
Net profit ..	16,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	18,333	20,000	20,000	20,000
Balance fwd. From reserve ..	50,551	143,589	71,913	73,300	Dr 445,461	Dr 444,006	96,344	101,317
Available for dividends ..	57,455	203,455	162,868	173,668	46,957	119,498	99,936	111,975
Reserve ..	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Staff fund ..	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	11,459	12,500	12,500	12,500
Prof. dividend ..	37,500	50,000	50,000	18,750	..	37,500	37,500	37,500
Ord. dividend ..	(7½ %)	(10 %)	(10 %)	(2½ %)	..	(5 %)	(5 %)	(5 %)
Applied to loss Carry forward	7,455	90,955	100,368	142,418	35,498	3,592	10,658	21,975

* To August 31.

It is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., free of tax, which will absorb £37,500. Incidentally it should be remembered that the ordinary capital is £750,000, as against £500,000 in 1919. The report states that "there are distinct signs of improvement in the whole of the company's activities." On turning to the balance-sheet we find assets are valued at £1,942,034, as against £2,121,797. Debts owing to the company are down from £371,193 to £182,542. It is good to see that the loan to bankers has been repaid, and the directors inform us that the second mortgage debentures held by bankers as security have been deleted from the balance-sheet. Debts owing by the company have been reduced from £493,603 to £262,474. Other items in the balance-sheet will be found analysed in another column.

Aerated Bread Company.—A substantial increase in gross profits, although accompanied by a rise in expenses, has produced an expansion of nearly £24,000 in the net profits for the year ended September 27th of the Aerated Bread Company, Limited. The actual gross profit on trading was £652,200, against £595,100 in the preceding year, but dividends and sundry profits brought in £4,600 less at £29,400. The following table summarises results since 1907:—

September.	Gross Profit.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Depreciation, &c.	Div.	Rate.	Carried Forward.
1907-8	276,252	220,365	55,886	5,000	50,409	27½	17,376
1908-9	276,101	224,822	51,279	5,000	50,167	27½	15,858
1909-10	281,852	233,348	48,504	5,000	45,425	25	13,567
1910-11	283,696	236,203	47,493	5,000	40,883	22½	14,776
1911-12	284,319	227,801	56,518	8,239	45,424	25	17,031
1912-13	308,114	234,091	74,023	8,000	54,791	27½	31,263
1913-14	315,476	240,350	75,126	28,000	49,846	27½	28,543
1914-15	286,919	253,146	33,003	8,000	29,948	17½	26,598
1915-16	299,434	282,354	17,080	11,764	7,959	5	23,965
1916-17	289,199	303,882	Dr 14,683	8,000	..	..	1,271
1917-18	419,112	322,566	96,546	59,000	28,135	15	10,882
1918-19	587,456	435,506	151,950	62,000	80,500	30	20,132
1919-20	585,831	520,274	165,557	57,882	113,050	25	14,757
1920-21	728,376	582,381	155,995	40,000	102,637	15	14,150
1921-22	637,811	488,836	148,875	48,184	87,975	12½	14,639
1922-23	629,104	497,954	131,150	37,621	79,784	8½	19,499
1923-24	681,578	526,639	154,939	35,250	100,943	10	30,276

* Includes special bonus to employees.

Net profits, it will be seen, are the highest in the company's history, with the exception of the boom year 1919-20, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 8½ to 10 per cent. The preference dividend absorbs £25,200, the £500,000 6½ per cent. preference shares issued during the previous year now ranking for full dividend. Depreciation of property reserve is credited with £15,000, a provision of £18,000 is set aside for income-tax, and £2,250 is allocated to staff funds. These allocations leave a balance of £30,300, or £10,800 more, than was carried forward. During the year eight new branches were opened, and this is reflected in the property item of the balance-sheet, which shows an increase of

£124,300 at £1,281,700. The reserve fund is £40,000. Investments have been reduced by £100,700, the holding of British Government securities falling from £213,800 to £117,600, but cash stands £19,900 higher at £54,700.

Slaters' Report.—A further substantial recovery in profits is shown in the report of Slaters, Limited, for the year ended September 30th last, and the directors remark that, although the visit of provincial parties to London in connection with the Wembley Exhibition has to some extent helped the company in the past year's trading, "it is felt that the present position of the business is such that its future is assured." As may be seen from the following comparative table, the trading profit increased substantially, while there was an appreciable saving in expenses, and the net profit was over £15,000 higher at £37,900:—

Sept. 30.	Tr'ding Profit.	Interest and Divs.	Exp'ses and Inter'et Ch'rges.	Net Profit.	Prof. Div.	Ord. Div.	Rate.	Balance.
1906	£ 52,021	£ 4,513	£ 19,508	£ 37,203	£ 5,650	£ 30,281	12½	£ 1,222
1907	52,660	4,680	20,443	37,537	5,650	30,281	12½	1,066
1908	48,302	4,718	20,756	32,385	5,650	30,281	12½	2,460
1909	41,620	4,839	21,416	25,193	5,650	19,295	8	223
1910	41,068	3,097	21,834	22,443	5,650	19,200	8	Dr. 4,417
1911	39,045	2,353	21,261	20,238	5,650	16,808	7	Dr. 4,280
1912	42,830	3,119	21,881	24,229	5,650	16,808	7	1,771
1913	44,065	2,169	22,648	25,673	5,650	16,808	7	1,215
1914	42,506	2,133	23,822	20,881	5,650	16,808	7	860
1915	12,785	1,556	20,988	Dr. 6,603	3,997	..	..	Dr. 1,961
1916	14,261	1,427	22,474	Dr. 6,786	..	..	..	Dr. 45,178
1917	18,006	2,554	27,337	Dr. 6,777	..	..	..	Dr. 65,966
1918	13,148	3,315	27,769	Dr. 1,306	..	..	..	Dr. 63,969
1919	68,612	3,193	29,858	48,947	..	..	..	Dr. 17,315
1920	81,306	4,435	37,260	48,481	22,050	7,140	4	7,976
1921	60,871	4,993	48,107	17,758	4,200	8,925	5	8,508
1922	47,095	12,412	50,531	8,976	5,250	9,244	5	3,791
1923	64,854	8,800	51,391	22,263	4,575	11,858	6	5,830
1924	80,409	4,943	47,475	37,876	4,650	15,810	8	17,416

The saving in expenses is accounted for by income-tax, which required only £6,800, against £10,900 in 1922-23. The increased ordinary dividend requires £4,000 more, and the balance forward is increased by £10,200, namely, from £9,800 to £20,000, after transferring £7,200 to the reserve fund, making it £53,000. The balance-sheet shows few important changes. Freehold properties have been increased by £9,200, and leasehold properties by £10,700. Goodwill remains unchanged at £124,500. The bank overdraft has been increased by £1,000 to £5,200, while cash is £600 higher at £1,500.

The Strength of Spelter.—The spelter market of late has shown remarkable strength, and trading has been more active than anything recorded for some time past. Galvanisers have been booking some very good orders, and this has called for further supplies of zinc. This business has found the market very poorly supplied, and at one time the quotation went over £35 10s. The total imports for October amounted to 8,253 tons, making 104,406 tons for the ten months. The total stocks in public warehouse are down to 675 tons, and statistically the position of the commodity is very sound. The stocks in the United States last month showed a decrease of about 7,000 tons. This is due to liberal buying by Germany, and other users, and this demand is again in evidence both in the States and on the London market. German zinc users have been also buying spelter in Belgium, and thus there is very little available for this market. All zinc ores are short and advancing; thus if the demand for galvanising purposes continues here, and the Germans buy additional quantities in Belgium and the States, there is bound to be a shortage during the next month or two, and values are expected to go higher. World stocks at the present time are not much over 40,000 tons, and most of this is in the hands of the American producers. The Belgian production runs about 13,000 to 13,500 tons per month, but with Germany a keen buyer there is not much available for this country. Certain developments are pending in connection with the British zinc industry, but the troubles as regards raw material and suitable labour are not yet over, and it will be some time yet before the output expands to any appreciable extent. If Europe has to turn to the States for her spelter supply during the next few months values should easily work to a higher level. Normally zinc is higher than lead, but at present the latter is pounds per ton above spelter.

French Coupons.—With reference to the French decree of September 16, 1924, by which it was decided that from January 1st next the foreign holders of securities of which the coupons are payable in France must present an affidavit for encashment thereof, we are officially informed that this measure does not affect in any way the payment of the coupons payable in London of any French securities dealt in on London Stock Exchange. These coupons will be paid exactly heretofore. As regards the affidavit mentioned above, for coupons payable in France, this will be delivered by the French Consuls. The cost has hitherto been £1 2s 6d, but it will in future be delivered free of charge.

A PUBLIC lecture on "Object Lessons of the Bolshevik Revolution" will be given by Dr Charles Sarsalea at the London School of Economics on Thursday, November 27th, at 5 p.m. Admission will be free and without ticket.

At a meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, Staple Inn Hall, W.C. 1, on Monday, November 24th, at 5 p.m., a paper on "The Value of a Deferred Annuity," with special reference to the valuation of mineral property, will be submitted by Mr C. Carpmal.

THE Royal Colonial Institute announces a meeting at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue, W.C. 2, on Monday, November 24, 1924, at 8.30 p.m., when an address on "The Links of Empire" will be read by the Right Hon. Sir George Foster, G.C.M.G. The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.C., G.C.M.G., will preside.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—ELECTION RESULTS AND BUSINESS CONFIDENCE—SECURITIES ACTIVE AND BUOYANT—COTTON REPORT—COMMODITY PRICES—STEEL TRADE IMPROVING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 11.

In financial and business circles throughout the United States confidence in the future has been greatly increased by the overwhelming Republican victory in last week's national election. The crushing defeat of the third party and the radical policies it sponsored, was one of the most important and reassuring features of the election. Senator La Follette, who headed that party as a candidate for the Presidency, carried only his own State of Wisconsin, with its 13 electoral votes. Another highly important result is that the Republicans have materially increased their strength in the House, and to a lesser degree in the Senate, which indicates that the Administration will have control of the House of Representatives, and a somewhat better prospect than in the present Congress of controlling the Senate.

With the political atmosphere thus cleared, and in such decisive fashion, the most important factor in the domestic situation, which for months past undoubtedly retarded the revival of trade and industry in this country, has been removed, with the result that the exceptionally strong underlying influences which existed before the election are now receiving, if anything, more attention, and seem to furnish a sound basis for expecting a general expansion of business in all directions. The unprecedented volume of railway traffic, large and profitable harvests, ample credit facilities, the marked change for the better in the European situation and outlook, together with the fact that merchants in this country in practically all lines of trade and industry have for a long time past been operating conservatively by purchasing only for well-defined needs, avoiding accumulation of burdensome supplies, and eliminating undue speculation in their undertakings—these are among the factors that are likely to play a most important part in bringing about real and sustained prosperity. Sufficient time has not elapsed to gauge accu-

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves over £2,500,000.

TEA — RUBBER — COCONUTS.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF PLANTATIONS FINANCE AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN.

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

rately the immediate effect of the election upon trade and industry as a whole, although it is probable that many orders, notably for steel, tentatively placed before election, and contingent upon a satisfactory outcome thereof, are now being confirmed, and that many plans and contracts are no longer being held in abeyance.

On the Stock Exchange the response to the Election results was immediate and spectacular. Trading has been, and continues, on the largest scale witnessed at any time in the past five years. On Friday of last week transactions exceeded 2,300,000 shares, and in the two-hour session on Saturday amounted to nearly 1,500,000 shares. This week the daily turnover has been well above the two-million share mark, and to-day closely approximated 2,500,000 shares. The outside public has entered the stock market on an extensive scale; buying orders have poured into commission houses from all sections of the country, and their facilities as well as those of the Exchange are being overtaxed to handle the rush of business. Under the flood of buying orders from many sources prices throughout the list have scored sensational advances to new high levels for this year, and in many instances to record high levels for a number of years, while some shares established absolute record prices. Railroad shares have led the vigorous rise, and have figured in transactions to a greater extent than have industrials, although demand for the latter has increased materially in the past day or two. Bonds of all descriptions, but especially railroad issues, have likewise displayed increased activity and strength, although the rising tendency has been checked lately by an advance of about ½ of 1 per cent. in rates for time money.

Commodity prices continued to advance in October, the average level showing the fourth successive monthly increase from the low point of the summer recorded on July 1st. Bradstreet's index number as of November 1st is \$13,3499, representing a gain of 2.7 per cent. over that of October 1st and of 9.1 per cent. from the July 1st figure. As compared with November 1st of last year, the present index number is 1.7 per cent. higher, but 4.2 per cent. below the high point of last year, which was reached on March 1st. It is, however, 25.7 per cent. above the low point registered on June 1, 1921, after the deflation of 1920.

During October the United States Steel Corporation enjoyed a further increase in forward business, the total of unfilled orders on its books at the end of last month, amounting to 3,525,270 tons, an increase over September 30th of 51,490 tons. Although this gain is less than one-third of the increase reported for the preceding month, it is considered encouraging since production and shipments were larger last month than in September and August, and shows that the improvement which began in midsummer has continued. The total of unfinished business on October 31st is the largest reported since the end of last May, when the corporation had 3,628,089 tons in unfilled orders on its books, and compares with 4,672,825 tons on October 31, 1923. Last month United States Steel's plants were operated at about 63 per cent. of capacity, while operations at its finishing mills were somewhat above that figure, probably exceeding 64 per cent. Shipments in October are estimated at considerably more than 900,000, and incoming business at 1,000,000 tons or more. At the present rate of operations, which has not changed materially since the end of October, the corporation has enough forward business to last for four months, approximately. Indications point to another increase in orders this month, and the outlook for the remainder of the year is regarded as favourable.

The Government estimate of the cotton crop, on November 1st, and the Census Bureau's report on the amount of cotton ginned to that date were both larger than had generally been anticipated. Evidently weather conditions

during the last two weeks of October were unusually favourable in most sections of the cotton belt, for the Department of Agriculture placed the condition of the crop, on November 1st, at 55.9 of normal, as against 54.7 per cent. on October 18th. The condition on the first of this month compares with 53.5 on October 1st, and 47.8 on October 25th a year ago. The indicated crop is figured at 12,816,000 bales, which, if realised, would exceed last year's yield by more than 600,000 bales, and would be by far the largest crop produced since that of 1920. It would be more than 4,800,000 bales greater than the exceptionally short crop of 1921. Up to November 1st conditions generally favoured the opening and picking of the remainder of the crop that had not been harvested on October 18th, and in most States the late bolls matured. According to the Census Bureau, the amount of cotton ginned to November 1st totalled 9,694,920 running bales, counting round bales as halves, which is considerably larger than the trade had expected; it compares with 7,600,826 bales reported ginned to October 18th, and 7,556,042 bales to November 1st of last year. In sharp contrast with the extensive decline in prices following the previous Government report a fortnight ago, the cotton market this week has displayed increasing strength, despite the larger crop now indicated. Futures especially have scored substantial advances, under active buying for both domestic and foreign spinners, together with speculative purchases for long account, and considerable hasty covering by shorts. Various factors are considered responsible for the upturn, including some improvement already noticeable in the cotton goods trade, which has been acutely depressed for months, and expectations that the increased confidence created by the election results will serve to stimulate business in cotton textiles, as in other industries.

FRANCE.—BUDGET—REINSTATEMENT OF RAILWAY STRIKERS—REVENUE—FOREIGN TRADE. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 19.

THE general discussion on the Budget proposals has now been completed in the Chamber, and we have it on the authority of M. Auriol, the President of the Finance Commission of the Lower House, who is, of course, a strenuous partisan of the Government, that M. Herriot is determined, at any cost, to force the Bill through both Houses before the end of the year. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished, as it will enable the deadly system of votes on account to be avoided, and the new financial year to be a complete one in every respect, extending from January 1st to December 31st. As far as can be seen, there is no serious obstacle likely to prevent the Government from carrying out its determination. M. Herriot appears to have now got his heterogeneous following into something like order, and the many "wild men" who rode into the Chamber on the tide of his victory last May have had time to realise, like the Labour Party in England, that the actual possession of power has a very sobering effect on the undisciplined mind. M. Clementel's "national financial inventory," which, it is alleged, will be a preliminary step to a serious reorganisation of the nation's finances, has not yet been published, but is expected to be in the hands of the deputies within a few days. With this as a basis, the Herriot Government may be expected to put forward several very striking examples of efforts to modify the national system of taxation, but it is impossible that these can be brought into practical form before the Budget proposals for 1926 are ready for submission to the Chambers.

The strenuous opposition offered by the railway companies to the demand of the Government that they should reinstate the thousands of men who were dismissed as the result of the 1920 general railway strike has led to significant developments. Now that the Amnesty Bill has reached the Senate, M. Herriot has realised that to compel the companies to take back, unconditionally and *en masse*, the men who undoubtedly gave them enormous trouble and threatened to make the carrying on of the railways impossible, would be to go too far. The Senate Commission who considered the Bill sent up from the Chamber went so far as to recommend that the rein-

statement of the strikers should be made optional on the companies, and not compulsory, as the Lower House proposes. This was rejected by a vote of 165 against 135, but in the end a text was drafted which, while apparently endorsing the Chamber's view, yet leaves a door open for the companies to be able to avoid having to reinstate obvious undesirables. Meanwhile, the railways are faced with the fact that they are almost certain to be required in the near future to increase their wages bill by something like 1,000 millions a year. The last revision of tariffs upwards showed that, so far as passengers are concerned, the limit has been reached; thousands of people who formerly travelled first-class now take second-class tickets, and, what is more serious, the number of passengers has fallen off by 12 per cent. The additional labour cost can therefore only be recouped by an appreciable rise in goods rates. This must necessarily have the effect of again increasing the cost of living, but, as has already been pointed out more than once, no serious movement exists in France against the comparatively enormous high commodity prices now ruling, and it is expected that increased transport charges will be accepted without exceptional difficulty.

The revenue returns for October indicate that the yield from taxation during the month was enormously higher than has ever before been recorded. The total revenue from all sources was 3,047,031,500f, as compared with 2,015½ millions in September, 1,788½ millions in August, and 2,529½ millions in July, the previous record month. Of this total, only 99,934,300f (including 61,129,600f from overdue taxes on war profits) was derived from exceptional and temporary sources, the yield from normal and permanent revenue being 2,947,097,200f (or 728,915,800f more than the total received from this source in October, 1923). Income-tax represented barely 682 millions of this huge total, or slightly over 21 per cent. of it. The yield from income-tax, however, is larger than that from any other category of impost, registration (521 millions), the tax on turnover (428½ millions), taxes on securities (305½ millions), "indirect taxation" (239 millions), and State monopolies (212 millions), coming next in order in the October return. Customs, duties, owing to the bad situation of the franc, again yielded over 53 millions less than Budget estimates. The total revenue from indirect taxes and monopolies, however, was still over 274½ millions more than had been expected. The yield from these taxes during the first ten months of the year has been 2,114,836,200f more than the Finance Minister expected to get from them. A noteworthy return has just been issued in the report of the Finance Commission of the Chamber on the Budget for the Ministry of Finance. This shows that, for the period extending from the beginning of 1920 down to October 31st last there is unpaid direct taxation outstanding to a total of over 10,000 million francs. This total includes 3,857 millions of income-tax, 5,500 millions of special tax on war profits (which expired some two years ago), and nearly 2,000 millions of other direct taxes. It should be noted that this total includes the greater proportion of this year's assessments for income and other taxes, the demand notes for which were not sent until the end of the summer, or appreciably later than usual.

M. François-Marsal, M. Millerand's Finance Minister, who is the head of one of the great Paris banks, insists that the yield from taxation based on incomes drawn from capital and from wages and salaries represents 51.63 per cent. of the national revenue; taxes on alcohol, tobacco, and other non-indispensable products 21.6 per cent.; and that import duties and other "impôts de défense économique," represent only 8.72 per cent., and "food taxes" only 18.5 per cent. This authority is convinced that the limit of taxation has been reached in France, and that the principle of progressive taxation on personal wealth has been "pushed to its extremity."

The foreign trade returns for October indicate that French imports and exports are steadily rising again to the record levels attained last spring. The total exports during October are valued at 3,531,896,000f (as compared with 3,184 millions in September, 2,697 millions in August, and 4,027 millions in April), while imports for the month are valued at 3,397 millions (as against 3,156 millions in September, 3,071 millions in August, and 3,713 millions in February). The detailed figures for the first ten

months of 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, are as follows:—

	First Ten Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
Imports—	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Foodstuffs	5,942,539,000	7,377,040,000	+ 1,434,501,000
Raw materials	16,150,674,000	21,117,176,000	+ 4,966,502,000
Manufactured goods	3,488,163,000	4,104,937,000	+ 616,774,000
Total	25,581,376,000	32,599,153,000	+ 7,017,777,000
Exports—			
Foodstuffs	2,531,382,000	3,187,560,000	+ 656,178,000
Raw materials	7,372,470,000	8,635,690,000	+ 1,263,220,000
Manufactured goods	13,112,612,000	20,662,060,000	+ 7,549,448,000
Postal parcels	1,323,201,000	1,594,077,000	+ 270,876,000
Total	24,339,665,000	33,979,387,000	+ 9,639,722,000

Over 75 per cent. of the increase in exports, it will be noted, is in manufactured goods, while about 70 per cent. of the increased imports were in raw materials. The increase in the value of manufactured goods imported during the first ten months of the year was only 616½ million francs, while the increase in the manufactured goods exported during the same period was 7,549½ millions, or 57½ per cent. The proportion of this increased value, which is due to increased prices, is to be gauged from the comparative weights of imports and exports respectively during the same periods:—

	First Ten Months of		Increase in 1924.
	1923.	1924.	
Tonnage of total imports	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Do exports	44,782,117	47,400,599	2,618,482
	19,784,721	23,924,465	4,139,744

While the first ten months of last year showed an excess of imports over exports amounting to 1,241,711,000f, the corresponding period of this year has shown a surplus of exports of 1,380,234,000f. As compared with 1913, French imports have increased by 377 per cent. in value and 30 per cent. in tonnage, while exports have increased 500 per cent. in value and 33½ per cent. in weight.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—CURRENCY—FOREIGN CREDITS—INDUSTRY—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, November 18.

OWING to the absence of a clear issue, the campaign for the Reichstag General Election of December 7th continues to be very tame. There are more signs, in local elections, of a movement away from the extreme Right and Left, and the German-Democratic Party, which of late seemed to be threatened with complete extinction, has gained. The tariff and commercial treaties question attracts little interest among the general public. The Foreign Minister repeats earlier official declarations that the coming tariff must be moderate, and that with foreign countries most-favoured-nation relations must be re-established. The pending negotiations, says Dr Stresemann, will decide whether economic concord or economic war is to prevail in the next decades; the foreign notion that Germany can inundate Europe with her goods and can exclude foreign goods by prohibitive duties is unfounded. "But it is infinitely difficult to induce the interested (German) parties to realise in practice this general economic principle." While all trade and industrial organisations of general scope proclaim for modern duties and international agreements, various special industrial interests maintain that their particular branches are an exception, and demand very high duties. The German-Swiss negotiations for mutual abolition of import restrictions are nearly concluded. Complete abolition is, however, not due until September 30th, 1925; meantime, the list of wares subject to import restrictions will be materially reduced. The account of the Agent-General for Reparations shows receipts in September of 83,510,000 marks, and October 86,203,000 marks. Of these sums, 40,000,000 marks and 29,662,000 marks were cash, and 11,236,000 marks and

19,935,000 marks were booked under the Reparations Recovery Act. Payments in September and October were: to Great Britain, 14,258,000 marks and 23,693,000 marks respectively, of which 11,236,000 marks and 18,520,000 marks were collected under the Reparation Recovery Act; to France, 24,618,000 marks and 36,224,000 marks—for October appears the first French entry for Reparations recovery; to Italy, 4,383,000 marks and 8,900,000 marks; and to Belgium, 6,556,000 marks and 9,264,000 marks. Expenditure of the commissions was, in September and October: Reparations, 1,165,000 marks and 585,000 marks; Rhineland, 1,250,000 marks in each month; Military Control, 1,000,000 marks in each month; Marine Control, 70,000 marks in September, nothing in October.

October showed the largest yield from taxes on record:—

	M.
October	686,732,609
September	609,207,831
August	592,033,933
July	583,141,258

The credit situation, after a considerable improvement and a great drop in interest rates, has of late altered little. Bank deposits are reported to be increasing, and liquidity prevails. The banks, however, prefer not to tie up their money, their aim being apparently to show a high ratio of liquid investments at the end of the year. The banks are inclined to give credits in foreign exchange only when a need for these for actual foreign payments is proved; many borrowers, in view of the lower interest rate on exchange credits, borrowed in pounds or dollars, which they immediately converted into marks for home use, in the knowledge that since the freeing of exchange dealings they could always meet their debts. The Reichsbank's return for November 7th shows an addition of only 64,000 marks to the gold reserve, and this was purchased at home. The Gold Discount Bank's outstanding discounts on November 7th totalled £6,351,092, against £6,715,377 on October 31st; this decline marks a further stage towards the liquidation of the bank. Bankers express the view that the Reparations Settlement may operate towards an improvement of home credit conditions, as under certain circumstances large Reparations deposits will accumulate in the Reichsbank, with the result of increasing funds for credit to German business.

The applications for American credits, both from public bodies and from industry, reach a very large total sum. American financiers hesitate on various grounds; they are not yet sure as to the incidence of the Reparations bonds or as to the practicability of payments of interest by Germany, in view of the dominant authority of the Transfer Committee. Since the withdrawal of most of the exchange restrictions there is theoretically no difficulty in obtaining exchange for foreign payments (and, incidentally, mark credits for goods, stocks, &c., may be freely granted to foreigners); but interest payment to foreign countries remains a part of the general question of the foreign payment balance, and doubt still exists here. Also New York seems to have doubts, with good reason, as to the securing of principal. The party agitation in favour of restoring fully paid-off private bonds and mortgages is very strong; the agitation for raising the 15 per cent. restoration so far granted of unpaid bonds and mortgages is equally strong; and there is a general belief that after the Reichstag Elections something in this direction will be done. As a result of this practically no industrial concern can be sure that it will not be saddled with a new heavy secured debt by statute, although all its calculations have been so far made on the assumption, justified by present law, that it has no such debts. Government declarations of intention in this connection have no value, because they do not bind the Legislature, or even (as experience has shown) the Government itself. In view of these difficulties, trade journals demand a "final" settlement of the depreciated debts question; but, in fact, there can be no final settlement, unless—what is in practice impossible—debts are restored to 100 per cent. of their original gold value.

The wholesale price index number on November 12th was 129.7, against 126.6 a week earlier; the cost-of-living number 112.4, against 123. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's*

wholesale number was 139.93 on November 13th, against 138.45 on October 30th, and 140.10 on January 3rd. According to this index, prices have not fluctuated this year more than 10 per cent., and are now practically back at the starting level. The group numbers on November 13th were:—

Food.	Textiles and Leather.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Manufactured Goods.
135.38	183.44	128.78	126.09	140.42

Unemployment has further decreased. Unemployed in the whole Republic on November 1st totalled 435,000, against 473,000 on October 15th. The improvement in steel and iron continues, and prices are firm, being on the 15th (in marks per metric ton): Ingots, 100; blooms, 105; billets, 110-112; slabs, 117; bars, 122; thick sheets (over 5 mil.), 135-138; medium do. (3 to 5 mil.), 150; thin do. (1 to 3 mil.), 180; thin do. (under 1 mil.), 195. The *Bergwerks-Zeitung*, the Essen organ of the heavy industry, declares that Germany has no special interest in embodying the new Steel Syndicate in an international concern, and doubts whether an international concern is possible. Even in national syndicates price-conventions have a very limited value. The pre-war international Tubes Cartel proved that international price-conventions were doomed to collapse as soon as trade depression begins. An international steel syndicate would at most apply to raw steel only, and merely to the "contingenting" of the production of this. France alone is interested; the Alsace-Lorraine works are the superfluous element in the steel industry; as France certainly will not close down these works merely because of the general over-production, she alone, concludes the *Bergwerks-Zeitung*, stands to gain from an international agreement restricting output. A report on the German Cartels Law of 1923 states that out of 1,500 Cartels in the Republic, 178 have been up before the Cartels Court, and that in 44 cases the Court confirmed the notices to dissolve the Cartels. Hamburg shipping recovered in October, arrivals being 1,242 vessels of 1,484,926 net tons, against 1,181,207 tons in October, 1923, and 1,291,625 tons in October, 1913.

Last week the first "D"-Bank gold mark balance-sheets appeared. The Dresdner Bank has scaled down its paper mark capital to gold in the ratio of 12½ to 1. The capital on December 31, 1923, was 975,000,000 paper marks; on January 1, 1924 (the date for which the gold mark balance-sheets are compiled), it is 78,000,000 gold marks. The bank's capital on December 31, 1923, was 200,000,000 gold marks. The Darmstaedter und National Bank has scaled down in the ratio of 10 to 1, that is from 600,000,000 paper marks to 60,000,000 gold marks. The pre-war capital was 283,000,000 gold marks, so that the bank's loss since 1913 has been heavier than that of the Dresdner. The reasons why the banks, unlike most of the industrial companies, show a loss in net property since before the war is that their chief asset, their own capital, depreciated together with the mark currency, and that they did not reap a counterbalancing gain from payment off of bonds and mortgages in depreciated money. The reserve of the Dresdner Bank is fixed at 22,000,000 gold marks, against 61,800,000 gold marks in 1913; of the Darmstaedter Bank at 40,000,000 gold marks, against 53,100,000 gold marks.

CANADA.—HARVESTING IN THE WEST—TRADE RELATIONS WITH GERMANY—RAILWAY RATES—BANK MERGERS—IMMIGRATION—PLIGHT OF WESTERN CATTLEMEN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, November 10.

CONTINUED wet weather during the first half of October had begun to chill the optimism created in the West by high grain prices, but luckily a change for the better has come, and threshing operations have been pushed forward under very favourable conditions. Indeed, in all save very backward areas, threshing operations are now well nigh complete, and grain is moving to the seaboard in large quantities. There is a very good export demand, and prices, if they have not risen in the last fortnight, are keeping very firm. In view of the damage wrought by frost and rain, the grading problem is more difficult than

usual; the farmers complain that they are being penalised by too low grades, and the elevator companies retort that they have lost heavily because their employees at country points made appraisements which were reduced by the official inspectors. However, the returns which will be secured will undoubtedly increase the funds of the rural community. The banks and mortgage companies report that the western farmers are liquidating their obligations better than at any time since the beginning of the depression, and while a good deal of the farmers' money will be employed for that purpose, a sufficient surplus will be available for the purchase of necessities and luxuries to give a decided stimulus to general business. There is evidence that the King Government is sounding out public opinion to discover whether a commercial treaty with Germany, which needs a lot of Canadian raw products, would be favourably received, and some sort of subterranean pourparlers sponsored by interested business men on both sides seem to be afoot.

The controversy about western railway rates still continues to boil. The decision of the Railway Commission that it has power to override the statutory terms of the Crows' Nest Pass Agreement and its fixation for a large number of commodities of rates higher than the maximum decreed by this pact, will not be accepted by the West without a prolonged conflict, and for the moment party differences seem to have been laid aside to secure a united front for the restoration of what is regarded as a vital charter of transportation rights; there is even some threat of a secessionist movement. An appeal on a crucial legal point has been taken to the Supreme Court, and an emphatic demand has been made upon the Government for the suspension of the higher rates which have been brought into force by the railways. The Government has refused this demand, pending the decision of the Supreme Court, but is not likely to accede to it because public opinion in the East, and especially in the maritime provinces, is disposed to uphold the verdict of the Railway Commission, and to regard the Crows' Nest Pass Agreement as a special privilege which should be abrogated, as it entails higher rates for the rest of the country than would otherwise be necessary. The Progressive party will undoubtedly bring the issue before Parliament next session, but if the Government stands firm they can do very little, as Mr Meighen, the Conservative leader, has declared that the subject of rates should be left to the Commission, and that the agreement was an obstacle to the general recasting the rate structure which was necessary. The higher rates will be very welcome to the railways, but both the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. seem to be managing to offset the loss on gross revenues, due to the smaller exportable surplus of grain, by heavy reductions in operating expenses. For September the C.P.R. shows a decline of \$2,251,925 in gross revenues, but a cut of \$2,301,599 in operating expenses leaves the net earnings at \$4,547,645, which is a gain of \$49,674. C.N.R. gross earnings fell in this month \$2,334,397, but the net increased \$297,999. For the first nine months of the calendar year C.P.R. net earnings have gained \$1,194,458, and C.N.R. \$853,875. In a recent speech Sir H. Thornton, the president of the C.N.R., admitted that his hopes of net earnings of 30 million dollars for the present year could not be realised, but expressed confidence that last year's figure would be maintained. The process of bank consolidation in Canada is still going ahead. Following the union of two small banks, the Sterling and Standard, it is now announced that the Finance Department has given its assent to the absorption of the Molson's Bank by the Bank of Montreal. The Molson's Bank was founded in 1855, most of the capital being raised by the well-known family of Montreal brewers, who gave it their name. It has been managed on careful and conservative lines, and all save half a dozen of its 110 branches are in Ontario and Quebec. Its capital at the time of the absorption was \$4,000,000, and it will increase the assets of the Bank of Montreal by \$68,785,605, giving it a complete primacy over its rivals. The shareholders of the Molson's Bank receive for every three of their holdings two shares of Bank of Montreal stock, plus a cash bonus of \$10 per share. These recent mergers reduce the number of chartered banks in Canada to 12, and there are rumours afloat that the Union Bank

will in the near future likewise be received into the capacious bosom of the Bank of Montreal. Undoubtedly the revelations produced by the home bank *débacle* shook very severely the credit of all the smaller banks, and most of them have had to suffer the transference of a very substantial amount of deposits either to the four major banks, or to the savings banks established by provincial governments. The system of government inspection of banks, which was established by an amendment to the Bank Act last session, was welcomed by the smaller banks as likely to promote the restoration of public confidence in themselves, and its full effects cannot be yet gauged; indeed, since the Government find difficulty in securing a Chief Inspector of the proper calibre, the system has not come into practical operation. But whatever its results may be, the wide impression prevails that the consolidating process will continue until five or six large institutions handle the whole banking business of Canada. Meanwhile the provincial Savings Banks are thriving. The immigration figures continue to be very disappointing. During September the arrivals were only 8,493, as compared with 14,172 in September, 1923. For the first half of the fiscal year, which ended September 30th, there was a decline of 10 per cent., the comparative figures being 84,602 and 94,513. Moreover, the proportion of British immigrants has fallen from 55 per cent. to 49 per cent., and a loss in the American contingent is just balanced by an increase in the arrivals from the continent of Europe. Considerable controversy exists about the present extent of the southward exodus, and there is some evidence of Canadian workmen returning from the U.S., but the emigration is still of very serious proportions. Although the graingrowers of the West are receiving good prices for their crop, cattlemen are not enjoying the same good fortune, while hog prices have climbed in response to the rise in grain prices, cattle are still disappointingly cheap, and thousands of western cattle of fairly good quality are now passing through the markets at prices below \$50 per head on the average, which is not profitable. Despite the Fordney tariff, which imposes a duty of 1½¢ per lb on light, and 2¢ on fat cattle, large numbers of Canadian cattle are still going to the U.S., but the return to the Canadian farmer is reduced by anything from \$15 to \$25 per head, and recently whole trainloads of western Canadian cattle, sold in Chicago at 5 or 6¢ per lb, live weight, have only netted the consignors \$25 or \$30 apiece. The present high price of maize in the U.S. has brought down the price of store cattle there. As far as the British market is concerned, it is now generally admitted that the results of the removal of the embargo have been very disappointing. The number shipped shows some increase, but most of the cattle crossing the Atlantic to British ports are fairly well finished cattle from Ontario, which are mostly slaughtered for beef at the port of landing. "Store" cattle, which the embargo had kept out, are not going in any large numbers, chiefly because only the more valuable cattle can stand the transportation costs; the restrictions imposed in connection with the foot and mouth disease also prevented free movement to inland areas. But apparently there is so far no active demand by the British farmer for Canadian cattle, and no effective machinery for their distribution. The first shipments after the embargo was greatly exploited, and easily sold, but thanks to an unfortunate turn in the market, many farmers lost money on them, and have fought shy of them ever since.

ARGENTINA.—GROWING PROSPERITY—CROPS—BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—BUDGET—MARKETS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, October 27.

ALL the great Anglo-Argentine railway companies have held their annual meetings, and the speeches of the respective chairmen have, without one single exception, embodied unqualified optimism. One must go back to the days of 1907-8 for such wholehearted testimony to Argentina's prosperity and prospects. The actual state of the crops, as estimated by the Board of Rural Economy and Statistics, from information supplied by honorary correspondents, as well as its own paid officials, is set

forth as follows:—With "normal" estimated at 100, the proportional average over the whole Republic reads:—Wheat, 96; linseed, 87; maize, 100; oats, 93; barley, 89; rye, 87; alfalfa, 94; birdseed, 97. In cotton and in tobacco a considerable increase in the sown area can be counted upon. On October 1st the exportable surplus of wheat was put at 744,352 tons, while the linseed surplus was 256,886 tons. Shipments from January 1st to October 2, 1924, are contrasted with those for the first nine months of 1923 in table form:—

	First Nine Months, 1923.	First Nine Months, 1924.
Wheat.....tons	3,390,669	4,039,201
Maize....."	2,339,272	3,497,550
Linseed....."	1,003,422	1,177,271
Oats....."	367,656	605,636
Cotton.....bales (not tabulated)	33,124	33,124
Wool....."	275,253	234,870

Prices for cereals during July-September, inclusive, have been, roughly speaking, \$2 more per 100 kilos for wheat and linseed, and \$1 more for maize than they were for the first six months of the year, while in chilled and frozen meat the movement has been both heavy and profitable to the cattle breeders, though the freezing companies aver that on Smithfield parity they are losing money at the moment. When it is remembered that the diversity and monetary value of Argentina's smaller export interests appreciates steadily, it will be understood why there is a general feeling that the tide has completely turned, and that the balance of payments for the seasonal year 1924-5—October 1st to September 30th—will be in Argentina's favour. For the period between October 1, 1922, and September 30, 1923, Señor Carlos Alfredo Tornquist, the eminent Argentine banker, who for many years past has made a practice of compiling an estimated balance of payments, calculates that the adverse balance touched \$239,000,000 gold.

The following figures show how this sum is arrived at:—

ASSETS.	Millions of \$ Gold.	LIABILITIES.	Millions of \$ Gold.
Exports.....	767	Imports.....	846
Issues of already established undertakings.....	8	Service of the public debt.....	52
New capital.....	15	Service of "Cédulas Hipotecarias".....	69
Convention with France and England-Interest.....	17	Railway companies' dividends and interest.....	695
Interest on foreign securities..	2	Earnings of other capital.....	328
Sale of Argentine bonds.....	14	Remittances and savings of foreign residents in Argentina	38
Expenditure of foreign travellers in Argentina.....	6	Expenditure of Argentine travellers in foreign countries.....	12
Decrease in gold stock.....	13.1	Argentine bonds repatriated.....	16
Loans.....	9	Convention with England and France—Increase of balance	0.8
Foreign correspondents and accounts.....	9	Cancellation of loans.....	0.8
Total.....	837.65	Decrease of mortgage capital..	1.9
Or say, in round figures.....	838	Total.....	1,076.7
		Or say, in round figures.....	1,077
		Assets.....	838
		Adverse balance.....	239

Meanwhile the national finances remain the chief stumbling block in the way of complete recovery. Dr. E. S. Perez, the new Administrator of the State Railways, and an ex-Minister of Finance, has issued a statement giving a reasonably exact position of the department's floating debt. It stood at \$140,000,000 paper on October 1st, and a further sum of \$10,000,000 was urgently needed before the end of the current month to meet wages in arrears, interest on American purchases, and other matters. Again the Government has had to come to the aid of the State railways, by issuing six-month Treasury bills for \$10,250,000 paper, a measure which at best is but temporary, and leaves the main problem of how future expenditure and consolidation of all outstandings may be best dealt with, still to solve. Until the extraordinary sessions at which the Budget estimates for 1925 are to be discussed has been held, in the month of December, there is little use in commenting on a situation familiar to all acquainted with Argentine financial matters. It may, however, be pointed out that doubt as to the full responsibility of the national government for the railway debts may now be considered as out of the question. What is not so clear is how far the existing plans for further extensions and connections can be carried without extraneous aid. It has been freely said that the Government intends to press on with schemes which call for \$245,000,000 paper further outlay, spread over the next three years, but where the money will be found is not indicated. Argentina's 1925 Budget, despite

much mention of economies, is, on the estimates submitted, the biggest ever drawn up, and the economies, as far as one can gather, are not designed to reduce the total of \$665,000,000 paper, but merely indicate that subsequent additions, usually brought forward by the various ministries at the last moment, will be discouraged. Due proportion maintained, in this matter of the Budget, there is considerable similarity between the Argentine and the French position at the present moment, as outlined by the Paris correspondent of *The Economist*, under date September 17th. The chief similarity lies in the fact that large amounts of additional money must be found, presumably by taxation, though in Argentina, where the sum needed is smaller, and the country itself in the flood-tide of intensive development, there is ground for hoping that a long-term loan under equitable conditions may eventually be arranged.

Money has been in better demand during the past month, and rates are firm, with the monthly returns of bank deposits again showing a small decrease, some four million paper, in the totals. Lists of trade bills were discountable at 6 to 7 per cent. per annum, while single name promissory notes and advances on current account were 7 to 8 per cent. per annum, though it must be remembered that for first-class business in both categories easier conditions could be had, while the Treasury bills were placed at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Rates allowed by banks on deposits in savings account, and at 6 months' notice, range from 3 to 6 per cent. per annum, according to the category of the institution, but it is surprising to see how large, comparatively speaking, is the number of small depositors who are attracted by terms that on the face of them are bound to imply a margin of risk. Exchange during the first week of October moved steadily in favour of Argentina, sterling being quoted for a moment at 45 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the rate for U.S. dollars going down to 116.80. There was, however, the inevitable reaction, and sterling is at the moment of writing steady at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$, sight drawing, with U.S. dollars 119.40. Continental rates have further depreciated, French francs being now 16.05, lire 19.45, and the pesetas 6.21 $\frac{1}{2}$. There have been no gold exports since September 25th, the present position of the Conversion Office reading as follows:—Gold in hand, \$456,426,056 gold; notes, &c., in circulation, \$1,330,350,176 paper.

ROUMANIA.—TRADE FIGURES—PUBLIC FINANCE—OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICES—SUGAR AND CROPS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, November 8.

THE following are the official figures of Roumania's foreign trade during the year 1923:—

Category.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Weight in Metric Tons.	Value in Thousands of Lei.	Weight in Metric Tons.	Value in Thousands of Lei.
Animal products	26,692	3,611,631	70,986	2,202,065
Agricultural products, including textiles	163,695	8,962,641	4,206,730	18,493,851
Minerals, oil, and sub-soil products	440,414	3,825,814	577,444	3,429,496
Miscellaneous commodities ..	72,473	3,312,855	23,050	247,263
	703,274	19,712,941	4,878,210	24,372,675

These figures show an "active" trade balance of Lei 4,659 millions, or, roughly, five millions sterling.

The official figures for the year 1922, which have recently been revised, are now given as follows:—

Category.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Weight in Metric Tons.	Value in Thousands of Lei.	Weight in Metric Tons.	Value in Thousands of Lei.
All categories	583,668	12,325,366	4,695,903	14,037,113

or an "active" balance of Lei 1,712 millions, equivalent, roughly, to three millions sterling.

Imports during the past four years have shown a steady decline in value, and the figures for the current year are almost sure to show a further contraction. While the normal pre-war equilibrium of an "active" trade balance seems now to have been definitely restored, the continued decline in imports is not a sign of economic health. Roumania has not yet reached that stage of industrial development which would justify a drastic diminution in the import of manufactured articles.

The situation of the public Treasury as on September 30th indicates that the Budget surplus for the present fiscal (and calendar) year may reach a total of between Lei 3,000 and 4,000 millions. The yield from direct taxes during the first nine months of the present year amounted only to Lei 1,398 millions—Lei 840 millions less than anticipated—but indirect taxes have brought in Lei 8,033 millions, or Lei 1,699 millions ahead of the Budget estimate. The greater part of the Budget surplus is being used for reducing the internal floating debt, and for the services of foreign obligations. The Budget for 1925 will probably reach a total of Lei 28,500 millions (an increase of Lei 4,500 millions over the present year), and will make provision for salary increases for Government employees (who are still badly underpaid), and for the services of all the country's external and internal funded debts.

Crude oil production in September established a record of 166,000 metric tons, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year up to 1,347,582 tons. This is a gain of 212,772 tons over 1923, and of 361,964 tons over 1922. Crude oil prices, however, have fallen sharply during recent months, Moreni grade being currently quoted at Lei 15,000 per carload (of ten tons), against a high of Lei 36,000 per carload recorded only last March. It is the belief among oil producers here that crude prices have now touched bottom, and a sharp rise is not unlikely. The export of refined oil products for the first nine months of 1924 totalled 254,622 tons, against 250,119 tons for the same period of 1923.

The beet sugar harvest of the present year has exceeded all expectations, and the complete output will probably be close on 1,000,000 metric quintals. This is the first time since the war that the sugar crop will completely provide for the country's domestic requirements for a full year. The 1923 crop amounted to 502,200 quintals, and 1922 to 300,003 quintals. Definite official figures on the grain harvests are not yet available, but the production of wheat, according to an official estimate, will exceed 2,000,000 tons, and the corn crop will be close on 4,000,000 tons. Rye, barley, and oats have been disappointing this year. There will be more than 1,000,000 tons of corn available for export from the present crop, but, as it is in a very damp condition, it will probably be next April or May (or the reopening of the Danube) before it can be moved. It is estimated that autumn wheat this year has been sown to an area of 3,500,000 hectares, an increase of 500,000 hectares over last year.

Letters to the Editor.

COLOMBIAN FINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—With reference to your statement in your issue of the 8th inst. that for the current calendar year a deficit of \$4,680,556 was anticipated by the Colombian Government, may I be allowed to point out the fact that that is not the case; indeed, on the other hand, I may state that there is already a considerable surplus in the national revenues.

What actually happened was that, as stated by your correspondent, the national income was fixed at \$38,285,377, and the expenditure at \$42,965,953, which includes a provision for a loan of \$5,000,000 for the special purpose of withdrawing from circulation an equivalent amount of Treasury bonds. Failing that loan, the expenditure would automatically be reduced by the same amount allocated to the withdrawal of the said Treasury bonds.

The following cable was received from President Ospina, on the 5th of this month:—

"Dollars at par. Current rate of interest 9 per cent. Internal debt bonds $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium. Revenues for October, \$3,400,000.

The above shows the situation in Colombia has greatly improved.—Yours faithfully,

J. MEDINA.
Colombian Government Bureau of Information
and Trade Propaganda
(Ministry of Industries and Commerce),
7 Sicilian avenue, Southampton row,
London, W.C. 1, November 14th, 1924.

"THE UNCLAIMED WEALTH."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Referring to the criticism of my book, which appeared in your issue of August 30th, I beg to say that I am sorry that you should have seen fit to deal with the matter in this way.

In the first place, I do not think that there is the least ground for the following phrase: "the author's..... deplorably loose and inconsistent use of economic terminology." It is true that Mr Hobson, in his introduction, states that I have disregarded "the conventional meaning of some portions of the accepted economic terminology"; but with this statement I agree, and I maintain that my few deviations from the conventional were duly explained, and necessary in order to clear up certain existing confusions that it was my main object to contend with.

In the second place, to refer to the work as "economic confusion" in the sweeping manner adopted by your critic is anything but fair. Failing arguments in support of his view of the matter, I can only say that I know of no confusion in the book, but that, if I am wrong, I should be grateful to anybody who would enlighten me. I may say, however, that first-class authorities who have considered my book have given a very different verdict to that of your critic, and, as the latter has given his opinion without stating his case, I think I may cite the opinions of some of the former.

The *Times Literary Supplement*, dated September 11th, says:—"Mr Abbati.....has a mind which is at once systematic and penetrating, and he uses it to follow out all the complexities of the relation of credit to production and consumption. The creation of purchasing power, the part that the banks play, the results on production, and the effects of different kinds of saving, he examines in an analysis that.....is independent and consistent."

The *Manchester Guardian*, dated September 16th, says:—"The unclaimed wealth is a clear and convincing statement of the mechanisms through which under-consumption and maldistribution result in unemployment.....it will more than repay careful study."

The *Economic Review*, dated October 3rd, states:—"Mr Abbati.....is not an academic theorist, but he is an acute practical thinker, and this book reflects all the freshness of a vigorous mind in direct contact with affairs.....we must allow that this volume is an important contribution to the discussion on the causes of trade depressions and their cure, and the line of thought which it adumbrates deserves further development.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

H. ABBATI.

Hotel Londra, San Remo, November 8th, 1924.

[It would require more space than we have at our disposal to enumerate all the grounds on which our criticism of Mr Abbati's book was based. We will be content to quarrel with his definition of consumers' surplus as a calculable sum of money (see p. 123) representing "the difference enjoyed by consumers between the price which they pay for the majority of commodities and the price which, in case of need, the utilities of the commodities would justify their paying," with the concrete example of matches with which he follows up this definition, and with his subsequent treatment of consumers' surplus as something which can be estimated in "colossal quantities," redistributed, and even "hoarded" and "accumulated in a stagnant surplus." We will leave our readers to quarrel, if they feel so disposed, with his final proposal to secure a "just distribution of consumers' surplus" by "Government employment being constantly

available at a minimum wage. The wage to be determined by weekly or monthly statistic returns of supplies arriving and leaving the premises of retailers. The minimum wage to be deemed too low when average arrivals tend to be held back by stocks in hand, and too high when average stocks in hand tend to outrun average arrivals."—Ed., *Economist*.]

Books and Publications.

TRADE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

BEFORE the civil wars broke out in Italy, trade and industry had begun a great development, but the storm in which the Republic was swept away saw disorder and desolation. "The provinces were the scene of bloody fighting, and Italy was drained of her best stock; farms lay neglected in the absence of their masters, there were sudden requisitions, burning of towns and villages, and all those wanton acts which war lets loose. Piracy began to lift its head again upon the sea, and brigands overran the land. Then came a flood of confiscations and evictions to satisfy the greed of the triumvers, and to provide the wherewithal to reward their soldiery. No man's goods could be thought safe, no man's land was secure; property sank to a ridiculous value, the rate of interest soared high, credit was impaired, the promise of a few years before seemed hideously blighted." The sober, wise reign of Augustus repaired these evils. "The wounds of civil war had to be healed, a jealous body of the old noblesse had to be conciliated, the Senate had to be assured of power and respect, payment had to be found for the veterans, the frontiers defended, piracy overcome and brigandage put down, the hungry populace of Rome fed, the provincials won over by good and settled government, trade and commerce and industry restored to their prosperity, and credit brought back. Above all, the whole population of the empire had to be given that feeling of security and freedom from fear without which men will never embark on any undertaking of commerce. All this Augustus did, and so brought about the renaissance of industry and trade."

These problems are very like those which face our own age. The story of what was done by the Roman emperors of the first two centuries is fascinating. As told by Mr Charlesworth,* it excites the highest degree of interest and attention, and his book once begun, its rapid urbane style compels the reader to press on, until with a sigh of regret he reaches the end.

It is hard to pick out from a host of delightful details those which are most intriguing. Only a few tempting morsels can be chosen, in the hope that they may whet the appetite and lead the curious to the book itself. Of Egypt, we read Seneca's terse characterisation: "Loquax et in contumelios praefectorum ingeniosa provincia," as true to-day as two thousand years ago. Egypt was the great cornland of Rome; the entire corn trade was an imperial monopoly. Industry also flourished—weaving and glass-blowing filled Alexandria with workers, and then, as now, the country was a great *entrepôt* for trade between West and East. Correspondence has been preserved which calls up for us the eternal preoccupations of humanity; we read of cheeses and wines begged for by town dwellers from their country friends, in exchange for friendly presents of fine rugs and cloaks; and one young man in financial trouble is warned to "keep away from the Jews." Syria and Asia Minor then teemed with manufacture and trade. In Syria, what is "now little more than desert was fertile and prosperous, owing to the careful irrigation." The Syrians were the great commercial race of antiquity; they spread all over the world, even in the North of Britain one was found. "A man named Barates, from distant Palmyra. Doubtless he traded in the silks and spices and dried fruits of his native land." We read of the relative desolation of Greece, of the wild tribes and rude traffic between Rome and the races who lived in lands since become Slavic; of the fertility of Northern Africa in corn and olive and vine; of the

* "Trade-Routes and Commerce of the Roman Empire." By M. P. Charlesworth. Cambridge University Press, 1924. 12s 6d.

wealth of Spain, and the industry of Gaul, where pottery and metallurgy flourished, and of Great Britain—"O fortunata et nunc omnibus beatorum Britannia"—which exported hides and fleeces, cattle and flocks, lead and iron, slaves and hunting dogs, the latter "renowned for speed and fierceness," and geese, which ancient Rome considered "a great dainty."

Much attention is paid to the Roman roads, that great achievement of their civilisation. They stretched from farthest West to Afghanistan; from Britain almost to Khartoum; and the main roads that spread across each province and along every great trade route were interlaced with minor highways, all built with the same Roman solidity. Accessory engineering works were also strong. In Syria the Romans' "magnificent bridges still remain standing where the modern French or Turkish constructions have been swept away." Along these roads swept the comedy and tragedy of life. The Via Equatia, between Apollonia and Thessalonica, was one of the most famous. "By this route Cicero made his melancholy way into exile; by it Pompey meant to fall back on Asia, and along it later came Antony and Octavian, to avenge Caesar's murder at Philippi." Security was fostered. We hear of an Arab tribe which revolted, "an expedition was sent against them, and the town of Arabia Eudaimon reduced to unimportance." The deeds of that expedition are well buried in oblivion.

Roads and security encouraged travel and trade. All the Roman seas were cleared of pirates. Trade went astonishingly far, and great courage was displayed, as by the heroic sea captain Hippalus, who, observing the periodicity of the monsoon, first made the direct voyage from Aden to India. Commerce was carried on with the wild lands of the Baltic, and with Ireland. Venturesome travellers made their way to Tash Kurgan, in Afghanistan, and here, at "the very heart and centre of all commerce for the old world, and the most ancient meeting place on the whole earth," Romans first traded with Chinese, who then, as now, were "very honest in their dealings." Romans were found as far apart as Mogador and Trebizond; they journeyed down the Euphrates, and through the Menai Straits; merchant adventurers, they traded and prospered.

This picture shows the Roman empire as it appeared to the common man of the age. Gone, perhaps, was the glory of the Senate, imperious and irritable; gone were the Consuls and the Republic; gone the ancient simple days of stern morality and scanty wealth. Instead, "the might of the Roman Empire has given unity to the world; all must agree that human life has benefited, both in the general intercourse made possible and in the common enjoyment of the blessings of peace."

THE RESOURCES OF GREECE.*

In this pamphlet, which the impending issue of the Refugee Loan renders timely, the Secretary of the National Bank of Greece reviews the resources of his country with a reasoned optimism. A decade of warfare and political and economic vicissitudes has increased her territory by 17 per cent., and her population by 45 per cent.; but her development has been arrested, her political stability imperilled, much of her merchant shipping destroyed, and she has been burdened with some 1,500,000 destitute refugees. But these, as the author points out, will develop her agriculture, cultivate the 1,000,000 hectares of good land now unreclaimed, and, as peasant proprietors, will stabilise her politics, and will be aided by the great recent growth of co-operation. Her railway communications are supplemented by her coasting trade and a growing motor traffic, for which, however, more and better roads are needed; her mineral resources, if not rich, are plentiful; her fisheries are important; she has large sources of power in her lignite and her water, and great facilities for water storage; her mercantile marine, which suffered more than any other through the submarine warfare, and has not received its due compensation, has been largely replaced by purchases; and her industries have an expanding market in Egypt and the Balkan States. Her increased

note circulation is less per head than that of many other countries, and is partly due to the expansion of her territory and population, and to the purchases by the National Bank of foreign currency to regulate the exchange. The fluctuations in exchange are largely "psychological"—set up by alternations of confidence and mistrust. Her ordinary Budget now balances; but for the burden of the refugees, soon to be alleviated by the good offices of the League of Nations, the deficit would disappear; and her Government is substituting direct for indirect taxation, in accordance with sound principles of finance. Through all her troubles she has remained solvent, and her debt is largely held at home. The author illustrates the position by full statistical tables, but these, owing to the fluctuations in the drachma and changes in the official methods of calculation, are not always very helpful. Some observers may regard his optimism as excessive, but, given peace and stability, his conclusions, we think, may be regarded as not without justification.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Free-Trade and Peace in the Nineteenth Century. By Helen Bosanquet. (Christiania) L'Institut Nobel Norvegien. 10s 6d net.

History and Principles of Banks and Banking. By H. T. Easton. (London) Effingham Wilson. 9s net.

The State Theory of Money. By Georg Friedrich Knapp. (London) Macmillan and Co. 10s 6d net.

Taxation and Currency. By Ernest Bilton. (London) C. W. Daniel Co. 2s 6d net.

Colonial and Foreign Banking Systems. By Keith le Cheminant, B.Com. (London) Routledge and Sons. 4s 6d net.

Rubber Producing Companies, 1924. (London) Mincing lane Tea and Rubber Share Brokers' Association, Limited. 7s 6d net.

Lloyd's Calendar, 1925. (London) Lloyd's, Royal Exchange, E.C. 3. 3s 6d net.

The Economic Position of Great Britain. By E. Crammond, F.S.S. (London) British Shareholders' Trust, Limited, 3 Lombard street.

Government of India: Report of the Controller of the Currency, for the Year 1923-24. (Calcutta) Government Central Publication Branch.

The World Free Trade Conference Number, November, 1924. (London) International Committee to Promote Universal Free Trade, Broadway court, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Containing a report of the International Free Trade Conference, held in London September 29 to October 1, 1924.

Irish Free State: Trade and Shipping Statistics, September, 1924. Obtainable through Messrs Eason and Son, Limited, 40 Lower O'Connell street, Dublin. 1s 6d.

Journal de la Société de Statistique de Paris: Nov., 1924. (Paris) Librairie Berger-Levrault, 136 Boulevard S. Germain (VIe). 7f 50.

Safety Code for Mechanical Power-Transmission Apparatus: Tentative American Standard, approved by the American Engineering Standards Committee. (Washington) U. S. Department of Labour.

Heiliges Geld—Eine Historische Untersuchung über den Ursprung des Geldes. Bernhard Laum. (Tübingen) Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck).

Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1923-24. (Calcutta) Government of India, Central Publication Branch.

Greece. Economic and Financial. By D. E. Protecicos. (London) Eyre and Spottiswoode, Limited, 9 East Harding street, E.C. 4.

The Rubber Quarterly. No. 2. (London) London General Press, 3 Arundel street, Strand, W.C. 2. 1s.

This useful little publication, in addition to giving rubber statistics from all sources and letters on rubber from most of the producing and consuming centres, also contains an interesting statement on balloon tyres by Sir George Beharrell, the managing director of the Dunlop Rubber Company.

Daily Mail Year-Book, 1925. (London) Associated Newspapers. 1s net.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Ministry of Health: Persons in Receipt of Poor-Law Relief (England and Wales) on January 1, 1924. 1s.

Department of Overseas Trade: Report on Some Aspects of British Trade in India, Revised to June, 1924. 3s.

Department of Overseas Trade: Report on the Economic Conditions in South Africa, July, 1924. 1s 6d net.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL . . . £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL . . . £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND . . . £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1924) . . . £295,698,105

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, December 3. ACCOUNT, December 4.

The post-election excitement which followed the Unionist victory at the polls has subsided to some extent in Stock Exchange markets, but business in a good many parts continues decidedly active, and the settlement which concluded on Thursday proved to be heavier, in some offices, than that of the previous fortnight. Prices are well maintained in various directions. The strength of gilt-edged stocks, and a further outburst of strength in tea shares, are two of the leading features of the week. Subscription-lists for new stocks close promptly in every case where sound stock is offered.

The Government's offer to holders of the 5½ per cent. Exchequer bonds that they should change these into new stocks met with a favourable response, and caused a slight improvement in the price of the 4½ per cent. conversion. The War Loan has remained at a little over 101. Leicester Corporation offered 4½ per cent. stock at 98½, and the price opened at ½ discount, rising rapidly to 7½ premium. Other new issues have also improved, and there is an insatiable demand for such securities.

In the foreign market, German Sevens have risen above 6 premium; French bonds incline to be dull, there being little interest taken in them. It is declared that Paris opinion views the French rate of exchange as likely to improve, whereas on this side a more cautious attitude is taken. Turkish and Egyptian bonds have been better, but the assassination of the Sirdar in Cairo led to prices giving way. Portuguese have weakened. The new Greek loan is expected to make its appearance at an early date.

The public are still as resolute as ever in their determination not to buy Home Railway stocks. This week, the market has a further cause for inattention in the vague threats of a strike, which have had the effect of putting down prices. Argentine Railways were unfavourably influenced by talk of damage done by drought. Brazilians keep hard as a whole, and Cendone Uruguayans spurred, owing to the course of the exchange.

The rubber market, after experiencing depression, rallied towards the end of the week, but business is quiet in this section. Tea shares have been buoyant, there being eager demand for shares, and not too much supply to meet it. The coffee group is a shade easier. In the oil market, activity continues to be largely professional, with prices moving narrowly. Lobitos fell to 9½, to rally to 10½. The textile group keeps good, a recovery having taken place from the levels to which prices fell after their shake-out from the top of the market last week.

The appointment of the Food Commission led to a little hesitation amongst companies that are likely to be affected by its findings, but brewery issues keep strong, and whisky shares are better, on optimistic talk of dividend probabilities. In the tobacco group, Copes fell sharply, on the declaration of a disappointing dividend, though the others moved on to a higher ground. The banking market is better, and insurance shares move continually upwards. There are a few small rises amongst shipping issues. The iron and steel group has swung rather hesitatingly, falls one day being balanced by recoveries on the next. Marconis are heavy; it is thought that the new management may insist upon publication of the company's assets, and that these are likely to make a showing none too favourable. Cable stocks received strength from an excellent

report by the Western Telegraph Company. Gas and electric lighting shares hold their ground.

The Cape, after rendering support to the Kaffir market, turned a seller of the leading shares, and prices on the whole finished the week without material change. De Beers and other diamond shares were advanced, to react, however, from the best, and the same comment covers copper descriptions. Sharp fluctuations in Cam and Motors kept the Rhodesian list alive. Various tin shares, West African and Malayan in particular, are better, though the changes are not exciting. Russians gained a little advance. In Mexicans there is nothing doing, and, although talk runs upon the likelihood of resumption of animation in Canadian mining shares, no indication of this has presented itself during the week just ended.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ 1,172,415,507	..	£ ..	£ ..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
4 % Treasury Bonds, £50,000, at 94½ % (November 14, 1924) ..	£ 50,000	47,250	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 15, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Nov. 15, 1924, Dr £2,450,000 ..	£ ..	nil	£ ..	£ ..

To the Public—				
Offer of Conversion to Holders of 5½ % Exchequer Bonds due Feb. 1, 1925, Exchange into either 4½ % Conversion Loan, 1940-44, or 4½ % Treasury Bonds, 1934.....	..	..	..	..
Lewis's, Limited, £1,500,000 5½ % First Mortgage Deb. Stock (red. 1923, at par), issued at 95 % ..	1,500,000	1,425,000	150,000	1,275,000
United British Steamship, 160,000 Shares of £1, at par ..	160,000	160,000	8,000	152,000
Ribble Motor Services, 20,000 Ordinary Shares of £1, at 22s ..	20,000	22,000	5,000	17,000
Total offered to the public ..	..	1,607,000	163,000	1,444,000
To Shareholders only—				
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, 150,000 £5 shares, £3 paid-up, at 25s ..	450,000	750,000	750,000	..
African Produce, 31,000 £1 Shares, at 22s ..	31,000	38,750	7,750	31,000
East African Lands & Development, £40,000 9½ % Deb. Stock (red. at par in 10 years or earlier), issued at 96 % ..	40,000	38,400	2,000	36,400
Kali Glagah Rubber, £35,000 Stk. (red. 1928, at premium of 2½ %), issued at par ..	35,000	35,000	3,500	31,500
Kuala Peratang Syndicate, 51,110 Shares of 2s, issued at 10s 6d ..	5,111	8,518	2,556	5,962
Total offered to shareholders only ..	..	870,668	765,806	104,862
Total offered for subscription to date				
1924.....	174,938,525	1923.....	271,333,173	
1923.....	255,784,858	1922.....	575,675,552	
1922.....	556,567,324	1921.....	388,978,993	
1921.....	318,931,861	1920.....	367,549,656	
1920.....	352,436,977	1919.....	1,036,059,951	
1919.....	986,596,777	1918.....	1,293,381,441	

Lewis's, Limited.—Share capital £1,675,000, practically all of which has been issued. This is an issue at 95 per cent. of £1,500,000 (part of an authorised amount of £2,000,000) 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, of which £500,000 has already been applied for and will be allotted on the terms of the prospectus. Properties have recently been valued at £3,002,860. The company, which has only recently become a public company, has departmental stores in Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham. The stock now offered will be redeemable by March 1, 1963, by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, to be applied annually by purchase on or before February 15th if any of the stock is available at or under 100 per cent., plus accrued interest, or by drawings after that date for redemption at 100 per cent. on March 1st following. The first redemption is to take place on March 1, 1926. The company has power to redeem the whole or any part of the stock at par, plus interest to date of redemption on March 1, 1936, or on any subsequent September 1st or March 1st, on giving six months' notice. The proceeds of the present issue are required for repayment of bank overdrafts, existing mortgages and debentures, and provision for further working capital. Profits are given from 1918. These are ample to cover services on the stock and provide a comfortable margin for contingencies.

The United British Steamship Company, Limited.—Authorised capital £500,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 240,000 shares have been issued. This is an issue of 160,000 shares at par. The shares of the present issue will rank equally with the old shares for all dividends declared in respect of the year 1925, but not in respect of any final dividend declared for 1924. The company, which was incorporated in 1921, is under the same management as the Court Line, Limited, and the Cressington Steamship Company, Limited. A dividend of 6 per cent. was paid for the year 1921, and dividends of 6½ per cent. were paid in 1922 and 1923. For the

* "Greece, Economic and Financial." By D. E. Protecicos. (London) Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1924. 1s.

Colonial and Foreign Railways.			
Antioqueña Cons.	859	887	— 1
B.A. and Pacific	814	804	— 1
B.A. and Southern	864	85	+ 1
Buenos Aires West. 80	80	789	— 2
Canadian Pacific	185	165	—
Central Argentine	75	734	— 1
Leopoldina	30	29	— 1
Mexican Railway	9	9	—
Do 1st Pref.	27	27	—
Do 2nd Pref.	15	15	—
San Paulo	157	158	+ 1
United Havana	89	862	—

American Railroads.									
	Price	Week	Latest	Rise or		Price	Week	Latest	Rise or
	Last	Lowest	Price	Fall		Last	Lowest	Price	Fall
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	93	..	97	+ 4	Southern	77	..	81	+ 4
Erie	32	..	33	+ 1	Do Non-cum Pref. 84 ..	86	..	86	+ 2
Do % 1st Pref.	42	..	44	+ 2					
Foreign Government Securities.									
Argentine 5%, 1885-7, 100 ..	100	..	100	..	Greek 5%, 1884	56½	..	55½	- 1
Austrian 6 % Guar. 95½ ..	96½	..	96½	+ ½	Hungarian 7½%, 1894. 92 ..	94	..	94	+ 2
Belgian 3%	73	..	73	..	Japanese 4%, 910	63	..	63	..
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914 71 ..	71	..	71	..	Do % 1934	92	..	92	..
Chilian 4½%, 1895	85½	..	85½	..	Mexican Cons. 1899	38	..	38	..
Do 7½%	107½	..	108	+ ½	Peruvian Corp. Pref. 34½ ..	34	..	36½	+ 2
Chinese 5%, 1912	88	..	88	..	L.M.M. 6%	94½	..	94	- ½
Egyptian 4%	75½	..	75½	..	Portuguese (New)	27	..	24	- 3
French 5%	22	..	21½	- ½	Russian 5% 1906	71	..	71	..
Do 4%	18	..	17	- 1	Spanish 4%	64	..	64	..
German 3% Loan	114½	..	114½	..	Seine (Dept.) 7%	104	..	103½	- ½
Do 7% g1924	56pm	..	56pm	+ ½	Siamose 7%	107	..	107	..

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 24 $\frac{1}{2}$.. 24 $\frac{1}{2}$	{	Marconi Canada	1 $\frac{5}{8}$.. 1 $\frac{5}{8}$
Marconi Wireless 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.. + $\frac{1}{2}$		Marconi Marine	1 $\frac{1}{2}$.. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.. - $\frac{1}{2}$

Miscellaneous.			
Aerated Bread (c/l) ..	19	14½	+ ½
Amal. Cottons (c/l) ..	218	26	- 1 7/8
Asio Per. (c/l) ..	218	26	- 1 7/8
Armstrong (S. W. G.)			
and Co. (c/l) ..	47	47	
Asa. Portland Cement (c/l)	32	32	
Barker, John (c/l) ..	3	3x	
Bham's Mill Arms (c/l)	8	8x	
Brass Traction (\$100)	58½	58½	+ ½
B. 11111111111111111111			
Tobacco (c/l) ..	54	54	
Burmah Oil (c/l) ..	54	54x	
Coats (J. and P.) (c/l)	3	3x	
Courtaulds (c/l) ..	222	222	
Dorman, J. (c/l) ..	1	1	- 1/8
Dorman, J. (c/l) ..	1	1	- 1/8
Dunlop Rubber (c/l) ..	1	1	- 1/8
Fine Cotton Spinners			
(c/l) ..	218	218	- 1/8
Forestral and (c/l) ..	123	123	
Forrester, W. (c/l) ..	123	123	
Highlands and Low-			
lands Rubber (c/l) ..	118	118	
Hudson's Bay (c/l) ..	4½	5½	+ 1/8
Imperial Tobacco (c)	42	42	
Linggi Plantina. (c/l) ..	14	14	
Lipton (c/l) ..	17	17	
Liver Brex. Cm Prt (c/l)	17	17	
Do 5% Cm A Prt (c/l)	17	17	
Do 5% Cm Prt Ord (5)	17	17	
Lister (c/l) ..	18	18	
Lobitos Oilfields (c/l) ..	10	10	+ 1/8
Lyons (J. & Co.) (c/l) ..	48	48x	
Mexican Eagle (\$100)	1	1	
Oil Industries (c/l) ..	1	1	
Pekin (c/l) ..	1	1	
Rubber Plantations			
Investment (c/l) ..	118	118	- 1/8
Shell Transport (c/l) ..	42	42	- 1/8
Smithfield & Argentine			
Mex. (c/l) ..	42	42	
Union Cold Storage			
6% Cum. Pref. (c/l)	1	1	+ 1/8
Do 7% Cm. Prt. (c/l)	1	1	+ 1/8
United Dairies (c/l) ..	118	118	
Van Garding (c/l) ..	4	4	+ 1/8
Vallambrosa (c/l) ..	4	4	+ 1/8
Vallambrosa (c/l) ..	4	4	+ 1/8
Vickers (c/l) ..	1	1	
Watney Def. 8½ ..	144	150	

Mines.									
Brakpan (£1)	3½	3½	+	Knights					
Broken Hill Prop. (£1)	18	18	+	Modderfontein (10)	3	3	+		
Carters Dr. (£1)	18	18	+	Modderfont. "B" (5)	1½	1½	+		
Cons. Gold Fields (£1)	2½	2½	+	Modderfont. "D" (5)	1½	1½	+		
Crown Mines (10)	2½	2½	+	Premier Del. (2½)	6	6	+		
De Beers Del. (£2½)	11½	11½	+	Rand Mines (5)	2	2	+		
East Rand Prop. (£1)	2½	2½	+	Rand Mines (5)	2	2	+		
Geduld (£1)	3½	3½	+	Rio Tinto (£5)	34	34	+		
Gov. Gold Areas £1	7½	7½	+	Spring Mines (£1) (2)	35	35	+		

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Lat's Year.	Pre-vious Year.
Railways.					
Alabama Great Southern	3 1/2 %	Dec. 26	..	%	%
Assam Ryrs. & Trading " B " Stk. ..	6 1/2 %	..	..	8	3
Delhi Umballa Kalika	6 % (& bonus)	Jan. 2	% Less tax at 2/5	..	..
Southern Pacific	3 1/2 % p.s.	..	..	..	..
Banks.					
Anglo-Egyptian	..	..	..	..	..
Banque Beige Pour l'Etranger ..	..	..	Tax free	15	15
British Overseas, " A " share ..	6	..	Tax free	8	7
Industrial of Japan	10	..	Less tax	6	6
London and South America	6 1/2 %	..	..	..	..
National of Scotland	16 %	..	Less tax	10	..
Royal of Scotland	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Cattle Traders	..	..	..	15	14
South British	1/ p.s.	..	Less tax	10	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Attaree Khat Tea	7 1/2 %	Dec. 15	Less tax 4/ in £	1/11 p.s.	1/9 p.s.
Boroi Tea	15 %	Dec. 15	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Batak Rabot Rubber	..	..	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Borhat Tea	5 %	..	Less tax	10	12 1/2
Borelli Tea	25 %	Dec. 15	Less tax	..	..
Cachar and Dooars Tea	10 %	..	Less tax 4/ in £	..	..
Chargata Tea	7 1/2 %	Nov. 29	Less tax	..	..
Darjeeling Consolidated Tea	10 %	Dec. 1	Less tax	..	..
Deamoolie Tea	15 %	Dec. 2	Less tax	..	..
Hanipha	10 %	Dec. 20	Less tax	..	..
Kramat Pulai	1/ p.s.	(bonus of 1/ p.s.)	Less tax	..	..
Lungia Tea Syndicate	10 %	Dec. 15	Less tax	..	..
Majuli Tea	20 %	Dec. 15	Less tax 4/ in £	..	..
Mosabund Tea	20 %	Dec. 15	Less tax 4/ in £	..	..
Northumberland (Ceylon) Rubber	..	..	Less tax 4/ in £	..	..
Parit-Brusa Rubber	..	..	Less tax	7 1/2	5
Rangajau Tea	..	..	Less tax	2	4
Singapore United Rubber	10 %	..	Less tax 3/10 1/2 in £	6	5
South Indian Tea	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Sungei Kari	20 %	Nov. 29	Less tax 4/6 in £	6	10
United Rubber and Coffee	6 %	..	Less tax	..	..
Mining.					
Breken Hill Proprietary, Block 10	..	Dec. 2	..	5 1/2 p.s.	nil
De Beers Consolidated, Def.	..	..	..	20	nil
El Oro	..	..	Tax free	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ex-Lands, Nigeria	15 %	..	Tax free	..	..
Frontino and Bolivia Gold	5 %	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..
Gaika Gold	5 %	..	Less tax	..	..
Kamunting Tin	5 %	..	Less tax	10	10
Rambutan	5 %	Dec. 20	Tax free	15	6
Tekka	7/8 p.s.	Dec. 20	Less tax	..	..
Other Companies.					
A. B. Fleming	4 1/2 p.s.	Dec. 3	Less tax	..	..
A. Campbell, Hope, and King ..	1/ p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..
Aerated Bread	..	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Amelia Nitrate	1/3 p.s.	..	Less tax	10	10
Anglo-Persian Oil	..	..	Less tax	15	10
Beaver Trust	..	..	Less tax	7 1/2	6

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Continued

				%	%
Benskin's Walford Brewery	3½	Dec. 26	Less tax	10	8
Beckpool Tower	9%†	..	..	12	..
Beckett's Brewery	9%†	..	Tax free	7	6
Birmingham Aluminium	9%†	..	Less tax	16	15
Brickwood	2%	Dec. 15	..	15	15
British and Chinese Corporation	5%†	..	..	7½	12½
British Electric	1½	Dec. 1	Quarterly	12½	12½
Broomhill Collieries	7½	..	Less tax	..	..
California Petroleum	10*	Nov. 24	Less tax	13	10
Challard, Stewart, and Watt	7½	..	..	..	..
Ceylon Estates Investment	10%†	..	..	..	..
Chartered and Gen. Exploration	7%†	..	..	..	..
Cheltenham Original Brewery	7½	..	..	..	..
Chester's Brewery	7½	..	..	..	..
Consolidated Coffee	\$4 p.s.	Jan. 1	Quarterly	10	nil
Consolidated Gas, &c., Baltimore	4%	Nov. 17	Less tax	..	..
Cope Bros.	1½ p.s.	..	..	..	..
Egyptian Matchworks	5%	Dec. 1	..	..	..
Empire Spinning	6%*	..	..	..	..
Fine Cotton Spinners	7%	..	..	..	..
Fisher and Ludlow, cum. pref.	5%†	..	Tax free on account of arrears to Sept. 30)	8	6
Frederick Sage	7½ p.s.	..	Less tax	13	13
Gladstone Spinning	5%† (& bonus of 3%)	..	Less tax	10	10
Grand Hotel, Eastbourne	10*	..	Tax free	5	5
Grand Hotel, Manchester	7½†	..	(on acct. of arr'rs)	15	10
Hagemann's Creameries, Cum. Pref.	10*	..	..	10	10b
Hovis	7½†	..	..	10	8
Huggins	10*	..	..	6	3
Hummer	7½†	..	..	6	5
Ilford, Limited	5%*	..	..	8½	10
Ilkley Wells Hydropathic	10%†	..	..	20	20
India Rubber, Gutta Percha, &c.	5%*	..	..	10	7½
Isle of Thanet Electric, Cm. Prt. J. and E. Hall.	10%†	..	..	15	15
Jesse Oldfield	10%†	..	..	10	10
J. Hey	10%†	..	..	5	2
John Fraser	10%†	..	..	250	nil
John Pound, Ptg. Pref.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Liverpool Warehousing	10%†	..	..	10	10
Lloyd's Packing Warehouses	10%†	..	..	10	10
London General Investment	10%†	..	..	10	10
Mappin's Masbro' Brewery	10%†	..	..	10	10
Morgan's Brewery	10%†	..	..	10	10
New-Hunt	10%†	..	..	10	10
Nokes and Co.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Oriental Gas	10%†	..	..	10	10
Palmer Tyre	10%†	..	..	10	10
Pan De Azucar Nitrate	10%†	..	..	10	10
Paterson, Laing, and Bruce	10%†	..	..	10	10
Peruvian Corporation, Pref.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Piccadilly Hotel	10%†	..	..	10	10
Provincial Landries	10%†	..	..	10	10
Robert Younger	10%†	..	..	10	10
Rowland and Marwood	10%†	..	..	10	10
Russell's Gravesend Brewery	10%†	..	..	10	10
Scottish Investment Trust, Def.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Speight	10%†	..	..	10	10
Star Paper	10%†	..	..	10	10
Stroud Brewery	10%†	..	..	10	10
Third Edinburgh Invest. Def.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Transvaal and Delagoa Invest.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Union Motor, Pref.	10%†	..	..	10	10
Victoria Motor and Cycle, Pref.	10%†	..	..	10	10
W. Butler	10%†	..	..	10	10
Western Telegraph	10%†	..	..	10	10
Whiteaway, Laidlaw	10%†	..	..	10	10

for the third year. The directors recommend a final dividend on the participating preference stock of 5 per cent. actual, subject to tax, making with the interim payment $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, a dividend of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. subject to tax, on the ordinary shares, and 4 per cent. subject to tax, on the funded investment certificates.

SOUTH AMERICAN SPOKE (Guthrie and Cochrane)—Directors recommend an additional dividend of 1 per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year, and an interim dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on account of the year 1924, payable on December 2nd. The dividend a year ago was 10 per cent., less tax, on a smaller capital, a bonus distribution in shares equal to 50 per cent. of the dividend having been made this year.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, 1924.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	\$	\$
Gold.	400	..	..	..	319	1,357	3,984
Akoko Main Reef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Esperanza	117,642	..	..	..	..	..	82,436
Mexican Corporation	..	..	..	..	..	\$108,864	..
Oriental Consolidated	..	..	..	..	..	\$30,096	..
Oroville Dredging	For 12	days to	Nov.	17.	..	..	..
	Output.	Other Notes in Return.					
	Tons.						
Tim.	184	Est. value, \$2,685; est. cost, \$2,638.					
Lahat	312	First half of November.					
Renong	..						
Copper.	8,467	treated, producing 2,577 tons of concentrates.					
Mount Evelyn	..						

BRITISH PLATINUM.—"For the four weeks ended November 15th, No. 1 dredge produced 462 ozs platinum and 137 ozs gold, in addition 22 ozs platinum from tributaries. No. 2 dredge produced 52 ozs platinum and 15 ozs gold."

FALCON MINES, LIMITED.—Crushed 17,150 tons of ore producing 220,202 short tons (2,000 lbs) of blister copper containing 2,395 ozs of gold, 4,877 ozs of silver. Estimated value £23,781 (taking copper at £60 per short ton, gold at 89s per oz, and silver at 2s 6d per oz).

THE MOUNT MORGAN GOLD MINING.—For the four weeks ending November 11th treated 3,405 tons Mount Morgan Ore; 314 tons Many Peaks Ore; 2,943 tons concentrates and 10 tons of purchased ore and secondary products. Produced 304 tons blister copper, containing 301 tons copper, and 4,368 ozs gold, including 4 tons copper and 5 ozs gold from Many Peaks, also 4 tons copper from purchased ore and secondary products. Concentrator treated 10,556 tons ore for a production of 3,570 tons of concentrates, containing 182 tons copper ore for a production of 3,570 tons of concentrates, having matte on hand 2,487 ozs gold. In addition to above production, have matte on hand 2,487 ozs gold, and 1,299 ozs gold.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Nov. 14, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Nov. 15, 1924.			Aggregate 46 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers,&c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers,&c.	Goods, &c.	Total Re- ceipts.
Great Western	3,754	205,000	349,000	554,000	1,240,000	1,526,000	27,324,000
Do for 1923	3,751	210,000	336,000	548,000	1,227,000	1,612,000	28,395,000
Lond. & N. Eastern (c) ..	6,722	352,000	705,000	1,057,000	2,072,000	3,517,000	2,097,000
Do same period 1923 ..	6,702	354,000	711,000	1,065,000	2,051,000	3,388,000	53,802,000
Lond., Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	114,000	208,000	322,000	2,300,000	399,000	70,664,000
Do for 1923	6,942	105,000	901,000	1,406,000	2,935,000	1,181,000	70,664,000
Southern	2,155	274,000	119,500	393,700	1,551,200	5,320,900	70,803,000
Do for 1923	2,142	257,800	117,500	375,300	1,551,700	5,439,400	70,367,000
Metropolitan (c)	794	33,498	4,233	37,731	1,807,226	160,198	1,387,494
Do for 1923	794	32,176	4,159	36,335	1,464,090	175,565	1,105,818
Underground I.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	23,498	..	..	11,016,818
Do for 1923	..	..	..	23,178	..	..	1,467,668
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	36,508	..	..	1,841,742
Do for 1923	..	..	..	36,829	..	..	1,784,592
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	3,237	1,021	4,258	212,113	55,558	267,671
Do Sub. & Western (b) ..	160	4,443	3,181	7,624	291,504	157,725	443,236
Do N. Eastern (Ireland) (b)	562	14,700	19,858	34,550	879,650	938,300	1,817,950
Do Sub. & Western (b) ..	1,151	20,939	36,437	57,376	1,117,532	1,456,843	2,574,425
Midland & West. (b)	538	8,005	15,702	23,707	734,232	674,451	1,408,683

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
					+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	29weeks	Oct. 18	1,072	Rs. 3,52,000	+ 44,876	Rs. 11,47,071	
Barsi Lk. Ry.	29weeks	Nov. 25	118	24,937	+ 5,400	+ 79,700	
Bengal & N. Western	29weeks	Nov. 25	1,822	4,65,760	+ 23,439	+ 73,329	
Bengal Nagpur	33weeks	Nov. 18	2,800	15,00,000	+ 11,000	+ 36,24,828	
Bombay, Bar., & G.I.	33weeks	Nov. 15		24,06,000	+ 48,000	+ 40,86,000	
Burma.	29weeks	Oct. 18	1,342	6,26,215	+ 3,601	+ 1,90,52,694	
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	6weeks	Nov. 8	239	11,000	+ 10,718	+ 58,185	
East Indian	35weeks	Nov. 8	2,873	32,75,000	+ 9,100	+ 10,87,630	
G. Indian Peninsula	33weeks	Nov. 8	2,873	27,29,000	+ 1,71,100	+ 8,84,06,891	
Madras & S. Mahr.	30weeks	Oct. 25	3,023	15,00,000	+ 87,724	+ 4,46,06,328	
Robt'dk' & Kumaon	3weeks	Oct. 18	259	28,429	+ 22,066	+ 75,123	
Do Luoknw-Breilly	5weeks	Oct. 18	287	38,798	+ 6,011	+ 99,779	
South Indian	29weeks	Nov. 15	1,877	10,13,405	+ 78,288	+ 2,81,77,188	

ARGENTINE (a).

			£	\$	£	\$
Argentina N.E.	20 weeks	Nov. 15	754	12,000 +	1,100	254,700 +
Argentina Trans.	20 weeks			2,650	1,657	52,555
B. A. and Pacific	20 weeks		2,602	119,000 +	1,535	504,000 +
B. A. Eastern	20 weeks	16		13,095 +	632	271,565 +
B. A. G. Southern	20 weeks	15		193,000 +	2,000	3,859,000 +
B. A. Western	20 weeks	15	1,882	94,000 +	2,000	1,859,000 +
Central Argentine	20 weeks	15	5,305	218,000 +	2,000	3,485,000 +
Corbado Central	20 weeks	15	1,402	62,000 +	1,000	1,315,600 +
SOUTH CENTRAL	20 weeks	15	729	26,200 +	4,300	435,600 +

CANADIAN

Canadian National...	45 weeks	Nov. 14	22,680	\$ 4,327,568	\$ 917,688	\$ 205,454,785	\$ 121,675,932
Canadian Pacific....	45 weeks	14	14,025	\$ 4,314,000	\$ 978,000	\$ 157,396,000	\$ 7,749,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Gt. West. of Brazil..	46weeks	Nov. 15	1,011	14,300	+	2,800	433,400	+	1,400
Leopoldina	46weeks	15	1,831	38,298	+	14,099	1,425,450	+	230,198
San Paulo	46weeks	16	1534	39,939	+	14,106	1,692,078	+	338,482

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta	46 weeks	Nov. 16	838	45,274	-	1,376	1,758,500	+	128,585
Nitrate (q-monthly)	46 weeks	15	366	43,302	+	15,093	855,133	+	188,040

CUBAN.

Nov. 15	..	12,98
---------	----	-------

United of Havana ..	20 weeks,	15	1,250	64,410 +	1,654	2,600,155 +	265,178
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay ..	20 weeks Nov.	15	273	35,240 -	2,005	467,166 +	3,126

15	311	6,361	+
25	185	2,900	-

C. Urag. (North Ext.)	20weeks	15	211	3,136	—	178	48,906	6,578
C. Urag. (West Ext.)	20weeks							
OTHER OVERSEAS.								
Alcoy and Gandia	46weeks Nov. 15	33	Pa. 35,000	5,000	1,056,350	39,350		
Egyptian Delta	29weeks Oct. 31	478	Pa. 1,694	318	194,061	30,350		
Gt. Southern of Spain	13weeks Oct. 13	572	Pa. 1,694	236	194,061	31,249		
Malta	29weeks Nov. 14	438	£239,300	61,500	1,986,100	504,000		
New Cape Central	43weeks Oct. 25	205	3,040	85	115,014	2,979		
Paraguay Central	20weeks Nov. 15	274	4,550	1,810	84,930	13,500		
Paraguay East	20weeks Nov. 15	274	4,550	1,810	84,930	13,500		

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924. or —		1924.	or —
Anglo-Argentine.....	46 weeks	Nov. 18	329	£90,488 +	2,100	4,008,619 +	130,917
Buenos Aires La- croze Tramways..	20 weeks	16 ..	..	£13,966 —	99	269,469 +	7,258
Burnley Corporation	1 week	15 ..	12	£2,177 +	189	..	..
Calcutta Tramways.	46 weeks	15 ..	354	£133,480 +	7,990	..	+ 6,94,202
Chatham & District	46 weeks	15 ..	15	£1,404 —	..	66,043 —	6,027
Egyptian Markets ..	46 weeks	15 ..	..	£2,615 —	35	93,508 +	7,234
Glasgow Corporation Tramways	24 weeks	15 ..	106	£45,197 +	816	1,073,158 +	19,372
Ile of Thanet Trams.	56 weeks	Oct. 29	..	£1,716 —	189	127,464 +	2,101
Lanarkshire Trams	33 weeks	Aug. 27	284	1,614 —	65	47,599 —	5,633
Liverpool Corpora- tion Tramways ..	33 weeks	Nov. 15	124	£25,139 +	1,824	826,420 —	67,507
L.O. Tramways ..	33 weeks	20 ..	163	£79,912 —	1,535	2,673,271 —	187,663
Madras Elec. (2 wks)	48 weeks	15 ..	..	Rs 46,169 —	4,575	1,043,616 —	38,468
Pernambuco Trams	46 weeks	16 ..	..	£5,200 +	1,913	203,327 +	36,516
Singapore Tramways	41 weeks	15 ..	..	£14,391 +	2,839	592,730 +	132,596

* Combined revenue.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

MR ANDREW WILLIAMSON ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF YEAR'S BUSINESS.

INCREASED PROFITS—BUSINESS EXPANSION.

PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR CURRENT YEAR.

TERMS OF NEW SHARE ISSUE.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at the head office, 5 Gracechurch street, London, E.C.

Mr Andrew Williamson (chairman of the bank) presided.

Mr E. M. Janion (London manager and secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, who was received with cheers, said:—Ladies and gentlemen, when addressing you last year I said that, taking Australia as a whole, the outlook for primary products was encouraging, and the prospects for the internal trade of the country for the year then current were good. The actual results, taken as a whole, have fulfilled that forecast.

During the past year both imports and exports reached higher figures than in the previous one. The official statistics of the Commonwealth show:—

For year to June 30, 1924—

Imports to value of £140,569,853

Exports to value of £119,567,407

Or an excess of imports over exports of £21,002,446 against a similar excess of imports over exports in the previous year of £13,887,688.

AUSTRALIAN FUNDS IN LONDON.

On the other hand, Australian funds in London were increased during the year by a further payment through the banks here of £5,331,618 by way of a distribution of 9s per share to the shareholders of the British Australian Wool Realisation Association; the borrowings of the Commonwealth and States in London also added about £24,000,000 of new loan money to the funds in London. But for the material shrinkage in the value of the exports of wheat and butter, the balance would have been reversed, and there would have been a small excess of exports over imports.

During the past year maturing War Loan obligations of the Commonwealth Government—namely, £39,000,000, to take up the War Loan due September 15, 1923, and £19,000,000 of war gratuities which fell due on May 31, 1924, or in all £58,000,000—have been provided for within the Commonwealth itself, mainly by new conversion loans.

The internal trade has been satisfactory, and has been carried on smoothly under fairly normal conditions, similar to those existing before the war, save that prices are higher owing to increased cost of production and higher wages. The financial stringency, also, is being felt by merchants in collecting outstandings; this, however, has its beneficial aspect in inducing an attitude of watchfulness making for soundness of trade.

The past year, while not without difficulties of its own, to which I will refer later, has been a good year, and one during which Australia has enjoyed a prosperous time.

The report, together with the published statement of accounts, having been in your hands for some days, has no doubt been carefully perused by you all, and to save your time I will, with your permission, take it as read.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

I will first of all go over the accounts, and, as usual, I will begin with the balance-sheet, and will be glad if you will look at the figures on the printed statement of accounts which you have in your hands, as thus you will be better able to follow my remarks.

The authorised capital is unchanged at £3,000,000, in 600,000 shares of £5 each. The whole of the capital has been issued, and the amount paid up is the same as in last year's balance-sheet—namely, £1,500,000.

The reserve fund is now £1,635,000, against £1,483,150 1s 9d in last year's balance-sheet, having been increased by the allocation

made at last annual meeting of £136,849 18s 3d, and by the addition of £15,000 out of the profits last year, as required by our articles of association. Out of last year's profits we now recommend that a further sum of £185,000 be added, bring the fund up to £1,820,000, or £320,000 more than our present paid-up capital of £1,500,000. When, however, the new capital which we are about to issue, of £750,000, is paid up, our reserve fund will then be £430,000 under our paid-up capital, so that the allocation recommended in the report is none too large. I am sure that it is quite unnecessary for me, in an audience such as this, to insist on the vital importance of steadily building up our reserve fund, for I am quite sure that this sound principle is fully realised and approved of by you. As I said last year, it is a self-denying ordinance which brings its own certain reward, both directly and indirectly.

The only change in our perpetual stocks is a decrease of £67,500 in our deferred inscribed deposit stock, as explained in the report.

DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

Our deposits at interest show an increase on the previous year of £868,000, and stand at £14,251,220. On the other hand, our current accounts, at £11,445,534, show a decrease of £374,000, which is not surprising considering the exceptionally stringent financial conditions which have prevailed throughout the year. The deposits and current accounts together show an increase of £494,000, and stand at a combined total of £25,696,754.

Notes in circulation stand at £1,185, or a reduction of £102 from the figure of last balance-sheet, and, as you are aware, is an item which is gradually disappearing, the issuing of notes being now confined to the Commonwealth Bank.

Bills payable, rebate on bills, and other liabilities, at £2,013,870, show an increase of £259,000, but this calls for no comment.

ASSETS.

On the assets side of the balance-sheet, cash and bullion show an increase of £182,000 at £5,154,378.

Cash at bankers and short notice is less by £417,000, and stands at £1,355,057, or taking these two items together the figures are £6,509,435, which, while £235,000 less than last year, discloses a strong cash position, being 11s 4½d in the £ of our current accounts.

Investments consisting of British and Colonial Government securities taken at or below market values on June 30, 1924, stand at £1,164,139, being £165,000 less than last year, due to the running off of short-term Government and corporation loans. Our cash and investments together amount to the substantial figure of 13s 4½d in the £ of our current accounts.

Bills receivable and remittances in transit, at £4,441,858, show the gratifying increase of 1845,000.

Advances and other assets, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, show an increase of £408,000, standing at £20,720,839, arising from the steady expansion of our business.

The last item, bank premises and furniture, stands at £804,980, or £12,000 more than last year. During the year payments on our new properties in Melbourne, and on necessary additions and extensions to premises in Melbourne and branches in Victoria, New South Wales, and Adelaide, amounted to £101,200, while on the other side the proceeds of satisfactory sales of properties no longer required in Melbourne and Brisbane, and the amount of the purchase of the cancelled deferred inscribed deposit stock referred to in the report came together to £89,200, leaving an increase in the book value of our bank premises account of £12,000. The appropriation now proposed of £25,000 out of the available profits of the past year will convert this increase into a decrease of £13,000, and the account will then stand at £779,980.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning now to the profit and loss account, I will, as usual, ask you to look at the first page of the report, where you will find the figures grouped in a convenient form.

The profits for the year, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, amount, you will observe, to £1,304,455, against £1,251,197 in the previous year, or an increase of £53,258, and the previous year, you will doubtless remember, showed a marked increase on the year preceding it.

Expenses of management in London and Australia, including directors' and auditors' fees, &c., amount to £616,279, and are an increase on the previous year of £59,241. Of this increase about £29,000 is on account of increase of salaries and wages; the remaining £30,241, I am pleased to say, is on account of items of a more or less intermittent nature, and not likely regularly to recur. On the other hand, income and other taxes at £185,673 are down by £37,638. Expenses of management and income and other taxes together amount to £801,952, and deducting this from the profits, we have net profits £502,502, or £31,655 more than in the previous year. Taxation, though a little lighter, is still a very heavy burden.

DIVIDENDS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Coming now to the appropriation of the net profits of £502,502, as you are aware an interim dividend was paid in May last of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, absorbing £75,000, and there has been added to reserve, as already explained, £15,000, leaving for further appropriation £412,502.

This we recommend be allocated as follows:—To carry to reserve fund £185,000, making, with the £15,000 just referred to, £200,000 for the year, and bringing this fund up to £1,820,000. To the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank Officers' Provident Fund, £10,000.

To the payment of a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year, free of British income-tax, £112,500.

To the purchase and cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock in accordance with our articles of association, £62,500.

And to the reduction in bank premises account, £25,000.

With these appropriations an accumulated balance is left of £130,102 3s 11d to be carried forward.

BUSINESS WELL MAINTAINED.

This brief review of the accounts shows that the results of the working of the bank during the past year have been very satisfactory. The business, which is vigorously carried on in all the States of the Commonwealth, has been well maintained, and our connections have been extended, and the expansion could easily have been greater but for the cautious policy followed in restricting advances.

It has been my custom at our annual meetings to give you a general review of the trade and industry of Australia during the year embraced in our accounts. On the present occasion some other matters call for attention, and as I am anxious not to detain you too long I propose to-day to confine my remarks on the trade and industry of the past year to little more than an abstract of the figures of the principal exports.

WOOL INDUSTRY.

The wool industry, by far the most important of all the industries of Australia, was again prosperous in 1923-24. Though the clip was short of normal by over 200,000 bales, the high prices ruling have more than compensated for this. The exports, quantities, and values for the last four years, according to official figures, are:—

Year to June 30, 1921:—
1,401,565 bales, value £33,780,761.

Year to June 30, 1922:—
2,557,442 bales, value £47,977,243.

Year to June 30, 1923:—
2,315,599 bales, value £57,138,766.

Year to June 30, 1924:—
1,705,081 bales, value £56,197,676.

The quantities in the years 1921-22 and 1922-23 were abnormally increased by large additions of old Bawra wool previously purchased by the Imperial Government but only then shipped. Whereas last year's exports had no such fortuitous addition of old wool, and though on this account, and from the shortage due to partial failure of the season, much less in quantity, it yet reached a record total in value at slightly over £56,000,000. With an anticipated increase of fully 12 per cent. in the size of the clip, and with higher prices, the current year should show a marked advance, the estimate being about £75,000,000.

WOOL PRICES.

The prices ruling this time last year were very satisfactory, the rise of 50 per cent. in the case of merino reached in

November, 1922, over the rates ruling twelve months before having been fully maintained, and in the case of crossbred having marked a rise of fully 20 per cent. Since this time last year, merinos have had a further rise of about 25 per cent., and crossbreds of fully 65 per cent.

Comparing prices to-day with those ruling in July, 1914, we find that merinos have risen by about 150 per cent. and crossbreds by about 80 per cent. Of course, alongside of this remarkable rise in prices there has been a very great rise in the cost of production, principally under the heading of wages.

PRODUCTION AND DEMAND.

I last year so fully explained the statistical strength of the position of wool that I will not take up your time by saying much on the subject now. In a word, the world annual demand for wool is greater than the annual production, and the demand is increasing more rapidly than the supply; indeed, this only increasing states the position as regards merino, for in Australia perfectly states the position as regards merino, for in Australia there has been an actual falling off in numbers of sheep. Speaking generally, there seems little likelihood of the world's annual production of wool overtaking the growing demand for many years to come. Not only is the use of wool increasing in Europe and the U.S.A., but in the East, Japan is already a large consumer, and now China, which hitherto has been almost wholly a cotton and silk-using country, is becoming alive to the advantages of wool. The importance of doing everything possible to encourage and expand an industry so vitally important to the welfare of Australia cannot be too strongly emphasised.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: EXCELLENT HARVEST PROSPECTS.

The exports of wheat and flour for the last four years in quantity and value in round figures were:—

Year to June 30, 1921:—

84,500,000 bushels, value £39,400,000.

Year to June 30, 1922:—

112,000,000 bushels, value £34,100,000.

Year to June 30, 1923:—

44,700,000 bushels, value £12,991,550.

Year to June 30, 1924:—

76,970,000 bushels, value £19,292,776.

And for these years the average prices for wheat realised were respectively 8s 11½d, 5s 8½d, 5s 4½d, and 4s 8d per bushel.

The prospects of the coming harvest are excellent. With a large Australian wheat crop and a partial failure of the crop in other countries, this current year's exports from Australia of wheat and flour should show very gratifying results.

BUTTER.

The export of butter from Australia for the last four years was:—

Year to June 30, 1921:—

92,421,000 lbs, value £11,067,104.

Year to June 30, 1922:—

127,579,800 lbs, value £7,987,558.

Year to June 30, 1923:—

78,975,387 lbs, value £6,133,864.

Year to June 30, 1924:—

65,983,910 lbs, value £4,919,653.

And the average prices realised for the respective years were about 2s 4½d, 1s 3d, 1s 6½d, and 1s 5½d.

FROZEN MEAT.

The exports of frozen meat for the last three years were:—
Mutton and Lamb. Beef.

To June 30, 1922 2,139,615 1,867,927

To June 30, 1923 4,321,917 1,803,882

To June 30, 1924 1,170,850 1,302,151

The outlook for the export of frozen beef has somewhat improved, and it is expected that the export of frozen meat of all kinds will, during the current year, show an improvement on last year. The revival of demand from Austria and other countries in the European Continent is a hopeful feature.

METALS AND COTTON.

The continued low prices ruling for copper have told heavily against the copper-mining industry of Australia, and for the 12 months ending October 31, 1924, the output of copper was only about 13,500 tons, against 17,500 tons in 1923 and 45,000 tons in 1913. On the other hand, the extraordinarily high price of lead, at present £39 17s 6d per ton, has greatly benefited Australia; the production of lead for the year ended September 30th last was approximately the same as last year—viz., about 124,000 tons. The production of zinc is increasing, and high prices are being realised. The output of the Electrolytic Zinc Company in Tasmania for the year to June 30th last was 44,768 tons of electrolytic zinc. Silver at 8,000,000 ozs last year shows practically no change.

The cotton industry in Australia is still in its infancy, but is being pushed on vigorously, though last year the season was a

discouraging one. More land in several States is being brought under cultivation. In Queensland, especially, the Government are keenly interested in what, if it can be successfully established, may yet develop into a great Australian industry.

At the present time Australia is enjoying an exceptionally good season, and there have been bountiful rains in all the States. The outlook for the pastoral and agricultural industries of the Commonwealth could hardly be better. With an increased wool clip and a bountiful harvest, with record prices ruling for wool and good prices for wheat, the immediate outlook is most encouraging.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.

During the past year the question of currency and exchange has again occupied a foremost place, and has been the most disturbing factor in Australian banking.

From the statistics which I have already given you, you are aware that the exports from Australia have been on a large scale, especially the export of wool, and when I remind you that in the year ending June 30, 1921, the total value of the wool exported was £33,000,000, whereas the value for the year ending June 30th last was over £56,000,000, and that the current year may reach and even exceed £75,000,000, you will readily appreciate that to finance the purchase and export of this greatly increased value of wool, in addition to that of wheat, dairy produce, and other exports, it is obvious that the amount of currency which was sufficient for this purpose in 1921-22 was quite inadequate for the purpose in 1923-24.

INCREASE OF NOTE ISSUE.

Before the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank the trading banks had the right of issuing notes, as the banks in New Zealand have to-day. The banks then availed themselves of this right to meet the increased seasonal demands of the export trade, the notes thereafter being withdrawn and cancelled. Had the banks possessed that right during the past year there would not have been such a shortage of currency, or the resulting serious monetary stringency, nor such a consequential rise in the exchange rates between this country and Australia.

On the formation of the Commonwealth Bank in 1911 the right of note issue was taken away from the trading banks and handed over to the Treasury, and in 1920 to the Note Issuing Department of the Commonwealth Bank, controlled by a small board called the Notes Issue Board. Both in 1922-23 and 1923-24 the Notes Issue Board could not see their way to accede to the requests of the banks for what the banks regarded as the necessary seasonal issue of notes for the handling of the large body of exports.

The Commonwealth Bank has during the last few months been reconstituted by Act of the Commonwealth Parliament, and is now under the control of the Governor and a specially appointed board of directors, to whom has been transferred the control of the note issue. The new board of directors of the Commonwealth Bank, I am glad to be able to inform you, have decided to increase the note issue by £15,000,000, by an issue to that amount for a defined limited period, carrying interest at Bank of England rate, in order to deal with the heavy seasonal requirements.

FINANCE OF WOOL AND WHEAT SHIPMENTS.

Our latest advices inform us that the stringency has been greatly relieved owing to the arrangement thus arrived at, whereby the banks, including the Commonwealth Bank, have all agreed to finance wool and wheat shipments on a pooling basis, the Commonwealth Bank agreeing to advance in temporary currency notes a certain proportion of each bank's quota, against the deposit in London of cash or securities. This should certainly prove of great assistance, and it will be interesting to you to remember that the latter part of this arrangement is on the lines which I have suggested at each of our last two annual meetings as being the simplest and most natural way towards meeting a difficult temporary situation.

But for the extension of currency thus agreed to, it would not have been possible for the exports of wool and wheat to have proceeded smoothly, great delays would inevitably have occurred with serious consequences to the business communities concerned, both in Australia and here.

This relief can, however, only be regarded as a temporary expedient; the balance can only be effectively adjusted by the movement of manufactured goods cannot go without creating a glut and more or less disaster through a slump in prices. Restricted Government borrowings (both Federal and State) until gold settlements are again possible, would materially improve the position, and, indeed, effective steps have already been taken to limit such borrowings up to June of next year.

One of the main objects of the reconstitution of the Commonwealth Bank has been to enable it to exercise the functions of a Central Reserve Bank, that is to say, a bankers' bank, and great hopes are entertained that this will prove highly beneficial to the

banking and general financial business of Australia, as has been the case in other countries where a central reserve bank has been established.

NEW ISSUE OF SHARES.

Not the least interesting part of the report to all the shareholders has probably been the intimation that the board have decided to make a further issue of shares, upon terms that must be very attractive to the shareholders. I will now endeavour to explain clearly all that is involved in this new issue.

Our present share capital consists of 600,000 £5 shares, £2 10s paid up, with a liability of £2 10s. The new issue will be one of 150,000 shares of £5 each, to be paid up to £3 per share, leaving an uncalled liability of only £2 per share. These shares will be offered in the first instance to the shareholders on the register at the date of the offer, which will be on December 15th next, at the price of £5 per share, and in the proportion of one new share to each four shares then held. This, of course, represents a premium of £2 per share. The price, however, in the market at the present time for these shares is 7½ to 7¼, and allowing for the accrued final dividend for the year to June 30 last, which is included in that price, of 7½ per cent., leaves the price, x.d., at well over £7, as against the issue price of £5.

The allotment letters for the new shares will be sent out on December 15th, and the first instalment of the £5 will be payable as to £1 10s on January 15th (of which £1 will be capital and 10s premium); the second instalment of £1 10s on March 16 (£1 capital, 10s premium); and the third instalment of £2 on May 15th (£1 capital and £1 premium), but though these shares will thus only be paid up gradually over the last six months of our current financial year, they will rank for the full final dividend for the year to be declared in November next.

APPLICATION OF THE PREMIUM.

When the new issue has been completed and the instalments paid, it is proposed that the premium of £2 per share shall be applied in paying up 10s of the present uncalled liability of £2 10s per share on the 600,000 shares at present issued, bringing all the shares to a paid-up amount of £3 per share, with £2 uncalled.

The addition to the paid-up capital by the issue of 150,000 new shares, and the payment (out of the premium on that issue) of 10s of the present uncalled liability on the 600,000 shares at present issued, will amount to £750,000, bringing the paid-up share capital to £2,250,000.

Issuing the new shares at £5 each, that is at a premium of £2, gives the shareholders, on the basis of the present market value of, say, fully 7, ex div., a margin in their favour of over £2 per share. The proposed application of the premium on the new issue will also give them a bonus on their present shares equal to the premium (in other words, will be equivalent to returning the premium to them), the premium being on the new issue £2 on one share in four, and the application of it 10s each on the four old shares (i.e., £2 in each case), and in addition the present shares thus increased to £3 paid will secure the enhanced market value.

The new issue to those shareholders who take up their shares, you will thus clearly see, is not only equivalent to an issue of the new shares at par, but is distinctly better than an issue at par.

ULTIMATE EFFECT ON BANK'S CAPITAL.

The ultimate effect of the combined operations on the capital of the bank is that:—

The issued capital will be 750,000 shares of £5 each, £3,750,000. The paid-up capital will be 750,000 shares of £3 each, £2,250,000. The uncalled capital will be the same as it is now, viz., 750,000 shares £5, £2 uncalled, £1,500,000.

In other words, we will have added to our paid-up capital fresh money to the extent of £750,000, and although 10s of the former uncalled liability will have been paid up out of the fresh money provided by the premium on the new issue, that will have been replaced by a corresponding liability under the new issue, viz., 150,000 shares, £2 uncalled.

DATE OF ALLOTMENTS.

You will observe that although intimation of this proposal was made in our annual report, issued on November 8th, and the details have now been fully explained, the allotments will not be made until December 15th, in order to give the shareholders ample notice in case any should wish to acquire further shares in order to level up their holdings, and thus be in a position to take full advantage of their right to an allotment of shares of one in every four held, for as explained in the report no fractions will be regarded, the shares representing fractions, and the shares, if any, not taken up, will be dealt with by the directors for the benefit of the bank. It should be remembered, however, that while the allotment will be to shareholders on the register on December 15th, the transfer books of the bank will be closed from December 8th to December 15th, so that any shareholder wishing

to acquire any further shares for the purpose of levelling up should bear this in mind.

I will a little later move the necessary resolution for giving effect to the recommendation of the board with regard to the application of the premium of £300,000 on the new issue in paying up 10s of the uncalled liability on the 600,000 shares already issued.

MR JANION'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA.

During the past year our greatly valued London manager, Mr Janion, has carried out his projected visit to Australia, to which I referred at our last annual meeting. He visited all our main branch offices, and met with all of our chief executive officers, as well as many leading business men in all the chief centres, and on his return was able to give the board a highly satisfactory report of his trip. Such a visit cannot but be of great benefit to the bank. Later on I will ask Mr Janion himself to give you a short account of his visit.

During Mr Janion's absence his place was taken by our assistant manager, Mr Shipston, who ably discharged the duties of the head office manager to the entire satisfaction of the board.

During the past year we have also had the advantage of a visit to this side of Mr Joseph Ewing, one of our chief executive officers in Australia, who has been in charge of our Tasmanian branches, where you will remember, we now carry on what was until we acquired it the business of the Commercial Bank of Tasmania. This was Mr Ewing's first visit to England, and the knowledge he has acquired of London and the methods of business as carried on here will be of great use to him in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

Before drawing my remarks to a close, I desire to express the board's appreciation of the work during the past year done by the management and staff both in Australia and in London. But for the devoted, loyal, and able service which has been rendered we would not have been able to present you with so satisfactory a report as I have the pleasure of submitting to-day.

I will now move the following resolution, which I will ask Mr Paterson, the deputy-chairman, to second:—

"That the report and statement of accounts now submitted be and are hereby adopted; and that the amount available for distribution be applied as therein recommended."

Mr John Paterson (deputy-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

MR JANION ON HIS VISIT.

Mr E. M. Janion, who was received with cheers, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—As the time is short, I will make my remarks as brief as possible. I sailed towards the end of December *via* Ceylon, Rangoon, the Straits, and Java, visiting our agents in those countries en route and arriving *via* the Torres Straits at Brisbane in February. From Queensland I worked my way across the Continent *via* New South Wales, New Zealand, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia. I stayed for some time at each of our chief offices and had many consultations with Mr Wren, our general manager in Australia, and with our senior executive officers in all the States.

In all, I visited about 100 of our widely-spread branches and agencies, and everywhere I found our managers most keen on the progress of their different offices and hard-working men who had the interests of the bank very much at heart. Our business is conducted on sound lines, and every care is taken by them to avoid any undue risks.

Our senior officers have already made their mark, but you will be pleased to hear that I met many of our more junior men, who showed great promise, and to whom we can look with confidence to assume higher responsibilities when their turn comes for promotion, for we all know how greatly the future success of the bank depends on our branch managers.

In all the States I found the bank and its officers very popular and highly spoken of by our constituents in the different places, and I should like to say that personally I met with the greatest kindness and hospitality on all sides, which I very much appreciated, and shall always remember with great pleasure.

POTENTIALITIES OF AUSTRALIA.

This, I may mention, was the first occasion on which I have been privileged to visit Australia, and it is only when one is there that the immense size of the country and its great future possibilities can be properly realised. It is a wonderful heritage, and I was impressed with the use that has been made of it so far.

Of course, increased population is greatly needed, but that will come in time, and when it does the progress of the Continent will be still more rapid.

Our business in the Commonwealth is a very valuable one, and we have an excellent staff there, working together like a great family under the most able guidance of Mr Wren, our general

manager in Australia. He works like a Trojan himself, and has the great gift of bringing out the best in his junior as well as in his senior officers. He is a great asset to us. I think we may look forward to the future with every confidence.

The Chairman proposed, and the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., seconded, the re-election of Mr George Slade as a director of the bank.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to. The Chairman further moved, and the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I., seconded, the re-election of Mr Sydney Marr Ward as a director of the bank.

The resolution was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr J. M. Laine, seconded by Captain Slack, and the retiring auditors, Messrs Turquand, Youngs, and Co., and Messrs Price, Waterhouse, and Co., were re-elected at the same remuneration as before.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

The Chairman then moved the following resolution, viz.: "That this general meeting, acting pursuant to the recommendation of the board, hereby declares that when the full sum of £300,000 shall have been received for premiums on the 150,000 shares of £5 each about to be offered for subscription, a dividend at the rate of 10s upon and for each of the 600,000 shares now outstanding be paid, and that such dividend shall be paid out of the said sum of £300,000 representing premiums on the said shares (which premiums are hereby declared to be applicable for the purpose), and upon the basis that the same shall not be paid in cash, but shall be applied in crediting the sum of 10s on each of the said 600,000 shares, so as to make the same respectively credited with £3 per share paid up."

Mr John Paterson seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN, AND DIRECTORS.

Mr T. B. Connell, in proposing the following resolution, viz., "That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the chairman, the deputy-chairman, and the directors for their conduct of the affairs of the bank, and that they all be congratulated on the result of the year's working," observed that the board could be heartily congratulated on the results of the year's work. Some of them were personally acquainted with the members of the board, and, therefore, knew the nature and extent of their activities; but all the shareholders could appreciate what they had accomplished, whilst the resolution the shareholders had passed as to the increase of the capital of the bank was a further witness to the progress of the institution. The proposals indicated that the directors were not prepared solely to follow in the footsteps of others, but, where they considered it right and prudent, they had been always willing to take the lead.

Mr Robert Ward, in seconding the resolution, referred to the generous and ingenious proposal which the board had formulated, and which had commended itself to the shareholders.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman returned thanks on behalf of his colleagues and himself.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MANAGERS AND STAFF.

Mr Frederick Tomkinson moved: "That the thanks of the shareholders are due to Mr Wren, the general manager in Australia, Mr Janion, the manager in London, Mr O'Sullivan, the assistant general manager in Australia, Mr Shipston, the assistant manager in London, and to the executive officers and the staff at home and in Australia for the valuable services they have rendered to the bank during the past year." He expressed his keen satisfaction with the results which had been obtained, and said that there was no doubt that much credit was due to the work of the executive both here and in Australia. The results were splendid, and he had specially attended the meetings to express his gratitude.

Mr G. Shirley Chapman, in seconding the resolution, said that he had been in business in Australia for many years, and from his own personal experience he could assure the shareholders that they had a magnificent staff.

The resolution was passed with acclamation.

Mr Janion, having returned thanks on behalf of the whole of the staff,

Mr Andrew Cunningham moved a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and for his informative and interesting address. He expressed the hope that Mr Williamson would long be spared to occupy the splendid position which he had won by his energy, high character, and ability.

Mr E. E. Edwards seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman briefly responded to the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

KILLINGHALL (RUBBER) DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS AND EXCELLENT PROSPECTS.

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the Killinghall (Rubber) Development Syndicate, Limited, was held, on the 20th instant, at the registered offices, 7 Martin's lane, Cannon street, London, Mr W. Arthur Addinsell, the chairman, presiding.

Mr J. Lewis, on behalf of the secretaries, Messrs Bright and Galbraith, Limited, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I move: "That the directors' report and account for the year ended June 30, 1924, as submitted to this meeting, be approved and adopted, and that a dividend of 7½ per cent. for the year be declared and paid."

From the report you have seen that the output for last year was less than the previous year by some 40,000 lbs, which is attributable to the export restriction enactment.

Production costs were naturally adversely affected, because to maintain the estate efficiently it was not possible—indeed it would have been unwise—to reduce overhead charges to correspond to the lower output. The result was a decline of £3,148 in the net profit.

The balance-sheet reveals a satisfactory position. It will be seen that the company has some £15,000 in liquid assets, while sundry creditors and bills payable only amount to approximately £4,200.

The average net price realised for all grades of last year's crop was just under 1s 1d per pound, and although it is difficult to estimate the output, having regard to the fluctuations in the export allowance, it is, I think, fairly safe to anticipate a considerable appreciation in the net average price for this year. I therefore look forward with pleasure to meeting you next year, for I am sanguine that the board will be justified in recommending an increased rate of dividend.

Your property has now reached a mature state of development, and as I told you last year, capital expenditure could be considered at an end. You will see from the accounts that only £124 was required to maintain the unproductive portion of the estate during last year, and a similar outlay is all that will be necessary in future years unless a further planting programme is embarked upon, which is not contemplated at the moment.

We have an excellent estate of 1,210 acres capitalised at only £43 per acre at the par value of the shares, therefore, so long as pro-

ducers can secure a fair market price for rubber, the company will be in a position to pay regular dividends.

Mr Harold C. Rendle seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring director and the auditors were re-elected, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors and to the staff in the East and in London.

THE PICCADILLY HOTEL, LIMITED.

CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN YEAR'S RESULTS.

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the Piccadilly Hotel, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at the Hotel.

Sir Charles T. Ruthen, F.R.I.B.A., the chairman of the company, presented to the shareholders the accounts for the year ended July 31, 1924, and said:—

I will ask you first to turn to the profit and loss account where you will find that this year's figures are compared with the previous year as has been our custom in the past.

It is my pleasant duty to draw your attention to the very considerable improvement in this year's figures. You will observe that the whole of the 6 per cent. participating debentures, amounting to £250,000 have been redeemed. This redemption releases the whole of the profits for distribution to the ordinary shareholders, the ordinary shares as you are aware, being entirely held by R. E. Jones, Limited. Little of the benefit of this cancellation appears in the present balance-sheet, but even so our net profits have increased this year to £43,514 12s 2d, as against £15,870 1s 5d last year. In the next balance-sheet the full effects of the saving in interest, charges, &c., will become apparent.

INCREASED POPULARITY OF THE HOTEL.

The increase in profits reflects a corresponding increase in turnover and the general improvement in the business of the company is due, we are convinced, to the very great attention which is given to every detail of the business and particularly to the thought which is expended upon the question of the comfort of our visitors, which results in a steady increase in the popularity of the hotel in all its departments.

In connection with the increase in our turnover, perhaps you will allow me to stress the point mentioned in the report, that a very

considerable part of the increase in our profits over those of last year was an accomplished fact before the Exhibition at Wembley was opened.

BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

Turning to the balance-sheet, the amount of £50,000, under the heading of "Loan account" and stated there as borrowed from the Westminster Bank, Limited, has, since the date of the balance-sheet, been repaid out of the earnings of R. E. Jones, Limited, and the Piccadilly Hotel, Limited, and the certificates for £102,906 6 per cent. participating debentures which were lodged with the bank as collateral security have been returned and cancelled, also since the date of the balance-sheet.

You will notice that the principal asset of buildings, &c., remains at the same figure, although the valuation of the company's property just made by the company's valuers shows that this figure is very much lower than the actual value at the present time. Your directors are therefore satisfied that the reserve which stands at the substantial figure of £150,210 is ample for the time being and no sum in consequence has been carried to reserve in the year under review.

STRONG AND HEALTHY POSITION.

I think you will agree that the position shown by the balance-sheet is a very strong and healthy one, and when I am able to inform you that the receipts since the turn of the year still show considerable increases over those of last year, I consider that we may congratulate ourselves with good cause, and we may confidently anticipate that the good results of the year under review will not only be maintained but probably surpassed in the current year.

I should like to express the board's appreciation to the managers and staffs under them for the efficient and conscientious way in which they have carried out their duties and which in no small measure is responsible for the good results of the year's trading.

ANSSELLS BREWERY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PROFITS.

COMPANY'S SPLENDID FINANCIAL POSITION.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the shareholders of Ansell's Brewery, Limited, was held at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Friday, November 14th, Mr James A. Fairhurst presiding.

The secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The net profit for the twelve months ended September 30, 1924, after making full provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, is £167,233 9s 2d, which, with the addition of £83,101 8s 10d, brought forward from last year, produces £250,334 18s. Out of this amount the sum of £53,937 10s has been paid for interest on debentures at 4½ per cent., and interim dividend on the preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. and 10 per cent. per annum respectively, the latter free of income-tax. The directors, after providing interest on debentures accruing to September 30, 1924, now recommend the payment of a final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax on the preference shares, and at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum (making 12½ per cent. for the year) on the ordinary shares, annum (making £137,584 18s. Of this it is free of income-tax, leaving a balance of £137,584 18s. Of this it is proposed to place £50,000 to reserve, bringing this account up to £230,000, and to carry forward £87,584 18s to next year's account.

THE PROFITS.

Before I say anything in regard to the report and balance-sheet, I must apologise for the absence of Mr Edward Ansell, whose health does not permit of his being present here this morning.

From the above report you will observe that the profits for the last twelve months have increased by £35,000, and it will be readily understood that as we have had the benefit of the extra trade brought in by the acquisition of Rushtons business, an increase in the profits was expected. I am glad to say that the purchase of Messrs Rushtons Brewery, Limited, is turning out quite satisfactorily, the public having responded to the change in beer in a manner that is most gratifying.

I need not, I think, trouble you by going into details with regard to the balance-sheet, but there are certain figures of considerable interest. You will observe that the profit is sufficient to pay the debenture interest eight times over, and after paying that interest there remains enough to pay the dividend on preference eight times over. If you look at the total assets it will be observed that the position of debenture holders and preference shareholders is a very strong one.

As regards goodwill, you will see that it does not figure at all,

but the goodwill is a possession of high value, and its absence from the books is an important supplement to the reserve account. Another item of great interest is the net assets. At the formation of the company in 1901 that figure stood at £800,000, and it now stands at £1,717,000. Therefore, after discharging all our liabilities there is an increase of £917,000 in 23 years—a figure which is remarkable and most satisfactory.

PRICE AND QUALITY.

I do not propose to go into detail in regard to the other figures, and I will call upon Mr Thomas Ansell to second the resolution. Then, when that has been done, I will invite anyone to ask any questions they may have in regard to the balance-sheet, which I will endeavour to answer.

Mr Thomas Ansell: Mr Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution. The chairman has dealt so fully with all matters that there is no need for any further comment from me. I am still sorry to say that my remarks made at our last two meetings in reference to the price of beer still hold good. No reduction can be made to the public if the quality of our beer is to remain as at present until a reduction of the Beer Duty takes place. With those few remarks I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr A. E. Wiley was re-elected a director of the company, and Messrs Fisher, Randle and Fisher re-elected auditors of the company.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

HOTEL CECIL, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

The annual general meeting of the Hotel Cecil, Limited, was held on the 20th instant, at the hotel, Mr J. Douglas Broad (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the balance from trading account gave a total of £98,607, an increase over the previous year of £21,106. Shareholders would remember that at the previous meeting he reported that it would be necessary to incur during the year considerable expenditure on reconditioning their plant. The work had progressed steadily during the year, and, as generally happened when dealing with machinery, had cost more than the original estimate, as it was quite impossible to provide for repairs and renewals which did not show themselves as necessary until the work was opened up. The directors carefully considered the best way to deal with the abnormal expenditure falling in one year, and came to the unanimous decision, as it was necessary expenditure properly incurred to maintain the property in an efficient state, to charge it as an expense, and the board hoped the shareholders would approve of this course. The available balance of profit and loss was £65,760, against £75,485 last year, but shareholders must remember that the preference dividend for the first six months had already been paid. Speaking generally, they looked back on last year's trading with some satisfaction. It had been a strenuous year for all concerned, but their manager, Mr Farmer, the assistant manager, and the staff had risen to the occasion, and given that loyal and willing assistance which they never failed to give. On the assets side of the balance-sheet, it would be noted that the freehold property and plant account remained the same. Cash showed a decrease of £27,304, which was accounted for by the reduction in creditors, the payment of the half-year's dividend on the preference shares, and the increases of £951 in stocks and £5,192 in sundry debtors and investments. With reference to the latter item, the directors had increased the investment in the company's own debenture stock during the year to the extent of £2,267. What the prospects for the current year were it was too early to foresee, but so far they had every reason to be satisfied with their business, and the banqueting department continued to expand under the able management of Mr Bertini. They were at present redecorating the west block, and were taking the opportunity to instal running water in the bedrooms of that block to meet the growing demand for this convenience. The time had now come when the directors felt justified in fixing the date for the payment of the preference dividend, and they proposed in future to pay the dividend half-yearly, on February 28th and August 31st.

Mr C. L. Huggins seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

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

The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital	-	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	-	£8,734,660
Reserve Fund	-	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	-	£4,367,330

Northern District Office	-	-	-	69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch	-	-	-	19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of

LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN GREECE.

In view of the approaching issue in London and New York of the Greek Loan for the settlement of the Asia Minor refugees, the details given below relating to the financial and economic situation in Greece will no doubt be read with much interest in this country. It is generally recognised that Greece is steadily progressing on the road of healthy finance; and if account be taken of the large resources of the country, of the intelligence of her people, and of the determination of her rulers to put their house in order, one may be sure that the day is not remote when Greece will see her Budget balanced and the value of her currency improved.

GENERAL SITUATION.

The actual situation of Greece is very different from that which existed a year ago. The clouds of the political horizon, which might have given one some misgivings then, have been completely cleared. A total of about 1,000,000 refugees had flocked into Greece from Asia Minor, and it was impossible in June, 1923, to forecast the burden which the upkeep of these refugees, the majority of whom were destitute, would throw on the national finances. The Treaty of Lausanne had not been signed. A revolutionary Government was in power and the uncertainty as to the future *régime* was a very disquieting factor. Since then the Treaty of Lausanne has been signed, a Government is now at the helm which enjoys the complete confidence of the country, and it has been definitely settled, as a result of a plebiscite, that the Republic is permanently established. The Greek Sub-Committee of the League of Nations Council, which met in London this year, has acknowledged that "it wishes to recognise the considerable progress which has been made towards stability in the economic and political situation in Greece."

NATIONAL FINANCES.

As the Treaty of Peace was signed at Lausanne only towards the end of July, 1923, it cannot be said that the past year was a peace year for Greece. This must be taken into account when studying the results of that year and drawing conclusions from the returns of that period. The budgetary estimates for 1923-24 were originally as follows:—

(In Million Drachmæ.)				
1923-1924.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (—).	
Ordinary.....	3,031	2,961	+	70
Extraordinary ..	910	3,663	—	2,753
Total	3,941	6,624	—	2,683

In consequence of additional credits during the year, the estimated deficit rose subsequently to Dr. 3,038 millions. The actual returns from April 1, 1923, to March 31, 1924, show the following results:—

(In Million Drachmæ.)				
1923-1924.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (—).	
Ordinary.....	3,117	1,582	+	1,535
Extraordinary ..	588	2,311	—	1,723
Total	3,705	3,893	—	188

The above deficit of 188 millions is due to extraordinary expenditure, the deficit from which was greatly reduced by the surplus of Dr. 1,535 million from ordinary revenue. As the books for the financial year 1923-1924 were closed at the end of July, 1924, the above deficit of Dr. 188 million was finally increased to Dr. 1,316 million, in consequence of payments that were made by the Treasury up to that date. Thus the year under review shows a deficit of Dr. 1,316 million in lieu of the estimated amount of Dr. 3,038 million—i.e., Dr. 1,722 million less. As the Treasury disposes of a creditor balance from the previous years of Dr. 350 million, the deficit is reduced by that amount to Dr. 966 million. In this connection, it should be stated that the deficit is due exclusively to war expenditure. In fact, since the financial year 1920-21, when the Asia Minor campaign began, to the end of 1923-1924, war expenditure amounted to no less than Dr. 7,731 million, distributed as follows:—

(In Million Drachmæ.)	
War Office	5,802
Ministry of Marine	956
Refugee Relief	479
Refugee Settlement	250
Soldiers' Families Relief	244
Total	7,731

This amount has been raised by internal loans or by taxation. The items for the refugees do not include the advances made by the Bank of England and the Greek Banks against the Refugee Loan. Nor do they comprise the sums disbursed for the settlement of refugees by the Refugee Settlement Commission.

BUDGET FOR 1924-1925.

The original estimates for the current year, as subsequently modified, are as follows:—

(In Million Drachmæ.)				
1924-25.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (—).	
Ordinary	3,458	2,906	+	552
Extraordinary.....	500	1,569	—	1,069
Total.....	3,958	4,475	—	517

Without expenditure on refugees this deficit would be even smaller. Provision of Dr. 240 million has been made for assistance to refugees, colonisation charges, and expenses incurred by exchanges of population. Freed from these burdens, the 1924-1925 Budget would only show a deficit of Dr. 277 million. The prompt settlement of the refugees has, therefore, a double economic interest for Greece. In the first place, the Budget position would be considerably improved; in the second, once the refugees are definitely settled, they will prove an important factor in the future exploitation of the economic resources of the country. In the words of Mr Morgenthau, chairman of the Greek Refugees Settlement Commission, in his address to the Council of the League of Nations: "This calamity (the expulsion of Greek nationals from Asia Minor) could be converted into a great godsend to Greece if we enabled these refugees to become self-supporting and to increase the production of Greece to such an extent that she herself would become a self-supporting nation, and would, after a few years, no longer be dependent upon her imports. We discovered that Greece was going to be enriched by the Asia Minor rug trade, as practically the whole of that trade had been transferred to Greece. We found that, among the peasants, there were many expert tobacco growers, and that, even in the first year, the tobacco crop of Greece increased so much, and that the growers prospered so greatly, that they are already prepared to pay back some of the advances which had been made to them. We found that the silk industry had been expelled from Turkey, and that the refugees were ready to start afresh, planting their mulberry trees and developing that industry."

REVENUE.

Greece has not shirked her duty in attempting to cope with the ever-growing expenditure which circumstances have forced upon her. Direct taxation brought in Dr. 319 million for the year 1922-1923, Dr. 719 million for the year 1923-1924, and is estimated to produce Dr. 823 million for the year 1924-1925. The corresponding figures for indirect taxation are Dr. 897 million, Dr. 1,652 million, and Dr. 1,709 million. New measures are being studied to increase the returns both of direct and indirect taxation. The figures appended bear eloquent testimony to the fiscal efforts made by Greece.

(In Million Drachmæ.)				
Financial Year.	1914.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Direct taxes....	48	319.3	718.7	823
Indirect taxes ..	127	879	1,869.8	2,172
Total taxation	175	1,216.3	2,588.5	2,995

VERIFICATION OF ESTIMATES.

The decrease in expenditure is due mainly to a reduction in the extraordinary expenditure of the War and Marine Ministries,

which, for 1923-24, amounted to Dr. 1,328 million, and for which the estimate for the current year has been reduced to Dr. 518 million. Moreover, the loss difference in exchange is reduced this year by Dr. 244 million. These figures suffice to show the exactness of the expenditure estimates. As regards revenue, the actual returns of the past year have been taken as basis. However, a greater yield of the taxes is anticipated this year. In fact, a comparison of the returns for the first four months of the current financial year with those of the past year comes to the support of this assumption. Revenue receipts for April, May, June, and July, 1924, amounted to Dr. 496 million, as against Dr. 352 million for the same months of 1923. The position of the Public Treasury is considered as very satisfactory. The disposable funds amounted, at the end of August, to Dr. 434,500,000, £60,000, and Fr. 4,300,000. The balance in drachmæ consisted almost wholly of tax receipts. Less and less recourse is being made to the discounting of Treasury bills.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION.

In the first months of 1923, when a continuation of the war was still feared, the national currency showed a depreciating tendency. Exchange on London was then fluctuating between 385 and 428 drachmæ to the pound sterling. Since then the Greek exchange has greatly improved. It has dropped as low as 200 drachmæ to the pound sterling, and has not risen much above 260 drachmæ. It seems to have found a stable level between 255 and 260 drachmæ. This improvement is proof of the soundness of current financial policy, and of confidence in the economic robustness of the country.

GOVERNMENT BOND VALUES.

The value of Greek Government bonds has experienced steady appreciation in foreign centres. In the table given below the yearly average sterling prices are given for the bonds quoted on the London Stock Exchange; the figures are taken from the annual report of the International Financial Commission:—

Loan.	1922.	1923.	Current Value.
1887 4%	31.75	37.83	46.5
1893 5%	34.93	38.80	55.5
1881 5%	34.85	41.39	55.5
1884 5%	34.98	41.28	55.5
1890 5%	33.71	39.82	55.5
1889 4%	27.30	33.29	43.5
1902 4%	37.53	37.54	50.5
1914 5%	39.69	49.23	63.5

This steady appreciation is an excellent criterion of the increase of confidence in Greece on the part of particularly well-informed quarters. This confidence is quite justified if we consider the way in which Greece, in spite of all the difficulties that have assailed her, has carried out the service of her debts. All loans contracted by the various Governments, not excepting even those of the revolutionary Governments, have been acknowledged and respected by the succeeding *régimes*. Difficulties have arisen with creditor nations, but the arrangements concluded 26 years ago on this question have been faithfully kept, and Greece has since honoured all her obligations in spite of the many difficulties that have assailed her, and has even improved the terms of the arrangements in the interests of her creditors. The same will hold true in the future. A tradition of integrity has been built which will always characterise the Greek nation's dealings with its creditors. During the war period not only has Greece paid regularly the interest and sinking fund charges on its public debt, domestic and foreign, but has even improved the rate of interest paid on the old gold loans which are controlled by the International Finance Commission.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The figures of the Greek National Debt are as follows:—

At	Gold Drachmæ.	Paper Drachmæ
March 31, 1923.....	1,671,883,532	6,742,092,311
March 31, 1924.....	1,665,758,695	7,612,421,486
Change (+) or (—)	— 6,124,837	+ 870,329,175
There was thus a net increase of Dr. 864,202,338, made up as follows:—		
Floating Debt in paper drachmæ.....		806,852,682
Issue of remainder of 750 million loan (on proceeds of capital levy)		250,000,000
Gold floating debt.....		773,650
Remainder of first Refugee Loan.....		21,403,918
Funding of Canadian debt.....		1,719,245
		23,869,813
		1,079,722,495

Repayment of Debt 1923-1924—

Floating debt in paper	186,594,168
Floating debt in gold.....	28,951,000
	215,545,168
Net increase	864,177,327

Of this increase, expenditure on refugee account was responsible for Dr. 465,308,848. The remainder of the increase in the National Debt, or about Dr. 400 million, is due wholly to military expenditure, which, during the year in question, amounted to Dr. 1,125 million. As far as Greece is concerned, the war ended with the Treaty of Lausanne (August, 1923). The main cause for the increase in our indebtedness has thus been eliminated.

FIDUCIARY CIRCULATION.

The National Bank of Greece has the monopoly of note issue, and on May 31st last the total issue amounted to Dr. 6,053,252,675, of which Dr. 1,440,007,557 were held by the Bank. The circulation, therefore, was Dr. 4,613,245,118, made up as follows:—

Dr.	
1. Issued by National Bank in virtue of its privilege	569,405,000
2. Issued on Government account	2,903,455,915
3. Special issue covered by Ally credits	1,139,734,175
4. Issued according to law of 23/4/1923 for purchase of exchange and covered by such exchange	1,440,611,585
Total issue.....	6,053,252,675

The notes in the first category are issued according to the banking legislation. The third category of notes is issued by the Bank for account of the Government against credits, of which the Government disposes abroad. As these credits are utilised so the notes are withdrawn from circulation; the notes are entirely covered and cannot exceed the total of disposable credits. These credits were opened as follows: In 1918 and 1919 by France, England, and U.S.A., for Frs. 1,150 million, £12 million, and \$50 million respectively. Of these issues, Dr. 578,308,130 remain outstanding. By an arrangement made in 1918, the National Bank placed Dr. 309,468,045 at the disposal of the French Government for expenditure on the French Army in Macedonia. These notes will be cancelled as soon as the debt thus contracted has been settled. Further issues, amounting to Dr. 452,008,175, were made between 1914 and 1917 on the basis of various credits granted by English, French and Russian loans.

Notes of the fourth type are sanctioned by the Law of April 23, 1923, according to which the National Bank may issue notes against deposits of foreign currencies. As soon as such foreign currencies are disposed of, the notes issued against them must be retired. These notes, which are thus fully covered, form about one-quarter of the total circulation.

As regards notes in the second category, those issued for account of the State, we must distinguish as follows: (1) Notes issued before the financial arrangement of 1898, which then amounted to Dr. 90 million, and are being gradually cancelled. They amount now to Dr. 42,951,915, and will have disappeared in 20 years' time. (2) An issue of Dr. 750 million, dating from the end of 1923. Concurrently with this issue a capital levy was decreed, the proceeds of which will be used to cancel these issues. This year, Dr. 90 million have been cancelled in this way. (3) The remainder, a little over Dr. 2,000 million, is subject to a special amortisation arrangement at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

From what precedes it will be seen that, of all the notes issued on State account, those that may be considered as inconvertible and unsecured are being steadily and even rapidly redeemed. The average amortisation for the year 1923-1924 was at the rate of 5 per cent., and a total of Dr. 141,500,000 was cancelled, made up of Dr. 2,000,000 in notes of the first category, Dr. 90,000,000 in notes of the second category, and Dr. 49,500,000 in notes of the third category.

It must be admitted that, during the period 1921-1922, there were heavy issues of notes; but many countries which have found themselves in a situation no more difficult than that of Greece have availed themselves far more freely of the printing press. It must also be realised that, even at a date previous to the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne, Greece ceased to make further issues of notes, and since then has considerably diminished the total of her fiduciary circulation. At the same time, the influx of immigrants, which has increased the population by 25 per cent., the development of business and the growing needs of the market have all been factors counteracting the effects of inflation. The improvement of the situation in this direction is reflected in the appreciation of the drachma on the foreign exchange markets. A more rapid deflation than has actually taken place would have had

the most serious consequences on the economic prosperity of the country.

FOREIGN TRADE.

To realise the growth of Greek foreign trade, it is only necessary to consider the export figures. For 1920 these amounted to Dr. 664 million; for 1921, to Dr. 974 million; for 1922, to Dr. 2,485 million; and for 1923, to Dr. 2,545 million.

According to statistical information received from the Ministry of Agriculture, the average total value of agricultural produce stands at Dr. 15 milliards, or about £60 million. The activity of the refugees will certainly increase the total of this production.

THE REFUGEE LOAN.

In view of the foregoing investigation into the economic and financial situation of Greece, and by comparing it with the past, it may safely be said that the country is now on the way to sound economic reconstruction. The solution of the refugee problem would make for an element of security, which would bring back conditions of normal prosperity within a very short time. The solution of this problem is only possible on the condition that the funds necessary for the immediate and complete settlement of the refugees are placed at the disposal of Greece by way of a loan. The situation of Greece certainly justifies her appeal for such a loan. By the end of this year the total of refugees in Greece will have risen to 1,480,000, or about 370,000 families.

About 100,000 refugees have already been sheltered and settled. The remainder are homeless and in danger of spending a third winter in conditions of absolute destitution.

That Greece has made great efforts to cope with this problem may be gauged from the following figures:—Up to the end of March, 1924, Dr. 505,000,000 had been spent on relief work (in kind, housing, and alms) and Dr. 470,000,000 on costs of transportation, i.e., a total of Dr. 975,000,000 out of the State Budget. For the current financial year provision for relief work has been placed at Dr. 240,000,000, and a supplementary sum of Dr. 63,000,000 has been voted for the housing of the refugees. The State will thus spend during the current year Dr. 303,000,000 on the refugees. But, in spite of these efforts, the needs of the task of settlement remain heavy and pressing. The Refugee Settlement Commission foresees expenditure during the half-year August-January amounting to £3,835,799, and maintains that, in order to complete its task, it will require at least £4,000,000. Against this expenditure the Commission has in hand about £1,500,000, the balance of advances granted by the Bank of England and the National Bank of Greece. The Refugees Relief Fund, which is grappling with the problem of housing, has already spent an amount of Dr. 133,000,000 on the building of urban quarters, and will require a further Dr. 456,000,000 before it can complete its task, or about £1,824,000; altogether, then, a further expenditure of £8,159,799 is foreseen. When the question of international financial help to Greece for the purpose of refugee settlement was first submitted to the League of Nations last year, permission was given to raise a loan between the limits of £3 million and £6 million. At the same time, a committee of investigation was set up, of which Mr Morgenthau was named chairman. In his report to the Council of the League of Nations, made on September 13th last, Mr Morgenthau paid a glowing tribute to the work of reconstruction which had been carried through by Greece herself. "We find, however," he continued, "that, in order to stabilise Greece thoroughly and to take care of all these refugees, or most of them, we need £10,000,000. Greece is ready to do her share; she has undertaken to advance 25 per cent. of this sum.....We believe that the security given for this money is ample and proper. The Greek Government is stable. Ever since 1897 the Greek Government has adhered to the arrangement made then as to the payment of interest and amortisation, and during all her tribulations she has never defaulted. Tremendous strength has been shown by the Greek Government during this rehabilitation period, and everything now points to the fact that, with this additional money, these refugees will be of great assistance to Greece instead of being a hindrance. Taking all those facts into consideration, we think that we are justified in coming here for your assistance. Greece is not asking for charity, nor are we recommending that charity be given to her. Greece is asking this Council to put its stamp of approval on her desire to appear before the financial public of the world, and to raise this loan of £10,000,000." Speaking at the same sitting of the Council, Mr Tsouderos, Greek Minister for Finance, said:—"The settlement of several hundreds of thousands of workers belonging to a hardy and industrious race would shortly bring Greece considerable addition to her resources. The share of this new wealth accruing to the State would be more than sufficient to cover the service of the loan, which could be termed an eminently productive one. Moreover, as the Council knew, the loan of £10,000,000, which was barely adequate to provide for the complete settlement of the refugees, would be guaranteed by revenues estimated at Dr. 750

million, a sum covering the service of the loan three times over, and by the land transferred to the Refugee Settlement Commission, the value of which exceeded the capital of the loan, to say nothing of the income derived from this land and the taxes thereon." The Council of the League, at a meeting held on September 19th last, adopted the resolutions proposed by the Greek Committee of the Council; the chief one is an authorisation by the League of Nations that Greece should raise a loan or loans not exceeding £10,000,000, and should arrange for the subscription by the Greek banks or financial groups of a block equivalent to at least 25 per cent. of such a loan or loans. The issuing houses shall place the whole proceeds of the loan or loans directly at the disposal of the Refugee Settlement Commission for the purposes specified in its Organic Statutes, and for the repayment, if necessary, of any advances.

SECURITY OF NEW LOAN.

The Refugee Loan would be specifically secured by: (1) The monopolies of New Greece, i.e., salt, matches, playing cards, and cigarette paper. (2) The Customs receipts received at the Customs of Canea, Candia, Samos, Chios, Mitylene, Syra. (3) The tobacco duty in New Greece. (4) The stamp duty in New Greece. (5) The duty on alcohol in the whole of Greece. (6) Any surplus of the revenues already assigned to the International Financial Commission, subject always to existing charges on such a surplus. Receipts from these revenues are shown below:—

	(In Drachmae.)		Estimated Revenue
	1922.	1923.	
Monopolies.			
Salt	7,191,798	12,927,266	.. (a) 18,000,000
Matches	11,831,384	17,789,326	.. (b) 21,000,000
Playing cards	952,171	1,652,625	.. 1,855,000
Cigarette papers	6,313,137	9,698,228	.. 10,000,000
Customs.			
Canea, Candia, Samos, Chios, Mitylene, Syra	22,892,909	35,929,935	.. (c) 38,424,316
Total	49,181,399	77,997,380	.. 89,279,316
In gold francs ..	—	42,125	.. 16,000

(a) Estimate justified by increase in price of salt.
(b) Increased receipts from this article are estimated on basis of increase in price per box and increase in consumption.
(c) Increase of Dr. 3,000,000 is justified by the receipts of the first two months, which for these six customs were Dr. 6,804,086 and gold francs 2,872.

	(In Drachmae.)		Estimated Revenue.
	1922.	1923.	
Tobacco duty in New Greece	84,554,888	178,795,237	.. (a) 240,000,000
Stamp duty in New Greece	12,161,821	33,083,352	.. (b) 60,000,000
Alcohol duty in the whole of Greece ..	56,852,985	140,067,445	.. (c) 165,000,000
	153,569,694	351,946,034	.. 465,000,000

(a) Increase of Dr. 62,000,000 justified by increase in the duty on tobacco (law of December 15, 1923).
(b) Increase justified by recent application to the new provinces of the legal and supplementary stamp duties.
(c) Duty on alcohol increased by law of April 4, 1924, from Dr. 20 to Dr. 27'50 per thousand litres.

As regards the surplus of the revenues already assigned to the International Financial Commission, these amounted in 1922 to Dr. 200,775,049, in 1923 to Dr. 301,651,040 and £103,885, and are estimated for 1924 at Dr. 203,450,752 and £50,000. The total of the surplus of revenues for the year 1924 was estimated at Dr. 420 million; but of this amount Dr. 216,549,248 is reserved to the service of loans not controlled by the International Financial Commission, there remains thus Dr. 203,450,752 as security on the transferred to the Greek Government for the first six months of 1924 an amount of Dr. 284,283,000, as well as £19,322, as excess on revenues; it may be concluded from this that the actual excess for 1924 will considerably exceed the estimates.

A loan of £10,000,000 would, on the basis of a rate of 10 per cent., require for its service an annual sum of about Dr. 250,000,000. The estimates for 1924 of the revenues specifically pledged to this service amount to over Dr. 750,000,000. Even without the additional security of a mortgage on the land transferred to the Refugees Settlement Commission, the value of which would exceed the capital of the loan, the loan would be amply secured.

THE BANK OF POLAND.

The Bank of Poland, as the only institution having the right to issue bank notes, was opened in connection with the reform of the currency which took place in Poland the beginning of the present year.

This reform consisted in replacing the provisional monetary system—in the shape of the Polish mark issued by the state banking institution, the Polish Loan Bank (P.K.K.P.)—by a currency based in gold with the "zloty" as monetary unit, being equivalent to a unit of the Latin Union. The Polish mark, the relation of which to the zloty has been legally fixed at 1,800,000 marks for one zloty is gradually being withdrawn from circulation or bought up by the Government for the purpose of liquidation. There remain now not quite 9 trillion marks not yet bought up, of the former circulation of about 600 trillions.

These 9 trillions represent a value of 5 million zloté. At present there is as yet no circulation of gold metal in Poland. The coinage of gold at private cost is foreseen in Poland as soon as the necessary technical arrangements can be made in the State mint. Notes issued by the Polish Bank are the only circulating means, except small coin, in the country; hence the Polish Bank is the only regulator of monetary circulation in Poland.

The basis of existence of the Bank of Poland is a statute of the President of the Republic, announced in the Bill for the reform of the finances and the currency passed January 11, 1924. In this Bill only the most general principles for the organisation of the Bank of Poland were included, but it determined that the Bank of Poland was to be a private institution, that its issue of bank notes must have at least a covering of 30 per cent. in gold and valutas, and finally that the State Exchequer must not be in debt to the Polish Bank for budgetary purposes.

The above-mentioned statute of the President, by virtue of Parliamentary Bill, can only be altered by the Legislature. Likewise, to make an alteration in the statute of the Bank it is also necessary to have a resolution of a general meeting of the Bank passed by a majority of two-thirds votes; thus an alteration of the statute presents enormous difficulties.

The fact is important, as the privilege of issuing bank notes constitutes an integral part of the statute of the Bank, and consequently cannot be expanded on the part of the Government by way of ordinary concession. The Bank of Poland is a shareholders' bank with a capital of 100 millions, the nominal value of a single share amounting to 100 zloté. The capital has been fully paid in golden and foreign valutas, and was entirely subscribed in Poland. The shares are in the holder's name, but may be ceded by consent of the President of the Bank.

The rights of the Government in regard to the Bank consist of nominating the President and Vice-President, in approving the members of the directorate and in nominating the commissioner, whose function it is to maintain connection between the Government and the Bank.

It is the duty of the President to see that the Bank complies with the resolutions of the Bills and statutes; to watch over the execution of the general aims of the Bank and to guard the general interests of the State. For this purpose he is invested with the right of veto upon the resolutions of the Council, and can suspend the decisions of the directorate if resolutions or decisions, in his opinion, are not in accordance with the duties of the Bank.

The policy of the Bank is directed by the council, consisting of 13 members elected in general meeting, and the management is composed of the chief director and several other directors. There is also a revision commission, consisting of five persons elected by the general meeting. The Bank attains its aim, as expressed in the statute, of "regulating the circulation of money and facilitating the credit," by profiting from its privilege of emission. The emission of bank notes having a currency fixed by statute is the monopoly of the Bank of Poland till the year 1945. The Bank has the obligation on principle to exchange its bank notes for gold, although the time from which this exchange is to become obligatory is to be determined by the Council of Ministers. As this regulation has not been announced, the exchange for gold is at present postponed, and replaced by an active policy of circulation of bills. The central point of the limitations of the emission lies in the covering of the emission and the adaptation of the separate elements of this covering to each other. Above all, at least 30 per cent. of bank notes in circulation must have a covering in gold or in foreign valutas or bills of exchange. The idea of bills of exchange able to serve as a security for emissions is limited in this sense, that they must be met by a valuta not dependent on great fluctuations of exchange, and, besides, must be in themselves a claim on foreign institutions of unquestionable solvency.

The valutar resources of the Bank of Poland consist principally of locations in first-class foreign banks. In reckoning the amount of resources of valuta that may serve as a security for emission, it is necessary to take off all liabilities of the Bank in foreign valutas.

The rest of the covering of bank notes may consist of the following:—Discounted bills of exchange warrants; drawn lottery papers; silver coins and metal coinage at a maximum value of 5 per cent.

of the circulation of bank notes; and, finally, liabilities of the State Exchequer from credit without interest of not more than 50 million zloté by reason of the grant of the privilege of emission.

As regards separate items of bank covering, it should be observed that, contrary to other statutes of shareholder banks, silver is not considered as a metal covering, but as a bank covering. On the other hand, the limitation of silver money to 5 per cent. of the general circulation makes it impossible for the Government to practise a policy of silver inflation for budgetary purposes.

As regards bills of exchange, besides the normal order concerning their circulation, which may not exceed three months, and the necessity of three or a minimum two signatures, it is clearly stated that the bills must be the "results of economic turnover." This means that it is impossible to discount any finance bills, however secure they may be. Of course, this regulation also is binding on all bills bearing the endorsement of the State (taxation bills which may not be discounted in the Bank of Poland). The maximum debt of the State Exchequer to the Bank of Poland by reason of its granting the privilege of emission may not exceed the maximum sum of 50 millions. This right, until now, has not been exercised, as on October 10th the sum amounted to 35,276,589.72 zloté. Among the active interests of the Bank, which may not be a base of emission, should be mentioned, above all, the loan office of gold and silver, valutas and bills, also papers of worth. A loan office of goods is not permitted.

Besides this, the Bank of Poland concerns itself, among other things, with the purchase and sale of gold and silver, valutas and bills, with the cashing of bills of exchange, with the acceptance of savings, and the opening of current accounts (without interest).

One of the most important departments conducted by the Bank is the business in foreign bills. The Bank of Poland is the largest receiver and furnisher of foreign valutas on the exchange market in the country. Consequently, it has become the sole regulator in foreign bills and currency exchange. Thanks to its active valuta policy, which consists on the one hand of completely satisfying the market in foreign means of payment, and on the other in securing for itself a settled flow of foreign valutas, the Polish Bank is now in a condition to keep up the currency of the zloty at par in spite of its temporary inability to change bank notes for gold.

The Polish Bank, besides being the regulator of the circulation of ready money, also in a high measure fulfils the task of facilitating exchange by means of endorsement bills and also by organising, in its central office and some of the larger provincial branches, clearing houses.

Within the limits of the above statutory rights the Bank of Poland has from the very beginning of its existence pursued a very careful policy of issue, having in view before everything else the maintenance of the absolute stabilisation of the valuta.

The metal covering of the valuta, of which the minimum according to the statute amounts to 30 per cent., is now maintained by the bank at about 70 per cent. This, in practice, with the active foreign bill policy that is pursued, is entirely sufficient for keeping up the exchange of the zloty without fluctuation for a long time ahead. In this connection the credit policy of the bank likewise is noticeable for its great caution. The rate of discount, amounting at present to 12 per cent., is for the time being not an absolutely sufficient brake for the increase of issue by discount bills. Nevertheless, the contingency of credits granted to separate customers, and the severe censoring of bills (especially the refusal of all material not issuing from actual commercial transactions, and having as their aim only the securing of a money loan) have proved until now to be a quite successful means of stopping the flow of bills to the bank in such quantities as might unfavourably alter the relation of the metal valuta covering to the circulation of bank notes. This cautious policy has not had any unfavourable influence on providing the market with means of circulation, since it is notable that at the present time there are bank notes in circulation in Poland amounting to about 450 million zloté, whilst in January of this year the circulation of Polish marks reckoned in zloté amounted to not quite 100 million zloté. Simultaneously with this, the amount of credit bills granted has increased from 110,185,430.33 zloté at the beginning of the activity of the Polish Bank to 236,411,239 zloté on October 10, 1924. The amount of gold and valuta serving as a base of the issue increased in the same time from 299,915,687 zloté to 317,865,551 zloté. It should, however, be mentioned that this increase of credit granted by the Bank of Poland was not a replacement of credit previously granted by private institutions; on the contrary, it accompanied a favourable development of conditions also in the sphere of private credit. The explanation of the increase is the enormous increase in the deposits by private banks during the year 1924.

The activities of the Bank of Poland, both in safeguarding and strongly supporting the Polish valuta and in pursuing a cautious credit policy, have made this institution a principal factor in effecting the improved financial position in Poland. The results already achieved during its short existence permit the belief that it will in the future continue to fulfil the important task with which it is charged.

AUSTRALIAN, MERCANTILE LAND AND FINANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

PROBABLE ISSUE OF NEW SHARES.

The sixtieth annual general meeting of this company was held, on the 20th instant, at 20-22 Coleman street, London, Mr R. H. Caird (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr W. D. Turner) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that the year to which the report referred had been a very prosperous year for the company, and he thought the shareholders would all be very well satisfied with the profits shown and the distribution recommended. During the past year he had spent some months in Australia visiting all the company's offices and several of the properties they owned. He found everywhere that the name of the company stood very high, and that their reputation for fair dealing was thoroughly well established in all the States where they carried on business, and that even in the States where they did no business there was a desire that they should be represented. He had visited the capital cities of all the States in Australia, and was much struck with the progress that had been made in all of them since he was last in Australia some 30 years ago. The cities were much too large for the population of the States of which they were the capitals, and the crowding of the population into the cities was much to be regretted when such vast areas remained unpeopled in the interior, but it was the natural result of the extraordinarily good wages that could be earned, and as long as those high wages could be earned in the towns it was likely that working men would prefer the amenities of city life to the risk and privations that were often the lot of those who worked in the interior. While the towns were crowded, there was room and opportunities in the country for a vast increase of population. There was no doubt at all that there was plenty of room in Australia, and that what she required more than anything else was population.

The company's sales of wool, as brokers in Australia, had amounted to 167,690 bales, and they still ranked third in the list of sellers in Australia. The clip of wool for 1923, from their own stations, had amounted to 6,631 bales, or a reduction of 599 bales as compared with 1922, but the money value was £240,623, or an increase of £53,539, and the average per bale was £36 4s 9d, against £25 17s 6d in 1922.

EXCHANGE.

Dealing with the accounts, the chairman said that £25,000 had been added to the equalisation reserve. When they had exceptionally large profits it was only prudent to set something aside. It must not be forgotten that the price of wool was at a very high level, and their profits largely depended on wool, and though he could not see any likelihood of a fall in prices, still shareholders were getting a very handsome dividend, and it was wise to set something aside for possibilities. The general reserve fund was now half the paid-up capital, and, as far as he could see, that was sufficient, as they had no terminable debentures, and they always kept ample cash in hand to provide for sundry creditors. Referring to exchange, and observing it was a very costly operation to get money from London to Australia, he went on to say that with the difficulty of transporting funds from London the demand for money was likely to continue. Large building operations were going on in most of the large cities, and the funds of the banks seemed to be fully employed, while in the company's business there had been evidence that more money could be employed advantageously. To make provision in London meant, of course, that they must either realise some of their gilt-edged holdings, borrow by means of an issue of debenture stock, or raise fresh capital by an issue of shares. The directors had carefully considered these three courses, and, having come to the conclusion that an issue of new shares was the best of these courses, it was only right to tell the shareholders that there was a possibility of a new issue of shares, though he could not say when it would take place. If and when an issue took place, it would probably take the form of an issue of 60,000 £5 shares at par, and these shares would be offered to the then holders of the old shares, whether £25 with £5 paid or the £5 fully paid, in the proportion of one new share for every three old shares, and, as that would mean a substantial bonus, the directors took this opportunity of letting everyone know.

There was a distinct improvement in Argentina, and prices for cattle had risen considerably. Although the results up to June 30th last did not reflect an improvement, he was quite hopeful that the results for the current year would do so. The latest telegram from the general manager for Australia indicated that the prospects generally from the season and markets point of view were the best for many years, while a telegram from Buenos Ayres stated that their properties wanted more rain, but were comparatively comfortable for the present.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a final dividend of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent. (making 15 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax), was declared.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Nov. 24—Nov. 29 were opened on Nov. 21, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £57,400,000. For bills at three months dated Monday to Friday at £99 1s 4d. about 59 per cent., and above in full; Saturday £99 1s 7d and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds, nil

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
1924.				
Oct. 17.....	35,000,000	57,670,000	3 14 11-17	94 10 0
Oct. 24.....	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 5-74	94 10 0
Oct. 31.....	35,000,000	57,395,000	3 12 10-66	94 10 0
Nov. 7.....	35,000,000	59,080,000	3 14 1-6	94 10 0
Nov. 14.....	30,000,000	52,975,000	3 14 0-55	94 10 0
Nov. 21.....	35,000,000	57,400,000	3 13 9-38	94 10 0

Tenders will be received on Nov. 28, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Accounts.	Other.	Gold and Silver.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Government Securities.	Balance at Bank of England.
1922.									
Mar. 31.....	400,351	14,255	6,000	85,500	19,480	16-9	261,479	177	
June 30.....	295,374	13,338	5,000	85,500	18,650	16-3	254,312	180	
Sept. 30.....	289,127	12,648	7,000	87,000	21,150	16-8	246,466	169	
Dec. 31.....	301,337	12,872	7,000	87,000	21,150	16-9	258,922	137	
1923.									
Mar. 31.....	285,616	12,318	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-3	241,394	190	
June 30.....	285,503	12,516	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-3	242,446	183	
Sept. 30.....	289,794	12,401	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-5	238,595	140	
Dec. 31.....	295,070	12,571	7,000	87,000	22,450	16-5	255,032	159	
1924.									
Mar. 25.....	281,538	11,908	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-6	236,867	130	
June 25.....	290,316	12,472	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-0	246,198	140	
Sept. 24.....	285,592	12,227	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-3	241,185	184	
Nov. 5.....	287,412	12,277	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-2	243,080	159	
Nov. 12.....	287,368	12,288	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-2	243,042	164	
Nov. 19.....	285,860	12,248	7,000	87,000	22,450	17-2	241,551	126	

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £320,600,000, for 1921 at £317,656,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,163,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Nov. 15, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Nov. 17, 1923.	Week Ended Nov. 15, 1924.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April.....	£	£	£	£
Bank of England.....	5,069,613	5,442,665	5,442,665	5,442,665
Bank of Ireland.....	1,569,001	1,375,502	1,375,502	1,375,502
REVENUE.....	6,631,614	6,818,167	6,818,167	6,818,167
Customs.....	101,800,000	62,909,000	78,788,000	1,837,000
Excise.....	135,900,000	80,302,000	91,180,000	1,482,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,965,000	4,350,000	6,749,000
Estate, &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	37,390,000	33,780,000	1,140,000
Stamps.....	11,000,000	12,040,000	11,680,000	1,880,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty.....	1,250,000	670,000	540,000	330,000
Property & Income Tax.....	265,000,000	123,261,000	126,096,000	10,000
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	27,360,000	23,310,000	2,204,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	8,000,000	8,000,000	420,000	260,000
Corporation Profits Tax.....	20,000,000	10,610,000	13,790,000	340,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	34,500,000	32,600,000	590,000
Crown Lands.....	900,000	630,000	560,000	1,250,000
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,250,000	8,578,642	8,375,650	..
Miscellaneous.....	11,850,000	7,902,535	8,860,539	..
Ordinary Receipts.....	30,000,000	18,398,347	23,270,351	618,838
Special Receipts.....	794,050,000	429,516,524	457,185,540	236,750
Total, Inc. Balance.....	436,148,138	464,003,707	9,861,838	14,981,750

OTHER RECEIPTS.

Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion.....	..	65,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	5,790,000	4,750,000	..	220,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 and 1924.....	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	260,719	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	400,000	820,000	..	..
(c) For other issues:—				
By Treasury Bills.....	1,514,456,000	1,528,611,000	46,587,000	47,982,000
By National Savings Certificates.....	17,000,000	36,500	550,000	550,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33.....	15,844,120	29,208,627	945,000	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	3,700,000	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	531,769,000	528,155,000	9,100,000	500,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....	..	..	..	..
Repayment:—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921.....	23,149	50,081	..	..
Total.....	2,530,985,909	2,643,064,885	67,045,838	64,833,750

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	Week Ended Nov. 15, 1924.	Week Ended Nov. 17, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services—				
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	199,623,695	197,671,486	3,447,199
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	16,946,740	23,051,113	784,179
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	4,364,044	3,75,044	488,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	13,150,000	5,837,891	5,957,255	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,702,484	2,290,884	..
Land Settlement.....	750,000	357,014	387,542	2,732
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	2,440,000	1,419,751	1,571,737	6,000,000
Supply Services.....	408,919,000	229,758,398	229,676,418	7,670,000
Expenditure.....	793,759,000	461,050,017	464,360,429	13,243,114

OTHER ISSUES.

Temporary Advances—				
Bullion.....	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	560,000	820,000	130,000	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 and 1924.....	5,400,000	4,220,000	250,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	316,195	..	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed—				
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills.....	1,467,085,000	1,546,995,000	44,635,000	44,270,000
Principal of National Saving Certificates.....	19,700,000	21,950,000	550,000	600,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off.....	6,586,653	32,222,296	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	50	6,981,184	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid.....	541,229,500	554,441,000	10,650,000	5,950,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issues to the National Debt Commissioners.....	23,109	50,081	..	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911.....	..	55,214	..	..
Balance in Exchequer—				
Bank of England.....	2,527,820,306	2,636,665,986	66,937,100	64,063,114
Bank of Ireland.....	1,159,695	2,054,534	8,905	35,014
Total.....	3,165,603	3,398,899	108,728	170,636

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 60 of 1924.

Treasury, November 17, 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1918.	Nov. 15, 1917.
Funded Debt.....	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities.....	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14	14
2% Conversion Loan.....	..	63	63	63	68	68	68	68	68	68
3% War Stock.....	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% War Stock.....	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,168	2,168	2,168	2,168
4% and 5% War Stock.....	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	400	396	396	396
National War Bonds.....	..	409	406	401	399	400	325	314	314	314
4% Funding Loan.....	..	360	357	347	335	325	414	457	472	472
4% Victory Bonds.....	..	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150	150
Treasury Bonds.....	..	274	285	342	354	367	366	365	363	363
Exchequer Bonds.....	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	365	365
National Savings Certificates.....	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,132	1,132
Other Debt:—										
American Loan (Anglo-French).....	15	61	51	1,121	878	616	652	688	616	616
Treasury Bills.....	1	243	205	154	147	194	208	186	176	176
Temporary Advances.....	654	8,033	7,829	47	7,574	7,665	7,742	7,801	7,668	7,668
Other Capital Liabilities.....	57	46	47	49	49	70	70	66	66	66
Total Liabilities.....	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,734	7,734

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	POSITION OF THE FLOANING			Week Ending
	Nov. 17, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Nov. 15, '24.	Nov. 15, '24.
Ways and Means Advances—				
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England		186,155,000	176,695,000	1,550,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.	167,511,500	588,320,000	*615,725,000	1,900,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	641,905,000			
		1,174,475,000	792,420,000	353,000

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

Resources.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 16, 1924.
Total gold reserve	3,047,880	3,038,520	3,043,830	3,134,010
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	90,060	85,150	87,770	73,370
Bills discounted for member banks	224,230	229,260	222,570	791,110
Bills bought in open market	248,190	234,850	215,400	268,450
Government obligations owned	588,560	584,890	584,200	90,320
All other resources	68,190	68,280	87,490	70,140
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	33,420	29,810	28,270	44,910
Other deposits	2,292,020	2,149,180	2,189,700	1,937,580
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,829,200	1,816,820	1,766,620	2,263,050
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	13,590	13,090	13,310	510
All other liabilities	33,140	33,920	33,870	28,390
Capital and surplus	77.2 %	78.1 %	78.6 %	75.5 %
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.				

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Sept. 26, 1924.	Oct. 26, 1924.
Total securities	16,73,76	16,70,57	16,74,89	16,73,17	16,77,85	12,92,3
Loans	15,51,37	15,64,21	15,70,76	15,81,42	16,13,47	13,79,89
Cash credits	35,32,50	36,50,89	36,98,53	37,28,82	37,66,85	31,81,67
Inland bills	5,57,02	5,57,79	5,57,24	5,53,74	5,61,20	4,81,28
Foreign bills	24,58	26,93	15,70	16,67	16,86	18,24
Dead stock	2,65,55	2,65,35	2,64,70	2,63,25	2,63,04	2,45,86
Bal. with other banks	1,72,23	1,72,98	1,70,21	1,67,99	1,66,16	2,26,96
Cash	21,94,19	22,49,11	22,97,12	25,46,05	28,49,86	36,34,47
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50
Total deposits	88,24,07	90,35,03	91,22,16	94,35,73	97,81,65	91,67,98
The above includes—						
Deposits in London	1,212	1,239	1,251	1,406	1,239	396
Advances in London	459	472	472	472	463	347
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	849	813	870	1,053	910	147

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Cash and bullion	1,118,875	1,121,235	1,118,791	1,118,759	1,121,567	221,320
Discounts	255,049	240,572	255,338	251,081	448,270	41,740
Advances	265,462	270,845	282,535	276,199	206,130	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	1,224,889	1,210,191	1,240,333	1,239,337	1,351,659	362,270
Govt. deposits	937,495	955,012	936,077	935,099	912,738	183,740
Other deposits	70,784	66,192	70,113	76,056	114,994	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 20, 1924.	Nov. 13, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion	5,544,600	5,544,560	5,544,543	5,539,675	3,730,625
Of which held abroad	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion	304,262	304,029	303,483	303,088	632,850
Discounts and advances	7,515,405	7,477,380	8,566,489	8,564,774	2,327,775
Advances to the State	22,900,277	23,000,000	23,100,000	23,600,000	..
LIABILITIES.					
Notes	40,530,277	40,635,940	40,705,280	37,158,679	5,811,875
Government deposits	17,182	16,316	16,728	85,508	183,740
Private deposits	1,936,564	1,850,549	1,921,835	2,014,600	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 13, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Position May 28, 1924.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)	356,678	356,416	356,077	355,616	351,146	392,650
Securities	1,295,114	1,303,570	1,346,152	1,303,199	1,007,660	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	7,673,196	7,658,401	7,629,580	7,573,447	7,209,416	934,150
Current accounts	290,415	337,171	301,435	319,364	401,601	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 17, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Nov. 3, 1924.	Oct. 27, 1924.	Nov. 19, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	481,405	481,506	481,506	493,345	581,782	163,092
Silver	11,868	11,621	10,940	10,854	8,031	8,436
Deots. and advances	368,281	386,400	408,418	356,414	385,552	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	952,982	973,634	998,669	957,698	1,022,088	316,632
Deposits	18,889	21,292	23,625	23,287	33,737	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Nov. 17, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	214,750	210,750	209,000	206,750	161,000	29,771
Silver	167,560	170,370	172,670	172,410	165,387	77,567
Discounts, advances, and other investments	280,500	281,000	276,000	276,000	263,597	109,499
Notes in circulation	113,000	110,500	114,000	114,000	134,744	11,250

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks.*

Assets.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Gold and bullion	684,288	694,224	630,502	613,525
Of which deposited abroad	240,033	240,033	177,703	172,143
Reserve in foreign currencies	231,429	231,407	210,167	204,541
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,327,353	2,339,662	2,173,709	2,153,943
Silver and other coin	55,444	55,427	61,557	59,359
Notes of other German banks	85	3	..	..
Advances	15,473	33,445	16,765	15,947
Investments	77,400	77,639	77,509	77,517
Other assets	1,053,523	951,790	947,418	929,901
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Reserve	900	900	900	900
Notes in circulation	1,721,805	1,780,930	1,313,121	1,396,748
Other daily maturing obligations	828,619	708,728	986,391	828,511
Loan from Rentenbank	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
Other liabilities	1,013,671	1,003,107	927,215	938,674

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription
one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold	505,616	505,397	505,232	505,057	537,428	171,175
Silver	93,640	93,070	93,219	94,051	89,014	18,350
Assets & advances	284,656	280,749	284,654	286,325	308,763	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	835,048	857,885	882,153	826,114	884,358	875,925
Deposits	153,433	133,063	116,695	157,956	109,212	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,227	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills	38,932	36,980	36,749	20,394	28,533	..
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,999	8,999	8,999	9,052	8,816	..
Discounts and loans	392,830	401,217	410,491	453,410	76,911	..
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	373,592	380,767	386,401	381,548	113,484	..
Deposits at notice	112,282	109,283	112,882	107,686	7,188	..

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Nov. 17, 1924.	May 24, 1924.
Gold	239,488	239,846	240,139	242,590	272,226
Balance abroad and foreign bills	60,030	60,322	59,527	62,354	32,747
Swedish and for. Gov. securities	54,894	54,921	55,057	55,322	110,189
Discounts & loans	358,212	369,954	380,483	353,228	340,019
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	507,334	519,645	543,269	489,775	533,939
Deposits at notice	127,905	125,015	118,196	138,053	165,236

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	43,285	43,285	43,285	42,704	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills	528,646	514,574	553,574	805,834	90,379
Finland and Foreign Government securities	497,338	498,642	498,642	571,503	21,826
Discounts and loans	873,898	798,208	794,811	648,416	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,250,729	1,257,529	1,277,040	1,356,718	123,941
Deposits at notice	513,763	399,101	451,712	366,700	21,225

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 12, 1924.	Nov. 5, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.
Total cash	14,432	15,372	16,365	14,119	3,086
Gold coin & bullion	23,596	23,593	23,593	15,791	12,993
Of which held abroad	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,506	..
Foreign banks	50,992	50,376	50,358	58,838	24,468
Discounts and loans	84,422	84,159	83,538	32,859	9,351
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	96,000	26,000	26,000	33,000	4,005
Capital paid up	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,260	8,000
Government deposits	78,003	79,505	80,162	40,408	16,897
Other deposits	52,497	51,800	51,332	43,441	16,996

BANK OF DANTZIG.—In Dantzig gulden (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.
Coin and bullion	2,805	2,801	2,774	2,661	2,915	2,861
Of which gold coin	14	14	14	14	14	14
Dantzig subsidiary coin	2,791	2,787	2,760	2,647	2,901	2,847
Balances, Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	12,824	12,124	12,748	12,184	12,537	15,280
Bills of exchange	16,113	16,282	14,687	14,373	14,257	14,131
Foreign exchange	2,481	1,988	980	999	1,785	1,411
Other balances on demand	12,808	16,330	15,799	17,410	14,354	7,440
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	24,972	27,060	25,030	27,937	25,416	25,305
Deposits on demand	13,471	13,101	15,713	13,376	12,987	9,573
Deposits at notice	13,471	..	..	81	309	..

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.						
	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 7, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1925.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,099,520	10,066,949
Discounts & advances	2,454,351	2,459,025	2,032,705	2,032,562	2,052,162	1,554,510
Gold & silver hold'gs	1,050,454	1,050,274	1,050,708	1,050,707	1,050,229	1,078,124
Foreign bills and balances abroad.	669,661	658,592	673,166	656,504	661,084	
Other assets	227,497	287,080	224,044	222,618	221,144	1,930,709
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circ'n.	8,398,508	8,585,947	7,822,592	7,998,943	8,103,282	9,127,987
Deposits	4,719,566	4,487,109	4,824,251	4,725,976	4,557,403	4,825,587
Other liabilities	1,383,127	1,381,553	1,433,680	1,432,972	1,424,054	1,066,841
* Resulting from banknotes, current accounts, deposits, etc.						
Austro-Hungarian Bank						

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From Nov. 8, 1924.		From Nov. 8, 1924.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.				
Demand	2 1/2 % prem.	3 1/2 % prem.	3 1/2 % dis.	2 1/2 % dis.
30 days	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	4 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
60 days	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	4 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
90 days	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	4 1/2 %	2 1/2 %
120 days	1 1/2 %	1 1/2 %	4 1/2 %	2 1/2 %

(a) No discount allowed on sales of T.T. or demand drafts under £100.
 * No premium allowed on amounts under £100. † Plus ad valorem duty.

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on November 18, 1924, for Rs100,00,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India. The result was as below:—

	Rate.	Applications.
Def. T.T.	1 5/8 %	5,00,000
	1 5/8 %	19,00,000
		24,00,000
Imm. T.T.	1 5/8 %	7,00,000
	1 5/8 %	2,00,000
	1 5/8 %	3,00,000
	1 5/8 %	2,00,000
		14,00,000
		38,00,000

On November 25th 100 lacs will be offered.

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended November 12, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Sweden	132,900	Sweden	48,400
Netherlands	2,300	Norway	145
United States of America	800	Netherlands	28,450
British West Africa	38,124	France	820
British South Africa	353,618	Switzerland	1,150
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	2,403	West Coast of Africa	4,265
		Java	5,000
		United States of America	1,888
		Kenya	4,350
Total declared value of imports	540,145	Total declared value of exports	94,468

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended November 19, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Belgian Congo	37,299	Latvia	1,480
British South Africa	141,953	Denmark	55
Other countries	832	Poland	10,972
		Netherlands	13,011
		Egypt	15,835
		Aden	4,000
		British India	848,203
		Straits Settlements	24,500
		Ceylon	11,000
		Other countries	1,092
Total declared value of imports	179,224	Total declared value of exports	930,148

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on November 19th as follows:—

GOLD.

There was a keen Indian demand for the small amount of gold on offer here this week, and all available supplies were taken for that quarter. Gold valued at \$3,500,000 has arrived in New York from Paris, and is said to be part of a consignment of \$15,000,000 expected from Europe in the near future. A large parcel of gold is expected to arrive there shortly in connection with the instalment of the British debt to the U.S. Government, due on the 15th proximo. The following figures show the United Kingdom imports and exports of gold during the month of October, 1924:—Imports, £1,499,414; exports, £960,446.

CURRENCY.

On the 17th instant a new Bill was introduced to the Danish Parliament by the Premier with the object of stabilising the Danish currency. The Bill authorises the Government to seek a loan of \$40,000,000 from the United States, the proceeds of which are to be deposited with the National Bank as a special currency reserve. The project will be strengthened by the formation of a special finance council, and by the imposition of a currency tax.

SILVER.

Owing to lack of any special demand and further rises in the dollar value of sterling, prices have dropped further, and quotations were fixed on November 14th at 33 1/2 for cash and 33 1/4 for two months' delivery—the lowest price fixed for cash since May 8th last, and for forward delivery since August 16th last. China and India have been rather sellers than buyers, and America has sold with some freedom. The s.s. "Majestic" brought to London from New York this week 2,183 silver bars, weighing 2,324,671.65 ounces, worth \$1,620,073.43. This is a record arrival in recent times. The actual record is still held by the Royal Mail steamship "Tasmanian," which delivered, on September 28, 1860, silver valued at £1,186,760 13s 1d, weighing over 4 1/2 million ounces. The undertone of the market, owing to the apathy of the Far Eastern and Continental demand, is not promising, and depreciation of sterling with America, should it arise, would probably have to be considerable before the position of silver could be rendered really healthy. To-day, after a temporary rally, prices again relapsed, and 33 1/2 and 33 1/4 are quoted for the respective deliveries. No fresh Indian currency return has come to hand. The stock in Shanghai on the 15th instant consisted of about 51,700,000 ounces in sycee, 43,500,000 dollars, and 640 silver bars, as compared with about 50,700,000 ounces in sycee, 44,500,000 dollars, and 2,650 silver bars on the 8th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.		Silver—Per Ounce.		Date.	Silver.
	s	d	Cash.	Forward.		Cash.
Nov. 15....	89	6	33 1/2	33 1/4	Nov. 30, 1918..	48 1/2
17....	89	7	33 1/2	33 1/4	29, 1919..	72 1/2
18....	90	0	33 1/2	33 1/4	26, 1920..	48 1/2
19....	89	7	33 1/2	33 1/4	25, 1921..	37 1/2
20....	89	8	33 1/2	33 1/4	24, 1922..	32 1/2
21....	89	7	33 1/2	33 1/4	23, 1923..	33

NOTICES.

The directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, announce, with regret, the retirement of Mr Francis Shipton from the head office management on December 31st next, after 36 years' service. Mr Bertram Lowndes (assistant manager in London) has been appointed manager, and Mr Francis E. King (chief inspector in London) assistant manager.

Mr Charles J. Hambro has been offered, and has accepted, a seat on the board of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that the business of the bank hitherto carried on at 82 High street, is now transferred to enlarged premises at 49 High street, Winchester.

The following notice is issued by the Bank of England:—On and after Monday, November 24th, all stocks will be transferable at 18 Finsbury circus, E.C. 2.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new office in Barnard's Green, near Malvern, under the supervision of Mr F. E. Laughton, manager of the Church street, Malvern, branch.

We are informed that in accordance with Banco di Roma's policy of converting its foreign branches into independent banks organised under the laws of the countries in which they are situated, a French limited company has been created, under the name of Banco di Roma (France), in order to take over the offices of Banco di Roma in Paris and Lyons. The new bank started business on the 15th instant, with a capital of 15,000,000f.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Oct. 13, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Oct. 13, 1923.
Deposits	39,719,331 .. +1,838,812	Gold, silver & currency	4,842,807 .. - 34,533
Notes in circulation	2,800,696 .. - 75,479	Money at call	5,347,809 .. - 538,019
Drafts outstanding	626,242 .. - 406,310	British Govt. securities	15,079,943 .. + 2,029,543
Acceptances	828,254 .. + 234,548	Colonial stocks, &c.	1,145,258 .. + 120,296
Capital	2,500,000 .. + 500,000	Other securities	406,934 .. + 28,698
Rent	2,347,394 .. + 781,432	Bills discount'd	4,549,034 .. - 985,903
Proposed dividend	145,313 .. + 21,313	Advances	14,110,517 .. + 1,122,993
		Loans	1,697,588 .. + 537,198
		Acceptances	828,254 .. + 234,548
		Bank buildings	303,548 .. + 65
		Property	145,887 .. - 5,030
		Freehold prop'ty in London	508,609 .. + 384,809
Total	48,967,230 .. + 2,894,316	Total	48,967,230 .. + 2,894,316

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

March 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1923.
Ord. shares	8,950,000 .. + 121,233	Purchase price of concession shrs. on advances to associated companies	28,159,700 .. + 98,457
8 % cum. pref.	7,000,000 ..	Refineries, &c.	6,688,711 .. + 232,640
9 % cum. pref.	3,500,000 ..	Stocks of stores, &c.	1,098,829 .. - 63,652
5 % deb. stock	4,500,000 .. - 125,000	Stocks of crude oil, &c.	798,346 .. + 186,288
6 1/2 % notes	2,000,000 .. + 2,000,000	Sundry debtors	2,600,899 .. + 208,409
Int. accrued deb. stock	67,083 .. + 9,270	Cash	876,359 .. + 315,177
Deposits by associated cos.	2,089,444 .. + 320,825	Investments in Govt. stocks	.. - 594,428
Sundry creditors	2,673,233 .. + 223,497		
Employees' pension fund acct.	1,089,812 .. + 273,034		
Loan from bankers	.. - 2,879,000		
Reserves	5,283,128 .. + 202,940		
Profit and loss	3,079,144 .. + 86,092		
Total	40,222,844 .. + 382,891	Total	40,222,844 .. + 382,891

WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

August 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Aug. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Aug. 31, 1923.
Ord. shares	1,154,369 ..	Capital expenditure on land, bldgs., plant, machinery, and goodwill	3,464,939 .. + 5,220
Ord. shares	1,782,071 ..	Manchester property expend.	51,359 .. + 51,359
Deferred shares	1,923,013 ..	Investments	1,624,844 .. - 8,443
4 1/2 % deb. stock	1,027,945 ..	Stock-in-trade	526,060 .. - 77,007
Creditors	590,082 .. + 27,586	Debtors	16,586 .. + 1,157
Rents	4,402 .. + 631	Bills receivable	95,773 .. + 9,230
Profit on purchase and cancellation of deb. stock	7,864 ..	Cash	388,481 .. + 96,246
Reserve fund	200,000 .. + 100,000		
Profit and loss	838,200 .. + 217,026		
Total	7,027,926 .. + 345,183	Total	7,027,926 .. + 345,183

JOSHUA HOYLE AND SONS.

September 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
7 1/2 % pref. shares	1,000,000 ..	Land, buildings, &c.	2,189,124 .. + 29,041
Ordinary shares	800,000 ..	Stock-in-trade and sundry stores	1,143,304 .. - 78,738
7 1/2 % deb. stock	1,464,452 .. - 18,375	Accounts owing to company & cash in hand	795,616 .. + 120,018
Interest accrued	19,862 .. - 249	Investments	25,293 .. - 5,000
Renewals and reserve fund	225,000 .. + 25,000		
Ordinary loans	239,687 .. + 85,795		
Accounts owing by company	339,356 .. - 31,072		
Profit and loss	64,980 .. + 4,172		
Total	4,153,337 .. + 65,321	Total	4,153,337 .. + 65,321

ABRATED BREAD COMPANY, LIMITED.

September 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
Ord. shares	977,500 ..	Property & plant	1,281,689 .. + 124,260
8 1/2 % cum. pref.	600,000 ..	Stocks	85,448 .. - 8,895
6 1/2 % deb. stock	94,105 .. + 8,550	Sundry debtors	42,990 .. + 1,855
Sundry creditors	28,000 .. + 10,000	Stiff pensions fund	28,000 .. + 1,000
Reserve fund	40,000 .. + 1,000	Investments	258,608 .. - 100,705
Unclaimed divs.	112,874 .. + 17,876	Cash and cash assets	54,744 .. + 19,911
Profit and loss	..		
Total	1,752,479 .. + 37,426	Total	1,752,479 .. + 37,426

INDIA RUBBER, GUTTA PERCHA, AND TELEGRAPH WORKS.

August 31, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
Ord. shares	750,000 ..	Properties and machinery	738,184 .. - 14,005
Pref. shares	400,000 ..	Debts owing to company	182,542 .. - 188,651
Debentures	200,000 .. + 40,000	Bills receivable	5,547 .. - 1,418
Reserve	262,474 .. - 231,129	Cash	134,119 .. + 29,296
Debtors	84 .. + 48	Stock-in-trade	325,732 .. - 4,235
Unclaimed divs.	59,475 .. + 11,318	Shares in other companies, &c.	52,669 .. + 2,040
Profit and loss	..	Cash, stock, debts, &c.	603,240 .. - 1,790
Total	1,942,033 .. - 179,763	Total	1,942,033 .. - 179,763

SLATERS, LIMITED.

September 30, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
Ord. shares	255,000 ..	Freehold prop'ties	130,935 .. + 9,222
Pref. shares	100,000 ..	Leasehold prop'ties	313,476 .. + 10,692
4 1/2 % deb. stock	100,000 ..	Goodwill	124,500 ..
Reserve fund	6,718 .. - 2,903	Fixtures, &c.	72,539 .. + 6,550
Development res.	110,505 .. + 6,105	Plant, &c.	5,512 .. + 324
Leases reserve	..	Horses, &c.	6,119 .. - 1,578
Reserve for dilapidations	15,754 .. - 3,462	Debtors	21,852 .. + 2,820
Advances	39,549 .. + 7,367	Stocks	20,736 .. + 1,105
Creditors	802 .. + 67	Investments	29,861 ..
Unclaimed divs.	..	Cash	1,522 .. + 648
Deb. int. accrued	877 .. + 1,048		
Bank overdraft	5,208 .. + 21,561		
Profit and loss	45,569 ..		
Total	727,052 .. + 29,783	Total	727,052 .. + 29,783

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1922.	1923.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Aug.	235,696	235,357	563,292,105	+ 90,181,967	136,519,553	+ 49,897,394
Sept.	235,525	235,611	544,770,233	+ 44,549,658	129,300,309	+ 37,441,385
Oct.	236,015	235,608	586,328,886	+ 37,248,224	141,922,971	+ 20,895,578
Nov.	235,748	235,589	530,106,708	+ 7,648,500	124,931,518	+ 7,307,781
Dec.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550	- 19,212,804	106,248,158	- 2,439,152
1923.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.	1924.
Jan.	235,886	238,698	467,887,013	+ 33,610,894	83,953,867	+ 9,412,300
Feb.	235,526	235,506	477,809,944	+ 31,939,712	104,117,278	+ 33,387,370
Mar.	235,520	235,715	504,016,114	+ 30,628,340	114,754,514	+ 2,914,076
Apr.	234,970	235,903	474,094,758	+ 48,242,116	101,600,719	+ 21,294,242
May	234,452	235,894	476,458,749	+ 70,476,133	96,048,087	+ 30,448,063
June	235,691	236,001	464,759,956	+ 75,442,339	101,527,990	+ 28,846,602

Reports and Notices.

The directors of the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Limited, report that none of their properties is in any way affected by the recent earthquake in Java. The estates of the Besoeeki Plantations, Limited, and the Java United Plantations, Limited, and the Java Investment, Loan and Agency, Limited, are far distant from the scene of the earthquake.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., having joined the Cabinet, he has relinquished his post as chairman of the United Anthracite Collieries, Limited. The board has elected Mr F. A. Szarvasy as chairman, and Mr Daniel Daniel, who has a life-long experience in the anthracite business, has accepted the post of managing director.

The Right Hon. Sir Auckland C. Geddes, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., has been elected a director of the Rio Tinto Company, Limited, in place of the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bart., M.P., who has resigned on being appointed to the Cabinet.

The Right Honourable Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, P.C., K.B.E., M.C., M.P., has retired from the board of the Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company, Limited, on accepting office as President of the Board of Trade.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

CANADA (£5,000,000 DOMINION OF CANADA 4½ PER CENT. BONDS 1920-1925).—The Bank of Montreal announce that the Government of the Dominion of Canada notify that it has been decided to exercise its option to redeem the above-named bonds, subject to three months' notice. These bonds will, therefore, be repaid on February 13, 1925, on which date interest will cease. Interest from November 1, 1924, to February 13, 1925, will be paid along with the principal. The bonds (with the unmatured coupon due May 1, 1925, attached) must be presented for redemption to the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle street, London, E.C.2, who will carry out the redemption on behalf of the Government of the Dominion of Canada. Listing forms can be obtained from the Bank of Montreal on and after February 2, 1925, and bonds should be left three clear days before the above-mentioned redemption date.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.—In accordance with the provisions of Article 57 of the Lausanne Treaty, which came into force on August 6, 1924, the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt notify holders of coupons of bonds of the Ottoman 4 per Cent. Unified Converted Debt 1903-1906 that the prescription period of six years for coupons, which fell due before October 29, 1914, and which have not been presented for payment, is suspended from that date to November 6, 1924, and that the remaining portion of the said period of prescription for these coupons will again become operative from November 6, 1924. With regard to the coupons falling due during the period beginning on October 29, 1914, and ending on November 6, 1924, which have not been presented for payment, the prescription period will only operate from the latter date.

SALVADOR REVENUE.—Cabled advice received from Messrs F. J. Lisman and Co., of New York, states:—"Total Customs revenues of Salvador collected for ten months, \$3,876,876. Interest and sinking fund requirements for 'A' bonds, \$379,758, and for the 'B' bonds, \$269,000."

BANKS.

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER SOCIETE ANONYME.—This important Belgian banking institution has just issued its report and balance-sheet for the year ended June 30, 1924. The following comparative table of balance-sheets reveals an interesting record of progress:—

	Year Ended June 30,		
	1922.	1923.	1924.
Net profit of the business year	Francs. 8,008,714	Francs. 9,478,582	Francs. 12,238,806
Dividend	7%†	7%*	8%*
Capital—			
Subscribed	100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000
Paid up	75,000,250	75,000,250	75,000,250
Reserves	19,962,294	21,852,280	24,000,000
Sundry creditors	626,676,194	603,353,525	610,789,934
Acceptances	26,687,331	69,266,319	60,266,692
Note issue in China ..	1,679,019	2,443,964	2,163,121
Cash	144,087,491	124,218,085	113,984,928
Loans	37,268,217	37,393,610	68,721,150
Sundry debtors	243,919,595	288,021,726	278,788,626
Investments	69,948,067	85,319,446	99,352,782
Bills receivable	229,012,890	170,109,014	153,304,792
Total of balance-sheet ..	787,813,552	810,094,670	813,949,553

† Less tax. * Tax free.

Value of coupon (fully-paid shares) 1922, 31.50f; 1923, 35.00f; 1924, 40.00f.

The report states, amongst other interesting details, that in spite of the obstacles in the way of trade resulting from the uncertainty of the international situation and the consequent variations in rates of exchange, the affairs of the bank continue to expand without interruption.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.—The extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, held in Milan on the 7th inst., sanctioned the proposal for increasing the capital from 400,000,000 lire to 500,000,000 lire. The new shares will be issued at 900 lire, and will be offered to present shareholders at the rate of one new share for every four shares held.

INSURANCE.

UNITED INSURANCE (AUSTRALIA).—The balance of the profit and loss account for the year ending September 30, 1924, is £74,711. A dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared, and 5,000 unallotted shares are being issued at £5 each, appropriating £25,000 from profit and loss for payment of same. To the reserves £11,752 has been added, and the balance of £2,959 carried to the contingent account. The capital of the company is £1,000,000, of which £375,000 will be paid up. The total assets amount to £853,914.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.—The 43rd report just issued provides the following interesting comparative table:—

	GROSS EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE.				
	General Earnings.	Coal Earnings.	Total Earnings.	Total Expenditure.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
In 1920-21 ..	10,06,484	5,81,694	15,88,178	12,59,699	
In 1921-22 ..	10,19,084	6,97,253	17,16,337	12,38,692	
In 1922-23 ..	11,79,717	7,58,158	19,37,875	13,40,935	
In 1923-24 ..	13,50,342	6,85,928	20,36,270	15,14,523	

The total capital expenditure on the collieries, saw mills, and brick works remains at £365,982. After payment of debenture interest, and allowing for all the preference dividends paid or accrued to date of the balance-sheet, there remained a balance at credit of net revenue account of £81,833 16s 6d. Out of this the directors have to provide £50,400 for the service of the "A" stock, the dividends on which have been paid at the usual dates, the interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the "B" stock, and out of the balance available recommend the payment of a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the "B" stock, and that £5,000 be written off the discount on debentures, leaving £2,433 16s 6d to be carried forward.

BARCELONA TRACTION, LIGHT, AND POWER.—The reorganisation of the finances of the Barcelona Traction, Light, and Power Company, Limited, approved by the bondholders in June, has been successfully carried through. The comparative statements have been prepared on the instructions of the board in order that holders of the company's securities may be informed of the result of the re-arrangement of the bond and share capital of the company and the reduction of the annual charges resulting therefrom. The comparative statement of bond issues and share capital as at December 31, 1923, and after the reorganisation will be found in our advertisement columns.

CARGO FLEET IRON.—The net profit, after payment of debenture interest for year ended September 30, 1924, amounted to £60,250, against £55,957 in preceding year. The sum of £50,000 is put to depreciation, and £212,809 carried forward, against £202,650 brought in. The sum of £12,500 4½ per cent. debentures have been cancelled. Total assets are £2,568,619. Cash at bankers and in hand amounts to £76,932. Cash on deposit at bank in names of trustees for debenture holders amounts to £45,007. Government securities amount to £50,216. Debtors stand at £217,866. Stocks are at £241,404. With regard to liabilities, the ordinary issued share capital is £1,000,000 in £1 shares. There are no preference shares. The 4½ per cent. debentures outstanding amount to £234,000, while 6 per cent. debentures outstanding amount to £496,500. General reserve is at £150,000. Creditors stand at £368,095.

COMPANHIA DE MOCAMBIQUE.—Movement of the Port of Beira for the first nine months, compared with the similar period of 1923, 419,487 tons, against 368,293 tons.

SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON.—The report just issued for payment of debenture interest, shows that net profit, after pares with £168,609 in preceding year, amounted to £93,144 which is again 10 per cent. for the year. The ordinary dividend to depreciation, and £203,816 is carried forward, against £203,671 brought in. Total assets are £2,951,061. Investments stand at £521,091, of which £502,500 are in Government securities. Cash stands at £46,785. Debtors are at £311,299. Stocks stand at fund of £1,445,783. Creditors stand at £310,246. Ordinary share capital is £350,000 in £1 shares. There are £300,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each. The issued 4½ per cent. debenture stock is £300,000.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Climatic conditions were more favourable for field work during the week, a spell of cold, dry weather enabling farmers to push ahead with ploughing and seeding operations. Threshings were on a larger scale, but a good deal of the quantity marketed is in a damp condition. Quotations are on the easy side, and range from 12s to 12s 10d per 112 lbs, free on rail, according to quality. Imported grades move off quietly, and prices moved in a downward direction following the decline in c.i.f. values. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 68s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 63s 6d, No. 1 Northern Duluth 63s, and choice white Karachi, 63s 3d, all per 496 lbs ex ship terms. In the floating and forward cargo section business made quiet progress, apart from some inquiry for white kinds, and with more favourable crop news from the Argentine, prices mark a decline for all descriptions. Steamers of Australian December changed hands at 65s 3d, February 64s 9d to 64s 7½d, ditto January-February 64s 4½d, sailer ditto March 64s 3d, choice white Karachi affoot 62s, ditto end November early December 64s 1½d, Rosafe 63½ lbs old and/or new expected to load December 5th 64s, No. 2 hard winter January, 63s 9d. Flour cargoes depressed, owing to lack of demand, and liberal offerings, especially in near positions, and a steamer of La Plata affoot sold at 42s, all per 480 lbs c.i.f. terms. Flour, quiet, and tendency easier in sympathy with the wheat position. London standard straight run quoted 51s, patents 53s to 54s, town whites 51s, all per sack delivered in Metropolitan area, with outside districts at 1s per sack extra. Country straights from all English wheat 44s to 45s per sack free on rail at London stations. Imported, quietly steady. Manitoba patents range from 49s to 52s, Minneapolis 49s 6d to 51s 6d, Australian 46s 6d ex store, and Kansas patents 47s ex ship, all per 280 lbs. Barley, quiet and easier. Californian 70s-74s, Chilean brewing 80s-88s, Polish ex store 62s-68s per 448 lbs No. 4 Canadian Western ex ship 39s, Danubian, Persian, also American malting (48 lbs) 39s, all ex ship per 400 lbs. English American malting (48 lbs) 39s, all ex ship per 400 lbs. English ranges from 11s 9d-23s per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize, quiet, and prices again lower. Plate ex ship quoted 40s 3d-40s 6d, ditto landed 42s 3d, and Odessa in latter position 42s 3d per 480 lbs. Oats, dull and weaker. Plate ex ship quoted 29s, ditto landed new 30s, No. 2 Canadian Western ex ship 33s 3d, ditto landed 34s 9d, American white clipper 38 lbs landed 31s, all per 320 lbs. English 8d-10s 10d per 112 lbs free on rail. Millers' offals, quiet. Broad bran quoted 9s 3d, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 13s 3d, bags included, ex mill. Light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks, 9s 9d, feed oatmeal 10s 9d, ground oats 14s 9d, all per cwt free on rail. Oatmeal, quietly steady. London-made flaked 20s, rolled oats, 19s 6d, medium, also fine cut 19s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 19s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 21s, American and Canadian rolled oats 20s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Nov. 15	Cwts. 231,285	Cwts. 392,377	Cwts. 461,658	Cwts. 301,137
11 weeks to Nov. 15	2,672,734	4,469,166	4,812,158	4,036,137
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s d 12 6	s d 9 3	s d 9 11	s d 10 7

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Nov. 8	Cwts. 235,409	Cwts. 525,847	Cwts. 102,395	s d 12 9	s d 16 9	s d 10 4
Nov. 15	231,285	499,156	83,125	12 6	15 11	10 2
1920	353,636	712,425	52,246	21 0	25 1	18 7
1921	301,136	544,632	50,277	10 7	13 7	9 6
1922	461,657	471,893	80,379	9 11	11 2	9 8
1923	392,377	646,419	72,487	9 3	10 7	8 8

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated November 20, 1924, is as follows:—Pig-iron: There has been a fair amount of inquiry for export, no doubt due to the rise in Continental pig-iron, and Cleveland producers are rather firmer in their quotations. The price of No. 3 Cleveland is not less than 82s per ton, whilst East Coast mixed numbers hematite are still maintained at 88s 6d per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: The steel works are getting more orders and specifications, but are not yet working to their full capacity, as there is not sufficient new business to warrant them extending their output at present. Prices remain unchanged as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: There has been some business done for delivery over the remainder of this year and the first few months of next year, based on best rubio at about 22s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Conditions in the market for raw and partly manufactured iron and steel remain much as

before as regards the booking of work, but a slight change for the better can be noted, and there is a decidedly hopeful feeling abroad. Sellers seem inclined to stand out for firmer prices, and any appreciable increase in demand is almost certain to stiffen them. Very little forward buying has, however, taken place up to the present time. The engineering industry continues to be disappointing as a whole, although improving in parts, and there is a great amount of slackness among machine tool and stationary engine builders. Railway work is increasing, both as regards the home and the export markets, and substantial foreign orders for locomotives are in hand. In axle tyres and springs new work, although considerable in amount, scarcely keeps pace with output. As the file trade constitutes a reliable index of the state of all kinds of workshops, it is encouraging to learn of increasing activity in that department. To-day's output of 70 per cent. of capacity compares very favourably with any period since 1919, and at one time the output was less than half capacity. Depression still obtains in the coal market, and sales of house coal for the winter have this year been much below the average. Quietude is the rule in exports, gas coal, and all kinds of manufacturing fuel. The output of coke is considerably in excess of consumption. Prices are nominal for the most part. Best hand-picked branch coal commands 31s to 32s, and South Yorkshire hards about 20s or 20s 6d at pits. Very low figures have been taken for nuts and smalls.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Improved conditions prevail in the iron and steel market. Pig-iron is in good demand for home trade, and there has also been some buying for export. Prices are firm at last advance. The shipments from Glasgow harbour totalled 1,549 tons, of which 960 tons was on overseas account. For the corresponding week last year the respective tonnages were 2,183 and 2,045 tons. The heavy steel trade shows signs of revival, some fairly good lines of plate and sectional material having been secured. The demand is not so far of large dimensions, but the feeling is general that the next two or three months will see a decided improvement. Very few new ships are being ordered, but strong hopes are entertained that this industry will shortly see better times. The Scotch coal trade this week shows some slight improvement on the depressed conditions lately existing, several parcels having been disposed of on account of Italian buyers. Bar iron is in small request, and keen cutting on the part of Belgian works has deprived re-rollers here of some good export trade. Sheet makers are again busy, the market showing considerable liveliness. Higher prices rule for most gauges. The demand for galvanised sheets shows little sign of slackening, and large tonnages have been booked during the past week. Makers have advanced prices by about 15s per ton, the lowest quotation now being £17 10s. Recent orders placed include an order for a powerful screw tug, which the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company have placed with Messrs Henry Robb, Limited, Leith.



ARCOS LTD

SOVIET HOUSE

49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

Turnover (June, 1920, to October, 1924) £46,141,420

BRANCHES:

MOSCOW: Tverskaya 1, (Ugol Pl. Revelutskii).
CONSTANTINOPLE: Grande rue de Pera, No. 464.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg Trading Corporation, 136, Liberty Street, New York.

LENINGRAD: Ul. Cortezna, 24.
KHARKOV: Chernogolovskaya, 1.
TIFLIS: 38 Rustaveli Prospekt.
RIGA: Valdemara iela 61, dz. 3.

Next Tuesday will see the opening of the final series of sales for the year in Coleman street, there being no less than 132,000 bales available. This quantity is above an average compared with previous years for a November-December series, and we hope that everything will be sold, and ready to start the new year with entirely new clip wools. We understand that there is available some very good Queensland new clip wools, and possibly West Australia and New South Wales will also be represented, while nobody need be surprised if some of Adelaide and Perth first sales' wools are also available. The trade seems fully ready for the auctions, and we anticipate a very good time. Prices for merinos will, in all probability, rule fully up to the close of the last series. Some talk of a 5 per cent. advance, but we fail to see its justification. Notwithstanding reported advances from Australia, the clean scoured cost is no more than what was ruling in Coleman street at the close of last series, and any advance in merinos should be well covered with 5 per cent.

The trade is looking towards crossbreds for a sensible advance, and to per cent. is freely talked about in medium and coarse qualities. No doubt there will be a keen demand, with possibly some American competition. All the same, the home trade is prepared to purchase all the crossbreds available, and there should be a good, healthy, sound series. We do not see the least justification for anyone to lose their head.

THE TIMBER MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The cold snap of wintry weather this week was not necessary to remind those engaged in the timber trade that the close of the season is drawing near—to the majority in this country it cannot close early enough. Nature, however, has played some pranks with those engaged in the trade for the past few years, the cold days of late November invariably being followed by mild weather and a very late close of navigation.

There cannot be said to have been much change in the market for building timber since our report in the *Economist* a month ago. Cargoes have been arriving in large numbers, much larger than for the corresponding periods of 1923 and 1922, and for the year the import has been considerably beyond those of its immediate predecessors. Thus stocks of nearly all descriptions are heavy, particularly in London and at some of the ports on the East Coast. Finland has shipped very largely to this country this season, and Russia is again coming well forward. Latvian and Polish timbers have also increased in import, but the Swedish arrivals are not so heavy as a year ago—the Swedish wood is available for shipment, but the f.o.b. rates of the past six weeks have been too low to attract all sellers, some of whom are not willing to make too great a sacrifice of their unsold balances.

Although the spot market is depressed by the weight of stock, the consumption of North of Europe deals, battens, and scantlings is by no means unsatisfactory, for it is estimated that though the supplies in London are much larger than a year ago, at present rates of consumption their duration of life in the store ground is shorter, present stocks of the above being estimated at nearly four and a half months, not a long period should ice set in early and prevent many cargoes from reaching here this season.

Prices, on the whole, have weakened considerably during the past two months, but should firm up a month or so hence; they already show improvement. European floorings for houses, large and small, are in good supply. Of Canadian spruce the stocks are lighter than a year ago, but the demand is very poor. American pitchpine is also in poor request, due to the continued slackness in the shipbuilding and other industries in which this wood finds a place. Stocks in London of pitchpine in the log are large, but the high ideas of shippers in the States and the improving demand there prevent any fall in values on this side, prices being firm. For teak values are steady; deliveries have shown improvement over the month, and, compared with 1923, for the year, and stocks are light. A revival of our leading industries would be an immediate call for larger quantities of teak—in fact, for all woods.

In other hardwoods the imports for the month and for the year show considerable increases. Mahogany in log form is improving in volume of import, and is welcome, provided that the timber is of good dimensions and quality, while the continued heavy supplies of oak, poplar, gum, ash, mahogany, and walnut in boards and planks from the United States are providing a sufficiency of raw material for the cabinet and furniture trades. For these prices keep firm.

In colliery timber there has been a considerable decline in the import trade this year, due to the falling off of the French supplies of nearly 200,000 loads compared with a year ago. This denotes a lessened consumption in our very depressed South Wales coal fields. There is also a falling off in the Finnish and Swedish imports of this class of timber for our northern collieries.

In native grown woods there is a good demand for best qualities of ash, oak, sycamore, &c., but the poor grades are hard to clear.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

The hide market continues to show an advancing tendency, and prices all over the world are firmer. At the Bermondsey auctions on Thursday, best ox sold from 8½d to 9½d, and seconds from 7d to 8½d—fractional advances being obtained in several classes. Best heavy cows made 7½d and kips from 4½d to 7½d. Calf were very firm, and advances of ½d to 1d were obtained. Best sold from 8½d to 16d per lb. in view of a strong demand from light leather tanners. Wools sold from 8s 2d to 12s 6d, and hogs from 9s to

20s 6d each. The fregoric market is excited with higher prices asked; best Argentines have made 10d, and Montevideos 10½d, and as killings show a decline, higher prices are possible. Dry hides are also dearer, and 11½d to 11½d has been paid for Americanos. Capes have been in good demand, and Australian hides—although higher in price—have sold well. The Chicago position is cabled as strong, with best heavy packers now selling at 18 cents.

Upper leather is in moderate demand at higher prices. Both German and American patent has again advanced, whilst imported willow calf of German origin is now on a basis which will permit of home competition. Glacé kid is quiet, but kip leathers are meeting with an improved demand.

Most of the shoe trade centres report business as moderate. Good orders have been received from multiple distributors for spring and winter goods, but dating forward seems a common complaint.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Trade in oils this week has been on quiet lines. Linseed oil has declined in sympathy with seed, and about £45 per ton naked ex Hull mill now represents current value for delivery to the end of December, with new year oil indicating slightly less. Consumers do not appear to be in any hurry to anticipate requirements, and are looking to more favourable opportunities. Cotton oils have been inactive, and prices have been reduced, crude Egyptian now offering at £46 10s and technical refined at £47 15s per ton ex Hull mill. Palm kernel, soya, and ground nut oils are in poor demand.

In the oilseed section oilseed had a sharp setback on the publication of the official estimate of the new Argentine crop placing the probable yield at 1,350,000 tons, or considerably higher than market opinion, which up to recently expected a yield of a million tons.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, November 21.

SUGAR.—The refined market exhibited firmer features in face of improved trading for all descriptions. British standards were raised 6d on the spot, and 6d to 1s per cwt for forward delivery. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes quoted 38s 9d to 39s 9d; crushed, 37s 3d; granulated, 35s 4½d to 35s 10½d; ditto November, 35s 3d; December, 35s 3d; and yellow crystals, spot, 31s 10½d. English-grown granulated firmer at 34s, prompt delivery, ex works Norfolk. Imported descriptions experienced a much better demand, and the general trend of values moved in sellers' favour. White Java, spot, sold, 32s 4½d to 32s 9d; Belgian granulated, 33s; Dutch "J.", 33s 6d to 33s 9d; and Czecho at 34s. Forward positions also shared in the improvement, and a good business transpired in near positions of

Continental granulated, though top points were not maintained. Czecho, ready, sold at 20s 4½d to 20s 1½d; November, 20s 3d to 20s 1½d; December, 20s to 19s 9d; and April-June, 19s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. Belgian granulated, ready, done, 19s 4½d to 19s 3d; December, 19s 1½d to 19s, f.o.b., Antwerp. Dutch met a December, 19s 1½d to 19s, f.o.b., Rotterdam. Offers of 20s 1½d; and December, 20s, f.o.b., Rotterdam. Offers of Continental cubes remain scarce, as refiners appear to be manufacturing smaller quantities than usual. Raw kinds attracted more attention at full rates. Peruvian, 96 per cent. afloat, sold up to 17s, and Continental beet, 88 per cent. November, done, 16s 6d to 16s 9d, c.i.f. terms U.K. India remained a quiet market, with buyers of Hungarian crystals, January-March shipment, at 20s 3d. Mauritius crystals, November-January, quoted 20s 3d, both c. and f. Bombay, and white Java, January-March, quoted 21s 6d; July-September, 18s 6d, c. and f. Calcutta. There was a fairly extensive business in the white terminal market, but prices very irregular in sympathy with fluctuating advices from New York. November, sold, 19s 9d to 19s 10½d and 19s 7½d; December, 18s 7½d to 19s 3d and 18s 6d; March, 18s 10½d to 19s and 18s 4½d; May, 18s 10½d to 19s 1½d and 18s 6d; August, 19s 1½d to 19s 4½d to 18s 10½d, and 18s 7½d per cwt. Cuban receipts for past week totalled 8,863 tons, compared with 2,076 tons at corresponding period last year, exports 33,806 tons against 12,167 tons, and stock 85,113 tons, against 63,042 tons at same time last year.

TEA.—Public sales this week comprised 50,958 packages Indian, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the week. All descriptions move off readily into consumption, so that increased arrivals during the present year have been mostly accounted for. Imports into the United Kingdom during the past ten months totalled 384,242,000 lbs, compared with 356,563,000 lbs at corresponding period last year. Stocks on Oct. 31st amounted to only 149,494,000 lbs, against 146,999,000 lbs at same time in 1923, heavy takings by the home trade, together with a large export demand, accounting for the small increase. Despite a steady falling off in quality usually noticeable at this period of the year in finest grades, these continue to command extreme rates. The Indian crop up to the end of October was 6,000,000 lbs smaller than last year, 10,812 Ceylon, and 4,117 Java and Sumatra. The market again displayed marked strength under brisk competition both on home and export account, with common and low medium grades ruling from ½d to 1½d per lb dearer on the

[illegible]

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES, LIMITED

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

For the Twelve Months ended the 30th June, 1924,

To be submitted to Shareholders at the Thirty-sixth Ordinary General Meeting to be held on the 5th December, 1924.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.—Gentlemen,—Your Directors beg to submit their Thirty-sixth Annual Report. Balance Sheet at 30th June, 1924, Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June, 1924, and Appropriation Account, 30th June, 1924.

The undistributed balance at 30th June, 1923, was represented by:—
 Suspense Profit Account—Diamonds unsold at that date, £22,584 11 8
 £233,271 1s 10d; Balance unappropriated, £89,513 9s 10d 3,452,541 5 8
 During the year the Diamond Account amounted to 3,452,541 5 8
 Add to this the following:—Interest and Dividends on Investments, £301,673 8s 11d; Profits realised on sale of Investments, £4,619 17s 4d; Net Income from Farms, Landed Property and Electric Railway, £8,601 4s 11d; Income from other sources, £11,422 7s 2d 226,316 18 4

Deduct Expenditure as follows:—Mining Expenditure, £1,817,125 11s 7d; Donations and Relief, £10,970 7s 2d; Allowances to Employees, £46,182 13s 9d; Directors' Fees, Salaries and General Charges, £91,373 13s 10d; Exchange on Remittances, £26,948 14s 11d; Other Charges, £35,967 13s 11d; Interest on Debentures and on Capital of Lease Companies, £164,469 19s 8d; Sinking Fund towards repayment of Debentures, £92,173 19s 11d; Depreciation, £54,000 2,537,992 14 9

Leaving a balance of £1,864,220 0 11
 Which has been dealt with as follows:—Union of South Africa Income Tax and Provincial Tax, £191,279 18s 4d; Preference Shareholders' Dividend after deduction of Dividend Tax, £740,000; Deferred Shareholders' Dividend free of Dividend Tax, £525,722 £1,457,001 18 6

Balance undistributed carried to next year:—Suspense Profit Account—Diamonds unsold 30th June, 1924, £233,271 1s 10d; Balance unappropriated, £73,852 18s 4d £497,218 2 5

The stock of blue ground and lumps on the floors at 30th June, 1924, was as follows:—De Beers Mine, 48,396 loads; Wessleton Mine, 415,289 loads; Bultfontein Mine, 425,004 loads; Dutoitspan Mine, 2,769,772 loads—3,658,461 loads.

During the period under review the diamond market remained steady, and it is gratifying to record that there has been an increase in the sales as compared with the previous year.

In February last a Conference of Representatives of the four large Diamond Producers and the Diamond Syndicate was held in Johannesburg, resulting in contracts being entered into for the disposal of the Producers' diamonds to the Syndicate for the six months ended 30th June, 1924. Since that date further negotiations with the Syndicate have resulted in an extension of those contracts, with slight modifications, for the six months ending 31st December, 1924.

The agreement at present existing between the four Conference Producers, under which each Producer is allotted a fixed quota of the total quantity (based on value) of diamonds put upon the market by those Producers, expires on the 31st December next. In April last representatives of the Company attended a Conference held at Cape Town, with the object of discussing the question of a renewal of that agreement.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1924.

	£	s	d		£	s	d		£	s	d
Capital Authorised:—											
800,000 Preference Shares at £2 10s each	2,000,000	0	0								
1,100,100 Deferred Shares at £2 10s each	2,200,200	0	0								
	4,200,200	0	0								
Capital Issued:—											
800,000 Preference Shares at £2 10s each	2,000,000	0	0								
1,051,444 Deferred Shares at £2 10s each	2,102,888	0	0								
	4,102,888	0	0								
De Beers 4½ per cent. South African Exploration Debentures, secured by Mortgage of Assets purchased from the London and South African Exploration Company, Limited, redeemable by 1st January, 1930	1,635,495	0	0								
Appropriation for Stabilisation of the Diamond Trade, invested in other Diamond Mining Companies and Kindred Interests	2,573,841	16	0								
Reserves (per contra):—General Fund, £1,245,465 7s 9d; Redemption Fund:—South African Exploration Debentures, £1,016,058 14s 2d 2,262,424 1 11											
Blue Ground Stocks 30th June, 1924, at cost	651,478	0	0								
	2,913,902	1 11									
Current Liabilities:—On Shares in other Diamond Mining Companies, £143,250; Cape Explosives Works, Limited, £106,742 10s 2d; Kofffontein Mines Loan and Interest Account, £254,035 12s 9d; Loans and Open Accounts, £146,587 17s 1d; Unclaimed Dividends and Sundries, £20,178 17s 6d; Interest on Debentures accrued to date, £34,038 14s 10d; Commissioner for Inland Revenue—Union of South Africa, £158,211 3s; Commissioners of Inland Revenue—Great Britain, £43,000; Preference Shareholders—Dividend declared 18th June, 1924, £370,000; Deferred Shareholders—Dividend declared 18th June, 1924, £255,722 1,861,766 15 4											
Suspense Profit:—Diamonds unsold at date (per contra)	226,316	18	4								
Balance transferred from Appropriation Account	73,852	18	4								
Contingent Liability:—The Company has guaranteed the repayment of, and interest on, £1,250,000 5½ per cent. 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock issued by the Cape Explosives Works, Limited, Somerset West, Cape Province.											
	214,020,833	15	8								

We certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and that we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, including the Audited returns of the London Transfer Office, and find the same to be correct.
 Kimberley, 10th September, 1924.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30th June, 1924.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
DR.				CR.			
To Mining Expenditure	1,817,125	11	7	By Diamond Account	3,452,541	5	8
Charges:—Salaries, etc., Head Office, £30,125 2s 4d; General Charges, £36,160 1s 7d; Exchange on Remittances, £26,948 14s 11d; Legal Expenses, £1,046 2s 3d; Donations and Relief, £10,970 7s 2d; Compensation, £2,827 12s 7d; Auditors' Fees, £10,970 7s 2d; Directors' Fees, £25,088 9s 11d; Employees' Provident Fund, Company's Contribution, £5,482 17s 1d; London Transfer Office—Net Expenses, £12,333 4s 1d; Allowances to Employees, £46,182 13s 9d; Amounts paid to Employees during Annual Leave, £9,977 17s 11d 269,443 3 7				Interest and Dividends on Investments after adjustment of Reserve and Special Investments to Market Prices or under at 30th June, 1924	10,600	13	2
Interest on Capital of Leased Companies	73,597	5	6	Sundry Receipts	301,673	8	11
Interest on Debentures	96,392	10	0	Net Revenue from Farms, Landed Property and Kimberley—Alexanderfontein Electric Railway	8,601	4	11
Less Union of South Africa Normal Tax, 1s 6d in the £	5,519	15	10	Transfer Fees	822	14	0
Sinking Fund for Repayment of Debentures	68,077	9	8	Profits Realized on Investments	4,619	17	4
Depreciation	54,000	0	0				
Balance carried to Appropriation Account	1,431,635	9	3				
	£3,778,858	4	0				

No decision was come to by the Conference, which was adjourned sine die, but it is hoped that a renewal of the agreement will be come to, with some slight modifications. Your Directors are pleased to be able to report that the profits made during the year permitted the declaration of a dividend of 10s per share, free of dividend tax, to Deferred Shareholders as at 30th June, 1924; the first dividend paid on Deferred Shares since December, 1920.

The usual dividend of 20s per share was paid to Preference Shareholders during the year.

During the year mining operations were resumed at Wessleton Mine. The Crushing and Washing Plant at Wessleton which was completed and put into operation during the year is working satisfactorily, and at present ground direct from Wessleton Mine, as well as ground from Dutoitspan Floors, is being treated there. The ground from Bultfontein Mine is crushed and washed by another plant situated on Bultfontein Floors.

The Accounts for last year disclosed the fact that there was an unissued balance of 48,556 shares of the 100,000 new Deferred Shares created in accordance with the resolution passed by Shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 29th December, 1922. On the 30th June last your Directors issued a Notice to Deferred Shareholders of the Company offering to sell these unissued shares at £10 per share at the rate of one new share for every 25 shares held; while in respect of fractions of 25 shares Shareholders were entitled to apply for a cash payment at the rate of 1s 6d per share held. A total of 38,695 new Deferred shares has been taken up by the Shareholders, leaving a balance of 9,861 shares still unissued.

Your Directors have to report the resignation of Mr. G. W. Compton from the Board of the Company as from the 1st December, 1923, and in doing so they place on record their deep regret at losing the valuable services of their esteemed colleague, who had served the Company ever since its inception in 1888. The vacancy on the Board has been filled by the appointment of his son, Mr. A. G. W. Compton.

The Cape Explosives Works, Limited, which was owned and controlled by your Company, was, as from 1st January, 1924, merged, on a basis of equality, with the South African interests of Nobel Industries, Limited. A new (Company) styled African Explosives & Industries, Limited, was formed to take over the merged interests, and was registered on the 21st March, 1924. Your Company is represented on the Board of the new Company by Mr. P. Ross Frames (as Chairman), Mr. S. B. Joel, the Hon. Hon. E. S. Montagu and Sir Evelyn Wallers.

Pursuant to the intimation contained in last year's report, the Cape Explosives Works, Limited, during the period under review, issued £1,250,000 of 5½ per cent. Debenture Stock in conversion and redemption of the old 7½ per cent. stock. Payment of interest and redemption of the capital of the new issue are guaranteed by the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited, who are indemnified by Nobel Industries, Limited, to the extent of the liability under such guarantee.

A report by the General Manager will be submitted at the Meeting. In terms of Clause 84 (c) of the Company's Articles of Association, three Directors retire, namely, Francis Baring-Gould, Albert George William Compton, Sir David Harris, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

P. ROSS FRAMES, Chairman. W. PICKERING, A. G. W. COMPTON, J. P. RUDD, Directors.
 R. PHILLIPSON-STOW, Kimberley, 13th October, 1924.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,
 Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
 A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1924.

No. 4,240.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

UNDER ITS
 DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM
 OF MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE
 ISSUES

THE BEST POLICY
 FOR A
 BUSINESS MAN

FUNDS : : : £17,500,000

HEAD OFFICE : : : EDINBURGH.
 LONDON: 3, Lombard Street, E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1864.

Capital (paid up):

Eco. 24,000,000

Reserve Funds:

Eco. 34,000,000



Branches as Under.

34 offices in Portugal.
 24 " " East and West Africa.
 5 " " Brazil.
 5 " " India and China.

Also branches in Azores, Madeira, Belgian Congo and Timor.
 Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
 London Office—9 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

New York—Trust Company of North America—38, Liberty Street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
 Capital, Paid Up ... " 348,788,000
 Reserve ... " 200,000,000
 Deposits ... " 6,071,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY

Agencies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliaries:

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARIA, Sofia.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	853	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		A French View of Current	
Great Britain and Egypt ..	855	Money Problems.....	878
The Dollar and the Pound ..	856	Business Forecasting.....	878
Shipping Prospects	857	How to Speak	879
Housing at Home & Abroad ..	859	Books Received	879
Back to the Unions	860	Stock Exchange News—	
Reconstruction Problems in		The Stock Markets.....	879
Hungary	861	New Issues	880
Argentine Land Companies ..	861	Active Securities.....	881
Russia's Rural Economy..	862	Company Meetings	882
Notes of the Week—		Government Returns—	
Russian Treaties Dropped ..	863	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Imperial Preference	863	by Public Tender	892
The Greek Loan.....	864	Currency Notes Account ..	892
Great Britain and Mexico ..	864	Public Income and Expen-	
The New Departure in China ..	865	diture	892
Cotton Trade Short Time..	865	National Debt.....	893
Wages in the Engineering		Bankers' Gazette—	
Trade.....	865	Bank of England	893
American Cotton Crop	865	Clearing Returns	893
The Outlook for Rubber ..	865	Overseas Bank Returns ..	893
Welsh Tinplate Trade	866	Loan and Discount Rates..	895
Commercial Arbitration ..	866	Rates of Exchange.....	895
British Trade with India ..	866	Overseas Bank Rates.....	896
Ecuadorian Exchange	867	India Council Bills and	
The Anglo-Persian Meeting ..	867	Transfers	896
East London Railway Ab-		Bullion.....	896
sorption	867	Imports and Exports of	
British Overseas Bank	868	Gold	896
Dorman, Long's Year	868	Gold and Silver Prices ...	896
Peruvian Corporation	868	Company News—	
Richard Thomas and Co. ..	869	Dividend Announcements..	881
Kamunting Tin	869	Weekly Traffic Returns....	897
London and Rhodesian....	869	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	
Gold Mines Investment ..	869	Reports and Notices	897
Porcupine-Davidson	869	Summary of Company	
Finnish Trade and Finance ..	869	Profit and Loss Accounts	
Overseas Correspondence—		Commercial Reports—	
United States	870	Corn Trade	898
France	871	Iron and Coal Trade	899
Germany	872	Metals	899
Union of South Africa	873	Wool Trade	899
Holland	874	Cotton Trade	900
Poland	875	Vegetable Oils.....	900
Sweden	876	Hide and Leather Trades..	900
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Produce Markets..	900
British Economic Policy in		Price Current	902
Central Europe	876		
Remuneration in Govern-			
ment Service	877		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Copthall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galinani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,

37 Avenue de L'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

A VERY large amount was borrowed from the Bank of England in the early part of the week, and since most of it was left in the bankers' balances, money became plentiful by Thursday, when it was assumed that the pressure caused by the end of the month was over. The ease was

increased by extensive purchases by banks of December Treasury bills at rates ranging down to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The three months' rate, however, remained steady, at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., owing to the large amount of Treasury bills to be paid for next week, and the big repayments due to the Bank, which are expected to offset effectively the proportion of War Loan interest that usually finds its way into the market.

	Nov. 28, 1924.	Nov. 21, 1924.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses Notice	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	..

The Bank return showed a decrease, largely due to increased note circulation, of £837,000 in the Reserve. Borrowing by the market added £6,396,000 to the Other securities, while Government securities declined by £570,000. Deposits thus expanded by five millions, rather more than the whole of which went to Other. Currency notes outstanding were reduced by £502,000 to £285,378,000, which includes £1,362,200 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £234,565,700, being £13,625,200 below the maximum for 1924.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Stock Exchange business, though still of considerable volume, has been somewhat irregular. Activity in the gilt-edged market is spasmodic. Five per cent. War Loan remains firm, but some British Government stocks are slightly easier. The Egyptian crisis caused a fall and recovery in Egyptian bonds, while Turkish bonds rose sharply. The new German scrip rose further, but French issues were erratic. Industrial markets have been animated in places, with tea and whisky shares most prominent for strength. The tone of the rubber share market is stronger, while newspaper and cable companies are among those whose shares have been supported. Gold mining shares are suffering from the fall in the price of gold, fears being entertained of the effect on dividends.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Quietness prevails on the Cardiff coal market. Although prices are maintained for pig-iron, transactions are on a smaller scale. In manufactured iron and steel, works are finding more employment, but there is not sufficient business to warrant the restarting of additional furnaces. Tin prices were irregular, but copper was in good request. The volume of small orders has increased in the cotton trade, whilst in the wool market the London auctions have emphasised the strength of the position. Wheat is higher. Sugar and tea were in demand. Rubber was quiet, and the tendency easier. The hide market is firm. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market showed no signs of revival during the week, and remained featureless and dull throughout, except for the minor and temporary reactions which are referred to below. It will be remembered that none of the principal exchanges, except the dollar, and perhaps at intervals the franc, has commanded any serious attention for some little time past, and the dollar was out of the running for one day out of the six under review owing to the general holiday in New York on the 27th. In the absence of the speculative element, which appears to have burnt its fingers more than once, there is no need to seek further for the causes of this week's stagnation. Opening at 4.63 $\frac{1}{4}$, there was an improvement to 4.63 $\frac{1}{2}$; but on Monday there was a sharp reaction on the news of the happenings in Egypt, and the rate fell to 4.61; it subsequently recovered to 4.63 $\frac{1}{8}$, settling down at the close firmly at 4.63 $\frac{1}{8}$. No great changes have since taken place, and yesterday it was at the same level, approximately, at

which it has been for the past three days, 4.63 $\frac{1}{8}$. The franc seems to find it difficult to shake off the weakness to which it has been subject for some time past, in spite of the external loan of 100 million dollars in New York which was authorised by the Chamber on the 22nd. It is true that as the immediate result of this announcement the rate improved from 87.75 to 87.30, but by Tuesday all the strengthening effect seems to have disappeared, and the rate rose again to 87.90-88. An improvement set in on Thursday, when the rate fell to 87, and this continued yesterday, the rate being 86.40. Whether this improvement is due, as is alleged, to French official intervention, it is, of course, impossible to say; but if it is so due, the note of caution we ventured to express last week as to the mistake of attempting to bring about too rapid an improvement seems to have anticipated the official attitude. By now it should not be difficult for France to know the level at which it would be most advantageous to try to keep her exchange, and with the Morgap loan and other external borrowings, which are the subject of strong rumours, she should have the power to put her ideas into effect. The last Banque de France return shows a net improvement, for, although the note circulation has increased by 83,000,000, advances to the State have decreased by 300 millions. Brussels moved in sympathy with Paris throughout. The lira rate managed to escape the effect of the influences which operated on Brussels and Paris, and remained, with only slight daily variations, in the neighbourhood of its opening level of 106.65. Yesterday the rate was 106.50. The peseta maintained its recovery from last week's enfeebling influences on the reports of the steady execution according to plan of the policy of evacuation in Morocco, and, opening at 33.90, improved to 33.86 on Thursday. Yesterday the rate was firmer at 33.84. Amsterdam is said to have been selling dollars and buying guilders throughout the week, and the rate has hardened steadily from 11.51 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11.47. Switzerland, with minor reactions during the week, remains at its opening level of 24; Helsingfors is $\frac{1}{2}$ worse on balance at 184, and Riga unchanged at 23.91. Christiania at 31.27 is rather worse than its opening rate of 31.12, but Stockholm is rather better at 17.21, as compared with 17.26. Berlin, Vienna, and Warsaw remained unchanged, but Bucharest is rather weaker at 885, as against its opening level of 825. Of the South American exchanges, the milreis is firm at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Buenos Aires stronger at 44 $\frac{1}{4}$ d, as against its opening at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the Far East the yen is stronger again with the prospects of rigid economies in the national finance and promises of a good budget, and, after touching 1s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, is a little weaker at 1s 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The silver market witnessed considerable and almost daily fluctuations during the week, which in the absence of Continental buying, may be attributed to alternate buying and selling by both India and China, and to the influence of the sterling-dollar exchange. While the outlook is rather uncertain, no great changes are anticipated for the present. Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore remained firm and practically unchanged at 2s 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, 3s 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d, and 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The rupee remained very firm at 1s 6d, and sometimes $\frac{3}{4}$ d over.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 22nd:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	7,450	From Revenue	15,901
Interest, &c., on Debt	1,394	Decrease in Exchequer balances	134
Sinking Fund	920		
Sundries	1,488		
Decrease in Debt	4,780		
	16,032		16,032

The Revenue for the week amounted to £15,901,003, as compared with £15,010,030 for the corresponding week last year. Customs were lower, at £1,795,000, against £3,888,000, but Excise was higher, at £7,637,000, against £3,549,000. Estate Duties brought in £1,890,000, as compared with £2,760,000. Property and Income-tax reached £1,182,000, against £974,000, and Super-tax was well maintained, at £400,000, against £430,000. Ordinary receipts were higher, at £267,513, as compared with £263,522, but Special receipts were lower, at £1,059,490, against £1,505,508. The

week's operations reduced the National Debt by £4,780,096, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)	
Treasury Bills	6,001
Treasury Bonds	47
Sundries	122
	+ 6,170
Public Department Advances	10,950
	— 10,950

The floating debt was reduced by £4,960,000 to £787,460,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to November 22).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	472,302,207	Raised by Revenue ..	445,417,527
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,597,294
		Amount borrowed ..	23,287,386
Total	472,302,207	Total	472,302,207
ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Royal Bank of Scotland, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Inveresk Paper Company, Wall Paper Manufacturers, Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, Assam Railways and Trading, South Durham Steel and Iron, Cargo Fleet Iron, Western Telegraph, Joshua Hoyle, and Claudius Ash, Sons and Company. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch at the annual court of the Royal Bank of Scotland referred to the acquisition of Drummond's Bank and the increase of capital. He spoke optimistically of the trade outlook, and, in reference to the recent offer of stock to the staff, stated that 60 per cent. of the staff were now stockholders of the bank. Sir Charles Greenway at the meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, having dealt with unfounded statements made in recent criticisms of the company, referred to the company's oil production, and showed a large increase in tonnage in each year from 1918-19. We discuss his speech in a "Note of the Week."

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include a review of Italy's Economic Position.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

ONCE again we are faced with one of those tragedies—so frequent in the history of the world, and especially in its history during the last ten years—in which the crime of a murderous fanatic has undone the patient work of statesmen, and has brought not only an untimely and unmerited death to the murderer's victim, but trouble and sometimes disaster to many millions of human beings. Only a short time ago we had reason to hope that the Anglo-Egyptian problem was in a fair way to solution. British statesmanship had not been blind to the signs of the times. It had realised that the spirit of nationality was spreading over the world, and that the Islamic countries—Egypt among the rest—were in a state of political transition. In February, 1922, the cry of "Egypt for the Egyptians" was met on our part by the grant of a political independence complete in form so far as it went, though it was pro-

visionally limited by the reservation of certain points in which British imperial responsibilities were involved, such as the safeguarding of our communications across Egyptian territory or territorial waters, the status of the Sudan, and the protection of foreign interests in Egypt itself. These questions were reserved for future negotiation between the British and Egyptian Governments, and in spite of the disappointment in this country at Zaghlul Pasha's intransigence, as revealed again last August in his abortive conference with Mr MacDonald, we still looked forward to a settlement of these reserved points on a basis of conciliation. If Egyptian statesmanship was intransigent, it behoved British statesmanship to be long-suffering. Our position in Egypt was anomalous, and while our imperial interests there were of vital importance to ourselves, the responsibility of reconciling these interests with the legitimate desire of the Egyptian people to live their own independent national life rested upon our shoulders.

Last week we discussed the internal situation in Egypt, and the way in which it was affected by the development of Anglo-Egyptian relations. The whole situation was delicate as it was, and now the abominable murder of Sir Lee Stack has wrecked it completely. The resort to assassination as a weapon in the conduct of political controversies, however grave or bitter they may be, strikes at the roots of civilisation; and any British Government was bound to regard this crime as the culmination of agitations which the Egyptian Government had, to say the least of it, done nothing to suppress. A weighty opinion on the principles involved in this very situation was given to the Council of the League of Nations on January 24th this year by a special commission of jurists, in answer to a questionnaire arising out of the political sequel to the murder of General Tellini. "The responsibility of a State," in the opinion of these eminent international lawyers, "is only involved by the commission in its territory of a political crime against the person of foreigners if the State has neglected to take all reasonable measures for the prevention of the crime, and the pursuit, arrest, and bringing to justice of the criminal. The recognised public character of a foreigner, and the circumstances in which he is present in its territory, entail upon the State a corresponding duty of special vigilance on his behalf."

Considering that Sir Lee Stack was one of the highest officials in the Egyptian Government's own service, the obligations of that Government to protect his life were obviously of the greatest possible stringency, and the British Government clearly had the right and duty to take firm and immediate action after the murder, in these circumstances, of a distinguished British officer. They may even have been justified in making demands that Zaghlul Pasha, or any other head of an Egyptian Government, would have found it difficult to accept. On the other hand, if the jurist's opinion implies, as we think it does, that the Egyptian Government has been very gravely to blame in this instance, it equally implies that the British Government ought to have given Zaghlul Pasha a fair opportunity, after the tragedy had occurred, to retrieve the honour of his country as far as possible by "taking all reasonable measures for the pursuit, arrest, and bringing to justice of the criminal." There is every indication (and, so far as we know, no allegation to the contrary) that Zaghlul Pasha and his colleagues were genuinely shocked at the crime (realising, no doubt, how far their own political tactics had been responsible for it); that they did at once take energetic steps to bring the murderers to justice; and that in this action they were supported by the great body of Egyptian (including nationalist) opinion. Where we quarrel with the action taken by Mr Austen Chamberlain in the difficult situation in which he found himself is that he presented demands of such a character that Zaghlul Pasha's position became utterly impossible; that, over and above the relevant demands for adequate reparation, for the detection and punishment of the criminals, and for the fullest possible safeguards against the repetition of such political crimes in future, he took far-reaching steps in matters not directly connected with the crime, but intimately concerning the permanent political and economic relations of Great Britain and Egypt; and that the tone of his Notes, the manner of their presentation, and the show of military force with which this diplomatic action has been accompanied, are calculated not only to exasperate Egypt-

tian opinion to an extreme degree, but to lower the reputation—and therewith the prestige—of Great Britain in the eyes of the world.

The two Notes presented to the Egyptian Government last Saturday, November 22nd, made Zaghlul Pasha's resignation inevitable; it is possible that his successor, Ziwar Pasha, may accept all the British demands; and the quiet which so far prevails throughout Egypt may continue—but we need not flatter ourselves that we have disposed of the Egyptian nationalist movement. It is perfectly true that Zaghlul Pasha's Nationalist party have been not only intransigent towards us, but violent and dictatorial towards their fellow-countrymen. Their yoke had become hard to bear during the two years for which they had been in power; and, as we noted last week, Zaghlul Pasha was being driven into strange manoeuvres in order to maintain his position. A few months more and the moderate Egyptian nationalists might have got the better of the extremists, though a spontaneous change in Egyptian public opinion, and a favourable atmosphere for negotiations on the "reserved points" might at last have arisen. Now, however, it is to be feared that Mr Chamberlain has given the extremists a new lease of life, and that we are back again in the *impasse* of 1919-1922, when a succession of "tame" Egyptian Governments executed the British Government's will without commanding the allegiance of the Egyptian people, while the folly and misconduct of the extremists were forgiven to them by their countrymen because they were out in the wilderness. To re-establish this barren situation is not the way to solve the Egyptian question.

Even more serious is the effect of Mr. Chamberlain's action upon our general international position. What would otherwise have been an unimpeachable case for firm and prompt action has been gravely prejudiced in the eyes of the world by the inclusion of irrelevant demands and the manner of their presentation. It is exceedingly unfortunate that the British Government should have committed itself at this moment, when the Geneva Protocol is under discussion, to action which the French and American Press can compare at all (however false the analogy) with the action taken 16 months ago by Signor Mussolini against Greece, or even with the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia in 1914. We do not consider that these comparisons are justifiable, for they entirely overlook the peculiar relationship between Great Britain and Egypt at this moment, which is not that of two sovereign and independent states on an equal footing. Nevertheless, the fact that these comparisons are possible, and are regarded as reasonable in other civilised and not unfriendly countries, is a setback to all the work on behalf of the pacific settlement of international disputes in which British statesmanship has been taking so important and so honourable a part. What is more, it is a blow to the fundamental interests of the British Commonwealth in the world as it is to-day. The history of international affairs during the last ten years proves conclusively that Great Powers are more often damaged than strengthened when they take advantage of their strength to "make an example" of weak offenders. Where are the Hapsburg, Hohenzollern, and Romanov Empires to-day? As one of the few surviving Empires, we have a fundamental interest in promoting methods of peace and conciliation in international affairs. We pride ourselves on our capacity to profit by experience, and latterly it had seemed as though all parties and all Governments in this country had learnt the lesson of 1914. In September, 1923, when our representatives at Geneva took their stand against the high-handed coercion of a small country by a Great Power, and when all the small States represented in the League Assembly rallied behind us, then we were strong, and that is our path of salvation. It must be a matter of grave concern to all far-seeing Englishmen who care for the preservation of the Commonwealth that the present Government should apparently have chosen a different path on this grave occasion.

No doubt they can act with impunity for the moment. The idea that France might exercise her friendly right to bring the Egyptian question before the Council of the League has faded away, and the protest of the Egyptian Parliament sets no machinery in motion, since it is not a request from a Government. It is still possible, however, that some member of the League may bring the question

officially to the Council's attention; and, if this happens, we trust that the Government will realise that the only possible course for this country is to acquiesce, and not to keep the League at arm's length by the exercise of pressure upon other members or by falling back upon judicial technicalities. We have to prove to the world, in our own interest, that we do not fear investigation into our handling of the Egyptian problem in the past or now. We have to remove the suspicion, to which Mr. Chamberlain's method of action has unfortunately laid us open, that we are taking advantage of this tragedy in order to settle high-handedly, in our own favour, those great questions regarding the permanent interests and permanent relations of Egypt and Great Britain in the Canal zone, and the Sudan, which can only be settled satisfactorily by mutual agreement, in an atmosphere of calm and conciliation, and not in the atmosphere which exists at this moment.

THE DOLLAR AND THE POUND.

Is the recent upward movement in the dollar value of sterling to be read as meaning that the pound is at last really on the way back to par? In business circles opinion on this subject has lately expressed itself with increasing confidence, though cautious prophets are careful to safeguard themselves by observing that there are so many incalculable factors in the situation, that anything like certainty is out of the question. The outstanding fact is the rise that has taken place in sterling at a time of year at which seasonal demands for dollars usually turn the movement in the other direction, and the most obvious explanation of this appreciation ascribes it to speculative purchases due to the resignation of the Labour Government and the return of the Conservatives to power. In so far as it is due to this cause, the recent movement is a reaction from the "flight from the pound" which happened last autumn. As everyone will remember, it began shortly before Mr Baldwin went to the country, and was started by an indiscreet utterance made by a minor Minister, who said, or was understood to mean, that the Government was about to embark on inflationary schemes, involving expenditure on a great scale, for the relief of unemployment. Mr Baldwin very promptly and categorically denied any such intention, but, as was proved by correspondence received in the City from all over the world, confidence in the stability of sterling had been shaken; the movement, on the part of domestic and foreign holders, to turn sterling into dollars, was quickened by subsequent political events, culminating in the assumption of office by a Labour Government, and consequent fears of confiscatory financial measures, which were fortunately falsified by Mr Snowden's Budget.

Even at that time it was noted by some of those through whose hands the business of turning pounds into other currencies passed, that the resistance offered by sterling to the selling pressure to which it was subjected was astonishingly sturdy, indicating reserves of financial strength possessed by this country, the power of which surprised them; and now the rapidity of the recovery seems to indicate that it has a certain elasticity behind it which makes it more easily amenable to favourable than to adverse influences. In October, 1923, the dollar exchange was well over \$4.50; in January last it was down to the neighbourhood of \$4.20; yesterday it was \$4.63½. Besides the so strongly on the market for exchange, monetary policy has also been quietly and effectively at work. A year ago the Federal Reserve Board of New York's rediscount rate was 4½ per cent.; now it is 3 per cent. During the same period our Bank rate has remained at 4 per cent., but has been brought into much closer touch with the market rate, partly owing to less assistance given to the market through what bill-brokers called "hidden hand" operations, and partly to the higher rate charged by the banks for weekly loans. A year ago the market rate for fine three months' bank bills was 3¼ per cent. to a fraction over; now it is nearly ½ per cent. higher. In pre-war days, when exchange fluctuations were confined within

gold points, these changes in the rates for money in New York and London would have made a great difference to their relative attractiveness as centres in which to lend and borrow; even now they must have had considerable weight, though owing to the possibility of wide swings in exchange, the question of the rate to be earned by shifting money from one centre to another is less important than it was. There can, however, be no doubt that political sentiment and Bank-rate policy worked together, harmoniously and successfully, to improve the position of sterling. It has also to be noted that—partly, perhaps, owing to the lower rate for money current in New York—the demand for foreign securities has expanded very considerably in America, especially since a prominent part was taken by Americans in the preparation of the Dawes scheme for European reconstruction. Foreign issues brought out in New York have not lately come over to Europe by the next steamer, as they were at one time said to be doing. There seems to be now a real placing power for European securities in America, and it is confidently stated that this is a tendency that will grow, especially in view of the great publicity given to the German Loan and its high yield, as compared with Liberty Bonds, which have stimulated the attention of a new type of investor. In view of the extent to which American-European financial transactions are settled through London, this is another important influence in favour of sterling.

All these factors, however, give a more or less temporary and untrustworthy foundation for the improvement in sterling; if it is to be well and truly based, it must stand on a genuine increase in our hold on the currencies of other countries, earned through the growth of our sales of goods and services abroad. The reversal of the flight from the pound, in so far as it brings back to us funds which were only removed owing to foolish and baseless fears, may perhaps be relied on to restore to us power which will be fairly permanent as long as our politicians will refrain from producing unnecessary panics; but money that flows to London to pay for Continental purchases of sterling bills, or in the process of American payments for European securities, is a temporary visitor, of whose timely help we can best make use by adding to it funds that we have earned by hard and successful work, such as that with which, in the nineteenth century, our forbears built up London's financial supremacy on the solid foundation of expanding production and commerce.

How far we are doing so, it is difficult to detect from the trade figures, partly because they are necessarily somewhat belated, and also because they cover by no means the whole of the field of the international exchanges; but for what they are worth, they have to be read with an optimistic eye if they are to be made to confirm a belief in the rapid recovery of sterling. In our issue of November 15th, we pointed out in an article on "Our Overseas Markets" that the increase in imports from the United States during the first nine months of this year, taken in conjunction with the decline in British exports to that country, makes the firmness and recent spurt in the dollar exchange appear the more remarkable; but it need hardly be said that the exchange between any two countries by no means depends on the trade relations between them, but is chiefly influenced by the interchanges of each with all the rest of the world. This is especially true of England and America, both of whose currencies are so largely used as international money. On the basis of total trade, however, the British figures need a very kindly interpreter, for during the first ten months of this year we have increased our imports by 142 millions, and our total exports, including re-exports, by only 38 millions, so adding 104 millions to our excess of imports. On these figures, taken by themselves, the rise in sterling would seem to be very deficient in staying power, but it would, of course, be most misleading to take these figures by themselves even as an indication of actual trade in visible goods; for British capital has done so much development work all over the world, that the exports of other countries are continually giving us claims on purchasers who do not appear to have been buying from us at all. Our investments in Australian, New Zealand, and South American land companies, Indian tea gardens and Malayan rubber plantations, mean that Australian wool, New Zealand mutton, Argentine wheat and cattle, Chilean

nitrate, and Brazilian coffee are continually being sold for our benefit, and this list might evidently be lengthened enormously. Moreover, it is not only a question of what we are doing, but also of the performances of other countries, since exchange must evidently be affected by relative rather than absolute considerations. On this point, it may be noted that in his paper on the Economic Position of Great Britain, just published, Mr Edgar Crammond states that "the British proportion of the world's export trade, which in 1912 was 13.8 per cent., increased to 17.3 per cent. in 1922," and that we are "more than holding our own for such world trade as is being carried on." If this be really so, in spite of all the difficulties with which our manufacturers have had to contend, justification for the improvement in sterling is not far to seek.

Perhaps, however, we have all this time been looking down the wrong end of the telescope, and the problem is not the improvement in sterling, but depreciation in the dollar. On this point light is thrown by some figures which we published in our August Trade Supplement, taken from a League of Nations Memorandum on Foreign Trade Balances. They showed that in 1923 United States imports were 194.8 per cent. of the 1913 figure, while the export percentage was 94.1. If the United States will only continue to develop their foreign trade on these lines, and at the same time to lend and spend freely in Europe and elsewhere, the path of sterling back to par should be smooth. For ourselves, we hope that those who guide our financial destinies will do all that may properly and wisely be done to make the path smoother and capable of quick transit. We have reason to believe that if our authorities make clear a determination to secure an early return to the gold standard, assistance will be forthcoming from America in promoting a return to parity, and also in maintaining parity, if and when it has been achieved.

SHIPPING PROSPECTS.

GRADUAL appreciation in the market value of shipping securities, initiated by the successful outcome of the London Conference last August, has recently been transformed into an upward movement so pronounced as to attract fresh interest to the position and prospects of the industry. That the price of leading companies' ordinary stocks should have been marked up to a level representing a very moderate yield on the basis of last year's dividends is doubtless due in large part to the general wave of speculative optimism following the election result, and may be ascribed to market sentiment rather than investment demand. At the same time, the readiness with which a substantial amount of fresh capital for fleet extension was secured in the past week by a small shipping company, operating purely cargo tonnage (an issue of £160,000 being quickly oversubscribed, notwithstanding a distinctly uninformative prospectus), would seem to indicate more optimistic views on the part of the investing public with regard to the future earnings of well-managed fleets not saddled with inflated capitalisation per ton. That a degree of optimism is warranted cannot be gainsaid. Freights have lately been more in equilibrium with running costs than has been the case for some years, and idle tonnage, excluding American vessels, has been reduced to a relatively insignificant figure. Apart, however, from the need to discriminate sharply between the substantial concerns owning efficient tonnage at reasonable book values, and such of the shipwrecked boom-floatations as still succeed in deferring the day of liquidation, it were well if confidence were tempered with caution.

The position of the dominant combines is a thing apart. Organised for the most part on the principle of "vertical" as well as "lateral" trustification, with revenue not solely dependent on the transportation of passengers and cargo, the big groups, so far as can be ascertained from the reticence of their published accounts, emerge from the last four years of depression without apparently weakened resources. The relatively high average rate of distribution which these concerns have maintained

throughout a period of meagre cargoes makes it questionable whether undisclosed contingency reserves have not to some extent been used for dividend equalisation, and the possibility of managements deciding, if and when net profits expand, to replenish these hidden resources before increasing distribution to shareholders, is a factor which should be kept in mind when future "yields" are estimated. None the less, confidence in the earning power of capital invested in the British combines appears fully warranted. Their association with the bulk of their foreign competitors in international cartels or "conferences," whose tendency, as recently exemplified in the case of South and East Africa, is to become increasingly comprehensive, enables the combines, subject to limited competition from "free" tonnage, to fix freight rates on the principle of "what the traffic will stand." How far continued curtailment in the movement of emigrants can be offset by the enormously high fares now charged for first and second-class passenger accommodation may be questioned. What is certain is that in respect to freight revenue it is the combines which stand particularly to gain by such developments as have taken place since the shipping outlook was last discussed in these columns.*

On the one hand the improved political stability on the Continent resulting from the successful initiation of the Dawes Plan, encourages hopes that European production will steadily expand. On the other hand, the re-adjustment between the price-levels of cereals and other commodities which the past three months have witnessed implies at once greater purchasing power on the part of overseas agriculturists and the necessity for a relative increase in the volume of (mainly manufactured) goods which Europe must export if European standards of consumption are not to fall. From these premises it is a reasonable inference that expansion in European exports will develop, and that the exports, taking the form of manufactured goods, will, as such, be carried by the "liner" class of vessel. A separate encouraging feature is the assurance of immediately greater traffic in raw cotton, followed, it may be hoped, by heavier exports, no longer at cotton-shortage prices, of manufactured cotton goods to the East.

The position of "free" shipping—that is, the competitive casual tonnage which, catering mainly for grain, coal, timber, ore, and "rough" goods normally shipped as whole cargoes, supplements as and where required the services of the regular "liner" sailings—calls for more qualified optimism. In so far as increased productivity in Europe involves greater importation of sea-borne raw materials—and there is evidence of some small increase already in the movement of ore—this class of shipping stands equally to benefit by the considerations arising from the Dawes Plan discussed above. As against this, there is the prospect that as a result of recovery in continental coal-output, the sea-transportation of British coal to European destinations will be, for a considerable period, if not permanently, on a much lower level than that artificially attained last year. Pending, therefore, an expansion in the volume of seaborne raw materials other than coal—an expansion which must be very substantial in view of the visible supply of tonnage—"tramp" vessels must continue to rely chiefly on grain for cargo. Until the movement of "finer" goods—i.e., cargoes bearing proportionately higher freights—is adequate to fill the capacity of the "liners," the "tramp" will be exposed throughout to competition from the combines, whose ability to undercut homeward rates until monopoly is established in all traffic save seasonal crop-movements will obviously increase with expansion in "outward" revenue. The more outward voyages in ballast the "tramp" has to make, the less can that competition be faced, and though coal exports to South America have somewhat increased this year, the diminishing use of coal as ship-fuel is bound to restrict the volume of outward cargoes destined for overseas bunkering stations, to the detriment of the "tramp" as competitor with the "liner" for return cargoes.

In the following table the October figures of the *Economist* Index of "free" shipping freights for the current and two preceding years are shown in each geographical group:—

	Average 1898-1913 = 100.		
	October, 1922.	October, 1923.	October, 1924.
European Waters	147.74	133.66	118.80
North America	116.16	125.46	143.09
South America	129.82	114.03	125.46
India	133.50	117.38	126.59
Far East and Pacific	122.42	124.40	135.47
Australia	149.11	136.05	156.68
Total	133.12	125.49	143.43

The relative levels of freights represented by the total figure in each case indicate adequately the measure of "tramp" shipping recovery. It is now evident that 1923 witnessed a definite turning-point in the extreme depression following the post-Armistice boom, and that a movement towards remunerative rates has already made some headway. Exceptionally, it will be observed, the figure for traffic between countries in Europe has steadily fallen. Here, in the construction of the index as in practice, coal shipments play a predominant part. This autumn, less coal is being shipped than in 1923, while more tonnage is seeking coal cargoes than in 1922. For the most part the shipping built for European traffic is unsuitable for employment on distant grain routes, and the situation of many of the small "tramp" ownerships is one of anxiety.

In other quarters the position, as compared with a year ago, shows uniform improvement. Up to the present the autumn has gone well. Shipment of the portion of the Canadian grain-crop loaded on the Atlantic side appears to have been arranged, so far as delivery in the United Kingdom is concerned, at an average rate of 3s 9d per quarter, as opposed to an average of 3s 1d in 1923, while a substantially greater volume of chartering has proceeded this autumn, at similarly improved rates, from the United States, India, and the Eastern rice ports. The ascertained results of the European harvests suggest that the potential requirements of the chief importing countries will be considerably greater than last year. The immediate prospects for "tramp" shipping depend on the exportable surpluses eventually available, and the effect which increased cereal prices may have on consumption. Assuming European consumption, pending more marked recovery in industrial productivity, to be somewhat curtailed by current cereal prices, it is still difficult to put minimum tonnage requirements for grain at a figure lower than last year, provided that the grain is forthcoming and values rise no further. The key to the situation is the Argentine, and, to a less extent, Australia. The poor Canadian yield makes it doubtful if as much tonnage as last year will find employment between Vancouver and Europe, apart from the absence this year of abnormal Japanese demand, and while shipments from the Atlantic ports of the United States are likely to be substantial throughout the winter, tonnage is more quickly released after each charter in this trade. Thus, if a temporary recurrence of a glut of casual tonnage, with a reaction in freights, is to be avoided, harvests in the Southern Hemisphere must be plentiful. In a month's time probabilities will be better known. So far, a fair quantity of tonnage has been taken up by Australia on the basis of 45s to 47s a ton for new crop loading, but grain exporters on the Plate have recently been inclined to a policy of masterly inactivity in respect to their 1925 tonnage requirements, a policy which, since their organisation is much more concentrated than that of the "tramp" managements, has sometimes proved profitable, and may again, if an excess of ballast tonnage is sent out to the Argentine "unfixed" for the return voyage. Between November, 1923, and February, 1924, the rate obtainable for a cargo steamer ready for immediate loading in the Plate rose by over 100 per cent.—from, say, 15s to 35s per ton. The speculative temptations of this market are obvious, but whereas a ready steamer in the Plate this week could command, perhaps, 20s per ton, it by no means follows that the "spot" rate in two or three months time will again be double the November figure. With less tonnage likely to be employed in the Pacific than 12 months ago, and with probably more efficient tonnage in commission than last winter—all allowance made for vessels scrapped—it is not yet certain that Southern Hemisphere crops will succeed in absorbing at

remunerative rates all the available tonnage capacity likely to be offered.

The complete recovery of "tramp" shipping from a severe slump has proved slow in the past. After the depression of 1908, when the *Economist* Freight Index reached a record low level of 78.32, it was not until 1911 that rates recovered to what other evidence suggests was, on the then level of costs, a uniformly profitable basis, the annual figures being:—

Year.	Index Figure.
1908	78.32
1909	82.00
1910	84.48
1911	96.94

If shipping history may be held in some degree to repeat itself it is perhaps permissible to imagine an analogy between the present year and 1909. On this analogy, "tramp" shipping has still to face a year of difficult though progressively improving conditions. To found a serious forecast on such a basis is obviously absurd, there being on the one hand no assurance that the next two years will succeed in repeating the industrial expansion of 1909-11, while, on the other hand, the relative rates of scrapping old and launching new tonnage cannot be anticipated. No legitimate conclusion at present can go beyond assertion that the position is improving, but that the possibility of adverse fluctuations has not yet been eliminated. So far as expansion of "tramp" fleets is concerned, optimism should be tempered with caution.

HOUSING AT HOME AND ABROAD.

HOUSING and Rent Restriction Bills have occupied a large part of the time of the last two Parliaments. The next session will undoubtedly see a further Act to extend the period of rent control, but it is most improbable that it will give us a new Housing Bill. It may be taken for granted that Mr Baldwin's Government will refrain from any attempt to upset Mr Wheatley's Act. The primary facts of the housing problem are still the urgent need for the erection of houses on a large scale, and the lack of adequate labour to erect them. Mr Wheatley's Act did little or nothing to provide the essential objects of more labour and more houses; but to revise it now might serve to frustrate them. The public is in the dark as to what has been done to secure the additional apprentices, to which the building trade unions were supposed to have agreed as a *quid pro quo* for Mr Wheatley's Act, but Mr Wheatley was believed to be doing something, and it is clearly the first duty of the Government to press on with this and every other feasible means of enlarging the supply of labour and materials. It is worth noting in this connection that the Committee on New Methods of House Construction, appointed in September, has just issued an interim report on Lord Weir's plans for the quantity production of houses by methods which would practically dispense with skilled building labour. The report is favourable in effect to Lord Weir's idea. The Committee are chary of expressing an opinion on Lord Weir's claim that his type of house will show a large economy in construction costs; but they are "satisfied that houses of the type proposed can be erected rapidly on the site," they hold that all the technical objections that have been brought against the Weir house can be easily overcome, and they urge "that local authorities and others concerned in the carrying out of housing schemes should be encouraged to undertake voluntarily the erection of houses of this type in sufficient numbers to enable the system to be properly tested." The Weir house is not expected to have a life of more than 40 years at the best, so that we must clearly not look to it for more than an emergency expedient, but in solving our emergency problem it may conceivably play a useful rôle.

The phenomena of acute housing shortage, rent restriction, and subsidised State housing schemes are in no way peculiar to Great Britain, as is vividly brought out in a most valuable report just issued by the International

Labour Office.* The same problems have appeared, and have been handled on broadly similar lines in practically every country on the Continent. It is impossible to study the experience of other countries, especially those which were neutral during the war, without realising what a superficial diagnosis it is which attributes the trouble to the embargo on private building during the war, and the diversion of building labour into munition works. There was no such embargo, nor any need for it, in Holland, Denmark, Sweden, or Norway; but in all of them the volume of house-building fell away during the war, in all the phenomenon of housing shortage appeared and gradually became acute, in all legislation was introduced to protect tenants and restrict rents, and State aid in one form or another was granted to revive the output of houses. In Scandinavia, indeed, legislation went further in some respects than it did in this country, comprising measures to enforce the letting of vacant dwellings and to empower the local authorities to take them over if need be for this purpose.

The main explanation of this identity of experience lies, of course, in the common rise of price-levels. As general prices rose, building costs rose along with them for a time, indeed, leaving the index number far behind, while rents lagged a long way in the rear. It was the housing shortage and the consequent tendency for rents to rise that led to rent restriction, but in reality it was the inevitable failure of rents to keep pace with general prices that lay behind the whole trouble. Even before the war the trend of house-building was closely associated with movements in the price-level. Building booms occurred as the sequel to prolonged periods of falling prices; a decade of rising prices, such we had before the war, served to bring about an apparently unaccountable *malaise*. The main influence of the war was a great aggravation of this general tendency.

Though wages and incomes may rise as fast as prices, people are slow to grasp the conception of a fall in the value of money, implying an increase in money rents as a natural and equitable concomitant. Everywhere throughout Europe rent restriction was invoked directly there were signs of a general tendency for rents to rise. In some of the neutral countries small increases in money rents were permitted during the war years, but elsewhere rents were limited until the Armistice to the pre-war figure, while in France and Italy soldiers on active service were secured reductions in their rents, and, in some cases, complete exemption. Rent restriction thus served to widen and to fix the gulf (which must, in any case, have been large for a considerable time) between rents and building costs. It is the existence of this gulf which constitutes the housing problem throughout Europe, and which has led to the necessity of State-subsidised housing schemes.

This gulf has been greatly narrowed in many countries since the war by the double process of a fall in the general price-level and an increase in the rents allowed under the restrictive legislation. In countries where inflation has persisted there is, however, a different story to tell. The following table shows the relation existing at the end of last year between rents and general prices in various countries in Europe and in the United States:—

	Cost of Living in Dec., 1923, as Percentage of 1914.	Rent in Dec., 1923, as Percentage of 1914.	Column 2 as Percentage of Column 1.
United States	173	166	95.9
Switzerland	168	160	95.4
Sweden	176	178	101.1
Great Britain	177	147	83.0
Finland	1,170	981	83.8
Denmark	204	160	78.4
France	345	200	69.0
Italy	499	307	61.5
Austria	1,124,900	72,400	6.4
Germany	1,261,600	218,000	17.5
Hungary	502,292	32,000	6.3

It is clear from this table that the degree of inflation that has taken place has been the main factor in determining

* "European Housing Problems Since the War." International Labour Office. Price 6s.

* Vide *Economist*, August 2, 1924.

the discrepancy between rents and the price-level. To this rule, Finland, the value of whose money is less than a tenth of what it was before the war, but who has re-established a relation between rents and prices practically identical with our own, provides a notable exception. Finland, indeed, is one of the countries where rent restriction has now been more or less brought to an end. The table refers, it must be borne in mind, to the position at the end of last year. There has since been a material change in the position in Germany, where rents are now nearly two-thirds of their pre-war level, reckoned in gold marks. The attempt to move back towards an economic basis even in countries where rents had been practically wiped out by the continued influences of currency depreciation and rent restriction is, indeed, highly significant, for it is by no means an easy thing to do. Wages are apt to be kept down by the fact that the workers are living virtually rent free, so that the majority of tenants cease to be able to afford substantial rents. If the State sets out seriously to meet the need for new houses, the resultant burden of taxation diminishes the employer's capacity to pay adequate wages. The ultimate logic of an extreme policy of rent restriction and housing subsidies is, indeed, a wasteful system, under which everyone is subsidising everybody else. It is not an easy matter to break through this sequence of vicious reactions once it has become established; it would not be possible to do so without a fairly general sense that its consequences are intolerable.

"There is still," declares the Report which we have cited, "a shortage of houses in nearly every country." State-aided housing schemes have, in fact, failed everywhere to accomplish adequately the work that was previously done by private enterprise. In an environment in which the bulk of houses are erected by unaided and unrestricted private enterprise there may still be an important and a permanent place for State-subsidised schemes to meet particular needs. But we shall be disappointed if we look to the State to supply the main provision of houses. A continuance of rent control in some form in this country for a few years longer, until we have made greater inroads than we have as yet upon the housing shortage, is, we believe, inevitable. It would be unwise at this juncture to prejudice the chances of speeding up the output of houses by incontinently throwing over Mr Wheatley's Act. But we ought to aim at decontrol by stages, and a return to an economic basis at the first favourable opportunity.

BACK TO THE UNIONS.

(BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE partial defeat sustained by Labour on the political field is suggesting to many in its ranks that the next few years may be years mainly of industrial effort. Labour in office presented trade unionism with many problems, moral and tactical, and, above all, the great problem whether the whole method of industrial action was not being superseded by that of political action. More and more, legislation was covering the field previously regarded by trades unionism as its own. It was through action in the House of Commons that Labour hoped to secure a legal maximum working week, and ultimately a minimum working wage, together with some measure of control over and responsibility for working conditions for the workers themselves. More and more, that is to say, the constructive aspects of the industrial struggle were being handed over to political Labour, and the function of trades unionism inevitably was becoming more and more merely protective. Thoughtful trade unionists were not at all disposed to cavil at such views as those expressed, for instance, by Mr MacDonald that trade unions, "essential for defence, are weak for progress"; that products, as they are, of the capitalist system, they are not immune from its characteristic defects; that strikes are not a form of Socialist action. The latest meetings of the Trade Union Congress revealed a growing doubt as

to the effective function of the purely industrial conference—a doubt which agenda largely occupied with political issues did nothing to lessen.

This political preoccupation had another aspect. One of the main reasons why the British working class bore with such heroic patience the many sacrifices and disappointments imposed upon it by the long aftermath of war—wage reduction, unemployment, the dearth of houses, &c., was that its eyes were turned towards Westminster, and turned there with rational hope. The steady advance of the political side of the Labour movement gave it the courage to wait.

Now, however, the scene is changed. That advance has been arrested; a Government is in power from which the average worker feels he has little to hope and a good deal, possibly, to fear. It is to the unions that he has now to look for protection. Can they give it? Two or three years ago Mr Shinwell, one of the ablest of the younger trade union leaders, dealt frankly with the weakness of the unions, which he put in a nutshell as an inability to act in a falling market. Is the position to-day any stronger?

One advantage the unions have assuredly secured by the demise of the Labour Government. Many of their ablest and most experienced leaders are back again at their union jobs. Mr Thomas is at the helm at Unity House; Mr Bromley's class consciousness may be mollified by his arrival at St Stephen's. Mr Shinwell has returned to the Marine Workers; Mr Gosling has, after a slight breeze, been restored to the presidency of the Transport Workers; Mr Clynes and Miss Bondfield are again associated with the General Workers, and Miss Bondfield is to undertake an active propaganda campaign for her union throughout the country. The recent T.U. Congress confirmed the co-ordination plan, which certainly gives more power to the General Council; and the Council's personnel is strengthened by the return to it of ex-Ministers. That power, however, depends, in the last resort, on the effective membership of the unions for which it claims to speak; it is, therefore, right and natural to find the industrial leaders throwing their weight into the campaign to increase that membership. The urgency of this task is shown by the figures for 1923 collected by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. At the end of 1923 the total membership of trade unions was 5,405,000, against 5,610,000 at the end of 1922—a decrease of 3.7 per cent. It is worth setting out in tabular form the movement of trade union membership, male and female, since the war, since the figures show how much leeway remains to be made up before trades unionism can claim to have accomplished its primary task of organising the workers in effective combinations.

Year.	No. of Trade Unions at End of Year.	Membership at End of Year (in Thousands).			Percentage + or — on Total of Previous Year.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	
1903.....	1,285	1,838	156	1,994	— 1.0
1913.....	1,267	3,703	433	4,136	+ 21.0
1914.....	1,258	3,709	437	4,146	+ 0.2
1915.....	1,227	3,868	491	4,359	+ 5.1
1916.....	1,222	4,019	625	4,644	+ 6.5
1917.....	1,236	4,622	877	5,499	+ 18.4
1918.....	1,258	5,326	1,209	6,535	+ 18.8
1919.....	1,350	6,603	1,325	7,928	+ 21.3
1920.....	1,346	6,996	1,340	8,336	+ 5.1
1921.....	1,251	5,622	1,003	6,625	— 20.5
1922.....	1,176	4,742	868	5,610	— 15.3
1923.....	1,135	4,590	815	5,405	— 3.7

Trade Union membership is well above the pre-war mark, but both male and female membership is still falling off from the 1920 high water mark. The decline is, as the detailed tables show, marked in the case of all unions, save the mining and quarrying group, in which there was, over 1922, an increase of 70,000 (over 8 per cent.), and the railway group, which likewise showed a nearly 8 per cent. increase (35,000). As might be expected from the lamentable continued pressure of unemployment in these industries, the heaviest decline is on the metal engineering and shipbuilding group, in which membership fell by 133,000, or about 16 per cent. Other unions showing a 10 per cent. or more reduction were building labour (over 17 per cent.), agriculture (over 14 per cent.), and

pottery (over 14 per cent.); general labour, and linen and jute (over 10 per cent. in each case). Female membership showed a larger proportional decline than male; whereas the decline in male membership between 1922-23 was 3.2 per cent., that of female membership in the same period was 6.1 per cent. This was in the main due to a reduction of over 10 per cent. in the cotton industry, where there was a falling off of no less than 26,317 in the group which always has been the most important, numerically, among the industrial categories employing women.

When the groups are compared with 1913, the cotton group shows only a small increase—6 per cent.—whereas in every other group the female membership in 1923 is more than double the pre-war figure. In the case of men, the mining, quarrying, cotton, bleaching, dyeing, finishing, &c., groups, showed little change in membership as compared with 1913; all other groups, however, showed considerable increases. In the case of agriculture, membership nearly quadrupled; in that of paper, printing, &c., it was more than doubled.

Since 1919 the number of separate unions has declined, owing to amalgamations. There were at the end of 1923 1,135 separate unions, against 1,350 in 1919; the number of separate federations has also declined from 134 in 1919 to 87 in 1923, largely as the result of a merging of local into national federations. In 1920, it may be noted, a total membership of 10,740,000 was claimed as included in 113 federations, against 5,610,000 in 1923. Evidently there is plenty of room for an energetic "Back to the Unions" movement.

RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS IN HUNGARY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

IT would seem as if the main difficulty of reconstruction in Hungary were likely to be not a financial but an administrative and social question. The basis of reconstruction, in Hungary as everywhere else, is a balanced Budget, because a balanced Budget is required for the maintenance of a stable currency. The currency has been stabilised, and can be held stable, but the balancing of the Budget (which means, of course, the covering of current expenditure out of taxation, without the help of any foreign loan) can only be achieved at the cost of sacrifices which will certainly involve a thorough administrative reorganisation, and which may be fraught with serious political and social consequences. The great problem is the problem of State employees. Its main features are simple, and can quite easily be described.

In Hungary the State spends altogether about £20 millions a year, and of these expenses some £12 millions are for personnel. There are close on 200,000 State officials (not counting the Army or the pensioners), out of a population of eight millions, in a country which is mainly agricultural. If the State spends a million pounds a month in salaries and wages, and distributes this amount among 200,000 people, the average payment received must be something like 25s a week. It is true that, in addition to their salaries, the officials enjoy certain privileges and concessions (as, for example, on the railways), and that they do not pay an economic rent. But all this amounts to very little, and does not affect the truth of the general statement that the State does not pay a living wage.

Rather more than 10 per cent. of all the State employees are "classified" civilian officials, the backbone of the middle classes, and of the intelligencia. The highest grade in the permanent Civil Service is paid a salary of less than £350 a year, and this grade includes the three first posts in the judiciary. University professors draw roughly £200 a year, and the pay of a full colonel in the Army is, at most, about £170. The initial pay of a young man who, at the end of his University career, goes into the higher administrative service of the State, is the equivalent of 35s a week. The cost of living is not very different from what it is in England. In order to restore to official salaries the same purchasing power as they had before the war, it would be necessary to double them all round.

Those are the facts and figures. The consequences are not calculable. All that can be said is that a really satisfactory solution is out of the question. It may be true, and, indeed, it is true, that there are far too many people who look to the State for a living, and that some of them do not overwork themselves. But the State cannot turn half its employees on to the street in order to double the pay of the remainder. Even if the necessary administrative reorganisation could be achieved overnight, the desired end would not be reached by this means, because dismissals, though they reduce the salary lists, increase the pension charges. Whatever is done, more officials will have to be paid than the State can afford to pay decently, unless the yield, and, indeed, the burden, of taxation, is increased beyond anything that is contemplated at present.

Palliatives are, therefore, all that can be thought of. The reconstruction plan provided for two such palliatives in a relatively small increase of salary, which has already been given in advance of the due date, and in a programme of dismissals (15,000 in all), which is being gradually carried out. Another palliative, it was hoped, might come of itself in the form of a fall in commodity prices after the stabilisation of the currency. The fact that stabilisation was effected on sterling, a currency with prospects of appreciation, was expected to favour a price reduction, but the introduction at the same time of a terrific general customs tariff was probably more than enough to offset any such tendency.

The Customs receipts, which form part of the pledged revenues under the control of the Commissioner-General are exceeding all expectations. They produce an apparently favourable revenue position, which is used by the State employees as evidence of the fact that they are paid starvation wages out of an overflowing Exchequer. Since any stick is good enough for flogging the Government, the opposition parties of the extreme right and the extreme left combine to make this grievance their own, and the whole problem, which from the administrative and social points of view is really serious, acquires in addition a political complexion.

Meanwhile, the Government must abide, more or less, by the figures of the reconstruction budget. There is, therefore, no fear and no possibility that they will satisfy the officials by increasing the deficit, or that the security of the currency will be threatened by further inflation. But forces contained in one direction tend to break out in another, and even if in this instance nothing gives, it is difficult to see any possibility of avoiding real economic and moral damage due to the degradation of some of Hungary's best social material.

ARGENTINE LAND COMPANIES.

BRITISH land companies operating in the Argentine possess considerable attractions for a large number of investors in this country, especially those who seek to use their money in developing fertile agricultural lands overseas. Our little group of representative Argentine land companies which we review each year is a striking record of the recovery in the agricultural industry, which has passed through some difficult times. It is a pity, perhaps, that the companies concerned cannot see their way to adopt a common date for the conclusion of their financial year. We could then take a comprehensive view of a given 12 months. Out of eight companies, five close their accounts on June 30th, one on March 31st, one on September 30th, and one on December 31st. We should like to say here that we are unable to present the new figures of working of the Cordova Land Company, its financial year having been altered from September 30th to December 31st; we are informed that the accounts to be issued in February or March, 1925, will be for a period of 15 months to December 31, 1924.

For the year ended June 30th the value of the Argentine dollar has fluctuated between 38½d and 43½d, closing at 41½d. The problem of the fluctuating exchange is being seriously tackled by the companies,

Imperial Preference.—When commenting a few weeks ago on Mr Baldwin's selection of Ministers, we expressed anxiety that the Colonial Office should have been entrusted to one whose obsession it is to view Imperial problems through the blurred spectacles of Preference and Protection. Mr Amery has lost no time in showing that he has taken these glasses with him into office. In a speech to the Empire Producers' Organisation his subject was Imperial development and co-operation, but the thread of protection ran through the whole of his utterance. He agreed—he could hardly do otherwise—that the Government was bound by Mr Baldwin's pledge, that no new food duty should be imposed. But almost in the same breath he promised that the Preferential proposals laid by Mr Baldwin's first administration before the Imperial Conference, and defeated in the last Parliament, should be passed and put into force. These proposals, if we remember rightly, involve the imposition of minor duties, in order that preference may be given; they involve, too, stabilisation of duties; and their full institution would certainly violate both the spirit and the letter of the Baldwin pledge, which in the country as a whole, and in Lancashire in particular, did so much to swell the Conservative poll. We fancy that Mr Baldwin, after the great lesson of 1923, will tread more warily than his lieutenant, and caution, we hope, will be enforced upon him by the Free Traders in his own ranks. But obviously there is every reason for Free Traders to keep their

armour on and their swords in their hands. Of this Mr Amery's speech gives us a clear warning, for which we may be grateful. All through his speech runs the old idea of controlling, guiding, and developing British trade by tariffs and preferences. Big tariff changes are taboo during the life of the new Parliament. But the idea is there, and Free Traders must be prepared to see it at work for the next few years—not, indeed, making a frontal attack—but consolidating ground and infiltrating Free Trade positions, and in a hundred ways making it easier to launch, later on, one more grand assault on our fiscal system. Those who hold with us that the system of free imports is the only one suited to the economic needs of the country should realise that a sense of security on the strength of Mr Baldwin's plan is shortsighted and may be disastrous. They should devote the coming years to persistent preparation and education, so that the new generation of voters may see the economic truth clearly enough to repeat with even greater emphasis the ban on Protection which successive generations have pronounced.

The Greek Loan.—Our Athens correspondent states:—The negotiations carried on in London by the Governor of the National Bank of Greece concerning the issue of the loan for the settlement of refugees in Greece have now reached an advanced stage, and it is expected that the loan will be issued shortly. The raising of the loan has been authorised by the League of Nations, and has the active support of the Bank of England. The amount of it has been fixed at £10,000,000 actual money. The interest and the issue price have not yet been fixed. It is understood, however, that the net yield to the investor will be slightly over 8 per cent. As the loan is of an international character, it will be issued simultaneously in England, America, Greece, and perhaps in some other markets. Greek banks will participate to an extent of £2,500,000. The loan will be redeemable by half-yearly drawings at par in 40 years. However, the loan may be redeemed at an earlier date—perhaps in 20 years—as a consequence of amortisation to take place—parallel with the regular sinking fund—from the current income of the Refugee Settlement Commission. It is essentially a reconstruction loan, as the proceeds will be handed over to the Refugee Settlement Commission, and utilised for the settlement of refugees in productive works. In accordance with the resolutions of the League of Nations, not a penny of the money to be raised can be utilised for other purposes. The settlement of the refugees started last year, and has been going on at a good pace, thanks to the advances, aggregating £3,000,000, made against the loan by the Bank of England and the Greek banks. The service of the loan will be effected by the International Financial Commission, which is an international body residing at Athens, and having control of previous Greek loans. The Greek Government has assigned as a guarantee for the service of this loan some special revenues, the yield of which is estimated to exceed £4,500,000 in 1924, that is, more than five times the annual service of the loan. In addition to these revenues, the loan will be secured by a first charge on the property and the income of the Refugee Settlement Commission. According to a recent conservative estimate emanating from the National Bank of Greece, the present value of the lands assigned and to be assigned to the Refugee Settlement Commission, and constituting its property, should be over £13,000,000. The value of these lands should be considerably enhanced when the settlement of the refugees has been brought to an end. Since 1898 Greece has been paying regularly the service of its foreign and domestic debt. During the world war, not only has the service of the debt been regularly met, but the interest paid on the old gold loans has also been increased. By far the greater portion of the external debt of Greece is held by Greece. The present population of Greece is estimated at 7,000,000, and its total debt, including the projected loan, amounts to, roughly, £104,000,000, which represents a total indebtedness of £15 per head. The 1,500,000 refugees will develop Greece's agriculture, and as they will be peasant proprietors, they will largely contribute to the political stability

of the country. Greece has large sources of power in her lignite and her water, which need development. Her industries are expanding in the Balkans and Egypt. Her merchant marine has almost recovered the losses suffered during the war for the cause of the Allies. The profits of the merchant marine, with the emigrants' remittances, are the principal items of invisible exports, which turn the balance of foreign payments to the favour of Greece. Agriculture, forests, cattle-breeding, fisheries, and minerals are all on the way of being developed, and form an important item of wealth. At the same time, the State's finances are gradually improving. But for the expenses incurred in connection with the establishment of the refugees, the Budget of the State would have balanced. As, however, the raising of the refugee loan will alleviate the Budget from this burden, it is expected that the equilibrium of the Budget will be obtained at an early date—provided, of course, peace and political stability prevail in the next two or three years. While the increase of note circulation and the fall of the drachma are almost on the same level, taxation has increased to a much larger extent. Foreign exchanges have been stabilised for some months. This is due to the exchange policy followed by the country. On the other hand, issues of paper currency for the needs of the Treasury stopped last year. In fact, a gradual withdrawal of the notes in circulation is going on, and moreover, the ratio of notes covered in proportion to the total circulation has greatly increased since the issue of notes covered by sound foreign currencies bought on the market.

Great Britain and Mexico.—A correspondent writes:—Another revolution is believed at Washington to be impending in Mexico. It is said to be promoted by Señor de la Huerta, now in the United States, and General Angel Flores, who, aided in suppressing the rising last winter, and alleges that he was defeated by fraud in the subsequent Presidential election. Its success depends on the amount of disaffection in the army, which is said to be considerable; and the expectation of it must prolong the suspension of Anglo-Mexican diplomatic relations, of which the inconveniences have been again exhibited this week. The report of the Inter-oceanic Railway of Mexico for the year ended June last states that since August, 1914, the line has been in the possession of the Mexican authorities, who have neither paid compensation nor rendered accounts; so that on June 30th last the debit balance had reached £2,892,939, against which the company claims over £4,000,000 in respect of earnings alone. Its only revenue during the year, apparently, has been £5,000, minimisation and moratorium expenses of the company and its two leased lines, and of the expenses of the Commission sent to Mexico in January, 1923. Here is one afforded by the murder, on October 18th, of Mr Cecil Hodson, a British subject and mine manager, probably by discharged employees and for the sake of robbery, but under circumstances even more shocking than that of Mrs Rosalie Evans in August last. His widow and his Government to demand compensation, but the demand should come from our own Foreign Office, and Sir Thomas Hoblen, who was to prepare the way for an arrangement with the Government of President Collis, has been sent as Minister to Montevideo. In commercial circles in London and Liverpool there is a movement in favour of recognition; but at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce a fortnight ago a resolution to that effect was shelved by the previous question. Its support had declared its attitude; the latter will doubtless be shortly invited to do so by a question in the House of Commons. One of the obstacles to recognition has been at any rate lessened by the conviction of two of the murderers of Calles has intimated that he is willing to negotiate, but that Great Britain should make the first move. But at present Great Britain can only wait and see.

The New Departure in China.—Tuan Chi-jui and Feng Yu-hsiang arrived in Peking last Saturday, and the former has been installed as Provisional Chief Executive of the Chinese Republic. He is to be assisted by a new Cabinet, in which Tang Shao-yi is Foreign Minister, but it is clear that, subject to the approval of Chang Tso-lin, Tuan Chi-jui is practically Dictator. Meanwhile Feng Yu-hsiang, the Christian General (who has been aptly described by a Chinese Christian lady as an "Old Testament Christian") has decided, having stopped the civil war by his action, to retire from politics and visit America and Europe. His retirement, it is believed, will induce Wu Pei-fu and the Tsuchuns of the Central Provinces to accept the new order of things. Extensive changes are expected in the constitution, presumably tending to increase provincial autonomy, and foreign observers seem to have confidence in the new Dictator and in his chief supporter, and to regard them both as capable and honest reformers, and friendly to the foreign residents. The Chief Executive and some of his Ministers belong to the Anfu or pro-Japanese party, but Japan will doubtless co-operate with the Western Powers in promoting the restoration of order and peace. Sun Yat-sen has been welcomed at Kobe, and has appealed to Japan to aid in abolishing the extra-territorial privileges "which enable foreigners to force civil wars on China." It would be interesting to know how they do so; but the treaties cannot be reconsidered till China has a stable Government.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The result of the ballot of spinners of American cotton in Lancashire on short time has been announced this week, and, owing to the proposal of the Masters' Federation receiving the support of the owners of more than 80 per cent. of the spindles, the recommendation will be put into force. From February last up to the end of October the factories worked only 26½ hours per week. From the beginning of this month the working hours have been increased to 32 hours per week. There has been an agitation in the trade for further expansion in production, the opinion being held in some quarters that full time should be resumed. In the opinion of the Committee of the Masters' Federation, however, there was a danger of over-production if there was entire abolition of curtailment of output. They, therefore, decided to ascertain the views of the members as to whether they were in favour of stopping the mills for 8½ hours per week (one day) from the beginning of December, and the ballot figures show that the owners of 86.46 per cent. of the spindles were in favour of this recommendation, with 7.61 per cent. against, no replies being received from 5.93 per cent. The result has given considerable satisfaction in trade circles, as at one time there was a fear that spinners would decide to run full time. In the Manchester market, because of this anticipation, business has been quieter during the last two or three weeks, owing to the expectation of lower values, and smaller profits for spinners and manufacturers. It is understood that the Masters' Federation will continue to watch the state of trade very carefully, and they will recommend the abandonment of all short time immediately there are signs of the demand for yarn being sufficient to absorb the full output of the spindles.

Wages in the Engineering Trade.—The consideration of the claim of the workers in the engineering industry for an all-round increase in wage-rates promises to be one of the outstanding features in the labour world in the near future. Briefly, the position is that the average time rates in the principal centres are about 55s to 60s a week in the case of skilled men, and about 40s a week in the case of unskilled workers. These rates, which are generally 17s above the pre-war level, compare with 90s to 95s and 70s a week at the end of 1920, when wages were at the maximum. Expressed as percentages over the pre-war rates, the present averages show a rise of about 45 per cent. for skilled men and 75 per cent. for labourers. The rise is thus less than in many other industries, and considerably less than that shown by the cost of living index number. Moreover, the heavy reductions in wages have resulted in the skilled engineer becoming one of the lowest-paid craftsmen, whereas before the war he ranked

high in the wage scale. The adjustment of wages in the engineering industry has never been closely related to variations in the cost of living, and since 1920 it has been in accordance with the principle enunciated by the Industrial Court, in its award granting the last increase, that remuneration "should, in ordinary circumstances, depend on the value of the work done, and the value of the work done depends on the state of the market and the demand for the products of the workshop." In the present instance, therefore, the negotiations turn not so much on the cost of living, which, incidentally, is at about the same level as it was at the date of the last change in wages in the industry, but on the state of trade, as indicated by the turnover and profits of the employers. The facts on these points will no doubt be brought to light during the controversy, but it is worthy of notice, as having some bearing on the subject, that when the present level of wages was reached in the autumn of 1922, the percentage of unemployment in the engineering trade was about 23, whereas it is now 15. One matter which appears to deserve consideration is the question as to how far it is a desirable policy to determine the level of wages in the industry as a whole on a uniform basis, in view of the fact that there is a considerable variation in the nature of the products and in the markets for which they are provided. The determining factor of the employers' ability to pay would appear to be a variable quantity in different sections of the industry. There are certain branches, notably the motor section, which are making headway in spite of foreign competition, while the electrical section is also improving. On the other hand, the marine and textile machinery sections are far from prosperous. It appears that an examination of the possibility of sectional or district advances in wages might furnish an avenue for negotiations leading to a gradual restoration of wages to a level approaching the pre-war standard.

American Cotton Crop.—Further important statistics have been published by the United States Government on the cotton crop for this season. The yield, exclusive of linters, has been estimated at 12,992,000 bales, against 12,816,000 bales a fortnight earlier. This statement was about equal to expectations. It has also been announced that up to November 13th a total of 11,148,000 bales of cotton had been ginned. This is a big amount, and indicates very clearly that favourable weather in the belt has prevailed for picking. On the whole, it is anticipated that the total growth will be about 13,250,000 bales, making with linters a crop of about 14,000,000 bales. The carry-over at the end of last season was 2,300,000 bales, and available supplies for the current 12 months are therefore 16,300,000 bales. Some uncertainty exists as to the requirements of users, but owing to improved trade in most countries of the world, the wants of spinners will be larger than last year, and it is estimated that consumption will be about 12,700,000 bales, against only 11,200,000 bales in 1923-24. There seems to be every probability, therefore, of a substantial carry-over at the end of next July.

The Outlook for Rubber.—Under the fostering influence of the cut made at the beginning of the month to 50 per cent. in the standard production of rubber-producing companies, the price of the produce has crept up, until now it stands at nearly 1s 6d per lb. This is 8½d per lb higher than rubber commanded six months ago; to be exact, rubber fell to 9½d per lb on May 19th last, the lowest reached this year. Standard production throughout 1924 stood at 60 per cent. until July 31st, when it dropped to 55 per cent. for the next three months, and again to 50 per cent. on November 1st. The restriction applies, of course, only to the output of the companies that have given voluntary adhesion to the Stevenson scheme. Just before the adoption of this plan, two years ago, rubber had touched 7½d per lb, so that, from the point of view of the industry, rubber has benefited substantially by the incidence of restriction. That the scheme should have given advantage to Dutch, Chinese, and other planters who declined to acquiesce in its voluntary self-denial policy is not to be questioned. That it has been

an indirect incentive to the activities of the rubber smuggler is another self-evident proposition. The British rubber companies, however, are justified in their claim that the Stevenson scheme has achieved success in spite of the unexpected developments to which it gave rise. There was an outcry in favour of still closer co-operation between the British producers when rubber fell to 10d per lb in the spring of this year. In answer to a general demand, various members of the leading groups met and appointed a committee to draw up heads of agreement for a Central Selling Agency. But it may be shrewdly suspected that there was no great enthusiasm for the idea amongst the London leaders of the rubber producers, and, as the price of rubber began to rally, so did the Central Selling proposal quietly slide behind the shelves of the committee. The effect of the reduced production is already marked. It synchronised with a rapid expansion of demand for the new balloon tyre, which, as the latest novelty, is arousing interest amongst all motorists, and accounting for the consumption of large quantities of rubber. The companies, cut down now to half their standard production, will find their standing charges increase in proportion to output, and their profits will naturally diminish because of their reduced output, but the advanced price of rubber will make up for this to a large extent. What shareholders look to is, of course, the time, deemed to be rapidly approaching, when the buyers will find something of a shortage in the material, with a consequent further rise in the price of rubber and a relaxation of restriction upon output. This consideration it is which buoys prices and hopes alike. Such familiar rubber shares as Linggis, Highlands, and London Asiatics pay $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 per cent. on the money at today's quotations. Vallambrosas yield less than $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent., United Serdangs return 5 per cent. Better interest on the money can be obtained from trustee securities than from many good rubber shares. The theorist who maintains that at least 10 per cent. on the money should be required from shareholders in companies connected with a tropical industry is ridiculed as being old-fashioned and short-sighted. People buy rubber shares to-day on the expectation of the dividends that are likely to be paid two or three years hence. With their normal huge output the big producers find every eighth of a penny rise in the price of rubber makes a substantial difference in profits. Restoration of such normal output, and maintenance of a high price for rubber, may sound rather contradictory to the cool observer, but, unless he has passed beneath the harrow of the really bad times in rubber, the outsider will fail to gauge the extraordinary faith that sustains the holder of rubber shares, and the strength of the conviction that there are good times, not far ahead, for the industry.

Welsh Tinplate Trade.—The Welsh tinplate trade since the beginning of November has been in a very depressed condition, and it is to be feared that the glowing reports of the activity of the industry that were circulated last month were somewhat overdrawn. There are just now about forty mills idle, and the further stoppages in the Swansea district this week have added to the large number of men unemployed. Some of the works are running on short time, and the outlook is not very favourable. The stocks at Swansea amount to 282,750 boxes, and this is somewhat heavier than the figures for the corresponding period of last year. The shipments lately have been running into about 100,000 boxes per week, and this is considerably less than the exports at this time last year. The check to the steady run of activity in the tinplate industry is due to various causes. Countries like France, Italy, Spain and Norway are expanding their own production, and protective tariffs have been built up lately in the case of Spain and Belgium by increasing the duty on imported plates. Germany, moreover, is extending her tinplate industry, and there is great competition in the foreign markets for all business. The Price Stabilisation Committee have decided to make no change in tinplate prices, but tinplate bars have been put down to £8 7s 6d per ton, less 7s 6d rebate to members, and sheet bars have also been reduced. This is a significant move; some of the steel works making tinplate bars are simply working for stock, so dull is the consuming demand. The export

trade for account of South America and the East has fallen off considerably of late, and, naturally, there is a tendency amongst the merchants to place the blame for the loss of trade on to the fixed prices and the changes made in regard to selling plates which have been introduced during recent months. Some good orders have recently been lost to America owing to price-cutting, and British merchants are very dissatisfied with the whole position. This week a good order for oil plates running into 200,000 boxes was secured partly by the selling combine and outside mills. These plates are wanted for delivery early next year, but the position is far from satisfactory, and in some quarters current rates are looked upon as too high. Reports from the American side indicate that the mills there are well engaged. The order books for the first quarter of 1925 have been opened, and \$5.50 is apparently going to be maintained. The U.S. mills have some good contracts on hand and expect to secure further big orders.

Commercial Arbitration.—A correspondent writes:—During the last few years there has been a distinct tendency for commercial firms to accept in cases of dispute the arbitration of the chambers of commerce. Lately there has been an extension of this idea in the way of a working arrangement with chambers of commerce abroad. An interesting case has just been reported by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. As long ago as 1921 an award was made by the Manchester Tribunal in favour of a local firm against a New York firm. The American house neglected to comply with, or to reply to, the various notices served upon it, and eventually the award was made on such evidence as was available. Having obtained judgment, the Manchester firm found themselves unable to enforce it, owing to the fact that the respondent was not resident in this country. The case, however, was taken up by the Manchester Chamber, in co-operation with the New York Chamber, and legal assistance was obtained in New York with a view of forcing the American firm to accept arbitration. The American Court, on being informed of the existence of the arbitration clause in the contract, decided that this was sufficient to warrant settlement by arbitration, and ordered that the matter be referred to the New York Chamber for decision. After some little delay the hearing took place, and an award was given for the Manchester firm for about the same amount of damages awarded by the Chamber of Commerce Tribunal in Manchester. This case illustrates the importance of firms in their contracts including the clause providing for any dispute to be settled by the tribunal of the chamber of commerce. In this way expensive litigation is avoided.

British Trade with India.—A very elaborate and most encouraging Report on "Some Aspects of British Trade in India, 1923-24," by H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in that country and Ceylon, has just been published (3s net) by the Department of Overseas Trade. It states that last year India really began to recover from the depression of 1920; since then the monsoons had been favourable, the crops were abundant, political conditions better; the Budget, for the first time in six years, had at last been made to balance; Customs duties ceased to rise; exchange, on the whole, improved, so did exports of Indian produce and manufactures; and the stocks of goods imported before the slump were at last cleared off. Imports fell off by 2 per cent., the expected revival being checked by the high and varying prices of cotton goods; the trade balance in India's favour was 144 crores—a record; and the import of 46 crores of specie signifies that much purchasing power is stored up. Political and racial bitterness is less, notably between British traders and their Indian clients; and the dissensions in all the native parties mitigate its practical effects. Nationalism, of course, has set up certain hindrances to British trade: the most formidable are separately dealt with in much detail. Government stores are now, as far as possible, to be purchased only in India; this regulation will tend to alter the relative proportions of the kinds of goods imported, and will compel British firms who contemplate tendering to keep stocks in India; it may also encourage foreign competition with them. Infant industries, again, are being protected, but only such among them as will be able to stand alone hereafter. The subject has a

chapter to itself, and the iron and steel industry, the most vigorous infant, has another. And, as 76 per cent. of the population is agricultural, its interests will act as a check on Protectionism. The boycott of British goods, now condemned by Mr. Gandhi, meets with much native opposition and will probably decline. Even the city governments under Swarajist control cannot carry it out effectually in their purchases of stores, for their engineering standards are British, and suitable tramway materials, spare parts, and various other requisites can only be purchased in Great Britain and are not made in India. The Nationalist aspirations after an Indian commercial fleet, exhibited in the report (here summarised) of the Mercantile Marine Committee, may be partly satisfied by its unanimous recommendations as to the provision of training for Indian officers and engineers, and Government aid to Indian shipbuilding; but the proposals to limit the coasting trade to Indian-owned shipping, and to purchase one of the existing British lines and have it run by the Government, seem very much less practicable. Foreign trade, on the other hand, must gain immensely by the great irrigation works now projected and under construction, largely with the aid of excavating machinery: the Sarda scheme in the United Provinces, the Sutlej Valley scheme in the Punjab, and the Lloyd (Sukkur) barrage and canals in Sind—the last named, the largest of its kind in the world, will turn 5,000,000 acres of desert into fertile cereal and cotton lands. The second and third schemes should cause a great development of Karachi as a seaport. There is much else which we have no space to summarise—full particulars, illustrated by tables, of the shares of other countries in Indian overseas commerce; of Indian wages and cost of living, and a detailed examination, extending over some 70 pages, of the whole Indian import trade. We commend the entire Report to the attention of British merchants and investors, and particularly to those who are apprehensive as to the future of the British connection with India.

Ecuadorian Exchange.—Little surprise, writes a correspondent, will have been occasioned by the announcement that the Government of Ecuador has finally abolished official control of foreign exchange, and that free dealings have again been resumed. The resignation, in September, 1923, of the greater number of the members forming the Executive Economic Commission robbed that body of a great deal of its intended utility. As a result of the enforcement of the exchange regulations that became effective in January, 1923, the economic significance of business had become largely lost, any effective analysis of conditions in that country being rendered impossible. On the other hand, the causes counteracting the upward tendency of the local exchange market may have been found in the administration of the public funds, and in the sustained, generally unsatisfactory financial condition of the country. Strikes and incipient revolutions have, likewise, had their effect upon the situation. The supply of drafts resulting from the sale of Ecuadorian crops and other export commodities has been entirely inadequate for the needs of importers, with the result that trading in exchange has been carried on outside the official agency. At the time that the Executive Economic Commission was sitting, although the street rate for the sucre was quoted, perhaps, at 5.90 to the dollar, the official rate was given as 3.20 sucres; even at this quotation, however, drafts were often unobtainable, and purchases for importers very difficult to finance. The amount of unliquidated accounts to be settled by the Exchange Control Office as from July 1st last was over 55,500,000 sucres. Between November, 1922, and January, 1924, the unliquidated accounts had increased by nearly 18,000,000 sucres, while for the first six months of the current year it was estimated that a further 5,000,000 sucres had been added, since imports had considerably increased compared with the same period of the previous year. Many of the large importers of Ecuador pay their accounts with drafts purchased in the open market at a high rate of exchange, subsequently registering their transactions with the Exchange Control Office, in order to be able to secure drafts at a lower rate than that officially quoted.

* The current official rate of exchange in Ecuador is about 4 sucres to the £, although the open market rate is quoted at 5.60 sucres.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES:
501 Bartolome Mitre.

HAVANA:
Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Foreign exchange orders executed in the New York market for banking correspondents abroad. Commercial banking business of all descriptions transacted.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

The Anglo-Persian Meeting.—What Sir Charles Greenway meant when he referred, at the shareholders' general meeting, to "the very strong recrudescence of attacks upon the company," we do not know. We are only concerned with the financial criticism that the accounts are designed to conceal more than they disclose of the important operations of the company. Unfortunately, Sir Charles Greenway's reply to the "attacks" did not help the financial critic at all. It enables no one to understand the accounts any better to be told that the company has "in Persia five hospitals, containing 274 beds, eleven British and two Indian doctors, and twenty British nurses," and that these hospitals last year "gave free treatment to no fewer than 3,866 in-patients and over 34,000 out-patients." Such figures, together with those of the numbers of houses and bungalows, of refineries and tankers, may be interesting, but are a strange method of reply to a request for intelligible information. We commend to Sir Charles Greenway the report of the Tube Investments, Limited, which contains these excellent remarks:—"Your directors have from the first recognised and regretted that the balance-sheet of a holding company does not give to the shareholders sufficient information to enable them to form a useful opinion as to the position of the company. It is with pleasure that the directors publish this year a combined statement of assets and liabilities, which they intend to submit annually." The Anglo-Persian is a holding company, in that its most important operations are carried on through subsidiary companies which it finances. Yet no combined statement of the assets and liabilities of those subsidiary companies is ever given. Shareholders are never informed as to the extent to which the profits shown in the parent company's profit and loss account have been reduced by extraordinary losses or extraordinary depreciation in the books of the subsidiary companies. We have no doubt that the prospects before the Anglo-Persian, having regard to its wonderful oilfield, are rosy, and we accept with gratification Sir Charles Greenway's word that the current year's trading should show a considerable increase in profits. But we should have still more confidence if these encouraging sentiments were backed up by plain figures in the company's accounts.

East London Railway Absorption.—It is announced that after prolonged negotiations agreement has been reached as to the terms on which the Southern Railway proposes to acquire the East London Railway Company. The following are the terms of exchange proposed:—

Existing Stocks of East London Railway.		Amounts of Stocks of Southern Railway to be issued or cash for each £100 East London Stocks.	
Amount.	Description.		
£172,920....	1st Charge	£87 10s	4% Debenture Stock.
	3½% Debenture Stock		
£544,440....	2nd Charge "A"	£100	" "
	4% Debenture Stock		
£381,116....	2nd Charge "B"	£100	" "
	4% Debenture Stock		
£624,994....	3rd Charge	£30 5s	Preference Stock.
	4% Debenture Stock		
£575,996....	4th Charge	£12 10s	
	4% Debenture Stock		
£3,240,799..	Consolidated Stock..	£5 10s	cash

The stocks of the Southern Railway Company to be issued in exchange for the debenture stocks of the East London Railway Company will rank for interest or dividend from January 1, 1925, although the actual exchange cannot take

By the end of October the adverse trade balance had been converted into a surplus of exports; the figures were then in millions of marks:—

	Imports (c.i.f.).	Exports (f.o.b.).	Surplus of Imports.
January-October, 1923	3,763.7	3,656.4	—107.3
1924	3,989.7	4,036.9	+ 47.2

The favourable harvest was followed by a decline in the import of cereals. Comparing the figures for the first nine months of the present year with those for the same period last year, we find that imports (c.i.f.) of metals increased by 25.7 million marks, whereas the value of imports of textiles fell by about 12.4 million marks. Timber exports increased largely in volume, while the export values (f.o.b.) of the group rose only from 1,853.1 million marks to 1,875.6 million marks. Exports of the products of the paper industry advanced in value by 38.7 million marks. Exports to Great Britain represented 42.3 per cent. of the total of Finnish exports, and imports from Great Britain 18.8 per cent. of the total of Finnish imports. The total index number of import prices in September was 947, again 899 in January. The index number of export prices was 1,104 in September, against 1,157 in January. Exports of unsawn timber have fallen short of last year's quantities. The props market, in the absence of any considerable demand from Great Britain, has been inactive. Sales of sawn timber to the middle of October are estimated at 770,000-780,000 stds, a figure exceeding that reached last year. Shipments to the end of September amounted to 631,900 stds. Prices fell in some cases below the cost of production. The export of chemical wood pulp has expanded in volume, the export of the period January to October totalling 209,955 tons, compared with 157,313 tons for the same period last year, and with 188,791 tons for the whole of 1923. Prices in this market are firm. The export of mechanical pulp and cardboard from January-October reached 88,389 tons, as compared with 62,105 tons for the same period last year. The total export of paper in October amounted to 18,046 tons, as against 15,064.3 tons in the same month last year. For the period, January-October, the quantity exported was 149,270 tons, as against 144,932 tons during the same period of last year. The National Debt, External and Internal, amounted, on September 30th, to 2,309 million marks, being less than at the end of 1923 by 106.2 million marks; at the end of October it had fallen to 2,289 million marks. The total State revenue during the first seven months of the year, totalled 1,594.3 million gold marks, as against 1,506.5 million marks for the same period last year. The State railways produced an increased gross revenue, though the surplus on September 1st was less by 47 million marks than at the same date in 1923. During September the money market remained stringent, and the situation in October did not improve to the extent expected from the municipalities' dollar loan. As usual at this season, deposits in the banks declined. The Bank of Finland's reserve of foreign currency decreased in September by 25.1 million marks to 446.8 million marks. The note circulation remained unchanged. The foreign value of the mark rose slightly on October 9th-10th, the dollar rate sinking from 38.85 to 39.75. The downward tendency on the Stock Exchange which was observable during September and the greater part of October, was arrested in the last week of October, when a lively demand for the shares of the leading banks and of certain industrial concerns began to set in. The interest in bank shares has been maintained. The favourable harvest has strengthened the position of home industries. There is relatively little unemployment, and in some branches a shortage of labour is felt. The cost of living index rose in September by one point to 1,199 (1,172 in the corresponding month of 1923), and the wholesale price index by 6 points to 117.

A PUBLIC lecture by Sir Gregory Foster on "The University of London: what it is and what it may be" has been arranged by the XXth Century Society of London Graduates. By the kind permission of the director, Sir William Beveridge, the lecture will be delivered at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Kingsway, on Thursday, December 4, at 8.15 p.m. Admission is free, and no tickets are required.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN STOCKS—TRADE AND INDUSTRY IMPROVING—MONEY FIRMER—FOREIGN CREDITS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 18.

BULLISH enthusiasm, which began to develop in the stock market shortly after the election, has reached extraordinary heights, and for the present is the outstanding feature of the financial situation. For nearly a fortnight trading has been of enormous proportions, taxing to the utmost the facilities of the Stock Exchange and its members. Daily transactions in the full five-hour sessions have exceeded 2,000,000 shares—one million is ordinarily considered a big turnover—and often approximated 2,500,000 shares. Frequently the stock ticker tape, even though it is much faster than in former years owing to the adoption of a new mechanism, has been 15 to 30 minutes behind in recording sales and quotations. On at least three different occasions in the past week the final hour for clearings has of necessity been postponed. Many houses in Wall Street have been obliged to increase their clerical forces, and in numerous instances are employing night shifts. Under a veritable avalanche of buying orders, prices have scored sensational advances. Railroad issues at first led the rise, but the upward movement quickly spread until it embraced practically every group of stocks listed on the Exchange, including industrials, public utilities, oils, shares of merchandising concerns, and a long list of what are known as "specialties." Up to and including to-day, total transactions in stocks on the "big board" since the election have exceeded 23,000,000 shares, and prices in many issues have recorded in that period net gains of 5 to 10 points, and in some cases 15 to 20 points, approximately. Both high and low-priced shares have figured in this remarkable movement, and more than 600 different stocks have been dealt in—the largest number active in such a short period in the history of the New York Stock Exchange. One has to go back to the so-called panic weeks of May, 1901, to find anything approaching the recent activity. The following table shows at a glance the extent of the advances in some representative stocks:—

Stocks.	Closing Prices—		Net
	Nov. 5.	Nov. 18.	
American Canning.....	137½	151	13½
American Locomotive.....	79½	84½	5
American Smelt. & Refining..	79½	84½	5
American Sugar.....	38½	47½	9
American Woollen.....	55	62½	7½
Anaconda.....	36½	39½	3
Atchafson.....	108	113	5
Baldwin Locomotive.....	121	125½	4½
Baltimore and Ohio.....	61½	70½	9
Bethlehem Steel.....	41	45½	4½
Ches. and Ohio.....	83½	88½	5
Chic., Mil., and St. P.....	12½	14½	2
Chic., R.I., and Pacific.....	34½	41½	7
Consolidated Gas.....	71½	75½	4
Corn Products.....	37½	39½	2
Erie.....	28½	30½	2
General Electric.....	256	275½	19½
Gt. Northern, pfd.....	63	70	7
Lehigh Valley.....	64½	70½	6
Mo., Kan., and Tex.....	17	23½	6½
Mo. Pacific.....	21½	27½	6
N.Y. Central.....	108½	118½	10
Northern Pacific.....	64½	70	5½
Pennsylvania.....	44½	47½	3
St. Louis and San Francisco..	37½	55½	18
Southern Pacific.....	94½	103	8½
Southern Railway.....	68½	75½	7
Standard Oil of N.J.....	36½	37½	1
U.S. Indus. Alcohol.....	70½	86½	16
U.S. Steel.....	109½	116½	7

Practically all stocks in the above table reached levels somewhat higher than to-day's closing prices, having reacted in the past few sessions from their top records. While profit-taking has been extensive at times, all offerings have been taken quickly, and after such temporary breathing spells, so to speak, the upward tendency resumed under fresh waves of buying. While there has been a material increase in trade in some directions, with plain indications of a further

quickening of activity, the actual improvement that has taken place since the election is not sufficient to warrant such a violent upbidding of stock market prices. The rise, therefore, must be regarded as a discounting of possible further expansion of trade and industry.

As to business conditions throughout the United States, trade sentiment has greatly improved in the past week, and more active buying is reported in numerous primary markets, notably in cotton textiles and dry goods. But no boom has yet developed in actual final distribution. In the iron and steel industry, demand is steadily increasing, as well as production, and prices display an upward trend. Anthracite coal is moving in large volume, while bituminous coal output and buying is described as liberal. Mail-order and chain-store sales compare favourably with those of recent months and a year ago. Bank clearings have expanded over this time last year, and business failures show a decrease from a year ago. During the past week there has been a pronounced upturn in prices of commodities, no less than 39 different commodities having advanced, while only four declined, and 39 remained stationary. Wheat prices in particular reached new high levels for this year, due to reports of damage to foreign crops, lower Canadian estimates, and extraordinarily heavy export buying. Cotton prices also ruled strong, despite the recent increase in the Government's estimate of this year's crop; the advance in the price of the staple was attributed mainly to the better feeling and some increase in operations in cotton goods manufacturing centres. Retail trade is still patchy, the movement of seasonal lines in different sections varying according to weather conditions.

The market for outstanding bonds continues active, though not comparable with the huge volume of transactions in stocks. Prices lately have shown considerable irregularity. United States Government issues, as well as high-grade corporate bonds, which had previously advanced sharply, have reacted, owing partly to realising sales by speculative interests, and partly to the firmer rates for time money. Demand for accommodation has lately been more active, reflecting the enormous volume of trading in the stock market. This, together with the optimism created by the election results, has served to stimulate borrowing.

In banking quarters it is expected that the French Government loan, which has been under discussion for some time, will be offered here before long, although no definite announcement of details has yet been made. Investment demand for new securities continues strong and active, judging from the quick absorption of recent offerings in most cases, and the general opinion is that a French offering would readily be disposed of. Negotiations are under way for various foreign loans or credits of comparatively small size, including a credit to be extended by a group of American banks to the iron ore industry of Sweden. It is understood that this credit will amount to \$5,000,000, possibly more, and will be made on an acceptance basis, with no public offering of securities. Reports are current that the City of Tokio, as well as the Government of Newfoundland, may enter the American market for loans in the near future.

FRANCE.—BUDGET PROSPECTS—NEW TREASURY BONDS—AMERICAN LOAN—GOVERNMENT AND BANK OF FRANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, November 22.

THE hopes that were entertained that the Budget Bill would be voted by the end of the year are already vanishing, and to-day it is generally believed that the beginning of the coming financial year will see a resumption of monthly votes on account, owing to the Budget being once more behind time. The intention of the Government was that time should be saved by the Chamber adopting the entirely novel method of first voting the estimates of expenditure and passing them on for approval by the Senate, and meanwhile proceeding, while the Upper House was busy with this part of the Bill, with the revenue half of the project. This proposal has apparently fallen through, owing to the announcement by M. Milliès-Lacroix, the President of the Senate Finance

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits	\$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



Commission, that the Senate will refuse to begin its discussion of the Bill until it has been completely approved by the Lower House. The resumption of the objectionable system of *douzièmes provisoires* is, therefore, to be expected.

Behind this change of plan there is also the fact that the Government is finding great difficulty, now that it is face to face with the actual problems at issue, in balancing the Budget by modifications of taxation that will prove acceptable to its own supporters. The suppression of the tax on turnover, which was promised at the last election and which won many votes to the Government, especially from members of the smaller trading class, is proving impossible to carry out, and so is the dropping of the *double decime*, or an all-round increase of taxation by 20 per cent., which was imposed by the previous Government. It is now becoming clear that, in view of the increases of pay to the military and civil servants of the State, and other additional projected expenditure, the taxpayer will not only not obtain any relief under the Herriot Government's first Budget, but will in all probability find himself still more heavily burdened. According to M. François-Marsal, the taxes at present imposed on capital and on the revenue from capital and from labour now represent 53.63 per cent. of the nation's total revenue; taxes on non-indispensable commodities (alcohol, tobacco, and luxury products) account for another 21.6 per cent. of the total, while Customs duties and other taxes classed under the heading of "economic defence" are equivalent to 8.72 per cent. Imposts on articles of common necessity, the same authority asserts, amount to only 18.5 per cent. of the total revenue.

An extraordinary effort is being made, by means of lavish publicity and organised propaganda, to ensure the success of the new issue of 10-year 5 per cent. Treasury bonds, redeemable at 150 per cent., which began a fortnight ago. At present, however, it appears to be an extremely open question whether the public will respond to a sufficient extent, during the fortnight the lists have still to remain open, to enable the Treasury to secure the

per share per annum and accumulate at 5 per cent., as can be done, within limits, by Government Savings Certificates, to reinstate the present price of £7 10s at the end of the period; while a purchaser of New Modders at £4 should similarly set aside 2s 6d per share. Money for first mortgage loans is freely obtainable in Johannesburg at 7 per cent. on the highest class security, while the majority of loans are at 8 per cent. The value of an annuity—and all Rand gold mines may be considered as terminable annuities of varying amount—to yield 8 per cent., and replacement of capital at 4 per cent. (the latter the highest rate quoted in "Inwood's Tables"), lasting for 20 years, is 8.804 years' purchase. Thus to justify the present quotation, Government Areas will require to pay 17s for every one of the ensuing 20 years, and New Modder 9s. It is unlikely that the life of Government Areas will exceed two decades on the basis of 200,000 tons per month, but if the period were 25 years, the requirement would be 15s 6d, good years with the poorer. On account of greater mining risk, which earth "tremors" remind us of several times a week, City Deeps and other mines of the Central Rand are bought on a higher interest basis. Ability to pay 10s a year for 20 years would make City Deep an 11 per cent. investment (with reinstatement as before at 4 per cent.), that dividend paid for 17 years a 10 per cent. investment, and if for 14 years a running yield of 9 per cent. But is it by any means certain that present high rates can be maintained for such lengthy periods as the two first-named in view of the exigencies of mining?

The long month of October, embracing only four week-ends, when some of the newer plants have to be shut down on Sunday, has enabled record tonnages to be crushed, the increasing number of jack-hammer drills breaking ample ore to cope with their rapacious demands. The crushing of 1,091,400 tons by the Central Mining-Rand Mines group, of 186,000 tons by the Anglo-American group at an average for the three members varying less than a penny from 20s 3d per ton, the 179,500 tons of the "Gold Fields," and the 670,800 of the Barnato groups are all records. This higher tonnage crushed, accompanied by a reduction in costs, though not in evidence at the two principal groups, has neutralised the drop of 1s in the currency price of gold. Government Areas made the remarkable profit of £210,000 (the additional plant is expected to add £40,000), and New Modder no less than £163,850. Another striking feature was the lowering of Simmer and Jack's costs to below 14s, or a florin per ton less than the estimate on which the reconstruction scheme and acquisition of the old Simmer Deep ground were founded. We have to bear in mind that the improvement in British credit will still further reduce the currency premium on gold.

Rather a melancholy significance attaches to the abstract of accounts of the Johannesburg Municipality, which reaches me a day or so after the death of Mr William Easton, the Town Treasurer, who has been so largely responsible for the remarkably sound financial—if not "impregnable"—position of the town. The total loans outstanding are £7,660,000, and the investments on account of redemption funds, plus cash awaiting investment, £3,651,708. It is calculated that £3,213,500 of the debt is remunerative, and £2,818,600 partly remunerative. The former includes the capital of the Tramway Department, which, however, showed a loss of £19,701; but the auditor says that power was charged at .65d per unit, and adds, "The costs of the Electric Department show that this price is too low, and that power should have been charged for at 1d per unit at least.....making the loss on tramways £43,450.....It is, therefore, clear that the lighting consumers are bearing a part of the loss on the trams." There was a wastage of 21 per cent. in water, costing £33,795, and of 11 per cent. in electrical energy. The Municipal Council spends slightly under 2½ millions a year, of which lighting and tramways account for a million in gross expenditure.

Mr W. H. Clegg, governor of the Reserve Bank, in addressing the Congress of Associated Chambers of Commerce, declared: "The longer I live in South Africa the more I become convinced that its financial arrangements are out of date, and, therefore, harmful to its progress." Storekeepers were largely agents of, and in debt to, importing merchants, "a debt due at any time

was practically due at no time, and the capital locked up in debts, created under the open account system, remained immobile until repaid. This easy credit was extended to the storekeepers' customers, and the whole of South Africa was burdened with these stagnant debts. The miasma of easy credits and easy debts spread through the entire country. It affected wholesale merchants and retail merchants down to shopkeepers and their customers. It was one of the chief causes of extravagance, which was so marked a feature of South African life, and also one of the chief causes of the high cost of living." He was not in the least opposed to extension of credit, when needed to facilitate production. The bill system should be substituted for the overdraft, and beyond a currency of four or six months the retailer should go to his banker for further credit. The present system was devoid of elasticity, precluded competition, and resulted in large profits and slow returns. The root cause of a very large proportion of the enormous number of insolvencies in the Union was the large amount of credit given to men of straw, and numerous people were attracted into trade who had no business there. Taking in each other's washing was no greater an absurdity than the process of "passing through an army of superfluous middlemen an insufficient quantity of commodities." Later, Mr Clegg, lecturing on "Exchanges" before the University of the Witwatersrand, said that one of the curses of South Africa was the confusion by many people of capital with credit. "If a man saved and bought a motor-car, then he had a right to it. If, however, he borrowed money from his banker to buy a car, he had no right to it. One might build a house on borrowed money, but it was economically unsound to build it on a bank overdraft." But if the money were borrowed from a mortgage company, or from any source where funds were in existence, that was a different matter, as there was no credit creation or inflation. The true use of credit was to give elasticity to capital, not to act as a permanent substitute for it.

HOLLAND.—EXCHANGE AND THE GOLD STANDARD —ROTTERDAMSCH BANKVEREENIGING.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, November 25.

THE long-entertained expectation that the gold standard will again be introduced in this country will in all probability be shortly realised. True the guilder has not at the moment reached its gold parity, but the course of the rate of exchange of late warrants the belief that this point will be reached within a reasonable time. The causes for this rather rapid return practically to par are numerous, but must be sought for principally on the other side of the ocean. It is not, of course, the guilder alone which shows such a favourable course in relation to the dollar; at the same time, the pound sterling, the Swiss franc, and the Swedish crown also show improvement. It is, therefore, the position of America as regards Europe that has changed in favour of the latter, and this is the cause of the recent course of exchange.

That Holland, in comparison with the other European countries, has secured a more favourable position for her currency, in relation to the dollar, is due to special factors affecting this country in particular. The gold policy of the Netherlands Bank plays only a minor rôle, as also does the conversion of dollar values into guilder values. This, of course, represents a fairly important amount, but, on the other hand, it may be assumed that large amounts have of late been invested in Central Europe from Holland, by which a counter-weight has been established. Of great importance for the course of rate of exchange has certainly been the favourable price movement of Indian and Dutch agricultural products, from which the balance of payments of the Netherlands has profited.

The favourable figures of our foreign trade for 1924 reveal another important influence, while the important points to a larger source of income from transit traffic.

Although the guilder has not yet reached its gold parity, the question may soon arise whether it is desirable by a further decrease in the dollar rate, even to below the gold-import point, to encourage the import of the precious metal. Considering the gold deliveries from Holland of

the last few months, and that the metal cover for bank-notes is about 50 per cent., a further import of gold seems undesirable. It is not probable that the Netherlands Bank will resort to this policy.

Regarding the affairs of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging, some particulars have lately been published which have caused some consternation and conjecture. On October 10th last it was stated by the management of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging that shares to the amount of 25 million florins were in "friendly hands," and that they would be exchanged for redemption certificates. This 25 million florins would be written off, together with an amount of 5 million florins taken from the reserve; a further sum of 12 million florins would be taken from this reserve to cover obligations attended with more than usual risk. A total of 42 million florins would thus be devoted to writings-off and special reserves, leaving a capital of 50 million florins and a reserve fund of 20 million florins. At the meeting of shareholders, where this matter was discussed, the policy of the bank was subjected to criticism. This criticism was not confined to past events only, but was extended to more recent ones. Astonishment was expressed at the failure to publish a reorganisation balance-sheet, and at the secrecy as to the identity of the "friendly hands" holding 25 million guilders' worth of shares. A satisfactory answer was not forthcoming to any of these questions. The immediate result has been a decline in the price of the shares—the support of these on 'change has now been discontinued—to the level of about 70 per cent. This is how matters are at present. Mr A. J. van Hengel, hitherto managing director of the Amsterdamsche Bank, has at the instance of Mr Vissering, president of the Netherlands Bank, and in accord with his co-managers, agreed to act as delegated member of the board of directors of the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging. In due course the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging will be able to publish a balance-sheet, which will be audited by a competent person in no way connected with the previous management of the bank.

As is usual in such cases, the Amsterdamsche Bank have appointed the retiring managing director member of the board of directors. No co-operation whatever between the two banks is aimed at. The interests of the city of Rotterdam require a large bank working entirely independently. Moreover, the divergent policies of these two banks do not render any amalgamation possible. The management of the Amsterdamsche Bank have, moreover, stated that they are not interested in the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging either financially or in any other way. This also applies to the syndicate that has supported the price of the shares on 'change.

As to the Government's attitude in this question, reference can be made to the official communication made to the second Chamber on November 5th last. According to this communication, the Netherlands Bank has fixed its attitude towards the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging, in the public interest, and with the knowledge and approval of the Government. The Netherlands Bank had inquired whether they might expect a guarantee from the Government in the event of their having to grant a credit exceeding the usual normal limits. In view of the exceptional circumstances, the Government has agreed to guarantee the credit, if such should be necessary, subject to the approval of Parliament. As affairs were at present, the statement continued, the Government had no reason to suppose that this approval will be required. There are rumours that further particulars will be asked in Parliament.

POLAND.—CROPS—RISE OF PRICES—FINANCES— BUDGETARY ESTIMATES FOR 1925—MR GRABSKI'S OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, November 14.

THE results of this year's crops are very unsatisfactory as compared with the harvest in 1923. The yield of wheat per hectare has decreased from 13.3 to 10.8 quintals. The corresponding figures for rye are 12.8 and 10.3, for barley 13.8 and 11.8, for oats 14.0 and 12.0 quintals. Poland has in consequence a much smaller quantity of cereals at her

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.

EASTERN AND GENERAL MERCHANTS.

AGENTS FOR ENGINEERING AND ESTATE SUPPLIES
TEXTILES AND HARDWARE GENERALLY.

1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
Associated with Harrisons Ramsay Proprietary Ltd., established throughout Australasia.

disposal than a year ago, as may be seen from the figures below:—

Average.	POLISH CROPS. Metric Quintals (000's omitted).			
	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Oats.
1909-13	16,835	56,591	14,985	28,101
1922.....	11,597	50,660	13,039	25,481
1923.....	13,535	59,623	16,555	35,224
1924 (provisional figures)	8,951	38,274	12,432	27,706

This year's crops of wheat, rye, and barley are not only smaller than in 1923, but they compare even unfavourably with 1922. Last year's crops gave a large exportable surplus. It is estimated that in 1923-24 the excess of exports over imports amounted for wheat and rye to 77,800 quintals, for barley to 322,000, and for oats to 34,900. This year Poland will be obliged to import cereals to meet the deficiency of her home production.

The bad harvest has caused a rapid rise of prices, as may be seen from the figures below (1914 = 100):—

Commodities.	Wholesale Prices of 57 in Warsaw.	
	Cost of Living	
January, 1924	111.2	120.5
April "	109.1	126.5
July "	102.3	127.2
September "	112.4	141.1
October "	..	150.0

During the early months of the stabilisation of the Polish currency prices were falling. This tendency was arrested in July, and since the new harvest we observe a steady upward tendency of all index numbers.

The rise of prices, which is more accentuated in Poland than in other countries, has a very detrimental influence on the economic and financial conditions of the country. The depreciation of the purchasing power of the zloty at home, while the foreign exchanges are maintained in a stable level, is a great hindrance to the Polish export trade. On the other hand, the import of commodities from abroad is much facilitated by the rise of prices at home. In consequence the balance of trade is becoming with every month more adverse.

The rise in the cost of living also reacts on the Budget. The salaries of officials in Poland are not stable, but vary every month according to the level of index numbers. Since July it has been necessary to increase for this reason the expenditure of the Government, while revenue collections fell behind estimates. As pointed out in my last correspondence (*Economist*, October 11th, p. 577) the capital levy gave only one third of the amount which Mr Grabski expected to collect this year. In order to make both ends of his budget meet, Mr Grabski is obliged to ask the Diet for a supplementary credit of 125 million zlotys.

The Polish Diet is now discussing the Budget for 1925, introduced by Mr Grabski. I reproduce below the principal items of these estimates (million zlotys):—

	Revenues.			Expenditure.		
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.
Administration	996.2	495.6	1,491.8	1,536.2	294.0	1,830.2
Government undertakings	85.5	50.0	133.5	0.1	106.0	106.4
Monopolies ..	356.6	..	356.6	..	45.0	45.0
Total	1,438.3	545.6	1,983.9	1,536.5	445.0	1,981.6

The estimated revenues for 1925, amounting to 1,982 million zlotys, are 400 millions higher than those for the present year. Doubts are expressed if such estimates are not too optimistic. Mr Grabski expects that in 1925 the capital levy will yield 333 million zlotys, though this year only 39 per cent. of this amount has been collected. Other taxes have also yielded much below the estimates; for instance, the income-tax (29 per cent.), and the ground tax (47 per cent.). Happily, the deficiencies of these taxes

have been offset by increased revenues from other sources, such as import duties, stamp duties, &c.

Mr Grabski, replying in the Diet to the critics of his figures, pointed out that Poland is only now beginning to draw revenues from the alcohol monopoly, whose yield in consequence must be in 1925 much greater than in 1924. The Polish Premier tried in general to dissipate the fears which were expressed. He dwelt on the fact that the statistical data for September and October reveal a great economic improvement. Unemployment has decreased. Savings are increasing, so that, according to Mr Grabski, the economic outlook is not so black as is generally believed.

SWEDEN.—NEW GOVERNMENT—LABOUR UNREST— GERMAN LOAN—NEW STEEL PROCESS—TRADE AND PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, November 13.

THE Elections, which took place here this autumn, showed a great increase in votes for the Moderates as well as for the Socialists, at the expense of the Liberals and the Communists. The result of the Election has been a change in Government. The Socialist, being the strongest party, have now formed the new Government, headed by Mr Branting as Premier. The cause of the late Government's downfall was the defence question, which the Socialists insist shall be decided at this Riksdag, whereas the late Government considered it wiser not to hurry a decision before the armament question has been dealt with universally next summer at the special conference.

The labour market is suffering from some uneasiness and strikes in some quarters, but unemployment is not great. The demand for increased wages is general among the workmen at present, and is a cause of great anxiety as to the future of Swedish industry. The chief reason for the depression is not unemployment, but the high wages demanded by the labourers, which make it difficult for industry to stand competition. Agreements affecting 160,000 labourers have been recalled for January 1st. This uneasiness in industry is reaching the share market. Industrial shares are not very much in demand, but good bonds are sought after. The Swedish part of the German bond loan was very successful; 16 million crowns out of the Swedish part of the loan (in all 23.74 million crowns) were issued here last month and sold out in a very short space of time. Some part of the German dollar loan was sold here and quickly absorbed. This interest for good bonds in general has resulted in a great import of securities from abroad, which is causing some uneasiness, as it is considered that this export of capital is bigger than we can afford. The National Debt Office has, through negotiations of Stockholm's Enskilda Bank and Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget, taken up a loan of 30 million dollars with 5½ per cent. dividend in U.S.A. The loan will become payable 1954, but with right for the National Debt Office to redeem it at par 1934.

Some interest has lately been centred on a new Swedish invention, which, if it turns out as promising as it is said to be, will revolutionise the iron industry. This invention, made by Swedish engineers, has for some time been practised at the Uddeholm Works with good results. Through this invention it would be possible to obtain steel directly out of the concentrated ore. This would be specially useful in Sweden, as electrical furnaces and cheap electric power are needed. The production costs for steel would, of course, be greatly reduced.

The shipping season for timber is now drawing to a close, which seems to have stimulated the sales. Freights have also been influenced by this, and the rates have become stiffer. The quantity of timber sold is estimated at about 825,000 standards, which is little less than the quantity sold at the same time last year. The ice conditions do not yet prevent shipping, but this time of the year is unreliable from this point of view, as the cold might come quickly and suddenly close the northern ports. Prices are still very unsatisfactory. Some increase has taken place in wood pulp prices, but compared with production costs they are not considered remunerative.

Both for paper and pulp the export figures have been very good this year.

September is showing an export surplus of not quite one million crowns, while the export surplus for August was 12 million crowns. The value both of imports and exports has increased considerably this year compared with last, but the import surplus was smaller for January-September this year than in 1923.

The official quarterly index (including all necessities of life) issued by the Board of Social Welfare on October 1st was 174, while it was 171 July 1st. The monthly index (including foodstuff, light, and fuel) issued by the same institution was 165 on October 1st, while it had increased to 172 November 1st.

Feeling here is strong against American measures of exploring the costs of production in Swedish industry, and steps are being taken to prevent it.

Letters to the Editor.

BRITISH ECONOMIC POLICY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Nothing could be more inconsistent with facts than the notion that, generally speaking, Central Europe is a continent, the resources of which have been fully developed, and that capital and labour are working on decreasing returns. This may in some way be true of certain parts of France and Germany, but the countries east of the meridian of Zurich may, on the whole, be regarded as "undeveloped" as any territories in the New World.

The water power of the Alps and the Carpathian Mountains, the soil of the Hungarian and Roumanian plains, the timbers of Yugoslavia and the Bukovina, the mineral resources of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Serbia, the petroleum of Roumania and Poland, not to speak of the immense possibilities of Bessarabia and the Donetz Basin, can hardly be said to have been tapped at all, whilst the organisation of transport and industry of these countries is still in its infancy, and capable of big development. On an area of roughly 400,000 square miles there live about 80 million people, that is, about two-thirds of the population of the United States, but possessing barely one-fifth of their purchasing power.

In France and the United States these facts and their significance are slowly being realised. The great industrial concerns of France, like the Schneider-Creusot group and others, have formed a network of banking and industrial connections all over Central and Eastern Europe. In some notable cases parcels of shares of certain banking institutions have been acquired, which, owing to the representation of English banks and financial houses on their board of directors, are able to use the resources of the London money market for their own national ends. American Trust Companies have of late sent their presidents and vice-presidents, resulting in many cases in the opening up of new business connections, and a complete change in the attitude of their boards in America regarding the financing of Central Europe.

After a great start, by which English banks obtained a footing, directly or indirectly, in most Central European banks, and some relatively considerable investments on the part of financial houses and private investors, chiefly in Austrian shares, the movement stopped short at the outbreak of the financial crisis in Vienna last spring. Shareholdings were sold in wild haste, and the city, once so trustful, declared that Austria had abused this trust and officially turned in disgust from Vienna and Central Europe. Unofficially, some very profitable business was done by certain quarters when the crisis was at its height and money very scarce in Vienna.

At present the attitude of the city towards financing Central Europe may be summed up as sceptically reluctant. It is fully realised that Central Europe can only be developed on cheap credits, but what business is done is transacted on high rates of interest, and as to the American competition, the answer most frequently met is, "Oh, yes, the Americans have plenty of money, and they will burn their fingers yet. That's why we don't

want to do anything." Nothing is said about the French, because very little is known about them. And yet, the French way, without its nationalist aim, is the right one, while the withholding of credits from Central Europe must, though at present seemingly justified by circumstances, lead only to further trouble, first economical and then political, like the wholesale granting of advances as imputed to the financiers of the United States.

At present, the outlook for industrial development in Central Europe is indeed black enough. None of the Succession States and the Balkan Monarchy can by any stretch of imagination and sympathy be said to have met their various Treaty obligations. There is a spirit of pettifogging mercantilism in all of them, and where there was once a free trade area of 230,000 square miles, comprising a population of 50 millions, the successors to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy are at present engaged in raising barriers against trade, high enough to keep the sun from shining on their neighbours. So far as commercial treaties do exist at all, they are mere patchwork intended to deceive the eye of the "internationalist," and giving advantages only to the politically most powerful industrial wirepuller. This policy, in which tariffs play only a minor part, is pursued with the utmost cunning only known and felt by those who want to trade in all these States. The differential treatment of Polish coal on Czechoslovakian railways, the sliding flour tariffs of Austria, the reasons behind the Yugoslavian sugar cartel, the embargo on certain exports and imports in Hungary, Poland, Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia are only a few of the most glaring instances.

The result of this policy has been the creation of a hydrocephalic industrial system. According to recent statistics, there were in little Austria 6,283 factories in 1919, and 7,419 in 1922, although there has been a small decrease of late. In Hungary there were 1,442 joint stock companies in 1913, and while there was only an increase of 180 till 1921, 3,501 were counted in 1923, of which 271 were founded in the preceding year only. By the Treaty of Trianon, Hungary lost its whole textile industry, consisting of 7,000 cotton looms. At present this number has been replaced, and despite the fact that the spindleage in Austria was even in pre-war days sufficient to cover practically the whole needs of the monarchy, Hungary can boast of 80,000 spindles at present. Of Czechoslovakia it has been said by one of the greatest authorities that two-thirds of its industrial equipment could meet the demands of the whole area of the old monarchy. In Poland industrialisation has made similar progress, while the rest of the Balkan States are doing their best in similar directions.

If one realises that this industrial movement has been chiefly confined to textile engineering, chemical and metallurgical industries, the effect upon British trade in these countries, and its outlook, need not be dwelt upon in detail. On the other hand, it is equally clear that, speaking from a lender's standpoint, the securities for a prosperous future which can be furnished by Central Europe at present are but very small indeed, and that without having regard to the dangers arising from taxation, labour troubles, and tendencies towards nationalisation.

What, then, is to be done, since one thing is clear, that without foreign money these countries cannot go on? Learning from past experience, concerted action between all parties concerned is politically and economically the best way out. To withhold English credits from these countries pending their repentance, as advocated of late in the *Times*, is only bound to create trouble and resentment against England. There are others willing to lend, and besides, as recent events in Vienna have shown, the London money market is by no means willing always to follow the official lead, thus creating consternation, and doing untold harm to the British moral prestige. The policy of making piecemeal credits or investments stands equally condemned. Its only result can be the additional inflation of one already inflated industry, and the temporary postponement of the inevitable end, acting in the meanwhile only as further incentive towards this mercantilistic policy.

If banking in England may be described as the business of lending money on character, and in industrial life everybody is expected to stand alone, banking in Central

Europe is the art of running industries, while the industrials either run banks or are being run by them. English people, in their attempt to rebuild Central Europe—and this should also be borne in mind as regards Germany—committed two grave blunders. They either trusted their new business friends absolutely or not at all, and as far as it is publicly known, the financing was only undertaken by bankers, merchant bankers, and financiers, without any industrial concern taking part directly or otherwise. Central European bankers, faced by the necessity of getting money at all costs, will naturally take what they can get, using it for such purpose as will pay them easiest and quickest. If left unwatched, they will certainly use it for their own private or national ends, while, on the other hand, the men who are worth their salt will relinquish their posts if ruled in a narrow spirit of misapplied principles.

In order to reorganise Central Europe, and develop the East, there should be first an international conference of bankers and industrialists from either side to take stock of what is there and how much is wanted and where, either in industry or agriculture, and paying due regard to the position and needs of labour. Secondly, no credits should be given without having regard to the result of this conference, and without the co-operation of the industrials concerned. In the meanwhile, only the latter scheme should be adopted when dealing with these countries. Force should not be used, since peaceful persuasion, if backed by sufficient financial strength, will go far to achieve most things desired, while threats or passive resistance will only lead to political trouble; but the City should do its utmost to prevent the indirect financing of other people's economic imperialism, and work as far as possible in concord with the United States. Above all, negotiations should only be carried out by men fully conversant with the peculiarities of the people, and at least one of their languages. The decay of Central and Eastern Europe will do nobody good; its industrial development on nationalistic lines will only postpone this fate; its reorganisation as indicated will be at once profitable and sound politics.

London, November 20th, 1924.

OBSERVER.

REMUNERATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—As your correspondent in your issue of November 15th endeavours to revive the recommendations of the Anderson Report, may I, so far as the Civil Service is concerned, be permitted to make one or two comments?

I think it can be taken, as your correspondent admits, that the present rates of pay and numbers of staff were fully justified, though in one or two branches of the Civil Service, more especially the manipulative, there were certain criticisms as to wages. These criticisms have, naturally, never been regarded by the staff as well founded, and the Service has never accepted as applicable to itself the opinion of the three business men who formed the Anderson Committee, as to the standard of Government remuneration—viz., "In our view, there is only one principle in which all the factors of responsibility, cost of living, marriage, children, social position, &c., are included—the employer should pay what is necessary to recruit and retain an efficient staff."

The Civil Service has been built up on certain essential conditions—namely, the provision of at least an adequate living wage with contentment, and, therefore, efficiency; with the provision of a career which will attract the best brains in the country; by the recognition of skill and responsibility by appropriate remuneration, and by the grant of compensation for the sacrifice of the opportunities of exceptional advancement which exist in the world of business. On the observance of these conditions the Service still stands.

Let me, however, touch on the question of hours—this is a vital one to the Civil Service. What is the history of the seven-hour day in the Civil Service, which is confined to about 30,000? In 1920 the Report of the Civil Service National Whitley Council on Organisation of the Civil Service contained the following statement:—"We recommend that the normal hours of attendance of the clerical class should be seven a day." These are the terms of an

agreement, confirming the practice of 30 years, signed in 1920 on behalf of the Government on the one side and the representatives of the whole Civil Service on the other. It was reached after full discussion of all the circumstances affecting hours of duty, and was part and parcel of an agreement fixing scales of pay appropriate to a seven-hour day. Any departure from its terms without agreement would be a distinct breach of faith with the staffs concerned. Parliament has always maintained the sanctity of contracts, with a view to the maintenance of a high standard of morality in public life.

Experience has shown that an arbitrary increase in hours, even if accompanied by increased remuneration, is rarely an economic proposition, the increase of output being usually less in respect of each added hour. Still more would this be the case if no payment is to be made for the additional hour, and if it should be imposed in circumstances which give rise to resentment on the part of the officers concerned.

There would be very little saving in respect of overtime payment, as a number of the seven-hour day classes do, in fact, work eight or more hours when necessary without payment for overtime, and in the case of the remainder 42 hours per week must be completed (*i.e.*, the equivalent to the Saturday half-holiday must be made up) before payment is made for overtime.

The total number of Civil Servants employed on a seven-hour day is about 30,000, and the only substantial economy which could be effected by the proposal would be the dismissal of temporary staff numbering one-seventh of this total—*i.e.*, about 4,000. The majority of these would be ex-Service men, who would be thrown upon the labour market with little or no hope of finding employment. The saving on their salary, which in any case would be much less than half-a-million pounds, would be very largely offset by the payment of unemployment benefit to which they would become entitled.

Your correspondent seems to think, as so many do, that the heavy cost of the Civil Service is entailed by the payment of the staff. The proportional cost of administration is very small; the heavy outlay is entailed by policy, with which the Civil Service has nothing to do. I will, therefore, not trespass on your courtesy any further with general arguments. I have only wished to deal in any detail with the hours question, though I would add that if your correspondent wishes to reduce national outlay, he should devote his attention to aspects of policy to which the State is committed, but which can always be modified by Parliament. So long as Parliament prescribes certain policies you must have the staffs to carry them out, and in so doing you ought to treat them properly.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES WATNEY,

Parliamentary and Publicity Officer, Civil Service Confederation.

London, November 19th, 1924.

Books and Publications.

A FRENCH VIEW OF CURRENT MONEY PROBLEMS.

FRENCH is a language specially suited to lucid exposition, and the clearness and simplicity with which Professor Nogaro treats the tangled subject of present-day monetary problems should make his book* welcome and instructive to the general reader. While his conclusions are, on the whole, sound and sensible, he seems to waste a great deal of space in conducting controversies with opponents who must be chiefly created by his own imagination. A large part of his book is devoted to showing that the quantity theory has to be accepted with many qualifications and reserves, a fact which is surely admitted by its stoutest supporters, and he is again forcing an open door when he argues at considerable length that gold is not valued merely as merchandise, because the fact that it can always be disposed of at a statutory price makes an essential difference between it and other commodities. Professor Nogaro, however, is an interesting and original thinker, and his criticisms of contemporary

* "La Monnaie et les Phénomènes Monétaires Contemporains." By Professor Bertrand Nogaro. (Paris) Marcel Giard.

thought are entertaining and suggestive, if sometimes slightly wayward and superficial. The conclusion at which he arrives is sensible and safe, but not exactly original. "Only," he says, "a rational monetary policy, methodically pursued, tending to re-establish the external convertibility of the note, can put an end to the world-wide crisis in the exchanges; a courageous fiscal policy, and the cessation of inflation, are without doubt necessary helps, but insufficient; for by themselves they imply the indefinite maintenance of the abnormal and revolutionary reign of inconvertibility, with its inevitable corollary, instability in the exchanges." In order to arrive at something like the degree of stability in exchange that the world enjoyed before the war, Professor Nogaro suggests that by a redistribution of the stock of gold, each nation should be supplied with a quantity of international money corresponding to the amount of its foreign transactions, with the only condition that this gold should not be put into circulation, but should be exclusively destined to secure the external convertibility of the national fiduciary money. The necessary redistribution of the stock of gold he proposes to effect by means of an international loan, the proceeds of which would not be remitted to each of the participant countries, but would be held by an International Credit Institute, which would open for each nation offering the necessary guarantees a credit adequate to the normal needs of its trade balance. In other words, Professor Nogaro follows many other distinguished authorities in looking for exchange salvation by means of a general adoption of the gold exchange standard; and there is every reason to believe that he and they are right, and there is even some ground for hope that reform along this line may actually happen, though not, perhaps, on the elaborate scale sketched by the professor, but rather by individual arrangements made in increasing number. It should be added that he proposes an immediate return of convertibility, in the case of currencies that have suffered severe depreciation, by means of devaluation. In extreme cases he would have an altogether new currency, otherwise the parity should be fixed at the average rate during the period which preceded stabilisation. "But the rate of exchange could be progressively raised, if circumstances allowed, by successive stages, to the pristine parity; for the object of stabilisation is not to fix the rate of exchange at the first blow and immutably, but at first to put it beyond the risk of disturbance by sudden jumps, and above all by new depreciation, and finally to assure to the nation interested the control of its exchange." This last ideal is surely rather too ambitious; since exchange depends partly on the action of other nations, no one nation can expect to be able to control it completely. Even the United States at the present moment, in spite of its enormous financial power, could hardly control the exchange value of the dollar in all European currencies, except perhaps for a time, by a system of unlimited lending, which would, in the end, leave the situation more uncontrollable than ever.

BUSINESS FORECASTING.

THE present volume* contains a set of essays on business forecasting. This problem, which is intimately connected with the study of the trade cycle, has been closely investigated, especially since the war. The economic records promptly available for students and business men have increased in number and accuracy, and their examination has shown that business is generally subject to four great sets of influences; those which spring from slow-moving, steady forces, from seasonal factors, from cyclical fluctuations, and from accidental events, such as strikes, wars, and earthquakes. Methods have been developed to eliminate the first two influences, and the existence of the trade cycle has been clearly demonstrated. Further investigation has brought to light a rough sequence in time between movements in Stock Exchange and credit conditions, and the relation of some industries to the trade cycle has been broadly worked out. The net result is that, although the business world still moves with uncertain knowledge of the future, and although

* "The Problem of Business Forecasting." Edited by Warren M. Persons, William Trufant Foster, and Albert J. Hettinger, Junior. (New York) 1924. 24s.

absolutely accurate prediction is quite impossible, more information than ever before is available for the guidance of those upon whom rests the responsibility of deciding at what pace the industrial machine shall operate.

"The Problem of Business Forecasting" is a composite work, and therefore uneven in quality. Nevertheless, it shows the progress which has been made in America in studying the trade cycle in relation to agriculture, building, transport, distribution, and mineral production. It contains hints for further enquiry. All persons interested in learning how further control may be acquired over the course of business will glean much from the book, and especially from a close and attentive study of the fascinating essay with which the volume concludes.

HOW TO SPEAK.

THE ingenuity of Mr Wicks is shown, in advance, by his clever title. He starts off by flattering his audience. He calls his book "Public Speaking for Business Men," because "the ideal aimed at is not turgid platform rhetoric, but the logical, vivid, and downright speech of the sincere man"—as if that were the characteristic type of speech of business men! His very intelligent and ingenious hints are intended not for the company meeting, but for the public hall. This is shown everywhere; it is by no accident that he selects a speech by Mr C. F. G. Masterman with which to illustrate the sort of use that a practised speaker makes of notes. And there is much in his lively volume that can be read with profit as well as with entertainment. He perhaps underrates one essential element in the serious art of speaking—that of having something that you really want to say; like all those who try to teach, he is inevitably more concerned with what the actor calls "business" than with the part itself. But he knows a vast deal about this technique, and if his advice be combined with practice, profit should accrue from the study of his manual. Certainly he is entirely right when he lays down as the great primary laws, "Speak low" and "Speak slow." He might, in his section on open-air work, have added the invaluable hint, given by a man with vast experience: "When you begin, don't fix the man on the limit of the crowd, and try to reach him; if you do, you will strain your voice at the start to its top range, and have no reserve. Look at the feet of the people near you." Here is the ounce of practical knowledge that is worth tons of theory.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- The Economics of Welfare.* By A. C. Pigou, M.A. (London) Macmillan and Co. 30s net.
Public Finance. By Harley Leist Lutz, Ph.D. (London) Appleton and Co. 18s net.
La Production des Richesses. Par René Masse. Préface de M. Raphael-Georges-Lévy. (Paris) Marcel Giard, 16 Rue Soufflot. 50f.
Dictionary of Socialism. By Dr Angelo S. Rappoport. (London) T. Fisher Unwin, Limited. 15s net.
Les Grandes Industries Modernes. Par Paul de Rousiers. (Paris) Librairie Armand Colin. 7.50f.
Elements of Business Statistics. By Robert Riegel, Ph.D. (London) Appleton and Co. 18s net.
A Year of Prophesying. By H. G. Wells. (London) T. Fisher Unwin. 10s net.
The Activities of the International Federation of Trade Unions, 1922-24. (London) Labour Joint Publications Department. 4s net.
Statistik. By Dr Wilhelm Winkler. (Leipzig) Quelle and Meyer. 1.60 rentenmark.
Theorie des Zwischenstaatlichen Wirtschaftsverkehrs. By Dr Josef Gruntzel. (Wien) Holder-Pichler-Tempsky A.G.
Government of India, Railway Department: Railway Statistics, Class I. August, 1924. (Delhi) Government Central Press. 2s 2d.
L'Emission des Nouveaux Bons du Trésor et La Situation Financière. (London) Comptoir National D'Escompte de Paris.

* "Public Speaking for Business Men." By Sidney F. Wicks. Methuen. 6s.

International Directory of Co-operative Organisations. (Geneva) International Labour Office. 1s 6d.
The National Bank of Greece. By M. S. Eulambio. (Athens) National Bank of Greece.

Rubber Producing Companies, 1924. "The Financial Times," 72 Coleman street, E.C. 2. Price 7s 6d. Like previous editions, this volume appears to contain full particulars of all rubber companies whose shares are dealt in on the London Stock Exchange—the information including officials, capital, acreage, purchase price, accounts, dividends, crop estimates, &c. The present work also contains detailed particulars of many of the Ceylon tea companies growing rubber, and should thus prove a valuable guide to the investor who desires an interest in companies producing both commodities.

Rubber Facts and Figures. (London) F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16 Cophall avenue, E.C. 2.

The English-Speaking Nations. By G. W. Morris and L. S. Wood. (Oxford) Clarendon Press.

The 100 Best Investments. (London) British, Foreign, and Colonial Corporation. 1s net.

The Authorised Life of Marie C. Stopes. By Almer Maude. (London) Williams and Norgate. 5s net.

The Round Table. December, 1924. (London) Macmillan. 5s.

Greek Government Loans. By P. Freame. (London) E. Couchman and Co. 6d.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Mines Department: Statistical Summary of Output, Costs of Production, Proceeds and Profits of the Coal-Mining Industry, for the Quarter ended March 31, 1924. 2d.

The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries. Statistics, 1920-1922. Lead, Zinc. (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 3s net (each).

Thirty-third General Annual Report by the Board of Trade on Companies. 1922-23. 1s net.

Bankruptcy. Annual Report by the Board of Trade. 1923. 3s net.

Friendly Societies, Orders and Branches. Statistical Summaries. 1913-1922. By the Chief Registrar. 6d net.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

This Bank is in close touch with leading Bankers in all parts of the world, and provides facilities for the financing of every description of Overseas business.

Traders interested in the Foreign Markets are invited to correspond with

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

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

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS,

TICKET,	ACCOUNT,
December 3.	December 4.

The general volume of Stock Exchange trade during the week now ended has been what members describe as patchy. A firm may do, that is, quite a lot of bargains on one day, and find that, in the two succeeding days, they receive comparatively few orders. It is the same with brokers and jobbers alike. In the Consol market activity is spasmodic. Industrials have been very animated in places, with tea and whisky shares more particularly conspicuous by their strength. South African gold shares tended to give way on apprehension in regard to the fall in the price of gold, and the idea that this may lead to reductions in the December-January dividends.

The Commonwealth of Australia is the largest borrower this week, asking for six million pounds in 4½ per cent. stock at 97½. The issue had no effect upon other securities in the same market, scrip stocks being, indeed, a little better after developing dullness earlier in the week. The War Loan keeps firm, on purchases made in advance of the interest-payment due on

Mr Cecil Buckley, a dealer in the Miscellaneous market, has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Stock Exchange Committee brought about by the resignation of the Hon. Gilbert Johnstone.

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

	Nominal Capital, £	Cash Sub- scription, £	First Payment, £	Further Li- ability, £
Amount previously recorded.....	..	175,018,525	..	..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE FISCHEUR WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 22, 1924.

April 1, 1924, to Nov. 22, 1924	Dr £2450 000	£	£
		nil	nil

To the Public—		£	£	£	£
Commonwealth of Australia, £6,000,000 4½ % Loan (red. at par 1940-60), issued at 97½ %	6,000,000	..	5,850,000	..	300,000
Belsert-Chardwar Tea Estates, 40,000 8 % Cum. Pref. Shares of £1, at par	40,000	..	40,000	..	10,000
Do 40,000 Ord. Shares of £1, at par	40,000	..	40,000	..	10,000
Total offered to the public	..	..	5,930,000	..	320,000
To Shareholders only—					5,610,000
Bank of New Zealand, 375,000 Pref. "B" Shares of £1....	375,000	..	375,000	..	375,000
Do 750,000 Ord. Shares of £1, at par	750,000	..	750,000	..	750,000
Reynolds and Co., 80,000 Ord. Shares of £1, at 25s per Share	80,000	..	100,000	..	40,000
Callard, Stewart, and Watt, 30,000 Shares of £1, at 27s 6d per share	30,000	..	41,250	..	11,250
Total offered to shareholders only	..	..	1,266,250	..	1,176,250
Total offered for subscription to date					90,000
By—					
1924.....	189,134,775		Total offered for subscription for whole year—		£
1923.....	259,169,608		1922.....		271,393,173
1922.....	566,840,957		1921.....		573,675,656
1921.....	323,809,861		1920.....		388,978,203
1920.....	355,818,603		1919.....		367,093,656
1919.....	1,602,887,445		1918.....		1,635,093,961
					1,393,391,441

Commonwealth of Australia.—This is an issue of £6,000,000 Commonwealth of Australia 4½ per cent. registered stock at £97½ per cent. The proceeds will be used to meet expenditure for settlement of migrants from Great Britain, for developmental works, for the redemption of £2,000,000 Treasury bills due January 1, 1925, and £1,000,000 due February 1, 1925, and other securities. The principal is repayable in London at par on July 1, 1960, the Government having the option of redemption, in whole or in part, on or after July 1, 1940, on giving three months' notice. The stock constitutes a trustee investment. Attention is again drawn in the prospectus to the provision for sinking fund payments in connection with the Australian National Debt Sinking Fund. Commonwealth of Australia debentures and stock issued and payable in London and the interest thereon, the property of persons not domiciled in Australia, are not, and will not be, subject to any taxes, duties, or levies in Australia. It may be recalled that in May last the Government of Australia issued £10,000,000 stock here, bearing 5 per cent. interest at par. Thus in the new issue a slight measure of improvement is noticeable. It will be observed that £3,000,000 of new capital is raised. A sound investment in its class.

The Galicia Nitrate Company.—Incorporated under Chilean laws. The authorised capital is £650,000, in shares of £1 each, of which 600,000 have been issued. There are also £150,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures. These are redeemable by 1941 by 15 annual drawings at £102 per cent., but the company reserves the right to redeem outstanding debentures on any interest date after December 1, 1927, on giving six calendar months' notice to that effect, on the following terms:—After December 1, 1927, up to and including December 1, 1930, at £105; after December 1, 1930, up to and including December 1, 1934, at £104; after December 1, 1934, at £102. The debentures are the whole of the authorised issue, and will be constituted by a trust deed in favour of the London and South American Investment Trust, Limited, as trustees, which will provide for the creation by the company of a specific first mortgage under Chilean Law over three oficinas with lands and nitrate grounds, comprising an area of about 8½ square miles, belonging to the company, situated in the province of Tarapaca, together with buildings and plant. These are valued at £683,677. The above details are taken from an advertisement in the Press made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations in connection with the issue of debenture stock.

Belseri-Chardwar Tea Estates, Limited.—Authorized capital £85,000, divided into 40,000 cumulative 8 per cent. preference shares and 45,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. The undertaking has been formed to acquire as going concerns from the Chardwar Tea Company, Limited, the Belseri and Chardwar tea estates situated in Assam, British India. The whole of the preference capital and 40,000 of the ordinary shares are now being issued at par. Shareholders of the Chardwar Tea Company have applied for 20,000 of each class of shares. The gardens and lands which are to be taken over from January 1st last have a total area of approximately 2,900 acres, of which about 766 acres are under tea. The output in 1922, it is stated, was 302,240 lbs, and in 1923 357,920 lbs. The original estimate for 1924 was 376,000 lbs, but it is now considered that the actual output is unlikely to exceed 324,000 lbs owing to unfavourable weather conditions. Profits of the Chardwar Tea Company in 1922 amounted to £6,410 and in 1923 to £9,153. The average price obtained for the 1923 output, the prospectus states, was 1s 5.473d per lb, whereas the average for the 1924 crop to date is equivalent to 1s 6d per lb, which shows an increased profit per pound, compared with 1923, of 4.527d per lb. The prospectus is a clear statement of affairs.

West Surrey Water Company.—Authorised share cap £170,000, of which £157,780 has been issued. The auth

used loan capital is £56,400, of which £20,000 remains to be borrowed. This is an offer for sale by tender—the minimum price being par—of 750 £10 to 5½ per cent. preference shares. For the twelve months ended June 30th last revenue amounted to £13,607. The interest on the debenture stock requires £1,456. This leaves £12,151 available for the dividends, and as the dividend on preference shares, including those now being issued, will absorb but £1,786, a substantial margin is available for security.

Horne Bay Waterworks Company.—Authorised share capital £64,000 of which £52,535 has been issued. Loan capital amounts to £24,900, and £15,050 has been issued. This is an offer for sale by tender of £3,000 7 per cent. ordinary stock—the minimum price of issue being £114. This gives a yield of £6 2s 10d per cent. Net revenue for the last financial year is given as £2,154, and £1,266 is available for dividends on ordinary stocks. Ordinary capital will amount to £35,620.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.									
		Price	Latest		Rise or		Price	Latest	
		Last	Week.		Fall		Last	Week.	
		Week.					Week.		
War	1925-28	97	97	+		Anst. 5% 1931-41	105	105	
	1925-26	97	97	+		Canada 4½% 1920-25	100	100	
Loans	1923-24	101	101	+		India 3½% Stock	67	67	
	1923-24	101	101	+		Do 7% 1926-31	106	106	+
Funding Loan 4%	30	30	30	+		Do 5½% 1932	103	103	+
Victory Bonds 4%	93	93	93	+		Do 4%	87	87	
Conversion Loan 3½%	79	79	79	+		N.S.W. 5% 1922-32	100	114	+
Consolidated 4%	58	58	58	+		Nigeria 5% 1945-70	104	105	+1
Irish Land Stock 2½%	60	60	60	+		U. of S.A. 6% 1924-34	102	101	-1
Local Loans 3%	66	66	66	+		Victoria 5% 1924-40	105	105	

British Railways.									
Great Western, Ord.	1097.	1097.	—	§	Southern, Ord. "A"	403.	41	+	+
London & North-Eastern	824.	824	+	§	Do Ord. "B"	96.	10	+	+
5% Pref. Ord.	824.	824	+	§	Do Pref. Ord.	839.	839	+	+
Do Def. Ord.	304.	304	+	§	Do Def. Ord.	438.	438	+	+
London, Mid. and	1018.	1018	+	§	Underground Electric	25.	24½	+	+
Scottish, and	779.	779	+	§	Do "A" (11)	89.	89	+	+
Metropolitan	532.	532	+	§	Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	99.	99	+	+

Banks.					
Barclays B (£1,1pd.)	2½	288..	+ ½	Nat. Bank of S. Africa	6½. 6½ + +
Chartered Bk of India	20½	202..		National Provincial,	(20, with 4 paid).. 11½. 11½ +
Lloyds (£5 with 1				Standard of S. Africa	(20, with 5 paid).. 11½. 11½ +
paid		3½.	3½.	Westminster Bank	(20, with 5 paid) 18½. 18
Midland (£12, with					
£2 paid)		8½.	8½ + ½		

Colonial and Foreign Railways.	
Antofagasta Cons	884. 88. — 4
B.A. and Pacific	804. 809. —
B.A. & Gt Southern	85. 79. + 1
Buenos Aires West	165. 168. + 3
Canadian Pac. Southern	734. 74. + 3
Leopoldina	29. 29. —
Mexican Railway	9. 94. +
Do 1st Pref.	27. 30. +
Do 2nd Pref.	15. 17. +
San Paulo	1584. 158. —
United Havana	861x. 85x. —

American Railroads.			
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	97 .. 98 .. + 1	Southern	'81 .. '82 .. + 1
Do ..	33 .. 33 .. + 2	Do Non-cum Pres.	86 .. 86 ..

Erie		Do 4% 1st Pref.		Do 4% 44		Foreign Government securities.			
Argentina 5%, 1886-7	100	100				Greek 5%, 1884	55 1/2	52 1/2	- 3
Austrian 5% Guar.	35 1/2	97	+	+		Hungarian 5%, 1873, 1924	94	93 1/2	
Belgian 3%	71	73				Japanese 4% 1910	92	92	
Brazil 5% 1914	71	71				Do 6% 1904	38	36	- 2
Chilian 4%, 1895	85 1/2	85 1/2				Mexican Cons. 1899	38	36	
Do 7 1/2%	108	108 1/2				Nervian Corp. Pref.	36 1/2	37	+
Chinese 5%, 1912	68	69				P.L.M. 6%	94	94	
Egyptian 4%	75 1/2	76				Portuguese (New)	74	75 1/2	
French 5%	81	81 1/2				Russian 5%, 1906	64	63	- 1
Do 4%	17	17 1/2				Spanish 4%	103	103 1/2	
Do 4% 1st Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2				Seine (Dept) 7%	107 1/2	106	- 1 1/2

Do 7th, 1924..... 6pm-6pm... + 2

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" 2 1/2 .. 2 1/2 .. + 3	Marconi Canada 1 1/2 .. 1 1/2 ..
..... 1 1/2 .. 1 1/2 .. + 3	Marconi Marine 1 1/2 .. 1 1/2 ..

Marconi Wireless.....		Miscellaneous.	
Aerated Bread (¢) ..	1 1/2	Linggi Plants. (¢) ..	1 1/2
Amal. Cottons (¢) ..	8	Lipton (¢) ..	1 1/2
		Liver Brag. Cmp (¢) ..	1 1/2

Anglo Persian Oil (G.L.)	28 ..	3 ..	Do 8% Cm A P (T) (G.L.)	48 ..	48 ..
Armstrong (Sir W.G.)	27 ..	13 ..	Do 2% Cm P (Ord) (G.L.)	48 ..	48 ..
and Co. (G.L.)	27 ..	8 ..	Lister (G.L.)	18 ..	18 ..
Ass. Ind. Cemen (G.L.)	35 ..	35 ..	Lubitor Oilfields (G.L.)	10 ..	10 ..
			Esso (G.L. & Co. (G.L.)	48 ..	48 ..

Barker, John (£1).....	89..	89..				Lyon's (£1).....	78..	78..			
B'ham Steel Works (£1)	58½	58	—	—	—	Mexican Eagle (\$10)	18..	18..			
Brasil Traction (\$100)	58½	58	—	—	—	Nobel Industries (£1)	18½	18½			
British-American						Pekin (2½).....	78	78			
Tobacco (£1).....	58½	58½	—	—	—	Rubber Plantations	18½	18			

Burmah Oil (£1)	5 3/4	5 3/4	..	Investment (£1)	17 1/2	18 1/2	..
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	3 1/4	3 1/4	..	Shell Transport (£1)	4 1/2	4 3/4	+
Courtaulds (£1)	2 1/2	3	+	Smithfield & Argentine			
Counard (£1)	1	1	+	Meat (£1)	3 1/2	1 1/2	+
Cowdall (£1)	1 1/2	1 1/2	+	Union Cold Storage			

Dorman, Long (£1) ..	92..	92.. + sh	Union		178..	178.. -
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	93..	93..	6% Cum. Pref. (£1)		178..	178.. +
Fine Cotton Spinners			Do 7% Cm. Pri. (£1)		178..	178..
(£1) ..	213..	213x..	United Dairies (£1)..		178..	178..
The Land (£1) ..	178..	178..	United Serdang (2/).		178..	178..

Forest Hills (21) ..	199..	199..	10	United Tobacco (21) ..	199..	199..	10
Furness, Withy (21) ..	199..	199..	10	Vallambrosa (21)	199..	199..	10
Highlands and Low-	199..	199..	10	Vickers (21)	199..	199..	10
lands Rubber (21) ..	199..	199..	10	Watney Def. Ssk. ..1951	2041..	2041..	10
Hudson's Bay (21) ..	199..	199..	10				

Imperial Tobacco (£)	318..	318..	..	Mines.	87..	7.. +
Brakpan (£1).....	318..	318..	..	Knights	48..	48.. +
Brakpan Hill Prop. (£1)	18..	18..	..	Modderfontein (10)	18..	18..
				Modderfontein, "B" (5)	28..	28..
				Modderfontein, "C" (5)	28..	28..

Broken Hill (7)	18	+ 2	Madderton, Deep (9)	218	618
Chartered (21)	1	+ 1	Premier Def. (2/6)....	6	6
Cons. Gold Fields (21)	22	..	Rand Mines (5).....	24	24
Crown Mines (10)	3	+ 6	Selukwe	18	18
De Beers Def. (24) ..	11	12 + 18		35	35 +

East Rand Prop. (A1)	8 ..	8 ..	Rio Tinto (A1)	22 ..	22 ..
Geduld (A1)	34 ..	34 ..	Spring Mines (A1)	22 ..	22 ..
Gov. Gold Areas	72 ..	72 ..			

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Year.	Previous Year.
Railways.					
Buenos Ayres, Midland	4%	..	..	..	..
Dominion (Canada)	3%†	(bonus of 1%)	..	13	13
Equitable Trust Co. (New York)	3%†	Dec. 31	Quarterly	..	..
National of Denmark	14*	..	..	8	10
Standard Bank of South Africa.	14*	..	Less tax	..	..
Insurance.					
Law Union and Rock	4† p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..
Sun Life	12/6p.s.	Jan. 1	Tax free	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Assam Doars Tea.	15%*	Dec. 10	..	..	..
Assam Tea.	7½%*	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..
Dalkeith (Ceylon) Rubber	10%*	Dec. 9	Less tax	..	..
Deundl Tea	15%*	..	..	..	..
Doom Dooms Tea	10%*	Dec. 9	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Eastern Assam Tea	7½%*	..	..	..	..
Edersapola Tea	6%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Hingurgama	15%*	Dec. 10	..	..	..
Hope Tea	23%*	..	..	5	nil
Kuala Lumpur Rubber	15%*	Dec. 10	..	..	..
Kulicherra Tea	15%*	Dec. 10	..	..	..
Liesh River	10%*	Dec. 10	..	3	3
Meen las Tea	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Montb	5%*	..	..	6	5
Mount Vernon Tea	..	..	..	20	20
Pullangode Rubber	15%†	..	Less tax	..	..
Rajawalla Produce	10%*	Dec. 17	Less tax	44	34
Simo Rubber	..	..	..	35	25
Singapore Para Rubber	30%†	..	..	5	10
Sumtravelle Tea.	..	..	..	20	10
Sungei Kara Rubber	15%†	..	..	..	..
Warriapolla	..	..	..	..	..
Mining.					
El Oro	5† p.s.	Dec. 18	Tax free	10	nil
Jantar Nigeria.	..	..	Less tax	..	..
London and Rhodesian	5%*	..	Less tax	10	7½
South Africa Company	..	..	..	10	7½
South-West Africa Co.	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.					
A. and F. Pears	..	..	Tax free	20	20
Angostura Bitters	19†	..	..	12	11
Army & Navy Invest.Trust,Deid.	4/6 p.s.*	(& bonus of 1/ p.s.)	..	..	..
Ashley Gardens	£2 p.s.*	Jan. 1	Tax free	124	124
Barclay, Perkins.	..	..	Less tax	15	..
Bernard, H. H.	..	..	Less tax	..	..
British Chinese Corporation.	7%*	Jan. 10	(5% on acct. of arrears)	20	16
California Petroleum	10%†	Dec. 9	Tax free	6	6
Canadian Car and Foundry, Pref.	7%*	..	..	18	13
Chinese Engineering and Mining	10%†	..	Tax free	16	6
Chloride Electrical Storage	5%*	..	..	6	6
Cleveland Trust	7½%*	Dec. 18	Less tax	18	13
Columbia Graphophone	..	..	..	6	6
Dennis Bros.	3%†	..	Less tax	17½	15
D. Jones (Dickinson)	5† p.s.	..	Tax free	..	..
Globe Telegraph	..	..	..	15	10
Globe Mines Investment	7½%*	..	..	15	10
Gold Mines Investment	7½%*	..	Tax free	12½	20
Greenwich Inland Linoleum	..	..	..	25	20
Hall's Oxford Brewery	7½	..	Less tax	..	..
Helly's	7½%*	(& bonus 10%)	Less tax	..	..
Hull Brewery	10%*	..	Tax free	..	..
Ind. Coope, and Co.	10%*	..	..	..	..
Ingils	25p.s.*	Nov. 29	..	22½	17½
International Petroleum	17½%†	..	..	89	89
Mambr Sugar and Malt, Ord.	..	..	..	..	..
Do Def.	15*	..	Tax free	7	5
Marston, Thomas, and Evershed	..	..	..	14	10
Massey's Burnley Brewery	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Nelson Bros.	3*	Jan. 7	Less tax 4/6 in £	6	4
Nobel Industries	3	..	..	7½	7½
North Londale Iron and Steel.	..	..	Less tax	..	..
N.Z. Loan & Mercantile Agency	5*	Nov. 29	Less tax	..	..
Oceana Consolidated	..	..	..	..	..
Parkes Chemists	£2 p.s.	Jan. 2	Quarterly	5	34
Pennsylvania Water and Power	24%†	..	Less tax	17½	15
Richard Thomas	24%†	..	..	..	..
Ridgway's	10%†	..	..	15	15
Saracen Batlow	7½%*	(& bonus of 7½%)	Less tax	17½	15
Scottish Australian Invest.	7½%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Scottish Oils, Ptg. Pref.	3%*	Jan. 5	Tax free	..	..
"Shell" Transport	2† p.s.*	Jan. 9	Tax free	..	..
South African Breweries	1/ p.s.*	..	Less tax	52	nil
Sporting & Dramatic Publishers	24%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Strand Hotel, Def.	7%†	(bonus of 2%)	..	506	506
Tadcaster Tower Brewery	10%†	..	Less tax	12	10
Tate and Lyle	10%†	..	Less tax	13-2	15-2
Tube Investments	6%†	(bonus of 5%)	Less tax	7	7½
Usher's Wiltshire Brewery	..	..	Less tax	15	15
Variety Theatres Consolidated.	..	Jan. 1	Less tax 4/6 in £	3	nil
Yenitoni	..	..	..	8	8
Yenitoni Telephone	..	..	Less tax	15	15
West Cheshire Brewery	..	..	..	..	..
Western Telegraph	5† p.s.*	Dec. 20	Tax free	6	6
William Paton	3%†	..	..	6	6
Wm. Fison	..	..	Less tax	15	15

(a) Tax free. (b) Interim, tax free.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED, held on November 26th, it was decided to pay on January 1st next the half-year's instalment of interest, less income-tax, falling due that day on the per cent. second and debenture stock.

HARRIS & WILSON, AIRRES, LIMITED.—Subject to completion of audit, the accounts for the year ended August 31, 1924, after payment of salaries, advertising, and other expenses, and after deduction of income-tax, and after setting aside for all other working expenses, and including interest received on cash and deposits, and dividends amounting to £137,643 6s 10d receivable from the South American Stores (Gath and Chaves), Limited, show a profit of £204,499; less depreciation on installations, fixtures, and fittings, £18,267; add amount from last year's account, £18,267; balance available for distribution of £208,184. The directors recommend the payment, less income-tax, of the interest for the year on the 5 per cent. funding certificates, £18,800; the dividend of 8 per cent. on the year on the preference shares, £138,000; and the transfer of the balance to the 5 per cent. funding certificate redemption fund, £1,381. Dividend will be payable on December 20th to the holders of funding certificates and preference shares whose names are registered in the company's registers on December 1, 1924.

PARA ELÉCTRICA DE CORDOBA, S. A.—Interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., being payable on the 1st of the half-year to May 31, 1924, will be paid on the 5 per cent. second and debenture stock, together with accrued interest at 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year to November 30, 1924. After deduction of income-tax the net payment will be 20s 1d per cent.

THE NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETY have raised the rate interest on completed shares to 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, instead of per cent. as formerly.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

ACQUISITION OF DRUMMONDS' BANK.

EXCELLENT POSITION TO ASSIST TRADE.

INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDENDS.

The annual general court of proprietors of the Royal Bank of Scotland was held at Edinburgh, on 26th inst.

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, K.T., the governor, presided.

In moving the adoption of the report, His Grace said:—

I presume it will be your pleasure that the annual report and balance-sheet with the auditors' report, which has now been in your hands for some days, shall be taken as read. The directors have again the pleasure of submitting a statement containing results which, I trust, are satisfactory to the proprietors. The year has been an eventful one in the history of the bank.

ACQUISITION OF DRUMMONDS' BANK.

The business of the old private banking house of Messrs Drummond, Charing Cross, London, was acquired, their assets and liabilities being taken over as at January 12th last. The assets included the bank and adjoining freehold buildings. This step has had the effect of introducing the bank to a new and valuable clientele, and has also furnished us with a West-End branch in London, the provision of which had been contemplated for a considerable time. The business is carried on under the personal charge of the Messrs Drummond, with the same management and staff, so that there is no change so far as their customers are concerned, whilst customers of the Royal Bank find a West-End office a convenience.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

At the special desire of the Messrs Drummond, part of the price took the form of an allotment to them of £60,000 of Royal Bank stock, and in connection with this the opportunity was taken of further increasing the capital of the bank by £440,000, making a total addition of £500,000, thus raising the capital to £2,500,000—a scheme which, in view of the bank's expanding business, the directors had been considering for some time. The issue at the price of 250 per cent. was well received, and it is a source of gratification to the directors, as it must be to the proprietors, that the stock is now standing at 285 per cent.

INCREASE IN DEPOSITS.

Turning now to the balance-sheet, the deposits at £39,719,331 show an increase over last year's figures of £1,839,000. This, of course, is due to the accretion from Drummonds' Bank, and it is proper to say here that the deposits at Drummonds' branch have been maintained, and that the amalgamation has been effected without any loss of business, the directors having every reason to be satisfied with their acquisition. There has been a moderate diminution in deposits elsewhere, due to well-known tendencies at present, affecting banks in general, but I think we may congratulate ourselves on our showing.

LIQUID ASSETS.

On the assets side the customary liquid position is shown, and in addition to cash and call money, and our holding of British Treasury bills, I may remind you that a very substantial proportion of the bank's investments in British Government securities consists of short-dated bonds.

BANKING ADVANCES AND THE STATE OF TRADE.

Our banking advances show a considerable increase, a reflection of the Drummond acquisition, and also an evidence of the support which the bank has been able to give to its trading customers during a period of considerable difficulty. It is hoped and believed that with the improved outlook in Europe, and the prospect for a period of years of settled Government at home, trade may now have an opportunity of recovering. The process, however, must necessarily be slow, and patience will be required in dealing with the situation. In the meantime something has been achieved by the return of the spirit of confidence, in the absence of which commercial enterprise was to a large extent at a standstill, and a considerable proportion of capital was stagnating. What is most needed in the country is some adjustment of the industrial position, so that all concerned may see it to be in their own interest to pull their full weight in the struggle for new markets, and for the retention of old ones in the face of increasing competition from

abroad. It must never be forgotten that the maintenance of the foreign trade of this country is absolutely essential, and that this can only be achieved by up-to-date methods, hard work, and increased output which will enable us to get down the cost of production. Having regard to trade requirements in view of a revival, it is satisfactory to reflect that the bank, with its increased capital resources and reserves, is in an excellent position for rendering assistance to our trading friends, who are able to submit proposals for advances on sound lines.

INVESTMENTS.

The bank's investments this year, as is natural in view of the larger deposits, exhibit a considerable increase, and it is only right to say that the market value of these stocks shows a substantial surplus over their book value.

PROPERTY.

As has been shown by our annual statements, the bank's properties have been written down from time to time by substantial amounts. This year there is an increase in the item of freehold properties in London, owing to the acquisition of Drummonds' Bank Buildings—those premises overlooking Trafalgar square, and occupying one of the finest sites in the West-End of London—which have been taken into our statement at what we believe to be a safe figure. This opportunity may perhaps be taken of mentioning that the bank are prepared to let on lease several suites of offices above the bank at Charing Cross, and in the adjoining new buildings, and some of our friends in Scotland or elsewhere may consider this a good opportunity of securing premises in the West-End.

PROFIT AND APPROPRIATION.

Our net profit, after making all requisite provisions, is brought out at £452,369, making an increase of £26,000 over last year's figures.

After making the customary provisions for bank buildings and heritable property and pension reserve fund, the directors are glad to be able to recommend a dividend for the half-year at 15 per cent., making with the 14 per cent. for the previous half-year 14½ per cent. for the year, as compared with 14 per cent. last year, the distribution this year being, of course, applicable to the increased capital.

THE REST.

The addition to rest from the current year's profits is £121,432, but this account was augmented very substantially by the premium on the £440,000 of new stock allotted to the proprietors, amounting to no less than £660,000. The result is that the rest has now reached £2,347,393, so that it is within measurable distance of equalling the enlarged capital of £2,500,000. These figures afford evidence of the increased strength of the bank and of the extent of its resources.

FOREIGN BUSINESS.

Besides fulfilling its functions as a distinctively Scottish bank, with over 200 branch establishments in Scotland, and with large and increasing connections in London, the Royal Bank has in recent years considerably extended its arrangements for conducting foreign business, and it is now in a position to perform every kind of service, both at home and abroad, which is required by the clients of a modern banking institution.

THE STAFF AS STOCKHOLDERS.

It will be remembered that in connection with the issue of new stock power was given to the directors to dispose of or deal with any allotments of stock which were held as declined, in such manner as they might determine in the interests of the bank. These allotments, although individually of small account, amounted in the aggregate to a substantial sum, and the directors considered it to be alike in the interests of the bank and of the staff that this stock should be made available to the officers of the bank on the same terms as it had been issued to proprietors, special consideration being given to those who were in a position to take up only a and, indeed, embarrassing—the applications far exceeding the amount available. The result is that, to the regret of the directors, it has only been possible to give a small allocation to each individual applicant, but it is interesting to record that our list of

proprietors will now include about 60 per cent. of our staff—a considerable number having previously been stockholders. I am sure this will meet with the warm approval of the proprietors.

THANKS TO OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

In a year which has been one of considerable stress the directors desire to place on record their high appreciation of the services of the general manager, Mr. Wright. They also wish to extend their thanks to the other officials, and to the whole staff of the bank, including our new friends at Drummonds.

With these remarks I beg to propose that the report now submitted, containing a statement of the accounts and balance-sheet of the bank, be approved, and that out of the profits of the year a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year, under deduction of tax, be now declared in conformity therewith.

The report was approved, and the governor, deputy-governor, extraordinary directors, and the retiring ordinary director were re-elected, and auditors were appointed for the ensuing year.

SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN ON FOREIGN COMPETITION.

The twenty-sixth annual general meeting of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at Middlesbrough.

Captain John E. Rogerson (deputy chairman) presided, and, after referring to the absence of Lord Furness through ill-health, said that the profit for the year was £106,644. It was proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary share capital.

The immediate outlook of the iron and steel trade—especially for steel plates—was uncertain and involved. Steel was being imported into the country from the Continent in large quantities, and if these imports continued to increase they would seriously affect the steel trade generally by undermining stability and destroying efficiency. He had already quoted at the Cargo Fleet meeting figures showing that whilst steel imports were increasing exports were decreasing, the latter showing a loss at the rate of 1,000,000 tons per annum as compared with 1913. Should the suggested Safeguarding of Industries proposals ultimately mature and become law, here was an opportunity of assisting one of the most vital trades of the country, which was at present passing through probably the most critical period in its history.

Numerous references had recently appeared in the Press about the Germans and the French agreeing upon a common policy in regard to their iron and steel trade. Whether any definite arrangement was immediately feasible, he could not say. The Germans owned the coal and coke oven plants, with their valuable by-products, while the French owned the ore deposits. In those circumstances it would appear quite probable that some working arrangement between those two countries would be arrived at sooner or later, and, if that did take place, it would naturally react very seriously upon the steel trade of this country.

To meet the existing foreign competition, suggestions amongst others had appeared in the Press for more intimate relations being formed between different undertakings in regard to the sale of various products. He was of opinion that so far as the iron and steel trade was concerned one could not divorce sales from manufacture, and it was absolutely essential that the actual manufacture should be co-ordinated with the sale departments. Responsibility must not be divided, and any scheme which embraced only co-operative action in sales and individual purchasing and independent operation at the works of various companies would not be effective, and would certainly not prove permanent or beneficial.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.
LARGE REDUCTION IN EXPENSES.

The ninety-first ordinary general meeting of the Western Telegraph Company, Limited, was held, on the 27th instant, at Electric House, Moorgate, London.

Sir John Denison-Pender, G.B.E., K.C.M.G. (the chairman), said it was gratifying that the board were able to present a satisfactory statement for the past year, although the actual traffic carried had been less than in the preceding twelve months, the receipts from messages being £83,847 less than in 1922-23. This would, however, not come as a surprise to anyone who was aware of the state of trade generally, and the position of exchange for remitting money home. Against this decrease the dividends from their subsidiary companies, which in the past had been at a lower rate than the dividends the company itself had paid (their reserve funds thus benefiting), together with increased interest on invest-

ments, came to no less than £52,248, so that, after all, the total receipts from all sources were only £32,377 less than in the last account. To summarise the result, the total receipts were less by £32,377, expenses and taxation were less by £164,613, showing a balance in the company's favour of £132,236, and by adding the differences in the amounts brought in and carried forward—namely, £17,764—there was a surplus of £150,000, which was carried to the reserve fund. That fund had been charged with £98,950, costs of diversion and renewals of cables, &c., so that after payment of dividends of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, the substantial sum of £327,322 was carried forward, against £329,739 brought in.

The company had now replaced their two old cable steamers, which had done such good work for many years, and the new vessels, the Norseman and the Cable Enterprise, were both at their stations on the east coast of South America. With regard to the negotiations with the French Government for the lease of a special wire between Paris and London, up to the present the board's endeavours had not met with success. Their case was a strong one, seeing that the North American cable companies, as well as the French cable company, in competition with them for South American traffic, were allocated special wires to and in Great Britain for their traffics, and, in common justice, surely our Post Office Department should see that they, a British company, were granted the same facilities accorded to these foreign cable companies here.

With reference to the concession granted to an Italian company to lay a cable to Azores, joining Italy with North and South America, certain negotiations had taken place between those concerned, resulting in an agreement whereby the Western Telegraph Company's South American traffics were protected at Azores, not only at the outset, but later on when the projected direct Italian-South American cables became interrupted. Within the last two months the second section of the concession, the Italian cable from Malaga to Azores, had been laid, and the first section between Rome and Malaga, to complete the connection with Azores, was in course of manufacture. When the Italian through line was completed it would serve Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, and Buenos Ayres, and would compete with them at those points.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.
RECORD PROFIT.

The forty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, was held, on the 26th instant, at Winchester House, London, Mr George Turner, M.E. (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said that, in spite of considerable difficulties, the directors were able to submit a general net revenue account with a profit larger than the company had ever before shown. In the railway accounts the traffics showed very distinct improvement, and their steady increase in general earnings which they had had for years was again maintained. This year the increase was approximately 15 per cent., and the latest returns to hand for the current year showed still higher figures. In view of the development of the traffic they had thought it wise to make a further increase in their rolling stock. The output of the collieries was down, but it was now improving. The development of their new mines continued satisfactorily. The railway out to them was now through, but a good deal of work was still needed before it could be regarded as consolidated and actually completed.

With regard to their other interests, the Makum Tea Company had done well, and with the recent share-for-share bonus they now held 40,000 shares in that company. The dividend paid for 1923 was 25 per cent. free of tax on the increased capital. They held five-sevenths of the capital of the Nandang Tea Company, and for 1923 they had received 8 per cent., and they expected a much larger dividend for the current season.

The Bogapani Garden was doing extremely well. Its crop last year was well reported on and sold for a good figure. This year the crop was larger than they had expected, and up to the present it had sold at very good prices—so much so that he expected that from now onwards the proceeds would be sufficient to pay the cost of the maintenance and extension of the garden. At present they had 640 acres under tea, and this year they hoped to get out another 150 acres, their idea being to extend the garden to about 1,400-1,500 acres. As a whole, he was very pleased with the company's investments in tea. They were an improving asset, and had already made substantial contributions to revenue. The timber department had done well, the sawmills having made a good profit. The Rivers Steam Navigation Company continued to pay them their dividends. The general net revenue account showed a profit of £137,778. The directors recommended a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the B stock, making 8 per cent. for the year, the largest they had paid on this stock.

The report and accounts were unanimously agreed to.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

PRODUCTION RAPIDLY INCREASING.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY TO ATTACKS ON COMPANY.

COMPANY'S SPLENDID RECORD OF DEVELOPMENT.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held, on the 25th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London. Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr John Clark) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—When last I had the pleasure of meeting you I indicated that I did not anticipate any improvement in results for the past financial year. This anticipation is confirmed by the figures now before you. I explained last year some of the adverse factors which militated against better results being shown, but one other to which I did not then refer was the competition which we have experienced in some of the Continental markets in which we have established ourselves. In some of these markets "rate wars" have been carried on to an insane extent, but we can await the result with perfect equanimity; since for every shilling that we lose, our competitors must lose two, or more. Taking into account these conditions and those previously explained, the results shown may, I think, be regarded with satisfaction.

The dividend on the ordinary shares which we have recommended is again 10 per cent. As in the case of the previous year, the profits shown might have justified a higher rate of dividend, but with a view to conserving our financial resources as much as possible—in regard to which point I shall have something more to say later on—we have again deemed it advisable to follow a conservative policy.

CURRENT YEAR.

As regards the current year, it is more than ever difficult to venture a forecast. Last year I indicated the possibility of a considerable improvement, basing this on the further anticipated large increase in our throughput, but subject, of course, to there being no further decline in the prices of products. Our anticipations in regard to throughput are being fully realised, but prices during the past few months have shown an appreciable decline as compared with the average of the past year, and the abnormal competition to which I have referred still continues in some of our selling markets. Provided, however, that there is no further decline in prices, we are hopeful that the current year will show a considerable increase in our profits.

MARKET OUTLOOK.

As to the probable future course of prices for petroleum products, it is, as I said last year, always dangerous to prophesy. At that time it looked as if consumption were overtaking production. This would have happened had it not been for the bringing in of some new fields in the United States, and for the reckless system of drilling obtaining in that country, which results from a large number of competing producers being able to operate at the same time in one field, regardless of the life of the field or of market considerations. The combined effect of these causes was—temporarily only, I think—to again bring production ahead of consumption.

On the other hand, there has been an enormous increase all over the world in the consumption of petroleum products, sufficient, nearly, if not quite, to counterbalance the increased production; and now that the production of crude has again begun to decline there is every reason for believing that, subject to no prolific new fields being discovered in the near future, the barometer of oil prices has reached its lowest point, and that any change will be in the "fair weather" direction.

AMERICAN STOCKS AND STORAGE.

The weakness of prices in the United States during the past few months has, I should point out, not been due so much to the growth of production as compared with consumption as to the want of sufficient storage accommodation, for both crude oil and products, to meet the expanding trade, since stocks in that country, relatively to its increased consumption and exports, show an appreciable decline on the figure at which they stood when prices were on a higher level.

This is, however, a difficulty which is being daily overcome, and when the tankage in that country has been sufficiently extended, the forced sales, which have been so marked a characteristic of the American market for some time past, must necessarily cease, and prices be re-established on a basis more consistent with the world's average cost of production. I do not, of course, speak of our cost of production, because in this respect we stand,

as I have previously pointed out, in an exceptionally favoured position, owing to the unique productivity and life of our wells and to the very high quality of our crude.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

I will now deal with the items of the balance-sheet which call for explanation. Taking the debit side first of all, the only changes of importance are (1) the amount of issued capital, which shows an increase of £121,233 10s, being the amount of calls on the last issue of capital outstanding at March 31, 1923, but since paid; (2) redemption of debentures to the amount of £125,000; (3) the £2,000,000 five-year secured notes, which were issued during the year and applied to paying off the loan from our bankers which in the previous accounts stood at £2,829,000; (4) employees' provident pension and insurance fund, which shows an increase for the year of £273,034 6s 5d, and now stands at the satisfactory total of £1,089,812 3s 5d; and (5) the reserves, which show an increase of £202,940 18s, bringing the total up to £5,283,128 11s 6d.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

The profit and loss account shows, as you will see, after payment of preference dividend up to September 30, a total remaining to be dealt with of £3,079,143 9s 11d, as compared with £2,993,051 17s 2d in the previous year. Out of the former amount we have since paid a further £437,500 in respect of preference dividends for the half-year ended March 31 last, and we now recommend the payment on December 31 next of the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares to which I have already referred, absorbing £895,000, leaving a balance of £1,746,643 9s 11d to be carried forward. This balance, as before, is subject to such excess profits duty as we may be ultimately called upon to pay, and also to corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31 last. No settlement in respect of the former item has, I am sorry to say, yet been arrived at, but, whatever it may be, it, as also the liability for corporation profits tax, is very amply covered by the balance carried forward.

IMPROVED LIQUID POSITION.

Dealing now with the credit side, the only items calling for remark are (1) purchase price of concessions, shares in and advances to associated companies, &c. The amount appearing under this heading shows an increase on the previous year of £98,457 10s 5d, but on the other hand the contingent liability has been reduced by £1,767,906 2s 9d; (2) refineries, tank installations, &c. This item shows an increase for the year of £232,640 7s 7d, being the balance of capital expenditure in excess of the amounts written off for depreciation; (3) stocks of stores and materials show a reduction of £63,651 10s 10d; (4) our cash at bankers and in hand stands at £876,359 5s 4d, as compared with £561,182 6s 2d.

During the year we disposed of the war loan stock which appeared in the last balance-sheet at a cost of £594,427 17s, but our net liquid position shows, as will be seen from the balance-sheet, a satisfactory improvement.

RENEWED ATTACKS ON THE COMPANY.

Last year I referred to the attacks which had been made upon the company and the attempts which had been made to depreciate the value of our concern. Ladies and gentlemen, we had hoped that the information and explanations I then gave would have enabled the public and the Press to have grasped the true position and facts. It is therefore a matter of great regret to us to find that there has lately been a very strong recrudescence of these attacks, and consequently I feel it necessary, in justice to our shareholders and to the public generally, again to deal with the matter and to give some further particulars of the present position of the company in order that everyone may fully understand its great potentialities and the magnitude of its operations.

In the first place, I will give you some figures in connection with the present state of development of our own and our associated concerns.

The production of crude from our main Persian fields is to-day at the rate of 4,500,000 tons per annum—the maximum quantity we are in a position at the moment to dispose of—all of this being produced from flowing wells. In addition to the wells from which we are producing we have a large number of others drilled in time that it may be required. Last year I reported to you that we had proved a valuable field in an entirely new area, and I am pleased to say that the further developments in this field fully confirm what I then said of it. In the Argentine, also, I have to

report that the further drilling to which I referred last year led to the striking of oil in considerable quantities, thus further augmenting our sources of supply.

COMPANY'S VAST ORGANISATION.

We have now in operation about 700 miles of pipe lines, a large portion of them being of 10 inches or more in diameter, 1,510 storage tanks situated in various parts of the world, and 382 boilers and 31 boiler-houses. We have nine separate refineries, situated in different parts of the world. Among our buildings we have 180 workshops and factories, 4,239 dwelling houses and bungalows, 69 blocks of buildings for the accommodation of our native staff, and over 1,000 other buildings of a miscellaneous description. We have in connection with our distributing organisations 685 bulk oil installations, including 48 ocean installations (i.e., installations erected at various ports in different parts of the world) and 708 subsidiary installations.

We provide employment for over 50,000 people, including 20,500 of British nationality. We have 164 miles of railways situated in and outside our works, 71 locomotives, and 3,462 rail tank cars and wagons. We have for road transport 1,847 motor lorries, motor tractors, and tank cars, apart from a large number of horse and mule drawn vehicles. Our fleet now amounts to a total of 333 vessels of all descriptions, all fully employed, including 67 tankers nearly all built within the past eight years. To accommodate these vessels, and to handle the cargoes they carry, we have built or acquired no fewer than 89 jetties and wharves at the various ports where they call.

For the carrying on of the different operations of our business—producing, refining, storing, and distributing—we have had to purchase tens of thousands of acres of land in the various countries where these operations are being carried on.

MEDICAL WORK IN PERSIA.

We have in Persia five hospitals containing 274 beds, 11 British and two Indian doctors, and 20 British nurses. I may mention that at these hospitals we last year gave free treatment to no fewer than 3,866 in-patients and over 34,000 out-patients. A large proportion of these patients were local Persians not in the employment of the company, and it is needless for me to say that this beneficent care of the inhabitants of the country in which we are operating has been greatly appreciated by them, and has been of invaluable assistance to us in our relations with the local tribes. In addition we are contributing liberally to the principal Persian hospital in Teheran. We are also giving financial aid to several schools in different parts of Persia with the object of educating and training Persians to fill the various capacities for which there are openings in the company's service.

We have also provided in Persia and elsewhere a number of fully equipped clubs for the recreation of our various staffs. I would add that the plant and buildings which we have erected at our fields, refineries, and elsewhere are all of the most improved modern type and have been designed with a view to securing the maximum of efficiency at the minimum of cost.

The few figures I have quoted will, ladies and gentlemen, give you some idea of the huge organisation which we have built up in the 13 years which have elapsed since we first began operations and it is a record of development which, I am confident, has not been equalled in the same short space of time by any other concern in the commercial history of the world.

FINANCIAL RECORD.

As to our financial policy and administration, I claim that in these also we can show a record unequalled by any other company in the same period of time. I told you last year that during the previous three years we had provided out of revenue no less than £12,000,000 for new capital outlay. I will now add to these figures by telling you that since we first became a revenue-producing concern in 1914—only ten years ago—we have provided out of our earnings a total of no less than £19,000,000 for expenditure of a capital nature, in addition to paying out the sum of £9,500,000 in dividends and debenture interest.

These figures are, I think, an ample demonstration of the soundness of our financial policy, inasmuch as by restricting our capital issues to a figure far below the amount of our capital expenditure we have greatly enhanced the intrinsic value of our ordinary shares without at any time straining our financial position. Some financial critic scoffed at the statement I made last year that the assets of the company would, on a modest computation, be valued at two or three times the amount at which they then stood in our balance-sheet. If he will ponder over some of the figures I have given you to-day—and add to the estimate he then arrived at his own estimate of the value of our various concessions on the basis of the information which is available to everyone—he will find that my statement erred much on the side of modesty rather than the reverse.

I hope, ladies and gentlemen, that I have not wearied you with this long explanation of the company's position. I am afraid that what I have said savours very much of self-praise. This is extremely distasteful to all of us, and we would have very much preferred to have continued "hiding our light under a bushel"—particularly as in the old business it is not advisable to let our competitors know too much of what one is doing. But the false atmosphere which has been created by our detractors renders it necessary that the position of the company should be better understood, and from what I have said you will, I am sure, all be satisfied that the statements which have been recently again put into circulation are entirely devoid of foundation, and that you will share with us the great pride we feel in being associated with a concern which has, notwithstanding the strong opposition it has always had to contend with, achieved such a unique record of development and success.

AMERICAN EXPERTS' TRIBUTE.

Before passing from this subject I would like to mention that our fields and refineries in Persia were visited a few months ago—with our permission, of course—by three American experts of the highest repute, and that their confidential report—which, by the courtesy of their principals, I have been permitted to see—was, I am pleased to say, of an extremely favourable character, it being admitted that our arrangements were in some respects even in advance of the latest U.S. methods. Independent testimony of this nature is, I think you will all agree, far more reliable and convincing than loose dinner-table talk or club whisperings of men who have no actual knowledge of our operations or of our great potentialities.

Success, as we all know, breeds envy. Envy by itself we do not object to, for it is a tribute to our success. But we do object to it—and object very strongly indeed—when it is accompanied by damaging attacks on the company for which there is not the slightest foundation, especially when conveyed by verbal statements and innuendoes which we only hear of indirectly and have no opportunity of refuting.

I trust that the information I have given you to-day may have the effect of putting an end once and for all to this underhand mode of attack, but it will, in any case, enable the persons to whom these statements are made to judge for themselves what credence to give to them.

NO FURTHER CAPITAL ISSUES.

As regards capital issues, we have, as I have already mentioned, made an issue during the year of £2,000,000 short-term notes to enable us to pay off the loan we had from our bankers, and beyond this we do not anticipate having to make any further new issues in the near future. We are, of course, constantly incurring large fresh capital outlay, this being inevitable in connection with a concern which is expanding so largely and rapidly as ours, but so far as we can see we shall be able to meet this out of revenue until such time as we may find it advisable to extend our production beyond the 5,000,000 tons per annum limit for which we have so far been building up our organisation.

PRODUCTION.

With regard to production, I must repeat that I have again nothing but good news to give you.

In Persia we have again considerably extended the area of the proved territory in our main fields. At any point of this area we can now put down a bore with the practical certainty of tapping a prolific well, and the wells from which we have so far been obtaining our production still continue to maintain their large yields. I have heard that we have been described as a "one-well company." This is no doubt due to what I have told you from year to year about our now famous F7, which has now given a total yield of about 6,000,000 tons, and is still maintaining the same high rate of production. But this is only typical of the wells we have opened up all over our proved territory, and it has already been far surpassed by other wells—e.g., B17—situated 1½ mile from F7, which flows at the rate of 18,000 barrels per day, or, roughly, 1,000,000 tons per annum. These large producing wells are, I may explain, not located in any one particular spot, but are spread all over our proved territory, and as we extend this territory, as we are constantly doing by putting down fresh wells at distances of about half a mile from each other, we continue to strike wells of the same prolific character. In order that you may be better able to follow the course of the development of our production, I will continue the table of figures which I gave you last year, viz.:—

	Tons.
In 1918-19 our production was	1,106,415
In 1919-20	1,385,301
In 1920-21	1,743,557
In 1921-22	2,327,221
In 1922-23	2,959,028
In 1923-24	3,714,216

against my estimate of 3,775,000 tons, and in the current financial year it should be between 4,250,000 and 4,500,000 tons.

RESERVES.

I may add that were we to tap all the wells already opened up we could at once bring our production up to 10,000,000 tons per annum or more, and that by drilling in the wells which have already been carried down to the cap rock we could still further largely augment our production within a few months. But it would be extremely unwise to produce at this high rate until we have ascertained more definitely the extent of our reserves, and in any case it could not be done without a corresponding increase in our pipe-lines, refineries, tankers, and distributing organisations—apart from the fact that the sudden producing of this large extra quantity of oil would undoubtedly cause serious disturbance to the world's markets. Therefore we have come to the conclusion that in this respect our soundest policy is to "festina lente," and only to provide for this bigger production when we have satisfied ourselves, first, that we have ample reserves of oil to justify producing at this higher rate, and, second, that we can market the additional quantity at remunerative prices. As to the first point, we are daily getting nearer to the position where we shall be able to increase our production materially without fear of unduly exhausting our reserves. As to the second, this is largely dependent upon the growth of the world's consumption and the development of production in other countries.

"FIND" AT KISHM.

Outside of the main fields to which I have referred we have continued our drilling operations in several parts of Persia with a view to discovering new fields, but so far without much success, and several areas which had been favourably reported upon have had to be abandoned. On the island of Kishm, however, where we had been drilling for some years past, and which we had also decided to abandon, we met some months ago with an unexpected flow of oil when the casing was being withdrawn from one of the wells. This oil, which has been continuing to flow ever since at the rate of between 400 and 1,400 gallons daily, is of a very unusual character, being practically nothing but pure petrol and kerosene. Though we do not attach much importance to this "find," we are proceeding with our examination of the territory in the hope of being able to discover the source from which this highly infiltrated product has been derived.

The development of the new area referred to by me in the opening part of my remarks is being actively pursued with a view to proving its maximum extent and productiveness before we can safely embark upon any large scheme of pipe-line or refinery development. The further developments in this area are, I am pleased to say, of a satisfactory character, and the oil produced is of an excellent grade, and there is but little doubt that in this area we have proved another valuable field.

ARGENTINE.

As regards the Argentine, I am very pleased to be able to inform you that, notwithstanding my somewhat gloomy predictions of last year, we have had some much more favourable developments recently. Up to date we have produced a total of 28,000 tons of oil, and since August 15 we have produced and sold about 18,000 tons at satisfactory prices. We have a number of wells drilled in which are capable of producing on a much larger scale than this, but until we can get some necessary short pipe-lines laid and further tankage erected we cannot deal with the whole of the production now available. Although the lives of these wells may not be comparable with those in Persia, there is every reason for anticipating that we shall be able to produce sufficient oil in the Argentine thoroughly to justify our entry into that country.

As regards our refineries, the position is, as you will have seen from the report, entirely satisfactory.

LOADING FACILITIES AT ABADAN.

At Abadan the difficulties to which I referred last year have all been overcome, and the throughput since the close of the last financial year has been at the rate of over 2,800,000 tons per annum. One drawback from which we have been suffering, in the detention which it causes to our vessels, is the inadequacy of the number of our loading berths at Abadan to handle the constantly expanding volume of oil. We are now handling tankers there at the rate of about one and a half vessels per day, and in addition we have to find accommodation for loading and unloading a large number of other vessels employed in carrying our packed oil, plant, stores, and other general cargo. To overcome the congestion which we have been recently experiencing in this direction we are erecting and have nearly completed four additional jetties, besides carrying out extensive additions to the existing ones.

To assist further in accelerating the movements of our fleet we have undertaken to provide the Iraq Government with the finance necessary to enable it to dredge the bar at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £450,000, and

payment of interest and repayment of capital are to be covered by dues which are to be levied by the Basra Port Authority. Two powerful dredgers of the latest type and costing £250,000 have already been built for this work. One of these has already arrived at the Persian Gulf, and the other is just about to start from this country. If the scheme is successful, it will result in a very large economy in the direction of less lighters and a three to four days quicker turn round of our tankers.

ADVANTAGES OF HOME REFINING.

At Llandarcy a considerably larger throughput has been dealt with, and very gratifying results have been shown, both in the quality of the products obtained and in the percentages of yield, and also in the direction of reduced working costs.

At Grangemouth the refinery which was being erected by Scottish Oils, Limited, for dealing with Persian crude has been completed, and has for some months past been in full operation. Here also the results have been of a most gratifying character, showing, in some respects, owing to the lower average temperature and other causes, an improvement even on those obtained at Llandarcy.

I may mention here that the further experience gained at these refineries more than ever confirms our anticipations in regard to the great advantages of home refining. Apart from the many other advantages which I have previously indicated, the reduction in evaporation and consequent larger yield of the lighter and more valuable products, the gain from which much exceeds our original estimates, alone more than justified us in having taken what was regarded by some of our critics as a novel and dangerous departure.

COMPANY'S MOTOR SPIRIT.

Another important advantage that we gain is that with the constant care and supervision which our research chemists are in a position to give at close quarters to our refining processes we are able to produce motor spirit and other products of a much better and more uniform quality than is practicable when the refining is carried on in a bad climate, and thousands of miles away from the countries of consumption. We can, in fact, now claim that as a result of this closer and more scientific attention to refining we produce the best and most uniform quality of spirit at present on the market.

The refinery which was being erected in Australia by our associated company in that country—the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Limited—was completed some months ago, and its products have now been introduced on the Australian markets. The company having now reached a commercial stage, we have at the request of the Australian board transferred to that company the services of an experienced member of our staff as managing director.

The refineries belonging to our other associated companies call for no special comment, but they are all working satisfactorily.

As regards Scottish Oils, Limited, I am pleased to say that the improvement in prices which took place early this year enabled the shale companies embraced in this concern to show a less untimely position at the close of their financial year than at one has taken place in market values has again adversely affected the industry, but strenuous efforts are being made in every direction to meet these unfavourable conditions.

DISTRIBUTING.

To come to the last stage of our business—i.e., distributing—I am pleased to report that we are making satisfactory progress in every direction. The superior quality and unvarying character of "B.P." are getting better appreciated every day, and as time goes on we get more and more firmly established in all the markets into which we have so far made an entry, and our trade continues to show a steady increase. In the earlier part of my remarks I made a passing reference to the "rate wars" which have been waging in some of these markets in which we are established. These are, unfortunately, characteristic of the oil trade. In view of our favoured position in regard to costs we can, however, regard them matter what the objective may be—can carry on business independently at a loss. The best protection against this form of competition is, of course, to be established in as many markets as possible, so that our competitors may not be able to make good in any one or more markets what they may lose in others. This is the policy we have been pursuing, and must, of course, continue to pursue.

RELATIONS WITH THE PERSIAN GOVERNMENT.

Our relations with the Persian Government continue, I am pleased to say, to be quite satisfactory, and there appears to be more disposition generally on the part of leading Persians to re-establish the friendly relations which subsisted for so many years between the two countries. There is at present an unfortunate dispute going on between the Central Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, which has led to the gathering of troops on either

side and to one or two unimportant collisions between them. But the scene of these movements is far distant from our fields and works, and we have received assurances from both sides that in any circumstances our operations and property will in no way be interfered with. We have no views in regard to the matter in dispute—nor if we had have we any right to express them, as it is purely a governmental question—but in view of our large interest in the country we hope that a solution of the difficulty will soon be found, and that any conflict of a serious character may thereby be averted.

The Chairman, after paying a warm tribute to the loyalty and work of the staff, moved the resolution.

Sir Edward H. Packe, K.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

INVERESK PAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR WILLIAM HARRISON REVIEWS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION—INCREASED DIVIDEND.

The second annual general meeting of the Inveresk Paper Company, Limited, was held, on the 22nd instant, at Dowell's Rooms, George street, Edinburgh, Mr William Harrison, LL.B. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman said: I beg to submit to you the balance-sheet and profit and loss account of the company for the thirteen months ended the 31st ultimo, and I propose in the first place to briefly deal with the figures in the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, and subsequently with the future prospects of the company and one or two other matters upon which I should like to address you.

I can assure you it is a great pleasure to my colleagues and myself to be able to meet and to present to you again a good report and balance-sheet for the financial year which has just ended. When I addressed you at the last annual general meeting I concluded my remarks by saying that you had a fine undertaking, and that I felt confident that we would be able to present you with as good a report, if not a better one, for 1924 as we had just presented for 1923. That forecast, I am sure you will all agree with me, has been fully justified, as the results now disclosed to you prove.

PROFITS AND DISTRIBUTION.

As you will see from this report, the profits for the period of thirteen months to October 31, 1924, amount to £69,783, making with the balance brought forward from last year of £11,369 a total of £81,152. Out of this latter sum we have set aside £10,000, as usual, for depreciation, and after providing for debenture interest, income-tax, &c., there remains £52,686, out of which has been paid the sum of £7,750, being the dividend on the preference shares to June 30th last, leaving a balance available for distribution on the 125,000 ordinary shares of £44,936. Your directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 12½ per cent., an increase of 2½ per cent. on last year, leaving a balance of £32,826 to be carried forward to next year, against last year's carry forward of £11,668.

Last year we placed £10,000 of our profits to a reserve fund, which we have not repeated this year, for the reason that we hold one particular investment, which stands in our books at nil, which we can realise if so minded at a large sum. In addition, I would like to point out that we have reserved in our balance-sheet as a liability a sum of about £10,000 for taxation, which we are now satisfied is not owing, and, in fact, we now find that we have paid far too much in taxes, and have a large claim outstanding for refund of taxes overpaid.

By a singular coincidence, which, I think, is a good augury, this morning a little document came from His Majesty's Government with a very substantial cheque, so what one had anticipated is now a fact.

I wish, therefore, to impress upon you that, although your balance-sheet is a strong one, it is really stronger than it looks. The policy of your directors is to build up a substantial reserve fund, and the debenture-holders and preference shareholders of the company may take it that we intend to strictly adhere to this.

CARRONGROVE PAPER COMPANY.

At this stage I should like to refer to our acquisition of a controlling interest in the Carrongrove Paper Company, Limited. In February last an opportunity arose of acquiring this control by the purchase of 111,000 ordinary shares of £1 each in the Carrongrove Company, and your directors, in the interests of

THE BEST SECURITY

against financial loss from
Burglary and Housebreaking is a
Liverpool & London & Globe Policy.

Banker, Manufacturer, Merchant, Shopkeeper,
Householder—each will find a policy suited
to his own particular needs.

A postcard will bring full details.

LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE
INSURANCE CO., LTD.

Prospectus free on request.

Head Office:— London:—
1 Dale St., Liverpool. Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.3.

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.
General Manager and Secretary:—HUGH LEWIS.

the company, lost no time in completing the purchase. Several of your directors have joined the board of the Carrongrove Company, and I think you all have received a print of the Carrongrove report and balance-sheet for the year ended October 31st last. This report shows a gross profit of £90,776 on the year's working, plus £5,864 brought forward, leaving an available balance of £54,657. A dividend of 5 per cent. has just been declared on the Carrongrove Company's ordinary shares, £5,000 is carried to reserve, and £29,507 is carried forward.

A dividend of £5,500, subject to tax, will therefore be receivable almost at once by your company in respect of its holding in the Carrongrove Company, which will come into the profits of the current year.

Might I just say this, gentlemen, that the dividend of 12½ per cent. will be paid with your balance-sheet intact, and without encroaching upon it, because I have got enough money in hand which is not disclosed in the balance-sheet—the sort of thing that comes once in a while, and no encroachment will be made on our balance-sheet figures for that dividend.

The financial position of the Carrongrove Company is a strong one, and your directors look forward with every confidence to the future prosperity not only of your own mills at Inveresk, but also at the Carrongrove mills, which, thanks to the vision of their able managing director, Mr William M. Wallace, are probably the finest and most modern esparto mills in Great Britain.

PRODUCTION OF HIGH REPUTE.

As you know, the Inveresk mills have been established over half a century, and have for many years past held a high reputation for producing one of the best esparto papers, and certainly the finest coated papers in the market, and I should like on this occasion to impress upon you, as I did last year, that the prosperity of your company is due in the first place to its exceptional location for coal and shipping, and, in the next place, to the high quality of its productions, which are known to every buyer and user of high-class esparto and coated papers. We have in Mr Snelling an able and energetic managing director, and his efforts are concentrated in maintaining the high quality of our productions.

At the Carrongrove mills we are just completing the erection of one of the largest and most modern of coating factories, and it will be the aim of the Carrongrove Company, in which we are now so greatly interested, to produce, by close co-operation with the best skilled men we possess at Inveresk from the starting-up of the new factory, a first-class coated paper.

CONDITIONS IN PAPER TRADE.

Now, I should like to say a few words on the paper trade of this country as we find it to-day. Although we are fully employed at the Inveresk and Carrongrove mills, I am sorry to say, speaking this country during the year under review, and having regard generally, there has been no improvement in the paper trade of the present condition of affairs, which is largely brought about by the importation into this country of paper at low prices from Continental countries, I see little or no prospect for immediate improvement. We are making at our mills esparto and coated papers of the highest quality, and although all paper manufacturers in this country suffer in a greater or less degree by the importation of this foreign paper, we suffer at our mills less than mills which are making lower grades of paper.

Great Britain is a very large consumer of paper, and in the first ten months of this year we imported approximately £12,000,000 of foreign manufactured paper, whereas the paper

mills of this country exported abroad in the same period only £7,628,000 of British manufactured paper, of which well over 80 per cent. went to our colonies, especially Australia and New Zealand.

Gentlemen, this shows you what our fellow-subjects in the colonies can do and are doing to help British trade by giving us a small preference over the foreign manufacturer, and it is up to us to reciprocate.

Now, we have an appalling number of unemployed in this country, but there is no reason why any man willing to work for a fair day's pay should remain unemployed if the unemployment problem is properly and fearlessly tackled.

Might I say, in conclusion, that there is very little paper which is imported from abroad which could not be made in this country.

I have thought it my duty once again to bring these facts before you, so that you may understand the position of the paper trade of this country in general, and I am sure you will appreciate that with a little practical encouragement in the right direction a great deal could be done to relieve unemployment in one of the great staple industries of this country.

In conclusion, I should like to say as regard our own and associated undertaking at Carrongrove that we have every confidence, notwithstanding the difficult times through which the trade is passing, that we will be able to maintain our present profits and, I hope, improve upon them during the current year. I will now move: "That the balance-sheet, together with the report, be adopted."

Mr Pike seconded the motion, which on being put to the meeting was unanimously carried.

The Chairman then proposed: "That a dividend of 12½ per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary shares be and is hereby approved and payable on December 1st next to the shareholders whose names appear on the register on November 22, 1924."

Mr Snelling seconded this motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr Burnside and Mr Gotch Berrill, two of the directors retiring by rotation, and the auditors, Messrs A. and J. Robertson, were unanimously re-elected.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

INCREASED PROFIT—STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

STEADY PROGRESS OF THE BUSINESS.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Wall Paper Manufacturers, Limited, was held, on the 27th instant, at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London, Mr Edgar Smith (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr John T. Chasney) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—As you have all received a copy of the report and balance-sheet, may I assume that you will take them as read.

If you will turn to the profit and loss account, you will see that we have a balance brought forward from last year of £223,000, against £114,000 in the previous year. The profit on trading, including dividends and interest on investments and the profits of our various subsidiary companies, including Walpamur, Limited, and after providing for corporation profits tax, is £725,000, against £634,000 in the previous year, an increase of about £91,000. After this year there will be no further charge for corporation profits tax, as it ceased at June 30th last.

This year we have a special credit of £25,000 from the Hansa Iven Company, and there is still a further amount which we expect to recover of about £9,000. When the loss on the German business was incurred it was written off to revenue; hence we are taking credit in the profit and loss account for anything recovered in respect of it.

On the other side of the account, the debenture interest and the interim dividends on the shares are the same as in the previous year.

After payment of the interim dividends there remains a balance for appropriation of £838,200, as against £621,173 the previous year, or an increase of £217,000.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

Turning to the balance-sheet, you will see that we start with the value of the capital expenditure at the same figure as last year—namely, £3,459,000—and that the net additions to land and buildings and plant and machinery are £43,133. The charge for depreciation is about the same as last year, leaving the value of the capital assets about £5,000 more than the incoming value.

There is a new item in the balance-sheet this year—namely, property in King street West, Manchester—which is being converted into office property, and part of which will be used for the Manchester offices of the company. The total cost to date on the purchase of the property and alterations thereto is £53,359.

You will observe that the investments are now £1,624,843, an increase over the value in the last balance-sheet of £265,000. Of these investments, £1,554,000 is in Government, Indian, and colonial stocks, which at to-day's prices are worth more than that sum. The remainder of the investments are in subsidiary and commercial companies.

The stock-in-trade is about the same value as last year, and is taken on a conservative basis.

Ample reserves have been made to cover any debts that appear to be doubtful in addition to a general reserve on all debts.

The bills receivable show a slight increase over the value at 1923, and the cash in the banks at £386,000 is about £96,000 more than in 1923.

On the liabilities side of the account you will find the share capital and debenture stock the same as at the commencement of the year.

The creditors are about £27,000 more than in the previous balance-sheet, due to an increased amount owing and increased reserves for income-tax and corporation profits tax. The actual trade creditors are less than they were the previous year.

The reserve fund stands at £300,000, which will be doubled if the appropriations suggested in the directors' report are approved.

APPROPRIATION OF PROFIT.

Turning to the appropriation of the balance of profit recommended by the board, you will see that it is proposed to pay the same dividends as last year, with a bonus to the deferred shareholders of 2½ per cent. in addition to the dividend of 10 per cent.

The reserve fund and the balance of profit to carry forward will together amount to £667,000, and this, with the million and a-half of gilt-edged securities and the credits at bankers, I think, indicates a very sound position.

Now that we have completed our twenty-fifth year as a limited company, it is not unpleasant to look back upon a quarter of a century of effort and achievement and of service to the public. The trade as a whole has been stabilised. Our workpeople are more regularly employed and receive better wages. Above all, the public gets good value for their money. We are always trying to improve our designs and colourings, also the quality of our materials and goods, so as to offer that combination of quality in materials, excellence in design, and reasonableness in price which make our wall papers supreme. We know no similar trade where a comparison in quality and price to-day with those of pre-war days is so satisfactory.

TRADE FULLY MAINTAINED.

The year under review, like the preceding year, has been one in which we have experienced keen competition in prices both from English and foreign sources, but, owing to the efficiency of our organisation, we have been able fully to maintain our trade. This competition has been even more intense in the overseas Dominions, and yet in those markets our trade has very considerably increased.

In all our mills the machinery has been kept up to date by renewals and repairs, and, as I foretold you a year ago, there has been a considerable amount of capital expenditure in further improving the company's factories and plants.

Our operations other than the manufacture of wallpaper are also making steady progress, and are contributing largely to our profits. The increasing popularity of Walpamur and Duradio have compelled us to make great extensions to the works at Darwen, where all kinds of paints and varnishes are made. Our holdings of shares in subsidiary companies and the large sum which we have invested in gilt-edged securities have greatly contributed to the amount available for distribution.

Our factory in Paris produces an excellent range of goods, which are highly appreciated on the Continent.

CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH LABOUR.

Our cordial relations with labour have been maintained. You will remember that about five years ago the Wall Paper Makers'

Industrial Council was formed. It has done useful work, and has pursued a steady course of reconciling differences; also it has brought about a better comprehension of the difficulties which beset the employer and the employed. It has promoted a better understanding and good will on both sides. I think this may be illustrated by the fact that on the two occasions when the turn came round for the employees to have the chairmanship of the Industrial Council for the next year they have each time elected your director, Mr Sugden, to continue in that office. We think very highly of our workpeople, and the way they have supported wholeheartedly all our schemes for improving the methods of manufacture, avoiding waste of time and material, &c.

I must express our appreciation of the services of our mill managers, travellers, and foremen, and especially mention the artists who design our wallpapers, for everybody must have observed the progress and excellence of the art side of our productions. Our craft, the manufacture of wallpapers, is an ancient one, and includes several skilled occupations which are all of an artistic nature. The cutting and engraving of the printing rollers require men who are artists. The colour mixing can only be done by men with an eye for colour and a training in the harmonious use of it. The printer, also, has to put his individuality into his work, for I can assure you that it is not a mere mechanical operation.

DUKE OF YORK'S VISIT TO FACTORY.

It was very gratifying to everybody employed in our industry when His Royal Highness the Duke of York, as president of the Industrial Welfare Society, paid a visit to our factory at Chiswick last March. He showed a real interest in the many departments of skilled work, especially the one where hand-printed wall papers are made. His Royal Highness actually printed part of a wall paper which was then being made for Windsor Castle. All the workpeople were impressed by the genuine interest which he took in their occupations and in their welfare.

During the year one of your original directors, Major Arthur Huntington, D.S.O., has very generously set aside 5,000 of his ordinary shares in our company in trust for the benefit of the employees of the Darwen mills and their dependents to assist them in cases of illness or distress of any kind. This he has done as he writes "out of real affection for the Darwen workers." It will be remembered that four years ago a gift of 5,000 deferred shares was made by our late chairman, Mr J. C. Potter, and vested in the same trustees for the same object.

HOUSING SCHEME.

Your director, Mr G. F. Jackson, who manages the Holmes Chapel Factory, in Cheshire, has carried out a scheme for work-people's houses, of which there was a very urgent need. Each cottage is provided with the usual accommodation, including bathroom and three bedrooms, also a good garden at the back and a small lawn in front. He has selected and improved the designs himself, and brought out the cost so low that I recommend these interested in housing schemes to view them. We have also built at Holmes Chapel, with the help of our workpeople, a fine institute with a hall capable of seating 300 people, and a billiard room with two tables, besides other spacious rooms. The grounds are well laid out with bowling green, two tennis courts, &c.

Since our report was issued you will have heard with regret that Mr G. W. Osborn died three weeks ago. He had been a director of the company since its formation. He was our chairman for an unbroken period of eleven years, and very highly esteemed by all his colleagues. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Sussex, and held many other important offices in that county, besides being a member of the first L.C.C. I am

sure you will join with me in offering our condolences to his family.

In accordance with the articles of association, the directors named in the report retire by rotation, and offer themselves for re-election.

In the place of Mr Osborn, it is the wish of the directors that our secretary, Mr J. T. Chasney, should join the board. Mr Chasney has rendered great services to the company ever since its formation, and while retaining his services as secretary, we desire to strengthen his position by making him a director.

I now formally move the adoption of the report and the accounts for the year, and will ask Mr Sugden to second this resolution.

Mr A. V. Sugden seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

RECENT EVENTS IN EGYPT.

The thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, was held, on the 25th instant, at the bank, 37-39 King William street, London.

Mr Raoul H. Foa, chairman of the bank, presided.

The secretary (Mr H. H. Mallet) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I am sorry to have to announce to you that owing to continued ill-health our colleague Sir Henry Procter telegraphed to us from Canada that he was unable to discharge the duties incumbent upon him as director, and therefore handed in his resignation. With regret my colleagues and I accepted it, and I am sure that you will wish Sir Henry in his retirement a complete restoration to health.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

You will observe in the balance-sheet very little alteration this year in the figures as compared with those of last year. The deposits and current accounts have risen £1,200,000. The investments have been reduced by £452,704, and the acceptances have risen to £428,726, while our bills receivable have risen £1,200,000, roughly representing the increase in deposit account. The gross profit this year amounts to £444,999 9s 2d, against £417,698 last year, but the expenses in London and the branches have increased some £13,000, with the result that the net profit this year amounts to £157,301, against £156,883 last year.

We have paid the usual interim dividend of 5s per share, and propose to pay the equally usual dividend of 10s per share on December 1st, both free of income-tax. We have this year been able to allocate £10,000 to writing off the premises account, and we are carrying forward £48,755 8s 10d.

INVESTMENTS.

The remarks which I made last year on the subject of our investments, which consist almost entirely of gilt-edged British securities, and stand at cost or market price, whichever is the lower, thereby constituting an inner reserve, hold good this year also.

In the early part of the year our colleague Mr Mounsey made an extended tour through Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine, and his trip was of much service to the bank, besides giving him personal insight into our business, which cannot be gained elsewhere than on the spot.

The cotton crop of Egypt this year is estimated at 6,970,000 cantars, as compared with 6,411,435 last year, 5,356,934 in 1922, and 6,036,000 in 1921, the highest previous having been 7,684,172



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital £10,000,000 Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660 Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330
--	--

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

54 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

in 1914. As long as these large yields of cotton, combined with high prices, obtain the prosperity of Egypt is assured, given sound and stable Government.

SATISFACTORY PROSPECTS.

You are aware, no doubt, that the well-being of a bank such as ours depends to a certain extent upon the line of policy laid down for it by the directors, more still upon the efficiency and energy of its managers, and most of all upon the prosperity of the countries in which it works, and under these conditions I think I am not overstating the case in predicting a future for the bank as satisfactory to its shareholders as its past has been, although competition in banking in Egypt is ever on the increase.

We have opened branches this year in Minieh, Upper Egypt, and in Wad Medani, in the Sudan, but have closed our agency at Amman, in Transjordan. We went to this country at the request of the Colonial Office, but the hopes which we formed of profitably working in that country were not realised, and, truth to tell, the development of civilisation there has not gone on as was to be expected.

Trade, as you know, has been very slack throughout the world for the last year—a condition of affairs which you will find reflected in our balance-sheet, as well as in that of most other banks. It is devoutly to be hoped that the gradual evolution of tranquillity, after the stormy years of the last decade, will bring the world that restoration of confidence and mutually satisfactory intercourse between peoples which existed previously to it. The remarkable result of the British elections will have a repercussion a long way outside the shores of our islands, and will no doubt strengthen the forces of stability against the attacks of insurrection which have been so noticeable in the past few years.

EVENTS IN EGYPT AND SUDAN.

It must occur to you that I should refer in my speech to the events recently taking place in Egypt and in the Sudan. Now, if there is one thing which I invariably avoid in speaking it is a detailed reference to events in politics in the countries in which we work, and I will content myself by saying that while they have gone by by no means unperceived my colleagues and I have not been dismayed by them, and we hope and trust that a reasonable and honourable *modus vivendi* between England and Egypt will soon be reached.

Since I began making notes of the subjects to be placed before this meeting, there has occurred the tendering of the resignation of Saad Zaghlul Pasha and its refusal by King Fuad. The meaning and portent of this is at present hidden from us, but may be fraught with incalculable consequences to Egypt.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SIRDAR.

I revised the few words which I have spoken to you only last Thursday before going abroad, and since then events of the greatest importance have occurred—events which, I feel sure, will ultimately be fraught with the greatest good to that country. The Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor of the Sudan was foully murdered, and I hasten to pay tribute to a good and just man, the whole of whose life had been devoted to the good of the country which he governed, and in which he was beloved by white and coloured races alike. He had extended most gracious hospitality to me when I was in the Sudan, and I shall miss him much. I feel sure that Egypt will retain its prosperity, which is as precious to you, the shareholders of this bank, as it is to the inhabitants of the country.

It now falls to me to propose "That the directors' report and the accounts annexed thereto be received and adopted."

Sir Marshall F. Reid, C.I.E., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

The Chairman next proposed, "That a dividend at the rate of 10s per share, free of income-tax, be hereby declared, and that the same be paid on December 1st next."

This resolution was seconded by Mr L. H. Walters, and unanimously approved.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Emil Pusch, the retiring director, Sir Marshall F. Reid, C.I.E., was re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs Cooper Brothers and Co., were re-appointed, on the proposition of Mr L. D. Lewis, seconded by Mr W. N. Seeley.

Mr. Bevan proposed, "That a cordial vote of thanks be given to the chairman, directors, and staff for their services during the past year."

Mr Seeley seconded the vote, and it was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said that he could assure the shareholders that nothing would be left undone by his colleagues and himself, by the manager, and by the whole staff to maintain the prosperity of the bank.

The proceedings then terminated.

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, FAVOURABLE RESULTS OF THE YEAR. DIVIDEND OF 10 PER CENT.

The ordinary general meeting of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, was held, on the 27th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Lord Harris (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. H. G. Sidgreaves (one of the joint secretaries) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—I will deal first with the accounts of the New Consolidated Gold Fields, the operating company. The gross profit amounted to £521,636, as against £460,228, a satisfactory increase of £61,408. The cost of management, which last year was £41,801, has been reduced to £31,211, a reduction of £10,590 as 7d.

The New Consolidated Gold Fields, after creating the nucleus of a reserve fund by allocating thereto £100,000 from its year's profits, declared a final dividend of 4 per cent. on November 13th, which places the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa in a position to recommend a dividend of 10 per cent., less income-tax.

INCREASED PROFITS.

Well, I hope you will consider this a satisfactory statement. The favourable results shown are largely due to the fact that the depreciation we have had to write off in order to reduce investments to current market prices or valuation has been considerably less than in the past year, and in some measure to the economies effected.

The increased profits are mainly derived from dividends on our shareholdings in the Transvaal, which continue our mainstay pending the arrival at the productive stage of the many promising ventures in which we are interested elsewhere. We have for many years past received but little revenue from two of the Transvaal companies which we control—viz., the Robinson Deep and Simmer and Jack. The former company has made good, and we may from now on expect a steady revenue therefrom and from our holding in Simmer and Jack, while the Sub Nigel has been and remains a consistent dividend payer. In addition to the companies controlled by us, we draw large dividends from our considerable holdings in Government Areas and New Modderfonteins.

Turning now to the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, from the balance at credit of profit and loss account, we recommend you to take a dividend of 10 per cent., less income-tax, costing £155,000, leaving a balance of £42,261 1s. 7d. to be carried to the current year's profit and loss account.

THE FUTURE.

As regards the future, I shall explain to you that, although we have had no income from the Gold Fields American Development Company during the past year, our expectations of revenue from this source are undiminished, and I may safely anticipate that the falling off of income from the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Company during our current financial year will be more than balanced by dividends from Simmer and Jack, to which I have referred.

On the whole, therefore, I feel hopeful that, given immunity from labour trouble in the Transvaal and realisation of our anticipations regarding the promising prospects of our other large and varied investments, direct and indirect, in gold, platinum, silver and base-metal, potash, borax, and asbestos properties, our present satisfactory position will be maintained, if not improved upon.

In addition to these ventures, we and our associates are interested in Rumanian oil companies and in the American Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Company. In all these concerns we are well organised to keep in the closest touch, and though it goes, I hope, without saying, I can assure you that the safeguarding of these interests receives our very constant attention and watchfulness.

SIMMER AND JACK'S REVIVAL.

You will no doubt have read the Simmer and Jack report hereon with interest. The result of the reconstruction has been to secure to a moribund mine a new lease of life estimated at 17 to 18 years, and to its shareholders and ourselves as shareholders the probability of a handsome return on their investments during that period. The scheme of reconstruction was very carefully considered by us before we undertook to guarantee the subscriptions of £250,000 new working capital.

The whole position with all the information at the disposal of the directors was placed before the Simmer and Jack shareholders in great detail, and in the result the shareholders took up 1,000,000 shares out of the 2,000,000—2s 6d par value—offered to them. Shareholders representing only 8,000 shares dissented and were bought out by the liquidators, leaving us and our associates to take up 1,000,000 shares. The market, which is no mean judge, values the 2s 6d shares to-day at 3s 4½d.

The directors expect to pay a 20 per cent. dividend at the end of this year, and the future will have to speak for itself. There may

be ups and downs during 17 or 18 years, but the chances seem on the right side in view of the fact that working costs for the last month have been lowered to 13s 11d.

ROBINSON DEEP AND SUB NIGEL.

Robinson Deep is about to reach a stage at which the profit-earning capacity will be of greater interest to the "B" shareholders than to the "A" shareholders. It may safely be assumed that all accrued dividends to December 31st of this year on the "A" shares will be paid off in February next, and after that these shares will be entitled to receive 3s per share (preference and cumulative) for 12 years, diminishing thenceforth. After providing for these annual dividends, for the debenture service, for current capital expenditure and taxation, the balance of profit will accrue to the "B" shareholders. I venture the opinion that the expectation of handsome dividends over a considerable period is justified, of which we shall have the advantage on our substantial holding in the "A" and "B" shares.

Whilst the progress of the Sub Nigel Company also gives cause for satisfaction, as is evidenced by the latest returns, you will have seen from Mr Christopherson's report that it has not as yet been possible to carry into effect the means by which it was sought to attain an increased milling tonnage and consequently improved profits—namely, by an amalgamation with the Nigel Company and by the incidental acquisition of an additional claim area. Negotiations with the Union Government regarding the latter are, however, still pending.

Meanwhile the increase by 111,000 tons of the ore reserves, which at June 30th of this year stood at 370,000 tons, of an average of 12.1 dwts over a stoping width of 39.8 inches, is a gratifying feature of the company's present position.

As regards Rhodesia, those of you who are interested in the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Company will have gained the information given to the shareholders of that company a fortnight ago. In spite of vigorous prospecting, that company has not as yet been successful in finding what it is in search of—namely, any new property which is likely to have the makings of a big mine. Its representatives in Rhodesia, however, have been encouraged to persevere, and the directors look forward to advice on the subject from Dr MacLaren, who has been reporting to the company on its various interests. We disposed of our investment in Cam and Motor shares at a satisfactory profit.

The Chairman, having referred at some length to their American interests, then moved the resolution.

Lord Brabourne seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

CARGO FLEET IRON COMPANY, LIMITED. FOREIGN COMPETITION IN HOME MARKETS.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Limited, was held, on the 26th inst., at Middlesbrough.

Captain John E. Rogerson (deputy-chairman), who presided, said that the financial year had been one of great difficulty so far as the heavy steel trade was concerned. Notwithstanding that many of the Continental steel works had been entirely closed down during the early part of the current year, in consequence of the French occupation of the Ruhr, and that effective competition had thus been reduced, the world demand for steel had been insufficient to keep the whole of the British steel works in operation, and consequently prices generally had not been upon a remunerative basis. The settlement of the Reparations problem, and the stabilisation of the currency in Germany as the result of the loan which had been granted to them, would undoubtedly lead to an increase in competition, and export business from this country be made more difficult. Foreign competition in the home markets would continue to be most severe unless some form of restriction was imposed.

The Chairman then gave figures of the exports and imports of iron and steel, which, he said, indicated that for 1924, as imports would apparently be at least equal to those in any previous year would apparently be 1,000,000 tons less than in 1913, the steel trade and exports over 1,000,000 tons lost on exports. The had suffered to the extent of that tonnage lost on exports. The following table of imports and exports showed the decrease in effective exports from 1907:—

	Imports. Tons.	Exports. Tons.	Excess of exports over imports. Tons.
1907	935,472	5,152,227	4,216,755
1913	2,230,955	4,969,225	2,738,270
1924	2,394,000	3,686,000	1,492,000

Trade with a diminishing export and an increasing import could not be considered to be in a satisfactory condition, particularly in the case of a nation with such a large industrial population, many of whom were unemployed. The present position was all the more disappointing when it was remembered that the steel

producing capacity of the country was increased during the war by at least 50 per cent., so that, but for the question of prices, there was really no need for steel to be imported. The most difficult problem before them was that of a reduction in the costs of production, as it was essential that the export trade should be maintained in order to provide funds for the payment of the necessary raw materials and the import of food so essential to the country. In that connection three main factors presented themselves: coal, transport, and taxation—both local and national.

The present price of British steel was not more than 37 per cent. above that prevailing in 1913, whereas for gas-producer and boiler coal the current prices, free on trucks at the colliery, were 65 per cent. in excess of those paid in 1913.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND CO. LIMITED.

AMALGAMATION APPROVED.

An extraordinary general meeting of Claudius Ash, Sons and Co., Limited, was held, on the 25th instant, at Cannon street Hotel, London, to consider resolutions for the purpose of carrying into effect the amalgamation of the businesses of the company and of De Trey and Co., Limited.

Mr E. Russell Polden presided, and in his address to the shareholders traced the course of the negotiations with De Trey and Co., Limited, the object of which was, he said, to endeavour to come to some working agreement to stabilise prices and to prevent the disastrous price-cutting which had been going on between the two companies, particularly abroad. The only solution was the amalgamation of the two companies, and in the scheme now under consideration the uppermost thought in the minds of the directors was the interest of the proprietors of the business—the shareholders—that of the dental dealers, and, last but not least, that of the dental profession. The directors believed that they had achieved their object.

The directors had already had evidence from the dental dealers that they considered the amalgamation would benefit the trade generally. In the scheme the interests and subsidiary companies of both undertakings were provided for. To facilitate a fair division of the capital the ordinary shares would be divided into 8 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and deferred ordinary shares of 5s each, the object being that after the payment of a fixed return on the preferred ordinary shares the balance available for distribution would be equally divided between the ordinary shareholders of each of the amalgamating companies, for the reason that the deferred ordinary shares would be equally divided between them. The basis of the purchase price to be paid to De Trey and Co. was the value of the assets, less goodwill, plus the agreed increased value of their holding in the Dentists' Supply Company, and the net surplus assets arrived at after deducting the surplus assets of Claudius Ash, Sons and Co., giving De Trey and Co. a net surplus of £217,935, satisfied by the issue of preference shares.

The company for obvious reasons, and having regard to the magnitude of both businesses to be combined, would change its name to the Amalgamated Dental Company, Limited.

When amalgamated, the businesses of this company and of Messrs De Trey and Co., Limited, with the combined subsidiary and affiliated companies, would become incomparably the greatest dental organisation in the world, with large commercial interests

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - - - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - - - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

spread out to every corner of both hemispheres where trade can be done.

The scheme was unanimously approved by the meeting, and separate meetings of the preference and ordinary shareholders also gave it their consent.

JOSHUA HOYLE AND SONS, LIMITED. AN ANXIOUS AND DIFFICULT YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of Joshua Hoyle and Sons, Limited, was held, on the 27th instant, at India Mill, Bacup, Lieut.-Col. J. Craven Hoyle, T.D., D.L., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit for the year showed a gain of £1,000 above last year, and the balance carried forward an increase of £4,200, after payment of the dividends as stated in the directors' report.

Twelve months since he had stated that the period through which the company had passed had been one of the greatest anxieties since the firm had been established, and he regretted to say that during the period under review the conditions governing business and trade generally had been, if anything, worse, and a period of even greater anxiety. The same difficulties to which he had referred in November, 1923, as confronting business firms, still continued, and in addition to that, as regarded the cotton trade, there had been constant and violent fluctuations in the price of raw cotton.

It was gratifying to all interested in the trade to know that efforts were being made through the British Empire to find and develop areas for the production of cotton, and although at the moment the situation as regarded raw cotton was very much improved, he trusted there would be no relaxation in those efforts. Though it would take time to produce an appreciable amount, there were areas in the Empire where the required staple could be produced and suitable labour obtained, and only waiting for means of transport to handle the produce on a commercial basis.

Through the depression of trade the amount of time lost through actual short time and extended holidays had materially affected the cost of production all round. With the rest of the trade, the firm of Joshua Hoyle and Sons had backed up the Masters' Federation in their efforts to reduce the serious loss which the whole trade was suffering between the cost of production and the selling prices obtained.

He thought they could congratulate themselves on having come through such a trying and difficult position, and on being able to show such a favourable result.

As to the future he had never prophesied, but, providing the trouble in the Far East was settled and there were no serious developments in the Near East, he was of the opinion that the trade of Lancashire would get into a much more stable position, and he felt entitled to express the hope that they had now turned the corner.

Sir William E. Berry, Bart., seconded the resolution.

Mr Walter Pilling (managing director), in supporting it, said that in the whole of his forty years' experience of the cotton trade he never remembered anything to equal the depression through which they had passed. Last year he held out a pious hope that things would be better. Unfortunately, they had had to wait until practically the last few weeks of their financial year before seeing material signs of that hoped-for improvement. He was glad to be able to say that they had booked orders which would keep their Bacup Mills running for three to four months.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Dec. 1—Dec. 6 were opened on Nov. 28, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £72,040,000. For bills at three months dated Monday at £99 2s 1d and above in full. Tuesday to Saturday at £99 1s 10d, about 16 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £44,500,000; in bonds, £500,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Oct. 24, 1924.	35,000,000	55,135,000	3 14 3/4	nil
Oct. 31.	35,000,000	57,995,000	3 12 10/66	nil
Nov. 7.	35,000,000	58,080,000	3 14 1/6	94 10 0
Nov. 14.	35,000,000	58,975,000	3 14 0/65	94 10 0
Nov. 21.	35,000,000	57,400,000	3 13 9/38	nil
Nov. 28.	35,000,000	72,040,000	3 10 10/79	94 10 0

Tenders will be received on Dec. 5, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Balance at End of Month.
Mar. 29, 1924.	300,351	14,255	38,500	19,450
June 28.	295,374	13,338	38,500	19,650
Sept. 27.	289,127	12,648	37,000	21,150
Dec. 26.	301,337	12,872	37,000	21,150
Mar. 23, 1925.	285,616	12,318	37,000	22,450
June 27.	285,503	12,516	37,000	22,450
Sept. 27.	282,784	12,401	37,000	22,450
Dec. 26.	299,070	12,571	37,000	22,450
Mar. 26, 1924.	281,538	11,908	37,000	22,450
June 25.	290,316	12,472	37,000	22,450
Sept. 24.	285,592	12,227	37,000	22,450
Nov. 12.	287,368	12,288	37,000	22,450
Nov. 19.	285,880	12,248	37,000	22,450
Nov. 26.	285,378	12,127	37,000	22,450

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum liability for 1920 fixed at £390,000,000, for 1921 at £317,556,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Nov. 22, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Nov. 22, 1923.	Receipts. Week Ended Nov. 22, 1924.	Receipts. Week Ended Nov. 24, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England.....	5,069,613	5,442,665	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland.....	1,563,001	1,375,502	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.....	6,531,614	6,818,167	6,818,167	..	..
Customs.....	101,800,000	82,676,000	1,795,000	3,888,000	..
Excise.....	135,900,000	87,930,000	94,723,000	7,637,000	3,549,000
Motor Vehicle Duties.....	15,600,000	4,965,000	4,355,000	..	..
Estates, &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	39,280,000	36,540,000	1,890,000	2,760,000
Stamp.....	21,000,000	12,260,000	12,100,000	220,000	420,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty.....	1,250,000	680,000	540,000	10,000	..
Property & Income Tax.....	265,000,000	124,443,000	127,070,000	1,182,000	974,080
Super-Tax.....	61,000,000	27,760,000	23,740,000	400,000	430,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.....	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax.....	20,000,000	11,050,000	14,070,000	440,000	280,000
Post Office.....	53,500,000	35,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	..
Crown Lands.....	900,000	630,000	560,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans.....	12,350,000	8,578,642	8,375,650	..	..
Miscellaneous.....	..	..	..	..	..
Ordinary Receipts.....	8,170,048	9,064,061	267,513	203,522	..
Special Receipts.....	30,000,000	19,457,837	24,775,859	1,059,490	1,805,508
Revenue.....	794,050,000	445,417,527	474,195,570	15,901,003	15,010,030
Total, inc. Balance.....	..	452,049,141	479,013,737	..	..

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Nov. 22, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Nov. 22, 1923.	Receipts. Week Ended Nov. 22, 1924.	Receipts. Week Ended Nov. 24, 1923.
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion.....	..	..	..	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	..	..	65,000	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	73,782	73,782	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debentures.....	..	5,920,000	4,750,000	130,000	..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924.....	..	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914.....	..	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924.....	..	260,719	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921.....	..	..	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills.....	..	400,000	820,000	..	..
By National Savings Certificates.....	1,556,172,000	1,617,822,000	41,716,000	44,961,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33.....	17,950,000	36,850,000	560,000	350,000	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919.....	15,931,370	29,308,827	47,250	..	..
3,700,000.....	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances.....	533,869,000	528,156,000	2,100,000	..	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired.....	..	..	..	..	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921.....	..	23,109	50,081	..	..
Total.....	..	577,041	195,688	..	..
	..	2,591,431,162	2,700,385,915	60,444,253	60,331,033

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (Including Supplementary Grants.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Nov. 22, 1924.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Nov. 22, 1923.	Issues. Week Ended Nov. 22, 1924.	Issues. Week Ended Nov. 24, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
National Debt Services:—					
Interest, &c.....	305,000,000	201,017,699	199,028,361	1,393,994	1,357,475
Sinking Fund.....	45,000,000	17,906,740	23,810,113	920,000	759,000
Road Fund.....	15,000,000	4,364,044	3,75,044	..	..
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.....	13,150,000	8,837,891	5,957,205	1,000,000	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer.....	3,500,000	2,977,735	2,533,799	275,251	242,845
Land Settlement.....	750,000	360,649	396,926	3,635	8,394
Other Consolidated Fund Services.....	..	..	..	..	..
Supply Services.....	2,440,000	1,629,061	1,586,293	209,310	14,556
Expenditure.....	408,919,000	237,208,398	235,928,618	7,460,000	6,260,000
	753,759,000	472,302,307	472,592,669	11,262,190	8,332,360

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED

	Amount, Nov. 26, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,183,434	—	£ 30,982
Public deposits	18,743,480	+ 234,077	+ 2,388,209
Other deposits	112,275,401	+ 5,212,250	+ 12,508,320
Government securities	41,198,443	+ 570,000	+ 2,175,063
Other securities	82,391,031	+ 6,356,217	+ 9,594,118
Note circulation	25,175,164	+ 831,300	+ 2,872,087
Coin and bullion	123,066,325	+ 5,874	+ 722,752
% of reserve to liabilities	19 1/2	+ 18 1/2	+ 8 1/2

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.						
Oct. 22	£ 128,487,745	£ 122,905,630	£ 127,255,085	£ 119,584,790	25,332,115	19 1/2
Nov. 26	128,484,503	123,592,175	124,570,749	117,932,281	24,642,328	19 1/2
Nov. 12	128,494,564	123,847,105	125,758,131	119,050,507	24,397,459	19 1/2
Nov. 19	128,491,253	122,870,320	121,556,026	113,719,929	25,373,933	21
Nov. 26	128,497,363	122,835,025	126,040,703	117,763,257	26,012,338	20 1/2
	128,491,489	123,066,325	131,018,881	123,589,474	25,175,164	19 1/2

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to November 12 ..	30,254,110	1,381,652	2,513,491	34,099,253
Nov. 19	29,194	31,791	61,287	783,849
Nov. 26	700,154	29,960	53,735	..
Total to date 1924	31,591,458	1,443,403	2,628,513	35,663,374
Do 1923	29,398,011	1,411,569	2,571,836	33,381,436
Increase or decrease in 1924 {	+ 2,193,427	+ 31,834	+ 56,677	+ 2,281,938
%	+ 7 1/4	+ 2 1/2	+ 2 1/2	+ 6 3/4
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,548,565	2,810,654	36,629,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,651	2,806,165	37,161,451
Increase or decrease in 1923 {	- 510,262	- 26,086	- 4,489	- 540,837
%	- 1 1/2	- 1 1/2	- 0 1/2	- 1 1/4

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of October.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Nov. 22.
	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	27	27
BIRMINGHAM.....	9,905,000	10,110,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	4,091,000	5,564,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	52,035,000	54,093,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	277,865,400	285,513,400
BIRMINGHAM.....	50,446,730	50,446,730
BIRMINGHAM.....	4,797,000	5,415,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	4,080,000	4,181,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	3,196,000	3,164,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	38,335,000	44,874,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	68,368,000	70,486,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	8,170,000	7,506,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	2,812,000	2,855,700
BIRMINGHAM.....	4,794,000	4,442,000
BIRMINGHAM.....	59,531,400	59,531,400
BIRMINGHAM.....	48,970,400	48,970,400
Total	148,498,000	157,954,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the Bank of Romania appeared in the *Economist* of September 27; German Rentenbank in October 11; Denmark in November 8; German Gold Discount, Greece and Egypt in November 15; Danzig and Russia in November 22.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Nov. 21, 1924.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,050,820	3,047,880	3,038,520	3,135,460
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	92,410	90,050	85,150	77,450
Gold certificates	233,840	224,250	229,250	244,190
Bills discounted for member banks	275,250	246,150	234,850	284,550
Bills bought in open market	587,080	588,350	584,880	73,360
Government obligations owned	88,260	88,190	88,280	70,410
All other resources				
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	24,670	33,420	29,810	26,070
Other deposits	2,245,830	2,292,020	2,149,180	1,915,410
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,829,200	1,829,200	1,816,820	2,223,070
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation				500
All other liabilities	13,610	13,590	13,090	24,750
Capital and surplus	333,160	333,140	332,920	328,470
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	76.8%	77.2%	78.1%	77.1%

[November 29, 1924.]

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Aug. 31, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	June 30, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1923.
Cash and bank balances...	398,574	395,568	428,158	396,354	437,296
Bank balances abroad...	78,280	70,049	78,699	56,948	78,799
Call and short loans...	277,526	266,548	279,161	301,555	202,037
Securities...	511,604	509,950	509,950	495,335	412,101
Loans in Canada...	1,019,777	1,060,372	1,103,757	1,095,777	1,135,802
Loans abroad...	180,771	186,629	181,475	173,448	152,474
Other assets...	151,795	150,562	144,258	143,869	100,392
LIABILITIES.					
Deposits—					
Government...	104,225	100,898	108,456	120,543	69,792
Public in Canada...	1,664,299	1,678,705	1,718,129	1,684,126	1,708,478
Foreign...	328,049	320,516	340,770	326,929	301,561
Bank balances—					
Canadian...	13,592	10,455	13,712	9,835	12,004
Foreign...	36,340	38,890	35,834	30,163	38,437
Bills payable, &c...	66,837	65,790	59,529	58,439	58,439
Capital and reserves...	246,785	246,784	246,785	246,785	247,033
Other liabilities...	5,552	3,032	2,597	3,655	3,919

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Nov. 2, 1924.
Total securities...	16,82,97	16,73,76	16,73,76	16,73,76	16,73,76	16,73,76
Loans...	15,43,67	15,51,37	15,51,37	15,51,37	15,51,37	15,51,37
Cash credits...	35,42,38	35,32,50	35,32,50	35,32,50	35,32,50	35,32,50
Inland bills...	6,60,15	5,57,02	5,57,02	5,57,02	5,57,02	5,57,02
Foreign bills...	26,22	24,58	24,58	24,58	24,58	24,58
Dead stock...	2,65,45	2,65,55	2,65,55	2,65,55	2,65,55	2,65,55
Balance with other banks...	1,33,55	1,27,23	1,27,23	1,27,23	1,27,23	1,27,23
Cash...	21,55,04	21,94,19	22,49,11	22,97,12	25,46,05	36,75,60
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up...	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve...	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50	4,57,50
Total deposits...	88,91,41	88,24,07	90,35,03	91,22,16	94,35,73	93,83,06
The above includes—						
Deposits in London...	1,261	1,212	1,239	1,251	1,406	398
Advances in London...	457	459	472	476	472	425
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London...	889	849	813	870	1,053	138

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Oct. 18, 1924.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Oct. 27, 1924.	Position May 31, 1924.
Cash and bullion...	1,118,594	1,118,875	1,121,235	1,118,791	1,122,144	221,320
Discounts...	260,102	255,049	240,572	255,338	451,012	41,740
Advances...	276,893	265,462	270,845	282,355	223,910	70,540
LIABILITIES.						
Notes...	1,260,515	1,224,889	1,210,191	1,240,333	1,386,354	362,720
Govt. deposits...	940,968	937,495	955,012	936,077	922,869	87,340
Other deposits...	60,915	70,784	66,192	70,113	85,895	11,440

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 27, 1924.	Nov. 20, 1924.	Nov. 13, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold coin and bullion...	5,544,700	5,541,600	5,544,560	5,539,702	5,539,702	3,730,625
Of which held abroad...	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321	1,864,321
Silver coin and bullion...	304,432	304,262	304,029	296,113	296,113	632,650
Discounts and advances...	7,533,244	7,515,465	7,477,980	6,013,427	4,227,775	1,227,775
Advances to the State...	22,600,000	22,900,000	23,000,000	22,800,000	22,800,000	22,800,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes...	40,447,011	40,530,277	40,635,940	37,329,312	5,811,875	5,811,875
Government deposits...	17,659	17,182	16,316	20,247	183,700	183,700
Private deposits...	1,976,471	1,936,564	1,850,549	2,183,365	845,950	845,950

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 20, 1924.	Nov. 13, 1924.	Nov. 6, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1923.	Position May 28, 1924.
Coin (gold & silver and bullion)...	357,613	356,678	356,616	356,077	350,905	328,650
Securities...	1,261,598	1,295,114	1,303,570	1,346,152	1,010,271	697,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	7,598,860	7,673,195	7,658,401	7,629,580	7,184,857	934,150
Current accounts...	299,384	290,415	337,171	301,435	387,460	112,125

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 24, 1924.	Nov. 17, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Nov. 3, 1924.	Nov. 26, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold...	480,233	481,445	481,506	481,506	630,502	163,092
Silver...	12,240	11,868	11,621	10,540	8,181	8,436
Discounts and advances...	359,087	368,281	386,400	408,418	387,515	153,504
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	933,856	952,982	973,634	998,969	1,005,911	316,632
Deposits...	19,949	18,889	21,291	23,625	40,981	5,016

BANK OF JAYA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Nov. 24, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold...	214,500	214,750	210,750	209,000	160,070	22,971
Silver...	161,160	167,560	170,370	172,670	166,611	77,567
Discounts, advances, and other investments...	161,160	167,560	170,370	172,670	166,611	77,567
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	277,500	280,500	281,000	276,000	259,727	109,499
Deposits and bills payable...	110,000	113,000	110,500	117,500	129,399	11,850

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks.*

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued...	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Gold and bullion...	694,626	694,288	694,224	630,502
Of which deposited abroad...	240,033	240,033	240,033	240,033
Reserve in foreign currencies...	231,541	231,429	231,407	210,167
Bills of exchange and cheques...	2,154,800	2,327,353	2,339,662	2,173,709
Silver and other coin...	53,890	55,444	55,437	61,557
Notes of other German banks...	2,015	2,015	3	3
Advances...	17,080	15,473	33,443	16,765
Investments...	77,328	77,400	77,699	77,509
Other assets...	1,748,000	1,053,523	951,790	947,418
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital...	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)...	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Reserve...	900	900	900	900
Notes in circulation...	1,633,171	1,721,805	1,780,930	1,313,121
Other daily maturing obligations...	749,539	828,619	708,728	986,391
Loan from Rentenbank...	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
Other liabilities...	1,705,670	1,013,671	1,003,107	927,215

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription one pound of fine gold equals 1,332 Reichsmarks.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Gold...	605,414	505,416	505,397	505,323	537,364	171,175
Silver...	93,919	93,640	93,070	93,219	88,855	18,350
Assets & advances...	277,943	284,656	290,749	284,654	307,938	103,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	818,758	835,048	867,885	881,153	873,326	275,925
Deposits...	155,217	153,433	133,063	116,95	112,863	33,750

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.	Position May 31, 1924.
Coin and bullion—Gold...	147,227	147,227	147,227	147,286	44,224
Balance abroad and foreign bills...	39,580	38,932	36,860	20,295	28,533
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities...	8,999	8,999	8,999	9,052	8,816
Discounts and loans...	392,058	392,840	401,217	454,096	76,911
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	367,842	373,592	380,767	376,680	113,484
Deposits at notice...	118,241	112,282	109,283	112,398	7,188

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.	May 24, 1924.
Gold...	239,034	239,488	239,846	240,139	272,170	104,918
Balance abroad...	60,355	60,030	60,322	59,527	34,242	112,172
Swedish and foreign Government securities...	54,527	54,894	54,921	55,057	105,229	32,465
Discounts & loans...	350,967	358,212	369,954	380,483	337,121	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	494,405	519,645	519,645	534,969	525,643	226,555
Deposits at notice...	130,235	127,905	125,015	118,196	165,722	369,660

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1923.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold...	43,285	43,285	43,285	42,704	35,091
Balance abroad and foreign bills...	530,410	528,646	514,574	720,485	90,379
Finnish and Foreign Government securities...	496,082	497,338	498,642	571,500	21,826
Discounts and loans...	869,227	873,898	878,208	608,875	105,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	1,222,236	1,250,725	1,257,529	1,327,589	123,941
Deposits at notice...	516,240	513,763	399,101	266,114	21,225

BANK OF ESTHONIA.—In Est. marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 24, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Oct. 3, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
Reserve of notes (cash)...	1,088,813	1,201,331	1,232,467	1,120,778	1,120,778	1,120,778
Cash in for money, gold & deposits abroad...	604,108	610,603	610,603	351,043	25,805	25,805
Bills and other assets in foreign currency...	259,826	216,650	216,650	281,106	284,470	284,470
Discounts and loans...	5,373,937	5,341,955	5,375,351	4,971,721	4,971,721	4,971,721
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up and reserve funds...	396,381	396,381	396,381	396,381	322,283	322,283
Bank notes issued...	2,250,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Deposits...	3,850,156	3,892,070	3,799,965	2,981,062	2,981,062	2,981,062
Commercial credits...	607,96	646,773	677,850	633,076	633,076	633,076

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 19, 1924.	Nov. 12, 1924.	Nov. 5, 1924.	Nov. 21, 1923.	Nov. 21, 1923.
Total cash...	12,713	14,432	15,372	13,750	3,086
Gold coin & bullion...	23,603	23,596	23,596	15,792	12,993
Of which held abroad...	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,506	24,466
Foreign banks...	50,829	50,992	50,992	57,761	9,551
Discounts and loans...	84,510	84,422	84,159	33,771	9,551
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	26,000	26,000	26,000	23,000	4,005
Capital paid up...	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,214	8,000
Government deposits...	77,878	78,003	79,505	40,919	16,697
Other deposits...	51,547	52,497	51,800	42,005	16,995

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—
£1,000 sterling equals 896 chervonetz.
" " 1924 " 1923

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank	Jan. 23, 1924	%	Bank	Jan. 23, 1924	%
Amsterdam	Jan. 23, 1924	5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923	5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923	7	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924	5
Belgrade	Jan. 30, 1921	10	Prague	May 27, 1924	6
Berlin	Jan. 22, 1923	5	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924	8
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Rome	July 11, 1923	5
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924	12	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923	5
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924	5	Swiss Bank	July 14, 1923	4
Christiana	Nov. 25, 1924	6	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1913	8
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924	7	Vienna	Nov. 6, 1924	13
Danzig	Sept. 11, 1924	10	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924	9			
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923	9			

New York Federal Reserve Bank Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3
The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 5½% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 15%.
We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, as from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent.

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
Aus- tra- lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra- lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra- lia.	New Zeal'nd	Aus- tra- lia.	New Zeal'nd
T.T.	101	99	103	101	99	97	99
Demand ..	100	98	103	101	99	97	98
30 days ..	99	98	103	101	99	97	98
60 days ..	99	98	103	101	99	97	98
90 days ..	99	98	103	101	99	97	98

INDIA COUNCIL BILLS AND TRANSFERS.

Tenders were received at Bank of England on November 25, 1924, for Rs.100,00,000 in bills and telegraphic transfers on India. The result was as below:—

	Rate.	Applica- tions.	Allotments.		Allot- ments.	Average Rate.
Bills	1/5½	Rs. 10,00,000	Rs. ..	%	Rs. ..	..
Def. T.T. ...	1/6	8,00,000	8,00,000	100	Def. T.T. Calcutta..	18'031d
Imm. T.T. ...	1/6	57,00,000	..	..	Bombay..	18'031d
	1/5½	10,00,000	..	..	Madras..	..
		75,00,000	8,00,000	..	Karachi..	..
		22,00,000	..	..	Karachi..	..
		107,00,000	8,00,000	..	..	..

On December 2nd 100 lacs will be offered.

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.
Week ended November 26, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
Java	4,000	Russia	44,580
Switzerland ..	130,000	Sweden	88,100
United States of America ..	1,339	Denmark	294
British West Africa ..	37,840	Poland	3,640
British South Africa ..	290,131	Netherlands ..	21,360
Other countries ..	2,858	France	2,500
		Egypt	4,950
		West Coast of Africa ..	1,710
		Java	12,916
		United States of America ..	27,300
		British India ..	171,199
		Strait Settlements ..	9,708
		Other countries ..	145
Total declared value of imports	456,168	Total declared value of exports	388,402

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write, on November 26th, as follows:—

GOLD.

The demand from India for gold this week was very keen, and the moderate supplies available were readily absorbed by that country and the trade. Gold valued at \$3,500,000 has arrived in New York from Germany.

SILVER.

The lower level to which prices have fallen has provoked considerable bear covering. This tendency has been assisted by revived activity in the Indian bazaars, where stocks for some time have been rather excessive. Silver quotations there have risen, and some orders have been despatched to London. Although a somewhat better tone is felt here, the market is not robust, and any pronounced recovery would possibly lead to speculative sales. America was a buyer when the lowest

of recent prices were touched, but is inclined to let out supplies at rising rates. To-day's quotations fell sharply &d below those of yesterday—33½d for cash and 33½d for two months' delivery—which were the highest touched during the week.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.
(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 15.
Notes in circulation	18,098	18,022	18,088
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,653	8,578	8,543
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	2,232
Gold coin and bullion in India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	5,713	5,713	5,713
Securities (British Government) ..	1,500	1,499	1,600

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 15th inst. The stock in Shanghai on the 22nd inst. consisted of about 52,300,000 ounces in sycee, 41,500,000 dollars, and 880 silver bars, as compared with about 51,700,000 ounces in sycee, 43,500,000 dollars, and 640 silver bars on the 15th inst.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.		Silver.
		Cash. Forward.	Date.	Cash.
Nov. 22....	89 7	33 1/4	Dec. 7, 1918..	48 1/2
24....	89 10	33 1/4	5, 1919..	74
25....	90 0	33 1/4	2, 1920..	44 1/2
26....	90 0	33 1/4	2, 1921..	37 1/2
27....	89 10	33 1/4	1, 1922..	32 1/2
28....	89 11	33 1/4	Nov. 30, 1923..	33 1/2

NOTICES.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, intimate that the Press cable report to the effect that it is dismissing its staff of lady clerks in South Africa is entirely without foundation.

At a meeting of the directors of the Dominion Bank, held Friday, November 21st, Mr F. Gordon Osler, a son of the late president, Sir Edmund Osler, was elected a director to fill a vacancy on the board.

On his election as a Member of Parliament, Mr R. Roy Wilson has sent in his resignation as assistant-general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and the directors have accepted it with great regret.

THE
STANDARD BANK
OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(with which is incorporated the
AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD
Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province; to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£10,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£8,916,860
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£2,229,168
RESERVE FUND	£2,893,338
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£6,687,496
	£11,808,896

Board of Directors.
Sir David M. Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.
Edward Clifton Brown, Esq.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.
Solomon B. Joel, Esq., J.P.
Horace Peel, Esq.
Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
William Smart, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.

Joint General Managers in South Africa—J. P. Gibson.
Asst. Gen. Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
London Manager—Francis Shipton.
Secretary—Herbert G. Hoey.
Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.4
London Wall Branch: 88, LONDON WALL, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.
NEW YORK BRANCH: 67 WALL STREET.
HAMBURG AGENCY:
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53 SCHAUBENBURGER-STRASSE.
Over 320 Branches, Sub-Branches and Agencies in SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened at the Branches in Africa on terms which may be ascertained upon application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
DRAFTS issued, MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE business transacted.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and COMMERCIAL CREDITS established.
TRAVELLER'S LETTERS OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of the world.
PURCHASES and SALES of Stocks and Shares effected either through the Bank's Brokers or through Brokers selected by Customers.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received and COUPONS COLLECTED.
STRONGROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuable of Customers.
ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE business undertaken.
INCOME TAX—Claims for recovery of Income Tax undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Nov. 21, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Nov. 22, 1924.			Aggregate 47 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,754	205,000	352,000	557,000	1,261,000	1,587,000	28,491,000
Do for 1923	3,751	211,000	348,000	559,000	1,248,000	1,647,000	28,954,000
Do same period 1923	6,722	350,000	725,000	1,075,000	2,107,000	3,214,000	31,172,000
London & N. Eastern (c) ..	6,722	350,000	725,000	1,075,000	2,107,000	3,214,000	31,172,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	354,000	720,000	1,074,000	2,088,000	3,162,000	31,083,000
London, Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	507,000	912,000	1,419,000	3,153,000	4,266,000	71,978,000
Do for 1923	6,942	499,000	913,000	1,412,000	3,142,000	4,254,000	71,830,000
Do same period 1923	2,155	267,000	400,000	667,000	1,412,000	2,088,000	21,221,000
South Eastern	2,142	254,100	421,700	675,800	1,577,900	2,561,100	21,333,000
Do for 1923	794	33,080	4,223	37,303	1,840,306	184,421	2,024,727
Metropolitan (d)	31,411	4,156	35,573	1,495,507	177,721	1,673,228	11,246,566
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Underground E.R. (e) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
London & Sub. Group (f) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (g) ..	80	3,188	1,058	4,247	215,702	56,616	271,918
Dublin & S. East (h) ..	160	4,469	3,352	7,821	295,970	161,087	457,057
Dublin & N. (i) ..	562	14,000	20,750	34,750	891,650	959,000	1,850,700
Great Southern (j) (b) ..	1,151	30,241	48,380	78,621	..	..	3,903,134

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	30 weeks	Oct. 25	1,072	Rs. 3,38,000	+ 31,384	Rs. 84,78,546	+ 11,78,455
Barsi L. Ry.	30 weeks	Nov. 1	118	20,400	+ 400	9,94,400	+ 80,100
Bengal & N. Western ..	5 weeks	Nov. 1	2,062	4,55,640	+ 60,276	20,59,710	+ 1,34,605
Bombay Bar. & C.I.	30 weeks	Nov. 1	1,200	14,83,000	+ 38,000	4,55,71,028	+ 35,89,893
Bombay Bar. & C.I.	34 weeks	Oct. 22	2,241	24,49,000	+ 91,000	7,35,68,000	+ 41,77,000
Burma	30 weeks	Oct. 25	1,342	6,87,943	+ 18,320	1,97,75,920	+ 5,64,361
Delhi, Umballa & Kalke ..	7 weeks	Nov. 15	239	1,28,000	+ 7,783	7,09,857	+ 49,846
East Indian	34 weeks	Oct. 22	2,873	33,30,000	+ 1,19,000	9,34,400	+ 66,39,000
G. & Indian Peninsula ..	34 weeks	Oct. 22	2,325	29,90,500	+ 1,30,300	9,13,97,391	+ 1,08,70,943
Madras & S. Mah.	31 weeks	Oct. 25	1,029	12,15,000	+ 11,235	4,58,15,328	+ 24,73,474
Rohilk'd & Kumaon	4 weeks	Oct. 25	259	3,81,400	+ 14,037	1,08,965	+ 7,131
Do Lucknow-Brelly	4 weeks	Nov. 1	287	58,810	+ 1,431	1,54,054	+ 7,321
South Indian	30 weeks	Nov. 1	1,877	8,26,165	+ 85,928	2,90,03,951	+ 11,94,113

that merits attention. There is no need to make any invidious comparisons with what is being done in Australia or South Africa, for at all centres prices are being realised which certainly show an exceedingly sound situation. France and the home trade seem to be by far the keenest and most extensive operators in merinos, and the advance is certainly more pronounced in greasy than inoured descriptions. America so far has done very little in any ass of wool, and apart from picking up a few lots, there is nothing to shout over regarding United States operations. What a like about the sale room is the good, all round competition, particularly on the part of Yorkshire and the Continent. As far as we can see, the Australian clip this season is particularly well down; a few of the clips are more burry than usual, but the uensland clips are in splendid order, and on the whole some excellent prices have been realised.

Beginning with next series and in March the slipes will be all a clothing length, and suitable only for the woollen trade. However, the attention being given to crossbreds is remarkable, and apparently conditions have wonderfully changed during the interval. What we feel should concern the trade most of all is not the forcing of wool values to a higher level, but combining all energies to stimulate trade at the manufacturing end of the industry.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 21, 1924.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIALS' REPORT																Same Period 1923.				Same Period 1922.			
Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.		Low Mid.		Mid.	Good Mid.		Mid. Fair.		Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.					
		d	a	d	a		d	a	d	a									d	a	d	a	d	a
American	Mid.	1188	1288	1353	1403	1488	1824	1924	2074	1390	1450	1490	1824	1924	2074	1390	1450	1490					
Iranian	..	1333	1483	1583	..	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..					
Parana, Maceio, &c.	..	1333	1483	1583	..	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..					
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.	..	1333	1483	1583	..	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..					
Ceara, &c.	..	1333	1483	1583	..	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..	2009	2099	..	1360	1460	..					
São Paulo	..	1358	1408	1458	..	..	1984	2054	..	1385	1460	..	1984	2054	..	1385	1460	..					
Egyptian	..	1655	1710	1765	1825	1895	2205	2265	2335	1450	1550	1550	2205	2265	2335	1450	1550	1550					
Upper	..	2125	2515	2565	2680	2780	2370	2445	2565	1550	1775	2000	2370	2445	2565	1550	1775	2000					
Sakellaris	..	1720	1775	1830	1880	1940	1255	2315	2350	1425	1575	1750	1255	2315	2350	1425	1575	1750					
Brown	..	1720	1775	1830	1880	1940	1255	2315	2350	1425	1575	1750	1255	2315	2350	1425	1575	1750					
Iranian	..	2000	2100	2150	..	..	2150	..	..	2150	..	..	2150	..	..	2150	..	..					
Rough	..	1700	1800	1900	..	..	2000	2100	2150	1500	1650	1700	2000	2100	2150	1500	1650	1700					
Moderately Rough	..	1483	1558	1633	1658	1683	2131	2206	2281	1483	1558	1633	2131	2206	2281	1483	1558	1633					
Smooth	..	1608	1658	1713	1833	1933	2103	2153	2234	1483	1610	1710	2103	2153	2234	1483	1610	1710					
Tangul	..	1850	2000	2100	2200	..	2150	..	..	1300	1550	..	2150	..	..	1300	1550	..					
Meat Indian	..	1425	1525	1600	..	..	2125	..	..	1500	1550	1500	2125	..	..	1500	1550	1500					
Sea Island	..	2400	2550	2750	2900	..	1900	2400	..	2200	2800	..	1900	2400	..	2200	2800	..					
Do	..	1390	1540	1640	1705	1760	1703	1850	2050	1153	1325	1525	1703	1850	2050	1153	1325	1525					
Iranian, East, &c.	..	1318	1328	1348	1358	1375	2034	2094	2134	1335	1415	..	2034	2094	2134	1335	1415	..					
Do	..	1318	1328	1348	1358	1375	2034	2094	2134	1335	1415	..	2034	2094	2134	1335	1415	..					
East Indian	..	1195	1235	1275	1315	1355	1655	1695	1775	1220	1260	1340	1655	1695	1775	1220	1260	1340					
Machine Ginned Surtee	..	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135					
Machine Ginned Broom	..	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135					
Machine Ginned Broom	..	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135	1350	1400	1450	1005	1055	1135					
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 1	..	1110	1160	1210	1260	1310	1360	1410	1460	1015	1065	1145	1360	1410	1460	1015	1065	1145					
Machine Ginned Oomra No. 2	..	1110	1160	1210	1260	1310	1360	1410	1460	1015	1065	1145	1360	1410	1460	1015	1065	1145					
Machine Ginned Khandeish	..	1275	1315	..	..	..	1390	..	..	1205	..	..	1390	..	..	1205	..	..					
Machine Ginned Comphah	..	1255	1165	120	1245	1285	1325	1300	1340	1420	780	820	1300	1340	1420	780	820	1300					
Machine Ginned Comphah	..	1115	1155	1195	125	1245	1315	1690	1330	1410	770	810	1330	1410	770	810	1330	1410					
Machine Ginned Comphah	..	1290	135	1370	..	..	1850	1880	..	1390	1430	..	1850	1880	..	1390	1430	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1280	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
American-Scinde-Punjab	..	1205	1280	1285	1355	1405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Western	..	1255	1293	1345	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..	1525	1565	..	..	..	..					
Western	..	1215	1255	1295	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..					
d. G. Northern	..	1283	1310	1359	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..	1590	..	..	..	..	..					

the latter are slow to yield. At auction to-day 779 casks tallow were offered, and 187 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 53s; good to fair, 52s to 50s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 44s; hard, 53s. Australian beef: Fine, 53s 3d; good to fair, 50s 6d to 49s; dull to dark, 46s to 45s; sweet, 53s 6d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 48s. Present shipment from South America, 49s 6d to 48s 6d. The market letter is lower. Tallow, 6d; stuff, 6d. Town tallow, 45s 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, per 8 lbs, 6d; melted stuff, 35s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 45s 6d, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 46s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 50s; fair to dull, 47s to 46s. Bone fat: White, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 40s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—NOVEMBER 27.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the calf. Sheep, per stone.			
	s	d	q
Beasts—Herefords	6	6	7 0
Short-horns	6	0	6 8
Devons	7	0	7 4
Norths	6	0	6 8
Scottish	6	0	6 8
Irish	6	0	6 8
East Dows	6	0	6 8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—NOVEMBER 27.

Per Cwt.			
	s	d	q
English—King Edwards	10	0	11 0
British Queens	8	6	9 0
Majestic	8	6	9 0
Blackland—			
King Edwards	9	0	10 0
Evergoods	8	0	8 0

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
	s	d	q
Cocoa—Duty, British grown	8	0	0
9.4d. foreign 1st. cwt.	8	0	0
Trinidad, per cwt.	8	0	0
Grenada	8	0	0
Ceylon, plantations	8	0	0
Guayaquil	8	0	0
Val de la, finest	8	0	0
Coffee—British grown			
9.4d. foreign 1st. cwt.	8	0	0
India 1st. cwt. m.d. 145	8	0	0
Good to fine	8	0	0
Central American, 1st. cwt.	8	0	0
Good to fine	8	0	0
Colombian, ordinary	8	0	0
Do good to low mid	8	0	0
Do mid to fine	8	0	0
CHOCOLATE			
1st. cwt.	8	0	0
2nd. cwt.	8	0	0
3rd. cwt.	8	0	0
4th. cwt.	8	0	0
5th. cwt.	8	0	0
6th. cwt.	8	0	0
7th. cwt.	8	0	0
8th. cwt.	8	0	0
9th. cwt.	8	0	0
10th. cwt.	8	0	0
11th. cwt.	8	0	0
12th. cwt.	8	0	0
13th. cwt.	8	0	0
14th. cwt.	8	0	0
15th. cwt.	8	0	0
16th. cwt.	8	0	0
17th. cwt.	8	0	0
18th. cwt.	8	0	0
19th. cwt.	8	0	0
20th. cwt.	8	0	0
21st. cwt.	8	0	0
22nd. cwt.	8	0	0
23rd. cwt.	8	0	0
24th. cwt.	8	0	0
25th. cwt.	8	0	0
26th. cwt.	8	0	0
27th. cwt.	8	0	0
28th. cwt.	8	0	0
29th. cwt.	8	0	0
30th. cwt.	8	0	0
31st. cwt.	8	0	0
32nd. cwt.	8	0	0
33rd. cwt.	8	0	0
34th. cwt.	8	0	0
35th. cwt.	8	0	0
36th. cwt.	8	0	0
37th. cwt.	8	0	0
38th. cwt.	8	0	0
39th. cwt.	8	0	0
40th. cwt.	8	0	0
41st. cwt.	8	0	0
42nd. cwt.	8	0	0
43rd. cwt.	8	0	0
44th. cwt.	8	0	0
45th. cwt.	8	0	0
46th. cwt.	8	0	0
47th. cwt.	8	0	0
48th. cwt.	8	0	0
49th. cwt.	8	0	0
50th. cwt.	8	0	0
51st. cwt.	8	0	0
52nd. cwt.	8	0	0
53rd. cwt.	8	0	0
54th. cwt.	8	0	0
55th. cwt.	8	0	0
56th. cwt.	8	0	0
57th. cwt.	8	0	0
58th. cwt.	8	0	0
59th. cwt.	8	0	0
60th. cwt.	8	0	0
61st. cwt.	8	0	0
62nd. cwt.	8	0	0
63rd. cwt.	8	0	0
64th. cwt.	8	0	0
65th. cwt.	8	0	0
66th. cwt.	8	0	0
67th. cwt.	8	0	0
68th. cwt.	8	0	0
69th. cwt.	8	0	0
70th. cwt.	8	0	0
71st. cwt.	8	0	0
72nd. cwt.	8	0	0
73rd. cwt.	8	0	0
74th. cwt.	8	0	0
75th. cwt.	8	0	0
76th. cwt.	8	0	0
77th. cwt.	8	0	0
78th. cwt.	8	0	0
79th. cwt.	8	0	0
80th. cwt.	8	0	0
81st. cwt.	8	0	0
82nd. cwt.	8	0	0
83rd. cwt.	8	0	0
84th. cwt.	8	0	0
85th. cwt.	8	0	0
86th. cwt.	8	0	0
87th. cwt.	8	0	0
88th. cwt.	8	0	0
89th. cwt.	8	0	0
90th. cwt.	8	0	0
91st. cwt.	8	0	0
92nd. cwt.	8	0	0
93rd. cwt.	8	0	0
94th. cwt.	8	0	0
95th. cwt.	8	0	0
96th. cwt.	8	0	0
97th. cwt.	8	0	0
98th. cwt.	8	0	0
99th. cwt.	8	0	0
100th. cwt.	8	0	0

A NEW PRIZE FOR A DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIC STUDY

In the belief that the

Theory of Wages

is of exceptional importance, and that constructive study of it should be stimulated, a Committee composed of

PROFESSOR J. LAURENCE LAUGHLIN, Chairman

PROFESSOR JOHN BATES CLARK

PROFESSOR EDWIN F. GAY

HON. THEODORE E. BURTON

PROFESSOR WESLEY C. MITCHELL

has been authorized by Messrs. Hart Schaffner & Marx to offer in 1926 a cash prize of

Five thousand dollars

for the best original treatise on this subject

THE Committee places no restrictions upon the scope, method or character of the studies submitted beyond the requirement that they make genuine contributions toward our understanding of the problem. Emphasis may be laid upon analysis of the economic principles underlying the determination of wages, upon the conditions which set maximum and minimum limits to the prices paid for important types of labor, upon quantitative studies of the factors involved, or upon any other aspect of the problems which a writer can show to be significant and upon which he can throw new light.

The prize will not be awarded except for a work of high merit. Contestants are not limited

to any country; but the manuscripts must be in English. This offer is entirely separate from the annual competition in Classes A and B of the Hart Schaffner & Marx prizes elsewhere announced.

The ownership of the copyright will vest in the donors, who will arrange for the publication of the book.

Competitors should inscribe their manuscripts with assumed names and in sealed envelopes give their real names and addresses, together with degrees, distinctions, or positions held.

Inquiries concerning the competition may be addressed to the undersigned. Manuscripts should be sent on or before October 1st, 1926, to

J. LAURENCE LAUGHLIN
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

Banks, &c.—Continued.

THE MAURITIUS COMMERCIAL BANK,
PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.
(Incorporated by Royal Charter and continued under Local Authority.)
ESTABLISHED 1838.

Capital ... Rs. 2,000,000
Reserve Fund ... 1,700,000
Undivided Profits ... 1,726,960

London Agents—LLOYDS BANK LTD., 20 King William Street, E.C.4.
Paris " LLOYDS and NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LTD.
Agents in India—NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LTD.
Agents in South Africa and New York—THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD.
Also agencies in The Straits Settlements, Japan, Australia, Madagascar, Reunion.
Telegraphic Address, 'E.G.O.'

CREDIT SUISSE

Established 1856.
Capital and Reserves - - - - - Francs 130,000,000
Head Office: ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.
Banks, Bern, Frauenfeld, Geneva, Glaris, Grubingen, Lucerne, Lugano, Locarno, Neuchâtel, St. Gall.
General Banking Business.

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1886).
Head Office: 4 THEATRE STREET, E.C.4.
West End Office: 17 Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.
Paid-up Capital ... £4,000,000
Reserve Fund ... £3,625,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... £4,000,000
Under the Charter ... £4,000,000
Letters of Credit and Drafts are issued and banking business of every description is transacted through the numerous branches of the bank throughout Australia and New Zealand. Deposits for fixed periods received.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PRICES

with special reference to the History of the Nineteenth Century.

By WALTER T. LAYTON, M.A. 7/6 net.

The Economic Review:—"His excellent and clear little book ought to be in the hands of every student of social conditions."
The Economic Journal:—"The high qualities he possesses and exhibits will, we are sure, recommend his 'Introduction' to all who would make at once the easiest and the safest approach available to the fascinating but complicated study of prices." That is, perhaps, the most crucial of present popular economic questions and it must always occupy a prominent place in the scientific discussions of professional economists."

MACMILLAN & Co., Ltd., London, W.C.2

Insurance.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

Chief Office: OXFORD ST., MANCHESTER.
(For the year ending December 31st, 1923).
ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDED £7,500,000.
ASSETS EXCEEDED £26,000,000.
CLAIMS PAID EXCEEDED £40,000,000.

"Facts are stubborn things"

DELAY IS DANGEROUS.

Make immediate provision for all risks by insuring with the
PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LTD.,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE CO., LTD.
London, E.C.2. Premium Income exceeds £1,500,000.
Funds exceed £4,500,000. Claims paid exceed £7,500,000. Annual Reports and Prospectuses can be obtained on application.

THE BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK, LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1919.

Report by the Board of Directors to the Fifth Annual General Meeting of Shareholders to be held in the Bank Premises, 33 Gracechurch street (Lombard court), London, E.C.3, on Tuesday, the Ninth day of December, 1924, at 12 noon.

The Directors submit to the Shareholders the Balance-sheet of the Bank, as at 31st October, 1924, and Profit and Loss Account, together with copy of the Auditors' Certificate.

The Profit, after allowing rebate of interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, Income-tax and other Taxation for this year ended 31st October, 1924, amounts to	£105,548	1	4
Balance available from last account	£68,781	19	8
Making a total of	£174,330	1	0
Interim Dividend on "A" Ordinary Shares at the rate of six per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th April, 1924, and Income-tax thereon	30,000	0	0
Leaving a Balance of	£144,330	1	0
which has been appropriated as follows:—			
In payment of a Dividend on the "A" Ordinary Shares at the rate of six per cent. per annum (less Income-tax) for the half-year ended 31st October, 1924, which together with Income-tax thereon amounts to	£30,000	0	0
To Reduction of Premises Account	£5,000	0	0
To General Reserve	£55,000	0	0
Leaving a Net Balance to be carried forward to next year of	£54,330	1	0
	£144,330	1	0

Last year reference was made in our Report to certain alterations in the Constitution of the Bank that were contemplated. These changes, when effected, did not completely meet the objects in view, and further alterations were subsequently submitted to the Shareholders and unanimously approved. The Board are glad to be able to report that these further changes have been accomplished all that was hoped for them, and close and friendly relations continue between the Bank and those Institutions who disposed of their "B" Ordinary Shares to the Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, Williams Deacons Bank, Limited, and the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited.

The Directors retiring by rotation are Mr. James Caird and Mr. Nigel L. Campbell, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The Auditors, Messrs. A. W. Tait, C.B.E., and A. S. Macharg, also retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment.

By order of the Board,
A. E. THORNE, Secretary.

BALANCE-SHEET as at 31st October, 1924.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Capital:—Authorized		Cash in Hand and at Bankers	£267,477 13 4
300,000 "A" Ordinary Shares of £5 each	£1,500,000 0 0	Money at Call and Short Notice	1,610,000 0 0
300,000 "B" Ordinary Shares of £5 each	1,500,000 0 0	Balances with Bankers Abroad	669,498 7 8
400,000 Shares of £5 each which may be issued in whole or in part as "A" or "B" Ordinary Shares	2,000,000 0 0	Bills Discounted	464,105 13 5
	£5,000,000 0 0	Government Securities	286,250 0 0
Subscribed and Paid in Full:		Other Investments	31,984 5 10
200,000 "A" Ordinary Shares of £5 each	£1,000,000 0 0	Shareholding Interests in Foreign Banks at Cost	50,471 10 2
200,000 "B" Ordinary Shares of £5 each	1,000,000 0 0	Advances to Customers and Other Accounts	703,934 5 1
	£2,000,000 0 0	Liability of Customers for Acceptances, etc. (per contra)	3,331,917 9 1
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	2,294,568 14 4	Premises Account	365,176 19 10
Reserve against Shareholding Interests in Foreign Banks	£45,000 0 0		
Reserve Fund	55,000 0 0		
	100,000 0 0		
Acceptances, etc., for Account of Customers (per contra)	3,331,917 9 1		
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	54,330 1 0		
(Note.—Contingent Liability on account of Endorsements on Bills Discounted, £1,620,718.)			
	£7,780,816 4 5		£7,780,816 4 5

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st October, 1924.

Dr.				Cr.
To Interim Dividend on the "A" Ordinary Shares at the rate of six per cent. per annum and Income-tax thereon			By Balance brought forward	£68,781 19 8
	£30,000	0 0		
" Final Dividend on the "A" Ordinary Shares at the rate of six per cent. per annum and Income-tax thereon	30,000	0 0		
" Reduction of Premises Account	5,000	0 0	" Net Profit after allowing rebate of Interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, Income Tax and other Taxation for the year ended 31st October, 1924	105,548 1 4
" Reserve Fund	55,000	0 0		
" Balance carried to Balance-sheet	54,330	1 0		
	<u>£174,330</u>	<u>1 0</u>		<u>£174,330 1 0</u>

CHURCHILL, Chairman.
ARTHUR C. D. GAIRDNER, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director.
NIGEL LESLIE CAMPBELL, Director.

A. E. THORNE, Secretary.
F. J. SULLIVAN, Accountant.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have examined the above Balance-sheet and compared it with the Books of the Bank. We have satisfied ourselves as to the correctness of the Cash Balances and the Bills of Exchange and have verified the Securities. We have obtained all the information and explanations which we have required, and are of the opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Bank.

London, E.C., 25th November, 1924.

DIRECTORS.

The Right Hon. VISCOUNT CHURCHILL, G.C.V.O., Chairman.
ARTHUR C. D. GAIRDNER, Esq., Deputy Chairman and Managing Director.
N. L. CAMPBELL, Esq.
JAMES CAIRD, Esq.
Sir GEORGE E. MAY, K.B.E.
Hon. HENRY D. McLAREN, C.B.E.
Hon. BERNARD ROLLO.

ADVISORY DIRECTORS.

NORMAN L. HIRD, Esq.
EDGAR HORNE, Esq.
Sir HARRY MCGOWAN, K.B.E.
JOHN SAMPSON, Esq., C.B.E.

MANAGERS.

F. O. A. SPEED.
R. STEPHENSON.
DUDLEY WARD, C.B.E.

INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT.

DUDLEY WARD, C.B.E.
F. O. A. SPEED (Commercial Section).

FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

R. STEPHENSON.
H. W. GURNEY, Chief Operator.

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT.

F. O. A. SPEED.

ACCOUNTANT.
F. J. SULLIVAN.

SECRETARY.

A. E. THORNE.

AUDITORS.

A. W. TAIT, Esq., C.B.E., C.A., London.

A. S. MACHARG, Esq., C.A., Glasgow.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1924.

No. 4,241.

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting
ESTATE DUTY

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Issued by the Company may be obtained on application from the Head Office or any of the Offices or Agencies of the Company.

O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF
BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 510,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers { D. A. HORNER.
F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having correspondents in all Countries, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the development of trade between the British Empire and Italy.

Every facility provided to Letter of Credit holders, and all other exchange operations transacted by Italian branches, particularly at the Chief Office and Sub-Offices in Rome.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	905	Letters to the Editor—	
Leading Articles—		Remuneration in Govern-	
An Early Return to Gold..	907	ment Service	925
The Anglo-German Com-		Stock Exchange News—	
mercial Treaty	908	The Stock Markets	927
The Agricultural Conference	908	New Issues	928
Our Index Number	910	Active Securities	929
Irish Linen	910	Company Meetings	930
Hotel Companies' Profits..	912	Government Returns—	
The Mexican Problem	913	Public Income and Expen-	
Notes of the Week—		diture	931
The Egyptian Crisis	914	Currency Notes Account ..	932
President Coolidge and		Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Europe	915	by Public Tender	932
The Government and Pro-		National Debt	932
tection	915	Bankers' Gazette—	
Australo-Canadian Prefer-		Bank of England	932
ence	916	Clearing Returns	933
Trades Union Funds	916	Overseas Bank Returns ..	933
Shipping Freight Index		Loan and Discount Rates..	934
Number	916	Overseas Bank Rates	934
Bankruptcy in 1923	917	Rates of Exchange	934
Central American Crops ..	917	India Council Bills and	
The Outlook for Tin	917	Transfers	935
P. and O. Results	918	Imports & Exports of Gold	
Coats' Progress	918	Gold and Silver Prices	935
Salvador Railway Report..	918	Company News—	
Tate and Lyle	919	Weekly Traffic Returns....	936
Van Ryn Gold	919	Dividend Announcements..	936
Mexican Corporation	919	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	
Pahang Consolidated	919	Mining Output Statistics..	937
Bingo Gold	919	Rhodesian Gold Output ..	937
Overseas Correspondence—		Oil Outputs	938
United States	920	Reports and Notices	938
France	921	Profit and Loss Accounts..	939
Germany	922	Commercial Reports—	
Canada	922	Corn Trade	939
Greece	923	Iron and Coal Trade	940
Denmark	924	Metals	941
Norway	925	Cotton Trade	941
Books and Publications—		Wool Trade	941
Iron and Steel in History..	926	Vegetable Oils	942
The Origin of Money	926	Hide and Leather Trades..	942
The Story of a National		Overseas Produce Markets..	942
Bank	926	Price Current	943
Books Received	927		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.

Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's,

37 Avenue de L'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has been plentiful, owing to the War Loan interest payments on December 1st, and the market has been easily able to repay its indebtedness to the Bank of England; at the same time, there was no evidence of extreme abundance. Discount rates were slightly easier, with three months' bills at 3½ per cent., but the tone of the market was quite steady. The suspension of sales of Treasury bills "on tap" produced much discussion and

many ingenious explanations, but was probably decided on owing to the very limited demand for them.

	Dec. 5, 1924	Nov. 28, 1924	Nov. 21, 1924	Nov. 14, 1924	Previous Rate and Date Changed
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses' Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return showed the effect of the War Loan payment in an increase of 23 millions in the Government securities and of 21 millions in the Other deposits. Public deposits declined by 8½ millions, and Other securities were reduced by repayments to the extent of 9½ millions. Note circulation expanded by £730,000, and the Reserve declined by £727,000. Currency notes outstanding were increased by £2,720,000 to £288,098,000, which includes £1,360,400 for notes called in, but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £237,287,100, being £10,903,800 below the maximum for the year.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The settlement this week proved to be of smaller proportions than either of the two preceding accounts, and business in most sections shows a tendency to fall away a little. The distribution of War Loan interest on Monday failed to affect prices in the gilt-edged market, but foreign bonds have been strong, the premium on the new German loan touching 8 premium. There was a big demand for underwriting of the new Greek Refugee Loan. Home rails have scored moderate rises, but foreign rails continue to be somewhat out of favour. Tea and whisky shares have been prominent, and investment trust companies' stocks show considerable rises on the week, and many other sections continue active, but mines are attracting little public interest.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The general position of the Cardiff coal market has improved this week. Business is quiet in pig-iron, and prices are inclined to be easier. Although some of the works have booked fresh orders, there are no signs at present of increased output. Tin opened with a firm tone, but subsequently developed irregularity. Copper fluctuated slightly. In the cotton trade the market is firm, and conditions in the wool trade are inclined to be buoyant. Sugar was quiet, and tea was easier. Rubber was steady, but actual business was confined to moderate limits. Wheat moved on even lines. A weaker tone is reported in the hide market, which may be temporary. Linseed oil is easier. Further details of markets and prices will be found on later pages.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the Foreign Exchange market interest has centred on the movement of the dollar. At the end of last week the news of the Sudan revolt brought a sharp relapse in the value of sterling from a closing price of \$4.63½ on the 28th to as low as \$4.61½ at one time on Saturday. By Monday evening there had been a recovery up to \$4.64, since when there has been a steady and rapid appreciation in sterling, until for a short time yesterday morning a figure of \$4.69 was reached, although later the rate steadied down to \$4.68½, rather lower than the previous day's quotation. It is clear that this movement is not based on general economic factors, as both the movement of prices and the trade balance in the two countries would suggest a fall rather than a rise in quotation. The immediate cause, however, is probably the difference in market rates at the moment between the two countries which has resulted in the movement of a large amount of short money from New York to London. It will be seen from this that the position is far from being stable, and, though a further rise as the result of these same influences is possible, caution as to the movements in the immediate future is very necessary. We make further reference to the subject in a leading article. Forward rates have moved to par to ½ cent discount for

one to three months. The Paris rate, from 86.20 on the 28th, moved down gradually to 84.80 on the 3rd, since when it has risen again to 85.25. As compared with the dollar, however, the franc shows a marked appreciation, owing, it is suggested, to the French Government's desire to create a good atmosphere for the last days before the closing of the lists for the internal loan. After that, it would appear to be the intention, with the help of the funds now at France's disposal in New York, to keep the dollar steady somewhere about a rate of 18.50 francs, but whether or not this will be carried out is still very doubtful. Francs, one month forward, are quoted at about 20 to 30 centimes above spot. As compared with a week ago, when the rate stood at 106.57½, the lira shows in respect to sterling a marked depreciation to 108.50. As compared with the dollar, however, it has remained practically stable. In the same way the Dutch rate has moved up from 11.47½ to 11.56, while appreciating slightly on dollars; Switzerland from 23.99 to 24.18½; Stockholm from 17.21 to 17.36½; Vienna from 327,500 to 332,000 Berlin from 19.45 to 19.68. Madrid, on the other hand, maintains its close relation to sterling, and has actually appreciated from 33.85 to 33.76½, while Christiania has moved only from 31.27½ to 31.29½, and Budapest remains pegged at 345,000. Prague, at 155½, is ¾ points higher, but Bucharest has jumped again from 902½ to 950. In the East the rupee remains at 1s 6½d, but heavy exports are being balanced by correspondingly large imports of gold. The yen, on the other hand, is cheaper, at 1s 7½d, as compared with 1s 8½d. The silver market has been quiet, with a weak tendency, some demand from India not having been quite sufficient to keep up the price. Hong Kong, at 2s 4½d, and Shanghai, at 3s 3d, are both somewhat cheaper. In South America, Rio has moved down from 5 63-64d to 5 55-64d, Montevideo from 50½d to 50½d, Buenos Aires from 45d to 44 27-32d, and Valparaiso has also depreciated on the week from 40.50 to 40.70 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended November 29th:—

(000's omitted.)			
EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	7,886	From Revenue	9,894
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,246	Increase in Debt	1,622
Sinking Fund	500		
Sundries	795		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	89		
	11,516		11,516

The Revenue for the week amounted to £9,893,700, as compared with £12,982,100 in the corresponding week last year. Customs and Excise were lower at £1,992,000, against £2,624,000, and £1,626,000, against £1,724,000 respectively. Estate Duties were up at £1,270,000, against £600,000. Property and Income-tax brought in £1,502,000, as compared with £2,121,000, and Super-tax at £330,000 was £30,000 lower than last year's figure. Ordinary receipts reached £74,600, against £40,900, while Special receipts only amounted to £1,011,100, against £3,309,400. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £1,622,025, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
Treasury Bills	£	Public Department Advances ..	£
National Savings Certificates ..	2,690		2,100
Sundries	50		
	982		
	3,722		2,100

The floating debt was increased by £585,000 to £788,045,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to November 29).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	483,728,617	Raised by Revenue ..	455,311,251
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,507,955
		Amount borrowed ..	24,909,411
Total	483,728,617	Total	483,728,617

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

AN EARLY RETURN TO GOLD.

WE reviewed in these columns last week the causes underlying the recent rise in the sterling-dollar exchange. We make no apology for returning to the subject this week, for we have, in the meantime, received timely information on the point from the United States; and there can be no doubt that hopes are growing on both sides of the Atlantic that the recent movement foreshadows an early return to parity and the resumption of the gold standard by Great Britain. If these hopes can be realised a contribution to world reconstruction will be made second only in importance to the introduction of the Dawes plan. Germany is nominally on a gold basis; but her footing is very precarious. If Great Britain returns to a gold basis she will soon be followed by the great Dominions and by other countries, among whom Holland, Switzerland, and Spain are likely to be the first. Theorists may have some ground for arguing that a paper standard might be made more stable than gold, but actual experience of paper standards is not encouraging. We are by no means clear of the period of paper chaos; 1923 saw the lowest exchange records for many countries of Europe, and in France and Belgium 1924 has even beaten the 1923 record. The most practical assurance of steady progress which can be given to the world would be a prompt return of a substantial part of the world to a gold basis.

Although there are, as we pointed out last week, some views in the outlook which justify a little scepticism, it seems that in many respects we have at the moment a blend of sentiment and economic conditions which is unusually favourable to a return to parity. This combination of circumstances may not last, and for this reason we should like to feel that the authorities concerned are well prepared, should the developments of the near future be favourable, to take action, and to take it quickly.

One of the favourable factors is the commodity price situation in the United States. The values of dollars and of sterling have been kept apart by the fact that the United States' prices have been low, and the price level in the United Kingdom relatively high. It has been a matter of surprise to many people in Great Britain that low money rates in the United States had not hitherto had the effect of raising prices. The cause of the surprise is now vanishing. Commodity prices in America are set for a rise. The upward movement has been started by the rise in wheat prices, caused by short harvests in many countries; it is being stimulated by the trade expansion which has followed the Republican victory in the Presidential campaign. In its final stages the Presidential election was fought on two slogans—"Coolidge means continued prosperity," and "If the election is thrown into Congress it will hold trade back for six months." Indeed, the election was in the end so much an issue between prosperity and stagnation, that many plans for expansion were held back until after November 4th. These influences, together with the fact that industry has for a long time been running on the basis of very low stocks, mean an expansion this winter, and with it must come a general rise in commodity prices. This rise might go a considerable distance without being checked, for the tariff is a barrier which has not yet had its full protective effect, while the monetary situation is such that considerable expansion can be financed without producing stringency. Some phases of this price advance—wheat, of course, is an example—are already communicating themselves to British prices, but the upward movement in Great Britain is not so likely to be a general one. For in the latter country another set of factors is keeping down such items, for example, as coal and steel, and the wage level is less

likely to become generally affected. It is, therefore, on the whole, probable that the margin between British and American prices—or, to put it the other way round, the difference in the value of money in the two countries—will narrow very soon. It must not, however, be assumed that the pound cannot get to par until there is complete statistical equality of price levels, for even in the days when we were all on the gold basis, such indices as then existed showed frequent, and some prolonged, divergencies of prices in England and America. Nor have we, indeed, to-day any certainty that our index numbers are measuring the right prices, and in the right proportions, for making an exact comparison. The price index numbers are, in fact, not an accurate enough instrument to show us at what moment a par exchange would be normal; but they will show, and are already showing, that prices are moving in directions which will tend to make a par rate normal.

Another, and perhaps for the moment a more potent, influence on the exchange is the movement of American funds to Europe, and particularly to Great Britain. America has subscribed for an enormous number of foreign issues in the last six months, and has—particularly recently—been transferring commercial balances to the European side to take advantage of higher money rates. While these transfers are being made they tend to make the demand for sterling bigger than the demand for dollars, and thus put up the price of the former. But—unlike a change in price levels—they have no permanent effect on the balance of payments, and, indeed, if short-term funds are withdrawn quickly, the return movement undoes the effect of the first. In so far, therefore, as such funds have been moved here to take advantage of an expected rise in the value of the pound, and will be moved away when the pound has risen, these investments, while helping the pound up, will make it difficult to keep it up. To the extent that short-term capital investments influence the problem, the condition needed is that English money rates should remain substantially above American rates, and keep money over here for some time.

Whether this is likely to happen or not is difficult to foresee. The American situation is complicated by a big Stock Exchange boom, and with trade expanding, and money moving to Europe, the resources of the banking system will have many outlets. But in spite of these varied demands, probably the balance of banking opinion expects low money rates for, say, two years to come—so great are the possible credit resources of the country. On the other hand, among a certain school the Stock Exchange boom and the enthusiasm for trade expansion is already causing disquiet, and a demand may soon be made for action by the Federal Reserve Board, through its rediscount rate, to check undue expansion. Whether any possible action would in present circumstances be effective is open to argument, but that it may be attempted later in the winter must not be ruled out of the possibilities, in view of the revived Press discussion on the perils of inflation. If we have read the signs correctly, the upward movement of sterling is backed by strong influences. On the other hand, we have previously had occasion to point out that as the pound approaches the dollar new influences enter in, which make the last stages increasingly difficult. The last stages may, therefore, have to be jumped by the announcement that on a certain date the freedom to export gold will be restored. Is there any likelihood that such an announcement will be made in the near future? We believe that if events move as we have suggested, and are favourable in the New Year, British opinion would strongly support the Bank and the Treasury in such action as might be necessary. Two years ago the pound sterling—in Mr Lloyd George's phrase—looked the dollar in the face and turned away. There is a very widespread feeling that it is time to put an end to the policy of drift.

Opinion in America is looking in the same direction, and there is no doubt that some form of co-operation could be arranged, or assistance given, in the New York market if it were thought necessary. This attitude is not the outcome of philanthropy. It is dictated by two motives of self-interest. On the one hand, American opinion regards the restoration of the pound as one of the key moves in the stabilisation of European conditions, and hence in the restoration of her chief market. On

the other, the wisest Americans realise that if the world does not resume the gold standard, the American monetary and banking system will be in danger of being broken down if it is flooded with the whole of the world's gold available as currency. Her power of absorption is not unlimited, and her responsible financiers will be greatly relieved when the golden flood is more evenly distributed.

THE ANGLO-GERMAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

COMMERCIAL relations between Great Britain and Germany have been governed for nearly five years past by the rather one-sided conditions laid down in the Treaty of Versailles. As, however, these clauses were to run only for five years from the date of ratification—which actually took place on January 10, 1920—it had become imperative that negotiations should be resumed with a view to putting the whole question upon a definite basis. A German delegation came to London recently for this purpose, and on Tuesday last a new Commercial Treaty was signed between the two countries. The actual document was published yesterday, and follows, in the main, the familiar lines of agreements concluded upon the basis of the "most favoured nation." There is, therefore, to be no discrimination in either country in the treatment accorded to the nationals of the other, except in so far as such discrimination may apply to all foreigners without exception, while, in a number of respects, nationals of either country are to enjoy in the territory of the other the same privileges that are accorded to its own nationals. In general, and within the limits of the Treaty itself, "each party agrees not to impose, reimpose, or prolong any duties or charges which are specially injurious to the other party." In the event of any dispute arising as to the proper interpretation of the Treaty, recourse is to be had to the Permanent Court of International Justice, unless the two Contracting Parties otherwise agree.

In general, it may be said that the terms of the Treaty are exceedingly satisfactory, and ratification by this country may be regarded as a foregone conclusion, necessitating a certain amount of legislation to remove the disabilities placed upon German nationals by a number of British Acts. Although Germany is now going through a general election—polling actually takes place to-morrow—and the composition of the new Parliament is therefore a matter of speculation, it hardly seems conceivable that ratification by Berlin is seriously in doubt. At the same time, there appears to be a certain amount of disappointment in German circles that this Treaty has not finally disposed of the 26 per cent. duty imposed under the head of Reparations Recovery. The attitude of the Agent-General for Reparations towards this mode of payment is shrouded in a certain amount of mystery, and has occupied the attention of some sections of the German Press. Whatever the ultimate outcome will be, however, the German delegates have obtained some slight satisfaction on this point also, as is shown by the following Treasury announcement, which was issued on Tuesday night:—

"The British and German Governments have agreed that the practicability of some alternative method to the existing procedure under the German Reparation (Recovery) Act, not involving payments by individual merchants, should be discussed by the German Government with the Agent-General and the Transfer Committee, and that the British Government thereafter, if satisfactory arrangements can be reached, will endeavour, with a sincere desire for mutual agreement, to come to an understanding with regard to any modification which does not diminish the payments to the British Government."

The significance of the Treaty itself is much greater than a mere reading of the text would suggest. Here, at least, victors and vanquished have negotiated upon equal terms, and their agreement marks a definite step forward towards the establishment of normal conditions. In pre-war days, of course, the trade between the two countries was enormous. In 1913, for example, Great

Britain imported over £80 millions' worth of goods from Germany, while our exports totalled £40.6 millions, and re-exports £19.8 millions. Since the war, on the other hand, the volume of trade has been greatly diminished, and the balance has actually been "favourable" to this country, as may be seen from the following figures:—

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER (000's omitted).				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	
Imports from Germany....	18,701	25,454	25,325	
Exports to Germany	24,384	33,014	31,016	
Re-exports to Germany....	13,643	14,308	21,293	

In 1913 Germany was the most influential buyer of our goods in the world, outside the Empire, her purchases representing 7½ per cent. of total British exports, and being exceeded only by those of India, who took 13½ per cent. of the whole. In the first nine months of 1924 Germany had sunk to fifth place in the list, being surpassed by India, Australia, the United States, and France, and her share in our total exports had declined to only 4½ per cent. The possibilities of expansion are clearly very great, and should be helped forward by the new Treaty.

At the same time, the prospect of a return of German banks to the City appears to be giving rise to rather mixed feelings in some quarters. The question raised is perhaps not so much the desire for discrimination against the German banks in particular, but rather the general position of the branches of foreign banks in London, which may conceivably increase considerably in importance as a consequence of the Treaty. In certain eventualities it does appear as a possible source of danger that foreign banks, with their assets abroad, should be able through their acceptance business to create claims on London, and thereby increase an eventual drain on sterling. In this connection, however, the nationality of the actual bank is not of primary importance, and, in any case, the Treaty will clear up a somewhat anomalous position. It seems, however, to be unlikely that British banks will avail themselves on any considerable scale of the permission to open up branches in Germany, though the possibilities for English insurance companies, which, incidentally, played an exceedingly important part in pre-war Germany, are sure to receive attention.

It is interesting to observe that the Treaty between Great Britain and Germany has been signed precisely at the moment when, according to all appearances, something approaching a deadlock has been reached in the Franco-German commercial discussions. Iron, steel, and coal naturally loom large in this connection, and there appears to have been a certain reluctance on the part of the German magnates to enter into an understanding with their French rivals without first attempting discussions on an international basis. This, of course, implies delay, and it now seems to be unlikely that the official negotiations will lead to a definite conclusion by January 10th next, when the present provisional régime comes to an end. The discussions, however, will be followed with considerable interest on this side, and we may hope that the new Anglo-German Treaty will prove the first step towards a general settlement of outstanding problems which await solution before world commerce can return to more normal conditions.

THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHATEVER may be thought of the Government's "policy of inquiry" in dealing with certain urgent and difficult questions, it must be recognised that they have lost no time in starting the investigations they promised. With regard to agriculture, Mr Baldwin's pledge was in the following terms: "For a permanent solution of the agricultural problem a common agreement between all parties is desirable; and the Unionist Party, if returned to power, will summon a representative conference, in the hope of arriving at an agreed policy by which arable acreage may be maintained and regular employment and adequate wages secured to the agricultural worker." During the election the question was raised whether the intention was to call a conference of political parties or of agricultural classes. This remained uncertain, although the reference

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

to a "permanent solution" by "an agreed policy" appeared to point plainly to a political agreement. The point has now been settled, and a few days ago it was officially announced that the Government will summon a conference, representing landowners, farmers, and workers, "with the view to arriving at an agreement on the main features of a national agricultural policy." In the statement accompanying this declaration it is said that if such an agreement can be reached, the Government is of opinion that it could be presented to the country with a good prospect of acceptance. This is probably true, but, in any case, it is clearly within the power of the present Government to give legislative effect to any policy which it may adopt.

The precise reference to the conference is:—"To consider what measures, if any, are necessary either by the State, or by the agricultural industry itself, or by both in concert (1) to maintain, and (2) to increase the area of arable land in England and Wales, and by what further measures the economic maximum production of food from all the agricultural land of the country can be stimulated." The first question which naturally arises on these terms of reference is: Where does Scotland come in? Is it intended that any permanent agricultural policy which may be adopted shall stop short at the Border, or that Scotland shall adopt a separate, and possibly different, policy for itself? The area of arable land in Scotland, it is true, is not only proportionately larger, but it is more stable than in England and Wales, but it is noteworthy that, after its war-period expansion, it reverted to the pre-war level last year, whereas England did not do so until this year. In fact, the arable area in England and Wales, although it has fallen to 10,928,000 acres (as compared with 10,998,000 acres in 1914), is relatively larger than before the war. The total extent of land in agricultural use has diminished by 1,171,000 acres. In 1914 40.6 per cent. of the agricultural land was in arable cultivation, and this year the percentage is 42.2. It is therefore rather misleading to say that arable cultivation has declined below the pre-war standard. The position is clearly and reasonably set out in the statement of the Ministry of Agriculture to the effect that it is important to maintain, and, if possible, increase, the area of arable land so as to provide employment for a greater number of men, and also to obtain a larger amount of produce per acre. As to the desirability of this object, there is no dispute. The problem for the conference to consider is how it can be achieved and at what cost.

The Government have posed two questions. The Conference is to consider in the first place whether the present arable area will be maintained if nothing is done, and what measures, if any, can be taken to prevent its further reduction if that appears probable. In the second place, the Conference is to suggest measures which would secure an addition of not less than 1,000,000 acres of arable land, or, in other words, restore it to the level of 1920. In that year the index number of the prices of farm products was 192 per cent. above the pre-war level. It is now not more than 60 per cent. above. There has also been a

substantial, and even greater, fall, in the prices of fertilisers and feeding stuffs. But, notwithstanding this, farmers allege that they are worse off than they were four or five years ago, and to that fact they attribute the reduction of the arable area.

It will be observed, with satisfaction, that the Ministry of Agriculture takes a moderate, not to say modest, view of the possibilities. The restoration of a million of the lost acres is not an impracticable proposition, but its achievement would not effect any very great change. The old standard of the employment of three to four men per 100 acres of arable has been generally maintained in recent years, and there are many farmers working their land with a smaller quota. But the additional acres might at least be expected to provide employment for from 25,000 to 30,000 men, while, from the food supply point of view, they would grow wheat, in an ordinary rotation, sufficient to feed nearly 200,000 persons.

If these results can be achieved they will be welcome, but the Government may well wish that its supporters would moderate the enthusiasm with which the appointment of the Conference has been acclaimed. If it is wholly successful in its task, and the objects in view are completely attained, the dependence of the country on imported food can only be momentarily reduced, with a population which increases at the rate of some 350,000 per annum.

The Conference, whatever its results, will serve a useful purpose in bringing the representatives of agriculture face to face with the facts of the situation. The crude scheme of asking the taxpayers to pay considerable sums for vague and visionary benefits has little chance of acceptance by the public, which has, in fact, rejected it once. But there are methods by which arable cultivation could be encouraged, and greater production from the land secured, which would not involve the presentation of an annual bill to the Exchequer. The Conference may be expected to attack the problem with open minds, to explore the practicability of all proposals, whatever their origin, to contribute individually to the common stock of ideas, and collectively to approach their discussions in the spirit of compromise and conciliation. In many respects the time is favourable, and the auspices propitious, for a candid and courageous effort to place agriculture on a relatively stable basis, provided its representatives are wise enough to recognise the inexorable economic facts which control the destinies of the British nation.

Meanwhile the constitution of the Conference appears to present difficulties. The discretion which the Minister of Agriculture displayed in framing the reference to the Conference and defining its scope failed him in arranging its personnel. In forming a deliberative and advisory body to represent the whole agricultural interest, it was not well advised to rely upon only five organisations, however important. The result is that one, at least, of the organisations has already attempted to make conditions, the effect of which, whether intended or not, is to jeopardise the whole scheme. The National Farmers' Union has

demanded, in substance, that the Government should define its agricultural policy before the Conference meets. Obviously, if the Government does this, the Conference is a waste of time, and it may be that this is the view of the National Farmers' Union. In that case their attitude is intelligible, although it is somewhat unexpected.

OUR INDEX NUMBER.

CHANGES in commodity wholesale prices during November produced a slight decline in our Index Number, the total of which at 4,833 shows a decrease of 14 points, as compared with the end of October. There were no outstanding changes during the month, but on the other hand the primary foodstuffs and textile groups record a considerable decline following the previous month's substantial increase. The present slight decline still leaves the total very much higher than it was two months ago, the rise during October having amounted to 118 points. The following table shows the changes in each group and the total:—

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Food Products (Tea, Sugar, &c.).	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous (Rubber, Tin, Ber. Oil, &c.).	Total.	%
Index (avg. 1901-5) ..	500	300	500	400	500	2200	100.0
End July, 1914 ..	579	382	616	464	553	2594	118.6
Dec., 1915 ..	897	446	731	711	848	3634	165.2
Dec., 1917 ..	1286	686	1684	839	1348	5845	265.2
Nov., 1918 ..	1289	782	1848	903	1389	6212	282.6
Mar., 1920 ..	1508	914	2874	1246	1709	8352	379.6
Dec., 1920 ..	1344	805	1284	1216	1275	5924	269.3
Dec., 1921 ..	921	636	1106	762	931	4357	198.0
Dec., 1922 ..	861	706	1184	705	807	4264	193.8
June, 1923 ..	815	773	1177	773	761	4301	195.5
Dec., 1923 ..	853	815	1382	774	755	4580	208.2
Mar., 1924 ..	897	843	1313	805	780	4640	210.9
June, 1924 ..	914	736	1347	764	769	4531	205.9
July, 1924 ..	951	732	1423	777	773	4657	211.7
Aug., 1924 ..	1003	777	1385	781	774	4626	210.3
Sept., 1924 ..	1003	777	1395	790	790	4729	214.9
Oct., 1924 ..	1027	786	1442	782	808	4847	220.3
Nov., 1924 ..	1009	801	1424	797	801	4833	219.7

Imported wheat is a little higher on the month, but the home-grown variety is lower, the general quality of the English crop turning out better than was expected. Other cereals were also lower, but there was a slight rise in neat prices. The rise in other foodstuffs is entirely accounted for by coffee, which rose by 17 points in October and 15 points in November. Estimates of world production for 1924-25 show a pronounced decline, as compared with the previous year, and fall far short of the expected consumption. In the textile group cotton prices are practically unchanged, but British wool has advanced. This increase was offset by a decline in flax, and there were also declines in silk, hemp, and jute. In the minerals group the only change of importance was a rise of 13 points in lead. A decline in timber prices is responsible for the drop shown by the miscellaneous group. In the table below we show the changes in the index number of each separate commodity in comparison with the figure at the end of October, the figure 50 representing in each case the average price during the basic period 1901-5:—

	Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.		Index Number.	Inc. or Dec.
Wheat—For.	116	+ 5	Cotton, A ..	123	+ 2	Copper	53	+ 1
English ..	96	- 1	Cotton, B ..	179	+ 1	Minerals	797	+ 14
Four	99	- 1	Yarn	148	- 1			
Arley	121	- 1	Cloth	138	- 1			
Asa	78	- 5	Wool, Eng. ..	190	+ 5	Baltic timber ..	101	- 2
Alas	119	- 5	Do Aust.	159	- 1	Amer. timber ..	80	- 9
Alas	131	- 3	Silk	104	- 1	Leather	61	+ 3
Ice	75	+ 2	Flax	176	- 5	Petroleum	108	+ 1
oot	95	+ 1	Hemp	77	- 2	Oils	81	+ 3
utton	78	- 2	Jute	131	- 9	Oilseed	94	+ 3
ork						Tallow	81	+ 3
						Indigo	90	+ 3
Cereals & meat	1,009	- 18	Textiles	1,424	- 18	Crystals	85	- 1
						Rubber	18	- 1
sa	165	+ 1	Pig-iron	88	+ 2			
off	155	+ 15	Steel rails ..	75	- 1			
ugar, cane ..	123	- 1	Iron bars	92	- 1	Miscellaneous ..	801	- 6
ugar, beet ..	130	- 2	Coal, steam ..	132	- 1			
utter	116	+ 1	House coal ..	88	- 1	Total	4,833	- 14
obacco	116	+ 1	Lead	167	+ 13			
			Tin	101	- 1			
ther foods ..	801	+ 15						

These movements reduce the percentage increase over the July, 1914, level from 89 to 88.4 per cent. Recent movements in this figure and in the percentages for the five groups are shown in the table below, in which the indices for July, 1914, are taken as 100:—

End of—	Cereals & Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
July, 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
Dec., 1918	226	222	293	186	241	237.5
Dec., 1919	249	250	396	247	263	287.1
Mar., 1920	261	260	484	269	309	325.6
Dec., 1920	233	229	209	261	230	230.9
Dec., 1921	159	180	180	164	168	169.6
Dec., 1922	149	200	193	152	146	166.2
Dec., 1923	148	231	225	167	136	178.6
Mar., 1924	155	240	213	173	141	181.0
June, 1924	158	210	219	164	139	176.6
Sept., 1924	173	221	226	164	143	184.4
Oct., 1924	177	224	234	169	146	189.0
Nov., 1924	174	228	231	172	145	188.4

The lowest percentage increase recorded this year was 76.5 at the end of May. At the end of November, 1923, the figures stood as follows:—Cereals and meat, 144; other food, 226; textiles, 226; minerals, 166; miscellaneous, 135; and total, 177.0.

IRISH LINEN.

WHEN we consider that the business of linen manufacture comes into direct competition with the cotton trade as to finer fabrics, and with the jute trade as to coarser goods, it is perhaps not to be marvelled at that the linen industry of this country has made such moderate progress during the past three-quarters of a century. The cotton industry has, of course, gone forward with giant strides, and the comparatively youthful jute trade has increased its overseas business tenfold, while the linen trade merely succeeded just before the war in re-establishing its exports at a level reached 50 years before. The contrast is remarkable, but there are sufficient reasons to explain the position and to absolve our linen manufacturers from any charge of backwardness or lack of enterprise.

The records of overseas business in linen goods are easily accessible for a long term of years, and from them the following table, covering the 65 years before the war, has been compiled:—

OVERSEAS TRADE IN LINEN MANUFACTURES (not including yarn.)

Five Years' Averages.	Exports.			Gross Imports.	Excess of Exports over Imports.
	Piece Goods.	Other Goods.	Total.		
	Mill. yds. Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.
1849-53	..	..	4,108	..	..
1854-58	..	..	4,351	..	..
1859-63	147.0	4,582	399	4,981	..
1864-68	227.0	7,783	509	8,292	..
1869-73	223.0	6,939	478	7,417	178
1874-78	180.2	5,658	618	6,276	239
1879-83	167.6	5,018	695	5,713	268
1884-88	161.8	4,194	1,087	5,281	340
1889-93	170.7	3,952	1,340	5,292	406
1894-98	169.3	3,611	1,199	4,810	370
1899-1903	159.5	3,904	1,355	5,259	606
1904-08	174.6	4,856	1,588	6,444	781
1909-13	209.0	5,915	2,152	8,067	1,026

In this, the first thing that strikes one is the enormous jump in exports as early as the 'sixties of last century, when they reached figures never since repeated. Of course the American Civil War of 1861-65 was the cause, for it raised our shipments to the States from three-quarters of a million sterling in 1861 to nearly 4½ millions in 1866, and they were kept at well over three millions on the average for eight years longer. It also produced a great inflation of prices. So much so, that if the same rates had ruled just before the war, the 209 million yards of piece goods sent abroad annually in 1909-13 would have been worth nearly 7½ millions sterling instead of less than six millions as actually recorded.

Equally striking is the contrast between the comparative stagnation in piece goods and the growth shown in

all other goods. These other goods comprise thread for sewing, in which there has been no great progress, handkerchiefs and table linen not in the piece, and unenumerated articles. Unfortunately, handkerchiefs and table linen not in the piece were not shown separately until 1914, when they formed rather more than half of the total of goods not in the piece. It seems not unlikely that the proportion may have been the same in previous years away back to the 'sixties, in which case half of the increase of 1½ millions shown in "other goods" in the above table would be due to handkerchiefs and table linen.

A significant feature of the table is the steady growth of imports, and it should warn leaders in the trade that they must be prepared for strong competition from the Continent when post-war conditions have become thoroughly settled. Imports were in 1913 derived as follows:—

	Piece Goods.	Other Goods.	Total.
	£	£	£
From Belgium	489,000	70,000	559,000
Germany	51,000	304,000	355,000
France	130,000	28,000	158,000
Austria-Hungary ..	..	17,000	17,000
Japan	..	50,000	50,000
Other countries ..	24,000	31,000	55,000
Total	694,000	500,000	1,194,000

* Not specified.

The overwhelming preponderance of Belgium in piece goods, and of Germany in other goods, is remarkable. It would seem that these are the countries to be watched, as pre-war conditions are more closely approached. An examination of post-war records shows, indeed, that Belgium has already resumed her position as a principal supplier to this market.

The post-war figures, contrasted with the last five years of the pre-war period, are as follows:—

COMPARISONS, POST-WAR, and PRE-WAR.

	Exports.			Gross Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	Piece Goods.	Other Goods.	Total.		
	Mill. Yds. Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.	Thous. £.
1909-13	209.0	5,915	2,152	8,067	1,026
1914-18	125.1	5,906	2,617	8,523	361
Single Years					
1919	76.9	7,805	3,490	11,295	167
1920	93.0*	14,935	7,209	22,144	727†
1921	40.0	5,249	4,402	9,651	302
1922	77.4	7,070	4,509	11,579	338
1923	89.7	7,043	4,692	11,735	693

* Square yards in 1920 and after. † Linen lace and embroidery added in 1920 and after.

Imports, it will be seen, have revived, but not sufficiently to cause our manufacturers any anxiety so far. They are considerably lower than in the pre-war years, in spite of the much higher prices now ruling. Exports, on the contrary, are nearly 50 per cent. above the pre-war level. This, of course, is due to the rise of prices, since the yardage of piece goods is much lower now than it was then—even if we make all reasonable allowance for the records being now in square yards, whereas before 1920 they were in linear yards.

How far prices have risen will perhaps best be indicated by contrasting the price of imported raw material. For the five years to 1913 this averaged about £48 per ton. It rose in 1915 to over £74; in 1916 to over £90, in 1917 to £155, in 1918 to over £159, in 1919 to more than £263, and in 1920 to well over £400 per ton. In the following year there was a drop of more than 50 per cent., and by 1923 the price had come down to slightly less than £96 per ton. This still left it, however, at 100 per cent. more than the average figure for the five years immediately preceding the war.

The bulk of the raw material is imported. Supplies landed here in 1909-13 averaged over 75,000 tons a year, whereas for 1922 they were 31,000 tons, and for 1923 only 27,600 tons. Home-grown supplies have during the last 15 years never exceeded 17,020 tons, and for 1922 were only 5,548 tons. It is regrettable that flax supplies should be so scarce and dear, and unhappily the prospects this year are for higher rather than lower quotations.

ALL BRANCHES OF
INTERNATIONAL BANKING

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK.
16 WALL STREET

LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendome

In pre-war times Russia and Belgium were the principal sources of supply. Of the 84,000 tons imported during 1913, 68,000 came from Russia, and 14,000 from Belgium. In 1923, out of the 27,600 tons landed, only 3,000 came from Russia, and 7,700 from Belgium. Of the remainder, however, a considerable proportion was derived from territories formerly included in Russia.

This question of supplies is one of the main handicaps of the industry at present. At the annual dinner of the City of London Wholesale Linen Trade Association recently one of the speakers declared that manufacturers were hoping for cheaper flax, so that they might "knock the cotton fellows out," a remark which called forth good-humoured laughter, as some representatives of the "cotton fellows" were present. If flax could be procured at 50 per cent. advance on pre-war values, the laudable ambitions of the "linen fellows" would be greatly aided.

It is somewhat remarkable that the United States, which gave the British industry its first great "lift," should still remain, in spite of all the intervening tariffs, its best customer to-day. Here are that country's purchases of all classes of goods:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Piece Goods—				
U.S.A. mln. sq. yds	45	24	45	52
All other countries ..	48	16	32	38
Handkerchiefs—				
U.S.A. thous. dozs	1,275	1,098	1,372	2,041
All other countries ..	752	310	583	786
Damask Table Linen—				
U.S.A. thous. £	1,779	1,448	1,446	1,142
All other countries ..	472	357	342	478
Thread—				
U.S.A. cwt	1,924	1,113	2,568	3,110
All other countries ..	25,882	12,273	17,177	19,979
Made-up Canvas Goods—				
U.S.A. thous. £	1	8	11	10
All other countries ..	920	500	329	438
All Other Manufactures—				
U.S.A.	661	423	503	451
All other countries ..	508	232	277	394

It will be seen that in every line save made-up canvas goods and thread the United States takes more than all other countries in the world combined. In canvas goods—which consist of rick-covers, tarpaulins, tents, awnings, and similar articles—the largest purchaser in 1920 was Argentina, and in 1923 British India. As to thread, Australia was at the top of the list in 1920 and in 1923.

The enormous preponderance of America in most lines is impressive, but in some cases it is no greater than it was in 1913. Of piece-goods, for example, America took about 57 per cent. of the quantity shipped in 1913 and in 1923. Most of the other lines cannot be exactly compared. If we take the value of all linen manufactures, however, the comparison is as follows:—

	1913.	1923.
	£	£
Total exports	8,248,000	11,735,000
To U.S.A. only	3,925,000 (47%)	6,014,000 (51%)

On the whole, the change in America's proportion is small, and we do not know that it is altogether in the desirable direction. This great dependence on the custom of one country involves a considerable element of danger,

and it is to be hoped that when the foreign exchanges become more settled, and Continental purchases are thus made easier, the export trade may tend towards a wider distribution.

As against this element of danger, there are certain considerations which point in the opposite direction. For a while the beauty and durability of linen goods cannot be surpassed, and it is difficult to conceive any change of fashion or taste that is likely to alter this. Here, then, we have one element of safety for the trade, and it is reassuring to note from the first two tabulations given above that for 60 years past goods not in the piece (which include table linen) have steadily grown from about 8 per cent. of the total exports in the early 'sixties of last century to about 26 per cent. just before the war and 40 per cent. in 1923. Indeed, this section of the export trade has in the whole period been multiplied nearly twelvefold, and even before the great rise of prices caused by the war it had been multiplied about sixfold.

Now let us see how the trade has progressed so far this year. We have already found that the position in 1922 and 1923 was good. The following table shows that this year it is even better:—

LINEN TRADE 10 MONTHS TO OCTOBER.

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Imports	254 ..	563 ..	858
Exports	9,702 ..	9,756 ..	10,934
Excess of Exports.....	9,448 ..	9,193 ..	10,076

To October of this year, exports of piece goods have already reached nearly 93 millions of square yards, as against 90 millions for the whole of 1923 and 77 millions only in 1922. Out of this the United States was responsible for 56 million square yards, or over 60 per cent. of the total. Handkerchiefs, too, are up by 50 per cent. in quantity and value, and the total for these goods for 1924 will be well over a million sterling.

HOTEL COMPANIES' PROFITS.

ADDITIONAL interest is lent by the fact of the Wembley Exhibition to an examination of the results of hotel companies whose figures are analysed in this article, as it is possible to form some idea as to what effect the exceptionally large influx of visitors to London has had upon profits. Naturally, those hotels whose financial year corresponds with the calendar year will not be able to show how they benefited from the patronage of Exhibition visitors until their 1924 results are published, but those companies whose year ended at any period from June 30, 1924, onwards, can be said to have felt some of the effect of the visitors who flocked to London from all parts of the world to visit Wembley. Our first table shows dividends declared over a period of years upon shares of a number of companies:—

	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24
Burlington	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Carlton	6	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	15	8	10	10	12
Frederick	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	64	64	10	10
Gordon	3	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	10	10
Hotel Cecil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	24	124	124	124	124	124
Langham	50	25	75	133	150	150	133	124	10	10	10
Piccadilly	5	nil	nil	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
Savoy	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
Smedley's	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
Strand (a)	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Waldorf	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

* Free of tax. † Ordinary. ‡ Year 1923. § For 7 months to end of 1922.
(a) Pref. ord. shares

Some interesting facts are revealed from a glance at the above table. The Piccadilly Hotel pays the record dividend of 250 per cent. on its small ordinary capital of £15,000. This huge dividend is explained by the directors to be due to the fact that they have paid off the whole of the £250,000 6 per cent. participating debenture stock; it has also been possible to amalgamate the company's reserves, and the general reserve now stands at £150,210. The Carlton pays 12 per cent., against 10 per cent. a year ago. The Burlington pays a dividend of 5 per cent. after an interval of 14 years, and the Waldorf pays 10 per cent.

on its ordinary shares, against 8 per cent. for previous year.

In the next table we set out the gross profit and net profit of these companies for the past three years, adding comparative figures for 1913-14:—

Company.	1913-14.		1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Gross Income.	Net Profit.	Gross Income.	Net Profit.	Gross Income.	Net Profit.	Gross Income.	Net Profit.
Burlington	£44,285	£1,750	£67,410	£6,350	£71,273	£9,753	£69,482	£14,009
Carlton	*75,797	35,441	78,557	45,793	77,864	46,064	90,480	62,465
Frederick	339,549	31,906	141,165	51,350	145,395	61,995	160,022	64,369
Gordon	*161,665	81,690	146,457	5,451	116,939	30,525	122,340	184,448
Hotel Cecil	230,634	33,771	76,210	49,780	77,500	51,320	98,607	51,775
Langham	246,492	22,220	177,029	12,656	179,401	14,556	175,724	10,524
Piccadilly	*182,891	42,239	220,067	126,398	230,445	142,328	240,080	151,497
Savoy	50,938	10,072	92,886	10,145	92,300	12,846	111,717	11,717
Smedley's	*69,507	28,376	106,229	94,939	107,746	96,386	110,448	99,088
Strand	*36,512	17,165	45,725	36,672	43,944	35,202	45,666	37,267

* Trading profit. † Year 1923. ‡ For 7 months to end of 1922.

The Burlington is able to show excellent results. Figures for the Carlton are up to August 31, 1924; to what extent the increase of profits from £46,064 to £62,465 is on account of the influx of visitors to London we are not informed. The Frederick Hotels issue accounts to June 30, 1924, but here profits are normal. The 'Gordon Hotels accounts are to the end of 1923. Accounts for the Cecil are to August 31st last, but profits show no increase. Figures for the Langham are to the end of 1923. Good progress is shown by the Piccadilly, to which we have already referred; accounts are to the end of July this year, but it is stated that the increased profit was made before the Wembley Exhibition opened. The Savoy figures are for the year 1923. This year we regret to find that Smedley's no longer publish gross receipts. It would be interesting to learn the reason for not producing these figures, as profits are only slightly lower. Earnings of the Strand Hotel are a little higher, the accounts running to September 30, 1924.

Our next table shows comparative figures of principal assets and liabilities for the past four years:—

Name and Year.	Principal Liabilities.			Principal Assets.		
	Total Capital.	Re-serves.	Cred-itors.	Pro- perties.	Cash & Invest-ments.	Debtors & Stocks.
Burlington—						
End of 1920.....	291,340	10,000	8,520	228,802	90,065	2,422
End of 1921.....	291,320	10,000	11,168	231,065	89,235	1,664
End of 1922.....	285,920	nil	9,531	221,132	82,692	2,013
End of 1923.....	279,600	nil	9,531	220,811	81,017	1,816
Carlton—						
August 31, 1921.....	1,081,624	30,000	106,935	596,825	518,076	27,406
August 31, 1922.....	1,067,096	40,000	88,994	589,961	545,242	18,226
August 31, 1923.....	1,039,234	55,000	69,955	581,984	543,266	12,985
August 31, 1924.....	1,016,133	65,000	72,144	574,973	548,504	19,122
Frederick—						
June 30, 1921.....	1,606,250	20,000	117,958	1,646,436	81,443	112,260
June 30, 1922.....	1,606,250	20,000	79,379	1,646,489	91,295	74,877
June 30, 1923.....	1,606,250	30,000	80,331	1,646,489	124,245	63,623
June 30, 1924.....	1,606,250	40,000	70,864	1,646,489	129,145	61,949
Gordon—						
May 31, 1921.....	3,846,000	430,336	229,636	3,735,267	280,645	38,668
May 31, 1922.....	3,809,815	468,954	346,650	3,735,267	227,523	39,711
End of 1922.....	3,786,356	499,037	313,782	3,735,267	259,508	36,520
End of 1923.....	3,769,271	625,711	319,865	3,613,952	445,606	35,082
Hotel Cecil—						
August 31, 1921.....	1,510,000	53,079	112,207	1,562,075	128,812	20,905
August 31, 1922.....	1,510,000	53,079	93,018	1,562,075	105,980	19,330
August 31, 1923.....	1,510,000	53,079	53,448	1,562,075	69,577	16,164
August 31, 1924.....	1,510,000	53,079	42,013	1,562,075	42,273	21,366
Langham—						
End of 1921.....	276,296	21,388	20,950	283,524	43,587	3,339
End of 1922.....	276,296	25,695	15,085	276,296	50,410	3,489
End of 1923.....	276,296	24,003	23,632	278,644	54,971	3,628
Piccadilly—						
July 31, 1921.....	440,641	123,686	51,727	514,526	53,217	14,026
July 31, 1922.....	436,105	139,563	45,270	514,526	65,096	11,458
July 31, 1923.....	431,197	161,839	39,023	520,526	75,364	11,313
July 31, 1924.....	215,000	150,210	67,716	520,526	34,244	14,850
Savoy—						
End of 1920.....	2,270,934	53,317	393,340	2,239,211	246,721	329,946
End of 1921.....	2,269,134	52,601	351,855	2,163,274	221,625	375,494
End of 1922.....	2,265,534	104,910	364,396	2,161,843	245,946	315,616
End of 1923.....	2,259,934	163,662	228,475	1,166,046	270,690	308,444
Smedley's—						
July 31, 1922.....	75,000	10,000	9,006	55,246	8,348	2,582
July 31, 1923.....	85,000	nil	7,784	54,141	9,886	2,987
July 31, 1924.....	85,000	nil	5,422	70,961	15,585	2,117
Strand—						
Sept. 30, 1921.....	963,333	107,413	121,362	913,901	131,398	198,049
Sept. 30, 1922.....	969,544	132,250	119,913	940,171	140,371	177,542
Sept. 30, 1923.....	955,504	137,561	163,368	921,811	210,639	183,486
Sept. 30, 1924.....	951,219	163,234	181,908	917,265	257,765	171,018
Waldorf—						
Jan. 31, 1921.....	462,389	50,754	33,026	437,081	32,192	4,023
Jan. 31, 1922.....	457,429	65,837	38,189	437,081	39,713	1,865
Jan. 31, 1923.....	462,389	76,851	33,819	437,081	43,939	2,302
Jan. 31, 1924.....	447,429	89,837	31,389	437,081	40,700	2,313

† Includes claim against Government for expenses of reinstatement and loss of goodwill.

In the above table perhaps the most remarkable movement is that of falling stocks. With the exception of the Cecil, Savoy, Smedley's, and Waldorf, all stocks show automatic

reductions over a period of years. Reference has already been made to the capital reduction of the Piccadilly. Having paid off £6,320 income bonds, the Burlington shows a slightly lower capital. Redemption of debentures goes on steadily by the Carlton and other companies mentioned. Reserves have also been strengthened in many cases, but big reserves are not an outstanding feature in the hotel industry, and our table brings this fact into prominence. Properties reveal no extraordinary change.

In our final table we show the movement in share prices over past two years, also present yields:—

	Prices of 1923.		Price of 1924 to Nov. 30.		Price End Nov., 1923.	Price End Nov., 1924.	Present Yield.
	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.			
Burlington, ord. (£1)	22	17	17	14	14	14	8 6 9
Do 5% cum. pref. (£1)	12	10	10	8	8	8	7 6 9
Carlton, ord. (£1)	12	10	10	8	8	8	9 2 9
Do 5% cum. pref. (£10)	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 17 6
Frederick, 5% cum. pref. (£10) ..	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 14 0
Gordon, ord. (£1)	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	7 6 9
Do 5% cum. pref. (£1)	7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6 18 0
Hotel Cecil, 5% cum. pref. (£5) ..	4 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 8 9
Savoy, ord. (£1)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 10 6
Strand, pref. ord. (£1)	2 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 10 6

* £10 shares.

The hotel industry is one which has become well stabilised in this country. In particular in London it has reached a remarkable degree of excellence. Expenditure to a casual observer appears to be on a lavish scale, but apparently the best patrons are pleased with results; and while substantial dividends are declared, we do not see much chance of the complaint as to high charges from more humble members of the community receiving much attention. Perhaps other companies will come into being, emulating the excellent example set by the Strand Hotel, Limited.

THE MEXICAN PROBLEM.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE politics and economics of Mexico present many baffling problems to the outside observer, and apart from the large amount of British and Canadian capital involved in Mexican enterprises, the situation in that country has at present a special interest in view of the diplomatic breach with Britain over the murder of Mrs. Rosalie Evans and the summary dismissal by the Mexican Government of Mr. H. A. C. Cummins, and other British representatives. In the satisfactory settlement of this quarrel Mr. Austen Chamberlain will find a delicate and urgent task claiming his early attention at the Foreign Office. However, there is now a good prospect that domestic circumstances may bring the Mexican Government to a less truculent mood. On December 1st President Obregon will turn over the reins of government to his protégé and successor, General Plutarco Elias Calles, who has just completed a pilgrimage through Europe and at the time of writing is making his way home by easy stages through the United States. Calles owed his nomination to Obregon's influence; and the large popular majority which he piled up over his conservative opponent, Flores, owed something of its size to the vigorous exercise of its extensive patronage power by the Obregon Government; the defeated party also allege that the manipulation of ballots outraged the ordinary accepted standards of Mexican elections in this respect, but such charges receive scant attention in Mexico. Calles, however, like Obregon, finds his political strength in the backing of the agrarian radicals and the labour element in the industrial centres, and his course must be steered to meet their views. After his election he declared that all the efforts of his Ministry and himself "will be directed to the betterment of the oppressed," and he announced himself a believer in the international eight-hour day and in liquor prohibition. On general economic problems he professes a creed of mild Socialism, and cable reports of his steady predilection for the society of advanced Socialist politicians during his European tour aroused grave forebodings both in Mexico and the United States. However, during his journey through the United States he had been

BANK ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.
Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

making speeches calculated to reassure the American investor, and recently declared that his Government, when it takes office, will have no disposition to take over the property of any American oil company, and will welcome American capital or any other capital for the development of Mexico. The general tone of his speeches shows a marked anxiety to conciliate American opinion, and a compelling motive lies behind it.

President Obregon is anxious to hand over, and President Calles is equally anxious to receive, a Treasury that is not quite as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, and this object can only be achieved by the success of a loan which is now being floated in the United States. For some mysterious reason the Mexican Government has not selected as their agents one of the well-known American banks or financial houses, but have entrusted the business of underwriting and flotation to a comparatively little known firm of Texas financiers. A fortnight ago the head of this firm announced that he had placed 65 per cent. of the bonds, and would soon dispose of the balance at favourable rates, but within the last week President Obregon has stated in an interview that his Finance Minister has so far given him no report whether the bonds have been taken up or not. Without questioning the probity and ability of the firm in question, there is some disposition in American financial circles to doubt their capacity for the successful flotation of a \$50,000,000 loan.

One distinguishing feature of Mexican public finance is the perennial absence of any regular budget statement. The President's annual message at the opening of Congress each year always teems with abundant and glowing prophecies about the volume of prospective revenue in sight, but the country never receives a business-like statement of what has actually been received and expended during the previous year, nor will the Ministry of Finance deign to disclose any concrete figures. A special committee appointed by the Chamber of Deputies to report on the probable income of the Republic for the year 1925 has recently concluded its labours, and has estimated that the total revenues from all sources will be in the neighbourhood of 286,000,000 Mexican gold pesos. Their report made no mention of the probable expenditure, but Deputy Fabella, the chairman of the committee, intimated that another committee would be set to work on budget expenditure, and also expressed the view that at least 70 million pesos of the estimated income must be earmarked for Mexico's obligations on what he called "external commitments." The assumption is that in this amount is included the money necessary to pay overdue interest on the bonds covered by the Lamont agreement, the indebtedness to mercantile firms for goods supplied on credit to various departments, and the back pay due to many Federal employees. Since it is unlikely that the public expenditure for the coming year will fall short of 300 million dollars, the Calles Government will start out with a heavy handicap if 20 per cent. of its prospective income has to be absorbed in payment of overdue debts. The interest of President Calles in the success of the new loan is therefore intelligible.

But, whatever may be its fate, Mexican politicians and officials remain incurable optimists, and although the Treasury is at present practically bare, the project for the establishment of a State bank with a monopoly of the right of issue is talked of as being on the eve of consummation. There is a vigorous demand in some quarters that the proceeds of the loan be devoted to this enterprise, but in the

end they will probably be allocated to more urgent needs. However, recent visitors to Mexico report that commercial and financial conditions are distinctly on the upgrade. Since Huerta's recent rising, which Obregon crushed with the surreptitious assistance of the United States, merchants have been loath to buy and keep anything above a bare minimum of stocks, and banks have also been curtailing their loans. But now that the elections are over, and the new President has announced a Cabinet whose personnel is reasonably satisfactory, merchants are replenishing their stocks, and banks are showing a willingness to accommodate them with loans on anything like decent security. There have been disturbing rumours about the impending collapse of the oil industry, but the Ministry of Industry and Commerce gives its authority to some reassuring statistics. In 1923 the total production of oil in Mexico reached 149,584,856 barrels, and although in the first half of 1924 the oil production was only 71,231,066 barrels, yet this total exceeded by 306,429 barrels the production for the first half of 1923. It is true that some famous old fields show signs of petering out, but new wells are being constantly brought in, and if British capital is at present rather shy of the country, the plenitude of capital in the United States provides an ample reservoir for financing attractive ventures.

Apparently, if political stability could be guaranteed, Mexico could count upon a quick economic and financial recovery, but it is exactly about this antecedent condition that doubt exists. The Cabinet selected by President Calles meets with no serious criticism except from its partisan enemies, and contains some figures of undoubted capacity and proved integrity; several of its members have enjoyed the benefit of education at American colleges, and one of them, Eduardo Hay, the Postmaster-General, who has served as Ambassador to Switzerland and Italy, is the son of a Scotch mining engineer. Calles himself is a large landowner, with extensive estates in the province of Chihuahua, and he has committed himself to a policy of very drastic agrarian reforms. Before his election, part of the properties owned by himself and Senor Saenz, the Foreign Minister, had been apportioned as communal grants to villages by the National Agrarian Commission which Obregon had appointed to deal with the land problem. Calles and Saenz had been fighting in the courts for the recovery of their land, but their efforts have failed, and the question now at issue is the amount of compensation to be paid them. Now that Calles is President, the amount which will be paid him for his 2,500 acres that have been taken is of great interest to all other landholders. Already a great deal of land has been expropriated by the Commission, but no settlement about compensation has so far been made, and as a great deal of property owned by Americans is involved, this problem has been a stiff bone of contention between Washington and Mexico; a number of British-owned estates are likewise interested.

There are at present signs that Calles will return to Mexico to face substantial domestic troubles. Luis Morones, an influential Labour leader, who gave him great help during the election, has quarrelled with him and withdrawn his support. On the other hand, the beaten opposition are reported to have secured the co-operation of important military chiefs in plans for a fresh revolution. Everything is said to be in readiness for the blow if President Calles on his return will not give what are described as "satisfactory declarations of security" to the conspirators. The Government party declare that as the rank and file of the army remains devoted to Obregon, and the plans of the conspirators are known, the movement can easily be suppressed, but there is undoubtedly some nervousness in official circles. Notoriously, oil interests have played a very unsavoury and discreditable part in Mexican politics in the past, and the suspicion prevails that anxious landholders and oil entrepreneurs may be backing the conspirators in order to secure by way of blackmail definite guarantees that Calles will pursue safe conservative policies, and not countenance any schemes of confiscation. Any real *volte face*, however, from his previous professions and pledges would ruin his credit with his supporters, and might lead to trouble from another quarter. Accordingly, under the circumstances, skilful statesmanship will be required to

ensure the political stability which is Mexico's primary need.

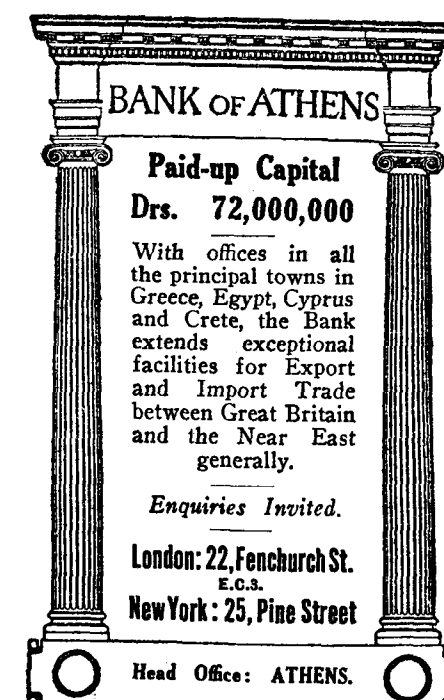
The breach caused by the Evans' episode with Britain should be easy to heal. The Mexican Government at first intended to confine the quarrel to Great Britain, but a statement issued on November 5th announces that their representatives will be withdrawn on November 20th from all British territory, including the Dominions. However, a qualifying clause, "if relations between the two countries are not improved by that date," and the further announcement is made that business intercourse between them need not terminate, as shipments from British ports to Mexico can be made without the usual consular documents, and can be forwarded direct to the port of entry, where invoice charges and the usual consular fees will be collected. President Calles can scarcely desire to have on his hands a prolonged controversy with Britain, and the impression is that certain powerful influences are at work to bring about a renewal of friendly relations. However, the great danger is that various interests who are afraid of Calles' Radicalism, and its effect upon their holdings, will try to bring pressure upon both the British Foreign Office and the State Department at Washington for the exaction of pledges from the Calles Government that all vested interests, whatever their origin, will be respected, and ample compensation paid for any expropriations. Such tactics have been employed before against weak communities with deplorable results, and if there could be one thing more dangerous and discreditable than a rivalry in economic Imperialism between Washington and London, it would be a co-operative combination for its promotion. The economic Imperialism which the United States have been practising in Central and South America during the last decade has brought them great distrust and unpopularity, and Mr Austen Chamberlain should be shrewd enough to realise that a contrary policy is likely in the end to redound to British political prestige and commercial interests.

Notes of the Week.

The Egyptian Crisis.—The most serious development towards the end of last week was the revolt of two platoons of a Sudanese infantry regiment in Khartoum. Happily, since its suppression on Friday morning, the Sudan has been reported quiet, and there seems no reason to suppose that the disaffection among the Sudanese troops is widespread. Meanwhile, the last Egyptian troops have left the country. In Cairo, on Sunday afternoon (November 30th), the new Government of Ziwar Pasha accepted those points in the British ultimatum which Zaghul Pasha's Government had rejected—that is, the terms regarding the Sudan and those regarding the status of three foreign officials in the Egyptian service. These officials are the judicial and financial advisers and the Director-General of the European Section of the Department of Public Security. The precise extent of their future powers has been defined, and it is stated semi-officially that these powers are simply those which were agreed upon at the time of the British declaration of February 28, 1922. The point is somewhat obscure, for the status of these officials surely remained *in statu quo* at that date in so far as their duties related to the reserved subject of the protection of foreign residents, while otherwise the Egyptian Government presumably obtained full liberty to remodel these offices as it chose in virtue of the British recognition of Egyptian independence. If there was an understanding on this question in 1922, it must have been of an informal character. It has also been stated that "various questions of detail arising from the demands in regard to the Sudan—the withdrawal of Egyptian troops and the Gezira irrigation area—may come up for discussion, but were not discussed in the conversations that have ended in agreement." Meanwhile, the acceptance of the ultimatum by Ziwar Pasha has been treated as adequate, and the British detachment which had seized the Custom House at Alexandria has been withdrawn. It is perhaps permissible to infer that the British Government has intentionally left open a door for the modification of this part

of their demands—especially the clause regarding the Nile water, which has been criticised in many quarters, especially in a moderate and weighty speech by Mr MacDonald. It may be proved ten times over that there is enough water in the Nile for both Egypt and the Sudan, just as it might have been proved before the Great War that there was enough room in the sea for the navies of Germany and Great Britain. No nation, however, will be content to see an element on which its life depends pass under another nation's control. This is not a question of hydrography, but of psychology, and it can only be settled by negotiations between the British and Egyptian Governments on an equal footing at some more propitious time than the present. In touching upon the Sudan in his speech at the Nonconformist Unionist luncheon on Wednesday, Mr Austen Chamberlain confined himself to arguing that the Government's demands were merely an execution of the measures foreshadowed in Mr MacDonald's dispatch after the abortive visit of Zaghul Pasha to London a few weeks ago. This treatment of the question is somewhat barren from any but the party point of view. Much more important was Mr Chamberlain's attitude towards the suggestion that the Egyptian situation should be referred to the League of Nations—a suggestion which, incidentally, had been taken up by Mr Lloyd George a few days before he was elected sessional chairman of the Liberal Party in Parliament. While Mr Chamberlain definitely pronounced the opinion that "what has occurred in Egypt does not come within those provisions of the Covenant which invite or suggest the interference of the League," he took great pains (and in this he spoke explicitly in the name of the whole Government) to express deference for the League and a desire to support it by his personal attendance at the forthcoming meeting of the Council. He went on to say that he would "gladly give the Council any information as to what has occurred or as to the reasons for the policy which His Majesty's Government has pursued." This declaration, and the spirit in which it was made, are to be welcomed. It gives us hope that, in Rome, Mr Chamberlain may do something to restore that confidence abroad in the moderation of British policy which undoubtedly received a rude shock at the news of the ultimatum. It is also an extremely prudent step from the practical point of view, for, in regard to the Sudan, our judicial difficulties have hardly yet begun, and a mandate from the League may still offer us the only satisfactory alternative to that joint Anglo-Egyptian trusteeship which has just broken down.

President Coolidge and Europe.—President Coolidge's second annual message to Congress follows lines which could naturally be foreseen fairly clearly by all close students of the Presidential election campaign. It contains, nevertheless, a number of passages which deserve the close attention of European readers. One concerns the Immigration Law. This law, Mr Coolidge pronounces to be "in principle necessary and sound," although he would like to see it "rendered a little more humane for the purpose of permitting those already here greater latitude in securing the admission of members of their families." But the main interest centres, of course, on his references to armaments, inter-Allied debts, and international co-operation for peace. While re-affirming refusal to join the League of Nations, Mr Coolidge emphasised in terms very welcome in London his determination to prosecute the aim of disarmament, and expressed strong approval of efforts to outlaw war. He favours the adherence of America to the protocol establishing the International Court of Justice with certain reservations, and mentions the hope of arranging a disarmament conference, although he sees the necessity of first awaiting the decisions of the other Powers on the proposals that have already emanated from Geneva and are now under consideration by the members of the League. Naturally, in addressing a Congress that is nearing the end of its days, the President observed restraint in his speech. But from what he actually said, Europe seems justified in deducing that his attitude towards European problems will be increasingly helpful. A reference to foreign debts was called for by



the fact that legislation is needed to prolong the life of the American Debt Funding Commission, which is otherwise due to expire on February 8, 1925. On this subject Mr Coolidge said: "I am opposed to the cancellation of these debts, and believe it for the best welfare of the world that they should be liquidated and paid as fast as possible." Here, too, his language is, quite explicable, guarded and throws little light on the prospects of the inter-Allied debt conferences. French delegates are now in Washington discussing the funding of the French debt to the United States, and in Paris Mr Churchill will shortly raise the whole question of inter-Allied debts in general and of the French debt to Great Britain in particular. It is in our eyes obviously unreasonable that France, who has two great creditors, should make a composition with the one and take no steps with regard to the other. We believe that there is strong support in Paris for the view that a Franco-American debt settlement should not be made unless a simultaneous and equivalent settlement is forthcoming of the Franco-British debt. The two creditors must be treated alike and together. It is both unbusinesslike and unjust that both France and ourselves should pay to America, while we receive nothing from France. Less sound, however, is the suggestion which finds favour in some sections of the British Press, that Great Britain should demand any privileges and concessions in the matter of debt repayment that Washington may concede to France. Any concessions that America might voluntarily make to Great Britain would, of course, be very welcome. But in this matter we cannot attempt to occupy the same ground as France. We have made our own bargain (good or bad) and must stand by it, unless the United States volunteers a revision. Moreover, in the case of France, some moratorium is essential, while Great Britain could not produce any case for a moratorium. If a scheme on the lines of the Dawes plan was applied, by which payments to the United States were limited by exchange possibilities, the result would be large payments by Britain and small payments by France. The inter-Allied debt problem requires handling not unilaterally, but as a whole. Hitherto the deadlock over Reparations has made a settlement impossible. Now, with Reparations settled, the task of placing inter-Allied debts on a sound basis should no longer present insuperable obstacles to statesmen who approach it with courage and goodwill.

The Government and Protection.—Although the new Parliament met on Tuesday, the whole of the week was occupied by the preparatory formalities of re-electing Mr Whitley as Speaker—no other choice was thinkable—and of swearing-in the members. Real business will begin on

Tuesday next, and already we are treated to forecasts of the King's Speech. Much of its contents is, of course, a foregone conclusion, but there is room for considerable speculation as regards the references which it may contain to Tariffs and Imperial Preference. In this respect we are exceedingly disquieted by what looks very much like an inspired forecast of the Speech in Thursday's *Times*. According to this forecast, the Speech will contain "an intimation that the Imperial Preference Resolutions will again be submitted to Parliament, probably in next year's Budget." To re-submit them in full would, as we pointed out last week, violate both the letter and the spirit of Mr Baldwin's pledge. Further, we are told from the same source that among the domestic matters to be dealt with in the King's Speech is: "A new Safeguarding of Industries Bill, to give industries, when they have proved their case, protection against unfair competition, from whatever part of the world it may come." At the time of the election we warned our readers that Mr Baldwin's election manifesto left the way open for extensive piecemeal tariff experiment of a dangerous order. Obviously, if any such phraseology as that which the *Times* suggests finds its way into the Speech, Free Traders of all political parties must join issue at once. We should have imagined that Mr Baldwin must realise that his sweeping victory at the polls would have been quite impossible had not the tariff issue been hidden in the wings while the Socialist ogre took the centre of the stage. We shall not believe, unless and until we actually see it in the King's Speech that Mr Baldwin will allow the exuberance of his protectionist colleagues to triumph over the lessons of bitter experience so far as to allow him to lead Protection on to the centre of the stage naked and unashamed. If he really takes this course, it will mark a completely distorted interpretation of the meaning of the polls, which will without doubt bring Nemesis in its train. In his "Victory" speech at the Albert Hall on Thursday evening, the subject was rather noticeably avoided.

Australo-Canadian Preference.—There is still some uncertainty, writes our Ottawa correspondent, about the fate of the Australo-Canadian commercial treaty, whose terms are now fully known. Australia gives Canada British preference rates on fish, newsprint in rolls, writing and typewriting paper, textile gloves, linotype and other printing machines, typewriters, rotary grinding machines, adding and computing machines, and cash registers. The Australian intermediate tariff is given Canada on corsets, iron and steel tubes or pipes of specified diameter, rubbers, rubber boots, shoes, chassis, unassembled or assembled, and vehicle parts. The chief concessions which Australia secures from Canada are the British preferential rates on dried fruits and dairy products, and the French Treaty rates on wines, brandy, and champagne. Apparently, the treaty has now passed the Australian Parliament, but it is far from popular with local Protectionists in that country, and the *Melbourne Age* has been conducting a vigorous campaign for its annulment, on the ground that the Bruce Government has merely handed out a series of favours to American trusts which have branches in Canada, and it is true that establishments of this character will get the chief benefit from the Australian reductions. The treaty still awaits endorsement by the Canadian Parliament, and the *Graingrowers' Guide*, which is the chief organ of the Progressives, has been criticising the alterations in the dried fruit duties, upon which the Australians have been very insistent. Formerly, all raisins, regardless of their origin, paid a duty of two-thirds of a cent per lb, but henceforth Australian raisins will enter free, and other raisins will pay 3 cents per lb. Australian raisins have been making good headway in the Canadian market, but the volume imported is as yet only about 1 per cent. of the supply secured from the United States. The object of the change is to turn over to the Australian raisin grower the market now largely held by California, but the process of transition is going to be very expensive for the Canadian consumers. Californian raisins are abnormally cheap this year, but Canada is not to be allowed to profit by their cheapness, and if the *Guide* voices the opinions of the Progressive leaders, the treaty may be opposed at Ottawa. The chief bene-

ficiaries as far as Canada is concerned will be the motor and newsprint magnates, and the main result may be that some American millionaires living in the East will get increased dividends at the expense of some American fruit-growers living on the Pacific slope. But British paper-makers are also likely to suffer. In recent years they have been enjoying a substantial preference over their Canadian rivals, and had practically driven the latter out of the Australian market. Imports of newsprint to Australia from Canada had fallen from \$2,434,961 in the fiscal year ending March, 1922, to \$156,293 in the last fiscal year. Canadian newsprint will henceforth get the British preferential rates, and British firms will find the competition of mills in British Columbia very severe. Trade between the two countries has been increasingly one-sided; in the fiscal year 1922 Canada exported to Australia goods valued at \$10,678,000, and took imports valued at \$1,079,324, but in 1924, while her exports had jumped up to almost 20 million dollars, her imports had fallen to \$1,037,451. It is significant that of the Canadian exports in the latter year, almost exactly half, or \$9,923,299 worth, consisted of motor-cars and their parts.

Trades Union Funds.—The statistical summary showing the operations of registered trade unions for the years 1912-1923 (H.M. Stationery Office, 4d net), published by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, shows that the total funds of the unions in Great Britain at the end of 1923 amounted to £10,888,500, as compared with £9,906,700 at the beginning of the year, an increase of £982,000. Expenditure amounted to £10,407,000, of which £3,733,400 was for unemployment, travelling and emigration benefit, as compared with £8,359,400 in 1922 and £15,149,600 in 1921, while management and other expenses absorbed £3,308,500, against £3,856,500 in 1922 and £4,503,700 in 1921. Income in 1923 was £11,389,000, of which £8,086,800 was from members and £2,649,400 from the Ministry of Labour for unemployment insurance and administration expenses. Income in 1922 was £15,438,000, including £8,988,800 from members and £5,448,700 from the Ministry of Labour. Total expenditure in 1922 was £16,451,000, so that in that year the funds were reduced by £1,013,000. Dispute benefit paid out in 1923 was £721,100, against £1,427,900 in 1922 and £3,427,000 in 1921. Total membership at the end of the year was 4,413,589, of which 822,913 were in the mining group, 716,270 under metals, machines, &c., and 600,533 in transport. Total membership was 4,559,167 at the end of 1922, 5,506,490 at the end of 1921, 6,981,750 at the end of 1920, and 2,561,885 at the end of 1912, when the income was £3,844,000 and total funds £5,622,300.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—As measured by our Index compiled from fixtures in the open market for whole cargo tonnage, the average level of freights, during November was 2.42 per cent. below that of October, the Index figure for November being 131.18, as compared with 129.38 for November, 1923, and 138.95 for November, 1922.

The movements of the various groups in the Index are indicated in the following table:—

Date.	European Waters.	North America.	South America.	India.	Far East and Pacific.	Australia.	Total.
Basis (Average, 1898-1913).....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
February, 1913.....	110.03	113.09	123.37	106.29	117.38	127.89	116.34
February, 1920.....	814.31	529.89	757.52	744.81	587.02	712.16	690.95
December, 1920.....	268.90	277.17	244.10	256.79	286.72	347.18	280.14
December, 1921.....	160.06	164.07	163.72	144.43	141.25	166.47	156.67
December, 1922.....	137.09	135.15	129.19	122.61	136.08	159.34	136.57
December, 1923.....	134.03	132.72	120.09	124.35	125.07	144.21	130.08
January, 1924.....	130.69	137.49	128.33	124.88	139.45	156.68	136.25
February ".....	138.11	146.26	145.36	129.28	142.17	162.91	144.01
March ".....	143.72	147.62	145.92	132.08	135.20	147.77	142.05
April ".....	141.67	146.28	142.35	127.36	128.79	131.75	136.37
May ".....	134.96	148.71	139.02	127.67	124.45	122.85	132.94
June ".....	128.56	133.80	129.22	129.47	118.33	118.84	126.37
July ".....	123.66	121.87	121.91	120.13	114.69	121.96	120.70
August ".....	120.45	128.10	119.94	118.97	113.31	128.19	121.49
September ".....	117.90	138.94	123.20	124.93	122.19	144.22	128.56
October ".....	118.80	143.09	125.96	126.59	135.47	156.68	134.43
November ".....	115.01	137.32	120.31	120.50	131.95	162.02	131.18

The month's changes in the Index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index No.	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	97.43	- 6.27	S. America—outwards	95.49	- 3.14
Bay—outwards.....	123.85	- 4.59	" homewards.....	145.13	- 8.16
" homewards.....	130.65	+ 4.84	India—outwards.....	10.48	- 8.42
Mediterranean—outwards	1 9.25	- 13.46	" homewards.....	131.52	- 3.76
" homewards.....	111.45	+ 3.01	Far East, &c.....	131.95	- 3.52
North America.....	137.32	- 5.77	Australia.....	162.02	+ 5.34

The volume of outward, i.e., coal, cargoes continued to be on a moderate scale during the month, and, with freer offering of tonnage lately released from voyages with grain, rates were further depressed. The course of the indices relating to homeward voyages reflects a "between-season" lull in chartering, the demand from North America having passed its peak, and the seasonal movement of crops from South America not yet being arranged for by exporters to any marked extent. The most encouraging feature of the month has been a steady demand for tonnage to load in Australia early in 1925 at satisfactory rates. A moderate recovery in the indices for the homeward routes from Mediterranean and Bay ports appears to be ascribable to more optimistic views on the part of iron and steel producers. The relation of the Index to the average for 1913 may be seen from the following table:—

Month.	(1913 = 100.)	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January.....	194.59	..	131.60	..	114.05
February.....	164.54	..	135.76	..	112.73
March.....	162.17	..	135.53	..	115.23
April.....	147.48	..	129.46	..	115.45
May.....	158.42	..	125.12	..	114.55
June.....	165.73	..	117.45	..	106.82
July.....	169.87	..	114.52	..	103.39
August.....	170.60	..	113.16	..	100.16
September.....	154.47	..	110.37	..	103.04
October.....	141.85	..	114.42	..	107.86
November.....	136.47	..	119.43	..	111.21
December.....	134.66	..	117.39	..	111.81
Mean for year.....	158.40	..	122.02	..	109.69

There are no features in the general situation to warrant fears that the downward fluctuation in rates last month heralds a renewed depression in business for "tramp" shipping, and it will be observed that in 1923, while November recorded a rise over October, the upward movement was then suspended until the shipment of Southern Hemisphere crops began. Insufficient data have so far been collected to justify any very positive conclusions about the seasonal "rhythm" of "tramp" freights, apart from "true" movement, but a suggestion may be hazarded that fuller experience will show that rates for whole cargoes normally register a "rhythm" with two annual peaks in March and October, coinciding respectively with the heights of the Northern and Southern Hemisphere harvest loading.

Bankruptcy in 1923.—The report by the Inspector-General in Bankruptcy on the general working of the Bankruptcy Act, 1914, for the year 1923,* shows an increase of 276 in the number of cases under the Bankruptcy and Deeds of Arrangement Acts, but a decrease of £8,915,560 in liabilities, and of £2,662,197 in assets, both as estimated by debtors. The number of cases was 6,856, with liabilities and assets estimated by debtors of £16,003,435 and £4,840,889 respectively. There were in all 38 cases during the year in which the liabilities exceeded £40,000, in 18 of which, with liabilities amounting to £1,432,414, the failures may apparently be classified as "ordinary trade failures"; in 15 cases, with liabilities amounting to £1,172,804, the failures were apparently due to "financial and speculative enterprise apart from ordinary trading"; in two cases, with liabilities aggregating £155,591, the failures were ascribed to personal extravagance, gambling, &c., on the part of persons of no occupation; and in the remaining three cases, with liabilities amounting to £663,418, the failures were due to miscellaneous causes. The aggregate liabilities in these large cases, namely, £3,424,227, is about one-third of the estimated liabilities under the whole of the receiving

* H.M. Stationery Office. 3s net.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

One of the largest and strongest Banks in
America. Resources of \$300,000,000.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

orders for the year, as compared with nearly one-half for the previous year. The Inspector-General writes that there seems to have been a tendency of late for dishonest traders to account for their deficiencies by alleging "bad debts," generally purporting to have been contracted shortly before the receiving order. In 26 cases investigated during 1923 at the High Court, with unsecured liabilities of £404,000 and assets of £50,000, as estimated by the bankrupts, "bad debts" were alleged amounting to £210,800. A classification of the 1923 failures by trades shows that the largest number of cases occurred under the headings of publicans and hotel-keepers, 242; builders, 271; drapers, 218; farmers, 472; and grocers, 339. The heaviest liabilities were shown by 102 general merchants, with a total of £1,687,969.

Central American Crops.—The close of the year (writes a correspondent) finds the economic position of the Central American States but little improved upon that of last year. Their main crop—coffee—although, on the whole, of a superior quality, has proved disappointingly small, owing largely to the unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing. In Guatemala prices for the last crop showed a slight advance, while the new harvest is expected to be a good-medium and early yield. In Costa Rica, where the supply of low-grade coffee has been excessive, the increased exports have not proved very remunerative to the growers. The difficulties of Brazil have, to some extent, assisted the Central American States, but fewer sales for future deliveries in December and January are reported. The best prices offering have been from \$0.18 to \$0.20 per lb, f.o.b. railway, but before anything like satisfactory profits can be gained, higher rates than these must be offered. Profiting by last year's experience, the growers on the Atlantic slope are inclined to hold back future sales, hoping for better prices upon a rising market. In regard to other Central American crops, sugar has been somewhat scarce, and has, therefore, sold at higher prices. The Costa Rican crop, however, having largely failed, efforts to relieve the situation were made by importing from Nicaragua. Prohibitive import duties having intervened, the Government was approached to lighten them. Another food article of this State—beans—which form the principal diet of the poorer classes, have been scarcer and more expensive, thus inflicting considerable hardship upon the masses. It has been found necessary to import supplies from El Salvador and Nicaragua, where beans can be purchased comparatively cheaply. The new Costa Rican crop, which has recently come in, is helping to relieve the situation.

The Outlook for Tin.—The Bandoeng Agreement came to an end on November 30th, and a very interesting position is developing in the tin market. On December 31, 1922, the world's visible supply of tin stood at 22,500 tons, and the pooled surplus amounted to 17,500 tons, making 40,000 tons altogether. During the last two years nearly all the Government-owned tin has been sold, and there is now only 1,300 tons left in the hands of the Federated Malay States Government, the other holders having none at all. On December 1st this year the world's visible supply of tin stood at 19,627 tons. This represents an increase of about 1,500 tons on the month, but the position is remarkably strong from the statistical point of view. Taking the actual visible supply, and the

remainder of the "pooled" stocks, the total is only about 21,000 tons; thus in two years there has been a reduction in the quantity available for market purposes of 19,000 tons, and there is actually less than three months' full supplies on hand. The United Kingdom stocks are moderate at 4,500 tons, and in the States the holdings are not much over 2,000 tons. Despite the increase in the visible supply, prices this week rose to £261 cash and £264 three months. The demand for tin is expanding, and it is quite likely that the German output of tinplates will increase very considerably in the coming year, there being a full supply of cheap steel available. The American tinplate industry is in a very flourishing condition, and reports about the Welsh trade are somewhat better than they were. The United States needs a lot of tin not only for coating plates, but for other purposes as well, including solder, motor-car bearings, and tin foil, and there is going to be some competition for supplies in the coming year. Already American interests have started making large purchases both here and in the East.

P. and O. Results.—The accounts of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30th last show that the "net result" was substantially better than in the preceding year, the amount being £1,346,900, against £1,013,200. These figures, however, are quite useless for comparative purposes, for they are arrived at after providing for depreciation, and it is utterly impossible to ascertain how such provisions compare from year to year. Evidence that the company has been thoroughly conservative in its financial policy in the past is afforded by the fact that, in spite of the depression which the shipping industry has experienced in recent years, the company has been able to maintain a dividend of 12 per cent. on its deferred stock, and it is highly probable that this policy has been continued. In the table below we summarise results for a number of years past:—

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30TH.						
	1914-15.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
"Net result" Brought forward.	£ 494,160	£ 710,430	£ 623,531	£ 696,661	£ 1,013,241	£ 1,346,938
	68,703	115,230	111,939	100,305	101,799	101,873
Deb. interest..	562,863	825,660	735,470	796,966	1,115,040	1,448,811
Deb. stock red. fund, &c. . .	63,000	53,054	52,065	52,065	297,065	375,814
Preferred div.	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000	152,000
Deferred div. . .	269,681	508,668	431,100	431,102	431,102	431,102
(15 %)	(15 %)	(15 %)	(12 %)	(12 %)	(12 %)	(12 %)
Carried forward.	78,182	111,938	100,305	101,799	101,873	101,034

In November of last year the company issued £3½ millions of 5 per cent. debenture stock, the interest on which, in the present accounts, requires £131,250, while discount and cost of issue absorbs £139,700. The balance-sheet, which is analysed in detail in another column, is still open to strong criticism with regard to its form. Total assets figure at £29,510,300, and two items account for nearly £28 millions out of this total. The fleet is valued at £14,674,600, including payments on account of new ships, and shows an increase of £2,660,100. It is, however, to the second item of £13,207,700 that we take objection. This covers "sundry investments (less loans), cash at bankers and in hand, and debts owing to the company." It may be recalled that until two years ago the credit side of the balance only contained one monster item, and when this was split a year ago into five our hopes began to rise that the company would in course of time present a balance-sheet which would be of some value to shareholders. It appears, however, that we must have patience, for no progress is made in the right direction this year. We have seen it suggested that shareholders, in view of the excellent results and the obviously competent manner in which the concern is managed, should rest content with what figures are vouchsafed to them, and not press for further information. Shareholders have certainly no cause for complaint so far as dividend payments go, but that is surely no reason why incomplete and obscure accounts should be presented. It is highly regrettable that

this shipping company of world-wide reputation should set an example which, if generally followed, would lead to the most unfortunate results. We have always urged the fullest publicity in the matter of company accounts, and shall continue to do so until the necessary alterations in existing company legislation have been enacted. The report states that trade conditions in all the company's spheres of operations have been "very difficult" during the year. Labour conditions have not improved, with the result that most of the ships which the company had looked forward to being ready by the end of this year are still undelivered. The indications of a year ago of a slight improvement in outward trade have not materialised, and latterly the war in China has affected both outward and homeward business with the Far East. Passenger business, however, continues satisfactory. The tonnage of the fleet is given as 615,866 tons, making, with 753,918 tons of the British India Steam Navigation Company, a total of 1,369,784 tons. A year ago the figures were: P. and O., 651,610 tons; B.I.S.N., 801,553 tons; and total, 1,453,163 tons.

Coats' Progress.—The slight setback recorded in our table last year of J. and P. Coats, Limited, has given place to rather better figures for the year ended June 30, 1924. Indeed, it may be said that the company has had a fairly good year, especially as the distribution on ordinary capital of 17½ per cent. is maintained. There is an allocation to reserves of £200,000, and the amount carried forward is £398,580, as against £402,617 brought forward. The following table shows how profits have been distributed since 1906:—

Year ended June 30.	Net Profit After Depreciation, &c.	Interest.	Dividends and Bonus.	Pension, Insurance Fund, &c.	To Reserve, &c.
1906	£ 2,974,088	£ 36,642	£ 1,972,821	£ 294,629	£ 450,000
1907	3,056,125	19,680	2,206,642	175,963	500,000
1908	2,701,697	19,394	2,193,403	6,588	500,000
1909	2,917,667	19,399	2,427,402	32,522	500,000
1910	3,171,464	19,278	2,448,908	25,000	575,000
1911	3,102,952	19,096	2,453,808	42,500	525,000
1912	2,794,072	..	2,449,183	26,440	500,000
1913	2,903,239	..	2,449,183	..	500,000
1914	2,634,388	..	2,225,803	..	500,000
1915	2,598,966	..	2,208,347	..	30,000
1916	3,387,395	..	2,210,016	..	100,000
1917	3,360,950	..	2,294,131	..	2,000,000
1918	3,171,796	..	2,289,732	100,000	..
1919	3,995,149	..	2,850,638	400,000	750,000
1920	4,164,894	..	3,161,214	150,000	450,000
1921	2,072,449	..	2,911,263	..	Dr 250,000
1922	3,270,913	..	2,911,250	..	250,000
1923	2,889,959	..	2,911,250	..	..
1924	3,107,213	..	2,911,250	..	200,000

Total assets amount to £31,378,643, which is very close to £31,232,211, recorded a year ago. Stocks are down from £4,376,148 to £3,999,648, but cash is up from £948,699 to £1,596,550. Bills at £24,279 compare with £266,485. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in our usual column.

The Salvador Railway Report.—For the year ending with last June this railway again prospered; the current year, it is feared, will be less satisfactory, owing to the diminution of the coffee crop. The receipts amounted to £215,634, against £206,927 for 1922-23; the working expenses, however, also increased, and in a greater proportion, to £151,537, against £136,389. The profit, therefore, fell to £64,097, as against £70,538. The net revenue account, however, was swollen by £47,291, arrears of subsidy, with interest, received from the Salvador Government, and by various minor items, to £115,233, against which the interest certificates, with other expenses, amounted to £63,322, leaving a net balance of £51,910, balance of £9,894. The passenger traffic, in the distances travelled as well as in the numbers carried, surpassed the record figures of 1922-23; the receipts from it in sterling were £52,290, against £44,462. The goods traffic was somewhat less than in the previous year, owing

to a decrease of 4,017 tons in the amount of sugar carried; but in 1922-23 this commodity represented the bulk of the output of 1922 as well as that of 1923; allowing for this, the sugar tonnage handled is well above the yearly average. The inevitable decline in the coffee traffic next year may to some extent be compensated by an increase in that in cotton, which has been planted on a fairly large scale in the country; the attempts to introduce the production of silk have, unfortunately, not been successful. The decrease in exports, moreover, which is expected next year, will cause a rise in the exchange. Still, the line has known much greater vicissitudes, and we do not gather that there is any cause for apprehension. Nothing is said of possible competition, either from the projected extension of the International Railways of Guatemala or from motor-lorry traffic. But neither of these seem formidable, and there is no sign of political disturbance.

Tate and Lyle.—Henry Tate and Sons, sugar refiners and manufacturers, were registered as a company in February, 1903, and in August, 1921, amalgamated with Abram Lyle and Sons, the concern now being known as Tate and Lyle. The report for the year to September 30th last discloses net profits of £516,784, which, with the sum of £38,650 brought in, leaves an available balance of £555,434. The previous accounts covered three years, so that no strict comparison is possible. During that period, however, net profits totalled £1,759,462. There was no balance of undistributed profit brought forward from September 30, 1920, the balance of £95,515 referred to in the report for that year having been disposed of by resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on August 9, 1921. In respect of the past year, after payment of the preference dividend, the ordinary shareholders, who have already been paid 2½ per cent., tax free, receive a final dividend of 10 per cent., subject to tax. The sum of £100,000 has been transferred to general reserve, making the total of the fund £600,000. In addition to this, there is an investment reserve of £230,419. The bank overdraft has been increased from £377,206 to £621,319. Perhaps further information on this point may be forthcoming. Stocks are down from £1,856,785 to £1,261,700. Total assets stand at £8,281,340, compared with £10,594,770 in 1923. In another column the balance-sheet will be found fully analysed.

Van Ryn Gold.—Within the comparatively recent past this old-established Witwatersrand proposition has taken on a new lease of life. One factor in the change consists in the acquisition of additional ground, the other in the opening up of supplementary reefs known to exist in the original property. Work in each of these directions has been attended with encouraging results, and the board observe "there is clear evidence that the life of the mine will be materially extended." In this position it has been decided to electrify the whole of the plant, at a cost of about £25,000. As the saving should amount to £1,000 per month, the change-over—due to be completed early in 1925—will practically pay for itself in a couple of years. At 1,401,000 tons, the ore reserves show an increase of 178,000 tons in quantity, with a small decrease in value to 5 dwts, both variations arising partly from the development of the upper reefs, which are of lower value, and partly from the increase in the gold premium. The total represents some three years' supply for the mill, irrespective of the large tonnage of material left behind in the old workings, which provided nearly 35 per cent. of the material treated in 1923-24. Last year's profit of £95,100 scores a moderate increase. An enhanced tonnage was crushed, and a decline in the recovery value was more than compensated for by economy in the working costs. After the payment of dividends totalling 17½ per cent., as against 15 per cent. (tax free in both cases), the slightly reduced balance of £44,600 remains to go forward.

Mexican Corporation.—Although last year's net earnings of \$706,600 show little variation from those of the preceding period, their effect is a further substantial improve-

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEUART, Chief Manager.

ment in the financial position. In 1922-23 a large debit balance on the part of the operating concern became converted into a small credit; the present accounts show a total surplus of \$281,700. This sum, together with a considerable portion of the \$413,700 allowance for amortisation, is available for remittance to the English company in redemption of the Mexican company's indebtedness. Remittances last year were equivalent to £82,200, and the due £53,100 of the notes have been purchased. It may be recalled that of the profits 20 per cent. is first taken towards the redemption of certain capital expenditure, the balance being divisible equally with the former owners of the Fresnillo unit. Work here having been chiefly devoted to the opening up and preparation for extraction of the large ore bodies already disclosed, the reserves show a slight decrease, being now estimated at 6,519,000 tons, value 0.17 dwt gold and 5.71 ozs silver. The great bulk of this is amenable to the cyanide process without any preliminary treatment. From a speculative point of view, interest attaches to the results which will be secured when the workings get into virgin ground; hitherto it has been a case of unwatering and reopening the old levels in the deep mine. The Teziutlan (copper) property remains closed down, but if working tests in selective flotation prove as successful as the laboratory experiments, the mill will be modified to treat about 150 tons per day of the better grade copper-zinc ore. In the opinion of the directors the value of the investments approaches the balance-sheet figure of £106,000. They include shares in the British Equatorial Oil Company.

Pahang Consolidated.—Some of the shareholders in this Malayan tin-winning enterprise have expressed surprise at the failure of the shares to participate in the present "boomlet" in the group. There are two reasons. One appears upon a consideration of the yield afforded, the other upon an examination of the report lately issued. The balance dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary makes a total of 20 per cent. for the year ended July 31st last; but, even on this basis, the return to the investor is no more than 10 per cent., the 5s. shares being quoted at 11s. cum. div. Then the new ore opened up last year was insufficient to replace that extracted, developments on the principal lodes proving somewhat unfavourable. It may be pointed out that the Pahang Company is unique amongst Far-Eastern tin-producers, in that it operates a lode mine, although a small output is derived from alluvial. During the past financial year an increased tonnage of ore was treated for the same average yield as before, the total yield being 2,700 tons, as against 2,400 tons in 1922-23 and 2,700 tons in 1921-22. The value has progressively increased from an average of £100 to £120, and then £150—although the latter compares with £203 for 1919-20, when the company paid 20 per cent. on its ordinary. Three barren years followed. The 1923-24 profit of £128,700 contrasts with £45,100 for 1922-23 and only £2,200 for 1920-21, the period of deflation. If the price of the metal keeps high, the current session should display some further expansion in earnings.

Bingo Gold.—Scarcely has the noise of the Porcupine-Davidson affair died away than the Canadian section of the mining market becomes the victim of another surprise. During the past few days the preference shares of the Bingo

Mines have fallen heavily to the accompaniment of adverse rumours. At the close of business on Thursday they stood at $\frac{3}{8}$ nominal, as against $\frac{1}{4}$ on Monday and nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a fortnight previously. During Thursday the following was posted up in the Stock Exchange:—"Some recent sampling of crosscuts having failed to confirm previous values, the Bingo Company have engaged Mr Dresser, Past President of the Canadian Mining Institute, to make a complete examination and valuation of the mine. Mr Dresser is at present on the property." In view of preceding incidents, an adverse interpretation was naturally placed on this intimation, and holders rushed to sell the shares of all the companies in the group. There is certainly an ironical commentary in the circumstance that several events of this nature should have occurred within so comparatively short a time after the visit to London of the Ontario Minister of Mines, with his emphasis on the "square deal" offered by Canadian mining. It is to be feared the market will not quickly recover from these successive shocks.

THE Royal Colonial Institute announces a meeting at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue, W.C. 2, on Tuesday, December 9, 1924, at 8.30 p.m., at which a paper on "Thoughts on India" will be read by the Rt. Hon. Viscount Willingdon, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. The Rt. Hon. Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., will preside.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—FRENCH LOAN QUICKLY OVER-SUBSCRIBED—STOCK AND BOND ACTIVITY—TRADE IMPROVEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, November 25.

EXPECTATIONS that the new external loan of the French Government, offered here this week, would find a ready market were fully realised. The entire issue, consisting of \$100,000,000 25-year sinking fund 7 per cent. gold bonds, dated November 1, 1924, was heavily over-subscribed, the subscription lists having been closed 45 minutes after their formal opening. The bonds were offered by a nation-wide banking syndicate at a price of 94 per cent., and accrued interest to yield approximately 7.53 per cent. to maturity. That yield figure does not take into consideration the operation of a sinking fund, amounting to \$4,200,000 per annum, and payable in equal monthly instalments, beginning January 1, 1925, which will be sufficient to retire each year one twenty-fifth of the entire issue at 105 per cent. Proceeds of this loan will be applied to the reduction of the French Government's indebtedness to the Bank of France, which will hold and use such proceeds as it may deem wise for the protection and stabilisation of the French franc, according to a letter addressed by Minister of Finance Clementel to J. P. Morgan and Co., managers of the underwriting syndicate. The French Government's indebtedness to the Bank of France, M. Clementel says, has already been materially reduced since the peak of such borrowings was reached at the close of 1920. In this connection the bankers announced that the \$100,000,000 American credit to the Bank of France, first extended last March, for the stabilisation of the franc was not being used, and would not be renewed at its expiration on December 12 of this year.

The marked success of the French offering is attributed to a number of factors. The yield evidently proved attractive. The sharp advance recently in bond prices has reduced the yield on domestic issues generally to such an extent that many investors are turning to foreign bonds, which afford a comparatively higher return. This accounts, partly, for the heavy subscription to the French as well as to the previous German loan. The improvement in France's financial and economic position since the Armistice, as indicated in an analysis prepared by M. Clementel, and published here, together with the expected balancing of the French Budget in 1925, also made a favourable impression on American investors.

The prompt sale of the French and German bonds, and likewise of the Japanese offering earlier this year, clearly indicate that Americans, to a much greater extent than heretofore, regard foreign bonds as desirable investments. The number of Americans who hold foreign bonds has greatly increased since 1914; their present investment in European bonds is estimated at more than \$1,000,000,000 in the aggregate. This week's offering of the French issue is expected to be the last extensive foreign financing in the American market this year. Considerable German financing for States, cities, and corporations, as well as for various other European interests, is in prospect, but most of this will probably be postponed until after the turn of the year.

Trading in the stock market has continued on an extraordinarily broad scale during the past week. The number of separate stocks dealt in has repeatedly passed previous high records, and in most of the 5-hour sessions the transactions have exceeded 2,200,000 shares, while approximately 1,000,000 shares changed hands in last Saturday's two-hour session. Up to a few days ago prices generally kept soaring until the average level of 20 leading railroad stocks reached \$96.19 a share, and that of an equal number of representative industrials touched \$110.73, both of these average prices being the highest recorded for many years. Rails last week displayed the greater strength as a group, scoring a net gain on the average of \$2.08 a share, while industrials had a net average advance of only 87 cents a share. Public participation in the stock market is still extensive and widespread, though not so heavy, apparently, as a week or two ago, and many cross-movements in prices have occurred recently. Liberal profit-taking has occurred in the speculative industrials and specialties, while rails, after receding moderately as a result of realising sales, have this week resumed the upward trend, notably high-grade investment issues like Canadian Pacific, Union Pacific, and Delaware and Hudson. Purchasing of these and other stocks in their class is generally believed to reflect further substantial accumulation by large banking interests.

The bond market also has been very active, but prices have fluctuated irregularly, some groups of bonds scoring sensational advances, while others declined sharply. Railroad issues have been the outstanding feature, with most of the transactions in bonds of companies long regarded as weak and of railroads that have been reorganised in recent years. Bonds with high yields and offering speculative possibilities have figured prominently in the dealings. As indicated, however, price changes have been irregular, even among the rails. While many of the latter have advanced, numerous high-grade investment issues have declined as a result of banks and large investors switching to issues that seemed likely to appreciate in market value. Two reasons given for the recent decline in prices of high-grade bonds are, firstly, expectations that an eventual boom in trade and industry will force interest rates higher; and, secondly, large investors have been switching from tax-exempt and low-yielding securities into high-yielding investments, on the theory that future surtax reductions will enable them to take profits which will not be absorbed by Federal income-taxes. Such readjustment of investment holdings is considered largely responsible for the recent slump in Liberty Loan issues and United States Treasury 4½'s, the latter having dropped last week to 105.8 from a recent high point of 107.7. Practically all new bond offerings continue to be absorbed rapidly. Many prospective domestic offerings were deferred to give the right of way to the French loan flotation, but such as were placed on the market were readily over-subscribed to the French bonds, indicates that there is still a vast amount of funds in this country seeking desirable investments.

Further quickening of activity is noted in most lines of trade and industry. Colder weather in northern sections of this country has stimulated business in seasonable goods at retail. Jobbing and wholesale trade is comparatively slow in reflecting the increased movement of merchandise to consumers, but is larger in volume than before the election, and mail-order business is considerably greater. A better tone prevails in basic industries, and reports from the majority indicate that operations are now on a larger scale than at any time since last spring. The iron and

steel industry, especially, is much more active; pig-iron and steel prices have advanced, production has increased, and sales are larger than for some time past. Building returns from 178 cities reporting to Bradstreet's show that expenditures for which permits were issued in October totalled \$276,526,381, as against \$236,551,695 in September and \$274,237,597 in October of last year. For the 10 months of this year such expenditures aggregate \$2,764,054,169, as compared with \$2,624,395,734 in the corresponding period of 1923, representing an increase of more than 5 per cent.

FRANCE.—BUDGET—INTER-ALLIED DEBTS—FRANCO-GERMAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS—COAL OUTPUT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 3.

It is now generally admitted that the balancing of the Budget for 1925 is proving a much more difficult task than had been expected, and that many of the estimates already submitted to the Chamber will have to undergo considerable modification before they will take final form. M. Clementel's first draft of his project showed an estimated surplus of 38 million francs. By the end of October, owing to substantial increases in projected expenditure and equally substantial proposed reductions of certain categories of taxes, this estimated surplus had been reduced to eight millions only. Yesterday the Rapporteur Général of the Finance Commission of the Chamber, M. Violette, declared that the Government's proposals at present show an estimated deficit of 550 millions. The prospect of having to find new resources wherefrom to draw the missing half milliard has caused little short of alarm, and it is becoming clear that the only solution of the problem will be found either in a substantial revision upwards of existing taxation proposals, or in another resort to borrowing, against which latter method all parties appear to have resolutely set their faces.

The question of exactly how the money is to be found to carry out next year's portion of the reconstitution of the devastated regions is also causing increasing difficulty. In his Boulogne speech, M. Herriot prided himself on the fact that next year, for the first time, France would be able to include in her estimated revenue "about a milliard," which it is anticipated will be received in reparations payments from Germany during the twelve months. As a matter of fact, the Finance Minister's draft estimates show that he is counting on the receipt of 1,000 milliards from this source to help him balance his Budget. Quite apart from this fact, the application of any payments that may be received from Germany, "either in cash or in kind," has already been settled in advance. The Finance Minister informed the Chamber a fortnight ago that "all sums coming to France from the Dawes plan"—and he expressed the hope that in a few years' time these will amount to from four to five milliards—"must be applied to the amortisation of the debt." It cannot, therefore, be also available for assisting in the completion of the restoration of the devastated regions. Nervous as to the effect the Finance Minister's present proposals may have, the inter-Parliamentary group for the liberated regions (including MM. Klotz and Loucheur) yesterday interviewed M. Herriot and the Finance Minister on the subject. After an exchange of views, it was agreed that a further meeting shall be held in a fortnight's time, when it is hoped decisions may be taken as to the manner in which the annuities which it is expected will be received from the operation of the Dawes plan shall be utilised. Meanwhile, M. Clementel and his experts are to work out the Government's own plans on the matter. These, it is announced, will be based on a system of loans guaranteed chiefly by the annuities which are to be received under the operation of the Dawes plan.

There is again a large amount of speculation as to the manner in which the inter-Allied debt question is to be settled in the near future, and particularly as to the debt which France owes to the United States. It is universally

LEGAL & GENERAL

ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

ALL INSURANCE

EXCEPT MARINE

10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1830 ASSETS EXCEED - £15,500,000
General Manager W. A. WORKMAN, F.I.A.

agreed that, whatever basis of settlement is arrived at in regard to the latter matter, the American Government will not find it possible to insist on payment in full. Any reduction that might be made, however, would necessarily involve, in the view of opinion here, a similar reduction in the amount ultimately to be paid by Great Britain to the same creditor, which it is unlikely the United States would consent to. If, on the other hand, the Franco-American debt were funded on the 4 per cent. basis, which has been suggested, this country would have to find rather over 2,000 millions a year for interest alone, plus, probably, a similar sum to Great Britain, which will apparently be practically impossible for some years to come, even if the annuities due from Germany under the Dawes plan were available for the purpose.

The Franco-German commercial treaty negotiations which are proceeding here are believed, in spite of the reticence that is observed on both sides, to be progressing favourably. The German metallurgical experts left for Berlin yesterday to consult with the leaders of the industry and their Government, but are expected to renew the discussion in a day or two. The machinery industry experts of both countries are still in pourparlers, and are now discussing the effect the proposed treaty may have on both labour and consumers. The basis of the negotiations appears to be still the problem of bringing about an alliance between French iron ores and German combustible, with the possibility of developing it into a highly-organised international consortium, if not trust, in which other countries would participate. The French Press generally recognise that British susceptibilities constitute the most delicate factor in the whole situation, and is showing exceptional restraint in its comments.

The figures setting forth the output of the French collieries for October show that for the first time in the annals of the coal industry of this country the monthly production total has reached and exceeded 4,000,000 tons. The following figures indicate the comparative average daily output and number of miners employed both before the war and during certain months of the last two years:—

	Average Daily		
	Output.	Tons.	Miners Employed.
Year 1913.....	136,147	.....	203,208
January, 1923.....	121,064	.....	242,566
October, 1923.....	136,661	.....	271,166
January, 1924.....	144,680	.....	286,804
September, 1924.....	147,591	.....	300,777
October, 1924.....	151,982	.....	302,771

The average monthly figure for 1913 concerns only the collieries inside the pre-war French frontiers; the others include the output of the liberated regions. Taken by themselves, the output of the collieries within the old frontiers was last month only 1,354 tons below the average daily figure for 1913, or much less than half the increase in average daily production registered for the whole country last month as compared with September. The extent of the reconstitution achieved in connection with the wrecked mines in the Nord and the Pas de Calais may be realised when it is noted that the daily output last month was only 2,916 tons behind that of 1913. The total output for the whole country in October was 4,103,516 tons, or 266,138 tons more than in September. The output of metallurgical coke during October was 230,694 tons, as compared with 223,810 tons in September.

GERMANY.—POLITICS—FINANCES—CURRENCY AND CREDIT—INDUSTRY—OCTOBER FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 2.

THE news that an agreement had been reached in the matter of the Anglo-German Commercial Treaty had a marked effect upon sentiment in business circles, which were already optimistically inclined owing to the conclusion of further American loans and to favourable Labour reports. Sentiment last week expressed itself in a big rise of stock quotations, and even the very unfavourable foreign trade report for October had no counter-effect. The uncertainty prevailing as to the outcome of the Reichstag elections next Sunday also did not affect sentiment. All the non-Socialist parties have now committed themselves more or less definitely to a revision, in the interest of creditors, of the provisions of the Third Taxation Decree concerning restoration of depreciated public and private debts, and even the Socialists find it necessary to catch votes by promising fresh "Aufwertung" benefits to impoverished persons.

The Finance Ministry's return for November 11th to 20th shows receipts of 185,103,700 marks and expenditure of 178,418,300 marks. In a petition to the Government, the Hansa Association ascribes the failure of the recent official measures for cutting down the price-level to the fact that the States and municipalities did not follow the Republic's example in reducing taxes. The association further protests against the delay in creating a regular income-tax. The present system, under which business firms pay income-tax provisionally, not on profits, but on turnover, is apparently to be prolonged for another year. Income-tax levied in this way operates, it is objected, almost as does the existing Sales Tax, and the burden is probably transferred to the consumer. If so, the Government's reduction of the ordinary Sales Tax from 2½ to 1½ per cent. would naturally have little effect. Finally, the petition warns against any amendments of principle in the Third Taxation Decree, and justifies this warning on the ground that the foreign credits lately received by Germany were granted on the basis of the Decree. The meaning of this is that foreigners before lending money to German concerns naturally investigated the latter's debts, and the creditors will be much surprised if, as is now proposed, enormous new debts are imposed on the concerns by act of the Legislature.

A credit of 15 million dollars for the new Railways Corporation has been arranged with a New York syndicate under leadership of Speyer and Co., and a London group under Henry Schroeder and Co. The Railway Corporation is at present without liquid capital. The Reichsbank is trying to find out what is the extent of recent American loans to Germany. An American estimate for 1924 so far is 200 million dollars, but this, if correct, must include America's part of the Reparations Loan. Money rates in Berlin last week rose in connection with month-end settlements and with the increased demand for cash in connection with the new Bourse boom. Day money rose from 11 to about 13.4 per cent. per annum, month money from 12.9 to 14 per cent. At the beginning of this week interest-rates again fell. Since December 1st all securities on the Berlin Bourse have been quoted in new Reichsmarks. In the case of stocks this involves no change of figures. Theoretically, stocks until now have been quoted in billions of paper marks per 100 marks nominal. In practice, however, 12 cyphers were omitted, and at the billion to one depreciation of the paper mark the result was a "gold-mark" quotation.

The Reichsbank's return for November 22nd shows that the repayment of the 800 million Rentenmarks which were borrowed from the Rentenbank in order to help industry has begun. Circulation declined by 83,049,000 marks, so that although only slight increases took place in the gold and exchange reserves, the percentage of cover in gold rose to 44.8 in gold and exchange together to 59.6. Of the gold reserve of 694,834,000 marks, 240,033,000 marks are on deposit in foreign central banks. Inquiry at the Reichsbank brought a statement that the Bank intends to bring the deposited gold gradually to Berlin.

It considers the enactment anomalous that it can count gold which is not in its vaults as cover for notes, and, further, it considers that practical inconveniences might ensue from the present system. Part of the gold now booked as deposited abroad was sent abroad by the Reichsbank as security for exchange loans; the other part is gold bought abroad and left there.

The industrial situation has changed little, but continues to be much better than it was two months ago. Many reports of impending fusions come in. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* thinks that fusions and amalgamations will be fostered by foreign borrowing, because only big concerns can expect to deal directly with foreign financiers. Difficulties are being met with in founding the subordinate syndicates for special products, which were to be affiliated to the new Raw Steel Syndicate. The chief obstacle is that most of the big companies have created their own sales organisations, and they are reluctant to entrust their selling to syndicates. The contract now published creating the Raw Steel Syndicate shows 31 member companies and firms, whose production totals 13,641,904 metric tons. The biggest participators are Krupp, Phoenix, and Thyssen, with 1,580,640 tons each; Deutsch-Luxemburg (Stinnes), with 1,006,640 tons; and Rhenish Steelworks, with 940,800 tons. Member concerns, which in two successive months have produced more than their "contingent" have to pay to the syndicate a fine of 25 marks per ton of their over-production.

The October foreign trade report shows a very heavy passive balance, due to largely increased imports of food and raw and half-finished materials. Against this, in spite of considerably increased exports of manufactured goods, total exports increased relatively little. Values in gold marks (000's omitted) are shown below:—

	Oct. 1924.	Sept. 1924.	Jan.-Oct. 1924.
IMPORTS.			
Live stock.....	11,706	7,934	72,246
Food and drink	335,820	206,684	1,874,954
Raw materials	289,356	223,901	2,865,149
Half-finished materials..	83,347	58,537	671,161
Manufactured goods	427,141	121,436	1,402,876
Gold and silver	8,236	4,930	74,072
Totals.....	855,606	623,422	6,960,458
EXPORTS.			
Live stock.....	2,216	1,550	9,144
Food and drink	32,911	34,543	317,376
Raw materials	48,166	40,519	343,359
Half-finished materials..	44,000	42,756	341,403
Manufactured goods	482,750	412,821	4,140,764
Gold and silver	1,804	1,768	13,707
Totals.....	611,847	563,957	5,165,753

It is now plain that the export surpluses achieved in July and August were due to temporary declines in food and raw material imports, and that when these declines come to be made up for, new import surpluses must result. Against 289 million marks of raw materials imported in October, only 148 millions were imported in August, and food imports in the respective months were 335 and 152 million marks. The main part of the October increase in exports of manufactured goods consisted of rolling-mill products and iron goods. Exports of textiles slightly increased; exports of dyes, clothing, and locomotives decreased. The October report is unfavourably commented on in the Press from the viewpoint of fulfilment of the Reparations scheme.

CANADA.—OFFICIAL CROP SURVEY—WESTERN WHEAT GRADING POORLY—EXPORT MOVEMENT—BUSINESS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS—FEDERAL REVENUES—COMMODITY PRICES—REPAYMENT OF FRENCH WAR DEBT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA.

THE serious effects of the damage wrought to the western grain crop by frost and rain are now admitted by the latest crop survey of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, published November 12th, which makes a substantial cut in its earlier estimates. It gives the total yields for all

Canada of the principal grain crops in bushels as follows, last year's final estimates being added within brackets:—

Winter wheat.....	22,005,000	(19,315,000)
Spring wheat	249,617,000	(454,884,000)
Total wheat.....	271,622,000	(474,199,000)
Oats	429,500,000	(563,997,500)
Barley	84,095,000	(76,997,800)
Rye	14,500,000	(23,231,800)
Peas	3,345,000	(2,898,200)
Beans	1,172,000	(1,041,700)
Buckwheat	11,122,000	(9,743,700)
Mixed grains	30,359,000	(29,750,500)
Flaxseed	9,751,000	(7,139,500)
Maize for husking.....	10,042,000	(13,608,000)

While the eastern crops were about the average, it is now plain that, taking into consideration increased acreage under cultivation, the western crop of wheat and oats is one of the most disappointing in volume in the last decade, and the high prices are a veritable godsend to the country. The average yield of spring wheat has only been 11.5 bushels per acre, as compared with 20.8 last year, and the oat yield has fallen from 39.3 to 29. Saskatchewan, the great grain-growing province, with 135,543,000 bushels of wheat and 96,872,000 of oats, has only about half last year's crop of these grains, and Alberta's 167 million bushels of wheat in 1924 have fallen to 68,691,000. The Manitoba crops, however, show an all-round improvement. Prices after a stationary period have again begun to rise, but it is now doubtful if the prairie farmers will receive as large pecuniary returns as last year, because grading inspections reveal an abnormally large proportion of inferior wheat. Up till the middle of October car inspections had only been about half the total completed at the same date in 1923, 47 as against 90 million bushels, and only in the latter part of last month did outward shipments begin to assume normal proportions. This situation means the postponement of the inflow of some of the money which the West so badly needs to meet its debts, and will have an adverse effect upon winter business. There has already been a heavy snowfall in the West, and unfortunately owing to the lateness of the harvest very little autumn ploughing has been done, which may mean a curtailment of acreage next spring.

The beginning of another winter finds the business community, if not in a mood of buoyant optimism, at least satisfied that things have not worsened during the summer. In the East the extra purchasing power of the rural districts is being utilised, and is benefiting firms dealing in groceries, dry goods and hardware, and in many industrial centres factory employment showed a slight increase in October. The western farmer, however, will find it necessary to exercise a very strict economy, which will extend both to farm implements and personal outlay; in some of the best districts of the West not a single new binder has been sold during the past season, and everywhere the demand for agricultural machinery is confined to necessary purchases. One satisfactory feature is that banks, mortgage companies, and merchants find a much greater liquidation of debt being made all over the Dominion than at the same date last year. The industrial situation in the Maritime provinces is still perplexing, but luckily they have been favoured with a bumper yield of apples and potatoes, two of their staple crops. Money seems to be reasonably plentiful, and the stock markets have been feeling the reflex of the boom, which has been proceeding in New York since the Presidential election. The economic life of Canada is always profoundly affected by conditions in the U.S., and if the boom now foreshadowed there materialises, Canada cannot fail to benefit. With the Republican victory all prospects of a fresh attempt at a reciprocity treaty have for the moment disappeared, but as the chances of Mr Davis, the only candidate who would have promoted it vigorously, were never rated high, there has been no serious disappointment in Canada at the result.

The Federal revenues continue to be very disappointing. The month of October did show a small gain over September, but whereas the acting Finance Minister only provided for a decrease of 26 million dollars for the whole year, he has already in the seven months ending October 31st lost over 30 million dollars. There are hopes that the new sales tax will henceforward yield better results, and recent loans to replace maturing obligations effect some

saving of interest charges, but political claims still prevent the curtailment of expenditure which is necessary, and it is difficult to see how a substantial deficit can be avoided.

The index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and covering 236 commodities, rose 3.2 points in October, being 157, as compared with 153.8 in September. Sixty-five price quotations were higher, 31 lower, and 110 unchanged. The increase in what are classified as consumers' goods—i.e., foods, beverages, tobacco, household goods, &c.—was small, from 148.7 to 149, increases in flour, fish, coffee, and dairy products being counterbalanced by decreases in vegetables, sugar, beef, bacon, gasoline, and vegetables. But in the class described as "producers' goods"—i.e., materials used in manufacture—there was a steep climb from 145.1 to 153.8. The outstanding change during the month was the increment in grain prices, which brought the index for farm products up from 143.4 to 153.8. Cotton prices showed a very slight rise, and there has been a stronger upward movement in wool.

It may interest Mr. Winston Churchill to learn that, according to the Canadian High Commissioner, the French Government has agreed to pay off to Canada on December 31st a war debt of \$5,657,000 which it owes. This happy result can be attributed to the influence of some prominent French-Canadian politicians, who have lately been in France.

GREECE.—BRITISH CAPITAL IN PUBLIC WORKS—ELECTRICITY CONTRACT SIGNED—BUILDING AGREEMENT IMPENDING—AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR THE WATERING OF ATHENS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, November 29.

By the signing in London, some days ago, of a provisional agreement between the Power and Traction Company, Limited, and the Syndicate of the Greek Banks, the first step has been taken towards a close co-operation of British and Greek capital in reconstruction work in Greece. The agreement provides for the creation of a Greek General Company, whose first object will be to re-organise and extend the electricity supply and tramways of Athens and the Piræus, and to electrify the railway to Kefissia. To that effect, the Greek General Company will form three subsidiary companies, the Electricity Company, the Distribution Company, and the Traction Company, which will hold concessions from the responsible Greek authorities. The first will own and operate the generating stations, the high tension transmission lines, and the sub-stations, the second will distribute electricity and gas, while the third will be responsible for the tramways, for motor omnibuses and for the electric railway to Kefissia. The latter will also negotiate at a suitable opportunity for the amalgamation of the Athens-Piræus Railway with it. The Anglo-Greek group have agreed to collaborate with the existing companies in Greece, that is, the electricity, the gas, and the tramways companies in which French and Belgian capital is interested. The terms of such a collaboration, which has been agreed in principle, will be determined later on, but the plan is to buy the assets of the companies by the issue of shares. It is estimated that an amount of £3,000,000 will be required to carry out the programme of works. Of this amount, part will be raised by the issue of debentures

THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

A HISTORY

of the Financial and Economic
Evolution of MODERN GREECE

by

M. S. EULAMBIO.

Managing Director of the National Bank of Greece.

Price 15s. 0d.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., EAST HARDING ST., LONDON, E.C.4

secured by a first and second mortgage on the assets of the three companies to be created. The remaining part will be provided by the issue of shares. A large portion of the amount to be borrowed for the purpose will be spent in Great Britain for the purchase of machinery and other material.

Negotiations for another contract with one of the first English building and contracting companies are making good progress. The purpose of the contract is the building of a large number of houses in Athens at first, and the other Greek towns subsequently. As the influx to the towns of the refugees and other people has caused a severe house famine in Greece, thousands of houses have to be built, which will require a large expenditure. Part of this sum will be placed in Great Britain on orders for building material of every kind.

American capital, however, is not resting idle in the meantime. An American firm, Messrs. Ulen and Co., in co-operation with the Bank of Athens, has submitted proposals to the Government for the supplying of water to Athens. The amount to be spent is put at \$10,000,000, and will be loaned to the Greek Government, half by the American company and half by the Bank of Athens. During the period of the loan, which is to continue for 22 years, the American company will have the exploitation of the works. These proposals will be considered shortly, together with other propositions already in the hands of the Government, and a resolution will be taken at an early date.

DENMARK.—GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE SCHEME—IMPROVEMENT OF THE BALANCE OF TRADE—WHOLESALE PRICES—UNEMPLOYMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, November 28.

THE Exchange Council appointed by the Government has made its report. After a summary of the negotiations of the Council, a unanimous opinion is expressed, and from this we quote:—"The Exchange Council agrees with the Government that at present no reduction of the gold value of the krone should be planned or decided upon, but all efforts should be concentrated on the prevention of a further drop of the krone and the furtherance of an upward movement. The Council considers it expedient that, before the renewal of the Act suspending the obligation of the Nationalbank to redeem its notes with gold, an arrangement should be made by which a selling rate for dollars, corresponding to a gold value of the Danish krone of about 65 ore, should be maintained until July 1, 1925, while in the course of the following three half-years this selling rate should be reduced so as to make the gold value of the Danish krone rise in the course of each half-year at a rate and in a manner to be decided after further negotiations between the Nationalbank and the Government." After mentioning that the negotiations desired by the Council in this connection have been commenced, the report advocates that it should be ascertained, before putting the exchange question before the Rigsdag, what are the conditions under which the Nationalbank considers itself able to undertake the above obligation, and what sacrifices the bank would make in order to carry through the scheme. "Provided an arrangement can be made by which the Nationalbank undertakes the obligation to maintain the above-mentioned rate and make the sacrifices required, the Council can recommend the repayment of the debt of the State to the Nationalbank by means of income derived through special legislative measures of such a description that the note circulation of the Nationalbank may be reduced by the said redemption. On the same conditions the Council can recommend that the Act suspending the gold redemption of notes by the Nationalbank be renewed for a period of two years as from December 31, 1924."

In connection with the report of the Exchange Council, negotiations between the Government and the Nationalbank were immediately commenced, and on the 17th the Government put before the "Folkething" an exchange scheme based on the report of the Council, and granting to the Nationalbank a dispensation from its obligation to redeem its notes with gold for a period of two years as from January 1st. The State is to co-operate in con-

tracting an exchange credit of up to \$40,000,000, by acting as surety for this amount, while otherwise the Nationalbank should take no risk of possible loss on this credit beyond its net profits for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26, some further contributions to the State being likewise taken from the net profits of the said two financial years. Apart from this, the State should take the risk of the said credit. If, as calculated, a dividend for the two years is to be paid to the shareholders of the Nationalbank, the amounts required will be defrayed out of the considerable dividend regulation fund set aside by the bank for such contingencies. When the said exchange credit has been provided, the Nationalbank should—according to the scheme—in so far and for as long as the said credit enables the bank to do so, from a date to be fixed by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Shipping, with the sanction of a majority of the Financial Council mentioned below, maintain such a rate for dollars that the selling rate on the Copenhagen Exchange does not exceed Kr.5.74 (corresponding to a gold value of the krone of 65 ore) during the period ending July 1, 1925; Kr.5.65 during the period ending January 1, 1926; Kr.5.57 during the period ending July 1, 1926; and Kr.5.49 during the period ending January 1, 1927. In case special conditions should necessitate such a course, the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Shipping may grant temporary concessions to these provisions, on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance and the Financial Council. However, during the period from the commencement of the obligation of the Nationalbank to maintain the rate of Kr.5.74, and until December 31, 1926, the selling rate for U.S.A. dollars must not exceed this rate, in as far and as long as the Nationalbank is able to maintain this rate by means of the funds provided by the credit.

In order to provide the means for a reduction of the note circulation of the Nationalbank, the scheme includes an extraordinary "exchange levy" to the State, to be paid once only. These funds are to be employed, partly in repayment of the loan of Kr. 40,000,000 borrowed by the State from the Nationalbank for subscription to preference shares in the Landmandsbank, and partly to strengthen the available cash holding of the State. The funds are to be raised, partly through additional taxes on income and capital, calculated in proportion to the taxes already levied, and thus every taxpayer for the year 1924-25 will be affected. Finally, the scheme provides that a Financial Council of 21 members be appointed, for the purpose of declaring their opinion on questions put before them by the Minister of Trade, and of following developments in the exchange market. If the Financial Council, with the support of a majority of its members, should propose the adoption of measures considered suitable for the support and improvement of the value of the Danish krone, the Minister may make effective the measures suggested, the section in question specifying in detail how measures, taken according to this authority, should be put before the Rigsdag for sanction.

The Government scheme has immediately met with a somewhat unkind reception, and it is maintained by the opposition that more far-reaching measures are required. It is, for instance, pointed out that the scheme does not contain any provision aiming at an improvement of the balance of payments. Further, it may be said that everything goes to show that the Nationalbank does not find the scheme satisfactory, as the bank would have preferred a strong and definite policy on the part of the State during the period while the gold redemption was still to be suspended, in order that the matter might subsequently be taken up for reconsideration on the basis of the experience gained.

Fortunately, the balance of trade of Denmark is still rather favourable. For September it showed an excess of exports of Kr.4,000,000, the exports amounting to Kr.204,000,000, and the imports to Kr.200,000,000. For the first nine months of 1924 the exports had an aggregate value of Kr.1,571,000,000, and the imports were thus only Kr.1,560,000,000, the total excess of imports being of trade during the corresponding period of 1923 amounted to Kr.286,000,000. During the month of October the wholesale price index of the "Finanstidende" shows a drop from 234 to 231. Within the food group

the prices of butter, meat and sugar have dropped somewhat, while in continuation of the rise of the preceding months the prices of eggs and coffee show further rises. The prices of most other articles are unchanged or lower, only the metals, with the exception of iron, showing rises. The most considerable drops are for coal, cotton yarn, lumber, hides, and oil cakes. Danish wholesale prices are now 12 per cent. higher than at the same time last year. The reports to the Labour Directorate concerning unemployment—as at November 14th—show a rise in the total number of unemployed of from 19,518 to 20,865, and the unemployment figure of last year—viz., 22,900—is now closely approached. At the same time of the year the number of unemployed was 38,400 in 1922 and 63,700 in 1921.

NORWAY.—RISING PRICES—MONEY RATES—BANK TROUBLES—EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTIANIA, November 29.

THE rise in wholesale commodity prices continues. The Statistical Central Bureau's index figure at November 15th shows an increase of 3 points from October—namely, from 273 to 276 points. The increase is due mainly to the rise of prices for articles of vegetable food—viz., 289 to 304 points. Other necessities, as sugar and fuel, have declined somewhat. Though the rise, in the main, cannot be said to be very considerable, yet it is troublesome enough, especially at this time of the year, with its usual augmentation of unemployment.

The money market remains very stringent, and as there is a certain amount of nervousness among the public on account of the many bank difficulties—27 banks now have had to seek shelter under the Bank Administration Act—the large banks that are entrusted with large amounts from depositors are very loth to part with their money, as they wish to keep their position very liquid in order to meet any contingencies. Under these circumstances, the claim which is being advanced by the trading community for a reduction of the discount rate has little prospect of success. The present rate of 7 per cent. was established just over a year ago, on November 10, 1923.

The recent feature of the share and bond market has been a downward movement in bank shares. Last year the Bank of Norway suggested to the private banks that they should not distribute any higher dividend than 8 per cent.—a suggestion that was generally heeded. A rumour—so it now transpires—had been spread that this year the bank would suggest a dividend maximum of 6 per cent., and this was the cause of the weak position of bank shares. Now this misunderstanding has been removed, and bank shares are again firmer.

For other shares and bonds the market has been quiet lately, and rather featureless.

One of the largest of Norwegian industrial undertakings—the Norsk Hydro—had a successful year from July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924, and announce a dividend of well over 11 per cent. The concern, which has for object the manufacture of azote, is constantly extending its ramifications, and finds a ready market for the products. There have been but narrow variations in the exchange of foreign money during more recent days; on the whole, the tendency has been for an improvement of the Norwegian krone, which to-day stands at 31.30 kr to the £.

Letters to the Editor.

REMUNERATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The letter from the Parliamentary and Publicity Officer of the Civil Service Confederation in your last issue is a fair and temperate statement, such as might be expected from the official of such a society, of the views of its members on matters affecting their own interests; but it cannot be regarded as disposing of the Anderson Report.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital (Paid Up) - - £1,250,000
Reserve and Undivided Profits - £1,606,457

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

Over 180 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT SCOTLAND.

London Office: 38, Threadneedle St., E.C.2.

JAMES FORREST, Manager. W. F. BLACK, Deputy Manager.

Every Description of Home and Foreign Banking Business transacted

All the conditions which Mr Watney claims should enter into the determination of Civil Service pay—contentment, efficiency, or career for brains, skill, responsibility, and an offset to the prizes of the business world—are recognised, in passages of the Report too numerous to be quoted here, as factors; but efficiency is held to include all the rest, each in its due degree. On this point I will only observe that Mr Watney, in speaking of "contentment and, therefore, efficiency," seems to miss the Committee's remark that "contentment does not always lead to progress and efficiency."

On the proposal to increase hours of work in London to the level in the provinces, he suggests such alarming possibilities as breach of contract, exaction of extra hours without compensation, and 4,000 dismissals, mainly of ex-Service men. These are not necessary consequences of the proposed change, but points to be guarded against in its application, and do not affect the question of principle. On that, it must be remembered that an "8-hour day" in the Civil Service does not mean 48 hours' work per week, as it does in industry, but "office hours" of eight hours for five days a week, with a half-day on Saturday. Allowing an hour a day, on full days, for mealtimes, and a little "law" in the morning, this means at most 39 hours of actual work; the present 7-hour day means 33 hours. The higher grades, as the Report says, habitually exceed these hours, which for clerical work of the more mechanical type cannot be said to give a full week's work. The fact that the so-called Whitley Council of the Civil Service in 1920 proposed to keep the 7-hour day carries no weight. The essential feature of a real Whitley Council, that one side consists of employers dealing with their own money, is absent where both sides consist of employees dealing with the taxpayers' money; and we are no longer in the spacious days of the inflation boom.

Accepting Mr Watney's figure of 4,000 as the number becoming redundant under an 8-hour day, his estimate of the saving on pay (before making any temporary offset for unemployment benefit) as "much less than half a million" appears low. An average of £2 per week would give a saving of over £400,000, and after taking into consideration overtime on one side and compensation for the extra hour (dying out as fresh men come in) on the other, this figure seems very low. And office accommodation, furniture, coals, and light for 4,000 persons cover a tidy sum in addition.

Mr Watney must not impute to me the view that the heavy cost of the Civil Service (£75 millions in 1923, as against £44 millions in 1914) is due to excessive rates of pay. The Report itself says emphatically that large savings can only be made by Parliamentary action in the sphere of policy. There may be costly activities of the Civil Service with which Parliament would be willing to dispense, but I cannot point to them; and in the absence of full knowledge, the Axe system of reform, as recently exhibited, does not attract me. The truest form of economy—the fine art of administration—is to find ways of reducing your expenditure without abandoning your policy, and this the Anderson Committee has shown us how to do.—I have the honour to be, Sir,

YOUR CORRESPONDENT.

Books and Publications.

IRON AND STEEL IN HISTORY.

THE present prolonged depression in the iron and steel trades has recently brought them much attention, and Mr Ashton's book* on their history during the industrial revolution is therefore especially welcome.

At the end of the seventeenth century the iron and steel trades were divided into two branches, one dealing with cast-iron, the other with wrought. The position of both was disquieting. The trade depended upon charcoal, and any expansion, therefore, implied destruction of the forests; but statesmen, alarmed lest the timber which constituted the foundation of British sea-power should be burnt away in the furnace or at the forge, passed severe laws to avert that evil. These statutes were vigorously enforced, and their operation compelled ironmasters to cast about for another fuel. All such endeavours proved vain until 1709, when Abraham Darby I. succeeded in smelting pig-iron with coal. His success where others had tried and failed was due partly to the good fortune which laid the scene of his experiments in Coalbrookdale, where the available coal was adapted for coking. This discovery did not win the *éclat* with which other inventions were favoured. Early in the eighteenth century the cast-iron branch of the trade was small, and wrought-iron makers, who, in the absence of sufficient English iron, were largely supplied from abroad, thought that pig-iron smelted with coal was brittle, and therefore disliked it. Hence Darby did not advertise his achievement, lest he should spoil his market. Nevertheless, under the influence of his process the industry developed quietly but steadily throughout the first three quarters of the century. The legislative fetters which restricted ironmasters so long as they depended on charcoal had been struck off, and though slow to appreciate their new freedom, they came gradually to use it.

Three other inventions were needed before the vigorous industry which carried the nation through the French wars could be built up. The first step was taken by Boulton and Watt. Watt's steam-engine permitted a more powerful blast to be used at the furnace, and could be adapted to work the tilt hammer and the rolling-mill. But the steam-engine itself required accurately-bored cylinders, which, early in Watt's career, could not be obtained. At this point came John Wilkinson, the stubborn ironmaster of Bersham. He had devised a new method for boring castings; applied to cylinders, it gave the requisite degree of accuracy; and the gap was filled. The last great invention was made by Henry Cort. Until his experiments culminated in 1782-83 with the discovery of the puddling process, the use of coal in the manufacture of wrought-iron had yielded only a brittle metal unsuited for further use. With the aid of this method, which enabled mineral fuel to be employed throughout the entire production of iron, the industry was prepared for the great expansion which shortly preceded the French wars, and which, under their influence, progressively gained in strength.

Upon these technical discoveries the hand of time has been somewhat heavily laid. They belong to the empire of things accomplished; and though none the less interesting for that, they fail to stimulate as do accounts of difficulties age-old yet perennially new. It is to Mr. Ashton's chapters on capitalistic combinations, commercial policy, and trade depressions that the reader who ransacks the past for analogies with the present will turn. He will find there a story very like our own. Throughout the eighteenth century the ironmasters endeavoured to regulate prices by gentlemen's agreements. A little later they formed societies, met in inns, read technical papers, and defended their common interests. Their policy towards foreign countries was consistently protectionist—except when a necessary raw material came from abroad. And they often had reason to complain about the state of trade. The eighteenth century was full of wars, during each of which the iron trade expanded. When peace came the industry had generally outgrown demand, and depression ensued. The worst depression followed the Napoleonic

* "Iron and Steel in the Industrial Revolution." By Thomas Southcliffe Ashton. Longmans, Green, and Co. 15s.

wars. Prices slumped, production declined, furnaces were blown out, and unemployment was rife. The cause of each separate crisis was over-development of the industry during the preceding period of war; for, as Montaigne says, "the more we amplify our needs and possession, the more we engage ourselves to the crosses of fortune and adversities." In this story will be found ample material for the moralist, and for practical men the hope that, as previous difficulties were surmounted, so may present hardships be overcome.

THE ORIGIN OF MONEY.*

THIS book is learned, ingenious, and sometimes fanciful. Economists from Aristotle onwards have taught that money was generated by the need of a medium of exchange: that in early Greece cattle served this purpose, and that gold and silver were substituted as more convenient, and coined to save the trouble of weighing them. Herr Laum points out that in the Homeric age there was very little exchange: households were self-sufficing, and the "agora" was an assembly, not a market; and that, though goods are sometimes valued in terms of cattle, a bullock was too costly to be a satisfactory unit of value. But cattle were suitable offerings to deities conceived in the likeness of their human worshippers, and sometimes—Zeus and Here, for example—manifesting themselves in bovine shapes. Thus compensation for offences against religion, including homicide, was made in cattle: hence their use as a medium of exchange. Gold and silver were associated in ancient Babylonia with sun and moon worship respectively: their age-long ratio of 1 to 13½ is derived from the relative duration of the apparent movements of the two heavenly bodies; they were treasured in the temples, and, when coined, were stamped with the image of the temple-god as a sign that they belonged to the deity, and, therefore, that man must not tamper with them. Even when early coins are stamped with figures of oxen, or fish, or axe-heads, these figures do not, as has been held, represent the commodity they have displaced as currency, but something connected with the deities of the State. And the coins derive their currency from the State as the guardian of religion. Exchange arises originally from reciprocal present-giving; and foreign trade in its earliest form is conducted by the king, that the novel commodities imported may impress the people with his power. The book is full of such ingenious and often highly disputable suggestions; many are quoted from other writers, and mostly they are based on some sort of evidence; and it deserves the attention of all students of economic history.

* "Heiliges Geld." Von Bernhard Laum. (Tübingen) J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck). 1924. Pp. 164.

THE STORY OF A NATIONAL BANK.*

THE National Bank of Greece is so closely connected with the Greek State and people, and has taken such an important part in developing the resources of the country and ameliorating the crises in its financial relations, that it offers the natural centre for a history of Greek economics and finance. Its present managing director, who is not unknown to readers of the *Economist*, has here set forth its history in great detail, and has incidentally dealt both with the post-war financial position in Europe, and with the economic development of the Greek nation from its partial embodiment in a small and weakly kingdom to its expansion into a republic temporarily weakened by its recent disasters, but now convalescent and full of hope. Founded in 1841, after two abortive attempts to provide a State banking institution, the bank owed its existence partly to a Philhellene Swiss financier, M. Eynard; its first shareholders included the Rothschild firm, King Ludwig, and the Greek Government; and, in the undeveloped condition of the Greek kingdom at its establishment, its earliest business apparently consisted mainly in lending on mortgage. But it encouraged savings, even on a small scale, and deposits, by paying substantial interest. It was from the first a bank of issue, and has used its privilege—which is now, and till 1950, exclusive—judiciously throughout its history; it has

* "The National Bank of Greece: a History of the Financial and Economic Evolution of Greece." By M. S. Eulambio. (Athens) Printed by S. C. Vlastos. 1924.

promoted the development of the national resources, and has largely financed the successive Governments; it has taken effective measures at various times to stabilise in some degree the national finances during the chequered career of the kingdom, and to regulate the foreign exchanges; it sustained and promoted Greek production and foreign trade during the world war, and exhibited its enterprise in undertaking the provision of the supply of food to the Greek people from entirely new sources in the United States. It has earned its reward in a dividend in 1924 of 150 per cent.; it has also earned the gratitude and confidence of the Greek people, and half its deposits now come from Greeks living abroad. The author adds a chapter suggesting an international effort to stabilise the depreciated currencies of Europe, which, though other remedies are being adopted, is worth attention. The book merits the study of all students of banking and economic history.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

League of Nations:—

Economic and Financial Organisation. September 9, 1924. 1s 3d.

Financial Reconstruction of Hungary. 4th Report, 5th Report, 6th Report. 4d.

Financial Reconstruction of Austria. Twentieth Report. 9d.

Financial Reconstruction of Austria. Agreement approved by the Council, September 16, 1924. 6d. (London) Constable and Co.

The Settlement of Greek Refugees; Scheme for an International Loan; Text of the Protocol. (Geneva) October 30, 1924.

British Columbia: Public Accounts for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1924. (Victoria, B.C.)

New South Wales Statistical Register for 1922-1923. Part XII.: Land Settlement. (Sydney.) 1s.

Commonwealth of Australia: Quarterly Summary of Statistics. (Melbourne) Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. 1s. *Labour Report*, 1923. 3s.

Die Tätigkeit der Banken im Jahre, 1923. By Dr Max Sokal. (Vienna) Association of Austrian Banks and Bankers.

Anuario Financiero y de Sociedades Anónimas de España, 1924. (Madrid) Plaza de Oriente, 3.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Accounts Relating to the Trade and Commerce of Certain Foreign Countries and British Countries Overseas, Including Figures Received up to September 15, 1924. 6s.

Mines Department: Report on the Explosion at the East Pit of the Birley Colliery, Yorkshire. 1s.

Report of the Committee Appointed to Review the Provisions of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920, and of the Regulations Made Under that Act. 3d.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET,
December 17.

ACCOUNT,
December 18.

THE Stock Exchange settlement which was concluded on Thursday proved to be of noticeably lighter dimensions than either of the two preceding accounts. Business in some markets shows a tendency to fall away in consequence of the approach of Christmas and the New Year, with their requirements for shopping and window-dressing respectively. Amongst Government stocks the feature has been rush for underwriting of the new Greek Refugee Loan, while, in the industrial market, several sections, including those for tea and whisky shares, continue very active.

The quieter aspect of Egyptian politics served to allay the apprehensions previously excited by the events which occurred

on either side of the assassination of the Sirdar. Distribution of the War Loan interest on Monday last had no particular effect upon prices in the gilt-edged market. Dealings started in the new Commonwealth 4½ per cent. scrip that was offered at 97½, and the price kept closely within an eighth of "par." Large applications for this issue received 55 per cent. of their subscriptions, but the loan was evidently staggered on an extensive scale. There has been a good deal of scrip thrown on the market by people who do not require it for permanent investment.

Peruvian Corporations have been strong, in recognition of the recently-issued excellent report. German scrip has touched 100, being a premium of 8 points above the issue price. This served to strengthen the prices of other Mid-European bonds. South Americans are firmer in a good many cases, while Mexicans continue to languish.

Home Rails have at last escaped from the doldrums into which the market was steeped during the greater part of November, and some rises occurred in the principal stocks. The impression prevails that the railway men are reluctant to strike, and that the vague talk of a general suspension in the transport industry is not likely to materialise. Most prices are better on the week. Grand Trunk Pacific debenture, after its sudden spurt to 72, relapsed to 65, from which level there was another rally. Argentine Railways have been heavy, and foreign rails as a whole continue to be somewhat out of favour, with Leopoldinas an exception to the general dullness.

Raw rubber's rise to 1s 6d per lb had the effect of infusing a little fresh interest into the rubber share market, without, however, attracting active business. The tea market, on the other hand, is very animated, although movements are not all one way. Many shares show substantial rises on the week, but profit-taking on fairly liberal lines set in on Thursday. Speculation in the market is on a large scale, and the character of the buying for new account which occurred early in the week gave rise to some inquiry as to whether the buyers were all investors, or whether the speculative element were not becoming conspicuous. In oil shares, the recent Anglo-Persian meeting assisted to bring about a better tendency amongst the good-class descriptions, without increasing public interest in the market to any pronounced extent.

Trust companies' stocks have been rising by leaps and bounds, gains ranging from 2 to 7 points. The banking share market is firm, and insurance shares have become more difficult to buy, owing to the shortage of supply in the market. Iron and steel shares again moved within narrow limits, the uncertainty which surrounds the outlook for the industry causing hesitation. Firmness, rather than price improvement, is the feature of the shipping group. Whisky shares enjoyed further substantial rises, in spite of an announcement that rumours of a contemplated combine had no foundation in fact. Brewery stocks are generally better, and, in the tobacco market, Carreras again went ahead, on the 50 per cent. dividend now declared. Tobacco shares are good throughout. Courtaulds and other textiles have been strong, the former spurring sharply. Brickmaking and similar shares are good, with cements particularly popular. A few rises occurred in nitrates, and newspaper shares are mostly higher. Sudan Plantations responded promptly to the quieter state of affairs reported from Egypt. Various London electricity supply shares show advances on account of the expectation that the London Bills will be duly carried in the House of Commons during the new session.

South Africans attract little public interest of the active kind, owing to the impression that the price of gold must go lower, in consequence of the rally in sterling as compared with the dollar. Part of the recent nervousness, however, gave way to a more confident feeling as the Cape sent buying orders. Paris has been supporting De Beers and Rio Tintos, the latter by reason of the rise in pyrites. Tin shares of the Middle East group display robust strength, insistent buying from the Middle East coming upon a market on this side none too well supplied with shares. Mexicans remain neglected. Canadian mining shares are flat; the Dominion has been selling, and recent developments on some of the properties are very disappointing.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£1,182,134,775	..	..	..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
4% Treasury Bonds, £500,000, at 94½ (Nov. 28)	472,500	..	..	..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHANGERS WEEK ENDED NOVEMBER 29, 1924.

	£	£
April 1, 1924, to Nov. 29, 1924, Dr £2,400,000 ..	50,000	50,000

To the Public—

International Sleeping Car Co., £1,000,000 6% Sterling Bds. to Bearer, at 97½ (red. 1935, at par) ..	1,000,000	970,000	100,000	870,000
Staveley Trust, £125,000 Ord. Shares of £1, at par ..	125,000	125,000	15,625	109,375
Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry, 30,000 Ord., £1, at par ..	30,000	30,000	3,750	26,250
Do 30,000 10% Participating Pref., £1, at par ..	30,000	30,000	3,750	26,250
Do £30,000 7½% 1st Mort. Deb., at par ..	30,000	30,000	3,000	27,000

Total offered to the public

To Shareholders only—

Clyde Valley Electrical Power, 600,000 Shares of £1, at 22s ..	600,000	660,000	210,000	450,000
Investment Trust, 60,000 Shares of £5, at 48 ..	300,000	480,000	30,000	450,000
Johnsons and Phillips, 62,500 Shares of £1, at 22s ..	62,500	68,750	6,250	62,500
Lunuvu (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber Estates, 27,280 Shares of £1, at 42 ..	27,280	54,560	54,560	..
Kepong (Malay) Rubber Estates, 150,000 Shares of 2s, at 3s 9d ..	15,000	28,125	13,125	15,000
Carnarvon (Selangor) Rubber, 15,154 Shares of £1, at par ..	15,154	15,154	3,788	11,366
Kali (Java) Rubber Plantations, 100,000 Shares of 2s each, at par ..	10,000	10,000	2,500	7,500
Second Investors' Mortgage Security, 12,500 Shares of £10 each, at £12 ..	125,000	150,000	37,500	112,500
Total offered to shareholders only	1,466,589	357,723	1,108,866	..

Total offered for subscription to date

In year—	Total offered for subscription for whole year—
1924.....	185,308,864
1923.....	259,169,608
1922.....	573,675,650
1921.....	560,840,957
1920.....	323,809,861
1919.....	355,818,605
1918.....	1,602,887,945
1917.....	271,393,173
1916.....	573,675,650
1915.....	388,978,203
1914.....	367,549,656
1913.....	1,036,069,951
1912.....	1,393,361,441

Greek Government 7 per cent. Refugee Loan.—

Issue of £7,500,000 7 per cent. sterling bonds at £88 per cent.

This is part of a total authorised amount of £12,300,000, of which £2,500,000 will be issued in Athens and the balance of £9,800,000 is reserved for issue in America in dollars. The issue is under the direct control of the International Financial Commission, which is to retain the amounts necessary for the payment of interest and for amortisation. The loan is secured by a first charge on certain specific revenues, including those from the monopolies of salt, matches, cigarette papers, &c., the revenues from the tobacco and stamp duties in the new Greek territories, various Customs receipts, and revenue from the alcohol duty. The yearly surplus of the total revenues, on the basis of the returns made for nine months to September last is estimated to produce for the service of the loan during 1925 the sum of £5,526,894. The loan is raised for the purpose of providing moneys to enable the Refugee Settlement Commission to carry out the work of settling and engaging refugees in Greece, and in productive work under the auspices of the League of Nations. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable in sterling, and will be exempt from all Greek taxation. Repayment is to be effected at par during a period of not more than forty years, by means of a cumulative sinking fund of ½ per cent. Half-yearly drawings will take place, commencing on September 1, 1925. In addition, 75 per cent. of the repayments of capital made by the refugees to the Settlement Commission will be applied to half-yearly drawings at par. The first will be made as soon as such repayments shall equal £10,000. The numbers of all bonds drawn will be advertised in two London papers. The Greek Government reserves the right, on or after May 1, 1926, to redeem the whole of the outstanding bonds at par on giving three months' notice. All reasonable precautions appear to have been taken to protect the investor, who must regard the generous return as some indication of the risks involved.

Anglo-Spanish Construction Company, Limited.—

Share capital £312,500 in £1 shares, of which 250,000 have been issued at par for cash, while there are £2,500,000 of 6 per cent. registered debentures, of which £2,000,000 have been issued at 95 per cent.; £45 per cent. has been paid up, and the balance is payable on October 1, 1925. The total debenture issue is redeemable at par not later than September 30, 1931, but, subject to three months' notice, the company may repay on any interest date. The company reserves the right

to purchase debentures at any time in the open market. The subscription of the 250,000 shares of £1 each and £2,000,000 6 per cent. debentures, which have been already issued by the company, was guaranteed by the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, and Messrs Bernhard, Scholle and Co. No underwriting commission was payable under this agreement. The company has been formed primarily to construct a railway in Spain, approximately 260 miles long, under a concession granted by the Spanish Government. The Construction Company acquires shares of the Railway Company, which is to operate the line when completed, and will be allotted the Railway Company's bonds when issued. There is a guarantee by the Spanish Government in respect of interest on the Railway Company's bonds. These and other details are published in the Press to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. The enterprise appears to be in good hands.

International Sleeping Car Company.—

Incorporated under Belgian law in 1875 as the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits et des Grands Express Européens. The total share capital is £15,000,000, all of which has been issued. There is, in addition, a total of 48,718,500 in bonds already outstanding. This is an offer for sale of £1,000,000 6 per cent. sterling bonds (1924) at £97 per cent. Redemption of the bonds is to be provided by an annual payment of £33,333, the latest redemption date being 1956, but the company reserves the right to repay the bonds at par after January 1, 1935, on giving three months' notice. The operations of the company include the running of sleeping cars, and dining and drawing-room cars on all European railways. In 1923 profits amounted to 45,307,315f, an increase of 11,724,634f over the previous year, and the dividend was raised from 14 per cent. to 23 per cent., while the allocation to depreciation and reserves was 19,518,201f, in contrast with 16,844,477f. According to the last balance-sheet, rolling stock in service figured for 125,121,927f, after allowing for depreciation. There is a special reserve for depreciation, provision of loss on exchange, &c., amounting to 33,648,988f, and the surplus of assets over liabilities at December 31st last was 102,214,081f. Messrs Erlangers have acquired the whole of the bonds, and are offering them for subscription. It will be noticed that all bonds issued by the company, whether sterling or not, carry no preferential rights.

Agar, Cross, and Co., Limited.—

Share capital £1,000,000 of which £750,000 has been issued. This is an issue of £500,000 5½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock at 90. The stock will be secured by a trust deed constituting a first specific charge upon assets in the Argentine Republic. The business was founded in 1884, and exports merchandise to South America. It was converted into a company, with a capital of £650,000, in March, 1908. Surplus assets, exclusive of goodwill, are valued at £1,143,794. Freehold properties in the Argentine are valued at £474,572. Profits are given from 1919, and these show that interest payments are well covered.

The Neuchatel Asphalte Company, Limited.—

Authorised share capital £1,000,000, of which £619,880 has been issued. This is an offer to shareholders only of £200,000 of 6 per cent. ten-year convertible debenture stock at 98 per cent. The stock is redeemable at par on December 1, 1934, or at the company's option at 105 per cent. after December 1, 1927, on six months' notice. It constitutes a first floating charge on the whole assets and undertaking of the company. In a statement in the Press, made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, details are given of profits during the past fourteen years, the net profit for 1924 being estimated at £60,000. The assets, we are told, upon which the stock has a first floating charge are valued at approximately three and a-half times the amount of the issue. The stock carries conversion rights into ordinary shares, beginning in 1926. A well covered industrial debenture.

Godfrey Phillips, Limited.—

Share capital £950,000, of which £630,000 has been issued and paid up. Details have been advertised for public information only of an issue of £200,000 7 per cent. sinking fund 15-year notes. A trust deed in favour of the Law Debenture Corporation, as trustee, provides that the notes be redeemed by the application of an annual cumulative sinking fund, commencing in 1927, in the purchase of notes or by drawings, at 101. The company have the power to redeem the whole of the notes outstanding at 102 per cent. at any time after January 1, 1931. Any notes not previously redeemed will be repaid on December 15, 1939, at 101 per cent. The proceeds of the notes will be used for provision of additional working capital and for the extension of plant and factories.

Staveley Trust, Limited.—

Authorised capital, 250,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 33,660 have been issued, and 75,000 deferred shares of 1s each, of which 22,580 have been issued. This is an issue of 125,000 ordinary shares at par, subscribers for which will be entitled to apply for and receive an allotment of one deferred share of 1s at par for every four ordinary shares allotted. In the event of subscribers

applying for the total number of deferred shares to which they are entitled, the issued capital will then consist of 158,660 ordinary and 53,830 deferred shares. The company was formed in 1921 as an investment and finance undertaking, and for each of the two years, 1921-22 and 1922-23, a dividend of 10 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares. For 1923-24 the total distribution on the ordinary shares was 9 per cent., in addition to which the deferred shares (which were issued in October, 1923) received as dividend a sum equal to an additional 1 per cent. on the ordinary shares. At the end of the last financial year (July 31, 1924) there was a surplus of assets over liabilities of £37,923, as compared with the then issued capital of £34,789. The prospectus is a candid document.

Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation, Limited.—

Authorised capital £630,000, of which £529,561 has been issued, in shares of £1 each. In order to comply with the regulations of the Stock Exchange, particulars of this company are advertised for public information only. Incorporated in Rhodesia on July 12, 1917, the corporation acquired asbestos and other properties, and in particular the Shabanie and Gaths Mines in Rhodesia. It is proposed to make a further issue of 100,000 shares, being the purchase price payable in connection with the acquisition of the King Mine. A useful statement appears, which shows capital at various dates, net profits, and dividends paid for the last seven years.

The Cheapside Land Development Co., Limited.—

Share capital, £200,000, divided into shares of £1 each. The company was incorporated in October, 1924, and has recently entered into a contract for the purchase of a freehold plot of land of some 21,806 superficial feet on the East side of St Martin's le Grand, on the site of the old General Post Office. It is intended to erect a building on this site. The contract prices of the land and building amount to £428,664. According to estimates, the premises should produce a net income when fully let of £37,500 per annum. The directors have power to raise or borrow money for the purposes of the company, but so that the amount at any one time owing in respect of money so borrowed shall not, without the sanction of a general meeting, exceed double the nominal amount of the issued capital. Another prospectusless proposition.

Liquid Air, Limited.—

Share capital £75,000, divided into 71,500 ordinary shares of £1 each and 3,500 management shares of £1 each. The company was incorporated under the title of Liquid Air and Rescue Syndicate, Limited, on October 25, 1913, to acquire the Liquid Air and Rescue Section of the business then carried on by Messrs Henry Simonis and Co., of Park Royal, especially for the equipment of mine rescue stations. The purchase consideration payable by this company was £7,000. This sum was satisfied as to £3,500 in cash and as to £3,500 by the allotment to the vendors of 3,500 fully-paid shares of £1 each in the capital of the company; 3,000 of these shares were termed management shares, and have double voting power, but rank otherwise and in every respect *pari passu* with the existing shares. Dividends of 10 per cent. and 12½ per cent. respectively have been paid for 1922 and 1923 on the capital then issued. Of the unissued shares, 22,000 are under option until next year. Another prospectusless concern.

London Restaurants, Limited.—

Authorised capital £255,000, divided into 250,000 10 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each and 100,000 ordinary shares of 1s each. The company has issued a mortgage debenture for £50,000, which is charged upon properties owned by the company. Incorporation took place in June, 1923, when the company took over the Florence Restaurant, London, while since then 57,182 shares of Romano's, Limited, have been purchased. The preference shares rank for 10 per cent. fixed and to one-half the balance of profits available for dividend following upon the payment of 10 per cent. on the ordinary; voting rights are equal to the ordinary. Assets are shown as £255,461, as against issued share and loan capital of £255,000. The purchase price paid by the company was £239,628. These details are given in connection with Stock Exchange regulations.

Weston-super-Mare Gaslight Company.—

Incorporated by special Act of Parliament. The authorised stock capital of the company is £200,560, of which £150,762 has been issued. Loan capital amounts to £72,280, the whole of which has been raised. This is an offer for sale by tender of £15,000 6 per cent. preference stock, to be redeemed at par on June 1, 1935. The net revenue of the company for its last financial year was £9,713, after paying interest on loan capital. As the dividend on the preference stock, including that now being issued, will require but £1,606, ample margin is available for contingencies.

Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company, Limited.—

The share capital is £60,000, in 30,000 10 per cent. participating preference and 30,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, which are now being issued at par, toge-

ther with 300 7½ per cent. first mortgage debentures of £100 each, also at par. The debentures are repayable at 105 per cent. on July 1, 1944, or at 110 per cent. on any earlier date at the company's option. This company has been incorporated by a special Act of Parliament for the purpose of constructing and working a motor road and ferry to shorten the distance between Bournemouth and Swanage by fifteen miles. The directors are people who should understand the work which is to be done. The company is authorised to charge tolls on the ferry and on the road.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Price of Week.	Price of Week.	Price of Week.
War 4½% 1925-28 ..	97½	97½	97½	97½
Loans 4½% 1925-28 ..	97½	97½	97½	97½
4½% 1929-42 ..	101½	101½	101½	101½
Funding Loan 4% ..	90½	90½	90½	90½
Victory Bonds 4% ..	93½	93½	93½	93½
Conversion Loan 3½% ..	79½	79½	79½	79½
Consolidated 2½% ..	58½	58½	58½	58½
Irish Land Stock 2½% ..	60½	60½	60½	60½
Local Loans 3% ..	67½	67½	67½	67½
Aust. 6% 1931-41 ..	105	105	105	105
Canada 4½% 1926-36 ..	100	100	100	100
India 3½% Stock ..	67½	67½	67½	67½
Do 7% 1926-31 ..	106	106	106	106
Do 5½% 1932 ..	103½	103½	103½	103½
Do 4½% ..	87	87	87	87
N.S.W. 5½% 1922-32 ..	100	100	100	100
Nigeria 6% 1949-79 ..	114	114	114	114
U. of S.A. 6% 1930-40 ..	105	105	105	105
Victoria 5½% 1924-34 ..	101	101	101	101
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40 ..	105	105	105	105

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord.	109½	110½	110½	110½
London & North-Eastern 5% Pref. Ord.	82½	84½	84½	84½
Do Def. Ord.	30½	32½	32½	32½
London, Mid. & South. Scot. Ord.	101½	103½	103½	103½
Metropolitan	78½	80½	80½	80½
Metropolitan District, 5½% ..	55½	55½	55½	55½
Southern, Ord. "A" ..	41	42½	42½	42½
Do "B" ..	108	108	108	108
Do Pref. Ord.	83½	85½	85½	85½
Do Def. Ord.	43½	45½	45½	45½
Underground Electric (10%) ..	2½	3	3	3
Do "A" (10%) ..	99	99	99	99
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) ..	99	99	99	99

Banks.

Barclays B. (£1, f.p.d.) ..	2½	2½	2½	2½
Chartered Bk of India ..	20½	20½	20½	20½
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) ..	3½	3½	3½	3½
Midland (£12 with £2 paid) ..	8½	8½	8½	8½
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) ..	26½	26½	26½	26½
Nat. Bank of S. Africa 6½% ..	7	7	7	7
National Provincial, (£20 with £4 paid) ..	11½	11½	11½	11½
Standard of S. Africa (£20 with £5 paid) ..	11½	11½	11½	11½
Westminster Bank (£20 with £5 paid) ..	18	18	18	18

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Antofagasta Cons.	88	88½	88½	88½
B.A. and Pacific ..	80½	79	79	79
B.A. Gt. Southern ..	86	85½	85½	85½
Buenos Ayres West. ..	79	76½	76½	76½
Canadian Pacific ..	168	163½	163½	163½
Central Argentine ..	74	72	72	72
Leopoldina ..	29	29	29	29
Mexican Railway ..	34	30	30	30
Do 1st Pref. ..	30	30	30	30
Do 2nd Pref. ..	17	17	17	17
San Paulo ..	158	158	158	158
United Havana ..	85½	84½	84½	84½

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	98	100	100	100
Erie ..	33½	34	34	34
Do 4½% 1st Pref.	44	48	48	48
Southern ..	82	82	82	82
Do Non-cum Pref. ..	86	86	86	86

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7, 100 ..	100	100	100	100
Austrian 6% Guar. 97 ..	95½	95½	95½	95½
Belgian 3% ..	73	73	73	73
Brazil 5% Fund. 1914 ..	71	73	73	73
Chilian 4½%, 1895 ..	85½	85½	85½	85½
Do 7½% ..	108½	108½	108½	108½
Chinese 5%, 1912 ..	69	69	69	69
Egyptian 4% ..	76	76½	76½	76½
French 5% ..	21½	21½	21½	21½
Do 4% ..	17½	17½	17½	17½
German 3% Loan ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Do 7%, 1924 ..	68½	68½	68½	68½
Greek 5%, 1884 ..	524	534	534	534
Hungarian 7½%, 1924 ..	934	944	944	944
Japanese 4%, 1910 ..	63	63	63	63
Do 6%, 1924 ..	92	92	92	92
Mexican Cons. 1899 ..	36	36	36	36
Peruvian Corp. Pref. ..	37	39	39	39
P.L.M. 6% ..	94	94	94	94
Portuguese (New) ..	254	254	254	254
Russian 5%, 1906 ..	7	7	7	7
Spanish 4% ..	63	65	65	65
Seine (Dept.) 7% ..	1034	1034	1034	1034
Siam 5% ..	106	106	106	106

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" ..	24½	24½	24½	24½
Marconi Wireless ..	14½	14½	14½	14½
Marconi Canada ..	14½	14½	14½	14½
Marconi Marine ..	14½	14½	14½	14½

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Amal. Cottons (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) ..	3	3	3	3
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) and Co. (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Ass. Portland Cement (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Barker, John (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
B'ham Smalt Plantations	58	57½	57½	57½
British-American Tobacco (£1) ..	5½	5½	5½	5½
Burmah Oil (£1) ..	5½	5½	5½	5½
Coats (J. and P.) (£1)	5½	5½	5½	5½
Courtauld (£1) ..	3	3	3	3
Cumard (£1) ..	1	1	1	1
Dunlop (£1) ..	1	1	1	1
Dunlop Rubber (£1) ..	1	1	1	1
Fine Cotton Spinners (£1) ..	2½	2½	2½	2½
Forestral Land (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Furness, Witherby (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Highland (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Latex Rubber (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Hudson's Bay (£1) ..	5½	5½	5½	5½
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4½	4½	4½	4½
Lingelt Plantations (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Lipson (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Lever Bros' Co. Prt. (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Do 8% Cm A Prt (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Do 20% Cm Prt Ord (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Liater (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Leobias Oilfields (£1) ..	10	10	10	10
Leobias (J. & Co. (£1)	4	4	4	4
Leobias (J. & Co. (£1)	4	4	4	4
Nobel Industries (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Pekin (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Rubber Plantations Investment (£1) ..	16	16	16	16
Shell Transport (£1) ..	4½	4½	4½	4½
Smithfield & Argentine	1	1	1	1
Union Cold Storage	1	1	1	1
6% Cum. Pref. (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
Do 7% Cm. Prt. (£1)	1½	1½	1½	1½
United Dairies (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
United Serdang (3½%)	4	4	4	4
Vallambrosa (2%) ..	4	4	4	4
Vickers (£1) ..	1½	1½	1½	1½
Watney Def. Suk.	204	205	205	205

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

AERATED BREAD COMPANY, LIMITED. SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.

The seventy-first ordinary general meeting of the Aerated Bread Company, Limited, was held, on the 1st instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Sir Charles Cottier (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr A. G. Nisbet, C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he was happy to be able to state that again the company's trading had passed any previous records. It was generally anticipated that the Wembley Exhibition would prove a considerable benefit to Metropolitan catering concerns, and there was no doubt that the influx of people into London consequent upon the Exhibition had in some measure contributed to the increased trading. On the other hand, the company's ramifications, direct and through its subsidiaries, were now so wide that the purely local conditions occasioned by the Exhibition did not greatly affect the undertaking as a whole.

YEAR'S PROFITS.

The gross profit on trading was £652,185, as against £595,121 last year, an increase of £57,063. Wages, expenses, and charges amounted to £526,639, against £497,954 last year, an increase of £28,684, due to the increased number of establishments and the larger business done. Sundry profits and revenue amounted to £29,392, against £33,982 last year. The total net profit earned by the company during the year amounted to £154,939, against £131,149 last year, an increase of nearly £24,000, which, he thought, the shareholders would agree was satisfactory. The board were continuing to give real value at the lowest possible prices, and the continued expansion of the business showed that the company's policy was recognised and appreciated.

The board had continued their policy of extending the company's business, and an additional number of new branches, which had proved successful acquisitions, had been secured. Some of these

new branches having been opened late in the year, the company had not received the benefit of a full year's trading from them. Further premises had been acquired for new depots, and would be opened for business as soon as the necessary alterations had been completed. He would like to refer to the systematic improvement of the company's existing branches. As in recently previous years, where leases and other circumstances permitted, a number of branches had been dealt with, and over 30 branches had been modernised within the last year or two. A large expenditure had necessarily been incurred, but the success of the policy was its justification.

The business of Bertram and Co. had been most satisfactory. This had proved one of the best investments the company had made. The business of James Cottle had also been satisfactory, and the profit earned showed a good return upon the capital invested in the business.

DIVIDEND.

The directors, he said, proposed to allocate the available profit of £166,469 as follows:—Final dividend at 1s 3d per share, less tax, making, with the interim dividend, 2s per share, leaving, after provision for preference dividend, income-tax, &c., £39,275 16s.

It would be agreed, he thought, that the directors had been prudent in their recommendation as to the ordinary share dividend to be declared, but it was the board's earnest endeavour that the financial position of the company should continue strong and sound—growing yet stronger and sounder in each succeeding year.

It had been suggested in some of the newspapers that the increased profits of this and other catering companies might be directly attributable to the reduction of duties on tea and sugar. While the reduction in sugar had benefited them, the price of tea had in no way resulted in a saving, this reduction being more than counterbalanced by the subsequent increase in prices. What they were likely to suffer from was the large increase in the cost of flour being brought about largely by American speculators and combinations, and here was a great opportunity for the present Government, with its undoubted mandate from the country for the extension of Empire inter-trading, immediately to set up legislative machinery for the assistance and encouragement of both home and Empire farmers in order that they might profitably grow wheat in much larger quantities. We should not, he thought, as a country, rest until we were free from any combination or organisation which had for one of its objects the gambling in this essential foodstuff of the people.

The shareholders would probably have noticed in the newspapers a statement that the company's directors were negotiating for a

controlling interest in "Cabins, Limited." The whole of the ordinary share capital of that concern had been purchased by the Aerated Bread Company, and this business would, he had no hesitation in saying, prove under the company's management of considerable advantage as a profit-earning entity.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

STRAND HOTEL, LIMITED.

UNPRECEDENTED DEMANDS FOR ACCOMMODATION.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Strand Hotel, Limited, was held, on the 4th instant, at the Trocadero Restaurant, London.

The secretary (Mr H. F. Joyner) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

Major M. Gluckstein (the Chairman) said that the accounts for the year ended September 30th last showed that the company still maintained that steady improvement which had characterised its trading since it commenced business 15 years ago. Most London hotels had reaped the full benefit from the great influx of visitors attracted by the British Empire Exhibition, but this company had not been able to house any more visitors in their hotels than in previous years, because the whole of their accommodation was invariably taken up. The demands made upon them, however, had been unprecedented, and they had been regretfully compelled to disappoint a very large number of people, including many of their regular and valued patrons. Charges for rooms elsewhere had been, generally speaking, substantially higher than the normal, and the company could have benefited by many thousands of pounds by temporarily increasing their terms, but the board took the longer view and kept to their standard rates, knowing that thereby the company's interests would be better served and its reputation for pre-eminence in value still more firmly established. Wherever possible, their food charges to the public had been reduced during the year, but they had been able to carry out their policy in this direction to a limited extent only, owing to the fact that, as compared with last year, the cost of foodstuffs had been, on the whole, greater.

The directors had been negotiating with the Crown for a building agreement for a lease for 84 years of the remaining portion of the block of which the Strand Palace Hotel formed part, and, in addition, for a reversionary lease of the present Strand Palace Hotel premises for 21 years, so as to make the leases of the whole block coterminous. The rentals payable, which were very high, had been agreed. He was afraid it would be impossible to commence the development of the additional site until the expiry of the existing leases three or four years hence. When this development could be carried out, however, the Strand Palace Hotel would be double its present size, and should contain some 900 bedrooms. They knew from their experience that an extension of this hotel was much needed and would give great satisfaction to the travelling public, as well as being profitable to the company.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

RHODESIA CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Rhodesia Consolidated, Limited, was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, Colonel Frank Johnson, D.S.O. (the chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, having reviewed the accounts, said the company's most important asset was 386,000 acres of land, in the intrinsic or ultimate value of which he was a firm believer. He was strongly of opinion, however, that they must create such conditions and prospects as would attract customers in a steady stream. Hitherto, the attempt to develop Rhodesia had been on the old lines of 5,000- or 6,000-acre farms, carrying in their undeveloped condition comparatively small herds of cattle or growing Indian corn. To realise and develop their large land holdings they must cease this process, and look for settlers of small means, but with good health and the essential British characteristic—the "will to make good."

The Chairman then touched upon the possibilities in this direction and the essentially pastoral nature of Rhodesia, and proceeded to deal with a scheme of amalgamation, one of the chief reasons for it being their desire to be in a position to further settlement upon their land. He said: A new company has been registered to absorb such Rhodesian companies as see fit to amalgamate their interests through absorption by it. At the moment the new company has no issued capital, and if you approve, the purchase of your assets will be its first business. The principal assets of the Mashonaland

Consolidated, Limited, will come to the new company through its liability to this company, and the Rhodesia Mining and Land Company has also arranged to join the amalgamation. I am not in a position to give the names of the other companies whose advent into the new company is contemplated. Negotiations are proceeding, but until they have been completed it would obviously be improper for me to mention their names. However, the basis of all amalgamations will approximate on the market value of the shares, and in no case will any land be taken in at a higher valuation than that given for yours.

The amount of working capital available is also a matter depending on the extent to which the system of consolidation is carried, but all reasonable requirements for the maintenance and development of the combined assets will be provided without calling on you to find any portion of it unless you wish to subscribe voluntarily.

The underlying principle of the amalgamation is that the assets of each company should be taken over at such a conservative figure that the depreciation of the shares of the new company will be virtually impossible. In other words, future profits will not be anticipated in the purchase prices, but left to accrue through appreciation of the value of your new shares.

You will recognise as one of the great advantages of this scheme the economies that will be effected in administration, both here and in Rhodesia, besides ensuring continuity of policy.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously and resolutions were passed approving the sale of the company's undertaking and assets to Rhodesian Mining Corporation, Limited, the voluntary liquidation of the company, and the ratification of an agreement with Rhodesian Mining Corporation, Limited, and the distribution of 358,440 shares of 5s each of that corporation among the members of the Rhodesian Consolidated, Limited.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25, (See Note A)	Actual Receipts into Exchequer from 1924, Apr. 1, 1923, to Nov. 29, 1924.	Actual Receipts into Exchequer from 1923, Dec. 1, 1923, to Nov. 29, 1924.	RECEIPTS, Week Ended Nov. 29, 1924.	RECEIPTS, Week Ended Dec. 1, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England...	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland...	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..	..
Bank of Scotland...	6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..	..
REVENUE.					
Customs...	66,696,000	85,300,000	1,932,000	2,624,000	1,724,000
Excise...	101,800,000	82,565,000	96,453,000	1,626,000	1,724,000
Motor Vehicle Duties...	135,900,000	4,965,000	4,355,000	..	..
Estate, &c., Duties...	15,600,000	150,000	37,140,000	1,270,000	600,000
Stamps...	56,000,000	40,400,000	12,820,000	600,000	720,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights...	21,000,000	125,000	540,000	..	..
Property Income Tax...	1,250,000	680,000	729,191,000	1,502,000	2,121,000
Super Tax...	265,000,000	125,915,000	24,100,000	330,000	360,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	61,000,000	28,080,000	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax...	8,000,000	11,240,000	14,350,000	190,000	280,000
Post Office...	20,000,000	36,500,000	34,650,000	1,000,000	1,050,000
Crown Lands...	53,500,000	900,000	690,000	130,000	130,000
Interest on Sundry Loans...	900,000	12,250,000	8,666,660	8,398,452	22,802
Miscellaneous...	11,850,000	8,244,670	9,104,926	74,622	40,865
Ordinary Receipts...	30,000,000	20,468,921	28,085,270	1,011,084	1,309,411
Special Receipts...	794,050,000	455,311,251	485,177,648	9,893,724	12,982,078
Revenue...	..	461,942,865	491,995,815	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Billion...	..	..	55,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904...	73,782	73,782	..	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921...	5,920,000	4,750,000	..	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1921 and 1924...	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1915...	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924...	260,719	..	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921...	400,000	820,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills...	1,601,397,000	1,672,186,000	45,135,000	54,364,000	..
By National Savings Certificates...	18,550,000	37,150,000	600,000	300,000	..
By Treasury Bonds, 1931-33...	15,931,370	29,444,877	..	236,250	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919...	3,700,000	..	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances...	536,369,000	559,355,000	2,500,000	31,200,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Dividends on Shares acquired...	23,108	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments:—					
In respect of Cunard Loan...	..	130,000	..	130,000	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919 and 1921...	577,041	195,688	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Section 59 (4) of Finance Act, 1920...	1,622,025	..	1,622,025	..	..
Total...	2,651,180,911	2,799,598,243	59,750,749	99,212,388	..



The Anglo-South American Bank Limited.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital - £10,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660
Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Paid-up Capital - £4,367,330

Northern District Office - 69, Market Street, Bradford.
Lancashire Branch - 19, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The Bank, in addition to 6 Branches in SPAIN, has, with its
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS,
THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.,
54 Offices in the principal countries of
LATIN AMERICA.
AUXILIARIES:
ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York), and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Nov. 29, 1924, to Dec. 1, 1923.	Issues. Week Ended Nov. 29, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 1, 1923.
National Debt Services—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	203,263,625	2,245,936	32,674,947
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	18,406,740	500,000	515,548
Road Fund	15,000,000	4,364,044	3,755,044	—
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	7,587,891	6,657,205	700,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	2,977,735	2,608,729	75,000
Land Settlement	750,000	377,549	336,422	496
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	1,656,635	1,596,889	10,596
Supply Services	408,919,000	245,694,398	243,136,418	7,210,000
Expenditure	733,759,000	483,728,617	514,183,276	41,190,587
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	—	5,000	—	—
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	73,782	73,782	—	—
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	650,000	820,000	90,000	—
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1922 and 1924	5,950,000	4,670,000	550,000	450,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	6,000	12,000	—	—
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	324,541	—	—	—
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	10,500	—	—	—
Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	5,790,000	4,750,000	—	270,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	1,565,245,000	1,641,995,000	42,445,000	53,720,000
Principal of National Saving Certificates	20,800,000	23,200,000	550,000	650,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	6,586,653	32,222,296	—	—
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	50	7,463,440	—	—
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	558,879,500	567,541,000	4,600,000	3,950,000
Anglo Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	23,109	50,081	—	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	—	55,214	—	—
Balance in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,012,815	1,924,257	19,660	363,135
Bank of Ireland	1,110,844	622,397	108,999	635,124
Total	3,123,659	2,546,554	89,339	998,259

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 62 of 1924.
Treasury, December 1, 1924.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments Reserve Account.	Redemption Account.	Bank of England Notes.	Ratio to Notes.	Notes in Circulation.	Balance in Bank of England.
Mar. 29, 1922.	300,351	14,255	5,000	88,500	15.9	361,479	177
June 28, 1922.	295,374	13,338	5,000	88,500	16.3	354,312	180
Sept. 27, 1922.	289,127	18,648	7,000	87,000	16.6	346,456	169
Dec. 27, 1922.	301,337	12,872	7,000	87,000	16.9	358,222	137
Mar. 28, 1923.	285,616	12,318	7,000	87,000	17.3	341,294	190
June 27, 1923.	286,503	12,516	7,000	87,000	17.3	342,446	123
Sept. 27, 1923.	282,784	12,401	7,000	87,000	17.5	338,595	140
Dec. 26, 1923.	299,070	12,571	7,000	87,000	16.9	355,032	159
Mar. 26, 1924.	281,538	11,908	7,000	87,000	17.6	336,867	130
June 25, 1924.	290,316	12,472	7,000	87,000	17.0	346,198	140
Sept. 24, 1924.	285,592	12,227	7,000	87,000	17.3	341,185	184
Nov. 19, 1924.	285,880	12,248	7,000	87,000	17.2	341,551	126
Nov. 26, 1924.	288,378	12,217	7,000	87,000	17.3	340,922	133
Dec. 3, 1924.	288,098	12,249	7,000	87,000	17.1	343,776	120

Since July 21, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum balance issue for 1920 fixed at £320,000,000, for 1921 at £317,565,200, for 1922 at £309,988,400, for 1923 at £270,183,800, and for 1924 at £248,190,900.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Dec. 8—Dec. 13 were opened on Dec. 5, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £64,675,000. For bills at three months dated Monday at £99 2s 4d and above in full. Tuesday to Saturday at £99 2s 1d, about 76 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £44,500,000; in bonds, £500,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Oct. 31, 1924.	35,000,000	57,395,000	3 12 10.66	—
Nov. 7, 1924.	35,000,000	59,080,000	3 14 1.6	94 10 0
Nov. 14, 1924.	30,000,000	52,975,000	3 14 0.65	94 10 0
Nov. 21, 1924.	35,000,000	57,400,000	3 13 9.38	—
Nov. 28, 1924.	35,000,000	72,040,000	3 18 9.78	94 10 0
Dec. 5, 1924.	45,000,000	64,675,000	3 12 3.17	94 10 0

Tenders will be received on Dec. 12, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14
34% Conversion Loan	—	—	—	—	266	684	686	666
4% War Stock	—	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	—	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	—	2,047	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,166	2,017	2,017
National War Bonds	—	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	954	820	813
4% Funding Loan	—	409	409	406	401	399	396	396
4% Victory Bonds	—	360	357	347	335	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds	—	20	323	319	289	185	150	150
Exchequer Bonds	—	267	274	285	342	354	367	363
National Savings Certs.	—	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,132
Other Debt*	—	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
American Loan (Anglo-French)	—	15	1,107	1,107	878	616	552	588
Treasury Bills	—	1	243	205	154	147	194	208
Temporary Advances	—	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801
Other Capital Liabilities	—	57	46	47	49	66	70	66
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances	Dec. 1, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Nov. 29, '24.	Week Ended Nov. 29, '24.
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	14,000,000	—	—	—
Advances by Public Deptms.	171,711,500	186,155,500	163,645,000	2,100,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	646,215,000	588,320,000	624,400,000	2,685,000
Total Floating Debt	831,926,500	774,475,500	788,045,000	585,000

* Includes £18,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.

ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS £2,048,905

CLAIMS PAID £33,813,270

Accidents and illness, Liability, Fidelity Guarantees, Burglary, Fire, Motor Cars, Public Liability, Inspection and Insurance of Boilers, Engines, Electrical Plant and Lifts, Executorships and Trusteeships.

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, December 3, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	146,421,775	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other securities	8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion	126,671,775
	146,421,775		146,421,775

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	Government securities	64,152,366
Rest	3,222,804	Other securities	72,851,66
Public deposits*	10,399,576	Notes	22,625,71
Other deposits	133,269,701	Gold and silver coin	1,822,94
Seven-day & other bills	7,600		
	161,452,681		161,452,68

Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Dec. 3, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. Last Year.
Rest	3,222,804	—	1,844
Public deposits	10,399,576	—	809,044
Other deposits	133,269,701	—	3,331,594
Government securities	64,152,363	—	5,571,628
Other securities	72,851,663	—	1,509,94
Reserve	24,448,065	—	2,837,21
Note circulation	123,766,065	—	2,315,72
Coin and bullion	126,671,775	—	621,49
% of reserve to liabilities	17%	—	24%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Circulation (excluding Bank Post Bills).	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
Oct. 29, 1924.	128,484,503	123,592,175	124,970,749	117,392,281	24,642,328	19 1/2
Nov. 5, 1924.	128,494,564	123,847,105	125,758,131	119,050,507	24,397,459	19 1/2
Nov. 12, 1924.	128,491,253	122,870,320	121,356,026	113,719,929	25,373,533	19 1/2
Nov. 19, 1924.	128,497,363	122,235,025	126,040,703	117,763,257	25,012,338	20 1/2
Nov. 26, 1924.	128,491,489	123,068,395	131,018,881	125,898,474	25,175,164	20 1/2
Dec. 3, 1924.	128,494,720	123,796,065	143,669,277	137,001,026	24,448,655	17

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to November 19	30,091,304	1,413,443	2,574,778	34,879,525
Nov. 26, 1924.	700,154	29,960	53,735	783,849
Dec. 3, 1924.	774,205	31,648	55,431	861,284
Total to date 1924.	32,365,663	1,475,051	2,683,944	36,524,658
Do 1923.	30,130,979	1,443,719	2,628,816	34,203,514
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 2,234,684	+ 31,332	+ 55,128	+ 2,321,144
	= 7.4 %	= 2.1 %	= 2.2 %	= 6.7 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,555	2,810,654	36,627,582
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,661	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923	= 1.6 %	= 1.8 %	= 0.2 %	= 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

Number of Working Days	Month of November.		Aggregate Weekly Totals to Nov. 29.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
BIRMINGHAM	26	29	£ 8,891,000	£ 10,396,000
BRISTOL	26	29	4,011,000	4,932,000
DUBLIN	26	29	4,810,000	5,051,000
LONDON	26	29	4,077,000	4,356,000
LEEDS	26	29	2,948,000	3,224,000
LIVERPOOL	26	29	38,048,000	39,709,000
MANCHESTER	26	29	63,817,000	68,696,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	26	29	8,679,000	7,348,000
NOTTINGHAM	26	29	2,455,000	2,658,000
SHEFFIELD	26	29	4,662,000	4,230,000
Total	142,398,000	150,530,000		

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Rentenbank appeared in the Economist of October 11; German Gold Discount, Greece and Egypt in November 15; Canada, Japan, Reichsbank, Norway, Lithuania and Bulgaria in November 28.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 21, 1924.	Nov. 14, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,046,250	3,050,820	3,047,880	3,112,440
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	87,700	92,410	90,060	84,845
Bills discounted for member banks	221,410	233,840	224,230	794,380
Bills bought in open market	281,000	275,250	248,190	283,000
Government obligations owned	582,220	587,080	588,360	84,460
All other resources	88,920	88,260	88,190	70,660
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	26,720	24,670	33,420	34,800
Other deposits	2,175,990	2,245,830	2,292,000	1,903,790
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,845,310	1,823,460	1,829,200	2,446,300
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation				500
All other liabilities	14,140	13,610	13,590	25,380
Capital and surplus	335,080	333,160	333,140	328,440
Ratio of total reserves to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.	77.7%	76.8%	77.2%	76.4%

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.
Coin and bullion	2,548	2,805	2,801	2,774	2,651	2,515
Of which gold coin	5	14	14	14	14	14
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,543	2,791	2,788	2,761	2,647	2,501
Balances, Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	14,815	12,824	12,124	12,748	12,184	12,537
Bills of exchange	15,977	16,112	16,282	14,687	14,373	14,257
Loans	3,791	2,481	1,968	980	999	1,785
Foreign exchange	9,675	12,808	16,332	15,799	17,410	14,554
Other balances on demand	16	67	1,436	1,768	..	..
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	500	7,500
Notes in circulation	28,939	24,972	27,060	25,030	27,937	25,416
Deposits on demand	11,094	13,471	13,101	15,713	13,376	12,987
Deposits at notice	11,094	13,471	13,101	15,713	13,376	12,987

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.
Liabilities of the Bank to the Bank of Austria	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,520	10,096,961
Disco'ts & advances	2,259,050	2,258,211	2,454,351	2,359,025	2,032,705	1,445,770
Gold & silver hold'gs	1,050,661	1,050,593	1,050,454	1,050,274	1,050,708	1,060,635
Foreign bills and balance abroad	704,737	675,242	669,661	658,592	673,166	1,655,249
Other assets	229,258	228,787	227,497	287,080	224,404	370,725
LIABILITIES.						
State's circ'ln	8,004,783	8,202,844	8,398,508	8,585,847	7,822,592	8,789,662
Deposits	5,027,415	4,721,547	4,719,566	4,487,109	4,824,251	4,710,444
Other liabilities	1,347,046	1,387,980	1,383,127	1,381,553	1,433,660	1,127,939

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

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.
Gold	110,606,045	110,521,919	110,472,281	110,472,281	110,472,281	62,116,939
Foreign bills	4,237,492,183	4,306,100,161	4,295,113,846	4,295,113,846	4,295,113,846	3,462,559,648
Bills discounted	1,974,039,763	2,039,352,639	2,039,352,639	2,039,352,639	2,039,352,639	1,097,559,891
Treasury bills	2,200,128,794	2,200,128,794	2,201,168,185	2,201,168,185	2,201,168,185	2,535,546,861
LIABILITIES.						
Reserve fund	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011
Notes in circulation	7,319,565,959	7,603,213,794	7,832,635,189	7,832,635,189	7,832,635,189	6,302,563,952
Deposits	1,225,953,401	1,046,107,573	969,988,072	969,988,072	969,988,072	854,839,150

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.
Metal reserve—						
Gold coin and bullion	506,106,272	506,077,102	503,378,966	503,378,966	503,378,966	503,378,966
Drafts and notes	1,848,382,594	1,853,855,480	1,766,409,917	1,766,409,917	1,766,409,917	1,766,409,917
Silver coin and bullion	13,300,871	13,300,888	13,300,976	13,300,976	13,300,976	13,300,976
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,607,565,829	1,921,058,735	1,895,366,826	1,895,366,826	1,895,366,826	1,895,366,826
Advances to the Treasury	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354
LIABILITIES.						
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664
Notes in circulation	4,088,859,830	4,392,851,728	4,488,533,827	4,488,533,827	4,488,533,827	4,488,533,827
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	2,237,954,118	1,945,914,201	1,730,499,169	1,730,499,169	1,730,499,169	1,730,499,169

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 23, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1923.
Gold	72,331	72,330	72,330	72,330	72,330	68,755
Other coin and notes	21,872	21,120	20,405	19,913	21,516	21,516
Foreign credits	383,545	383,364	386,244	383,942	357,048	357,048
Govt. advances	1,321,507	1,228,401	1,344,527	1,354,289	1,354,289	1,354,289
Govt. advances	4,564,524	4,564,523	4,564,523	4,564,524	4,576,739	4,576,739
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	5,926,949	5,900,269	6,049,094	5,989,948	5,979,475	5,979,475
State credits	389,952	389,952	389,952	389,952	389,952	389,952
Deposits	710,330	622,474	581,396	640,418	557,724	557,724

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Sept. 20, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Oct. 6, 1924.	May 12, 1924.
Gold	562,957	562,957	562,957	547,383	545,275
Silver, &c.	2,420	2,375	2,509	550	775
Government loan	11,545,360	11,554,489	11,537,719	11,946,495	12,585,130
Other advances	7,651,129	7,693,859	7,767,850	6,063,270	5,037,432
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	18,877,250	18,877,250	18,846,889	17,577,520	15,845,426
Deposits	8,619,324	6,620,324	6,760,279	6,332,861	7,077,350

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

Assets.	Dec. 1, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	13,140	13,140	13,140	13,140	8,741
Silver in bullion	1,298	1,298	1,197	743	90
Platinum	10,138	10,070	10,070	10,317	4,677
Foreign bank notes	360	352	353	355	447
Bills in sterling (less 10%)	25,022	23,382	23,382	22,488	6,720
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	8,727	9,705	9,207	8,707	6,286
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	57,719	57,569	56,211	54,358	26,776
Balance to which notes may still be issued	968	378	1,139	1,392	185

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1924.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	2,534,947	2,534,943	2,534,943	2,534,946	2,527,621	521,775
Silver	656,017	651,777	647,695	646,766	652,356	728,600
Loans & discounts	2,497,632	2,516,740	2,565,984	2,661,400	2,267,387	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,474,380	4,501,313	4,552,981	4,562,221	4,525,230	101,550
Deposits	930,089	933,933	934,910	873,042	966,463	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 5, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 22, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,612	9,585	9,520	9,537	27,246
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	345,532	305,796	295,533	276,522	88,059
Discounts	166,785	173,463	170,082	173,469	185,167
Government loans	1,650,506	1,619,711	1,608,779	1,588,792	1,061,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,778,734	1,747,490	1,737,891	1,733,707	1,344,314
Deposits	59,661	61,228	49,582	49,404	48,905

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Total cash	1,545,567	1,565,378	1,570,617	1,560,935	1,606,634	1,221,875
Inland bills	3,389,120	3,387,042	3,234,406	3,229,110	5,732,420	418,400
Foreign bills	15,677	15,677	15,626	15,626	15,626	81,500
Advances to the Treasury	5,533,430	5,533,430	5,566,863	5,566,963	5,839,095	nil
Other advances	2,396,289	2,442,051	1,908,852	1,786,999	2,798,527	79,175
Securities	379,378	379,432	386,101	382,634	382,604	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	14,052,422	13,966,536	13,660,441	13,739,674	12,870,346	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,651,578	1,675,131	1,799,427	1,808,212	1,393,826	193,975

LONDON RATES.

	Nov. 28, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1924.	Dec. 2, 1924.	Dec. 3, 1924.	Dec. 4, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
4 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
6 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
Loans—Day to day	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Short	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposit allowances: Banks	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Nov. 28, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1924.	Dec. 2, 1924.	Dec. 3, 1924.	Dec. 4, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.
Short Loans.							
3 Months.	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 Months.	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
6 Months.	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
Trade Bills.							
3 Months.	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
4 Months.	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
6 Months.	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	Jan. 24, 1924 ..	5	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923 ..	5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923 ..	7 1/2	Paris	Jan. 17, 1924 ..	6
Belgrade .....	.....	6	Prague	May 27, 1924 ..	6
Berlin	Jan. 30, 1924 ..	10	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924 ..	5 1/2
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923 ..	5 1/2	Rome	July 11, 1922 ..	8
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920 ..	6	Sofia .....	.....	.....
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924 ..	12 1/2	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923 ..	7
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924 ..	6	Swiss Bank .....	.....	.....
Christiania	Nov. 25, 1924 ..	6 1/2	 places	July 14, 1923 ..	4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924 ..	7	Tokyo	Nov. 18, 1923 ..	13
Danzig	Sept. 11, 1924 ..	10	Vienna	Nov. 8, 1924 ..	13
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924 ..	9	Warsaw .....	.....	.....
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923 ..	9		(See note below)	
New York Federal Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924 ..	3			
The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 5 1/2% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).			Irish..... July 5, 1923 ..		
Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12 loans on collateral security, gold francs, 15%.			Reserve Bank is 5 1/2% for first-class commercial bills (of not more than six months).		
We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3 1/2 per cent. to 4 per cent.					

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Nov. 28, 1924.	(c) Week ended Nov. 30, 1924.	Miles Open.	Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 48 Weeks, 1924.	Passenger, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western.....	5,754	209,000	355,000	564,000	1,228,000	1,228,000	1,228,000	1,228,000	2,456,000
Do for 1923.....	5,751	205,000	351,000	554,000	1,110,000	1,110,000	1,110,000	1,110,000	2,220,000
Do same period 1923.....	5,702	203,000	349,000	550,000	1,102,000	1,102,000	1,102,000	1,102,000	2,204,000
London, Mid., & Scottish.....	6,942	514,000	929,000	1,443,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	6,148,000
Do for 1923.....	6,942	514,000	929,000	1,443,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	3,074,000	6,148,000
Southern.....	2,155	263,200	439,000	699,000	1,401,200	1,401,200	1,401,200	1,401,200	2,802,400
Do for 1923.....	2,142	246,200	420,000	666,000	1,332,200	1,332,200	1,332,200	1,332,200	2,664,400
Metropolitan (c).....	79	31,350	4,153	35,503	1,526,857	1,526,857	1,526,857	1,526,857	3,053,714
Do for 1923.....	79	31,350	4,153	35,503	1,526,857	1,526,857	1,526,857	1,526,857	3,053,714
Underground E.R. (c).....	80	3,100	1,222	4,322	218,402	218,402	218,402	218,402	436,804
Do for 1923.....	80	3,100	1,222	4,322	218,402	218,402	218,402	218,402	436,804
Lon. & Sub. Group (c).....	160	4,879	3,303	8,182	300,849	300,849	300,849	300,849	601,698
Do for 1923.....	160	4,879	3,303	8,182	300,849	300,849	300,849	300,849	601,698
Belfast & Co. Down (b).....	562	13,850	23,950	37,800	907,500	907,500	907,500	907,500	1,815,000
Dublin and S.-East (b).....	562	13,850	23,950	37,800	907,500	907,500	907,500	907,500	1,815,000
Great Northern.....	1,750	29,037	45,471	74,508	3,977,642	3,977,642	3,977,642	3,977,642	7,955,284
Great Southern.....	1,750	29,037	45,471	74,508	3,977,642	3,977,642	3,977,642	3,977,642	7,955,284

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -

INDIAN.

			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Assam Bengal	31 weeks	Nov. 1	1,072	3,52,000 +	16,239	88,30,546 + 11,94,69,94	
Barclai L. Ry.	31 weeks		8,118	76,000 +	56,200	10,72,000 + 1,36,30,00	
Bombay, N. W. Ry.	31 weeks		2,053	4,66,500 +	77,931	10,72,000 + 1,36,30,00	
Bombay Nagpur	31 weeks		8,200	1,05,000 +	23,720	88,30,546 + 11,94,69,94	
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	35 weeks		3,005	24,09,000 +	51,000	7,59,77,000 + 42,28,000	
Burma	31 weeks		1,342	2,26,464 +	14,559	20,02,384 + 52,40,00	
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	7 weeks		15	239	128,000 +	7,783	7,09,857 + 49,84
East Indian	35 weeks		2,873	33,17,000 +	1,33,000	11,55,52,000 + 65,06,00	
G. Gandhinagar	32 weeks		2,325	29,30,500 +	1,30,300	9,13,97,391 + 1,08,07,00	
Gandhinagar & S. Mahr	32 weeks		2,325	29,30,500 +	1,30,300	9,13,97,391 + 1,08,07,00	
Robhil'd & Penusala	5 weeks		259	29,577 +	15,185	138,540 + 86,32	
Do Lucknow-Breilly	5 weeks		1	287	40,694 +	8,054	1,94,748 + 15,37,26
South Indian	31 weeks		8,177	8,83,713 +	51,850	2,98,87,764 + 11,42,26	

ARGENTINE (a).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Argentine N.E.	22 weeks	Nov. 29	754	13,500 + 700	281,800 + 35,800
Argentine Pacific.....	22 weeks	29	2,602	125,600 + 13,000	3,261,000 + 333,000
B.A. and Pacific.....	22 weeks	29	2,602	125,600 + 13,000	3,261,000 + 333,000
B.A. Central.....	22 weeks	29	1,341	1,172 + 281,966	66,574
B.A. Gt. Southern.....	22 weeks	29	4,713	213,000 + 8,000	4,279,000 + 614,000
B.A. Western.....	22 weeks	29	1,882	96,000 + 6,000	2,076,000 + 332,000
Central Argentine.....	22 weeks	29	3,305	207,000 + 5,000	4,791,000 + 336,000
Corrientes Central.....	22 weeks	29	1,202	60,000 + 7,000	1,436,000 + 130,000
Entre Rios.....	22 weeks	29	729	27,900 + 5,700	488,900 + 71,900

CANADIAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Canadian National.....	48 weeks	Nov. 30	22,680	15,936,310 + 114,930	216,271,446 + 142,093,4
Canadian Pacific.....	48 weeks	30	14,025	14,839,000 + 151,200	166,621,000 + 100,790,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
St. West. of Brazil.....	48 weeks	Nov. 29	1,011	19,500 + 6,800	471,100 + 14,500
Leopoldina.....	48 weeks	29	1,831	35,925 + 9,186	1,500,251 + 250,772
San Paulo.....	48 weeks	30	1,534	49,004 + 21,481	1,789,986 + 379,368

CHILEAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Antofagasta.....	48 weeks	Nov. 30	838	49,295 + 3,790	1,853,275 + 120,395
Nitrate (3-monthly).....	46 weeks	15	366	43,302 + 15,093	855,133 + 188,040

CUBAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Havana Central.....	22 weeks	Nov. 29	12,791 + 513	266,438 + 7,378	
United of Havana.....	22 weeks	22	1,250	65,453 + 8,080	1,410,914 + 148,885

URUGUAYAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Central Uruguay.....	22 weeks	Nov. 29	273	33,829 + 5,023	534,558 + 3,124
C. Urug. (East. Ekt.).....	22 weeks	29	311	7,059 + 274	99,771 + 2,016
C. Urug. (North. Ekt.).....	22 weeks	29	185	3,344 + 438	62,750 + 5,257
C. Urug. (West. Ekt.).....	22 weeks	29	211	2,875 + 317	55,398 + 6,571

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.	Total Gross Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Alcoy and Gandia.....	48 weeks	Nov. 29	33	Pa. 34,000 + 8,000	1,125,350 + 138,050
Egyptian Delta.....	33 weeks	30	600	15,368 + 621	225,299 + 29,989
Gt. Southern of Spain.....	47 weeks	22	104	Pa. 120,346 + 20,541	4,841,566 + 304,936
Mexican Railway.....	30 weeks	30	397	\$377,500 + 7,400	5,698,500 + 635,700
New Cape Central.....	45 weeks	8	205	2,836 + 7	120,878 + 2,847
Paraguay Central.....	22 weeks	29	274	4,340 + 970	97,690 + 16,000
Salvador.....	22 weeks	29	100	2,634 + 2	58,101 + 4,388

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.	Total Receipts.
				1924. + or -	1924. + or -
Anglo-Argentine.....	48 weeks	Dec. 1	329	489,768 + 3,504	4,188,384 + 135,353
Buenos Aires La-croze Tramways.....	21 weeks	Nov. 24	12	214,143 + 319	283,612 + 6,939
Burnley Corporation.....	1 week	30	12	23,225 + 376	
Calcutta Tramways.....	48 weeks	29	353	Rs. 129,348 + 912	6,95,994
Chatham & District.....	48 weeks	27	15	21,332 + 120	68,713 + 5,910
Egyptian Markets.....	47 weeks	27	27	22,048 + 685	98,013 + 7,007
Glasgow Corporation.....	26 weeks	29	106	246,593 + 3,091	1,164,595 + 24,570
Isle of Thanet Trams.....	60 weeks	26	25	21,830 + 168	134,718 + 1,672
Lanarkshire Trams.....	33 weeks	Aug. 27	283	1,614 + 65	47,599 + 5,633
Liverpool Corporation.....	34 weeks	Nov. 22	124	225,424 + 2,886	851,845 + 64,620
L.C.C. Tramways.....	35 weeks	Dec. 3	164	282,097 + 834	2,835,610 + 186,925
Madras E.R. (2 wks).....	50 weeks	Nov. 30	30	Rs. 44,183 + 4,519	11,08,759 + 42,887
Paramaribo Trams.....	48 weeks	30	30	24,726 + 1,565	212,877 + 39,627
Singapore Trams.....	48 weeks	29	30	213,668 + 1,348	630,327 + 135,804

* Combined revenue.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim Div.	Date of Pay-ment.	Method of Payment.		
Banks.					
Bank of New South Wales	10	Dec. 19	Quarterly	%	%
Bank of Nova Scotia	4	..	Quarterly	..	..
British Overseas "A" Shares	3½	..	Less tax	6	6
Equitable Trust of New York	3½	..	Quarterly	..	..
Ionian	5/	(bonus of 2 p.s.)	Quarterly	8	7
Molson (Montreal)	3%	Jan. 2	Quarterly	..	..
Yokohama Specie	12	..	..	..	..
Railways.					
Rohilkund and Kumaon	4%†	(bonus of 1 p.s.)	3% Less tax at 2/7 in £	12½	..
Insurance.					
Queensland	..	..	..	12½	12½
Mining.					
Frontino and Bolivia Gold	5%†	..	Less tax	10	10
Lonely Reef Gold	10%†	..	Tax free	20	7
Pahang Tin	15%†	..	..	..	..
Utah Copper	\$1	Dec. 31	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.					
Budha Beta Tea	25%*	Dec. 19	Tax free	..	..
Buxa Doora Tea	20%*	Dec. 7	Tax free	..	..
Caledonian	10%*	Dec. 18	Less tax at 4/6 in £	..	..
Dims Tea	20%*	Dec. 2	Tax free	..	..
Hornsey Tea	5%*	Dec. 16	..	..	..
Jeting Valley Tea	10%*	Dec. 31	Less tax	..	..
Jugra Rubber	10%*	Dec. 10	Less tax	..	..
Kapar Para Rubber	10%*	Dec. 19	Less tax	..	..
Kolabur and Seconee Tea	5%*	Dec. 8	Less tax	5	nil
Krubong (Malacca) Rubber	10%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Lankapura Tea	10%*	..	Less tax	..	..
Makum (A-sam) Tea	10%*	..	Tax free	10	8
Malaya General	..	..	Less tax	nil	8
Monerskelle Rubber	..	..	..	..	..
Nedee Tea	10%*	Dec. 22	Less tax at 4/6 in £	..	..
Pelepah Tea	24%*	..	..	..	..
Rupai Tea	15%*	Dec. 11	Less tax	..	..
Stagbrook	7½%*	Dec. 15	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..
Upper Assam Tea	10%*	Dec. 10	Less tax	5	10
Other Companies.					
A. and R. Thwaites	9†	(bonus of 2/ p.s.)	Less tax	9	10
Abington Works, "A" Cum. Pr. Div. "B" Cum. Pr. Div. "C" Cum. Pr. Div. "D" Cum. Pr. Div. "E" Cum. Pr. Div. "F" Cum. Pr. Div. "G" Cum. Pr. Div. "H" Cum. Pr. Div. "I" Cum. Pr. Div. "J" Cum. Pr. Div. "K" Cum. Pr. Div. "L" Cum. Pr. Div. "M" Cum. Pr. Div. "N" Cum. Pr. Div. "O" Cum. Pr. Div. "P" Cum. Pr. Div. "Q" Cum. Pr. Div. "R" Cum. Pr. Div. "S" Cum. Pr. Div. "T" Cum. Pr. Div. "U" Cum. Pr. Div. "V" Cum. Pr. Div. "W" Cum. Pr. Div. "X" Cum. Pr. Div. "Y" Cum. Pr. Div. "Z" Cum. Pr. Div. "AA" Cum. Pr. Div. "AB" Cum. Pr. Div. "AC" Cum. Pr. Div. "AD" Cum. Pr. Div. "AE" Cum. Pr. Div. "AF" Cum. Pr. Div. "AG" Cum. Pr. Div. "AH" Cum. Pr. Div. "AI" Cum. Pr. Div. "AJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "AK" Cum. Pr. Div. "AL" Cum. Pr. Div. "AM" Cum. Pr. Div. "AN" Cum. Pr. Div. "AO" Cum. Pr. Div. "AP" Cum. Pr. Div. "AQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "AR" Cum. Pr. Div. "AS" Cum. Pr. Div. "AT" Cum. Pr. Div. "AU" Cum. Pr. Div. "AV" Cum. Pr. Div. "AW" Cum. Pr. Div. "AX" Cum. Pr. Div. "AY" Cum. Pr. Div. "AZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "BA" Cum. Pr. Div. "BB" Cum. Pr. Div. "BC" Cum. Pr. Div. "BD" Cum. Pr. Div. "BE" Cum. Pr. Div. "BF" Cum. Pr. Div. "BG" Cum. Pr. Div. "BH" Cum. Pr. Div. "BI" Cum. Pr. Div. "BJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "BK" Cum. Pr. Div. "BL" Cum. Pr. Div. "BM" Cum. Pr. Div. "BN" Cum. Pr. Div. "BO" Cum. Pr. Div. "BP" Cum. Pr. Div. "BQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "BR" Cum. Pr. Div. "BS" Cum. Pr. Div. "BT" Cum. Pr. Div. "BU" Cum. Pr. Div. "BV" Cum. Pr. Div. "BW" Cum. Pr. Div. "BX" Cum. Pr. Div. "BY" Cum. Pr. Div. "BZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "CA" Cum. Pr. Div. "CB" Cum. Pr. Div. "CC" Cum. Pr. Div. "CD" Cum. Pr. Div. "CE" Cum. Pr. Div. "CF" Cum. Pr. Div. "CG" Cum. Pr. Div. "CH" Cum. Pr. Div. "CI" Cum. Pr. Div. "CJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "CK" Cum. Pr. Div. "CL" Cum. Pr. Div. "CM" Cum. Pr. Div. "CN" Cum. Pr. Div. "CO" Cum. Pr. Div. "CP" Cum. Pr. Div. "CQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "CR" Cum. Pr. Div. "CS" Cum. Pr. Div. "CT" Cum. Pr. Div. "CU" Cum. Pr. Div. "CV" Cum. Pr. Div. "CW" Cum. Pr. Div. "CX" Cum. Pr. Div. "CY" Cum. Pr. Div. "CZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "DA" Cum. Pr. Div. "DB" Cum. Pr. Div. "DC" Cum. Pr. Div. "DD" Cum. Pr. Div. "DE" Cum. Pr. Div. "DF" Cum. Pr. Div. "DG" Cum. Pr. Div. "DH" Cum. Pr. Div. "DI" Cum. Pr. Div. "DJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "DK" Cum. Pr. Div. "DL" Cum. Pr. Div. "DM" Cum. Pr. Div. "DN" Cum. Pr. Div. "DO" Cum. Pr. Div. "DP" Cum. Pr. Div. "DQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "DR" Cum. Pr. Div. "DS" Cum. Pr. Div. "DT" Cum. Pr. Div. "DU" Cum. Pr. Div. "DV" Cum. Pr. Div. "DW" Cum. Pr. Div. "DX" Cum. Pr. Div. "DY" Cum. Pr. Div. "DZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "EA" Cum. Pr. Div. "EB" Cum. Pr. Div. "EC" Cum. Pr. Div. "ED" Cum. Pr. Div. "EE" Cum. Pr. Div. "EF" Cum. Pr. Div. "EG" Cum. Pr. Div. "EH" Cum. Pr. Div. "EI" Cum. Pr. Div. "EJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "EK" Cum. Pr. Div. "EL" Cum. Pr. Div. "EM" Cum. Pr. Div. "EN" Cum. Pr. Div. "EO" Cum. Pr. Div. "EP" Cum. Pr. Div. "EQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "ER" Cum. Pr. Div. "ES" Cum. Pr. Div. "ET" Cum. Pr. Div. "EU" Cum. Pr. Div. "EV" Cum. Pr. Div. "EW" Cum. Pr. Div. "EX" Cum. Pr. Div. "EY" Cum. Pr. Div. "EZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "FA" Cum. Pr. Div. "FB" Cum. Pr. Div. "FC" Cum. Pr. Div. "FD" Cum. Pr. Div. "FE" Cum. Pr. Div. "FF" Cum. Pr. Div. "FG" Cum. Pr. Div. "FH" Cum. Pr. Div. "FI" Cum. Pr. Div. "FJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "FK" Cum. Pr. Div. "FL" Cum. Pr. Div. "FM" Cum. Pr. Div. "FN" Cum. Pr. Div. "FO" Cum. Pr. Div. "FP" Cum. Pr. Div. "FQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "FR" Cum. Pr. Div. "FS" Cum. Pr. Div. "FT" Cum. Pr. Div. "FU" Cum. Pr. Div. "FV" Cum. Pr. Div. "FW" Cum. Pr. Div. "FX" Cum. Pr. Div. "FY" Cum. Pr. Div. "FZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "GA" Cum. Pr. Div. "GB" Cum. Pr. Div. "GC" Cum. Pr. Div. "GD" Cum. Pr. Div. "GE" Cum. Pr. Div. "GF" Cum. Pr. Div. "GG" Cum. Pr. Div. "GH" Cum. Pr. Div. "GI" Cum. Pr. Div. "GJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "GK" Cum. Pr. Div. "GL" Cum. Pr. Div. "GM" Cum. Pr. Div. "GN" Cum. Pr. Div. "GO" Cum. Pr. Div. "GP" Cum. Pr. Div. "GQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "GR" Cum. Pr. Div. "GS" Cum. Pr. Div. "GT" Cum. Pr. Div. "GU" Cum. Pr. Div. "GV" Cum. Pr. Div. "GW" Cum. Pr. Div. "GX" Cum. Pr. Div. "GY" Cum. Pr. Div. "GZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "HA" Cum. Pr. Div. "HB" Cum. Pr. Div. "HC" Cum. Pr. Div. "HD" Cum. Pr. Div. "HE" Cum. Pr. Div. "HF" Cum. Pr. Div. "HG" Cum. Pr. Div. "HH" Cum. Pr. Div. "HI" Cum. Pr. Div. "HJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "HK" Cum. Pr. Div. "HL" Cum. Pr. Div. "HM" Cum. Pr. Div. "HN" Cum. Pr. Div. "HO" Cum. Pr. Div. "HP" Cum. Pr. Div. "HQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "HR" Cum. Pr. Div. "HS" Cum. Pr. Div. "HT" Cum. Pr. Div. "HU" Cum. Pr. Div. "HV" Cum. Pr. Div. "HW" Cum. Pr. Div. "HX" Cum. Pr. Div. "HY" Cum. Pr. Div. "HZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "IA" Cum. Pr. Div. "IB" Cum. Pr. Div. "IC" Cum. Pr. Div. "ID" Cum. Pr. Div. "IE" Cum. Pr. Div. "IF" Cum. Pr. Div. "IG" Cum. Pr. Div. "IH" Cum. Pr. Div. "II" Cum. Pr. Div. "IJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "IK" Cum. Pr. Div. "IL" Cum. Pr. Div. "IM" Cum. Pr. Div. "IN" Cum. Pr. Div. "IO" Cum. Pr. Div. "IP" Cum. Pr. Div. "IQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "IR" Cum. Pr. Div. "IS" Cum. Pr. Div. "IT" Cum. Pr. Div. "IU" Cum. Pr. Div. "IV" Cum. Pr. Div. "IW" Cum. Pr. Div. "IX" Cum. Pr. Div. "IY" Cum. Pr. Div. "IZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "JA" Cum. Pr. Div. "JB" Cum. Pr. Div. "JC" Cum. Pr. Div. "JD" Cum. Pr. Div. "JE" Cum. Pr. Div. "JF" Cum. Pr. Div. "JG" Cum. Pr. Div. "JH" Cum. Pr. Div. "JI" Cum. Pr. Div. "JJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "JK" Cum. Pr. Div. "JL" Cum. Pr. Div. "JM" Cum. Pr. Div. "JN" Cum. Pr. Div. "JO" Cum. Pr. Div. "JP" Cum. Pr. Div. "JQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "JR" Cum. Pr. Div. "JS" Cum. Pr. Div. "JT" Cum. Pr. Div. "JU" Cum. Pr. Div. "JV" Cum. Pr. Div. "JW" Cum. Pr. Div. "JX" Cum. Pr. Div. "JY" Cum. Pr. Div. "JZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "KA" Cum. Pr. Div. "KB" Cum. Pr. Div. "KC" Cum. Pr. Div. "KD" Cum. Pr. Div. "KE" Cum. Pr. Div. "KF" Cum. Pr. Div. "KG" Cum. Pr. Div. "KH" Cum. Pr. Div. "KI" Cum. Pr. Div. "KJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "KL" Cum. Pr. Div. "KM" Cum. Pr. Div. "KN" Cum. Pr. Div. "KO" Cum. Pr. Div. "KP" Cum. Pr. Div. "KQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "KR" Cum. Pr. Div. "KS" Cum. Pr. Div. "KT" Cum. Pr. Div. "KU" Cum. Pr. Div. "KV" Cum. Pr. Div. "KW" Cum. Pr. Div. "KX" Cum. Pr. Div. "KY" Cum. Pr. Div. "KZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "LA" Cum. Pr. Div. "LB" Cum. Pr. Div. "LC" Cum. Pr. Div. "LD" Cum. Pr. Div. "LE" Cum. Pr. Div. "LF" Cum. Pr. Div. "LG" Cum. Pr. Div. "LH" Cum. Pr. Div. "LI" Cum. Pr. Div. "LJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "LK" Cum. Pr. Div. "LM" Cum. Pr. Div. "LN" Cum. Pr. Div. "LO" Cum. Pr. Div. "LP" Cum. Pr. Div. "LQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "LR" Cum. Pr. Div. "LS" Cum. Pr. Div. "LT" Cum. Pr. Div. "LU" Cum. Pr. Div. "LV" Cum. Pr. Div. "LW" Cum. Pr. Div. "LX" Cum. Pr. Div. "LY" Cum. Pr. Div. "LZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "MA" Cum. Pr. Div. "MB" Cum. Pr. Div. "MC" Cum. Pr. Div. "MD" Cum. Pr. Div. "ME" Cum. Pr. Div. "MF" Cum. Pr. Div. "MG" Cum. Pr. Div. "MH" Cum. Pr. Div. "MI" Cum. Pr. Div. "MJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "MK" Cum. Pr. Div. "ML" Cum. Pr. Div. "MN" Cum. Pr. Div. "MO" Cum. Pr. Div. "MP" Cum. Pr. Div. "MQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "MR" Cum. Pr. Div. "MS" Cum. Pr. Div. "MT" Cum. Pr. Div. "MU" Cum. Pr. Div. "MV" Cum. Pr. Div. "MW" Cum. Pr. Div. "MX" Cum. Pr. Div. "MY" Cum. Pr. Div. "MZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "NA" Cum. Pr. Div. "NB" Cum. Pr. Div. "NC" Cum. Pr. Div. "ND" Cum. Pr. Div. "NE" Cum. Pr. Div. "NF" Cum. Pr. Div. "NG" Cum. Pr. Div. "NH" Cum. Pr. Div. "NI" Cum. Pr. Div. "NJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "NK" Cum. Pr. Div. "NL" Cum. Pr. Div. "NM" Cum. Pr. Div. "NO" Cum. Pr. Div. "NP" Cum. Pr. Div. "NQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "NR" Cum. Pr. Div. "NS" Cum. Pr. Div. "NT" Cum. Pr. Div. "NU" Cum. Pr. Div. "NV" Cum. Pr. Div. "NW" Cum. Pr. Div. "NX" Cum. Pr. Div. "NY" Cum. Pr. Div. "NZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "OA" Cum. Pr. Div. "OB" Cum. Pr. Div. "OC" Cum. Pr. Div. "OD" Cum. Pr. Div. "OE" Cum. Pr. Div. "OF" Cum. Pr. Div. "OG" Cum. Pr. Div. "OH" Cum. Pr. Div. "OI" Cum. Pr. Div. "OJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "OK" Cum. Pr. Div. "OL" Cum. Pr. Div. "OM" Cum. Pr. Div. "ON" Cum. Pr. Div. "OO" Cum. Pr. Div. "OP" Cum. Pr. Div. "OQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "OR" Cum. Pr. Div. "OS" Cum. Pr. Div. "OT" Cum. Pr. Div. "OU" Cum. Pr. Div. "OV" Cum. Pr. Div. "OW" Cum. Pr. Div. "OX" Cum. Pr. Div. "OY" Cum. Pr. Div. "OZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "PA" Cum. Pr. Div. "PB" Cum. Pr. Div. "PC" Cum. Pr. Div. "PD" Cum. Pr. Div. "PE" Cum. Pr. Div. "PF" Cum. Pr. Div. "PG" Cum. Pr. Div. "PH" Cum. Pr. Div. "PI" Cum. Pr. Div. "PJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "PK" Cum. Pr. Div. "PL" Cum. Pr. Div. "PM" Cum. Pr. Div. "PN" Cum. Pr. Div. "PO" Cum. Pr. Div. "PP" Cum. Pr. Div. "PQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "PR" Cum. Pr. Div. "PS" Cum. Pr. Div. "PT" Cum. Pr. Div. "PU" Cum. Pr. Div. "PV" Cum. Pr. Div. "PW" Cum. Pr. Div. "PX" Cum. Pr. Div. "PY" Cum. Pr. Div. "PZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "QA" Cum. Pr. Div. "QB" Cum. Pr. Div. "QC" Cum. Pr. Div. "QD" Cum. Pr. Div. "QE" Cum. Pr. Div. "QF" Cum. Pr. Div. "QG" Cum. Pr. Div. "QH" Cum. Pr. Div. "QI" Cum. Pr. Div. "QJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "QK" Cum. Pr. Div. "QL" Cum. Pr. Div. "QM" Cum. Pr. Div. "QN" Cum. Pr. Div. "QO" Cum. Pr. Div. "QP" Cum. Pr. Div. "QQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "QR" Cum. Pr. Div. "QS" Cum. Pr. Div. "QT" Cum. Pr. Div. "QU" Cum. Pr. Div. "QV" Cum. Pr. Div. "QW" Cum. Pr. Div. "QX" Cum. Pr. Div. "QY" Cum. Pr. Div. "QZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "RA" Cum. Pr. Div. "RB" Cum. Pr. Div. "RC" Cum. Pr. Div. "RD" Cum. Pr. Div. "RE" Cum. Pr. Div. "RF" Cum. Pr. Div. "RG" Cum. Pr. Div. "RH" Cum. Pr. Div. "RI" Cum. Pr. Div. "RJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "RK" Cum. Pr. Div. "RL" Cum. Pr. Div. "RM" Cum. Pr. Div. "RN" Cum. Pr. Div. "RO" Cum. Pr. Div. "RP" Cum. Pr. Div. "RQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "RR" Cum. Pr. Div. "RS" Cum. Pr. Div. "RT" Cum. Pr. Div. "RU" Cum. Pr. Div. "RV" Cum. Pr. Div. "RW" Cum. Pr. Div. "RX" Cum. Pr. Div. "RY" Cum. Pr. Div. "RZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "SA" Cum. Pr. Div. "SB" Cum. Pr. Div. "SC" Cum. Pr. Div. "SD" Cum. Pr. Div. "SE" Cum. Pr. Div. "SF" Cum. Pr. Div. "SG" Cum. Pr. Div. "SH" Cum. Pr. Div. "SI" Cum. Pr. Div. "SJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "SK" Cum. Pr. Div. "SL" Cum. Pr. Div. "SM" Cum. Pr. Div. "SN" Cum. Pr. Div. "SO" Cum. Pr. Div. "SP" Cum. Pr. Div. "SQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "SR" Cum. Pr. Div. "SS" Cum. Pr. Div. "ST" Cum. Pr. Div. "SU" Cum. Pr. Div. "SV" Cum. Pr. Div. "SW" Cum. Pr. Div. "SX" Cum. Pr. Div. "SY" Cum. Pr. Div. "SZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "TA" Cum. Pr. Div. "TB" Cum. Pr. Div. "TC" Cum. Pr. Div. "TD" Cum. Pr. Div. "TE" Cum. Pr. Div. "TF" Cum. Pr. Div. "TG" Cum. Pr. Div. "TH" Cum. Pr. Div. "TI" Cum. Pr. Div. "TJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "TK" Cum. Pr. Div. "TL" Cum. Pr. Div. "TM" Cum. Pr. Div. "TN" Cum. Pr. Div. "TO" Cum. Pr. Div. "TP" Cum. Pr. Div. "TQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "TR" Cum. Pr. Div. "TS" Cum. Pr. Div. "TT" Cum. Pr. Div. "TU" Cum. Pr. Div. "TV" Cum. Pr. Div. "TW" Cum. Pr. Div. "TX" Cum. Pr. Div. "TY" Cum. Pr. Div. "TZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "UA" Cum. Pr. Div. "UB" Cum. Pr. Div. "UC" Cum. Pr. Div. "UD" Cum. Pr. Div. "UE" Cum. Pr. Div. "UF" Cum. Pr. Div. "UG" Cum. Pr. Div. "UH" Cum. Pr. Div. "UI" Cum. Pr. Div. "UJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "UK" Cum. Pr. Div. "UL" Cum. Pr. Div. "UM" Cum. Pr. Div. "UN" Cum. Pr. Div. "UO" Cum. Pr. Div. "UP" Cum. Pr. Div. "UQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "UR" Cum. Pr. Div. "US" Cum. Pr. Div. "UT" Cum. Pr. Div. "UU" Cum. Pr. Div. "UV" Cum. Pr. Div. "UW" Cum. Pr. Div. "UX" Cum. Pr. Div. "UY" Cum. Pr. Div. "UZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "VA" Cum. Pr. Div. "VB" Cum. Pr. Div. "VC" Cum. Pr. Div. "VD" Cum. Pr. Div. "VE" Cum. Pr. Div. "VF" Cum. Pr. Div. "VG" Cum. Pr. Div. "VH" Cum. Pr. Div. "VI" Cum. Pr. Div. "VJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "VK" Cum. Pr. Div. "VL" Cum. Pr. Div. "VM" Cum. Pr. Div. "VN" Cum. Pr. Div. "VO" Cum. Pr. Div. "VP" Cum. Pr. Div. "VQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "VR" Cum. Pr. Div. "VS" Cum. Pr. Div. "VT" Cum. Pr. Div. "VU" Cum. Pr. Div. "VV" Cum. Pr. Div. "VW" Cum. Pr. Div. "VX" Cum. Pr. Div. "VY" Cum. Pr. Div. "VZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "WA" Cum. Pr. Div. "WB" Cum. Pr. Div. "WC" Cum. Pr. Div. "WD" Cum. Pr. Div. "WE" Cum. Pr. Div. "WF" Cum. Pr. Div. "WG" Cum. Pr. Div. "WH" Cum. Pr. Div. "WI" Cum. Pr. Div. "WJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "WK" Cum. Pr. Div. "WL" Cum. Pr. Div. "WM" Cum. Pr. Div. "WN" Cum. Pr. Div. "WO" Cum. Pr. Div. "WP" Cum. Pr. Div. "WQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "WR" Cum. Pr. Div. "WS" Cum. Pr. Div. "WT" Cum. Pr. Div. "WU" Cum. Pr. Div. "WV" Cum. Pr. Div. "WW" Cum. Pr. Div. "WX" Cum. Pr. Div. "WY" Cum. Pr. Div. "WZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "XA" Cum. Pr. Div. "XB" Cum. Pr. Div. "XC" Cum. Pr. Div. "XD" Cum. Pr. Div. "XE" Cum. Pr. Div. "XF" Cum. Pr. Div. "XG" Cum. Pr. Div. "XH" Cum. Pr. Div. "XI" Cum. Pr. Div. "XJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "XK" Cum. Pr. Div. "XL" Cum. Pr. Div. "XM" Cum. Pr. Div. "XN" Cum. Pr. Div. "XO" Cum. Pr. Div. "XP" Cum. Pr. Div. "XQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "XR" Cum. Pr. Div. "XS" Cum. Pr. Div. "XT" Cum. Pr. Div. "XU" Cum. Pr. Div. "XV" Cum. Pr. Div. "XW" Cum. Pr. Div. "XX" Cum. Pr. Div. "XY" Cum. Pr. Div. "XZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "YA" Cum. Pr. Div. "YB" Cum. Pr. Div. "YC" Cum. Pr. Div. "YD" Cum. Pr. Div. "YE" Cum. Pr. Div. "YF" Cum. Pr. Div. "YG" Cum. Pr. Div. "YH" Cum. Pr. Div. "YI" Cum. Pr. Div. "YJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "YK" Cum. Pr. Div. "YL" Cum. Pr. Div. "YM" Cum. Pr. Div. "YN" Cum. Pr. Div. "YO" Cum. Pr. Div. "YP" Cum. Pr. Div. "YQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "YR" Cum. Pr. Div. "YS" Cum. Pr. Div. "YT" Cum. Pr. Div. "YU" Cum. Pr. Div. "YV" Cum. Pr. Div. "YW" Cum. Pr. Div. "YX" Cum. Pr. Div. "YZ" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZA" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZB" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZC" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZD" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZE" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZF" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZG" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZH" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZI" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZJ" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZK" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZL" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZM" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZN" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZO" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZP" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZQ" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZR" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZS" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZT" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZU" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZV" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZW" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZX" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZY" Cum. Pr. Div. "ZZ" Cum. Pr. Div.					

barely steady, best milling samples ruling at 12s to 12s 6d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Imported descriptions moved off slowly, and values generally tended in buyers' favour. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 6s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 6s, No. 2 mixed Durum 6s, and choice white Karachi 6s, all ex ship terms per 406 lbs. Dull conditions prevailed in the floating and forward cargo section, and prices moved in a downward direction on pressure to sell Plate descriptions, and with home granaries well stocked for the moment, cargoes near at hand weigh somewhat heavily on the market. Steamers of No. 2 and No. 2 Northern Manitoba shipment from Vancouver, on passage sold at 66s 9d and 65s 6d respectively, and No. 2, also No. 3, ditto at 65s 3d and 64s both to Mediterranean, also No. 2 hard winter afloat to Continent at 60s 3d all per 480 lbs c.i.f. terms. Flour quiet, and tendency easier in sympathy with wheat. London standard straight run quoted 50s, patents 52s-53s, town whites 50s per sack delivered in Metropolitan area. All English country straights 44s to 44s 6d per sack free on rail at London stations. Of imported, Manitoba patents quoted 50s to 51s, Minnesota 49s to 51s, and Australian 47s per 280 lbs ex store. Barley quiet and values weak. Californian quoted 70s-72s, Chilean brewing 84s-87s, Polish ex store 60s-68s per 448 lbs. No. 4 Canadian Western ex ship 39s, Danubian, also American malting (48 lbs), 39s, Persian 39s 6d ex store, all per 400 lbs. English ranges from 11s-20s, all per 112 lbs free on rail. Maize quiet and easier. Plate ex ship quoted 40s 6d, ditto landed 42s, and Odessa in latter position 42s per 480 lbs. Oats steady. Plate ex ship near quoted 28s 9d, ditto landed 30s, Canadian Western ex ship 33s 9d, ditto landed 35s, American white clipped (38 lbs) landed 31s, all per 320 lbs. English 9s 6d-10s 10d, all per 112 lbs free on rail. Millers' offers generally quiet. Broad bran quoted 9s, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 12s, bags included, ex mill, light oats 9s 3d, powdered oat husks 9s 9d, feed oatmeal 10s 9d, ground oats 13s 9d, all per cwt free on rail. Oatmeal steady, with a fair business in force. London-made, flaked 20s, rolled oats 19s 6d, medium also fine cuts 19s 6d, coarse and medium pinhead 19s 6d, ordinary Scottish oatmeal 21s, American and Canadian rolled oats 20s per cwt.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-25.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Nov. 23.....	Cwts. 244,298	Cwts. 329,296	Cwts. 657,580	Cwts. 387,168
13 weeks to Nov. 23.....	3,188,129	5,146,566	5,995,986	5,804,282
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 12 6	s d 9 8	s d 9 11½	s d 10 9½

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Nov. 22.....	Cwts. 271,097	Cwts. 531,758	Cwts. 89,449	s d 12 6	s d 15 7	s d 10 0
Nov. 23.....	244,298	519,265	84,578	12 6	15 6	9 10
1920.						
Nov. 22.....	350,301	567,286	41,034	20 10	22 9	16 4
Nov. 23.....	387,369	488,825	74,894	10 9	13 6	10 0
1921.						
Nov. 22.....	657,579	515,779	74,370	9 11	10 3	9 7
Nov. 23.....	329,296	653,913	69,949	9 8	10 5	8 9

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated December 4th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Business is quiet in the pig-iron market, and prices are inclined to be easier. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is to-day quoted at 81s 6d, with mixed numbers East Coast hematite at 88s per ton. After a fair amount of business, inquiries are now very few, and the general feeling is that there will be very little new business put through until after the turn of the year. Manufactured iron and steel: Some of the works have booked fresh orders, but specifications are not coming forward as expected, and there are no signs at present of any increased output. Prices are unchanged:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: With the exception of one or two odd cargoes, there has been practically no new business in iron ore during the past week or two. Sellers are still quoting on the basis of 22s 6d per ton for best Bilbao Rubio, c.i.f. Tees.

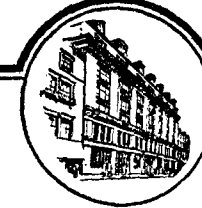
Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in most branches of the Sheffield steel industry is experiencing a sharp relapse, as, owing to the approach of the end of the year, consumers have reduced their buying to immediate needs, and are desirous of keeping down stocks to the minimum. It is now difficult to sell semi-material, such as billets, and as regards mild steel generally in a rolled state demand is poor. It has been found necessary at several works to reduce production. The heavy steel forges and foundries are quiet. A few of the largest makers of the best tool steels are booking rather more freely from a number of overseas markets, but this branch is stagnant as a whole. The season demand for house coal is the smallest ever experienced, and there appears to have been much less stocking for the winter than is usual. Prices all round are low and irregular.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—The situation in the iron and steel markets is practically unchanged; few new features are discernible, with the exception of the receipt by Clyde shipyards of contracts to build and engine a couple of fair-sized steamers. Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyd, Coatbridge, have booked an order for 18 miles of steel piping, 36 inches diameter,

for a water supply scheme in the East. This involves a very large tonnage of steel plates, which will probably be manufactured at the firm's Mossend works in Lanarkshire, and will keep the heavy department of the tube works busy for fully 12 months. There is less business passing in pig-iron, and shipments are again at a low level. Prices, however, are firm. Shipments from the Clyde last week amounted to 728 tons, of which 687 tons were for foreign destination. The corresponding figures for the same week of last year were 2,022 tons and 1,942 tons respectively. Steel makers are feeling the want of orders for plates, although some of the section mills are busy on structural steel. One or two good lines of semi-finished steel have been secured locally, but re-rollers have given out considerable tonnages to Belgium at prices which home producers could not approach. In the Scotch coal trade a sharp advance has taken place in certain grades, owing to a brisk demand from two overseas markets, but otherwise the general depression continues. Black and galvanised sheets are a dull market for foreign account, with prices slightly lower.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The general position of the Cardiff coal market this week has slightly improved. The approach of the Christmas holidays has increased the supply of tonnage, and contractors uncovered for their month's supplies have been buying. The collieries are consequently better stemmed, and while prices have not shown any upward movement, they have been much steadier than they were a few weeks ago. Contracts over next year have also been placed at prices higher than those concluded early in November, and the most important of these is one for 300,000 tons placed by one of the leading transatlantic shipping companies at an f.o.b. price of 25s 3d for one of the second Admiralty steam coals, and another for 200,000 tons placed by the Egyptian State Railways for Monmouthshire coals at prices ranging from 34s 3d to 35s, c.i.f. The joint audit for the South Wales coalfield in October was again an unfavourable one, showing a loss per ton on an output of 3,705,000 tons of 6.47d. There has thus been an average loss under the new wages agreement of over 9d per ton, and a total loss to the collieries of over £737,000. The general wage rate in December remains unchanged at the minimum of 42.22 per cent. on the 1915 standard rates.

The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 27s 6d; seconds, 25s 6d to 26s 6d; best drys, 27s to 27s 6d; Western Valleys, 23s 6d to 24s; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 24s; coking smalls, 16s to 17s; ordinary cargo smalls, 13s to 14s; red vein, large, 35s to 36s; anthracite big vein, large, 47s 6d to 50s; French nuts, 58s to 60s; machine-made cobbles, 55s; rubbly culm, 12s to 12s 6d; coke for export, 45s to 50s; inland blast-furnace coke at ovens, 30s to 35s; patent fuel, 25s to 27s 6d; pitwood,



ARCOS LTD
SOVIET HOUSE
49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.
Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.
ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA
TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM
SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES,
CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.
ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA
MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.
Turnover (June, 1920, to October, 1924) £46,141,420

BRANCHES:
MOSCOW: Tverskaya 1.
(Ugol Pl. Revolutsii).
CONSTANTINOPLE:
Grande rue de Pera, No. 464.
Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg
Trading Corporation, 136,
Liberty Street, New York.

LENINGRAD: Ul. Gertszona, 24.
KHARKOV: Chernoglazovskaya, 1.
TIFLIS: 38 Rustaveli Prospekt.
RIGA: Valdemars iela 61, dz. 3.

ex ship, 28s 6d to 28s 9d. In the tinplate trade prospects have improved during the past week, and several works that were closed a fortnight ago have resumed operations. Minimum prices remain unaltered.

METALS.

The market for tin opened with a firm tone, but subsequently developed irregularity and weakness under selling pressure. In the aggregate a fair business transpired, including standard cash at £260 15s-£261 10s, and £258 15s, with three months' fluctuating between £264 15s-£261 10s, and £262 15s. In the East business was reported at £264 10s to £266 15s and £264 5s per ton c.i.f. terms. Copper has been a barely steady market, though fluctuations were confined to narrow limits, and a good business resulted. Standard cash changed hands at £64 5s-£64 10s, and £63 17s 6d, three months' £65 10s-£65 8s 9d, £65 12s 6d, and £65. Lead easier, with dealings on a smaller scale. Good soft foreign pig quoted £39 2s 6d to £37 as to position. English £40 10s per ton. Spelter also declined on heavy offerings, quotations ruling at £35 to £35 2s 6d as to position. Antimony firm. English refined quoted £69 10s to £70; foreign, £58 to £60. Crude, £34 per ton. Aluminium steady. Home trade quoted £125; and export £130.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—November 28, 1924.

Description.	Ord.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Mid.	Mid. Fair.	Same Period 1923.			Same Period 1922.		
							Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.	Good Ord.	Low Mid.	Mid.
American.....	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
Brasilia.....	Mid	1184	1284	1289	1404	1489	1947	2047	2202	2384	1444	1484
Peru, Macao, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	1329	1479	1579	1579	1579	1329	1479	1579	1329	1479	1579
Parahyba, Rio Grande, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	1329	1479	1579	1579	1579	1329	1479	1579	1329	1479	1579
Ceara, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	1329	1479	1579	1579	1579	1329	1479	1579	1329	1479	1579
Gr. Paulo.....	Fr. G. F.	1329	1479	1579	1579	1579	1329	1479	1579	1329	1479	1579
Upper.....	Fr. G. F.	1680	1735	1790	1850	1920	2385	2445	2485	1450	1550	1650
Bakelavids.....	Fr. G. F.	2180	2570	2620	2750	2850	2565	2640	2750	1550	1750	1975
Brown.....	Fr. G. F.	1745	1800	1855	1905	1975	2435	2495	2560	1425	1575	1750
Peruvian.....	Fr. G. F.	1975	2075	2125	2125	2125	2250	2250	2250	1500	1650	1725
Rough.....	Fr. G. F.	1700	1800	1800	1800	1800	2100	2225	2225	1500	1650	1725
Moderately Rough.....	Fr. G. F.	1454	1529	1604	1629	1654	2262	2337	2412	1474	1599	1699
Smooth.....	Fr. G. F.	1604	1654	1729	1829	1929	2262	2337	2412	1474	1599	1699
Tanguls.....	Fr. G. F.	1900	2050	2150	2250	2250	2400	2600	2600	1500	1650	1725
Mitafi.....	Fr. G. F.	1425	1525	1600	1600	1600	2275	2275	2275	1450	1550	1650
West Indian, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	2400	2550	2750	2900	2900	2100	2500	2500	2200	2800	2800
Do.....	Fr. G. F.	1390	1540	1640	1705	1760	1850	2000	2200	1150	1325	1525
African, East, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	1314	1324	1344	1424	1559	2162	2172	2252	1284	1399	1599
Do.....	Fr. G. F.	1314	1324	1344	1424	1559	2162	2172	2252	1284	1399	1599
East Indian.....	Fr. G. F.	1185	1225	1265	1305	1345	1780	1820	1900	1195	1235	1315
Machine Ginned Surtee.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Broad.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 1.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Comra. No. 2.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Khandah.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Comptah.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Bengal.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Machine Ginned Soinds.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
Tinnivelly.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
American-Soude/Punjab.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
*M. G. Western.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
*M. G. Northern.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
*M. G. Ocoonada, Red.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120
China, Smyrna, &c.....	Fr. G. F.	1110	1150	1200	1250	1300	1510	1560	1660	990	1040	1120

* Hand Ginned 40 points less.

MANCHESTER, December 4.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Dec. 4, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Price, Nov. 27.	Price, Nov. 20.	Price, Nov. 13.	Price, Nov. 6.	Price, Oct. 30.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American.....per lb	13'08	d	d	d	d	d
—Sakelavids Fully Good Fair.....	13'55	d	d	d	d	d
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	26'50	26'00	25'80	25'00	25'50	25'85
—40's twist.....per lb	23'38	24	24	24	24	24
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	39	38	38	38	38	38
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	s d 36 9	s d 37 0	s d 37 0	s d 37 0	s d 36 9	s d 36 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	41 6	41 9	41 9	41 9	41 6	41 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	19 3	19 6	19 6	19 6	19 3	19 6
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	17 9	18 0

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 4, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American.....per lb	d	d	d	d	d	d
—Sakelavids Fully Good Fair.....	13'08	19'64	14'22	11'13	12'61	27'10
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	26'50	23'65	17'50	19'75	28'00	48'50
—40's twist.....per lb	23'38	27	20	18	29	52
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	39	37	28	32	44	91
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	s d 36 9	s d 30 0	s d 31 6	s d 51 0	s d 77 6	s d 74 6
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	41 6	42 6	32 0	31 6	48 0	74 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	19 3	22 6	18 0	18 9	27 0	43 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	18 0	20 9	16 6	18 3	22 0	37 0

The market has continued generally firm. The possibility, however, of cheaper raw cotton has had some effect upon the policy of buyers of manufactured goods. A feature of interest has been the increased demand in cloth for China, and although contracts have been rather unevenly divided, a larger business has been done than for some time back. Some of the buying has been forced out owing to the fear of customers not being able to get delivery if the placing of orders is delayed. Inquiry for India has also broadened, and in fair lots the total sales have been more encouraging. Useful lines have been booked for Egypt and South America. Fancies continue to attract a good deal of attention for the Continent. American yarns have been somewhat irregular in price when tested, and transactions of weight have been few and far between. A steady demand has been met with in Egyptian spinnings. A few more contracts have been put through in export yarns for India.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—The tone of the market is well maintained, but business during the last week has been conducted on more restricted lines, and hand-to-mouth buying is again the general rule. Demand for wool, both in the primary markets and in London, is still sufficiently strong to keep values firm, and topmakers are quoting in accordance with the raw material position, but in most cases this is equivalent to quoting protective rates. There is no material change in quotations for merino tops, warp 64's being still obtainable at about 81d and super 60's at 76d, but here and there an odd lot can be picked up at less money, especially second-hand lots. Average 58's are about 1d dearer at 63d, and the same rise is seen in super 56's, but average 56's are steady at 54d, 48's at 38d to 39d, 46's carded at 36d, and 40's prepared at 33d per lb. The yarn trade is very slow in responding to the higher prices ruling in wool. New business in botanics is scarce, and users are not prepared to pay anything like replacement costs. A considerable amount of machinery in this section is still idle or only partly employed, and particulars against old contracts are slow in coming to hand. Business can be done in crossbred yarns where spinners are prepared to pass on the advantage of any cheap tops they may have, but although quotations were put up in sympathy with the sharp rise in tops, they are mainly nominal and cannot be made.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Recent Publications.

An Interesting Series of PAMPHLETS

on Various Aspects of the League's Work now available. 14 Titles Ready. 3d. net each. £1 per hundred.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The second week of sales in Coleman Street has passed off with all the sound features of the first week well maintained. The attendance has remained good, competition has never flagged, and, on average, the opening advances are still in evidence. We have been very favourably impressed with the high character of the merino offerings, and nothing but satisfaction can be expressed regarding this season's Australian clip of this description. There has been a splendid show from Queensland, New South Wales, and West Australia, and buyers speak in very appreciative terms of the wools catalogued. The clip is particularly well grown, full of life and elasticity, and is meeting with an excellent reception. One has only to look at the high standard of values paid to see that there is nothing wrong either with the market or the wool, particularly so when the top side of 40d is frequently being paid for good grease combing. Comparing the prices ruling this series for the same clips a year ago, there is oftentimes an advance of 8d to 10d per grease lb, which means that growers will receive something like £12 extra per bale than they did last year. One can well understand that growers are going to receive from their current clip £80,000,000, a sum that has never been realised before in the history of Australia.

Some express a little disappointment that French buyers are not operating so extensively as many expected to see. There is no doubt that French buyers are just as concerned regarding the future of wool as British buyers, for they say they are finding it an almost insuperable task to pass on the present high wool values to the ultimate consumer. However, the catalogues are being absorbed.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Linseed oil has taken quite an easier turn, and prices have sharply declined on liquidation of speculative holdings to £43 10s, ex Hull mill, for oil on spot and delivery to the end of April. The market, however, closes rather steadier with an improved consumptive demand. Cotton oils continue in only poor request, crude Egyptians offering freely at £45 10s, and technical refined at £47 10s, ex Hull mill. Palm kernel oil has been in good demand, particularly for export, current value of crude being £43 10s. Not so much is doing in soya oil, which is lower at £44 10s.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

Whilst there are no signs of a general fall in hide prices, there seems a weaker tone, which may be temporary, in some directions. Only three classes of best ox hides sold at Bermondsey auctions on Thursday, these making 9½d to 9½d—two classes being withdrawn. Seconds sold from 7d to 8½d, four classes showing a fall of ½d per lb as compared with last prices. Best calf were steady, selling from 8½d to 10½d. Wools sold from 8s 6d to 17s 6d, and hogs from 5s 6d to 23s each. After a short weakness last week, the frigorific market has firmed up, and sales are reported to have been made on a basis of 9½d c.i.f. for Argentine, and 11d for Uruguay to the United States. Dry hides are as dear as ever, and dry B.A. American hides have sold from 11½d to 12½d. African and other classes of dry hides are very firm, and tanners are holding off these classes as long as possible. Cables from Chicago report the market as quiet, with best packers still selling at 18 cents. Buffs have fallen 1 cent, and native cows are a shade weaker.

Upper leather is quieter, with firm prices. Box and willow calf are advancing, whilst glacé kid is also dearer in some grades. Lining and sheep leathers are very dear, with imports of the latter small.

The boot and shoe trade is keeping up fairly well, although business seems unevenly distributed. Spring orders are, however, finding work for some of the larger factories, and the outlook is considered good for the new year.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, December 5.

SUGAR.—The market failed to produce any new noteworthy feature. General course of trade remains quiet as demand is still restricted to wants of immediate necessity and this in turn is decidedly limited as consumers and distributors alike appear to be in possession of fair stocks, with liberal November tenders having yet to be digested. Prices, however, are steady in the main as the bridge leading from paucity to plenty in the matter of supplies, is apparently a longer one than previously anticipated. Roseate accounts continue to come to hand respecting the American domestic beet crop. A moderate turnover resulted in British refined at late rates. Tate and Lyle's granulated as to quality quoted 35s 10½d to 36s 4½d; yellow crystals, 32s 10½d, since reduced 6d all round. Home-grown granulated 34s ex-works Cantley/Kelham. White Java on spot in small supply and held for 33s 6d. Forward positions nominal. Czecho granulated, spot, 33s; ready, 20s; January-March, 19s 1½d f.o.b. Hamburg. Belgian granulated, spot, 32s 9d to 33s; ready for shipment 19s 4½d, f.o.b. Antwerp. J Dutch granulated, spot, 33s; Hungarian crystals, spot, 32s 9d. Raw refining kinds slow. Brazilian prompt 9 per cent., sellers, 17s 4½d; continental beet basis, 88 per cent., ready, 16s 10½d, both c.f. and i. U.K. Some business done in the latter on American account at equal to about 17s 3d c.f. and i. terms. White Terminal steady but quiet. December sold 18s 7½d; May, 18s 6d; August, 18s 7½d. Mr Licht increased European estimate by 182,000 tons.

COFFEE.—Market steady, and only small supplies brought to auction soon cleared. Kenya, bold sides, 160s to 165s; Costa Rica, medium, 170s. Brazilian shippers offered with reserve, while further reports of drought in growing districts came to hand, but with buyers indifferent, prices eased later.

COCOA.—Market steady on spot, but general course of trade proved quiet. Forward Accra firmer, and F/F quality, January-February, sold, 37s to 38s, 6d f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—Indian auctions of 49,200 packages experienced quieter support, and common and medium teas declined ½d to ¾d per lb. Finer sorts steady where quality was maintained. Pekoe, sold, 1s 10d to 2s 3d; broken orange, 1s 10½d to 2s 4½d; fine to choice, 2s 6½d to 3s 7d. Ceylon sales totalled 15,060 packages, for which fair competition ensued at prices mostly ½d to 1d per lb lower. Pekoe, sold, 1s 10½d to 2s 3d; broken orange, 1s 11d to 2s 6d per lb in bond. The market in general developed a lower tendency this week, which is not surprising while bearing in mind how prices have been forced to an abnormally high level. Rates are quite ½d to 1d lb lower, though the finer grades of Indian show but little change, with finest in comparatively small supply. Darjeelings were inclined to weakness unless of stand-out quality. Weakness in the market is chiefly observable for teas under 2s per lb. Common leaf and broken have been sold down to 1s 9½d, against 1s 10½d last week. Ceylon imports ¾d to 1d easier, but buyers evinced considerable interest at the decline. Some operators lately out of the market bought freely. Quality of Ceylon still marks a falling off, and leaf grades suitable for export attract marked attention. Dust and fannings in strong demand. In auction, about 4,900 packages Java and Sumatra were offered, and met a quiet demand. Prices manifested a decline of ½d to 1½d per lb, the latter figure being for inferior qualities, and which proved rather difficult of sale. Pekoe, sold, 1s 7½d; broken pekoe, 1s 4d to 1s 9½d; pekoe souchong, 1s 6½d to 1s 7½d; orange, 1s 6½d to 1s 8d; broken orange, 1s 8d to 2s 0½d per lb in bond.

RICE.—Market remains generally dull. Two stars Rangoon, spot, 17s 9d to 18s; January-February, 15s; February-March, 14s 10½d, c.f. and i., U.K. Sp. nish quietly steady. There is only a limited call at the moment for both peas and beans.

SPICE.—Pepper market presented steady features. Black Singapore, fair quality, spot, quoted 5½d; L.S., January-March, steamer, 5½d; Lampong, January-March, 5½d; Muntok, spot, 10½d to 11d; November-January, L.S., 10½d; January-March, 10½d. Zanzibar cloves, October-December, sold, 1s; January-March, 11½d to 11½d per lb. Tapioca unaltered on spot. Singapore flake, January-March, to Havre, quoted 23s 6d; Penang seed, ditto, to London, 20s 3d. Sayo flour, January-March, sold, 16s 6d. Desiccated coconut slow. Spot halves, quoted 38s 6d cwt. Ginger steady.

JUTE.—This market took a sharp upward turn on increased buying orders, partly on covering account. Calcutta cabled higher for both manufactures and raw product. Firsts: December-January, Continent, sold £39 to £39 5s, and £38 15s; January-February, £38 15s to £39 5s and £39; February-March, £39 10s to £39 2s 6d.

"The Magic of Islam"

NORTH AFRICAN MOTOR TOURS

24 Distinct Optional Itineraries for Tours from London both at fixed dates or dates to suit independent travellers, covering the whole of

Algeria Tunisia Morocco (French)

RABAT, MARRAKESH (Morocco City), FEZ, FIGIG, LAGWAT, BOU SAADA, BISKRA, CONSTANTINE, TUGGURT, TUNIS, KAIRWAN, TIMGAD, CARTHAGE. The palm-clad OASES of the SAHARA. The snow-capped Atlas. Across the Sahara by 12-wheeled Desert Cars.

LONDON TO ALGIERS IN TWO DAYS

Company's own Express Mail Steamers from Marseilles and Bordeaux. Company's own Hotels (24) the wonder of North Africa. Special feature: The fares are absolutely inclusive, even of Gratuities, Bathing, Afternoon Tea, etc., etc.

Full particulars from any Tourist Agency, or FRENCH LINE, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Ltd., 22, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.



Hessians and twills dearer. 10 oz hessians, January-March, sold 33s to 34s 6d; 8 oz ditto, quoted 30s 6d per 100 yards. B twills, January-March, 102s 100 bags.

HEMP.—Manila sparingly offered, and market firm with moderate inquiries. J grade, December-February, quoted £56 10s; K, £55 10s; L, £55; and M, £54. New Zealand, H.P.F., December-February, quoted £44; fair, £42. African sisal: No. 1 Tanganyiki, December-February, £50; Kenya, £49 10s per ton.

SHELLAC. steady, but general trade moves quietly. Fair T.N., spot, 320s to 325s; December, sellers, 312s 6d; and March, 295s per cwt.

COPRA more reservedly held, and market firmer, while a fair demand was experienced. F.M.S. Straits, October-December, Rotterdam, quoted £29 2s 6d; December-February, £29 12s 6d; January-March, sold, £29 10s to £29 13s 9d. Dutch East Indies, October-December, changed hands at £28 18s 9d. Ceylon, November, Rotterdam, quoted at £30 10s. South Sea Islands, December-January ditto, £28 10s; smoked ditto to Marseilles, £28 2s 6d. Palm kernels firm, and November-January to Liverpool, sold, £22; January-March, sellers, £22 ton.

RUBBER steady in value, though actual business was confined to moderate limits. Standard plantation, crepe and sheet, spot, also December, sold, 1s 5½d to 1s 6½d; January, 1s 6½d; January-March, 1s 6½d to 1s 6½d; February, 1s 6½d; April-June, 1s 6½d to 1s 6½d. To New York, standard estatesheet, January-February, sold, 1s 6½d lb, c.f. and i. terms.

EGG PRODUCTS.—Market steady, but there is only a moderate inquiry. Liquid yolk, spot, 82s 6d per cwt.; Albumen, spot, 4s 9d per lb.

CANNED GOODS.—There is a steady trade in force, and late rates were generally maintained. Sardines continue firm, especially for fine quality, which are sparingly offered, and there are no signs of any improvement in supplies for the present. Portuguese sardines quoted 3s 9d to 4s 1½d; clubs, 4s 1½d to 4s 6d; 12 oz, 6s to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 11s to 12s 6d per dozen tins. Salmon: The demand is well sustained, and prices fully steady. 1 lb flat reds, labelled, 55s to 60s; ditto, tall, 47s 6d to 48s 6d; 1 lb flat pink, 25s to 26s; cases of 96 ½ lbs, 29s to 30s per case. Canned Fruits: Ample supplies are available for present needs, but prices continue firm, and may possibly harden in the New Year. Singapore pines rather easier, and 48 ½s, quoted 5s 6d to 5s 9d; cubes, 24 2½s, 10s to 10s 6d; slices, 48 1½s, 5s to 5s 3d. Californian apricots, 2½s, 8s to 11s; ditto, 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2½s, 13s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2½s, 10s to 11s 6d; ditto, 1½s, 6s 6d. Fruit salad, 1½s, 10s 6d, 2½s, 20s. Loganberries, 10s to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Meats firm, while there is a good demand for corned beef and lunch tongues. Condensed milk steady for full cream, but machine skimmed continues dull and prices weak.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants ruled quiet. New crop ½-case Pyrgos,

quoted 42s; ½ bags, 41s. Amalia, ½-cases, 44s to 46s; Patras ditto, 48s to 49s; Gulf, 52s to 54s; finest, 57s, and Vostizza, 60s to 65s. Sultanias quiet, with an easier tendency. New Smyrna, fair quality, 53s to 55s; finer grades, 63s to 70s; Carra-bourra, 83s to 87s; fine Cretan, 90s to 95s; Australian, fair, 48s to 50s, with finer lots cleared. Valencia raisins in fair request, and prices steady, stocks being nearly cleared. ½ boxes quoted 41s to 65s. Figs generally steady. Natural, in bags, quoted 34s to 39s; layers, large boxes, 65s to 70s; ditto small, 75s to 80s. Dates in fair request at easier rates. New crop, Hallowie, spot, 20s; Khadowie, 18s 6d. and Sair, 14s 6d. Evaporated fruits firmly held. Californian apricots, old crop standards, 78s to 80s; choice, 90s; new crop, extra choice, 110s; fancy, 125s. Peaches, old crop, choice, 48s; new extra choice, 57s; fancy, 65s. Plums: Oregon, 30/40, quoted, 67s; 40/50, at 54s; Californian, 70/80, 44s, and 80/90, 43s per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 25s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £23 to £39; Cochin, £21 to £47. Ceylon bristle, £22 to £28 10s; cinnamon leaf oil, 5d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 1d; Java, 6s. OILSEEDS.—Linseed quiet and easier. Calcutta, afloat, £23 5s; November-December, £23 10s; April-May, £23 5s. Plate, afloat, £21 5s; November-December, sold, £20 17s 6d to £21 5s; January-February, sold, £21 to £20 15s and £21 7s 6d. Rapeseed lower. Toria, November-December, quoted £22 10s; and real bold Ferozepore, ditto, £22. Cottonseed easier. Egyptian, black, December-January, sold, £12 17s 6d. Sakellaris, December-January, £12 7s 6d. Bombay, December-January, £10 12s 6d. Gingly seed

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1890.)

Capital Subscribed Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up Y52,500,000
Reserve Y13,500,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office 25 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2

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

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

THE PRICES IN THE FOLLOWING MARKETS.				INDIA RUBBER.—lb. s. d.				PROVISIONS.—lb. s. d.				SPICES.—Pepper, lb. s. d.							
ALBANY, fine E.L. p. cwt				178 6	INDIA, fine hard spot				1 6 0	Butter—per cwt.				193 8	Muntok, fair White				8 11 4
Cape, good to fine				42 6	Plantation crops				1 6 0	Irish creamery				193 8	Singapore				8 11 4
Balsam Fern . . . per lb				7 6	INDIGO.—per lb				1 6 0	Argentine				160 0	White Siam				8 11 4
Opium				1 4	Bengal, good red vio-				6 6 0	Do factory				150 0	Cinnamon—1st sort.				1 7 6
Camphor				2 8	to fine.				6 6 0	New Zealand				235 8	Do 2nd				1 6 0
Japan, refined				2 8	Mid. ord. vio. to good				5 0 0	Dutch				235 8	Do 3rd				1 6 0
Cardamoms, Ceylon.				6 8	to good				5 0 0	Bacon, smd.—Irish.				101 0	Cassia Lignea.				65 0
Cath. riv's, China prib				4 8	to good				5 0 0	Danish				88 0	Gambier—1st sort.				2 2 2
Castor-oil				85 0	Kurrums, good to fine				1 8 0	Danish				88 0	Madagascar				1 3 0
Gum-Ben.				6 0/6	Do low to mid				3 8 0	Hams—Irish				nom	Ginger—per cwt.				1 3 0
Oilbannum, drops,				1 4	Do low to mid				3 8 0	Canadian				14 0	Ginger—1st rough 100				1 3 0
fair to good.				68	HEMP.—per ton—				£ 8	American				86 88 0	Do wormy				0 0 0
Jalapachua				0 0	Italian P.O.				3 8	Canadian				94 0	Japan				105 0
Isapachua				0 0	Manilla, Nov-Jan.				56 0	Hard—Irish blades				96 0	Zamora, ord. to good 12				1 6 0
Must. good, China				10 0	"J" Grade				56 0	American boxes				86 88 0	Nutmeg, 65's				3 6 0
Oil, Cassia . . . per lb				2 8	N.Z. high point, Feb				24 0	Beef—Frozen per 8 lb				3 0	Onions—per cwt.				2 4 0
Peppermint, Wayne				32	Nov-Jan.				24 0	Booth				7 8	110's and 80's				6 0 80
Gall. Chirch, for to				3 0	JUTE.				38 15 0	Cheese—cwt—Canadian				96 0	Onion—per cwt.				52 0
Babir, China, per cwt				62	Native first marks				38 15 0	New Zealand				108 0	Good mutton				52 0
Turmeric, Bengal.				nom	Nov-Dec.				38 15 0	Eng, Cheddar				108 0	Beef				52 0
Madras, finger				67 70	LATH.				38 15 0	Ghesbrie				105 0	TAPOCA.—per lb				8 34
Ceylon, good to fine				87 0	Do do 1/8" x 1/8"				1 4 2	Dutch				105 0	1st sort				8 34
Catoch, ord. to fair.				50 55 9	Do do 1/4" x 1/4"				1 4 2	English				27 50 0	Medium Java, cwt				39 0 45
DIETWOODS.—				50	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	Irish				24 0 26 8	Seed				22 0 38
Brazil				18 8	Do do 1/4" x 1/4"				1 4 2	FLOUR.—28 lb—				96 0	TBA.—duty 5 1-3d, British.				22 0 38
Fentic, Jamaica.				18 8	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	Eng, straight cut mill				49 0 8 8	Indian and Ceylon.				1 5 2
Onib.				28 8	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	RIOR.—per cwt. c.l.f.				17 0 0	Pekoe.				1 5 2
Lima Wood				28 8	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	Bangkok No. 2				17 0 0	Orange Pekoe				1 5 2
Logwood, Campeachy				10 10	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	Broken 1st				14 0 8 0	Broken Pekoe				1 5 2
Jamaica				10 10	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	ROBIN.—per ton				16/10 21/6	Pekoe Souchong				1 5 2
Red Sanders				12 8	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	French				nominal.	TIMBER.—ex. yd.				1 5 2
Havana				16 8	Do do 1/2" x 1/2"				1 4 2	SAGO.—Pearl, per cwt				25 0 9 8	Swedish u/s 3 ft. Std.				21 8
F.L.P. spot—c.l.f.				2 8	METALS.—B. Copper				5 8	SHELLAC.—per cwt.				5 8	Do 2 x 4				20 10
Hign 2K				2 8	Best selected				5 8	Orange, first marks				349 4 48 8	Can'dn Spruce D.I.A.				18 0
Pernan H/D				123 8	Sheet (strong)				67 15 0	Second, fair to fine				6 360 0	Picholine, per std.				32 0
Siameta U/D Medium				133 8	Standard				67 15 0	Garret, Lac. AC				280 0	Teak, per load.				20 10
Granges, Denia & Valsoi				360 12	Lead.—Exc. Pip. No. 40/10/8				0 0	Batten—Pure				34 0 8	H duras Mah. logs.				8 16
Do Cape, boxes				0 0	Soft Foreign.				35/0 0 35/6	Blocky (TN)				325 0 310 8	African				8 16
Lemons, Naples, cases				0 0	Spelter				26/0 0 26/6	SILK.—per lb.				2 8	American Oak Bda.				8 16
Do do				0 0	English—good 26/0 15/0				26/0 15/0	Qanton				25 27 8	Do Ash				8 16
Do do				0 0	Do do bars 26/0 15/0				26/0 15/0	Tussah				12 12 8	English Oak Planks				8 16
Do do				0 0	Standard cash				25/0 15/0	Re-heeled				8 12 8	TOBACCO.				8 16
Do do				0 0	OILS.—Fish, per ton—				5 8	Italian—Raw, 8r. Milan				8 53 0	Duty 8/2—18/4 per lb.				1 5 2
Almonds, Lisbon, box				10 17 6	Seal, pale, ton				nom	SHELLS.—M.-O.-P. per cwt.				46/0 8/0	Virginia leaf.				1 5 2
Grupeira, barrels				18 35 8	Unseed, per ton net				45 10 8	Manila, bold.				46/0 8/0	Stripes				1 5 2
Val. Ono.				8 6 10 0	Bape, refined				55 10 8	Macassar				9/0 8/0	Common to fine.				1 5 2
Al. Ono. Wet salted—				8 6 10 0	Cotton—seed, crude				44 18 46 8	Sydney				7/0 0 15/6	China				1 5 2
Australia.				8 6 10 0	Edible refined.				48 48 10 0	Bombay				5/0 8/0	Borneo and Sumatra				1 5 2
West Indian				8 6 10 0	Cassia-nut, crude				55 60 45 8	SUGAR.—per cwt duty 11s				42 8	Nyasaland				1 5 2
Cape				8 6 10 0	Palm				44 10 45 8	per cent. polarisation.				38 0	Havana				1 5 2
Opocro				8 6 10 0	Latr, American.				71 1 8	B.W. I., muscovado.				38 0	Greek				1 5 2
Dry & Dryalated Cape				8 6 10 0	Petrol. Oil, per 8 lbs				1 1 8	Crystallised				38 0	East Indian.				1 5 2
Madagascar.				8 6 10 0	Water—White				1 1 8	Java, white.				38 0	BURBINE, per cwt				57 0
Ceylon.				8 6 10 0	Oil Cakes, Lind., Eng.				1 1 8	Raffin—London.				32 44 0	WOOL.—per lb.				57 0
Bulafons, Singapore.				8 6 10 0	Per Sees, London.				1 1 8	Yellow Crystal				32 44 0	English, Southdown, wad				57 0
Penang				8 6 10 0	do Plata, Jan. Feb.				21 8	Oub.				32 44 0	do Lincoln hog				57 0
E. L.				8 6 10 0	Bombay, p.tn, Nov-Dec.				24 10 0	Crushed				32 44 0	Queensland, super embg.				57 0
Market Hides, London				8 6 10 0	Calcutta, p.tn, Nov-Dec.				24 10 0	Granulated				32 44 0	N.Z., greasy, hrod 40-50				57 0
Best of all				8 6 10 0	PORTLAND CEMENT.				58 0 63 6	Oryzale, No. 3				37 38 14	Crab (40-44)				57 0
Do light do				8 6 10 0	Best English, per ton				58 0 63 6	Pieces.				31 6 35 9					57 0
Do 2nd, heavy				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do light				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															57 0
Do 2nd do				8 6 10 0															

dull. Chinese, December-January, £28 12s 6d. Groundnuts lower. Coromandel machine-dried, November-December, £25; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £23 10s; East African, November-December, £27 10s. Soya beans dull. Manchurian, November-December, £13 2s 6d; December-January, £12 17s 6d. Castor seed steady. Bombay, December-January, £28 15s per ton.

OLFS.—Linseed easier. Spot, net, naked, 45s 6d; December, 44s 6d; January-April, 44s 3d; May-August, 44s 6d. Rape nominal. Crude, spot, 52s 6d; refined, 55s 6d. Castor-oil easier. First pressure, spot, quoted 71s; second pressure, 69s; and pharmaceutical, 76s per cwt. Hull, with London, 2s per cwt extra. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 46s 6d; Bombay, 44s 6d; common edible, 51s; deodorised, 53s. Chinawood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 82s; December-January, 78s. Cocoa-nut quiet. Ceylon, spot, 48s; December-January, 47s; Cochin, ditto, nominally 63s. Soya dull. Oriental, barrels, November-December, 46s 6d; bulk, 42s. Cod steady. English, spot, 36s to 37s. Groundnuts quiet. English, crushed, naked, spot, 56s; deodorised, barrels, 66s. Turpentine easier. American, spot, 57s; January-April, 58s 3d. Rosin quiet. American, grade B, 16s 6d; G, 17s 14d; WG, 19s 3d; WW, 21s per cwt. French WW, 20s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on December 3rd as follows:—The tallow market was quiet during the week, and prices were about 6d lower to-day. The demand has slackened as usual at this time of year. The stock in London on November 30th, as re-

turned by the wharves, amounted to 6,111 packages, showing a decrease during the month of 1,966 packages. At auction to-day 606 casks tallow were offered, and 170 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 53s; good to fair, 52s to 50s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 44s; hard, 53s. Australian beef: Fine, 53s 3d; good to fair, 50s to 48s 6d; dull to dark, 45s 6d to 44s; sweet, 53s 6d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 48s. Present shipment from South America, 48s 9d to 48s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 45s 6d per cwt. Rough fat per 8 lbs, 6d; melted stuff, 35s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 45s, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Frail casks, 45s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 49s; fair to dull, 46s to 45s. Bone fat: white, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 40s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—DECEMBER 4.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal.	Sheep, per stone.
Beasts—Herefords	5 8 to 7 0
Short-horns	6 0 to 6 6
Devons	7 2 to 7 4
Norfolks	nominal
Scottish	nominal
Irish	nominal
Pat Cows	nominal
Beasts—Heavy Bulls ..	nominal
Canadians	nominal
Sheep—Downs	11 4 to 12 4
Ewes	7 0 to 7 4
Crossbred	nominal
Scottish	nominal
Lamb—Downs	nominal

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—DECEMBER 4.

Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.
English—King Edwards ..	10 0 to 11 0
British Queens ..	8 6 to 9 0
Majestic ..	8 6 to 9 0
Blackland ..	8 6 to 9 0
King Edwards ..	8 6 to 9 0
Evergoods ..	8 6 to 9 0

INDIAN NEWSPAPERS. OFFICES IN LONDON

DAILIES:
PIONEER—Allahabad.
CIVIL & MILITARY GAZETTE—Lahore.

WEEKLIES:
I. P. M. (India's Pictorial Magazine)—Delhi.
OVERLAND PIONEER MAIL—Allahabad.

MONTHLIES:
INDIAN IMPORTER & EXPORTER—Allahabad.
INDIAN FORESTER—Dehra-Dun.

QUARTERLIES:
COMBINED CIVIL LIST—Allahabad.
UNITED SERVICES JOURNAL—Simla.

also:
COMMERCE—Bombay and Calcutta.

Specimen copies supplied free on receipt of 9d. to cover postage.

Write:—W. T. DAY, London Manager.

PIONEER PRESS of INDIA
Pioneer and Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd.,
Lahore, Allahabad, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta.
(Incorporated in India.)

11, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.2.
Close to Temple Station, Underground.
Telephone: CENTRAL 2796.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

have a few vacancies in their Statistical Department for temporary assistants. Candidates must be University graduates with post-graduate training in Economic Theory and Statistics, and practical experience of one or more industries. Salary at the rate of £400 to £500 per annum, inclusive, according to qualifications, etc. Preference will be given to ex-Servicemen. Applications must reach the Principal Establishment Officer, Board of Trade, Great George Street, London, S.W.1, not later than Saturday, the 13th of December.

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED.

The Canadian General Electric Company give notice that the Directors have declared a QUARTERLY DIVIDEND of 14 per cent. for the three months ending 31st December, 1924, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, on the Preference Stock of the Company, and that the said Dividend is PAYABLE on the 1st day of January, 1925, to Shareholders of record on 13th December, 1924. The Transfer Books will not be closed.—For the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Registrars of the Canadian General Electric Company, Limited.

CHARLES CAMBIE, Manager.
2 Lombard Street, E.C.3.
3rd December, 1924.

BASS, RATCLIFF & GRETTON LTD.
notify that the TRANSFER REGISTERS of their Debenture and Preference Stocks will be CLOSED from the 17th to the 31st inst., both dates inclusive, for preparation of Warrants.

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½% LOAN OF 1885.

Notice is hereby given that the COUPON due 1st January, 1925, on the Bonds of the above Loan will be PAID on or after the 1st proximo at the Offices of the Midland Bank, Limited, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

The operation for the Sinking Fund has been on this occasion by purchase of Bonds in the open market to the extent of £14,700, the contract for the Loan providing for the purchase instead of a drawing when the price is below par.

London, December 4th, 1924.

CHILIAN 6% INTERNATIONAL LOAN OF 1892.

Notice is hereby given that the COUPON due 1st January, 1925, on the Bonds of the above Loan, and also the Bonds amounting to £4,660 drawn in London in September last, will be PAID on and after the 1st proximo at the Offices of the Midland Bank, Limited, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

London, December 4th, 1924.

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½% LOAN OF 1893.

Notice is hereby given that the COUPON due 1st January, 1925, on the Bonds of the above Loan will be PAID on and after the 1st proximo at the Offices of the Midland Bank, Limited, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

The operation for the Sinking Fund has been on this occasion by purchase of Bonds in the open market to the extent of £17,400, the contract for the Loan providing for the purchase instead of a drawing when the price is below par.

London, December 4th, 1924.

CITY OF CALGARY. 4½% and 5% DEBENTURE LOANS.

The City of Calgary announces that the COUPONS maturing 1st January, 1925, on the above-mentioned Debentures may be PRESENTED on and after the 15th December, 1924, between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

Three clear days required for examination.

Lists may be obtained on application at the Bank.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER REGISTERS of the Debenture Stock, and also the Transfer Registers of the (January and July) Annuities and Bonds, will be CLOSED from 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, the 12th inst., till the end of half-yearly Interest Warrants. The Transfer Registers will be re-opened and documents for registration received from the morning of the 1st January, 1925.

W. C. THORNE, Registrar.
Dock Office, Liverpool.
1st December, 1924.



Conditions in Canada

THE latest reliable information on every phase of industrial and agricultural development in Canada is furnished by the Canadian Pacific Railway, through its Bureau of Canadian Information.

In the Reference Library maintained at the head European office of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62/65, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1, is complete data on natural resources, climate, labour, transportation, business openings, etc., in Canada, which is continually being revised and brought up to date.

No charge or obligation attaches to this service. Business organizations especially are invited to make use of it. For further particulars write or call—

The Canadian Pacific Railway
Department of
Colonization and Development,
62/65, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1

CITY OF PORT ARTHUR. 4½% and 5% DEBENTURES.

The City of Port Arthur announces that the INTEREST COUPONS of the above-mentioned Debentures, maturing 1st January, 1925, may be PRESENTED on and after the 15th December, 1924, between the hours of 10 and 2 o'clock (Saturdays excepted), at the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

Three clear days required for examination.

Lists may be obtained on application at the Bank.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the 4½% Debenture Stock and 3½% Central Debenture Stock of the Company will be CLOSED from 8th to the 20th December, both days inclusive, for the preparation of Interest Warrants for the half-year ending 31st December, 1924.

F. FIGHERA, Secretary.
8a Coleman Street, London, E.C.2.
4th December, 1924.

THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY. STERLING 4½% 500-YEAR DEBENTURE STOCK.

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited, give notice that the TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from 22nd to the 31st inst., both days inclusive, for the preparation of the Warrants for the Interest due 1st January, 1925.

No. 8 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.
1st December, 1924.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1924.

No. 4,242.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

(ESTABLISHED 1837.)

LARGE IMMEDIATE ASSURANCE
LOW PREMIUMS
LARGE ULTIMATE BONUSES
FUNDS - - - £18,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: 6, St. Andrew Square, EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard St., E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

(National Overseas Bank.)

STATE BANK OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

Head Office: LISBON.

Established 1884.

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



Reserve Funds:
Esc. 24,000,000

Branches as Under.

84 offices in Portugal.
24 " " East and West Africa.
5 " " Brazil.
5 " " India and China.

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

Paris Office—8, Rue du Helder.
London Office—9 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

New York—Trust Company of North America—38, Liberty Street.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

Capital, Authorised ... Lire 400,000,000
Capital, Paid Up ... " 248,788,000
Reserve ... " 200,000,000
Deposits ... " 8,071,000,000

Head Office - MILAN.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY

Agenies in NEW YORK and CONSTANTINOPLE.

Auxiliary:

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA (France), Marseilles, Nice, &c.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, Sofia.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & RUMENA, Bucharest.

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

Manager: E. CONSOLO.

CORRESPONDENTS TO THE ROYAL ITALIAN TREASURY

Every description of Banking business transacted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market	945	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		Professor Knapp on Money ..	967
Policy and Application	947	The Ethics of Investment ..	967
A Testing Time for Democracy ..	948	The Bankers' Almanac	968
Safeguarding "Efficient" Industries ..	949	Kelly's Post Office London Directory, 1925 ..	968
The Problems of Canada.—		Books Received ..	968
Her Handicaps and Assets ..	950	Stock Exchange News—	
Shale Oil ..	952	The Stock Markets ..	968
Catering Companies' Profits ..	953	New Issues ..	969
The German Elections	954	Active Securities ..	970
Notes of the Week—		Company Meetings	972
Mr Chamberlain at Rome ..	954	Government Returns—	
Inter-Allied Debts ..	955	National Debt ..	983
Overseas Trade in November ..	955	Public Income and Expenditure ..	983
The Greek Loan ..	955	Treasury Bills and Bonds by Public Tender ..	984
The Railwaymen's Demands ..	956	Currency Notes Account ..	984
China and the Powers ..	956	Bankers' Gazette—	
Great Britain & Argentina ..	956	Bank of England ..	984
The Strength of Investment Demand ..	956	Clearing Returns ..	984
Iron, Steel, and Coal Output ..	957	Monthly Statement of London Clearing Banks ..	985
Raw Cotton Supplies ..	957	Overseas Bank Returns ..	985
Electric Supply Progress ..	958	Loan and Discount Rates ..	986
Juvenile Employment in London ..	958	Overseas Bank Rates ..	986
South American Oil ..	958	Rates of Exchange ..	987
Agricultural Conditions ..	959	India Council Bills and Transfers ..	987
An Insurance Fusion ..	959	Gold and Silver Prices ..	987
Orient Steam Navigation ..	959	Imports & Exports of Gold ..	988
Baldwin's Report ..	959	Company News—	
The Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust ..	959	Dividend Announcements ..	971
Peter Walker & Robert Cain ..	960	Weekly Traffic Returns ..	988
Mexican Railway Report ..	960	Reports and Notices ..	989
Santa Gertrudis and Camp Bird ..	960	Analysis of Balance-Sheets ..	990
Progress at Letchworth ..	960	Transvaal Gold Statistics ..	991
Transvaal Gold Output ..	961	Mining Output Statistics ..	991
		Profit and Loss Accounts ..	992
Overseas Correspondence—		Commercial Reports—	
United States ..	961	Corn Trade ..	991
France ..	962	Iron and Coal Trade ..	992
Germany ..	963	Overseas Trade Returns ..	993
Italy ..	964	Metals ..	994
Austria ..	965	Cotton Trade ..	994
Australia ..	965	Wool Trade ..	994
Roumania ..	966	Vegetable Oils ..	995
		Hide and Leather Trades ..	995
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Produce Markets ..	995
Land Policy ..	966	Price Current ..	996

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Single copies, post free, 1s 1d.

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

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

Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at

W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.

Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf Court, Leadenhall Street.

P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King Street, Cheapside.

Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.

Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton Street.

Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum Street.

Willington and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall Avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

Paris: Galignani Library, 224 Rue de Rivoli; Messrs Brentano's, 37 Avenue de l'Opera.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was very abundant in the early part of the week, but was rather more easy to lend yesterday, the supply being limited by the fact that the clearing banks were adhering, more closely and generally, to 2½ per cent. as their minimum for all kinds of loans to the market. Dis-

counts also showed a slightly firmer tendency as the week went on, the tone of the market being affected by the rise in the French Bank rate, and also by the transfer of £1,000,000 Bank of England notes to reinforce the currency notes reserve against the danger of exceeding the fiduciary limit. Three months' bank bills, which were placed a shade under 3½ per cent. in the early part of the week, were quoted yesterday at 3½ per cent., after the Treasury bill result had been announced.

	Dec. 12, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.	Nov. 28, 1924.	Nov. 21, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills)	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

The Bank return shows an increase (owing to the above-mentioned transfer) of £649,000 in the "circulation," and an addition of £9,000 to the stock of gold, with a consequent decline of £640,000 in the Reserve. Government securities had been reduced by seven millions, presumably through the repayment of Ways and Means advances, and Public and Other deposits dwindled to the extent of £360,000, and £7,573,000 respectively. Currency notes outstanding were increased by £2,781,000 to £290,879,000, which includes £1,358,800 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. With the addition of £1,000,000 of Bank of England notes in redemption account (making the total £23,450,000), the fiduciary issue is £239,069,700, or £9,121,200 below the maximum.

The monthly statement of average weekly balances for November of the London Clearing Banks, printed in detail on a later page, does not show, apart from a further substantial increase in acceptances, any changes of great importance. In the table below we compare the aggregate figures of the nine English banks with those of preceding months:—

	Dec., 1923.	Mar., 1924.	June, 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924.	Nov., 1924.
Capital and reserves	116.3	118.7	119.2	119.4	119.4	119.4
Acceptances	96.1	99.2	85.3	83.2	9.5	9.5
Deposits (incl. undiv. profits, &c.)	1,673.1	1,603.2	1,661.9	1,612.4	1,634.5	1,627.8
Total liabilities	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,807.3	1,837.1	1,843.7
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	254.2	230.2	249.1	235.3	240.4	238.5
Money at call	111.3	93.5	108.1	107.9	103.8	102.1
Investments	363.8	361.7	349.3	340.1	336.6	332.1
Discounts	276.3	224.0	245.0	225.3	237.6	234.3
Loans and advances	756.5	785.5	791.7	794.8	807.0	810.8
Over for accept., premises, &c.	123.4	126.2	113.2	103.9	111.7	125.1
Total assets	1,885.5	1,821.1	1,856.4	1,807.3	1,837.1	1,843.7

The month's movements are very similar to those which took place twelve months ago, although in November, 1923, deposits were practically unchanged at £1,629 millions, whereas this time they have declined by nearly £7 millions. Advances show a further increase of nearly £4 millions, but discounts and investments are lower.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The tone of stock markets in general has not been quite so good this week, and business has been restrained by delays caused by the weather conditions. A feature of the week has been the spectacular success of the Greek loan issue. Gilt-edged stocks have been inclined to give way, though War Loan keeps its price, and Home Railways fell sharply on publication of the railwaymen's new wages demands. The rubber market keeps firm, but tea shares have suffered from profit-taking. In other directions in the industrial markets recent activity received a check, though banking and insurance shares maintain a good tone. Kaffirs and other mining markets have been uninteresting.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The slightly improved tone which the coal market developed last week has been maintained on the Cardiff Exchange this week, and substantial contracts for delivery next year are reported. Home consumers of pig-iron having covered their immediate requirements are not inclined to buy, and market conditions are quiet in consequence. In manufactured iron and steel the position remains unchanged, but there are indications that some improvement may be expected after the turn of the year. Although in-

quiry in the cotton trade has been extensive, the actual business effected has not been important. Wheat is stronger. The sugar market developed increased depression on account of the high estimates of crops which are to hand from producing countries. Tea is slightly easier. The hide market is weakening. Further particulars of markets and prices will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the Foreign Exchange market the dollar rate has continued very firm, although for the moment it would seem that the top of the recent movement has been reached. From a closing price of \$4.68 on the 5th, there was a rapid jump upwards over the week-end to over \$4.70 on Monday, and at one time on Tuesday a price of \$4.71½ was reached, very little below the post-war record. After that there was more hesitation, and it seemed difficult to keep the rate steady above \$4.70. On the 11th it closed at \$4.69½, and yesterday morning was again a little weaker at \$4.69¼. Forward quotations stand at about ½ cent per month above spot. With regard to the immediate future, the rise in short money rates in New York suggests the necessity for extreme caution. Of the countries following the dollar, Berlin and Austria have gone in our favour, as also has Helsingfors, which for some time past has followed closely the dollar movements. Stockholm, Amsterdam, and Switzerland, all less closely attached, have nevertheless moved well in our favour, as have also Prague and Warsaw, while Italy shows a further rise from 108 to 109.05. For Paris the week has been unsatisfactory, the franc moving up from 86.25 with spasmodic jerks to as high as 88.45 on the 11th, and only recovering to 88.30 at the close of that day, in spite of the raising of the Bank of France discount rate. Yesterday morning, however, showed some recovery to 87.55, but at the same time it is doubtful whether this action has not come too late to secure any substantial recovery. Brussels, as usual, took a roughly parallel course, moving on the week from 94.35 to 95.25. Forward rates in Paris have moved up considerably to 40-45 centimes per month above spot, as compared with 20-30 centimes a week ago. In Brussels they stand at 7-10 centimes above. Of the more unattached exchanges, Madrid shows a sharp improvement from 33.77 to 33.49½ pesetas, while Christiania has also appreciated at 31.04½ kr., as compared with 31.25½ a week ago. Copenhagen, however, has moved in our favour from 26.45½ to 26.62½ kr. Bucharest has fluctuated again considerably, being down to 900 on the 10th, and standing yesterday at 920, as compared with 945 on the 5th. Athens at 260 shows little change, in spite of the success of the loan. In the East the rupee is unchanged at 1s 6 1-64d, while the yen has gone again slightly in our favour from 1s 7 21-32d to 1s 7 7-8d. The silver market has been quiet, with prices kept up at first by some buying from India and bear covering in China. The outlook, however, is uncertain, as the Continent is selling, and demand from the East seems weak. Hong Kong is ½d lower at 2s 4½d, and Shanghai ½d cheaper at 3s 3d. In South America Rio at 5 20-32d is 1-32d cheaper than a week ago. Buenos Aires has moved up from 44 24-32d to 45d, while Monte Video has depreciated from 50½d to 49½d, and Valparaiso from 40.70 to 41.20 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 6th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
Supply Services	6,681	From Revenue	10,996
Interest, &c., on Debt	45,628	Increase in Debt	41,408
Sinking Fund	116	Decrease in Exchequer Balances	96
Sundries	75		
	52,500		52,500

The Revenue for the week amounted to £10,995,600, as compared with £9,916,900 in the corresponding week of last year. Customs were lower at £2,509,000, against £3,114,000, and Excise at £1,686,000, against £1,837,000. Property and Income-tax yielded £1,952,000 as compared with £1,319,000. Super-tax was lower at £450,000, against £470,000. Post Office receipts at £1,000,000 were £250,000 higher. Interest on Sundry

loans brought in £1,027,400, as compared with £107,500. Ordinary receipts amounted to only £3,900, against £297,700, but Special receipts brought in £737,400, against £6,800. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £41,407,898, and caused the following changes:—

	(000's omitted.)	£
Treasury Bills		+ 4,110
National Savings Certificates		+ 50
Bank of England Advances		+ 19,250
Public Department Advances		+ 17,300
Sundries		+ 697
		+ 41,407

The floating debt was increased by £40,660,000 to £828,705,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to December 6).

	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	536,228,079	Raised by Revenue ..	466,306,918
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,603,852
		Amount borrowed ..	66,317,309
Total	536,228,079	Total	536,228,079

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure..	3,178,000	Special Receipts....	30 000 000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—British Overseas Bank, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Dorman, Long and Co., Chinese Engineering and Mining, Parent Tyre Company, Bwana M'Kubwa Copper Mining Company, New Modderfontein Gold Mining Company, Kerr Stuart and Co., and Van Ryn Gold Mines Estates. The Right Hon. Viscount Churchill, at the meeting of the British Overseas Bank, referring to the Dawes' proposals, said that they had given a breathing space of at least several years, not only to Germany, but to the whole of Europe, and, by attacking the trouble from which we are all suffering at one of its most important sources, they had brought Europe, as a whole, a long step forward on the road towards normal conditions. Lord Inchcape, at the meeting of the P. and O. Company, said that Governments would be better off if, instead of competing with private enterprise, they took a share of business profits in the form of income-tax. If they continued to run ships, they would fail commercially, and, to make good their losses, would have recourse to additional taxation. Sir Arthur J. Dorman, at the meeting of Dorman, Long and Co., said that in the long run he was satisfied that increasing stability in industrial conditions on the Continent would bring with it a steady rise in the cost of production, so that British and Continental prices will sooner or later come closer together.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

POLICY AND APPLICATION.

THE active Parliamentary career of the fourth Government which this country has had since the Armistice was opened on Tuesday with the King's Speech, which, though of unusual length, contained no surprises. The first of the four Governments, the Coalition of 1918, set out to give us a new heaven and a new earth. The second—that of Mr Bonar Law, afterwards succeeded by Mr Baldwin—gave us, by the natural swing of the pendulum, a wholly impracticable promise of tranquillity. The third, the Labour Government of Mr MacDonald, propounded, but had not the numerical strength to enforce the application of a new school of political and

economic thought to post-war problems. The fourth, which Mr Baldwin leads to-day, strikes no new note of political thought, and rejects the impossible doctrine of tranquillity in a world seething with problems that cry out to be faced and solved. It is, indeed, a salutary reminder of the magnitude and scope of the pressing problems of the hour that the King's Speech, although of almost inordinate length, can find no room for even a passing mention of inter-Allied debts—an omission rectified, however, in the debate on the Address—nor for reference to the glaring anomalies of our electoral system, an omission which unfortunately we hardly hope to see repaired.

The King's Speech ranges, metaphorically speaking, from China to Peru. The crisis in Egypt, the abortive Russian Treaty, the policy of the League of Nations, the Geneva Protocol, relations with Argentina and Italy, Empire development, the Singapore Base, public economy, fiscal policy, unemployment relief, agriculture, cost of living—even that does not exhaust the field over which the Government's programme roams. Gone, indeed, are the make-believe days of tranquillity.

Let us turn first to the two omissions from the Gracious Speech which we have mentioned above. It would, perhaps, be more than human to expect a Government which derives so large a part of its majority from the anomalies of our electoral system to set out on the morrow of the election to reform it. But it is as well that the facts and figures familiar to readers of the *Economist* were brought out and emphasised by Mr MacDonald and Mr Lloyd George. In the present Parliament every Conservative member represents on the average 20,000 votes, every Labour member 39,000, every Liberal member nearly 90,000. If they will not take steps to prevent a repetition of this absurdity, we hope at least that the Government will remember these figures, and allow them their proper weight in regard to the efforts of the Opposition to colour their policy. With regard to the question of inter-Allied debts, a statement was drawn from Mr Churchill in the course of a debate raised on the initiative of the Liberal leaders. We shall have occasion in the near future to examine in detail the various aspects of this problem as it has been left after the separation of the twin question of Reparations by the Dawes settlement. That separation should surely make the debt problem easier of solution. As to Mr Churchill's main position, namely, that in any debt settlement where both the United States and ourselves figure as creditors we should not receive in any case less satisfactory treatment than our friends across the Atlantic, there will, we think, be general support from all sections of public opinion. But in two respects Mr Churchill's first speech as Chancellor of the Exchequer is open to serious criticism. In the first place, by taking his stand on the Balfour Note of 1922, he has made his task, and the task of all those who labour at this problem, more difficult than it need be, for he has resurrected the barren controversy over a document which, as we have shown in these columns, was guilty of inaccurate statement, and which, moreover, created a bitterness and friction in Anglo-American relations which it took the Baldwin settlement to assuage. In the second place, his statement appears to tie his hands in rather too embarrassing a fashion in negotiations which can only be brought to success by the greatest freedom for give-and-take and for unfettered discussion.

It was said of the Treaty of Versailles at the time of its signature that it contained all the germs both of a bad and of a good settlement, everything depending on the application and the spirit of approach. The same may be said of the Government's programme as outlined in the King's Speech. There are points in it which arouse anxiety. There is in the forefront of the Speech the insistence on the correctness of the ultimatum policy in Egypt, the unfortunate effects of which Mr Chamberlain in Rome has been striving manfully to modify, though he cannot obliterate. There is also the exceedingly hurried decision on the Singapore Base, which, we should have thought, might have been referred for inter-Imperial deliberation during a period when the whole question of international dis-

armament is under the close scrutiny and discussion of all the Governments. There is, again, the absence of any constructive suggestion with regard to the Russian problem—although here we may be thankful that in registering the country's decision against the Labour Government's proposals the Government have not reflected in the *précis* of their policy the extravagances of the election platform. We trust that these not inconsiderable straws do not indicate the way in which the wind of Conservative policy is set. We prefer to believe that the spirit of the new Government's approach to this wide range of problems will be that of Mr Baldwin's speech at the Albert Hall last week. If the spirit of that fine announcement pervades the work of himself and his colleagues, the country will not have reason to be disappointed with a Government to whom, as the mover of the Address pointed out, the country has given much, and from whom it therefore expects much. But, as Mr MacDonald, with the assistance of a familiar nursery rhyme, suggested in the course of the debate, one of Mr Baldwin's dangers is the embarrassment of his own numerical power. In so large a family there will be evil influences, and evil influences in an over-crowded household are notoriously infectious. One of the most welcome features of the first week of the new Parliament is its revelation of the debating strength of the Opposition. This strength will, we hope, compensate for the lack of numbers in giving the Opposition the power which every Opposition should possess of compelling the Government of the day to display the virtues of keenness, foresight, and broadmindedness. They will, above all, we trust, restrain the Government's wanderings in what Mr Lloyd George describes as the "sterile wilderness of Protection," keep the Prime Minister's eyes firmly fixed not only on his own fiscal pledge, but on his electoral lesson of 1923, and finally provide a continual reminder that the great problems of Imperial development, political and economic, will not be solved or assisted by futile tariff tinkering, nor by an attempt to establish that contradiction in terms—Imperial preference without food taxes.

A TESTING TIME FOR DEMOCRACY.

"It is a testing time for democracy. Many are those who would pay and do pay lip service to it. But I remember that democracy is after all but the government of the people, by the people through their freely elected representatives, and unless the responsibility for that government is felt throughout the length and breadth of the country, from top to bottom, by men and women alike, democracy itself will fail.

"Democracy, democratic Government, calls for harder work, for higher education, for further vision than any form of Government known in this world. It has not lasted long yet in the West, and it is only by those like ourselves who believe in it making it a success that we can hope to see it permanent and yielding those fruits which it ought to yield. The assertion of the people's rights has never yet provided that people with bread. The performance of their duties and that alone can lead to the successful issue of those experiments in Government which we have carried further than any other people in this world."

In the remarkable passage here quoted from his speech in the Albert Hall, on December 4th, Mr Baldwin has put explicitly a question which has imperceptibly come to fill a large place in the background of many people's minds. What are the prospects of Democracy in the world after the war?

At first sight it seems a paradox that this question should arise at all. Democracy was the watchword of the Allied and Associated Powers; it was in order to make the world safe for it that we carried the war through to a military decision, and our victory seemed to deal a knock-out blow to those systems of Government which formerly had stood for all that was contrary to the democratic principle. The Hapsburg, Hohenzollern, and Romanov Dynasties fell, carrying a dozen lesser thrones to ruin with them, and in the twinkling of an eye there had arisen among the ruins a number of new States,

vowed to parliamentary Government (which we commonly regard as synonymous with Democracy), and based on national independence and sovereignty (which we also commonly regard as one of the essential foundations for a democratic State). Moreover, a few months before the Armistice, the initiation of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme had seemed to inaugurate the progressive and orderly introduction of Democracy into India, while the convulsions of the young Chinese Republic might prove to be the revolutionary birth-pangs of Democracy in another great non-Western community. "The irresistible movement of Democracy" seemed to be taking the human race by storm; yet now, half-a-dozen years later, we are doubting whether after all democracy is destined to prevail. What new experience, or new reflection upon our previous experience, has caused this change in our attitude?

In the first place, we have begun to realise the magnitude of the task which we have undertaken in proposing to convert the civilised non-Western peoples to Democracy in our Western sense of the word. Before the outbreak of the war the new ferment of Eastern political ideas was hardly taken seriously by the public—even the educated public—in Western countries. The transformation of Japan was still a miracle which we assumed to be unique, and did not examine critically as a possible symptom of a general tendency. Therefore, we did not at this time look closely into the Japanese attitude towards Democracy, or inquire whether the Japanese people had become converted inwardly to our political faith, besides adopting our external observances and material technique. In India, again, we saw nothing more significant than a handful of agitators who could be smothered with a sprinkling of reforms; and as for the first constitutional movements in Persia, Turkey, and Egypt, we treated them as a joke if we were aware of them at all. The writer can remember being present at a little meeting of political philosophers and historians in Oxford during the first days of the war, when we were discussing what we were fighting for. "National liberty and self-government," somebody suggested; "in Europe," added somebody else, "for after all we do not believe that this is possible or desirable in our Oriental dependencies"; and the qualification was accepted without debate—so little had the idea then entered our minds that Democracy had a universal application. By 1918, on the other hand, we had practically ceased to doubt that any other theory was tenable on a long view. By that time, what was to be made safe for Democracy was not Europe, but the world. So stupendous a revolution of thought in four years could only have occurred under war conditions, and in this case the present pricks of doubt may well be a sign of returning mental alertness. In fact, we might still have doubted on the basis of our former experience, even if our subsequent observation of what has since been happening in India, China, and Japan had not suggested new grounds for uncertainty.

Then there is the case of Central and Eastern Europe. Before the war we assumed (in spite of Zabern incidents, Hungarian elections, and Russian pogroms) that the undemocratic features in the Hapsburg, Hohenzollern, and Romanov empires were anachronisms, doomed to disappear by evolution. During the war we ourselves doomed them to destruction by force; and now, six years after we have destroyed them, we cannot be sure that Democracy is going to be the heir to the kingdom. In the "Succession States," to begin with, Democracy is still a feeble plant, struggling to maintain itself on the stony ground of illiteracy, corruption, and intolerance towards national minorities; but even if the Democracy of the "Succession States" may be saved as though by fire, what are the prospects of Democracy in Soviet Russia, who, since her recognition, must be regarded juridically as the largest most populous, and strongest "Succession State" of all? Unlike the three dynastic empires of the time before the war, the Soviet Government is not content to be merely undemocratic or incompletely democratic. It is consciously and deliberately anti-democratic, and proclaims from the housetops its *odium theologicum* against our political

* See the book of this name by John Simpson Penmen (London 1923, Macmillan, 21s net), which deals with the History of Democracy in the United States, France, and Great Britain since 1764.

creed. To the Bolsheviks liberty of elections, liberty of the Press, liberty of speech and conscience are anathema, just because they are the essence of Western Democracy, for the Bolsheviks see in our Democracy a device for governing States in the interests of one class against those of another. According to them, we evade government for the people by maintaining and manipulating the mechanism of government by the people, and the Bolsheviks have committed themselves to the dogma that, at any rate for a transitional period, true government for the people can only be secured by the dictatorship of a minority exercising force.

So far, perhaps, our survey might seem to give ground for disappointment rather than for positive alarm. The oriental world, and even Eastern Europe, we might say, are on the outskirts of Western Society, and we need not fear for the future of Democracy so long as it is secure in the homelands of Western civilisation. Here, however, we come to the strangest and most ominous political phenomenon in the world after the war. The ideal of a dictatorship, to be exercised by a minority and imposed on a majority by force, which has been proclaimed by the extreme Left in Russia, has also been adopted by the extreme Right in several countries of the Western world, and in this Signor Mussolini, as well as Lenin, has conquered. Psychologically, Fascism and Bolshevism are one. Their agreement on political method is more important than their disagreement in point of programmes, which in either case are so extreme that they are mere abstractions. The essential fact is the common resolve, and glorification of the resolve, to seize and hold political power by violence against the will of the majority, as that will would be expressed constitutionally in Parliamentary representative institutions. In Italy, indeed, Fascism and Communism are directly related, for Fascism in its origin was simply a successful attempt to fight a momentarily triumphant Communist movement with its own weapons. Thus, in the form of Fascism, the anti-democratic movement has penetrated perilously near to the heart of the West. We see it dominating Italy, Spain, Hungary, and Bavaria, menacing the other States of the German Reich, and raising its head in America in the guise of the Ku Klux Klan. Between them, Bolshevism and Fascism have almost beleaguered the citadel of Democracy in France, the United States, and Great Britain.

These challenges to Democracy are formidable, and Mr Baldwin has done us good service in warning us, without equivocation, that Democracy is on its trial; but the Fascists and Bolsheviks may unwittingly do us a service likewise, for by challenging our watchword they may stimulate us to analyse what we mean by it, and so indirectly help us to strengthen and improve the essential features in it which we really value. There is, indeed, an element of loose thinking in the connotation of the word. It suggests something common to ourselves and the Ancient Greeks, something that is as universal as those Platonic archetypes which are laid up in heaven, and which may, therefore, be taken for granted without any special human effort being needed to preserve them. This temptation to a supine and complacent attitude towards Democracy which lurks in the etymology of the word can only be counteracted by recalling the history of the institution. Our modern Democracy is not, historically, an inevitable state of affairs or a facile classical revival. It is a peculiar set of institutions, which have been developed very gradually, with great labour and sacrifice, on the soil of one or two Western countries like Switzerland, Holland, and, above all, England and the countries colonised by England overseas.

By Democracy we all mean, with Mr Baldwin, "government of the people by the people through their elected representatives"; but when the Prime Minister says that Democracy is "simply" this, he forgets that representative government is a precise system which differs in its characteristic feature from the system which the Greeks practised and called Democracy when they invented the word. It is, indeed, difficult for us to remember how narrow a plot the seed-bed of modern Democracy was, and how many centuries the plant took to grow up in this plot before it began to seed itself further afield. The evolution of responsible parliamentary government out of the rudimentary assemblies which the Teutons

possessed in common with most other primitive barbarians began in England as far back as the 13th century; but this English-grown system of government was not transplanted to France until the Revolution, and it is only in its French adaptation that it has spread, since then, over Continental Europe, round the shores of the Mediterranean, and into parts of Latin America. No wonder that in these new fields the tender growth is still easily uprooted by Red, White, and Black dictators!

After all, then, it appears that the world has not been made so safe for Democracy as we had momentarily assumed it to be; but that, so far from discouraging us, should move us to further effort. If we have built up our particular democratic form of government, in the course of centuries, in a world in which these political principles were elsewhere either unknown or ill-looked upon, we can surely uphold this Democracy in a world which has learned to do lip service to it, and where it is practised with an assured understanding and conviction by the six self-governing English-speaking peoples of to-day, as well as by the French, Belgians, Dutch, Swiss, and Scandinavians. "Democracy," as Mr Baldwin, has said, "can rise to great heights; it can also sink to great depths. It is for us so to conduct ourselves and so to educate our own people that we may achieve the heights and avoid the depths."

SAFEGUARDING "EFFICIENT" INDUSTRIES.

THE Government have under consideration a Bill—so runs the King's Speech—"for safeguarding employment in efficient industries where, after inquiry, the need for such exceptional action is established." In his speeches after the defeat of a year ago, in speeches before the recent election, and again in a speech on Tuesday night, the Prime Minister pledged himself not to introduce a protective tariff, or to use the so-called safeguarding of industries as a wedge to introduce it. But in all these declarations he claimed freedom, and announced his intention, to safeguard "efficient industries" where great unemployment was caused by "unfair competition." It cannot, therefore, be maintained that Mr Baldwin in pressing forward with a new Safeguarding of Industries Bill, on the general lines indicated in the King's Speech, is violating any pledge. He is doing what he has repeatedly declared his intention to do. Had the electorate paid more attention to the shortcomings of the pledge and a little less to anti-Bolshevist extravaganzas, the result of the elections might have been very different. In our view the whole idea that industries which really are efficient need to be bolstered up by tariffs against foreign imports is wrong-headed and fallacious. It is a contradiction in terms to safeguard by artificial means an efficient industry, for if it be efficient it can look after itself much better than any Government can look after it. But, however we may object to the whole policy as certain to do more harm than good, and to introduce the worst kind of wire-pulling into our political system, Mr Baldwin is Prime Minister, and his Government has an enormous majority behind it. We shall have the Bill beyond a doubt, and it will become our task not vainly to rail against its principles, but to endeavour, by timely criticism, to prevent it from becoming too injurious as an Act.

It does not seem very likely that the Government, after their experience of the existing Safeguarding of Industries Act—of which some remnants still survive—will attempt to follow its lines in their new Bill. Those clauses of Part II., and the Orders based on them, which came to an end last August, were explicitly aimed at Germany, and were not put into operation against any other country. No future Act can proceed in this fashion. The Anglo-German Commercial Treaty sets up the fullest reciprocity under most-favoured-nation clauses between the United Kingdom and Germany, and no duties can be imposed upon German goods which are not also imposed on similar goods coming from other foreign countries. The early

legislation which is promised setting this Treaty in operation will profoundly remodel any Safeguarding of Industries Bill. That Bill must be general in its terms and apply to foreign imports as a whole. The surviving dumping clauses of Part II. are already made by it a dead letter, and may possibly be repealed by the new Bill. Anti-dumping orders cannot be made against any country, including Germany, with which we have most-favoured-nation treaties. Therefore dumping—of which so much was alleged by protectionists and so little demonstrated—also may be ruled out of the Bill. We get, it may be concluded, the prospect of a measure which will propose to set up machinery for inquiry and examination of complaints by "efficient industries" that they are failing to give employment owing to unfair competition, whatever that may be. This will be much more simple a Bill to criticise and to make the poor best of than was that extraordinary and contemptible hybrid, the Act of 1921.

Seeing that Mr Baldwin bases his policy of safeguarding "efficient industries" on an alleged loss of the means of giving employment through exceptional competition, it seems clear that he must contemplate restricting his new Bill to industries of some national importance. Nothing did more to make the existing Act an object of derision than to observe the scratch company of insignificant industries—the most important was fabric gloves—which successfully set up claims for protection by Order under Part II. Unless an industry can establish some claim to be a factor in the country's industrial life, to be an industry employing a considerable number of our work-people, it is quite ridiculous to give it any kind of special protection on Mr Baldwin's principles. Therefore, whatever may be the declared intentions of the Bill as drafted, when it comes before Parliament it will be the duty of the opposing parties and of the Press to see that its operation is confined to industries of real importance. A restriction of this kind can scarcely be opposed by Mr Baldwin's supporters, seeing that their avowed purpose is to increase employment, and not merely to set in operation special machinery to protect fabric gloves, hollow domestic ironware, gas mantles, and the other subjects for the Orders which expired in August.

Industry in this country is so closely organised a net work, the one part dependent upon the other, that any special protection of one industry may quickly put out of business other industries which are dependent upon the first for their raw material or means of production. The products of one industry are very often the raw material of another. It is therefore of the highest importance that no industry should be able to set up a claim to protection, and ignore those other industries which will be adversely affected by any artificial increase in the cost of its products. Even the existing Act, the dumping part as well as the lately expired portion, recognised this interdependence of industries, and directed that account should be taken, before making an Order, of industries which sought. Provisions, at least as strong as those of the earlier Act, must, and doubtless will, be embodied in the new Bill before it becomes an Act.

From our point of view, which is that of the country's welfare as a whole, the machinery of examination and enquiry into claims of industries for protection against "unfair competition" can scarcely be too strict. First, we must have the coldly critical eye of the Board of Trade. If the Board be charged with the duty of subjecting all claims to a searching scrutiny of its own before any question can arise of enquiry by committee, then a large proportion of the claims will be officially ruled out under the new Act, as they were under the old one. Secondly, we must have an enquiry into claims (which pass the Board of Trade) by committees sitting in public. The people of this country will not tolerate any hole-and-corner protection, any introduction of tariffs by the "wedge" which Mr Baldwin repudiates. Then, if and when Orders are made, we must have open criticism in the House of Commons and in the country; then and then only can it be allowed that the Prime Minister has done his utmost to keep the pledge, which he has declared and to terated, of not seeking to introduce a system of protection under the guise of "safeguarding employment efficient industries where, after enquiry, the need for

such exceptional action is established." If the Act fulfils all the conditions demanded by the interests of industry as a whole, then it will be comparatively impotent for good or evil.

THE PROBLEMS OF CANADA.—I. HER HANDICAPS AND ASSETS.

(BY A RECENT VISITOR.)

THOSE who form their impressions of Canada from Wembley or from propagandist literature would, perhaps, be surprised if they visited the Dominion to find that the attitude towards the future is far from being one of un-mixed confidence, and, indeed, that in certain quarters there is prevalent a sentiment which can only be described as pessimistic. If a fair estimate of Canada's present and future situation is to be formed, it is essential first to examine the causes of this anxiety. Four factors are mainly responsible—viz., the political situation, the drift of population to the United States, the burden of taxation, and the railway problem. As regards the first of these points, it has to be recognised that while Canadians generally feel an intense pride in their young nationhood (of which membership of the League of Nations is so striking a symbol), there still remain disruptive forces between the different parts of the Dominion. As this aspect of the Canadian problem is little understood in "the Old Country," it may be convenient to give some evidences of it here. Thus a writer in a recent number of the *Round Table* (June, 1924) observes that "in certain quarters there have been secret forebodings that in Western Canada a psychological condition was maturing which might be the prelude to a movement for absorption in the United States." Again, on the occasion of the visit of the British Association to Toronto the local organisers remark, in the preface to a handbook on Canada, that "We have had serious difficulties to overcome in the organisation and unification of Canada.....It would not be true to say that at the moment there is acute feeling between East and West, for in older Canada there is no sentiment of hostility to the prairie provinces; but in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta there has been a revolt among the farmers against the Customs duties maintained for revenue and for the protection of Eastern industries."

Later on the editor remarks, "Unfortunately, the war produced friction between Quebec and the English provinces, but this now is generally deplored, recriminations have almost ceased, and the wounds heal slowly, perhaps, but surely."

The greatest problem of all, however, is, perhaps, the case of the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island—a part of the Dominion that has always been sceptical of the advantages of Confederation. These provinces complain bitterly that their interests are being sacrificed to those of predominant partners—viz., Toronto and Quebec. One of the representatives of these provinces in Parliament, who speaks of them as being "soured by a sense of injustice," demands, in a pamphlet entitled *Nova Scotia's Right to Live*, "the appointment of a fact-finding commission to investigate and report upon the economic results of private and public business in this province, including the position, merits, services, and charges of the inter-colonial railway, and also the merits records and results had, and probably to be had, from the economic system which has grown up out of the Confederation of Nova Scotia with the rest of Canada." After examining the causes of the economic depression and the decline in the population and trades of the region, the writer continues: "If Canada is not to become economically independent and nationally protected in the matter of ocean ports, transportation, fisheries and mines, as well as industries, why should the outlying provinces be satisfied with merely the protection of industries for the special benefit of the two central provinces, to the economic loss of the outlying ones?"

That this is not merely the view of a single or unimportant writer is shown by the fact that in the report of the Canadian National Railways, Sir Henry Thornton observes that "in those provinces, there appears to exist a

feeling of disappointment and dissatisfaction in a way which is not itself revealed, that the provinces have not obtained that advantage from Confederation which they had been led to expect. The consideration of such a problem is obviously beyond the scope and responsibilities of the administration of the national railway system, but when dissatisfaction in any section of the Dominion reaches such proportions as to involve a possible effect upon the company's operations, it is desirable that at least some attention should be given." The italics are ours. The trouble must have reached substantial dimensions to justify such words. Sir Henry proceeds to explain that the traffic department has endeavoured with some success to encourage the use of the ports of Halifax and St. John's by modification of freight rates.

These discontents are not to be taken too tragically, and there is little doubt that they would be swept away by the strength of national sentiment if the two came seriously into conflict. But the fact that they exist, and are often the subject of discussion, illustrates the difficulty of binding together into a single unit a country so widely scattered and with such divergent economic interests as the Dominion. They undoubtedly make politics difficult, for it is hard for the elector to envisage the problems of the whole country—far less of the Empire—when his interest is held by the big economic questions affecting his own province. Canadian politics have always been, and still are, largely the effort of the different provinces to secure benefits for themselves—very often in connection with railway building. Thus, on his recent Western tour, Mr King finds his farmer audiences interested, not so much in the Geneva protocol of the League of Nations, but in whether the Government is going to proceed with the Hudson Bay Railway, or what it is going to do about the Crow's Nest Pass freight rates. It is more than usually difficult in such circumstances to keep politics free from log-rolling.

In the second place, Canada is disturbed by the fact that her people have been drifting across the border in large numbers. The *Montreal Gazette* recently asserted that in the last few years the Dominion has not even retained its natural increase of population, but has lost to the States more than it has received by immigration. The figures are very disputable, and those of the Dominion Statistician do not tally with those of the Washington Government. Indeed, it is well nigh impossible to keep an exact tally over 3,000 miles of frontier. But it is certainly a fact that the maritime provinces are declining in population, and that certain parts of the prairie provinces—e.g., the dry area in the neighbourhood of Medicine Hat—are losing their inhabitants. In both cases there are special influences to be taken into account, but the fact of the matter is that after the big post-war slump Canada has not enjoyed so marked a recovery as the United States, and her economic life has been to an increasing extent overshadowed by the rapid growth and colossal trade of her great neighbour. It is a common remark that the States are an irresistible lure to enterprising young Canadians in all walks of life, for they find there much more varied opportunities than are available in their own country. Canada is constantly described as the Scotland of the United States. No one stays who has an opportunity of going South. In this connection it is to be remembered that Canadians are privileged in the States—native-born Canadians not being subject to the immigration restriction laws. It is commonly asserted, and apparently with truth, that the cost of living is no higher in the United States than in Canada, but the wages are substantially higher.

The tide of emigration has, however, turned for the time being. The check to trade expansion in America this summer, and better conditions in Canada, have made it less attractive to go South when there is some renewed unemployment. Canadians are, however, still exercised over their slow growth; for it is widely realised that Canada's economic difficulties can only be solved by a growing population.

Again, Canada complains of its heavy taxation. All nations do that, especially those who carry a heavy war burden. But the weight seems particularly heavy to Canada by comparison with conditions in the States, where the cost of the war per head is slight, where taxation is being rapidly reduced, and the war debt can be,

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

Affiliated Abroad
Westminster Foreign Bank Limited
Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes,
Brussels, Antwerp
Affiliated in Ireland: Ulster Bank Limited

THE BANK is represented by Branches or
Agents in all the principal cities and towns
of the United Kingdom and has
correspondents throughout
the World

Head Office: 41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C. 2

and probably will be, repaid in two decades. Canada, on the other hand, is not within sight of a falling Budget, but is saddled not only with a heavy war debt, but with heavy annual deficits on the Government railway system. This constitutes a very serious problem. Canada has been overbuilt with railways, i.e., she has built in advance of her requirement, while in some cases she has indulged in unwise building and in unnecessary duplication of lines. But instead of the investor losing his capital, the Government has taken on the responsibility for a large amount of unremunerative capital. The Canadian National Railway system, since the war, has added to Canada's debt an amount considerably larger than her total national debt before the war. These difficulties together constitute a situation which cannot be lightly dismissed.

There is, however, a silver lining to the cloud. The problems mentioned are one side only of the situation—and need to be set against the great natural resources of Canada and the great progress she has already made. To take the last point first, it has to be borne in mind that Canada's recovery in recent years has been poor only by comparison with the U.S.A. It has been very good compared with almost every other country of the world. If we go a little farther back, we find that her population increased 34 per cent. between 1901 and 1911—a more rapid rate of growth than any other country—and between 1911 and 1921, in spite of war losses, it rose by 22 per cent.—a rate more rapid than that of the United States. The increase of the last few years amounts to less than 5 per cent. Whether this is a permanent or a temporary phase depends mainly upon economic and social conditions, as compared with America. It is, however, worth pointing out that even in the years of temporary depression Canada's main source of economic strength, the agricultural output of prairie provinces, has steadily advanced. The following is the area under field crops in these three provinces:—

	Million acres.		Million acres.
1890	1.4	1915	22.5
1900	3.6	1920	30.2
1910	13.6	1923	37.8

It will be seen that the area added since 1920 is double the total area under cultivation in 1900. Thus one part at least of the Dominion has gone ahead steadily, though even here there has been a slight shift in the direction of the wheat belt.

Potential resources make an even more striking story. Starting with the prairie provinces, the cultivable area is estimated to be 167 million acres. But Canada is not, and will not be, a country of one product only. Canada's splendid resources in lumber, fish, fruit, and furs are well known; but it is not so generally realised that in minerals she is one of the most richly endowed countries in the world. In one or two rare products, viz., nickel and asbestos, she is almost a monopolist. She is a large producer of silver and gold; she possesses one-fourth of the coal reserves of the New World; great iron ore deposits

are at her door in Newfoundland; she produces copper in considerable quantities, and in her western provinces she has extensive undeveloped oil fields. The relative importance of the different sides of Canadian life may be judged from the following figures of values for 1921, to which has been added a figure for 1901—not for purposes of direct comparison with 1921, since prices have so greatly changed, but as a guide to the relative growth of the different classes of activity:—

	Value of Canadian Production (in Millions of Dollars).	
	1901.	1921.
Field crops	195	932
Minerals	65½	172
Primary forest products .....	.....	159
Dairy products	30	112
Fisheries	25½	35
Exports	177	1,189

No figure is available for forest products in 1901, but it would not show a very rapid rate of growth. The lumber industry was a comparatively early one in Canada. To-day it is one of Canada's greatest assets, but one which gives some ground for anxiety. Though favoured with enormous resources, it is officially asserted "that more than one-half of our original forest wealth has been destroyed by fire, and that more timber has been so destroyed in recent years than has fallen to the axe." Also, the method of lumbering in many districts is extremely wasteful and destructive to the young and growing trees. The spruce bud-worm is also causing great destruction. Forest products may, therefore, not show the phenomenal development of which other branches are capable. But this table and any statement, however brief, of Canada's natural resources cannot fail to inspire confidence in the economic future of the country. The pace at which these assets are developed depends upon the way Canada deals with the problems bequeathed to her by the war, and with the other man-made difficulties summarised above.

SHALE OIL.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THERE was a shale oil boom in the U.S.A. about 1919-22, largely due to the high prices of petroleum at that time, and more than 250 companies rushed prematurely into the business with insufficient technical and financial backing. Most of them quickly came to grief. Despite these numerous failures, however, the exploitation of the enormous oil shale deposits in the Western States is again being keenly and seriously considered. Keenness in some quarters, indeed, has never flagged. Several years ago the U.S. naval authorities, with an eye to their future fuel supplies, reserved to themselves vast areas—some 130,000 acres—of shale deposits, and some of the big petroleum companies did likewise; but development has been held up mainly through lack of a really economic process of shale distillation. The search for such a process has been earnestly pursued by the petroleum companies, some of the universities, and by Government research stations. A suitable "process" has, it is true, often enough been proclaimed, but has turned out to be a bubble, of a bright and glittering hue, wherewith to adorn the pages of the company promoter's prospectus. But just lately a research chemist, M. J. Trumble, associated at one time with the General Petroleum Corporation, and afterwards with the Shell Company, has evolved a distillation method of which great hopes are entertained. It was recently described by Dr V. C. Alderson in the *Colorado School of Mines Quarterly*, and has been tested on a semi-large scale at Alhambra, near Los Angeles. The Secretary of the U.S. Navy considers it very promising, and Dr Alderson thinks that Mr Trumble's investigations may mark a new era in the distillation, not only of oil shale, but also of coal and other hydrocarbons.

The financial success of any process must necessarily be largely dependent on the price of petroleum. There has been a marked stimulation during the last year or two in petroleum production, and prices have become easier; and there is always the possibility of great discoveries of

fresh sources. Yet the view is held that even if such discoveries materialise, the demand for liquid fuel is growing so rapidly that new discoveries cannot much more than compensate increased demand, and every possible alternative supply must be fully exploited. Since 1914 domestic consumption of crude petroleum has increased nearly 300 per cent., namely, from 261 million barrels to 711 million barrels in 1923 (or 70 per cent. of the world total). Domestic production, as the result of intensive drilling and the discovery of new fields, has increased in about the same proportion; but only three times (in 1914, 1915, and 1923) during the last ten years has it been sufficient to supply domestic needs. The difference between production and consumption, which in 1920 reached the maximum of 88 million barrels, has been made good by importations, chiefly from Mexico. The position has been examined in some detail by the American Petroleum Institute, but it is not necessary to give further figures here. We turn again to the vast deposits, whole mountains in fact, of shale in Colorado and neighbouring States. An American writer has likened these to mighty bulwarks staving off the future fuel famine.

The U.S. Geological Survey gives the following estimates of total reserves:—

	Oil Shale Area.	Oil per Acre.	Total Oil Yield.
	Acres.	Barrels.	Barrels.
Colorado	896,000	75,000	67,200,000,000
Utah	2,700,000	15,000	40,500,000,000
Wyoming	500,000	6,000	3,000,000,000

The oil yields per acre are based on very conservative estimates, which are often exceeded. In the Naval Reserve the yield in many places is computed at 185,000 barrels per acre. This gigantic shale oil total is about fourteen times the total amount of petroleum produced in the U.S.A. since the beginning in 1859. Another interesting comparison is that if shale mining and distillation were undertaken on a scale sufficient to supply the equivalent of one year's consumption of petroleum, there would be required 1,900 shale plants of 1,000 tons daily capacity, or 19,000 plants the size of the largest which has yet been worked for any length of time in the U.S.A.

In regard to yields, costs, and possible profits, the Scottish shale oil industry, although furnishing invaluable experience, is hardly comparable with U.S.A. conditions. For example, in the Scottish industry ammonium sulphate to the extent of about 35 lbs per ton of shale is an important by-product, but it is considered doubtful if it would pay to recover this from American shale. A great variety of by-products has been claimed from oil shale by enthusiastic inventors, ranging from helium or platinum to hair oil and lamp black. The latter, in fact, is one of the most valuable. A new development in which shale residue is used for brickmaking will be noted later on. The yield of shale oil itself varies from 5 to 70 gallons per ton of shale, the average being about 35 gallons.

Costs will largely depend upon methods of mining used, whether underground or open-cut quarrying. The former has hitherto been the most largely used, and the cost is roughly estimated at 35 to 65 per ton, according to figures given at the Milwaukee meeting of the American Mining Congress in September, 1923. This was based on a proposed working of 10,000 tons per day. In open-cut quarrying the cost is put at 15 to 25 per ton. Two companies have been working experimental plants at De Beque, Col., during the past few years, and they claim to be able to mine shale yielding 60 gallons per ton at a cost of about 3s 6d. Another estimate for deposits near Green River, Wyoming, is 2s 6d. Mining costs are, of course, a most important factor in the total costs. In Scotland in 1919 these accounted for 52.97 per cent. of total costs, retorting 18.56 per cent., oil refining 15.10 per cent. These figures do not include fixed, general, and overhead costs of retorting. Costs of crushing in the U.S.A., according to data supplied by the two companies already quoted, range from 3d to 6d per ton. Generally, it may be concluded that shale oil may cost anything from 4s to 12s per barrel.

The above figures are only very approximate. Data based on large-scale continuous working are too few to yield anything more precise, and there are numerous variables to be taken into account, e.g., amount of shale reserve available, and its yield of oil and by-products, the

physical character of the shale as it affects mining, crushing, and retorting, the character of the shale oil and its refinability; also transport facilities, water supply, labour supply, and disposal of residue or waste shale.

The disposal of the shale residue is a serious problem. A plant of 1,000 tons daily capacity would have to dispose of 500,000 cubic yards of waste shale per annum. All kinds of methods have been suggested, and a great deal of research work has been concentrated on the question. The most promising outlets so far suggested appear to be the manufacture of fertiliser, cement, and bricks. A brickmaking plant is now being operated by the British Brick Company, of Philipstoun, in Scotland, using the Broxburn shale residue. The output is 1,000 bricks per hour of the ordinary sand-lime (calcium silicate) kind. Shale residue consists mainly of silica (56 per cent.) and ferric oxide (31.2 per cent.), with small proportions of carbon, alumina, lime, and magnesia. The colour of the bricks varies with the composition of the shale, but they are of better quality than the ordinary burnt clay bricks. A report on these shale bricks has just been published by Professor T. Hudson Beare, of Edinburgh University.

CATERING COMPANIES' PROFITS.

IN our issue of December 6th, on page 912, we examined the financial position of a number of representative hotels. We propose in this article to supplement this analysis by examining the accounts of a group of catering companies, which can be said to be closely allied to hotels, inasmuch as they are chiefly concerned in the important work of providing for the food requirements of the population. As in the case of hotel undertakings, the exhibition at Wembley was expected to enhance the profits of catering concerns; the effects of the influx of visitors to London will, however, only be found in those cases where the accounts are made up to a period ending on or later than June 30, 1924. For instance, the great catering organisation of J. Lyons and Co. make their accounts up to March 31, 1924. As this firm secured the contract for food supply at Wembley, the exhibition will play an important part in its accounts for the year ended March 31, 1925. It may, however, be of interest to examine the results of some of the leading catering organisations, disclosed in their latest accounts. We begin by showing the net profit, after payment of debenture interest, during the past three years, adding also the amounts carried forward:—

Name.	Net Profits (after Payment of Deb. Interest).			Carry Forward.		
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Aerated Bread	£ 136,645	£ 122,266	£ 146,970	£ 14,639	£ 19,499	£ 30,276
Hill (W.) and Son	7,36	7,667	12,025	8,202	7,107	13,633
Holborn and Frascati	46,522	35,333	136,603	16,385	13,899	114,983
J. P. Restaurants	18,319	18,871	8,740	37,722	37,028	37,674
Jones (R. E.)	15,702	41,663	Dr 194,081	Dr 188,857	30,239	25,594
Lyons (J.) and Co.	595,615	631,816	665,377	15,421	4,794	4,874
Romano's	Dr 2,873	5,480	.....	.....	.....	.....
Slaters	9,777	22,263	37,877	3,791	9,622	20,010
Spiers and Pond	104,158	119,794	113,593	13,114	19,349	17,699
"Ye Mecca" .....	.....	5,754	16,899	.....	1,501	1,720

† Year 1923.

The Aerated Bread Company issue accounts to September 30th of this year; the results are certainly better, but in view of general expectations they are not remarkable. J.P. Restaurants issue figures for the year ended June 30th last; here results have proved disappointing, and the board is inclined to blame the continued depression in trade. It should not be overlooked, however, that this set-back is only a loss in the comparative sense, and that the ordinary shareholders received a final dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum. Lyons issued their report for the year ended March 31, 1924, on June 12th last, and by this time most people are aware of the figures of this enterprising undertaking. If Dame Rumour is to be believed, the profits of this undertaking should be even higher when the next accounts are published. Slaters, with accounts to September 30th of this year, record a

substantial increase. We are officially informed that Romano's report for year ended June 30, 1924, has not yet been issued. For purposes of comparison, we show the figures for the two preceding years.

Our next table shows the principal assets and liabilities of the companies already dealt with:—

Name.	Principal Liabilities.			Principal Assets.				
	Total Share & Deb. Capital.	Re-serves.	Cred-itors.	Prop-erties, Plant, &c.	Stocks.	Cash.	Invest-ments.	Debtors
Aerated Bread— Sept. 30, 1922	£ 1,138,556	£ 54,575	£ 82,479	£ 1,000,139	£ 100,517	£ 60,649	£ 179,747	£ 23,671
Sept. 30, 1923	1,477,500	57,000	85,555	1,157,429	95,343	34,833	386,314	41,135
Sept. 30, 1924	1,477,500	68,000	94,105	1,281,689	86,442	54,743	258,608	54,743
Hill (W.) and Son— End of 1921	102,500	1,731	20,228	104,534	8,079	9,278	7,281	8,329
End of 1922	103,500	2,812	18,490	117,998	7,396	8,120	7,604	7,318
End of 1923	120,000	2,416	31,769	174,204	10,081	7,609	98,987	6,547
Holborn and Frascati— End of 1921	67,000	243,735	85,806	525,000	310,876	21,673	118,572	14,995
End of 1922	607,000	262,012	60,871	525,000	276,553	36,184	119,803	14,962
End of 1923	607,000	268,286	48,053	525,000	237,192	44,135	129,631	16,817
J. P. Restaurants— June 30, 1922	100,000	10,178	20,984	125,491	37,933	13,481	..	1,119
June 30, 1923	10,178	24,241	141,049	36,612	37,048	..	..	856
June 30, 1924	150,000	10,178	27,503	174,238	40,281	6,532	..	4,189
Jones (R. E.)— Oct. 31, 1921	1,647,477	80,936	83,556	771,668	144,864	1,022	729,908	56,619
Oct. 31, 1922	1,47,080	88,014	66,783	795,799	66,450	23,113	723,250	54,391
Oct. 31, 1923	1,647,080	102,859	82,764	791,348	60,381	55,065	726,322	66,553
Lyons (J.) and Co.— March 31, 1923	5,187,724	409,133	1,405,098	4,196,141	1,766,378	398,407	867,518	427,947
March 31, 1924	5,000,000	2,316,956	5,324,065	1,976,340	540,197	91,068	586,183	586,183
March 31, 1925	6,421,350	739,245	2,179,826	7,040,742	2,255,466	497,201	257,044	638,803
Romano's— June 30, 1922	60,000	20,000	8,451	79,458	16,453	12,622	..	759
June 30, 1923	60,000	20,000	6,252	79,458	16,453	12,622	..	1,174
Slaters— Sept. 30, 1922	455,000	190,481	21,514	493,745	24,587	1,200	36,195	18,825
Sept. 30, 1923	455,000	180,518	32,182	503,370	19,631	873	29,861	19,033
Sept. 30, 1924	455,000	180,258	39,549	528,578	20,36	1,523	29,861	21,652
Spiers and Pond— March 31, 1922	1,181,128	204,747	117,654	1,279,377	80,258	65,530	160,951	51,777
March 31, 1923	1,173,418	221,850	106,472	1,274,356	63,176	76,743	138,650	50,132
March 31, 1924	1,160,290	247,503	144,623	1,290,440	74,407	86,792	142,719	50,609
"Ye Mecca"— End of 1922	114,750	28,823	20,872	165,495	6,67	7,025	10,908	700
End of 1923	125,000	.....	33,162	168,412	9,949	1,321	10,908	708

Recent additions to capital have not been on a very considerable scale. There has been an increase of £1,000,000 in the 7 per cent. preference and of £6,000 in the "A" ordinary shares of Lyons. Hill and Son issued the balance of their authorised ordinary share capital, amounting to £16,500, while the increase in the case of J.P. Restaurants was on account of debentures, bringing the total outstanding up to £50,000. "Ye Mecca" issued £10,250 of 8 per cent. preference shares. The reduction in the case of Spiers and Pond was caused by the redemption of part of the 5 per cent. debenture stock. It will be seen that in a number of instances reserves are in but poor relation to the total of assets. The Aerated Bread, with assets totalling £1,752,478, show reserves of £68,000. R. E. Jones have assets valued at over £1½ millions, but reserves are only just over £100,000. Spiers and Pond and Lyons, however, are certainly much better in this respect.

In our final table we show dividends on the ordinary shares for past two years, a comparison of share prices and the present yield:—

Name.	Ordinary Dividends.				Price End of 1923.	Price End Nov. 1924.	Yield.
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.			
Aerated Bread (£1)	15	12½	8½	10	1½	1½	7 5 6
Hill (W.) and Son (5/1)	10½	7½	7½	5	..	1½	3 6 9
Holborn & Frascati (£1)	15	11	11	11	1½	1½	10 0 0
J. P. Restaurants (£1)	10	nil	nil	15	..	1½	10 0 0
Jones (R. E.)	42½	42½	25	25	4½	4½	5 8 0
Lyons (J.) and Co. (£1)	nil	nil	7½	..	..	1½	9 12 c
Romano's (£1)	5	5	6	8	1½	1½	7 2 9
Slaters (£1)	12½	12½	12½	12½	1½	1½	16 0 0
Spiers and Pond (£1)	5	4	4	4	1½	1½	7 11 5
"Ye Mecca" (£1)	5	4	4	4	1½	1½	7 11 5

† Also capitalised bonus of 100 per cent.

The catering industry has not, in our opinion, reached the degree of stability which we are now able to associate with the hotel industry. The point is brought out in detail in the above table of yields. Even where dividends are steadily maintained over a period of years in old-established concerns, the return upon capital is high. In other cases where dividends fluctuate the instability is naturally accentuated. Apparently profits depend entirely upon efficiency of management, and in seeking investments in this direction the cautious person will look more to the man behind the organisation than to historic names and undertakings which are living upon their past.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

(FROM A GERMAN CORRESPONDENT.)

The chief feature of the German elections is the increase in the polls, which has automatically raised the number of Deputies elected from 472 to 489. The majority needed for carrying on a Government has thus been raised from 237 to 245. If this increased number of votes is taken into account, none of the big parties, with the exception of the Socialists, have gained ground. The Nationalists have risen from 96 to 103, the Centre from 65 to 69, the People's Party from 44 to 51, and the Democrats from 28 to 32. These parties have merely held their own. The only real gainers have been the Socialists, whose increase of 31 per cent. is far beyond the general growth of the poll. But this comparison does not tell the full story. For the decline of the Communists from 62 to 45 and of the Ludendorff Party from 32 to 14 is full of meaning.

The total strength in the old Reichstag of the out-and-out reactionary parties, the Nationalists, the Ludendorff Party, the Land Union, and the German Social Party, was 142. It has now fallen to 125. On the other hand, the Republican parties, including the Centre, the Social Democrats, and the Democrats, have risen from 193 to 232. There remains the Bavarian People's Party, somewhat allied to the Centre, which has grown from 16 to 19, and some smaller composites which have grown from 10 to 17. And chief of all there is the People's Party, sometimes led and sometimes followed by Dr Stresemann, which has practically maintained its position, having grown from 44 to 51. It cannot make up its mind whether it is a Republican or a Monarchical party, and is trying, as it has tried in the olden days when it was the National-Liberal Party, to be all things to all men.

The elections have shown a considerable growth of the Republican spirit. The Monarchists, including the People's Party and the Bavarian People's Party, have declined from 202 to 194. The anti-reactionary parties have grown from 193 to 232, and if the Communists were included, to 277.

This is quite an achievement, having come about within half a year. But it is not enough to make the formation of a Government easy. Unfortunately, the so-called Old Coalition, led by Dr Wirth, which was composed of Socialists, Democrats, and Centrists, are 13 short of a bare majority, as they number but 232. Such a coalition might not have been desirable, as it would have driven the German People's Party into opposition. But the mere fact that their services could be dispensed with would have made this party quite willing to come in on reasonable terms. Things being what they are, they do not seem willing to enter into a coalition in which the Socialists are strongly represented. The bulk of the party is hankering after an alliance with the Nationalists. As the Nationalists need not be frightened any longer of the Ludendorff section, whose short and merry days are over, and as they have expressed their willingness to swallow Dr Stresemann, provided they get into power, they are sure to return the People's Party's affection. They hope to rope in the Centre Party and some of the nondescripts. That would give them a voting strength of about 250 to 260, or just a bare majority. They need not get the support of the Democrats. The Democrats who brought about the elections, as they objected to a "bourgeois block," are bound to keep away from such an unholy alliance, after the elections have shown them that, especially in Berlin, their star is rising. It is not likely, moreover, that the democratic wing of the Centre will stultify themselves and go in for reactionary policies at a time when, as the great success of the Socialists has shown, the tide is running in the direction of moderate progressivism. And it is almost impossible that Prussia, where elections have taken place, too, can be governed by a bourgeois block, for it can count only on 235 members out of 450, to which some of the "chips" might be added.

The present Prussian Coalition Government includes all parties, from the People's Party to the Socialists; it has

a voting strength of 261 members, which gives it a comfortable working majority. Without a change in Prussia, the participation of the Nationalists in the Reich is of no use to them. They want to get hold of the Prussian Administration and oust the extremely able Socialist Minister of the Interior. If they cannot do that, the joy in having to vote taxes and to carry out a foreign policy they do not believe in will not compensate the party as a whole, though it may gratify the ambitions of a few individuals who want seats in the Cabinet.

As a Parliamentary proposition, the formation of a new Government is not easy. The way out may be the continuation of the present minority Coalition, which has gained a little in strength, with the support, but not the participation, of the Socialists. No doubt Dr Stresemann's oscillations in the election campaign make co-operation with him not always very easy. But politicians have long ago realised that his apparent want of constancy is merely his particular way of being constant.

Great as these difficulties are, they must not blind one against one solid achievement—the overwhelming majority of the German people have approved their Government's foreign policy. For though the Nationalists talked against it, they would willingly continue it if they were admitted to the Cabinet. A year ago Germany was on the brink of dissolution, social as well as political. The May elections were the Parliamentary index of that situation, showing plainly enough that very nearly a fourth of the German people, the Ludendorff crowd and the Communists, were politically mad. Nationalism was rampant as the result of M. Poincaré's policy. A few months of moderation on the side of the Allies have been sufficient to destroy a good deal of that movement, and to give the moderates in Germany a chance to find their legs. They have not yet succeeded completely, but the lesson is clear. It lies with the Allies, and with the Allies alone, whether Germany is to be peaceful, moderate, and progressive, or whether she is to be nationalist, mad, and reactionary. The mainstay of German nationalism has been M. Poincaré. The improvement in the German situation is the result of a moderate policy, and the improvement will continue if the German people and the German Government are treated with justice and consideration. Any new slight, any deviation from the wording of the Treaty of Peace, like a continuation of the occupation of Cologne, is bound to bring support to the waning strength of the Nationalists.

Notes of the Week.

Mr Chamberlain at Rome.—The absence of the Foreign Minister from the debate on the Address is a handicap to the House of Commons, only excusable by very special circumstances. But Mr Chamberlain's absence, owing to his attendance at the Council meeting of the League of Nations at Rome, is entirely justified. If this country is to play the part expected of it in the business of the League, it is exceedingly desirable that it should be represented at important meetings by delegates of the highest possible authority. Mr Chamberlain is, therefore, to be congratulated on his choice of occupation this week, and the congratulations may, we think, also apply to the pains which he has quite obviously taken to counteract the wide suspicion and dislike aroused abroad by certain aspects of his Egyptian policy. His unofficial offer to explain, if desired, to the Council the action of the British Government in Egypt was a timely and tactful act. Nor can the keenest critic find anything to take exception to in Mr Chamberlain's first speech to the Council on Monday, in which he emphasised the profound importance attached to the League not only by the present Government, but by all parties in the Council, for the postponement of the consideration of the Geneva Protocol until March. The part which this but of the world, the vital questions which it raises for the trend of American foreign policy, and its relation to it essential that it should be subjected to close and prolonged, though sympathetic and constructive, scrutiny. In

our own case, it is obvious that time is required for exhaustive consultation with the Dominions. An interesting development is the appointment by the Council of a Commission to study, in connection with the Geneva Protocol, possible modifications in international law. This appointment derives significance from President Coolidge's recent declaration of willingness to co-operate in any steps towards "the codification and unification of international law." Altogether, Mr Chamberlain's visit to the Council meeting looks like being twice blessed. It has contributed something towards British prestige; and it will also have given him refreshing contact with the League atmosphere and the trend of international opinion, which, later on, we hope will be strengthened by attendance at the next League Assembly. But the Foreign Secretary's visit to the Continent has not been solely devoted to League affairs. He has established personal contact with M. Herriot, and has discussed with Signor Mussolini the whole range of Anglo-Italian relations. This discussion has been, of course, facilitated by the Jubaland decision, and although rumours of territorial arrangements in Northern Africa have created uneasiness in some quarters, it is to be hoped that, when he tells the House of Commons next week of the fruits of his journey, he will be able to announce a complete and satisfactory concord with Italy on the various points where the interests of the two countries meet.

Inter-Allied Debts.—In view of the rather haphazard quotation of the figures of inter-Allied indebtedness which has been made in the House of Commons this week, it may be useful to set down such official figures as are available. In the table below we show the indebtedness of our late Allies and of the Dominions to Great Britain, as shown in the Finance Accounts, 1923-24*, the totals being the amounts remaining unpaid on March 31, 1924, together with the obligations of foreign governments held by the United States Treasury, according to a statement issued by the Treasury Department, on May 16, 1924:—

Due by—	To Great Britain.	To United States (at \$5 = £1).	Total.
	£	£	£
Great Britain	—	959,857,000	959,857,000
France	623,279,000	812,786,000	1,436,065,000
Italy	553,300,000	411,256,000	964,556,000
Belgium	—	92,629,000	92,629,000
Austria	10,794,000	5,821,000	16,615,000
Czecho-Slovakia	474,000	22,643,000	23,117,000
Poland	4,489,000	31,978,000	36,467,000
Roumania	26,974,000	8,940,000	35,914,000
Russia	722,546,000	49,344,000	771,890,000
Jugoslavia	30,733,000	12,573,000	43,306,000
Other European countries ..	58,802,000	13,924,000	72,726,000
	2,031,391,000	2,421,751,000	4,453,142,000
Australia	89,271,000	..	89,271,000
New Zealand	29,169,000	..	29,169,000
South Africa	11,884,000	..	11,884,000
Other British Dominions ..	1,146,000	..	1,146,000
Total by Dominions	131,490,000	..	131,490,000
Grand total	2,162,881,000	2,421,751,000	4,584,632,000

For comparative purposes we have converted the American figures at the rate of \$5 to the £, and have added to the \$4,577 millions in the American statement a further £44 millions sterling shown in our own Finance Accounts for ten and twenty-year bonds. The American statement also shows the payments made up to May 16th last on account of principal and of interest. These amount in the aggregate to \$304 millions and \$787 millions respectively, Great Britain being responsible for \$225 millions on account of principal and \$496 millions on account of interest, while France's repayments were \$64 millions and \$201 millions respectively. According to the October number of "The Index," published by the New York Trust Company, payments between May 15th and October 8, 1924, amounted to \$157,200 on account of principal and \$79 millions on account of interest, Great Britain accounting for \$69 millions of the latter and France for \$10 millions.

* H.M. Stationery Office. 2s net.

Overseas Trade in November.—The official returns of our overseas trade in November show little improvement on those for October, and the month's adverse balance is still over £38 millions. As compared with October, imports show a decrease of £1¼ millions, but both British exports and re-exports have declined by about half-a-million. As compared with November of last year, imports are up by over £17 millions, while British exports have only risen by £2 millions. Re-exports have also increased by £2 millions, and the excess of imports shows an increase of over £12 millions. The following tables give the figures for November and the 11 months:—

MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in November, 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	101,596,991	118,740,228	+ 17,143,237	+ 16.9
British exports	65,768,155	68,150,816	+ 2,382,661	+ 3.6
Re-exports	10,171,110	12,326,985	+ 2,155,875	+ 21.2
Total exports	75,939,265	80,477,801	+ 4,538,536	+ 6.0
Excess of imports over total exports	25,657,726	38,262,427	+ 12,604,701	+ 49.1

FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS.

	1923.	1924.	Increase or Decrease in 1924.	
	£	£	£	%
Imports	988,488,166	1,148,330,554	+ 159,842,388	+ 16.2
British exports	703,213,467	726,056,715	+ 22,843,248	+ 3.2
Re-exports	108,175,962	128,096,798	+ 19,920,836	+ 18.4
Total exports	811,389,429	854,153,513	+ 42,764,084	+ 5.3
Excess of imports over total exports	177,098,737	294,177,041	+ 117,078,304	+ 66.1

The large increase in imports as compared with November, 1923, is to some extent due to higher prices, especially of foodstuffs and wool. In the case of the latter, while the quantity was practically unchanged, the value rose from £2,870,000 to £4,873,400. On the export side coal shows a decline in value of £2,975,600 as compared with November last year, and iron and steel and manufactures thereof are down by £1,324,800. The food, drink, and tobacco group shows an increase of £1¼ millions, of which fish accounts for nearly a million. Exports of British wool show an increase of nearly half-a-million, and woollen manufactures are up by over a million. The increase in re-exports is largely accounted for by rubber, cotton, and hides and skins. Of the increase of £160 millions in imports for the 11 months, £68 millions occur under the heading of raw materials, £53 millions under food and drink, and £37 millions under manufactures. In the last category, iron and steel and manufactures thereof show an increase of nearly £8 millions, and non-ferrous metals account for £6½ millions. Raw cotton and raw wool show increases of £29 and £21 millions respectively, and the only declines of any prominence in the whole list are £5½ millions under meat and £2½ millions under raw rubber, the volume of the latter having decreased from 1,625,400 centals of 100 lbs to 1,320,200 centals. Exports of coal for the 11 months show a drop of over £26 millions, the volume having fallen from 73½ million tons to 56½ million tons. Germany has taken 7½ million tons less, France 4 million tons less, and Belgium 3 million tons less. Exports of manufactured goods show an increase of over £33 millions for the 11 months, more than half of which is accounted for by cotton manufactures. The value of exports of motor-cars and parts has increased from £3½ millions to over £5½ millions. The figures for exports of ships illustrate remarkably the decline which has taken place in the tonnage value in the last three years. In the first 11 months of 1922 the tonnage exported was 469,700 tons, in 1923 170,800 tons, and in 1924 131,500 tons. The value figures were £30 millions in 1922, £9½ millions in 1923, and £4½ millions in 1924. With an average monthly excess of imports over total exports of nearly £27 millions, as against £16 millions in 1923, the position does not appear to be as healthy as could be desired.

The Greek Loan.—The response accorded to the Greek Refugee Loan surpassed all expectation. It had been anticipated that the sum asked for would be fully subscribed, but a fifteen-fold over-subscription was hardly

looked for. The rush of investors—and stags—actually exceeded that which was recorded in the case of the German loan. The result may be explained by the very favourable moment chosen for flotation, by the attractive rate of interest offered, and by the very thorough campaign of informative propaganda in the Press. But the success of the Greek Loan has a deeper significance than this. It is the latest of a series of loans—Austrian, Hungarian, Greek—issued under the auspices of the League of Nations for reconstruction purposes in those countries. The two former met with outstanding success, and now the overwhelming subscription to the Greek offer brings more forcibly than ever to the mind and attention of the financial world, and of the investing public, the prestige of the League and its effective work in initiating and directing international effort for European reconstruction.

The Railwaymen's Demands.—The National Union of Railwaymen on Thursday presented to the companies, on behalf of some 650,000 workers in about 150 different "grades," a programme of demands which occupies no less than five closely-printed pages in their journal, the *Railway Review*. The programme has been under consideration for some time; it was because it was under weigh that the N.U.R. discouraged the Doncaster sectional strike in 1923, and the action of the locomotive enginemen and firemen in the early months of this year. Throughout the service the national agreement of 1920 was regarded as a beginning, not an end; such gains as were made under it were reduced in succeeding years; at the same time, a great impetus to fresh demands was given by the publication, at the time of the regrouping into four companies, of the figures of railway reserves, and the details as to the compensation secured at the end of the control period. The "all grades" movement, moreover, is not a wages movement only; it is part of a concerted effort to get all railway workers into one combination. Although the present programme issues from the N.U.R., and Mr J. H. Thomas has been released from the National Wages Board in order to fight for it, it has the active support of the Railway Clerks' Association, whose members stand to gain directly by it, as do those of the A.S.L.E. and F., whose union, however, stands aloof so far. It covers wages increases ranging from 19s to £1 per week; better terms for night duty and overtime; the reckoning of meal times in the eight-hour working day; pensions for all at 60; 12 days' holiday in the year, with pay, instead of six as at present. As to wages, porters, now on a minimum of £2 7s, are to have £3; engineers in railway shops are to have flat rates of £4 for skilled men, £3 19s for semi-skilled, and £3 for unskilled—in each case a considerable rise. Clerical and supervisory staffs are to have more rapid salary increments to meet the grievances resulting, in their case, from amalgamation. The programme, of course, affects men working not only on the great main systems, but also on the London Tubes, &c. Women and girl workers are included. In every case the increase demanded is an increase in the "basic rates" fixed under the national agreement. The existing sliding scale, above these rates, which provides a cost-of-living bonus at a certain index figure above these rates (an arrangement which, at present, benefits a comparatively small number of workers), is to remain. No accurate estimate of the cost involved has yet been attempted; but it would certainly be very great, and would, of course, be reflected in freight and transport charges, which most traders think excessive at the moment. In any event, the programme has to pass through a considerable number of stages before a crisis can be reached—it is first discussed by the staff conference, then passes to the Central Wages Board, and thence reaches the National Wages Board, a body, of course, comprising representatives of outside interests as well as of the men and of the companies, and with an independent chairman. Only from it are definite recommendations to be expected, and the end of February or the beginning of March is the earliest date at which they are likely to be reached.

China and the Powers.—The Ministers of the Powers signatory to the Washington Agreements have sent a Note to the Chinese Provisional Government, promising

support to the new order on the understanding that all treaties and other engagements binding China will be respected under it, and that all the existing rights and privileges of foreigners will receive due recognition. On that understanding, they state that their Governments are ready to carry out the measures contemplated by the treaties and resolutions which were the outcome of the Washington Conference. The Note is a timely warning against the demonstrative nationalism which Chinese patriots, like those of India and Egypt, were only too likely to exhibit in any case, and which has been already indicated by recent utterances both of Feng Yu-Hsiang, the chief promoter of the recent transformation scene, and Sun-Yat-Sen, who promises him the support of Southern China. Indeed, the *Times* correspondent states that there has been reason to expect an ultra-Nationalist combination of these two potentates under the influence of Karakhan, the Soviet envoy. This has probably been averted by the retirement of Feng Yu-Hsiang, who is to be sent abroad on an official mission. But any excitement of the masses against foreign residents would probably have results not contemplated by Chinese modernists, and fatal to their hopes; and it is well that Tuan Chi-jui and Chang Tso-lin, who control the Provisional Government, and whose attitude to foreigners is believed to be reasonable, should have their hands strengthened against Nationalist unrest and Soviet influence. The kidnappings of foreign missionaries by brigands, which are reported this week, will introduce quite enough difficulty into the foreign relations of the new Government.

Great Britain and Argentina.—A correspondent writes:—The visit of the Prince of Wales to Argentina will strengthen ties which have long been close and manifold. In no South American Republic, not even in Chile, has British influence been so extensive. Nearly a century ago Great Britain was the first European Power to recognise the infant Republic. British travellers drew attention to its resources; Britons—including Scotsmen—improved the native breeds of sheep and cattle, modernised its ranching, and eventually established its export trade in meat to Europe; British investors and engineers provided the country with nearly all its railways, and its capital city with tramways, water supply, drainage, department stores, and led the way in establishing steamship lines across the Atlantic. British settlers and their descendants form a large element in the upper classes of the population, and the younger generation, by birth and training loyal citizens of Argentina, have not forgotten the country of their ancestors. British advisers helped the Government to surmount the financial difficulties of 30 years ago; and a British Boundary Commission and the arbitration of King Edward VII. averted a war with Chile over the partition of Patagonia in 1903. The total British capital invested in the country was estimated some years ago at £700,000,000; that in the railways alone can be stated, less conjecturally, at £230,000,000, probably more. Great Britain takes 30 per cent. of the exports, and supplies about 23 per cent. of the imports, though in the latter since the war the United States has taken the lead. The economic ties may be strengthened by the recent recovery in grain-growing and the increasing production of cotton, to which nearly 250,000 acres are now devoted in the North. It is well that the multiplicity and closeness of the Anglo-Argentine relations should be brought to mind by the Prince's visit, and it is specially appropriate that, as a Canadian ranch-owner, he should see the modern cattle in Canada.

The Strength of Investment Demand.—A Stock Exchange correspondent writes:—Efforts that are always being made here to indicate the manner in which investment seeks for channels of employment have shown, for many months past, that capital insists upon sound stock and good security, irrespective of the hopes of a revival in trade. Cabinet Ministers, in our various Governments, have spoken cheerfully, time and again, of the improving outlook for trade. They have prophesied, more cautiously or less, that the world stood on the verge of such a revival as would provide employment for every

man, and for every shilling, that could be spared. Students of financial matters, giving diligent ear to opinions from all sides, shared in the general hope that these estimates of revival would prove to be correct, but at the same time bankers and stockbrokers have been under no illusion as to the real trend of money. When people are content to take a modest 4½ to 5 per cent., less tax, on their capital, and to pour increasing amounts of money into the stock markets, no clearer indication can be required of the slow progress made in trade directions. Within the past few months there have been useful rallies in the shares of iron and steel companies, while amongst textiles, the leading issues have enjoyed substantial advances in price, owing to the impression in the first place that the settlement in Europe is likely to lead to better business; while, in the second, it is common knowledge that some of the textile branches are doing exceedingly well. The money required for financing the textile industry has been readily found without the disturbance of existing securities. The hope for brighter conditions in the iron, coal, and steel world has yet to materialise. The accession to London of business produced by the Exhibition, with its 17,000,000 visitors, has had little effect upon the general volume of trade. London has benefited, this season, but at the expense of many seaside and country resorts, laments from which of a bad season are general. The Exhibition was blamed from the Channel Isles to the North of Scotland, for restraining the usual exodus from London, and for focusing upon Wembley the interest, which also spells capital, that would otherwise have been spent locally. Stock Exchange speculation that has taken place in the industrial sections, considerable though it has been, and calling for a good deal of money to finance it, served to underline the ease of monetary conditions. People seem to have been able to buy tea shares, breweries, or whatever took their fancy, without having to realise the payment money through the sale of more sedate securities. The amount of capital available for Stock Exchange work is so large as to call for comment even in the Stock Exchange itself, and the slight dullness which has occurred during the past few days over the investment markets can be dismissed as a temporary factor, brought about by the usual considerations that prevail at the end of the year, and by the many new issues. The tendency, however, of money to flow into sound stocks is as strong to-day as it has been over the past few years. Those companies which employ money for investment, speculative or otherwise, such as banks, insurance, trust undertakings, are likely to find their balance-sheets in an exceedingly strong position at the end of this month, for the incessant pressure to buy sound stocks has carried up prices to levels from which the yield is modest, but which show substantial increment in capital value as compared with the prices given originally for the stocks. No doubt the Stock Exchange, equally with other bodies, would be only too thankful to think that the national trade is reviving so briskly as to encourage the idea that gilt-edged stocks are likely to be sold by those who experience a need for putting more money into industrial branches. It must be confessed that, so far as the immediate outlook is concerned, there is nothing in the position to warrant the assumption that investment stocks are likely to yield any of their present strength. The investor clamours insistently for more stock, and the steadily falling yield on gilt-edged stocks is accompanied by the automatic raising of this country's national credit.

Iron, Steel, and Coal Output.—There is little evidence in the figures just issued by the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers that the revival in the iron and steel trades has yet proceeded very far. Output of pig-iron in November amounted to 583,500 tons, or a daily average of 19,450 tons, compared with 586,400 tons, or a daily average of 18,916 tons in October. The output of steel ingots and castings, though falling from 678,500 tons in October to 672,800 tons in November, was also, in fact, at a slightly higher rate, since not only was there one day less in November, but the month also included five week-ends. The number of furnaces in blast increased

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Accepts funds from banking correspondents for
investment in designated American Securities,
Bank Acceptances, U.S. Government Bonds, etc.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

by two during the month, four furnaces being blown in and two damped down or blown out. December output will probably be less than November, as the iron and steel trades are now experiencing the quiet conditions usual at this time of the year. The report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange, however, states that there is a general tendency to anticipate an expansion of business early in the New Year, and that if the present tendency of the market is maintained, a number of new furnaces will start operations in January and February. Imports of iron and steel in November amounted to 213,000 tons, which, although considerably less than the high figures in October, are higher than the average for the previous ten months of the year; the December figures should show a decrease, in view of the pre-occupation of the Belgian and French producers with the German market in anticipation of the revised tariff to come into force in January, on which we commented last month. Exports of iron and steel in November amounted to 311,600 tons, compared with 309,200 tons in October. While production in the United Kingdom remains practically stationary, production in France and Belgium continues to increase, and we give below estimates of the production in these countries for 1924, compared with 1913 and 1923:—

	1913.		1923.		1924.	
	Pig iron.	Steel.	Pig iron.	Steel.	Pig iron.	Steel.
United Kingdom....	Tons. 10,260,000	Tons. 7,664,000	Tons. 7,440,500	Tons. 8,481,800	Tons. 7,340,000	Tons. 8,350,000
France	5,125,000	4,614,000	5,347,000	5,023,700	7,500,000	6,780,000
Belgium	2,446,000	2,428,000	2,149,000	2,234,000	2,770,000	2,630,000
Luxembourg	2,508,000	1,305,000	1,384,700	1,182,400	2,110,000	1,820,000

In France production of pig-iron has steadily increased from 577,000 tons in January to 649,000 tons in October; in Belgium the production has increased from 206,000 tons to 242,000 tons in the same period, and in Luxembourg from 160,000 tons to 186,000 tons. The output of coal in the four weeks ending November 29th averaged 5,245,000 tons per week, compared with 5,098,000 tons per week in the five weeks ending November 1st. Exports of coal amounted to 4,758,800 tons, compared with 4,932,900 tons in October, a decrease of 174,100 tons. Of the total, 1,084,400 tons went to France, 591,400 tons to Italy, 459,200 tons to Germany, 313,200 tons to Sweden, and 291,800 tons to Denmark. Exports of metallurgical coke amounted to 143,700 tons, compared with 168,800 tons in October.

Raw Cotton Supplies.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The Department of Agriculture of the United States Government has this week published further statistics relating to the cotton crop. The final report on production for the season 1924-25 gives the estimated yield at 13,153,000 bales, exclusive of linters. This total, when issued, was considered in market circles as rather bullish, as most people expected at least 13,300,000 bales to be announced. Owing to buying, prices advanced in New York and Liverpool, but the upward movement was short lived, and during the last day or two there has been an easier tendency in values carrying rates to a lower level than that existing previous to the report. Many private firms are of opinion that the crop for this season will be 13,500,000 bales, against only 10,200,000 bales in 1923-24. With linters and the carry-over from last season the supplies for this twelve months should be about 16,500,000 bales. Much difference of opinion prevails as to the consumption. Last season it was about

11,200,000 bales. Owing to increased trade activity in this country and on the Continent, the requirements of users will be larger. According to some authorities there is a probability of the consumption being about 12,400,000 bales. It is satisfactory, therefore, to know that the carry-over at the end of next July will be about 4,000,000 bales, against only 2,300,000 bales twelve months earlier. The crop this season has been marketed very rapidly, and according to the Government 12,225,000 bales had been ginned up to the end of November. There has been some excitement in the Egyptian cotton market this week as a result of a stiff advance in prices of over 2d per lb. It is understood that certain users were caught short, and extensive covering has brought about the rise. During the last twelve to eighteen months there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of Egyptian cotton, especially in Lancashire, and quite a number of mills have turned off American on to the Egyptian staple. The market at the moment is considered very dangerous, and spinners of Egyptian yarns are passing through a rather trying time, although it must be said that the leading concerns in Bolton and district were well covered by purchases before the advance in values took place.

Electric Supply Progress.—The annual report recently issued by the Electricity Commissioners covers the fourth year in which they have held office. These four years have witnessed notable progress in the electric supply industry. The industry comprises 560 undertakings, 225 being companies and 335 being local authorities. The present report of the fourth year, ending March 31, 1924, indicates particularly rapid development. The units sold in 1923 amounted to 4,338 millions, as compared with 3,645 millions in 1922, an increase of 19 per cent. The fuel cost per unit generated has shown a notable decrease during the last few years—the average consumption of fuel for the year under review being reduced from 2.78 lbs to 2.67 lbs per unit generated, that is, a saving of about 4 per cent. Further, the table of fuel consumption shows increasing economies in the big central stations, where a varied supply (domestic, power, railway, &c.) is concentrated. The highest efficiency is attained by the Newcastle-on-Tyne Company in their new station at North Tees, where the fuel consumption per unit generated is only 1.67 lbs. If this low figure be compared with the average figure above mentioned, viz., 2.67 lbs, it will be seen how big a margin there is for possible economies by centralising generation in capital stations. Such centralisation of electric supply generation is indeed the purpose of the Electricity Acts, 1919 and 1922, and of the various schemes which are at present being put forward. The present promise of a period of settled conditions politically will no doubt react favourably on the development of the industry, seeing how much the electric supply industry is controlled by and dependent upon legislation and the Government's attitude towards private enterprise. The development of the industry is also shown by the new generating stations which have been authorised and the new plant authorised for extensions in existing stations. When the plant sanctioned by the Commissioners up to March 31, 1924, has been installed, the total capacity of plant in the stations of authorised undertakers will amount to about 4,417,000 kilowatts, less some deduction in respect of plant to be superseded. The significance of this figure will be seen by comparing it with the total capacity of generating plant installed at the beginning of 1920, namely, 2,309,500 kilowatts. The prospective business of the supply undertakers is, therefore, indicated by these big provisions for new plant. New enterprises are indicated by the application for special orders. During 1924 the Commissioners had in hand for consideration a total of 140 applications relating mainly to the authorising of new distribution undertakings and extensions of existing areas of supply. To this has to be added 80 fringe orders, authorising special supply outside existing areas—and certain private Bills for extension of electric supply operations. A further item of interest in the report is the large number (207) of authorised undertakers who are now taking, or have arranged to take, bulk supplies. As a result, since the early part of 1920, 47 local stations have either been shut

down entirely or used for stand-by supply only. In this direction also, therefore, the purpose of the Act, 1919, is being gradually fulfilled, namely the elimination of small and uneconomical stations.

Juvenile Employment in London.—The appointment, some nine months ago, of the London Advisory Council for Juvenile Employment* attracted a certain amount of current interest, though possibly less than was warranted by the importance of its public duties. A report on the activities of the Council and of its 20 local juvenile advisory committees shows that during the last six months work has been found for some 30,000 boys and girls within the Administrative County of London. The first year or two's operations of such a body must necessarily be devoted to breaking down inherent prejudice and educating those interested, both on the supply and demand side, in the true aim and limitations of its activities. The Council have, very wisely in our opinion, disclaimed all intention of competing with existing employment agencies, whose services they desire rather to supplement and to co-ordinate, with a definite social purpose in view. In the words of the report already alluded to, "The Council are fully aware that the real problem in London is not so much the finding of employment for the vast majority of boys and girls leaving school, but of gradually working up to and awakening a general conception of the value of these juveniles in terms of national life. The largest possible number should be enabled to enter employment under such conditions that, apart from periods of exceptional emergency, there may be good prospects of permanent absorption within the same or a kindred industry." The predominance of "distributive" over "manufacturing" industries in London gives point to the Council's special effort, implied in the sentence last quoted, to cope with the problem of "blind-alley" juvenile employment.

South American Oil.—A correspondent writes:—The production of petroleum in South America during the past year foreshadows two possible future results, the first that the majority of the States, while adding considerably to their production, will not be able to produce sufficient for their own consumption; the other, that their trade in crude petroleum with other countries will be greater than in refined products, such as gasoline and kerosene. The lack of transportation facilities still stands in the way of these countries' exports, either to one another or to the principal market found in the United States. Peru, having an output of 3,000,000 barrels, and first in both production and exportation, with Venezuela, alone produce sufficiently largely to export; but Ecuador and Colombia are developing their fields sufficiently to encourage the hope that they will take their place as regular suppliers of the fuel within a few years. At present, their product amounts to little beyond their own requirements. Chile and Brazil stand merely upon the fringe of petroleum development; while, on the other hand, their imports remain the largest of all the South American States. Chile needs annually about 220,000,000 gallons, thus ranking second only to Argentina in requirements, but exceeding that country when the respective populations are taken into consideration. Brazil ranks as the third largest consumer of petroleum products, importing about 110,000,000 gallons annually, and drawing supplies from both Mexico and the United States. Hopes are entertained regarding the petroleum deposits of Bolivia, still only in their early exploration stage; but, as yet, no discoveries of any importance have been made in either Uruguay or Paraguay. Both of these States, however, are considerable users of the fuel, the first-named importing annually between 4,500,000 and 5,000,000 gallons, and the second from 600,000 to 700,000 gallons of refined and lubricating oils. The most successful of the South American producers is Venezuela, which now rivals Argentina in the quantity and the value of its oil exports. Foreign capital continues to flow towards the country, which promises to become a formidable rival to Mexico. While, in 1923, over 160,000,000 gallons were produced, comparing with 137,000,000 gallons from Argentina, it is

* 59 Queen's gardens, Paddington, W.2.

believed that the current year may show a marked advance upon this total. The home consumption scarcely exceeds 20,000,000 gallons, so that a considerable surplus (over 70 per cent. of the total production) is likely to remain for shipment abroad. The geographical position enjoyed by Venezuela, on the north coast of the South American continent, renders steamer transportation to the West Indies, on the one hand, and to the United States on the other, both easy and economical.

Agricultural Conditions.—The monthly report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries states that in all parts of the country there were some spells of dry weather during November, which allowed fair progress to be made with field work, though the cultivation of heavy land was difficult, as it remained wet. Conditions were unsettled towards the end of the month, and heavy rains occurred. On the whole, the weather was mild, though there were a few sharp frosts early in the month. Cultivation is still in arrears, and on stiff soils much sowing remains to be done. The seed has gone in moderately well on light land, but in other cases the seed-beds have been in very poor condition. At the end of November the land was very wet. Wheat and other autumn corn which was sown early germinated quickly, and is showing a regular, healthy plant, as a rule. The lifting of potatoes was practically completed in all districts by the end of November. A large proportion of the tubers have been stored in dirty condition, only those from light land being got up clean. Disease was found in most crops, and those grown on heavy or wet land, especially in the West of the country, are badly affected. The yield per acre over the whole of England and Wales is estimated at 6 tons, or one-fifth of a ton below average, and very slightly more than in 1923. The total production, as a result of the reduced area, is only 2,697,000 tons, or 61,000 tons less than last year. Cattle have done fairly well during the past month, with the help of some dry food. Sheep generally are in fair, thriving condition, especially on the higher farms, but fairly heavy losses have been experienced in some districts. The supply of labour has generally been sufficient for requirements, and there appears to be little unemployment among agricultural workers. In some districts skilled men are none too plentiful, especially thatchers.

An Insurance Fusion.—The Western Alliance Reinsurance Company, Limited, which is to be definitely fused with the Consolidated Assurance Company, Limited, has, from its establishment in 1919, been closely allied with the purchasing company. The two companies have had the same manager, and been housed in the same building in Gracechurch street. Under the fusion scheme, one Consolidated share (£1 fully paid), together with 3s in cash, is to be issued in purchase of three Western Alliance shares (£1; 10s. paid). Reckoning by market-values, the three Western Alliance shares, worth before the announcement about 36s, will be purchased for the equivalent of 50s 6d. It is officially stated that the Western Alliance has not the advantage the Consolidated enjoys of being empowered to transact all classes of insurance business. It is explained that, in these circumstances, the directors consider the fusion desirable, as thereby the business could be given "a wider scope and a stronger basis, while important economies could be effected by combining the organisation of the two companies under one board of directors and a single executive."

Orient Steam Navigation.—The accounts of the Orient Steam Navigation Company for the year ended June 30, 1924, make a satisfactory showing, but as profits are shown "after providing for depreciation and contingencies," the value of the figures for comparative purposes is small. The profit disclosed is £296,600, the highest recorded, and compares with £280,100 for the preceding year. The following table summarises results for the past five years and for 1913-14:—

June 30.	1913-14	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24
Profit	£ 227,454	£ 218,699	£ 164,656	£ 282,578	£ 280,093	£ 296,607
Brought forward	56,717	63,912	118,678*	50,167	72,909	72,821
	284,171	282,611	283,334	332,745	353,002	369,428
Deb. int. and fees....	23,383	21,265	18,014	15,123	10,468	9,785
Reserve	75,000	100,000	70,440	100,000	125,000	150,000
Repairs and renewals.	25,000					
Prof. div.	10,176	14,603	14,603	14,603	14,603	14,603
Def. div.	63,701	78,065	130,110	130,110	130,110	130,111
	(55 %)	(15 %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)	(12½ %)
Carried forward	86,911	68,678	50,167	72,909	72,821	64,929

* Includes £50,000 transferred from Underwriting Account.

The dividend on the deferred shares is maintained at 12½ per cent., free of income-tax, after placing £150,000 to general reserve, against last year's allocations of £100,000 to reserve and £25,000 to underwriting account. The balance-sheet, in the usual manner of shipping companies, shows the bulk of the assets in one item; the book value of the fleet, plant and investments stands at £3,662,500, out of total assets of £4,198,300, and shows an increase of £171,900. Cash has increased by £73,100 to £130,200. An analysis of the balance-sheet will be found in a later column.

Baldwins' Report.—The profits of Baldwins, Limited, for the year ended June 30th last show an increase, but the total is still well below that of the boom year 1919-20. As £75,000, as compared with £70,000, is allowed for depreciation, and £11,000 more is required for debenture interest and redemption reserve, the net profit is a little lower than that of a year ago. This may be seen from the summary below:—

	1917-18.	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Trading profit	£ 442,300	£ 554,997	£ 683,405	£ 410,758	£ 306,132	£ 484,760	£ 493,520
Net profit	359,043	471,138	567,023	325,167	86,993	200,902	193,412
Brought forward	156,869	255,139	285,799	291,325	303,479	309,178	424,140
	516,012	726,270	852,822	616,492	390,472	510,080	617,559
Reserve	75,000	75,000	75,000	25,000			
Preference dividend ..	13,750	13,750	45,687	80,476	81,294	85,940	90,935
Ordinary dividend	153,790	131,729	440,830	207,537			
	(118 %)	(124 %)	(124 %)	(124 %)	(5 %)		
Carried forward	273,473	285,799	201,325	303,479	309,178	424,140	1506,617

The dividend on the preference capital requires a little more money, and the ordinary dividend is again passed owing to the "special circumstances of the present time and the uncertain conditions of trade." In consequence, the amount carried forward is now increased to £526,617. The property item stands at £3,512,180. Unlike many recent balance-sheets, this item does not include holdings in subsidiary companies, but the latter are, however, shown in an item of £4,234,130 headed "Investments at cost or under, including shares and debentures in subsidiary and other companies." We trust that with an improvement in the industry, this representative undertaking will be able to resume dividend distribution on the ordinary capital. It is stated that the board have received with much regret a letter from Sir Robert Horne announcing that on account of his many engagements he reluctantly finds it necessary to resign his position of vice-chairman of the company.

The Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust.—The net result of operations by the Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust during the twelve months to October 31st did not differ greatly from that disclosed in the previous accounts. The present report states that trade was most unsatisfactory during the year, but "the directors are gratified to be able to report that since August 31st last there has been a substantial improvement in trading conditions. More machinery has been started up, longer hours are being worked, and if the price of raw material remains around the present figure your board is of the opinion that the prospects for the current year's trading are much more hopeful than they have been since 1920." Revenue received in respect of dividends, interest, and other receipts amounted to £210,287, compared with £207,205, which, with the sum brought forward, makes a total of £227,007, in contrast with £219,068. We are told

by the auditors that the balance-sheet exhibits a "true and correct view of the state of the company's affairs," but we are at a loss to find foundation for this statement. This is a holding company, with investments amounting to £8,032,834, and assets totalling £8,253,046. Investments in cotton mill companies amount to £7,954,571; these, according to a short note appended, "are taken at cost, and no provision has been made in respect of losses incurred by these companies since the shares were acquired." Revenue during the year covered by the accounts amounted to £210,287. The directors simply report that "the combined results of all the subsidiary companies, after deducting losses from profits made, show a result for the year of approximately the amount received by this company in dividends." The shareholders, therefore, have to content themselves solely with remarks and figures of doubtful value, and upon the optimistic utterances of the Board as to the prospects for 1925. Interest, directors' fees, and general management expenses absorb £60,590, against £53,322, and after payment of the 7½ per cent. dividend on the preference and "B" preference shares, the sum carried forward amounts to £15,292, in comparison with £16,719 brought in. The bank overdraft has been increased from £179,009 to £223,206. The company has a long lane to travel before the Elysian fields are reached.

Peter Walker and Robert Cain.—The report of the brewery undertaking of Peter Walker (Warrington) and Robert Cain and Sons for the year ended September 30th last discloses slightly better results. Incidentally we are very pleased to receive the accounts of this concern, for although it is partly a holding company the directors are able to provide shareholders with a consolidated balance-sheet. This practice we would commend to the notice of other directors. Net profits are £576,299, which compares with £542,225 in the previous year. With the sum brought in, the available balance is £601,769, out of which has to be paid the service of the debenture stock and preference dividend, leaving a disposable surplus of £291,769 in contrast with £252,770. The ordinary shareholders again receive 9 per cent., and the reserve appropriation is increased from £20,000 to £50,000, which brings the total of the fund up to £70,000. Here the consolidated balance-sheet comes to our aid. Obviously a reserve of £70,000 against assets of approximately £6,900,000 is absurd. On turning to the consolidated accounts we find that reserves are nearly £617,000. The amount carried forward amounts to £34,469, as against £25,470 brought in. During the year an advance of £253,443 took place under the heading of properties, goodwill, loans, &c., which now figure for £6,332,483. Sundry creditors at £427,373 are £299,676 higher, but debtors are £27,386 lower at £49,812. Stocks have declined from £31,369 to £27,188. Funds in the hands of the trustee for the debenture holders show an advance of £79,652, and now amount to £79,768. The balance-sheet is fully analysed on another page.

The Mexican Railway Report.—An electricians' strike at Vera Cruz, which held up the terminal services, and a serious landslide on the mountain section, combined with the effects of the abortive de la Huerta rising in decreasing the revenue of the Mexican Railway for the year ended June 30th last. The gross revenue for 1923-24 was \$11,621,158, against \$14,196,123 for 1922-23; express traffic alone showed a slight increase. The working expenses declined slightly—by \$12,515 to \$11,442,824. The balance transferred to net revenue is \$178,334, equivalent at the standard rate of exchange to £17,833. Adding differences in exchange, with interest and transfer fees, the total amount credited to net revenue is £25,001. Against this, however, there is debenture interest of £165,392, so that the deficit for the year is £140,390, and the debit to net revenue is increased to £574,853. Unfortunately the estimated net receipts for the first two months of the current year are only \$124,400, against \$293,700 for July and August, 1923. However, the mountain section between Orizaba and Esperanza, where the

line ascends some 1,000 feet in 29 miles, has been traversed by electric trains since November 20th. This is encouraging; so is the announcement that an arrangement has been made with the Government under which most of the sum as yet collected from the company in payment of the 10 per cent. tax on gross railway earnings imposed to meet the interest payable under the Lamont Agreement, will be credited to the account of the indemnity due to the company from the Mexican Government. The total to the credit of this account is now £504,609.

Santa Gertrudis and Camp Bird.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Until recently the last-named company virtually had its *raison d'être* in the holding of a large block of shares in the first-named, and in the Mexican Corporation, whose affairs were dealt with in a "Note" last week. During the past year, however, the company purchased a block of claims near those operated by the Santa Gertrudis Company, thereby securing what may prove to be a new lease of life as a mining concern. The accounts to June show a small loss. Some disappointment appears to have been occasioned amongst the shareholders of the Santa Gertrudis at the circumstance that last year's earnings were practically all absorbed by interest and other charges in connection with the five-year notes, plus reserve for income-tax. The explanation is that the company did not really turn the corner in the operation of its new properties until after June 30th. As capital expenditure is now on a greatly reduced scale and the capacity of the plant is being somewhat increased, future returns should show enhanced profits. Moreover, the grade of the ore made available by the developments of 1923-24 is substantially higher than that reckoned to be in reserve 12 months previously. The original Santa Gertrudis mine is now practically worked out, but in the El Bordo, Dos Carlos, and other mines operated the reserves at the end of June last were computed to total 1,475,200 tons, having a recoverable content of 60,850 ounces gold and 15,492,700 ounces silver. These figures represent an increase of about 30 per cent. in quantity and nearly 50 per cent. in value as compared with those of 1923. With reference to the Dos Carlos, the managing director reports that "a great ore shoot is being opened up on the 14th, 15th, and 16th levels. . . . The probabilities for the future are excellent." Nearly a quarter of a million shares are held in the Mexican Corporation, incidentally giving the Camp Bird an indirect as well as a direct interest in that concern.

Progress at Letchworth.—A period of 20 years was required before the First Garden City, Limited, reached a point at which it could pay the modest 5 per cent. which is the maximum dividend allowed to the ordinary shares under the memorandum. Arrears of dividend were then over £133,000, and doubtless many shareholders hoped that the 21st year would mark a beginning in the payment of these arrears. A small payment could, indeed, have been made, for the net profit (£12,027) shows an increase of £771, and, after allowing for the 5 per cent. dividend and an allocation to the staff pension fund, £1,829 is left to increase the amount carried forward. The directors apologise for not beginning on the arrears, but say, as they have said in many earlier reports, that the demand for additional capital continues, owing to the rapid progress and development of the city. The company owns the gas, water, and electricity services, and has to spend largely on each every year, the amount so spent last year having been £16,529, together with a further £11,740 for roads. The three services show a satisfactory increase, electricity being 26 per cent. above last year's figures, and the company has now agreed to supply both the urban and rural districts of Biggleswade. With the prospect of further expenditure on a considerable scale, the directors think that they will soon have to make a public issue of additional capital. During the past year they have maintained their policy of redeeming the earliest debenture issue, or of converting debentures into preference shares; the total debenture burden is now £89,000. Nearly three times this amount has been borrowed on mortgages or from the bank.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The output of fine gold of the mines of the Transvaal amounted to 802,313 ounces in November, 1924, as compared with an output of 827,583 ounces in October. The output figures for the eleven months of each year since 1918 illustrate the recovery in the gold output that has taken place during that period:—

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January..	Fine Ozs. 714,182	Fine Ozs. 676,059	Fine Ozs. 670,503	Fine Ozs. 651,593	Fine Ozs. 639,728	Fine Ozs. 704,469	Fine Ozs. 795,768
February..	669,759	636,728	625,330	558,137	639,728	704,469	760,617
March ..	696,241	712,379	707,036	671,123	639,728	704,469	760,617
April	717,000	691,944	686,979	681,382	511,338	743,651	768,923
May	741,317	724,395	699,041	687,776	629,786	786,564	809,003
June	727,696	702,379	715,957	678,490	675,697	755,309	773,053
July	736,199	725,497	736,059	689,555	730,635	754,306	809,437
August	740,210	706,669	702,083	711,526	752,490	768,371	809,437
September	708,206	698,558	682,173	691,026	747,089	739,504	799,422
October ..	679,764	723,722	662,472	707,825	778,159	793,842	827,583
November	658,701	677,970	633,737	704,236	764,476	780,639	802,313
Total (11 months)	7,779,315	7,679,300	7,521,410	7,432,669	6,229,398	8,354,211	8,773,361
December	641,245	650,791	632,215	681,847	790,712	778,849	8,773,361
Total (12 months)	8,420,560	8,330,091	8,153,625	8,114,516	7,020,110	9,133,060	9,646,722

In the table below are given the numbers of natives employed at the end of each of the past eight months by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors:—

	Apr., 1924.	May, 1924.	June, 1924.	July, 1924.	Aug., 1924.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924.	Nov., 1924.
Gold mines	173,022	172,586	174,198	174,347	175,770	177,406	177,954	177,733
Coal mines	15,800	15,863	16,042	15,574	15,486	15,458	15,304	15,183
Diamond	2,762	2,863	2,999	3,155	3,025	2,952	2,884	2,769
Total	191,584	191,312	193,239	193,076	194,281	195,816	196,142	195,685

It will be noted that a slight decline took place in the number of natives employed in each branch of mining.

THE Royal Colonial Institute announces a meeting at the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue, W.C. 2, on Tuesday December 16, 1924, at 4 p.m., when a paper on "Empires Old and New" will be read by J. Stanley Little, Esq. Sir Sidney Low, M.A., will preside.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BUDGET—OCTOBER FOREIGN TRADE.—PANAMA CANAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 2.

FOR the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, governmental expenditures of the United States will total \$3,267,551,378, according to the annual budget submitted to Congress to-day by President Coolidge. This shows a decrease of \$266,532,430 from the estimate for the current fiscal year. Receipts for the next fiscal year are figured at \$3,641,295,092, representing an increase of \$39,326,795 over the present year. On June 30, 1925, the Treasury surplus, it is calculated, will amount to \$67,884,489. Owing to the heavy cut in the budget for the next fiscal year, together with the estimated increase in receipts and the surplus for the current fiscal year, the President forecasts an unusually large Treasury surplus of \$373,743,714 on June 30, 1926. At the same time, he urges a programme of drastic governmental economy in order to permit another reduction in Federal taxes, although he recommends that consideration of further tax-reduction legislation by Congress be deferred until the effect of the present revenue law is more clearly defined. Mr Coolidge points out that the actual Treasury surplus at the end of the last fiscal year was \$175,727,000 more than the official estimate, the year which closed June 30, 1924, having shown a surplus of receipts over expenditures of \$565,366,000. Receipts for the current fiscal year are expected to be \$400,000,000 less than in the preceding year, owing principally to

the reduction in taxes, and, furthermore, \$114,000,000 must be provided for the extraordinary increase made necessary by the world war adjusted compensation Act. Nevertheless, the President has confidence that this fiscal year will close with a surplus, as indicated, of more than \$67,000,000. The extensive reduction in the budget for the 12 months ending June 30, 1926, is the result of heavy cuts in the estimated expenditures of many Governmental departments, although such reductions are partly offset by increases in others. Among the more important departments or agencies for which decreased expenditures are recommended in the budget just presented to Congress are the Shipping Board, the Emergency Fleet Corporation, the Veterans' Bureau, interest on the public debt, and the Departments of Commerce, Interior, Labour, Navy, State, Treasury and War. On the other hand, increased expenditures are recommended for governmental printing, the Federal Board for Vocational Education, the Federal Power Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Tariff Commission, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Agriculture, Justice, and the Post Office.

Including funds required for the military activities of the War and Navy Departments during the coming fiscal year, the budget estimates for national defence show a total decrease of \$29,000,000. "This reduction," says President Coolidge, "is made in accordance with my belief that we can have adequate national defence with a more modest outlay of the taxpayers' money. Further study may point the way to additional reduction without weakening our national defence, but rather perfecting it. This nation is at peace with the world. We no longer have international competition in naval construction of major units. We are concerned primarily," he adds, "with maintaining adequate preparedness. We should have adequate preparedness in 1926 within the limits of the amount recommended." The President again expressed his growing conviction that the basis for the defence of the United States lies more and more with aviation. "The outstanding weakness in the industrial situation as it affects national defence," he says, "is the inadequacy of facilities to supply air service needs." He calls attention to the fact that the budget provides a total expenditure of \$38,945,000 for the air service maintained by the army, navy, and air mail. The budget carries a proposed appropriation of \$56,237,600 for rivers and harbours, including \$10,500,000 for flood control on the Mississippi and Sacramento Rivers, and \$3,040,390 to complete Dam No. 2 at Muscle Shoals. A sum of only \$50,000,000 is recommended for the soldiers' bonus fund in the 1926 fiscal year. Veterans' applications (under the bonus legislation enacted by Congress) have thus far been less in number than expected, and it is pointed out that, should such applications increase unexpectedly, a supplementary can be made of the amount required. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, the public debt, it is shown, was reduced \$1,098,894,375, bringing the total as of that date down to \$21,250,812,989, and decreasing the annual interest charge by \$45,000,000 approximately. In the past fiscal year, such interest amounted to \$940,000,000. For the current fiscal year this interest charge is estimated at \$865,000,000, and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926, \$830,000,000, making a total reduction for these two years \$110,000,000. An appropriation of \$109,000,000 is contained in the budget for Federal aid to States, but President Coolidge voices his strong disapproval of State aid, declaring that the broadening of this field of activity is detrimental both to Federal and State Governments.

Foreign trade returns for the month of October show that exports reached a total value of \$527,000,000, an increase of 23 per cent. over September, and of 32 per cent. over October, 1923, the total for October of this year being the heaviest reported for any month since January, 1921. Imports, valued at \$310,000,000, indicated a gain of nearly 8 per cent. over the preceding month, but only a slight increase over October a year ago. The October excess of exports, \$217,000,000, was the largest recorded since February, 1921. As was the case in September, there was a big expansion in grain and cotton exports, especially the former. The follow-

ing tables compare exports of four leading classes of products in the months indicated:—

	EXPORTS.		
	Oct., 1923.	Sept., 1924.	Oct., 1924.
Foods	59,338,538	102,790,223	142,461,173
Cotton and manufs..	127,363,266	108,885,751	136,834,174
Coal and coke	12,698,449	10,503,925	11,331,905
Mineral oils	27,824,222	35,630,484	34,464,254
Total	227,224,475	257,810,383	325,091,506
Ten Months Ending October, 1924.			
Foods	583,113,510	633,285,311	
Cotton and manufs..	648,803,183	759,608,997	
Coal and coke	145,540,745	98,461,134	
Mineral oils	298,518,941	354,537,764	
Total	1,675,976,379	1,845,893,206	

The fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, was the Panama Canal's most profitable year. After all operating, interest, and depreciation charges on the canal property and equipment used for business purposes, there remained a profit of \$6,202,462, but revenues of the canal and projects connected with it, before deducting interest, depreciation, and amortisation charges, totalled \$18,254,459, representing an increase of nearly 50 per cent. over 1923. This gain was due to the larger volume of business, and also to the fact that expenses did not increase so fast as revenues. Gross transit revenues were \$24,681,853, and gross business earnings \$12,968,777, or a total of \$37,650,631, while expenses and charges, including depreciation and amortisation, amounted to \$31,448,168. The interest, at 3 per cent. (a rate much lower than that paid in ordinary business enterprises) on \$273,673,818 transit and business capital amounted for the last fiscal year to \$8,210,214. The \$273,673,818 does not represent the entire cost of the canal, but rather the amount of capital devoted to business operations. Additional capitalisation of \$112,618,082 is charged to the account of national defence, and is invested in fortifications and other works.

FRANCE. — FINANCIAL SITUATION — WHEAT SUPPLIES AND PRICES—INDEX NUMBERS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 10.

FOR the moment the financial sky is clearer, in spite of the now certain fact that there will be no possible chance of securing the passage of the Budget Bill until the new financial year is well advanced. Following the success of the new American loan, the ten-year 5 per cent. Treasury Bond issue, which closed last night, is reported to have been very satisfactorily taken up. No official figures are yet available, but it is stated in authoritative quarters that the total bonds subscribed amount to over 4,000 million francs, which is believed to have been the minimum amount at which the Government was aiming. As all this has been subscribed in cash, the Treasury will for once be in a position to make without inconvenience the usual heavy end-of-the-year payments, which have been a cause of such trouble during several years past, owing to the chronic lack of disposable funds. Whether it will be found possible this year to reduce the debt owing to the Bank by the two milliards which the law stipulates shall be paid off at the end of each year, remains to be seen, but it is generally believed that this will be found feasible. The total of these advances was increased last week by an additional 400,000,000, and now stands at 23,000,000,000, while the note issue, which was increased last week by 253,820,000, and rose to 40,700,831,000, now stands within 212,000,000 of the legal maximum. It should be explained, however, that last week's increase was largely due to the fact that the bills discounted by the Bank showed an increase of no less than 785½ million francs on the week, which explains to a great extent the need for so much additional paper money. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that during the coming year 22,000,000,000 of Obligations de la Défense Nationale will come to maturity, for which provision will have to be made.

The continued dependence of this country on foreign-grown wheat to meet part of its requirements, which has now become chronic, is attracting serious attention to the necessity for devising means to ensure greater production of this cereal both in France itself and in the North African territories. Official figures show that since 1923 the total area sown with wheat in France has decreased by 1,100,000 hectares (or 2,750,000 acres), which have been transformed into grazing land. But for this reduction in the area devoted to wheat, which is equivalent to 20 per cent. of the total formerly sown with this cereal, the last French harvest, with its yield of 14.15 quintals to the hectare, would have more than met all requirements for the current 12 months. There are three chief reasons for this situation. One, and perhaps the most serious of these, is the shortage of agricultural labour, due partly to the large proportion of men of this class killed in the war. Another cause is that in many districts it pays the farmer better, owing to the high prices obtained for pasture-fed cattle to-day, to devote land to grazing rather than to wheat-growing. A third cause is that, through lack of an abundant supply of chemical manures at low prices, the yield per acre from wheat is much lower than it should be. Provision is made in the present Budget Bill for the opening of a special credit of 5,000,000, which will be devoted to giving wheat-growers a rebate of 8f per 100 kilogrammes in respect of their increased purchases of chemical manure. This policy is based on the theory that every additional 15 to 20 kilogrammes of chemical manure used per acre may be regarded as resulting in an increased yield of from 2½ to 3½ bushels of wheat. The Minister for Agriculture informed the Chamber recently that the Government has entered into an agreement with Germany for the purchase of 90,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia for agricultural purposes at a total cost of 139,000,000, the whole of which sum, in accordance with a clause in the London agreement, will be credited to the German Reparations account. The Minister explained that this sulphate will be sold by the French Government to consumers at prices equivalent to 180,000,000, so that it would make a cash profit of some 41,000,000 on the deal. The Government could, therefore, afford to make sacrifices which would be equivalent to an excellent investment.

With a view to stabilising wheat and flour prices, and thereby helping, it is hoped, in reducing the sale price of bread, the Government has included in the Army Estimates an additional credit for 150,000,000, which will be used for the creation of a stock of ostensibly Army wheat, which will be stored in the military granaries. This wheat, it is planned, will be utilised as a weapon against grain speculators who may attempt to create an artificial rise in quotations. Whether this wheat is actually thrown on the market or merely held in reserve, the effect, it is argued, would be practically the same, as it would be always available for use in case of emergency, exactly on the same principle as the American credit of \$100,000,000 secured by the Bank of France last spring was utilised in the interest of restoring the situation of the franc.

The index figure for wholesale prices for November, which has just been issued by the Government Statistical Department, indicates a further rise of seven points during the month, following one of eleven points in October, and one of five points in September. The detailed figures (based on 100 as representing the wholesale prices of 45 categories of commodities in 1914) are as follows:—

Classification.	No. of Categories.	—End of the Month of—			
		Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	
General index figure	45	514	507	496	
Foodstuffs, general figure	20	448	445	440	
Vegetable foods	8	460	451	441	
Animal foods	8	442	434	425	
Sugar, coffee, cocoa	4	434	456	469	
Raw materials, general figure	25	572	562	545	
Minerals and metals	7	498	484	458	
Textiles	6	719	701	704	
Various	12	527	526	502	

The only category which did not rise during the month was that for sugar and coffee, the figure for which fell 22 points. Textiles, owing to the low situation of the franc, remain still at by far the highest level, and are returned as equivalent to over seven times as dear as in

1914. Retail prices in Paris, the index figure for which fell from 392 at the end of March to 340 in July, are still on the up-grade, and are returned at 396 for November, as against 383 during October. These retail figures are worked out on a base of 100 as representing the collective prices of 13 articles of common necessity in 1914. The figure for November, therefore, indicates an average rise in retail prices of 296 per cent., as compared with 1914, whereas the rise in wholesale prices is equivalent to 414 per cent.

GERMANY. — COMMERCIAL TREATY — FINANCES — BANKS — PRICES — INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 9.

THE conclusion of the Commercial Treaty with Great Britain has been well received. The first articles dealing with most-favoured nation treatment generally seem open to criticism from the viewpoint of British subjects doing business in or residing in Germany. This is made plain from a comparison with Art. 276 of the Versailles Treaty. As this article lapses in January, obviously Great Britain was obliged to make the best terms she could for the future; but in drafting the Commercial Treaty the ingenious methods by which the German Government for five years evaded and violated Art. 276, do not seem to have been taken into account, and as far as the new treaty perpetuates Art. 276, this time on a basis of mutuality, no precautions have been taken against similar German methods in the future. This has arisen out of the inaction of the British Foreign Office, which two years ago told Parliament that it was considering German breaches of Art. 276 in the treatment of British subjects, but nevertheless did nothing. Art. 276, to give only one instance, forbade—by implication—German attempts to prevent Ally subjects acquiring land or houses in German States where that was not forbidden before the war. Such a State was Prussia. But not long ago Prussia, announcing quite openly that under the Versailles Treaty it could not forbid Ally subjects to purchase real property, passed a law requiring official sanction for all such purchases, whether by Germans or foreigners, and arranged with the sanctioning authorities (the *Besirksamter*) that the sanction should be refused to foreigners and granted to Germans. The Prussian Minister who introduced the Bill openly admitted that this was the aim. The *Besirksamter* thereafter refused all foreign applications for sanction. The Commercial Treaty now secures the right to own land on a mutual basis. This sounds very fine, but it is meaningless as long as the above-mentioned Prussian law remains on the statute book. The prevailing licence is still better illustrated by the fact that the Courts on constitutional grounds, as well as on grounds of the Peace Treaty, declared the Prussian law invalid, but that the *Besirksamter*, supported by the Prussian Government, continue to enforce the law. Of Art. 2 of the Commercial Treaty, dealing with taxes, much might be said in the same sense. The only effective guarantee of the rights of British subjects doing business in or with Germany would be the proper vigilance, so far lacking, of the British Foreign Office.

The Finance Ministry's returns are henceforth to be made in monthly, not 10-day, periods. The return for November shows revenue received 492,199,631 marks, expenditure 482,222,936 marks. Revenue received in the first eight months of the financial year totalled 4,715,331,865 marks; expenditure, 4,534,748,267 marks. The Prussian Finance Ministry has circularised the provincial and municipal authorities, advising a reduction of local taxation, in particular of the industrial tax (*gewerbesteuer*), and of fees and charges for municipal services.

All the banks have now issued gold mark balance-sheets under the law of December, 1923. The last paper mark balance-sheets were compiled for December 31, 1923, the new gold mark balance-sheets for the same time (January 1, 1924). The paper mark balance-sheets of the last inflation years were fictions, owing to the impossibility of valuing in an ever-changing medium the various assets and liabilities. In the balance-sheets for December, 1923, some banks entirely omitted their capitals and reserves on

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER

President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up	\$25,000,000
Surplus	\$25,000,000
Undivided Profits	\$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



the ground that these, though inflated considerably, were insignificant beside the other swollen totals, while valuable assets, such as buildings and shares in other concerns, were booked at nominal sums, usually 1 billion paper marks, equal to 1 gold mark. The new gold mark balances, therefore, are not conversions of the last paper mark balances; they are complete revaluations. In the case of all banks, without exception, the new balance-sheets show heavy losses in the net value of assets as compared with 1913. As a result, not only has the inflated paper mark capital of 1923 been drastically scaled down, but also the new gold mark capital has been fixed at much lower than in 1913. The following table shows the capital changes:—

	—Millions of—		
	Gold Marks. 1913.	Paper Marks. 1923.	Gold Marks. 1924.
Deutsche	250	1,500	150
Disconto	300	900	100
Dresdner	200	1,100	78
Darmstaedter und National ..	250	600	60
Commerz und Privat	85	800	42
Berl. Handels.-Ges	110	110	22
Mitteldeutsche Credit.	60	1,120	22

The heavy losses suffered are best shown by the case of the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, which did not inflate its capital at all, but which has, nevertheless, been obliged to reduce its capital to one-fifth of the pre-war figure. The banks' own capital, invested in discounts, advances, &c., dwindled in gold value precisely as did the similarly invested deposits of customers. As a result, when the banks' investments are for the first time revalued in gold marks they are seen to be a mere fraction of the pre-war totals. In the Deutsche Bank's assets cash fell from (in gold marks) 127,450,000 in 1913 to 36,300,000 in 1924, discounts from 639,400,000 to 11,500,000, advances from 233,226,000 to 7,200,000, and securities from 161,200,000 to 10,000,000. Equilibrium in the balance-sheets could be restored only by fixing the new gold mark capitals and new gold mark reserves at far below the 1913 levels. The new balance-sheets mostly show largely increased assets

under the head of "correspondents"; these consisted largely of credit balances in foreign exchange, that being the manner in which the banks (at a rather late stage in the depreciation process) protected their own capital from further loss.

The official wholesale price-index for December 3rd was 128.5. The average for all November was also 128.5, which was 2.1 per cent. lower than in October. The cost-of-living index number for December 3rd was 122.2, and shows no change. The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* wholesale index for December 4th shows:—

Food.	Textiles and Leather.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Manufactured Goods.	All (100 Wares.)
137.30	124.30	129.82	129.24	138.10	140.80

Textile journals state that efforts to cut down production cost in this branch have failed, and that the cheapness of goods now appearing in the home market has been attained at cost of the quality. The Prussian Ministry's monthly trade report attributes the present increased industrial activity exclusively to more active home buying. The number of publicly supported unemployed on November 15th was 426,382, against 472,116 on October 15th. Bankruptcies numbered 599 in November, against 520 in October and 1,173 (highest point) in July. The condition of winter crops in Prussia is reported to be very good, considerably better for the chief crops—rye and wheat—than at the same time last year. The capital market is more active. Company capitalisation increases in November were nearly twice as high as in October; but capital issues by new companies fell off, and there were no loan or bond issues. The use of motor-vehicles is rapidly increasing. The total in 1914, including motor-bicycles, was 84,682; in June, 1923, 212,949; in June, 1924, 293,188. The trades union opposition against a longer working day than eight hours seems to be having success. A census made at the end of November among 2,400,000 workers showed that 45.3 per cent. were working longer than 48 hours a week, against 54.7 per cent. shown by the similar census of May.

ITALY.—THE DIRECTION OF FOREIGN TRADE — REVIVAL OF TRADE UNIONS' MOVEMENT — FASCIST CORPORATIONS AND CLASS FEDERATIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, November 30.

It is very difficult, on the basis of published statistics, to analyse the direction of Italian foreign trade. Only for a few States are the figures up to date. Imports from leading countries (in millions of lire) are shown below:—

	IMPORTS.	1913.	1923.	From Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1924.
Austria-Hungary	264.1	..	..	..
Successor States—				
Austria	..	..	325.6	275.5
Czecho-Slovakia	..	..	158.5	146.9
Serbo-Croats-Slovene Kingdom	..	..	489.3	356.2
France	280.9	..	1,322.6	922.8
Germany	612.5	..	1,299.1	946.0
Great Britain	601.1	..	2,189.7	1,389.2
Switzerland	88.5	..	375.8	243.5
Argentina	173.8	..	1,053.0	707.5
United States	505.6	..	4,619.5	3,183.8
Total of the principal States..	2,526.5	..	11,833.1	8,171.4
Other States	1,111.3	..	5,365.4	4,229.9
General total	3,637.8	..	17,198.5	12,401.3

The increase of the total import value figure is roughly in the ratio of 1 to 4.5, which is the ratio of the depreciation of the lira in terms of gold. Two-thirds of the total trade is to-day, as in 1913, transacted with the seven principal States, or their successors, but the relative importance of the single States is changed. The United States, which held the third place in 1913, is to-day easily first; Great Britain has gained the second place; and France became third. It is, however, probable that Germany in 1924 will recon-

quer a part of the lost ground. Preliminary conversations for a commercial treaty have taken place, and on December 4th the official delegates of the two countries will meet in Rome.

The 1923 exports of the three successor States to Italy, judged by values, were four or five times those of the whole of Austria-Hungary in 1913. The new Serb Kingdom is one of the most promising fields of trade for Italy. The following table shows Italy's principal customers:—

	EXPORTS (In Millions of Lire).	1913.	1923.	From Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1924.
Austria-Hungary	218.8	..	..	..
Successor States—				
Austria	..	..	335.2	415.6
Czecho-Slovakia	..	..	67.2	79.5
Serbo-Croats-Slovene Kingdom	..	..	336.0	233.6
France	230.9	..	1,601.2	1,140.4
Germany	338	..	692.9	944.8
Great Britain	261.1	..	1,200.2	889.0
Switzerland	248.6	..	1,201.4	970.3
Argentina	190.3	..	740.7	491.6
United States	257.7	..	1,512.5	677.5
Total of the principal States..	1,745.7	..	7,687.3	5,842.3
Other States	758.2	..	3,372.2	2,696.9
General total	2,503.9	..	11,059.5	8,539.2

Here France steps into the first place; United States comes next; while Great Britain and Switzerland maintain their old positions. But here, again, Germany promises to return in the current year to her old position as the best market for our agricultural, silk, and other textile goods.

Perhaps the most significant economic event in the month of November was the revival of the working-class movement. The 1924 total of strikes and working days lost by strikers will be much over that for 1923. The atmosphere, above all, is changed, and workers are no more prone to submit to the omnipotent influence of the Fascist Corporations. These held last week their Congress at Rome, preaching, as usual, the gospel of harmony between capital and labour. It was, however, a significant indication of the new spirit that the Corporations denounced fiercely those captains of industry who were obdurate enough not to accept all the proposals made on behalf of workers.

The great majority of workers suspects organisations which are not simply for Labour against Capital, and is true in its allegiance to the old Federations. Fascist Trade Unions are called "Corporations" perhaps as a reminder of the mediæval Corporations, in which all classes of capitalists and workers were amalgamated; while old Trade Unions, sympathisers with Socialism, maintain their old name "Federations," and are directed by the "General Labour Confederation." At Milan, which was said to be a stronghold of the Fascist Corporations, when the latter signed a new wages contract in metallurgical industry, the men flatly refused to accept it. At a referendum, almost the entire body of workers ranged themselves under the old banner of the Federation. And when entrepreneur organisations, disdaining to take note of the referendum, maintained that the wages contract signed between themselves and the Fascist Corporations was to be observed, the men struck for a day in proportions which ranged from 50 to 100 per cent. of the number employed in various establishments.

After a lapse of two years, a Congress of the Trade Unions adhering to the General Labour Confederations will shortly be held. While in November and December, 1922, there was much wild talk about D'Aragona and Buozzi, and other leaders of the workers' movement going into the Mussolini Cabinet, to-day the only debated question is whether the Trade Union Organisation will be captured by Communists or Marxian Socialists, or held as at present, by the United Socialist Party, which is of sort of British Labourism, perhaps, with a greater tinge of pure politicians of the Turati and Treves type. Expectations favour a victory for the latter.

AUSTRIA. — POLITICS — STATE FINANCES — ECONOMIC SITUATION — TRADE — STOCK MARKETS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, December 1.

SEIPEL's Cabinet was not overthrown by Parliament, but by his own party. Some groups of the Christian Socialist party did not agree with Seipel's rigid policy of centralisation, which gradually met with more and more opposition from the Federal States; other members of the Christian Socialist party were of the opinion that some working arrangement with the Social Democrats ought to be arrived at before long. Such a policy, which aimed at avoiding as much as possible any friction, did not suit Seipel's energetic nature, and he therefore resigned. The new Cabinet, which is mostly composed of representatives of the various Federal States, will be much more able to resist any exaggerated claims put forward by the Federal States than a Government which, like the previous one, consisted only of Vienna politicians. Whether Dr Ramek's Cabinet will remain in power for some time, or whether it will soon be replaced by a Cabinet representing a coalition of Christian Socialists with Social Democrats, remains to be seen.

The expenditure in the Budget for 1925 shows a total of 7,125 milliard kronen, which corresponds to 494,800,000 gold kronen, and is, therefore, 200,000 gold kronen below the limit allowed by the League of Nations. The new Finance Minister has asserted that he will endeavour to cut down expenditure. His task will not be easy, as he will have to face claims from all sides. The most important reduction of expenditure has been obtained by the reconstruction of the Federal Railways; whilst the State had to pay a subsidy of 1,630 milliard kronen to the railways in 1923, this subsidy was reduced to 1,212 milliard kronen for the year 1924, and to 966 milliard kronen for 1925.

The economic crisis which has hovered over this country since the beginning of this year seems to be gradually subsiding. No bank failure occurred in the month under review, and the number of trade insolvencies and arrangements with creditors is slowly decreasing. Most of these insolvencies occurred in the textile, leather, and shoe trades. In some industries, however, improvement can be noticed. The Alpine Montangesellschaft, the largest iron and steel works in Austria, which had practically shut down, has restarted operations, as it obtained considerable orders from the Federal Railways Company; the electric industries have received big orders for the electrification of the Vienna Suburban Railway. Wireless industry is developing very favourably; Austrian lignite mines will profit by the decision of the Federal Railways Company to buy their lignite only from Austrian mines, commencing in 1925. The most important thing for the industries, however, is to obtain cheap credits; as this is impossible in Austria at present, negotiations to this effect are in course in London and other financial centres. The number of unemployed has again increased from 77,968 in October to 88,237 in November.

The balance of trade shows an improvement for September, as the deficit, which was 68 million gold kronen in August, decreased to 61 millions. This slight improvement has, of course, but little influence on the unfavourable result which the balance of trade will show for 1924, as the deficit for the first nine months of this year amounted to 746 million, as against 462 million gold kronen during the same period of last year.

The position of the National Bank has greatly improved during the month under review. The gold reserve rose during the period October 15th-November 15th from 3,941 milliard kronen to 4,416 milliard kronen, whilst the total number of bills discounted fell during the same period from 2,652 to 2,039 milliard kronen. It is true that the bank-note circulation was only reduced by 63 milliard kronen—from 7,666 to 7,603 milliard kronen; but, if converted into dollars, the bank-note circulation in Austria appears to be lower per head of population than in other countries. The bank-note security is at present 51 per cent.—i.e., 31 per cent. more than the minimum security provided for by the Bank Statute. The Bank rate was reduced in the beginning of November from 15 to 13 per cent., and a further reduction is expected in the near future.

The efforts to merge middle and small banks continue, and at the end of the present year probably only few of the small banks founded after the war will be left. The Treasury has left no doubt that it will force banks which can barely exist either to merge with other banks or to wind up their affairs. This fact will doubtless have the effect of making most of the unsound banks disappear.

During the past month a remarkable revival took place in business done on the Stock Exchange. The recovery of prices was common to almost all types of shares, and amounted to 20 to 30 per cent., as against the lowest level; some shares even gained 50 to 60 per cent. This improvement is due to considerable purchases for foreign accounts and to the increase of buying orders from the public, which is gradually beginning to take an interest again in the Stock Exchange.

AUSTRALIA.—WOOL AND WHEAT EXPORTS AND FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, October 30.

THE Australian export season is turning out the largest on record, owing to the favourable season, which means increased production of wool, wheat, and butter, combined with substantially higher prices for wool and wheat. The average price realised for wool at the Australian auction sales last season, according to Dalgety and Co.'s statistics, was £31 7s 10d per bale, but since the opening of the new season's sales a few weeks ago, averages of £35 to £40 per bale have been realised for different catalogues, according to the class of wool comprised. Between this and the larger clip, it is expected that the wool exports for 1924-25 will approach £80,000,000 in value, against something over £50,000,000 represented by wool bills last season. Wheat and flour exports next year are expected to represent about £30,000,000, making, with the wool exports, a total of 110 millions, against 70 millions for 1923-24, or an increase of about 40 millions in the export trade to be financed by the banks, in addition to butter, meat, metals, and miscellaneous exports.

The position of the Australian wheat crops before the spring was doubtful, but the spring rains have been excellent, and the crop is expected to be 135,000,000 to 145,000,000 bushels. The exportable surplus will be about 2,750,000 tons, and a considerable amount of chartering for the new season has already been done. The spring rains have also been beneficial to the dairying districts, and the production of butter so far is well in excess of last season to the corresponding date.

The financing of wool exports has been attended by special difficulties, due to the administration of the note issue by the Commonwealth Bank and to the over-concentration of cash in the hands of that institution in consequence of the large Government balances held by it. The note issue, together with the stocks of gold held by the banks, has, during the last two years, been insufficient to provide for currency requirements, calculated even on the most conservative basis, and the banks have had to work on a proportion of cash to liabilities smaller than was regularly maintained before the war, and smaller than they desire under existing circumstances. This has proved troublesome in practice during the export season, when those banks which purchase wool bills make large payments to other banks, thus creating a flow of cash from the former to the latter. This flow is capable of

THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

A HISTORY

of the Financial and Economic Evolution of MODERN GREECE

by

M. S. EULAMBIO.

Managing Director of the National Bank of Greece.

Price 15s. 0d.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., EAST HARDING ST., LONDON, E.C.4

adjustment by exchange transactions between the banks, but the point which has lately arisen has been that the Commonwealth Bank, with large Government balances, has drawn cash from the other banks without sharing in the means by which the movement is adjusted.

Thus the total amount of currency in existence was insufficient, and an undue proportion of it became virtually locked up in the Commonwealth Bank outside regular business use, the situation largely resembling that which formerly arose periodically in America, where heavy revenue receipts used to cause a drain of cash into the Treasury at times when business requirements were large. It had been hoped that the early part of the wool season would have been negotiated without immediate pressure, but the congestion of cash in the hands of the Commonwealth Bank precipitated matters, and the banks were compelled to regulate operations under wool buyers' credits in a manner which reduced competition at the wool sales. The question thus arose whether the sales could be continued without forcing a decline in the market beyond the point (say, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the prices previously obtained) to which the selling brokers were willing to go, having regard to the interests of their clients, the wool growers.

The situation was discussed at a conference between the directors of the Commonwealth Bank and representatives of the ordinary banks, when it was made clear that a reform in the policy of the Commonwealth Bank was essential. It has accordingly been decided that additional notes up to £15,000,000 will be made available, which does not necessarily mean that the exact amount will be used by the banks, the mere fact of availability being itself of value. Steps are also being taken to release some of the undue accumulation of cash in the Commonwealth Bank. Another step is a broadening of the basis of wool and wheat bill buying by allocating the business amongst the banks generally, together with the Commonwealth Bank, so that the responsibility for financing wool and wheat exports should not be confined to the small number of banks which have hitherto engaged in it. As the Commonwealth Bank is now to take a share of this responsibility, this also will help to counteract the congestion of cash in its coffers. The wool sales have since been proceeding with more strength, and prices for fine descriptions have hardened afresh.

ROUMANIA.—BUDGET OF 1924—ESTIMATES FOR 1925.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, November 25.

MR VINTILA BRATIANU, the Minister of Finance, has presented his Budget estimates for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1925. Revenue is placed at 31,750 million lei, as compared with 24,000 million lei in the preceding year.

The expenditure side includes an allowance of 7,607 million lei for the Ministry of Finance, which is intended to be sufficient to cover the interest and amortisation charges on the country's internal and external funded debts, and on the special arrangements which have been concluded with a number of European creditors who held Roumanian short-term Treasury notes that were not consolidated into the £32 million sterling issue of 1922. Export taxes (which are expected to yield more than 5,000 million lei in 1925) are earmarked for the services of the latter issue. The Finance Minister has recently intimated that, as lei exchange appreciates in value—which he seems confidently to anticipate—export taxes can be reduced in proportion to the amount of lei necessary for meeting debt payments in foreign currencies. The tax on exports, however (in that it curtails production and restricts exports) is in itself a serious obstacle to any sustained rise in lei exchange. It has been the invariable rule in recent years for stagnation at the ports to follow a rise in exchange to around 800 lei to the £. The tax on exports, however, still performs the function (necessary for political reasons) of holding down the cost of living, and while the Finance Minister no doubt realises that such a tax is economically unsound in principle, he evidently feels that the time is not yet ripe for taking up

the "spread" which export taxes create between domestic prices and world-market prices.

The Finance Minister takes credit for the fact that the 1924 Budget, for the third year in succession, will provide a surplus, and, while definite and comprehensive figures showing the exact condition of the public treasury are not produced to bear out this statement, Mr Bratianu is certainly entitled to credit for the grip he has now secured on the national finances. Out of the chaotic condition of affairs which he found when he came to office early in 1922 he has at least secured a complete documentation of the country's liabilities, and arranged the greater part of them in proper shape for settlement.

Letters to the Editor.

LAND POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The articles published by you on the Liberal land policy, and the terms of reference drawn up for the guidance of the Agricultural Conference summoned by the Government justify alarm amongst those who have studied the history and economics of agriculture.

We are agreed that the land of England cannot produce food to supply the population of England, and I think I may assume that the food imported from abroad should be as far as possible of a nature that does not deteriorate by sea carriage, whilst the food grown at home to supplement the foreign supply should consist of perishable articles less suitable for sea carriage. We are also, I think, agreed that in view of the advantages of a country life, it is desirable that agriculture should maintain the largest population consistent with the payment of a suitable wage.

Space does not allow me to deal fully with the history of agriculture in England, but it is an established fact that England, though an excellent country for the production of all forms of livestock, horses, cattle, sheep, or pigs, has never been a good corn-growing country. English corn does not ripen properly, and always fetches a few shillings less than the imported corn grown in drier climates. Moreover, the Western counties of England are so damp as to be quite unsuitable for corn growing, though they are unrivalled for dairy or fruit-growing purposes. Corn is grown chiefly in the Eastern counties, and has to compete with a superior quality grown in better climates with better machinery (for the American machinery is the best in the world), and on larger areas. It follows, therefore, that the English corn farmer can never pay high wages, for, except under a protective system, he can never get the same price as is paid for the more cheaply produced foreign corn.

On the other hand, the dairy farmer, the market gardener, potato grower, fruit farmer, and poultry farmer produce food which is more perishable than cereals and less suitable for sea carriage than either cereals or mutton, which are the products of the large farmer.

For corn can only be grown profitably on large farms with the best labour-saving machinery, whilst potatoes, products of the small holder, and are valuable supplements to the corn and chilled mutton imported from overseas. Incidentally, it may be said that the potato is a small man's product, and gives two and a-half times as many calories per acre as wheat gives, whilst it has more vitamins than wheat.

During the great wars of the 17th and 18th centuries the price of corn rose from 26s 9d, the price in 1761, to 119s 6d, the price in 1801, and the small yeoman farmer was starved out, his lands being absorbed by "engrossing" the large corn farms. For the small man is a consumer, not a producer, of corn, and cannot grow corn.

Cheap corn is a necessity to the existence of the small holder. He requires cereals for his pigs, his poultry, and his horse, if he has one. In 1901 the price of corn fell to 26s 9d, but between 1901 and 1911 the agricultural population increased by 9.8 per cent., though 819,000 acres were withdrawn from arable cultivation. The

increase was due to the greater number of small holders, and to more intensive cultivation by nurserymen and market gardeners. For glass cultivation was extended on a large scale. Now, the working of the economic law, when left to itself, had the following results:—1. An increase in the agricultural population. 2. Higher wages. 3. An increased production of more perishable foods which cannot be conveniently carried by sea. 4. Cheap and good bread, mutton, milk, butter, vegetables, eggs, fruit, and potatoes for the increasing population.

The war, by forcing the production of corn, has reversed this healthy economic development. The countryside is now returning to the economic conditions best adapted to our insular position with a large population. It is now proposed to interfere with the natural operation of economic conditions by Government control, Government subsidy, or some other artificial stimulus to uneconomic production. War having ceased to divert agriculture from its proper channels, it is proposed to find some substitute for war. Why?—Yours truly,

GRAHAM BOWER.

Studwell Lodge, Droxford, Hants.

Books and Publications.

PROFESSOR KNAPP ON MONEY.

THIS book* has to be approached with special respect, because it is published on behalf of the Royal Economic Society, a fact which hall marks it as guaranteed by high authority as a work of exceptional importance to the scientific economist. To ordinary mortals it would have been useful if the translators, or the Royal Economic Society, had explained why Professor Knapp's work should have been singled out for this compliment, and what is the special significance of its doctrine. As it is, they present us with an interesting but difficult treatise, full of incredibly puzzling jargon, which does not, as far as one can understand it, say anything very new, and makes many statements that raise doubts in the mind of the reader.

His first sentence, for example, tells us that "money is a creature of law," and this remark at once brings into one's mind a host of examples to the contrary, culled not from the mists of antiquity, but of quite recent date, and in fact of yesterday if not of to-day. Many of us can remember the time when in the West of England "Stuckey's" notes were more popular as money than the Bank of England notes which were legal tender. Professor Knapp himself gives on a later page a very interesting account of the Giro Bank, founded in 1619 by the Hamburg merchants, which established a unit of value, the mark banco, unconnected with the unit of value for State money, and draws the conclusion that "each pay-group can make a unit of value for itself," which seems to be an admission that, sometimes at least, money is not a creature of law. When, owing to loss of confidence in the mark and the crown, people in Germany and Austria lately preferred to handle dollars and pounds, and when, as happens to-day and has happened for years, Bank of England notes are readily taken in payment on the Continent of Europe and in many other places, the law of the countries in which they pass current has nothing to do with the popularity of these forms of payment.

Again, Professor Knapp sings the praises of what he calls "Autogenic" money, by which he appears to mean inconvertible paper money. "Instead," he writes, "of perpetually insisting on the defects of autogenic money, just think a little of its services. It frees us from our debts, and a man who gets rid of his debts does not need to spend time considering whether his means of payment were material or not. First and foremost it frees us from our debts to the State, for the State, when emitting it, acknowledges that, in receiving, it will accept this means of payment. The greater part played by the taxes, the more important is this fact to the taxpayer. Payment with non-material money (I do not say immaterial money) is

* "The State Theory of Money." By Georg Friedrich Knapp. Translated by H. M. Lucas and J. Bonar. Macmillan. 10s 6d net.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
WITH BRANCHES IN CEYLON, F.M.S.,
INDIA, DUTCH EAST INDIES, CANADA,
JAPAN, AND ELSEWHERE.
AGENTS AND SECRETARIES OF TEA, RUBBER,
AND OTHER PRODUCE ESTATES.

for the country of its origin just as genuine a payment as any other. It is sufficient for the needs of domestic trade; in fact, it makes such trade possible." In fairness to the Professor it is important to remember that his book was written before the war. But since it is now translated and published under exalted authority, one is surely justified in observing that the theory has not worn very well. Since the war, "autogenic" money has freed some debtors from their debts in a sense that Professor Knapp can hardly have intended, in Russia, Germany, Austria, and elsewhere. As for making domestic trade possible, there was plenty of domestic trade before "autogenic" money was ever heard of, and in the extreme examples of it that have been seen since the war, it has gone far to make domestic trade impossible.

Professor Knapp's main theory appears to be that the State can make money out of anything it likes, as long as it marks certain metallic or paper tickets as bearing a certain value, and makes them legal tender. This is doubtless true, within limits, of a State governing a well-disciplined nation. Before the war it might have been possible for the German Government to have forced a purely copper currency on its subjects; but no English Government could have dared to attempt to do such a thing. But having very ingeniously argued that the material of which money is made is a matter of no consequence, he ends by proposing to "return to the firm ground of the actual world," and to leave gold its "hylic" use in our group of civilised States. It should be explained that in Professor Knapp's vocabulary "hylic" means a metal which may be converted into money without limit. And, as a warning to readers whose recollection of Greek is shaky, it is necessary to quote a characteristic example of the jargon in which the book is written:—

"But the papyroplatic variety is only mentioned as an example. It might also happen that every pound handed in might be paid for in 1,395 marks as before, but that this sum might be paid in thalers. In this case the thalers would be hylogenic, indeed chrysogenic money, but they would be argyroplatic, and therefore not orthotypic, for gold has remained our hylic metal, while the thalers are made of silver. Such a form is incomprehensible from the point of view of the metallist, while it offers not the smallest difficulty to the chartalist. In Holland, though the system is not laid down in actual ordinances, the Dutch silver gulden is a near approach to chrysogenic argyroplatic money. This brings out very clearly the difference between the platic and the genetic point of view."

Perhaps it would be unfair to ask the translators to translate the translation, but until they can do so the book can only be recommended to highly scientific economists who are also familiar with Greek.

THE ETHICS OF INVESTMENT.*

The writer of this work attacks contemporary American practice in regard to the issue and marketing of new securities. As the President of the New York Stock Exchange adds his benison in a foreword, it may be inferred that the views Mr Sturgis puts forward enjoy a certain amount of support in influential quarters. The argument runs on these lines:—(1) At present new securities commonly reach the investor through the medium of salesmen who receive a commission on the orders they secure. The process is, in fact, on all fours with the sale of motor-cars, or encyclopædias, or sewing machines, and plausible salesmen are frequently in a position to foist undesirable securities upon the unwary investor. (2) Investment ought, on the other hand, to be a scientific business, conducted with due regard to current economic conditions; and (3) for this purpose the investment banks

* "Investment: a New Profession." By Henry S. Sturgis. (New York) The MacMillan Company. 1924.

should maintain a service similar to that of the "forecasting agencies," adopt a professional ethical code on the model of the American Bar Association, and definitely shoulder the responsibility of administering the investor's resources to best advantage. Despite a certain looseness of style, and a tendency to fall into contemporary American money-market slang, the writer succeeds in making out an effective case for his reforms. By "investment," Mr Sturgis means "speculative investment." His ideal investor is constantly changing his holding, "getting out at the top" in one class of securities, and in at the bottom in another. A process by virtue of which the investor is left at one time holding nothing but Government stocks, and at another ordinary industrial shares, with a few short-dated Government securities, will certainly appeal to the conservative British investor as much too drastic. The commendation of the British law regarding disclosure of material facts in a prospectus will be gratifying to English readers, but the author is evidently unaware of the extent to which the purpose of the law is defeated in this country by the issue of "offers for sale" as a substitute for prospectuses. Among the most interesting features of the work are an able review of American economic conditions in 1921-22, a chapter giving various shrewd hints on the reading of a company balance-sheet, and a vigorous defence of the part played by organised speculation in the security markets.

THE BANKERS' ALMANAC.*

AGAIN the march of events in the banking world has necessitated a revision, and in some respects rearrangement, of the "Bankers' Almanac and Year Book" in this its eightieth edition. A further large number of institutions has been added in the section devoted to "International Banks." We should imagine that every bank of importance is listed in this volume.

In addition to its value as a directory of banks, other features worthy of remark are changes in the Bank rates of England, France, Germany, and Holland since 1844 and Belgium since 1851; prices of bar silver since 1833, and weekly average prices of gold and silver in recent years. We notice that there is also an article dealing with the North and South American exchanges included in this edition. A book which should be in the possession of every banker throughout the world.

* London: Thomas Skinner and Co. 42s net.

KELLY'S POST OFFICE LONDON DIRECTORY, 1925.

AMONG the many annual works of reference,* it may reasonably be claimed that Kelly's Post Office Directory, which has just been published, stands out as one of the most indispensable in every busy office.

Particulars of the establishments are given of the various Government Departments, with an alphabetical list of officials; a Transport and Hotels section also appears of all the principal places throughout the country, giving hotels, railway stations, early closing and market days, &c.; and the Law and Banking sections, complete directories in themselves for the professions which they cover, will be found in the book. The Parliamentary section contains an alphabetical list of the members of the newly elected House of Commons, with their addresses, and also a list of the constituencies with their representatives. Particulars of the new Ministry are also included.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Solution of Unemployment. By W. H. Wakinshaw, M.A. (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) Andrew Reid and Co. 10s net.

Modern Political Theory. By C. E. M. Joad. (Oxford) Clarendon Press. 2s 6d net.

The Politics of Oil. By R. Page Arnot. (London) Labour Publishing Co. 2s 6d.

Economic Journal of the Royal Economic Society, December, 1924. (London) Macmillan and Co. 6s net.

* (London) Kelly's Directories, Limited. 55s.

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. November, 1924. The Automobile, Its Province and Problems. (Concord, N.H.) The Rumford Press Building. \$2.

Deals with the service, manufacture, sale, finance, and economic usefulness of the motor-car; road problems; city plans for motor traffic; international problems; automobile associations.

Statistical Abstract of Peru, 1923. Department of Trade and Commerce. (Lima) Casa Editoria, La Opinion Nacional.

Irish Free State, Trade and Shipping Statistics, October, 1924. (Dublin) Obtainable from Eason and Son, Limited, 40 Lower O'Connell street.

The Accounts of the Corporation of London for the Year Ending March 31, 1924. (London) Chamber of London.

Is the Grain Trade Changing? By Rudolf A. Clemens. (Chicago) Illinois Merchants Trust Co.

State Purchase of the Drink Trade and the Sale of Drink under Government Management in Carlisle. By W. J. Irving. (Carlisle) Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic). 6d.

The Bankers' Almanac and Year-Book, 1924-25. (London) Thomas Skinner and Co. 42s net.

The State Bank Note (Chervonetz), 1923-24. (London) Kniga, Limited.

Post Office London Directory, 1925. (London) Kelly's Directories, Limited. 55s net.

Post-War Britain: A French Analysis. By André Siegfried. Translated by H. H. Hemming. (London) Jonathan Cape. 10s 6d net.

A workmanlike English translation of M. Siegfried's candid but sympathetic analysis of contemporary economic conditions in Great Britain, reviewed in our issue of May 10, 1924.

An Outline of the Mitsubishi Enterprises, 1924. (London) Mitsubishi Bank, Limited.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Mines Department. Statistical Summary of Output, Costs of Production, Proceeds and Profits of the Coal-mining Industry for the Quarter ended June 30, 1924. 2d.

Board of Education. Return of Full-time Pupils Attending Secondary Schools in England and Wales. 2d.

The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture, December. 6d.

Department of Overseas Trade: Financial and Economic Conditions in Uruguay as at September, 1924. 9d.

On December 11th Mr Guinness (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) stated, in reply to a question from Sir N. Grattan Doyle, that after January 1st, owing to the lower level of contracts now in force, a material reduction would be made in the scale at which Parliamentary productions were priced.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS,
TICKET, December 17. ACCOUNT, December 18.

THE fog in the past few days exercised a distinct effect upon Stock Exchange markets in serving to restrain business and to render activity more difficult, owing principally to the uncertainty that prevailed in regard to the time at which a man could arrive at work and get away again. The instantaneous success of the Greek Loan stands out as one of the features of the week, subscription lists being open for a very short space of time. The allotments will probably be out by Monday morning, and dealings are expected to begin on the basis of anything between 2 to 5 premium.

British Government stocks show a yielding tendency, and this in spite of the fact that one or two official departments have been big buyers of Funding and other such issues. The War Loan keeps its price. Colonials are influenced to some extent by the competition of new comers, and by the knowledge that there are further loans likely to be made in the near future. Nevertheless, one of the principal Home railways succeeded the other day in placing well over a million pounds of prior-charge stock, without disturbing in any way the market for existing securities.

The rush for the Greek Loan stimulated strength in the older Greek loans, the prices of which are generally better on the week. It also attracted buyers to Hungarian, Austrian and Middle European loans. German scrip weakened on sales

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

The Bank has close working arrangements with Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the world, and is in a position to offer complete banking facilities to merchants and others for the transaction of EVERY DESCRIPTION OF OVERSEAS BUSINESS.

Foreign Exchange transactions arranged.

Chief Foreign Branch 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3
West End Foreign Branch 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1.
Liverpool Foreign Branch 45, Castle Street, Liverpool.
Manchester Foreign Branch 94, Portland Street, Manchester.
Bradford Foreign Branch 13, Market Street, Bradford.

by holders who think the Greek Loan is cheaper. South American bonds are quiet, without much variation in prices. Home Railway stocks gave way rather sharply, on publication by the National Union of Railwaymen of a programme containing proposals which, if carried into effect, would mean substantial addition to expenses. This took the heart out of prices, which show a general fall on the week. Grank Trunk Pacific Debenture gained half-a-dozen points, on the latest statements made in connection with the status of the stock. Argentine Railway stocks braced up, in consequence of a favourable turn in the exchange, after their prices had been dull on crop apprehensions. Mexican Railways are dull, owing to the poor results disclosed by the recent report.

The rubber market keeps firm, with business very meagre. The price of the raw material moves in the upward direction anticipated by those who have been watching the course of the restriction policy. A halting mood fell upon the Tea share market, profit-taking sales being accelerated by the fairly substantial addition to the stocks of tea in hand in November, as compared with October. The Oil market, still left largely to the professionals, has been dull on the whole. Courtaulds spurred to 65s 6d at one time, without holding the full extent of the rise, and other Textile shares, after showing pronounced strength, gave way a trifle towards the end of the week. Tobacco shares are also a little reactionary, and the boomlet in brewery and whisky shares suffered a check by reason of desultory selling towards the end of the week. P. and O. deferred fell away on the cautious speech made by Lord Inchcape at the meeting on Wednesday. Trust companies' stocks continue to advance, but the new Staveley Trust shares, after a rise to 9d premium, have fallen back to their par price. Illumination shares failed to benefit from the foggy weather. Banking and insurance shares keep hard; the insurance market, in particular, is extremely bare of stock. Hudson Bays were little affected by the declaration of the usual interim dividend. Sudan Plantations eased off, and other land shares have been inclined to dullness. The iron and steel group turned dull, and motor shares remain neglected in London.

There is nothing much doing in Kaffirs, where the course of the New York exchange, with its effect upon the price of gold, does not encourage optimism, though the Van Ryn Deep Company, by increasing its interim dividend, flatters hopes of satisfactory New Year distributions to be made by other gold producers. Chartered varied between 15s 6d and 16s 6d, finishing the week near the latter figure. Paris has been buying Rio Tintos, but selling De Beers, which, after a rise to 12½, quietly dropped on the absence of further support. Malayan tin shares have been moving narrowly. Amongst West Africans, a fall in Ropps attracted speculative purchasers, whose buying sufficed to bring about a smart recovery. Mexican mines are quiet, and Canadians have yet to recover from the unfavourable impression produced by recent incidents connected with the Porcupine Davidson and one or two other mining companies in the Dominion. Business in the mining markets, as in other departments, has run on humdrum lines.

The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will be entertained to dinner next week in the Stock Exchange by the Managers and Committee of the House.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ ..	£ 185,308,864 ..	£ ..	£ ..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				
4 % Treasury Bonds, £500,000, at 94½ % (Dec. 5)	£ 500,000 ..	£ 472,500 ..	£ ..	£ ..

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.

NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6, 1924.
April 1, 1924, to Dec. 6, 1924, Dr £2,350,000 .. £ 50,000 .. £ 50,000

To the Public—	£	£	£	£
Greek Government—Refugee Loan, £7,500,000 7 % Sterling Bonds, Iss. at 88½, red. at par by half-yearly drawings, commencing Sept. 1, 1925. (Greek Government can repay loan 1936-1965)	7,500,000 ..	6,600,000 ..	375,000 ..	6,225,000
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation, £1,000,000 4½ % Stock (red. at par, 1945-55), issued at 96 %	1,000,000 ..	960,000 ..	50,000 ..	910,000
Agar, Cross, and Co., £500,000 5½ % Mort. Deb. Stock, at 90 % (red. at par, 1958), less £106,100 5 % Debs. to be red. out of the proceeds of this issue	393,900 ..	354,510 ..	19,695 ..	334,815
Candover Estates, £200,000 8 % 1st Mort. Deb., at 97 % (red. at par, Jan. 1, 1942)	200,000 ..	194,000 ..	10,000 ..	184,000
Country Gentlemen's Association, 16,450 6 % Cum. Pref. Shares of £1, at par	16,450 ..	16,450 ..	8,225 ..	8,225
George Mason, 300,000 7 % Cum. Pref., £1, at par	300,000 ..	300,000 ..	37,500 ..	262,500
Selayan Tin Dredging (Federated Malay States), 80,000 Shares, £1, at par	80,000 ..	80,000 ..	10,000 ..	70,000
Sabiwa Gold Mines, 300,000 Shares, 5s, at par	75,000 ..	75,000 ..	37,500 ..	37,500
Total offered to the public	£ 8,579,960 ..	£ 547,920 ..	£ 8,032,040	

To Shareholders only—	£	£	£	£
Coastal Oil Fields of Columbia, 100,000 8 % Non-Cum. Pref. Shares of \$5 each, issued at \$1 18 6d	100,000 ..	107,500 ..	32,500 ..	75,000
Virol, £100,000 6½ % Notes, at par (red. at 105s on Jan. 1, 1932)	100,000 ..	100,000 ..	5,000 ..	95,000
Total offered to shareholders only	£ 207,500 ..	£ 37,500 ..	£ 170,000	

Total offered for subscription to date	£	Total offered for subscription for whole year—	£
1924	194,618,824	1923	271,293,173
1925	269,927,045	1922	573,675,650
1926	371,887,650	1921	388,978,203
1927	370,141,418	1920	367,549,656
1928	362,893,297	1919	1,036,069,951
1918	1,034,257,474	1918	1,393,381,441

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation.—Issue of £1,000,000 4½ per cent. stock at 96 per cent. The principal is repayable at par in 1955, unless previously cancelled by purchase or by agreement, the option being reserved to redeem, in whole or in part, at par, on or after January 1, 1945. Of the present issue, £750,000 is required for the repayment of corporation mortgages expiring shortly, the balance being for capital purposes. The stock and interest is secured upon the property, rates, and revenues of the corporation, the rateable value of the city being £1,989,481. A rate of 1d in the pound produces £7,632. The freehold land, it is stated, consists, in addition to extensive properties in the city, of various estates, together with valuable coal royalties. The land is chiefly let on building leases for terms of 75 years, and will become of increasing value as the periods approach when the leases fall in. The corporation are also owners of quays, tramways, parks, and markets, and in the last accounts the total assets of the corporation were valued at £10,626,426, and showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £4,345,905. The total outstanding debt is £5,737,461, of which £4,037,874 is in respect of reproductive undertakings. An excellent investment.

City of Belfast.—The City of Belfast publishes some interesting information about its mortgages and redeemable stock. These, it is stated, are trustee securities yielding 5 per cent. Mortgages can remain in force for 5, 10, or 15 years; they are quoted on the Belfast Stock Exchange, and mortgagors can have their holdings subdivided into amounts of £50 and upwards. "Redeemable" stock is now available for subscription. This stock will run until 1945, and yields 5 per cent.

George J. Mason, Limited.—Capital £800,000, divided into 400,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference and 400,000 ordinary shares, all of £1. All the ordinary and 100,000 preference shares have been issued, and the vendor is allotted 69,924 preference shares. This is an offer for sale of 300,000 preference shares at 21s per share. The British, Foreign, and Colonial Corporation have purchased the whole of the shares now issued. The price paid by them for the 69,924 shares allotted to the vendor is 19s 6d, and for the 230,076 shares £1 per share. In addition, they receive a commission of 5 per cent. in respect of the latter. All expenses in connection with the offer are payable by the corporation, including an underwriting commission of 2½ per cent., and an overriding commission of ½ per cent. The company was incorporated on June 20, 1909, and owned 12 grocery and provision shops. In 1914 two similar businesses were acquired, and the company now controls 273 shops in Wales, Manchester and district, the Midlands, and Yorkshire. In addition, there are offices and warehouses at Birmingham, Liverpool, Cardiff, Manchester, &c. The auditors certify profits for the past 5½ years. These vary from £71,168 in 1919 to £143,092 in 1922. Last year they amounted to £130,176, and for the six months to March 29th last they are given at £125,306. During that period the number of branches increased from 141 to 273. According to the last balance-sheet, dated March 29th last, total assets, without including goodwill, amounted to £775,553, and net assets

to £579,769. Freehold and leasehold premises together figured for £218,024, and stock (at cost or under) for £343,828. We should have liked an independent valuation of the properties, but considering that this is an "offer for sale," the amount of information given is quite good.

Candover Estates, Limited.—Incorporated in Natal, South Africa. Share capital £150,000, divided into £1 shares, of which 140,454 have been issued and are fully paid. This is an offer for sale which is being made simultaneously in Great Britain and South Africa of £200,000 8 per cent. first mortgage debentures at £97 per cent. The company is, according to information given in the published statement, "by far the largest producer of raw cotton in the Union of South Africa." The debentures now offered are secured by a mortgage bond specifically charging the company's freehold lands and buildings, as well as a floating charge upon all other assets. The proceeds of the offer, after repayment of existing debentures, will be utilised for working capital and for development of the cotton-growing land. The estates are stated to be completely equipped, and by the passing of a Bill in the South African Parliament a railway is to be constructed which will pass through the property. Including the balance of cash from the present offer, a valuation of the assets gives a total of £480,168. At June 30th last 6,093 acres were under cotton. The company's products, it is mentioned, have realised a price "which has been as high as 3.75d per lb over the American middling price." This is a proposition which should be supported by those who have knowledge of the directors, or an understanding of local conditions.

Mid-Kent Water Company.—This undertaking was incorporated by special Act of Parliament in 1898. Authorised share capital £380,000, of which £18,000 of original ordinary shares, £127,550 of 7 per cent. ordinary shares, and £149,020 preference shares and stock are issued. Premiums amount to £4,189. The authorised loan capital is £149,379, of which £65,000 is outstanding in the form of redeemable debentures. Tenders are invited for 1,000 7 per cent. ordinary shares of £10 each, at a minimum of £10 per share, and for £20,000 of 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock at a minimum of £95 per cent. The ordinary shares are entitled to a maximum dividend of 7 per cent. per annum, but in the event of the distribution in any one year being less than 7 per cent., the company is authorised to make up the deficiency in succeeding years. The debenture stock now offered will be a charge upon the undertaking both for interest and repayment of capital in priority to all existing shares or stock of the company, but the outstanding debentures rank first for repayment of capital. The amount of debentures or debenture stock is limited to an amount not exceeding one-half of the paid-up ordinary and preference capital. The company supplies water over an area of 400 square miles in Mid-Kent. In 1918 net profits amounted to £11,922, since when, with the exception of 1919, they show a continuous increase. For the year ended September, 1924, they amounted to £19,379, compared with £18,102 in 1923. The rate of dividend on the 7 per cent. ordinary shares has risen from £4 11s per cent. in 1918 to £6 6s per cent. for the half-year to the end of September last. The capital now raised is required for extensions. At the minimum price of tender, namely, £10 per share, the ordinary yield £6 6s per cent., and the debentures, if tendered for at the minimum of £95, yield £5 5s 3d per cent.

Herne Bay Gas Company, Limited.—This undertaking was established in 1853, and in 1899 obtained Parliamentary powers for supplying gas in Herne Bay and district. The authorised share capital is £86,000, of which £16,000 has been issued in £5 original shares, having a standard dividend of 10 per cent., and £29,160 in £5 additional 7 per cent. shares. Premiums figure for £2,876. The amount of loan capital outstanding is £43,000, of which £9,500 of 4½ per cent. debenture stock, £5,850 of 6½ per cent. redeemable debentures, and £8,668 of 6 per cent. redeemable debentures has been issued. This is an offer for subscription by tender of 3,000 additional ordinary 7 per cent. £5 shares. The reserve and special purposes funds together amounted on October 31st last to £7,980, and the sum standing to the credit of the suspense account for renewals of works, plant, &c., at the same date, was £1,788. After payment of the dividends to December 31st last, £2,589 remained to be carried forward as undivided profit. The sales of gas for 1913 were 73 million cubic feet, and for 1912 they were 88 millions. The number of consumers at the present time is 2,786. No record of profits is given in the offer.

The British Tea Shares Trust, Limited.—Authorised capital £50,000, divided into shares of £1 each, of which 25,000 shares have been issued for cash at par. Particulars are advertised in the Press for public information only. The company was incorporated on June 10, 1912, for the purpose of acquiring financial interests in companies and concerns engaged in the production and cultivation of tea, rubber, and

allied products. Borrowing powers are equal to the nominal amount of capital. There is obviously scope for an efficiently controlled company of this type, but the capital in this case is small.

Selayang Tin Dredging, Limited.—Capital £140,000, in shares of £1 each. Subscriptions are invited for 80,000 shares at par, the remaining 60,000 shares being issued credited as fully-paid up in part purchase consideration. The company has been formed to acquire and work for tin, 160 acres of land in the Federated Malay States, situated in the district of Kuala Lumpur. The company also proposes to acquire an additional 160 acres of adjoining State lands, and applications for further concessions have already been made. In addition to the 60,000 shares, the vendor is to receive £5,000 in cash. The prospectus states that the first dredge (expected to cost about £55,000) should be in operation in the course of the next twelve months. The issue has been underwritten at 5 per cent., with an overriding commission of 1 per cent. A speculative venture.

Sabiwa Gold Mines, Limited.—The capital of this undertaking is £120,000 in 480,000 shares of 5s. each. Of these, 300,000 shares are offered to the public at par, the remaining 180,000 being allotted, as part purchase price, to the vendor. The object of the company is to acquire 274 claims in the Gwanda district of Matabeleland. The ore reserves are estimated at 139,000 tons, or sufficient for three years' milling on the proposed basis of 4,000 tons per month. It is stated in the prospectus that during the ten months ended October last, 17,950 tons were treated, yielding gold to the value of £24,397. The purchase price of £80,000 is payable as to £45,000 in shares and £35,000 in cash. After payment of the underwriting commission of 5 per cent. preliminary expenses, and the cash portion of the purchase consideration, and buying new plant, the sum of £6,500 will be left for working capital.

The Country Gentlemen's Association, Limited.— Authorised capital £67,500, divided into 60,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 7,500 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. Preference shares for £43,550 and ordinary shares for £4,255 have been issued. This is an offer for subscription at par of 16,450 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares. It is stated that the new capital will be employed in the further development of the business. To enable orders to be more promptly executed, it is desirable that the association should hold larger stocks of commodities as are most in demand. To make this possible, further warehouse accommodation is required, and as the association is in possession of suitable land at Letchworth, work can be commenced in this connection almost immediately. The capitalisation appears to be top heavy.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.						
	Price 1925-26.	Price Week	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall		
War Bonds	(3%) 1925-26..	97 $\frac{1}{8}$	97 $\frac{1}{8}$	+		
	4% 1925-46 ..	97 $\frac{1}{8}$	97 $\frac{1}{8}$	+		
	4% 1926-47 ..	101 $\frac{1}{8}$	101 $\frac{1}{8}$	+		
	4% 1926-47 ..	101 $\frac{1}{8}$	101 $\frac{1}{8}$	+		
Funding Loan	4% ..	99 $\frac{1}{8}$	99 $\frac{1}{8}$	-		
Victory Bonds	4% ..	93 $\frac{1}{8}$	93 $\frac{1}{8}$	-		
Conversion Loan	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	79 $\frac{1}{8}$	79 $\frac{1}{8}$	-		
Consols	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	58 $\frac{1}{8}$	57 $\frac{1}{8}$ x	-		
Irish Land Stock	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	59 $\frac{1}{8}$ x	59 $\frac{1}{8}$	-		
Local Loans	3% ..	66 $\frac{1}{8}$ x	66 $\frac{1}{8}$	-		
British Railways.						
Great Western, Ord.,	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
London & North-Eastern						
5% Pref. Ord. term	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do Def. Ord.	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
London, Mid., and						
Scottish, Ord.,	103	100 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	2 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Metropolitan	80	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Metropolitan District.	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	2		
Southern, Ord. "A"	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1		
Do Ord. "B"	104	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do Pref. Ord.	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1		
Do Def. Ord.	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	2		
Underground Electric						
(£100),	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do "A" (1)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1		
Do Inc. Bds. (£100)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1		
Banks.						
Barclays Bank (£1, f.p.d.)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Chartered Bank of India	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Midland (£1$\frac{1}{2}$ with £2$\frac{1}{2}$ paid)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10)	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Nat. Bank of S. Africa	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$			
National Provincial						
(£20, with £4 paid).	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Standard of S. Africa						
(£20, with £5 paid).	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Westminster Bank						
(£30, with £5 paid)	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Colonial and Foreign Railways.						
Antiofagasta Cons.	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
B.A. and Pacific	79	79	-			
B.A. Gt. Southern	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 1			
Buenos Ayres West.	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	-			
Canadian Pacific	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	5		
Central Argentine	72	72	-			
Leopoldina	29	29	-			
Mexican Railway	9	9	-			
Do Int. Pref.	30	29	-	1		
Do Nat. Pref.	16	16	-			
San Paulo	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	159	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$			
United Havans	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	+ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$			

Foreign Government Securities.

	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.		Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.
Argentine 5%, 1886-7, 100 .. 100	13.5	13.5	—	Greek 5%, 1884 .. 53 1/2	54 1/2	—	1 1/2
Australian 6% Guar. 95x .. 96 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	—	Hungarian 7 1/2%, 1924 .. 94 1/2	94 1/2	—	—
Belgian 3% .. 73 .. 73	73	73	—	Japanese 4%, 1910 .. 63 .. 65	65	—	2 1/2
Brazil 5% Fund., 1914 73 .. 72	73	72	—	Do 6%, 1924 .. 92 .. 91 1/2	91 1/2	—	1 1/2
Chilian 4 1/2%, 1895 .. 85 1/2	85 1/2	85	—	Mexican Cons., 1899 .. 36 .. 37 1/2	37 1/2	—	1 1/2
Do 7 1/2% .. 108 1/2	108 1/2	108	—	Peruvian Corp. Pref. .. 34 .. 33 1/2	33 1/2	—	1 1/2
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 73 .. 73	73	73	—	P. L. M. 5% .. 39 .. 39	39	—	—
Egyptian 5 1/2% .. 21 1/2	21 1/2	20 1/2	—	Portuguese (New) .. 25 1/2	26	—	1 1/2
French 5% .. 17 1/2	17 1/2	17	—	Russian 5%, 1906 .. 7 .. 6	6	—	1 1/2
Do 4% .. 17 1/2	17 1/2	17	—	Spanish 4% .. 65 .. 65	65	—	—
German 3% Loan .. 11 1/2	11 1/2	11	—	Seine (Dept.) 7% .. 103 1/2	103 1/2	—	—
Do 7%, 1924 .. 78 1/2	78 1/2	78	—	Siamese 7% .. 106 .. 106 1/2	106 1/2	—	1 1/2

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" .. 24 1/2	24 1/2	—	—	Marconi Canada .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Marconi Wireless .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Marconi Marine .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (11) .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Linggi Plantns. (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Amal. Cottons (11) .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Lipton (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Anglo Persian Oil (11) .. 3 1/2	3 1/2	—	—	Lever Bros 7% Cmp Pf (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Armstrong (Sir W. G.) .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Do 8% Cn A Pft (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
and Co. (11) .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Do 20% Cmp Pf Ord (5) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Ass. Pft Ind. Cement (11) .. 13 1/2	13 1/2	—	—	Liter (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Barker, John (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Lobitos Oilfields (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
B'ham Small Arms (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Lyons (J. & Co.) (11) .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—
Brazil Traction (\$100) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Mexican Eagle (\$10) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
British-American .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Nobel Industries (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Tobacco (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Pekin (2) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Burmah Oil (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Rubber Plantations .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Costs (J. and P.) (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Investment (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Courtaulds (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Shell Transport (11) .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—
Cunard (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Smithfield & Argentine .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Dorman, Long (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Meat (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Dunlop Rubber (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Union Cold Storage .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Fine Cotton Spinners .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	6% Cum. Pref. (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
(11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Do 7% Cum. Pft. (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Forestal Land (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	United Dairies (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Furness, Withy (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	United Serango (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Highlands and Low .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	United Tobacco (11) .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—
lands Rubber (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Vallambrosa (2) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Hudson's Bay (11) .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	—	—	Vickers (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Imperial Tobacco (11) .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	Watney Def. Ssk. .. 205 1/2	212 1/2	—	+ 7

Mines.

Brakpan (11) .. 3 1/2	3 1/2	—	—	Modderfontein (10) .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—
Broken Hill Prop. (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Modderfont. "B" (5) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
Chartered (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Modderfont. Deep (5) .. 2 1/2	2 1/2	—	—
Cons. Gold Fields (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—	Premier Def. (2 1/2) .. 6 .. 6	6	—	—
Crown Mines (10) .. 2 1/2	2 1/2	—	—	Randfontein Est. (11) .. 1 1/2	1 1/2	—	—
De Beers Def. (22 1/2) .. 12 1/2	12 1/2	—	—	Rand Mines (5) .. 2 1/2	2 1/2	—	—
East Rand Prop. (11) .. 3 1/2	3 1/2	—	—	Selukwe .. 3 1/2	3 1/2	—	—
Geduld (11) .. 3 1/2	3 1/2	—	—	Rio Tinto (15) .. 38 .. 38 1/2	38 1/2	—	+ 1/2
Gov. Gold Areas (11) .. 7 1/2	7 1/2	—	—	Spring Mines (11) .. 2 1/2	2 1/2	—	—
Knights .. 8	8	—	—				

Amalgamated Press .. 10*	19 1/2	—	—	Less tax	12	11
Army and Navy Invest., Def. .. 2 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	Tax free	4/ p.s.	1 p.s.
Armistion Coal .. 10*	19 1/2	—	—	Less tax	10	10
Barnago Jute Factory .. 10*	19 1/2	—	—	Less tax	12	12 1/2
Batey and Co. .. 10*	19 1/2	—	—	Less tax	5	4
Bell and Co. .. 10*	19 1/2	—	—	Tax free	15	15
Bengal Coal .. 50	—	—	—	of 2 1/2%	3 1/2	2 1/2
Birmingham Rowton Houses .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	8	8
Bleachers' Association .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Dec. 31	—	—
Blumel Bros. .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Booth Bros. .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Bristol Industries .. 4%+	4%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
British Burmah Petroleum .. 1/ p.s.	1/ p.s.	—	—	Dec. 31	—	—
British India Steam .. 1/ p.s.	1/ p.s.	—	—	Quarterly	—	—
Brooke, Bond, and Co., "A" and "B" Shares .. 1/ p.s.	1/ p.s.	—	—	—	—	—
Bull's Metal .. 1/ p.s.	1/ p.s.	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Butterley .. 1/ p.s.	1/ p.s.	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Cadena Cofee .. 6*	6*	—	—	Dec. 31	—	—
Card Clothing and Belting .. 12*	12*	—	—	Quarterly	—	—
Charles Sharpe .. 12*	12*	—	—	—	—	—
Dominion Glass .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	—	—	—
East Kent Road Car .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	—	—	—
Edinburgh and Dundee Invest. .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Edison-Swan Electric .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Egyptian Sekt and Soda .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
General Securities Invest. Trust .. 5*	5*	—	—	Dec. 22	—	—
Goldsbrough, Mort, and Co. .. 3*	3*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Grand Junction Canal .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Great Northern Telegraph .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
Hotel York .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
Hudson's Bay .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
Idris "A" Ord. Shares .. 10	10	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Idris "B" Ord. Shares .. 10	10	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Imperial Paper Mills .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
James Finlay .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
John and Edwin Wright .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Tax free	—	—
John Williams .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
J. W. Cameron .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Leeds City Brewery .. 5*	5*	—	—	Dec. 23	—	—
Lobitos Co. .. 10%+	10%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Longevity Iron .. 5*	5*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
London Cremation .. 5*	5*	—	—	Dec. 23	—	—
Maddonald, Greenless and Williams .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
McLbourne Electric Supply .. 2 1/2	2 1/2	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Milner's Safe .. 5*	5*	—	—	Dec. 31	—	—
Mitchells and Butler .. 5*	5*	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Naider and Collyer's Brewery .. £2 p.s.	£2 p.s.	—	—	Jan. 5	—	—
National Omnibus and Transport .. 6%+	6%+	—	—	of £3 p.s.)	—	—
New Zealand Loan .. 8%+	8%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Northampton Brewery .. 3%*	3%*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Northern American Trust .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Tax free	—	—
North Londale Iron .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
North Metropolitan Electric .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Dec. 12	—	—
Officers' Brewery .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Do Bonus .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Orient Steam, Def. .. 5%+	5%+	—	—	Dec. 12	—	—
Pasita Rosa Milling .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	Tax free	—	—
Pinnars' Hall (Austin Friars) .. 8	8	—	—	Less tax	—	—
R. Hood Haggie .. 4 1/2	4 1/2	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Rio Claro Railway and Invest. .. 5%*	5%*	—	—	Jan. 1	—	—
Sawers, Limited .. 5%*	5%*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Scottish-American Mortgage .. 5%*	5%*	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Shewell's Brewery .. 7 1/2	7 1/2	—	—	Dec. 16	—	—
Sutherland Steamship .. 7 1/2	7 1/2	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Thomas Brown and Sons .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Thomas Salt, Def. .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Truswell's Brewery .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
United African Explorations .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
United Automobile Services .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
United Indigo & Chemical Co. .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
United Velvet Cutters .. 15	15	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Victoria Falls .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Victoria Palace .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
W. and R. Cook .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
W. and T. Avery .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Warriocks and Richardsons .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Wenlock Brewery .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
William Shepherd .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Williamsons .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—
Wintle's Brewery .. 20	20	—	—	Less tax	—	—

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate marked % or stated in Cash.	Dividend for Whole Years.	Interim Date of Method	Lat's Pre.
	* Interim div.	† Final div.		

MANILA ELECTRIC.—Dividend of 62½ cents per share of "no par value" on the common stock for the quarter ending December 31st, payable in New York on that date.

STRETTON'S DERBY BREWERY.—The total dividend for the year on the ordinary capital (increased during the year by a 100 per cent. bonus distribution) is 10 per cent. against 15 per cent. paid for 1922-23 on the smaller amount.

BRAHMAPUTRA TEA.—Interim dividend on account of the profits for 1924 of 15 per cent., less tax, payable on December 17th (against 10 per cent. a year ago). In addition, an allowance equivalent to 1s 5½d per share is to be made in respect of Dominion tax relief.

HURONIAN BELT.—The directors propose to pay a dividend of 25 per cent., less tax (against nil), on shares numbered 1 to 150,000. The 50,000 shares numbered 150,001 to 200,000, which were issued after December 31, 1923, do not participate in the dividend.

EAST INDIA RAILWAY.—Dividend from the surplus profits account of 7s 10d per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 13s 4d per cent. for the five months ending December 31st, and 3s 10d per cent. compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India on account of income-tax.

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.—The production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Limited, for the month of November amounted to 59,293 barrels.

TAMPICO OIL, LIMITED.—The total production during November was 49,560 barrels, in respect of which the Royalty due to Tampico Oil Limited, amounted to 3,717 barrels.

THE CALTEX OIL COMPANY.—November production, 2,589 barrels, or 411 tons.

THE KERN OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LIMITED.—The total production for November amounted to 121,284 barrels, or approximately 17,326 tons, including:—St Helens Petroleum Company, Limited, 32,762 barrels (4,680 approximate tons); Kern Trinidad Oilfields Limited, 12,489 barrels (1,784 approximate tons); Kern Romana Limited, 3,444 barrels (492 approximate tons); Kern Mex Oilfields S.A., 26,646 barrels (3,807 approximate tons).

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY.LORD INCHCAPE ON THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE SHIPPING
INDUSTRY.

LOSSES ON STATE-OWNED VESSELS.

BUILDING AND OPERATING COSTS.

The eighty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held, on the 10th instant, at the offices, 122 Leadenhall street, London.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E. (the chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr F. J. Abbott) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—I presume, ladies and gentlemen, you will, as usual, take the report and accounts as read.

The report and accounts having been taken as read, his lordship said that after setting aside £249,150 for redemption of the 5 per cent. and 5½ per cent. debentures, and writing off the discount and cost (£139,711 5s 6d) of the 5 per cent. debenture issue, they were able to recommend the same dividend as last year, and to carry forward £101,033 13s 8d. These results were not derived from working profits, but from the company's investments and other sources, such as dividends from their allied lines.

The insurance fund, which had suffered heavy losses, had increased by only £18,081, and several claims were still outstanding against the year's premiums. Since the fund was started seven years ago their premium had exceeded claims by £1,918,961 10s 2d. With 427 ships at sea covered by the fund, they could not expect to run free of accident every year.

COMPETITION BY STATE-OWNED SHIPS.

Twelve months ago he had said that with few exceptions the earnings of every voyage had fallen short of disbursements, and that he feared some years must elapse before we got back to pre-war conditions. The same remark applied to-day. While crop prospects in Australia and India were hopeful, there was no indication of a rise in freights, and the war in China was seriously affecting their trade with that country.

During the war our Government built a great many steamers, very wisely, as soon as the war was over, they got rid of them, and at high prices, for trade was booming. Not so wise were Canada, America, Australia, Brazil, and Portugal, which held on to their State-owned steamers. These had been competing with privately-owned vessels the world over, with the result that these countries had lost millions of pounds which had had to be made good by the taxpayer. Some of these Governments were now attempting to dispose of their ships, but the vessels, if sold, would not realise one-fourth of their cost. In saying this, he was not exaggerating. He recently bought for about £60,000 two steamers which had cost a certain Government no less than £600,000 only four years ago, and heaven only knew how much more they had cost in the interval.

It was, he continued, not within the capacity of public servants or Government Departments to manage great international enterprises such as shipping.

He would like to quote a trenchant speech which he had heard Lord Birkenhead make in the House of Lords a few months ago:—"You cannot master the business system of this country in the cloisters of Oxford, and suddenly take up and deal with a most complex organisation which has developed and grown up with centuries of our life. You can no more become an adequate and intelligent reformer in this respect than you can at the age of 50 or 55 go suddenly into the practice of law or medicine. The whole business is one of the most extraordinary nicety and complexity, and to attempt to deal with it without the advantage of most careful preparation is to invite a sure and certain failure."

Lord Birkenhead's axiom was, he thought, illustrative of the fallacy of any Government embarking on shipping or business of any kind. Such businesses were built up by men who had been trained for, and devoted themselves to, commerce. It would, he believed, have paid the shipowning Governments to have sunk their ships rather than to have kept them running during the last four years. When Governments had rid themselves of the incubus of State-owned vessels, the public might see a moderate return to prosperity in the shipping industry. Meantime, the ship-

building yards of this country would have many empty berths, with resulting lack of employment; but shipowners would not go on building ships unless they could expect a reasonable margin of profit.

Governments would be better off if, instead of competing with private enterprise, they took a share of business profits in the form of income-tax. If they continued to run ships, they would fail commercially, and, to make good their losses, would have recourse to additional taxation.

A HOPELESS ENTERPRISE.

He had, he continued, heard a good deal lately of a proposal to build six 20-knot steamers to carry only passengers, mails, chilled meat, and fruit between England and Australia, a proposal in which the Commonwealth Government had been invited to assist financially. Application had also been made to the Trade Facilities Committee for public money to finance the project. It was said that £9,000,000 would have to be put into the venture. Such proposals had been hardy annuals for 25 years. Let the promoters, he said, go to the public for the money; he doubted if they would get it, and if they got it, he doubted whether the subscribers would ever see any interest on their investment. It was much more likely that the principal would vanish. In his opinion the whole idea was doomed to failure. In his (the speaker's) opinion—he might, he said, be wrong—it would be sounder to leave the public to subscribe any money required to develop the industry.

BUILDING AND OPERATING COSTS.

Shipbuilding costs were still from 60 to 70 per cent. above the pre-war level, mainly through high wages and low output in the shipbuilding and contributory trades, while overhead charges in yards not fully employed were a serious cost factor.

Continuing, he quoted figures, taken from British and foreign tenders for railway material, to illustrate the difficulty British manufacturers had as against Continental manufacturers in competing for orders for their factories and employment for their workpeople. For wheels and axles, the highest British and Continental tenders were respectively:—British £1,350, Continental £800; the lowest tenders: British £920, Continental £678. For steel tyres for locomotives, the highest tenders were: British £1,988, Continental £1,531; the lowest British tender was £1,891, Continental £1,119. For steel springs, the highest tenders were: British £2,040, Continental £1,706; the lowest, British £1,463, Continental £978. The lowest tenders for locomotive boilers were: British £94,691, Continental £54,695. These samples, he said, could be multiplied. The current f.o.b. quotations for English bar iron were £8 2s 6d to £9 16s 6d, against for Continental bar iron, £5 10s to £5 12s 6d. He believed, however, that Continental prices were rising, as Continental firms found they were working at a serious loss.

In London and the outports used by the P. and O., the cost of loading and discharging showed a percentage increase of about 131 per cent. over pre-war charges; in Antwerp it was a little over 49 per cent. Port dues in London had advanced 63 per cent., their coal now cost 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. more than in pre-war days. These increases had resulted from the higher cost of labour. Production costs must be reduced in order that our export trade might revive.

PEACE IN INDUSTRY.

It was, he continued, not always understood by the public what effect even a slight advance of wages might have on the community unless it was accompanied by a corresponding increase of output. Despite all suggestions to reduce it, our population continue to increase, we had to depend on other countries for the bulk of the necessities of life, and we could not pay for these unless we could market our exports. To do this we had to meet, in our prices, the competition of other countries.

Only by persistent hard work and the rigid keeping down of

expenses should we get our share of the world's trade, and so be enabled to support our population.

Many orders for steamers had been placed abroad on terms with which our builders could not apparently compete. He supposed hard economic facts would bear their fruit eventually, but meantime the people of this country were suffering. The loss of wages occasioned by strikes during the past few years must have run into many millions, causing great privation among the employees' families and depleting the trade union funds, which had to be restored by levies on the workmen's wages. If this vicious circle continued, Great Britain would become a land of paupers. If common sense were allowed to prevail, and our Government departments displayed economy, we should, despite drastic taxation, regain our world supremacy in trade and finance. So far, ours was the only country which had met its war commitments; our credit remained untarnished; and he believed, despite certain prophecies, London would continue to be the centre of the world's finance. The resumption of a free market for gold would be good for trade and good for the City of London.

"Peace in industry" should be our watchword. Much depended on sane counsel by the leaders of labour. His faith in the good sense of the British workman remained unshaken. It was vital, as never before, that our industries should go on unchecked by trade disputes. Thereby we might see, better than a rise in wages, a rise in the purchasing power of wages. This, he was convinced, was the best way to increased prosperity for the country, and to a better standard of living for the workers.

TROUBLES IN AUSTRALIA.

An extraordinary state of affairs had, he continued, lately arisen in Australia. From what they could gather, a bureau was some time ago set up in Sydney for the enrolment of ex-service men as waterside workers. Recently the Labour Union had objected to members of the bureau being employed who were not also members of the union. The company's steamer "Maloja," which had been partly loaded by bureau men in Sydney, was declared "black" on arrival in Melbourne, and could get no cargo. On reaching Adelaide she was there also declared "black," and could get no cargo. They had been informed she would get no pilot or tugs at Fremantle, and would be unable to embark mails, so she was sent into Albany, where she picked up the mails, but she was refused the service of tugs, and passengers had to be embarked in the ship's boats. She was now on her way home, practically without cargo.

Several other steamers were in the same predicament, although they had not worked cargo by bureau labour. One steamer outward bound was not allowed to get a pilot at Fremantle, and when she came alongside in charge of the captain her hawsers were cast adrift, and she had to anchor in the stream. A steamer, chartered by the Australian Commonwealth Line (Government owned) to take cargo from this country to Australia, had been tied up three or four weeks in Fremantle with all her cargo on board, because her crew were not being paid the Australian rate of wages, and the Government had chartered this vessel and laid up some of their own ships, because they could not run them except at a heavy loss.

The position was almost inconceivable. They were between the devil and the deep sea, and apparently law and order in the Australian ports did not exist. He had, he continued, implicit faith in Mr Bruce, the Prime Minister of Australia, to protect his country from what was more or less Bolshevism, and to save her trade from such paralysis.

THE BRITISH MARITIME BOARD.

During the six years in which the Maritime Board, by which sea-going wages were fixed, had been in operation the trade had been free from strikes. The relations between shipowners, seafaring men, and the men's leaders were most cordial. Although in anticipation of improved freights wages afloat were some months ago advanced, there were few vessels which, even yet, were making ends meet in their earnings and disbursements.

THE MAIL SERVICE.

Their mail service had been carried on satisfactorily, but not without difficulty. Until they got possession of the ships now building they would not reach the efficiency at which they had always aimed. The delivery of these ships would enable them to revert to the full schedule on all the company's lines.

Last year they carried 700,000 bags of mails, equal to nearly 70,000 tons of space, an increase in ten years of about 100 per cent. of mail matter. This increase, to a great extent, had resulted from the development of the parcel post, which, even with a limit of 11 lbs per parcel, greatly affected the company's freight traffic.

In the resumption of the fortnightly mail service to and from Australia the directors, looking for additional sources of revenue, had instituted regular calls at Algiers and Port Sudan.

WAR MEMORIAL.

Three hundred and sixty-one members of the sea and land staffs—258 of the P. and O. and 103 of the British India Companies—gave their lives during the Great War. To commemorate the service they rendered to their country a permanent memorial had been placed at the entrance to the board-room.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK FOR TRADE.

The Conservatives having taken up the reins, he trusted we might have a stable Government for a lengthened period. Pledges given by the Leader of the party not to interfere in trade were sufficient to inspire confidence of the business community. The minds of a certain section of the Conservative party might still lean towards Protection, but the country had pronounced against this a year ago, and the decision had been accepted by Mr Baldwin.

The country had now given its verdict as to whether the nation was to carry on with its constitutional monarchy—God save the King—or whether the whole fabric of society was to be demolished.

In Russia, under Bolshevism, murder was rampant, property confiscated, family and moral life destroyed, and the teachings of the Christian religion being annihilated. He did not believe there were two people in four hundred thousand of our population who wished to see their native land reduced to this condition. He believed that not for five years, not for five hundred years, should we have any Bolshevist nonsense in this country. The people would have nothing to do with it.

THE YEAR'S PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Although cargo had been scarce and freight rates low, passenger traffic had been well maintained. He could not speak too highly of the devotion and zeal of their agents, their shore establishments in all departments, their captains, officers, engineers, pursers and pursers' staff, to whom the board were indebted for the P. and O. Company's popularity with passengers. Any complaint was inquired into with a view to improvement, and every letter of thanks was, he said, sent to the captain for his information and that of those below him.

In the vessels now under construction to take the place of those destroyed by enemy action they were avoiding extravagance in the way of decoration; but every care was being bestowed on the arrangements for the convenience and comfort of the travelling public. This was a matter of great interest to their technical staff and to all of those who were concerned in the success of the new ships; an interest which was shared by his wife and his daughter, Elsie, whose suggestions were of value. Lady Inchcape and he were, he said, going with their technical advisers to Belfast next week to go through the arrangements on board the *Rasmak*.

During the year the number of steamers in commission of the P. and O. and allied lines was 445; number of sea miles run, 26,692,686; number of entries into port, 28,773; tons of cargo carried, 14,470,267; number of animals carried, 253,227; number of passengers carried, 1,883,027; average daily number of crew employed, 37,027; expenditure in wages and victualling of crews, per annum, £5,127,000.

TRADE WITH GERMANY.

The Commercial Treaty with Germany negotiated by the President of the Board of Trade, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, signed on behalf of the British and German Governments within the last few days, and which would shortly come up for that ratification by Parliament, which it would most assuredly get, was, he said, the most important step yet taken towards a renewal of our trade, not only with the Continent, but all over the world. If he might venture to say so, the time had now come when the hatchet had to be buried. Germany was now expiating as far as she could the horrible outrage perpetrated by Prussian militarism; and it was important to resume friendly commercial relations with her, with all the safeguards provided by the Treaty. Our present Government had only been a few weeks in power and already by the firm steps they had taken in Egypt and by their trade treaty with Germany they had vindicated the verdict of the country. The denunciation of the proposed Treaty with the Soviet Government, which would have done no more for British commerce with Russia than the trading agreement made in 1921, was, he said, all to the good.

THE COMING YEAR.

With regard to the operations of the year on which they had just entered, many of their voyages were not even now covering expenses. Every economy consistent with efficiency was being effected. Until trade revived they would have considerable anxiety. Their Stock Exchange investments, taken as a whole, stood in their books at much less than they would realise if sold to-day. Their ships stood at considerably less than cost, after allowing depreciation at 5 per cent. per annum on the original price; their properties all over the world were well written down.

Their allied companies were all perfectly sound, although they too were suffering from the general depression.

The company would, he said, carry on its great work, but if the board had to recommend a lower dividend for the current year they, the stockholders, would, he was sure, accept it philosophically.

A CONSERVATIVE POLICY.

Continuing, his lordship said he had always favoured Free Trade, but, now that Protection had had its quietus, at any rate for the time being, by the Prime Minister, he did not know on which side he was except that he was not a Communist, a Socialist, or a Bolshevik. But as long as he remained their chairman he would, with the approval of his colleagues, observe the conservative financial policy which had built up the P. and O. On the other hand, he would continue to adopt what might still be called a liberal policy in marching with the times; and in improving their ships, for the convenience of their passengers and shippers, in large things and in small things.

SUEZ CANAL DUES.

He had been assailed by the Chamber of Shipping more than once to get the Canal dues reduced, and he was not without hope that a reduction would shortly be announced. Although he had no authority to say so, he hoped the reduction would be 25 gold centimes a ton. The dues would then be 7.25f as against 6.25f in 1914. He trusted, if the traffic continued to improve, that a further reduction might be made before long.

As chairman of the London committee and a vice-president of the board, he had never failed to urge that the lower the dues were the more would traffic be attracted to the Canal. His representations had always been received with the greatest courtesy, and he cordially acknowledged that the president of the Canal Company and its officials, by the high quality of their administration, and the manner in which their staff in Egypt discharged their responsibilities, both as to the traffic and the improvement of the Canal, left nothing in this respect to be desired. The Canal system and its administrations were an object lesson against nationalisation of industry. Woe betide this country if railways, banks, shipping, and other enterprises were handed over to Government departments. There would be much weeping and wailing and waiting at the doors—to say nothing of the gnashing of teeth.

THE STAFF—AN APPRECIATION.

He would, he said, continue to add to the comfort and amenities of all those who spent their lives afloat in charge of the company's vessels, from the captain downwards. Their devoted service and their resource in emergencies were beyond praise. Speaking from experience, both as a subordinate (they were, he said, all subordinate to somebody; some, he would not say all, were subordinate to their wives!), and from a long experience of administration, he had never known loyalty and discipline to surpass those which characterised the entire staffs, both afloat and ashore, of the P. and O. Company. This, he said, made his work not a task, but a real pleasure.

They still drew their young officers from the *Worcester* under Sir Thomas Sutherland's scheme, and in Captain Sayer (H.M.S. *Worcester*) they had an admirable disciplinarian and instructor. The young officers were highly spoken of by their commanders, and their respected friend, Captain Angus, the company's former nautical inspector, who was with them to-day, put them through a crucial examination before passing them for the service.

A TRIP TO CEYLON.

He had made a voyage to Ceylon by the new steamer *Maloja* last winter, and came back by the *Moldavia*. Everything on board went like clockwork, and the vessels were kept like yachts. If anyone wanted to get away from the winter at home, he could do nothing better than take a run out from Marseilles to Colombo by P. and O., spend ten days in the charming Island of Ceylon, with its delightful climate of Neoralia, and get back to Marseilles after having been absent less than six weeks. If he backed a winner at the Neoralia races at five hundred to one—as he, the speaker, had been credited with doing—he could have his trip for nothing and something in hand which, as they all knew, he could double with ease at Monte Carlo on his way home.

DIRECTORS.

The board had nominated as a director the Right Honourable the Viscount Churchill, who, as chairman of one of our greatest, most up-to-date, and best managed railways, the Great Western, had had a long experience of affairs. If his appointment were confirmed, as he was sure it would be, they would have in him not only a most valuable, but a most agreeable colleague.

AUDITORS.

He wished to express their great regret at the death of Mr W. F. Courthope, who had served as auditor with great ability for twenty

years. He was a member of the firm of Williams, Deacon, and Co., and, following tradition, they suggested Sir Robert Williams, of the same banking firm, to fill Mr. Courthope's place.

Mr. F. A. White, whose services as auditor they had had for nearly 25 years, also came before them for re-election to-day, and would, he hoped, for many more years.

In conclusion, he said that if he had trodden on anyone's toes in his remarks on general topics, he hoped he would be forgiven. Before putting the resolution, he would be glad to answer any questions to the best of his ability.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by Mr H. N. Gladstone.

RETURN ON THE TOTAL CAPITAL.

A shareholder said that it was true that the deferred stockholders were getting 12 per cent., but that stock represented only one-eighth of the total capital employed, and, as a matter of fact, the return upon the whole of the capital was considerably less than 3 per cent. He was not complaining of that, as he knew the reason for it. This was a public concern, the premier shipping company of the world, and its business was to "carry on." If the shareholders had to put up with lower dividends in the future until better times came, they would have to do so. He hoped that the public understood the position, and appreciated the fact that this great company would carry on even at a loss, if necessary.

The Chairman, in reply, said that he agreed that they were getting a very poor return upon the capital employed in the undertaking. Of course, they had paid considerably higher dividends in previous years, not only in actual dividends, but also in distributions of bonuses, and the board would be only too pleased, when trade improved, as they hoped it would in the course of a year or two, to give the stockholders a larger dividend than the one they were receiving on the present occasion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed: "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30th last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 6 per cent. on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment for the same be made on and after December 12th."

This resolution was seconded by Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, and unanimously approved.

The retiring director (the Right Hon. Viscount Churchill, G.C.V.O.) was unanimously re-elected, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Sir Charles S. Addis, K.C.M.G.

On the proposition of Mr A. Pitt, seconded by Mr H. B. Henley, Mr F. A. White was re-elected an auditor, and Colonel Sir Robert Williams, Bt., was elected an auditor.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E.:—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen,—Before we break up this meeting I have to ask your permission to put another resolution. It is: "That the cordial thanks of the proprietors are due to the chairman, directors, and staff for their continued successful management of the company's business." The shareholders of the P. and O. Company owe to you, my lord, and to your colleagues on the board, their sincerest thanks for the brilliant manner in which you have conducted their business. It is no little thing to control the destinies of a great concern like ours, and we should like you to feel that we are indeed grateful for the splendid efficiency with which the task has been executed. I trust I shall not be misunderstood if I say that most of us here are thinking that if such results can be achieved in the dry tree, withered by the drought of years of bad trade, what may we not expect when returning normal conditions enable the tree to put forth its green leaves again. I am much encouraged by what his lordship has said on that subject.

Turning to the staff, I know I have a sympathetic listener in your lordship; we perceive that from what you said to-day, and we knew it before. No one realises better than our chairman what the board owe to the loyal devotion, quiet, unassuming industry, resourceful skill and efficiency, and often the magnificent heroism of the staff ashore and afloat. Those of us who are here present have the privilege of tendering to you, my lord, and to your colleagues, our thanks for what you have done for us, and we do so most heartily. I know that I am saying only what all of us are feeling when I ask you to be good enough to convey to the staff, large and small, ashore and afloat, an expression of the shareholders' thanks for, and warm appreciation of, what they have done.

The vote was accorded with acclamation, and the Chairman, in acknowledging it, said that it would be a great pleasure to the board to convey the appreciation of the shareholders to the staff of the company, both ashore and afloat.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK, LIMITED.

BANK'S STEADY PROGRESS MAINTAINED.

EXPANSION OF BUSINESS—INCREASED PROFITS.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE CONDITIONS.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

The fifth annual general meeting of the British Overseas Bank, Limited, was held on December 9th at the bank premises, 33, Gracechurch street (Lombard court), London, E.C., the Rt. Hon. Viscount Churchill, G.C.V.O., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman: I will ask the secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The secretary (Mr A. E. Thorne) read the notice convening the meeting accordingly.

The Chairman: I will now ask the secretary to read the auditors' report.

The secretary read the auditors' report.

The Chairman then said: Ladies and Gentlemen, the report and accounts for the year under review have already been circulated. May I, therefore, assume that it is your pleasure that we should take these as read?

The bank, ladies and gentlemen, has now completed the first five years of its existence, and although this, I hope, is a very short period in its history, it may perhaps help us a little if we glance back at the conditions under which we have so far worked.

Founded, as you will remember, well towards the peak of the post-war boom, our first care, among the many initial difficulties of organisation, was to go forward slowly, in order to make sure of each step in our development, to set our faces firmly against the universal impulse towards overtrading and undue optimism. In this, I think, ladies and gentlemen, we may claim to have succeeded, and the proof of this lies in the way in which, young and undeveloped as we were, we were able to meet the subsequent period of depression. During the boom period our development seemed perhaps slow. During the depression, however, it continued at the same quiet but steady pace as before.

IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE CONDITIONS.

In the course of the year now under review we have, I hope, seen some small beginnings of a change in general trade conditions. This change has as yet had little time to operate. Indeed, in many ways its first effects would seem merely the continuance, in another form, of the depression to which we have so reluctantly grown accustomed. But the beginnings of healthier development are there, and I think I can assure you that during these five years, we ourselves have laid the foundations, quietly but systematically, for an organisation which is now strong and well established enough to take its full share in any recovery that may be before us.

POSITION OF GERMANY.

The central feature in this change in general conditions has been Germany. From a state of affairs in which financial chaos had already, for all practical purposes, been reached, and in which political and social chaos was growing more and more threatening, we have seen a change to currency stability, and, more than that, the promise of a solution of the Reparation problem. It would be easy to criticise the solution offered by the Dawes' proposals. Its importance, however, lies, not in whether it will work out in the way which was at first intended, but in the fact that it has given a breathing space of at least several years, not only to Germany, but to the whole of Europe. It has also given the opportunity to the French Government to withdraw from the position it had taken up in the Ruhr, and it has formed the basis for the provision, under good security, of fresh capital to Germany, without which economic recovery in that country was impossible. In this way, by attacking the trouble from which we are all suffering at one of its most important sources, it has brought Europe, as a whole, a long step forward on the road towards normal conditions.

RUSSIA.

Unfortunately, in Russia, the other main source of Europe's difficulties, there is little as yet that is satisfactory to record. It is true that the existing régime in Russia has now been recognised both by Great Britain and by France, as well as by Italy. But the history of our recent negotiations with Russia shows how little we have as yet to hope, while political intrigues in Russia

itself remain as a warning that we ourselves shall do well to wait until a position of greater stability there has been reached.

GERMANY AND TRADE COMPETITION.

To return for a moment to Germany, it is well to remember that there are still difficulties ahead. Currency stability and a balanced Budget have been attained. But this has been done at the cost of a severe dislocation in prices and stagnation in trade. At present, prices in Germany are too high and wages too low, and before real progress can be made a painful period of readjustment will have to be gone through. It is well, too, to remember that when this readjustment has been reached Germany will be our competitor again on the world markets, and, under the stimulus of Reparation payments, she will certainly be a more serious competitor than before the war.

STABILISATION IN POLAND.

Stabilisation, with its ultimate advantages and its immediate difficulties, has not been confined to Germany. The other most outstanding instance, which we ourselves have followed with particular interest and satisfaction, is that of Poland. As was perhaps to be expected, developments there have attracted less general attention. But the achievement is, if anything, more remarkable. From much the same financial chaos, and without any assistance from abroad, stability has been reached both in currency and in Government finance. Unfortunately, stability has been followed by a still greater rise in prices and stagnation in trade than in Germany, and here, too, the same painful process of readjustment will have to be gone through. It remains now for Poland to win the confidence of the outside world in order to obtain the capital necessary for its development in the future. The first steps have been taken in the energetic reforms of the past year, and we have confidence that the difficulties ahead, great as they are, will be surmounted.

HUNGARY AND AUSTRIA.

In Hungary, with the assistance of the League of Nations, the problem was a simple one, and there is every indication that the reforms carried through during the past year will, given political stability, prove the basis for a steady recovery. As regards Austria, the year has not been so satisfactory, and it is very much to be regretted that the wave of speculation on the Vienna Bourse, which ended so unfortunately, was not more effectively controlled. There remains, too, as yet unsolved, the difficult task of the adjustment of Austrian industry to post-war conditions. However, compared with the progress and the promise of progress elsewhere, the setback here is of relatively small importance.

GENERAL TENDENCY TOWARDS STABILITY.

Apart from the dramatic collapse of the franc, and its subsequent partial recovery, the general tendency throughout the year has been towards greater stability, but up to now this movement, welcome as it is, has not made life much easier. The fever of depreciation has left us with a general maladjustment of production and consumption, of prices and wages; it has eaten up much of the world's capital and has seriously diminished the habit and capacity of saving. We are at last beginning to be able to take stock, and the prospect is not a pleasant one. The calamity of a complete collapse, with which Europe was seriously threatened, has, however, been avoided, and there is a fair chance now that with self-denial and steady work—if the habit of these can be learnt again since the war—the return to normal conditions is assured.

BANK'S PROGRESS DURING YEAR.

Turning to our own affairs, you will see from the report and balance-sheet in your hands that steady progress is maintained both in regard to the expansion of our business and also in the profits earned, which represent much careful and painstaking work under conditions which, if more satisfactory in some respects than formerly, have been, nevertheless, extremely difficult.

The year has also seen considerable changes in the internal organisation of the bank. As mentioned in our report, we required twice in the course of the twelve months to submit changes in our articles to our shareholders for approval. Perhaps, ladies and gentlemen, it is not altogether a matter for surprise that we did not succeed in finding, at the first attempt, a constitution that was in all respects satisfactory. It is, however, a pleasure to be able to assure you to-day that our present memorandum and articles work with perfect smoothness and efficiency, and that our relations with those institutions who are no longer our colleagues on the board, continue to be of a cordial and friendly character.

CREDIT DEPARTMENT.

The internal organisation of the bank has continued to develop on the same lines that have proved satisfactory in the past. In particular, the credit department has been greatly developed and increased, in order to meet the very rapid expansion in that side of our business.

TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT.

A further departure has been the creation of a trustee department. Under our constitution we have power to act as trustees, and we have been asked on several occasions to exercise these powers, both as an executor and as a trustee in connection with public issues. It seemed expedient, therefore, that this side of our work should be placed on a regularised footing, which has now been done. We have, I may add, drawn up a code of general conditions under which we are prepared to act as trustee, and the booklet dealing with these questions was issued to you with the report.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

You will see from the figures in the balance-sheet that current, deposit and other accounts total some £500,000 more than last year, while advances to customers are slightly less. From the balance-sheets which we have published from time to time, it would appear as if these two items were of a steady character showing little variation in amount. This is far from being the case, as both, in practice, show rapid variations. This feature necessitates the maintenance of a strong liquid position, of which evidence is given in our cash in hand and money at call.

ACCEPTANCES.

Acceptances by the bank show an important increase, amounting to £1,250,000, as compared with our figures a year ago. The increase in itself is satisfactory testimony to our activity. It is still more so when I am able to say that the increase does not relate to any particular item or country, but is spread over a number of commodities, and that we have in the course of the year opened up satisfactory relations in a number of centres where previously we had done little business. Fresh connections of this kind are only made after careful study of the conditions. That we have been enabled to accomplish so much this year is evidence not only of much painstaking research during the twelve months, but of a large amount of spade-work earlier in the history of our institution, which is only now bearing fruit.

The contingent liability of £1,620,000 for endorsements is, as I mentioned last year, merely nominal, as it is represented by the obligations of first-class banks or financial houses in the City of London.

PROFITS AND ALLOCATIONS.

If you turn to the report for a moment, you will see that our profits for the year amount to some £5,000 more than last year, and that it is proposed to distribute a dividend on the "A" shares on the same scale as during the previous period. You will also find a further allocation to "reduction of premises" account. This action was not taken because we feel that we have not received full value for the money laid out in this direction. The exact opposite is the case. But we feel that, with a lock-up of this character, it is desirable to effect reductions whenever we are in possession of profits which can be conveniently utilised in this direction. As that is so on the present occasion, we have written down this item in our balance-sheet by a further £5,000, making £30,000 in all since we acquired our property.

RESERVES.

The next allocation is £55,000, with which we propose to open our reserve account. I hope you feel, with me, that we can all congratulate ourselves on the fact that, at this comparatively early stage of its existence, the bank is in a position to create a reserve of this substantial amount. As you will see from the balance-sheet in your hands, we had already established a special reserve of £45,000 against our shareholding interest in foreign banks, and, for the sake of greater simplicity, a motion will be submitted to the meeting to-day to combine this amount with the £55,000 which

is being allocated this year to our reserve. We feel that a multiplication of accounts in the balance-sheet is only confusing, and serves no useful purpose. After effect has been given to these allocations, a balance of £54,330 will be left to be carried forward to next year, a reduction from the previous year's figures of some £14,000.

THE RESOLUTION.

I now move the following resolution:—
"That the report and accounts, as audited and certified by the bank's auditors, now before the meeting, showing the position of the bank's affairs as at October 31, 1924, be approved and adopted; that the final dividend recommended by the board, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the 'A' ordinary shares, for the half-year ended October 31, 1924, be approved; that the dividend be paid to shareholders on the register of members at the closing of the books on November 22, 1924."

I need hardly say that before I actually put the resolution I shall be only too pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability. I will now ask Mr Hird to second the resolution.

Mr Norman L. Hird (advisory director): It would be superfluous on my part to say very much in seconding the resolution which has been proposed by the chairman. Your chairman has dealt very fully with the European position, and he has also dealt very fully with the balance-sheet, and I think one can say about the British Overseas Bank balance-sheet that it does not require a great deal of explaining, as, on the assets side certainly, it is what one would call a very clean balance-sheet; but I should just like to say, as one who has seen a good deal of the inside working of the British Overseas Bank, that the shareholders probably do not realise—I mean, they cannot realise—the enormous amount of work that has been carried out during the past five years in building up what we all hope will be a very excellent and profitable business.

Mr W. J. Slatford: All honour to you.
Mr Hird: I think it is very gratifying to the board that the policy they adopted in the early days of advancing slowly has been justified by results. I have nothing further to say, except that we as shareholders are greatly indebted to the board, and to the management of this bank. I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution as proposed by the chairman.

The Chairman: Now, ladies and gentlemen, if there are any questions I should be very happy to attend to them. (After a pause) Well, ladies and gentlemen, as there are no questions, I will put the resolution to the meeting as proposed by myself and seconded by Mr Hird.

The resolution was carried unanimously.
The Chairman: I will now ask Mr Caird to propose a resolution.
Mr James Caird: I have much pleasure in proposing "That the sum of £45,000 held as 'reserve against shareholding interests in foreign banks' be transferred to general reserve, which will then figure at £100,000." I will ask my colleague, Mr Campbell, to second this.

Mr Nigel L. Campbell: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.
The Chairman: Mr Hindley, will you please propose the next resolution?

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Mr R. T. Hindley (Advisory Director): I have very much pleasure in proposing that the retiring directors, Mr James Caird and Mr Nigel Leslie Campbell, be re-elected directors of the bank. Representing, as I do, one of the shareholding banks in the British Overseas Bank, I do recognise the amount of hard work, careful consideration and judgment that is shown by, and that devolves upon the board and the executive of the bank in the conduct of—especially in the building up of—a new business such as this. It has been a source of great satisfaction to us to realise that our interests were in such good hands as we have here with the board of the bank. I can assure you that on occasions when they have so kindly asked me to come to the board meetings from time to time, as I have been in the City, the amount of real work that is put into these questions of a routine nature which come before the board, by these gentlemen of wide commercial experience and financial experience in the City, has been a source to me of the greatest satisfaction, as it must be to you as shareholders of the bank. I have, therefore, the greatest pleasure in proposing to you that Mr Caird and Mr Campbell be re-elected directors of the bank.

Mr Edgar Horne (Advisory Director): I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.
The Chairman: The next resolution is for the reappointment of the auditors. Will some lady or gentleman kindly propose that? Col. G. R. C. Westropp, C.B.: I have much pleasure in proposing "That the retiring auditors, Messrs A. W. Taft,

C.B.E., and A. S. Macharg, chartered accountants, be reappointed as auditors of the company for the current year at the same remuneration, namely, a collective fee of five hundred guineas."

Mr Ernest F. Donne: I beg to second that, Mr Chairman.
The resolution was carried unanimously.
The Chairman: That is the end of our business, and I am extremely grateful to you for your attendance here to-day.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS.

Mr W. J. Slatford: Before we separate, I should like to move a cordial vote of thanks to you, Mr Chairman, and your eminent colleagues, for the excellent conduct of our business. I put that to the shareholders.

The vote was unanimously accorded.
The Chairman: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I am sure all my colleagues and the officers of the bank appreciate your kindness in passing this resolution. As you have heard it already referred to, I, as the chairman, am in a somewhat independent position here, because my friend on my left, Mr Gairdner, with his great experience, has to look after the technicalities of the business—may I put it?—and the well-being of the bank, and the greatest credit is due to the managers and to the other officers of the bank. Only this morning I heard how smoothly, how efficiently, and how happily the whole staff from top to bottom is working, and how proud they are to be members of the British Overseas Bank, which is making such a name for itself.

The proceedings then terminated.

BWANA M'KUBWA COPPER MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

BOARD'S CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF PROFITS.

The ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 8th instant, in London.

Mr Edmund Davis (chairman and managing director), in the course of his speech, said: We are dealing with a very large proposition, which will probably be the centre of a large copper-producing area in Northern Rhodesia, and we have to take every possible care in the initial stages of our equipment, so that full benefit may be derived therefrom as development, not only of our own, but also of other properties, proceeds. This being so, we appointed a technical committee of the board, who came to the conclusion that not only was it in the interests of the company that the first unit of plant should be on the basis of treating 1,000 tons per day, but that the plant should be so laid out that two further units of 1,000 tons per day each might be added at a later date at the least possible cost.

EXCELLENT QUALITY OF COPPER.

When presiding at the ordinary general meeting early in the year, I stated that on the basis of treating 1,000 tons per day we might reckon that 300,000 tons of ore would be treated per annum, and that the metal production therefrom would be in the neighbourhood of 10,000 tons of refined copper, and, further, that the product should be delivered c.i.f. British port at £42 per ton. Though this cost would be increased by London charges, and provision for depreciation, it should in no event exceed £45 per ton. We are satisfied that our estimates of production and profits are conservative with standard copper at £60 per ton, though the quality of the copper we have produced in our pilot plant and shipped to this country is remarkable. It had been refined in a one-ton refining furnace, the copper bars produced analysing 99.85 per cent. to 99.91 per cent. These have been classified by a prominent metal-broking house as "excellent best select quality," and, of course, should realise a much higher price than standard. The estimate of profits which I gave at our last meeting—namely, £175,000 per annum—was based on the figure given of c.i.f. cost, and after allowing for London expenditure and other necessary usual debits. This, in the light of our present information, should prove to be a very conservative figure.

INDEPENDENT ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The report of the chief engineer of the American Corporation of South Africa amply confirms all reports we have had from our own technical advisers. His estimate of the ore reserves from the assay plans at their disposal gives down to the 350-foot level 4,592,054 tons of 3.63 per cent. ore, as compared with our own estimate of 4,349,946 tons of 3.76 per cent. copper, the Johannesburg estimate being greater by 242,108 tons, with a lower value of 0.13 per cent. copper. This is a very close agreement, and highly satisfactory. The longitudinal distance explored on the 350-foot level is 1,240 feet on the hanging wall ore body, and 1,420 feet on the footwall ore body. These are the measurements used for the ore reserve estimate, but there is no reason why the ore

bodies should not continue beyond these distances, and as the values in the 350-foot level are better than those in the levels above, the value of the reserves as a whole would somewhat benefit if more ore were included for this level.

In the various estimates of cost, £5 per ton of copper has been added to cover other charges, and the grade of the ore has been assumed to be 3.66 per cent. Taking these two factors into consideration with "best select" copper at to-day's price, £70—which is a reasonable assumption for the future—there should be a profit of about £244,558 per annum on a production of 10,254 tons of copper. Costs per ton should be lower than the figure taken in the estimate, and the tonnage of copper produced should be better. When the reserves which are available for open working production have been consumed, there will be an increase in costs, provided no economies are effected when the underground mining state is reached many years ahead.

In addition to the Bwana M'Kubwa mine, the company possesses another asset of very considerable potential value. That is the N'Kana mine, and the exclusive prospecting right held till December 31, 1927, over an area of about 1,800 square miles. In the N'Kana mine, about 954,938 tons of 3.48 per cent. copper ore being already proved, there is no necessity to continue development on this property at the moment. The results so far obtained have disclosed the existence of further interesting points where the existence of copper ore has been proved. Mr Horner reports two very promising discoveries, which are apparently extensions of the N'Kana ore bodies. The one is about one mile north of N'Kana, and has a prospect shaft on it, and a cross-cut at the 60-foot level has proved 25 feet at 3 per cent. ore; the other situated about half-a-mile further north had had two shafts sunk on it. In the first, which is now down to 58 feet, copper ore was met at 43 feet, the bottom of the shaft still being in ore, which so far averages 4.5 per cent. copper. In the second shaft, which is now down to 70 feet, ore was met at 45 feet; the bottom of the shaft is still in ore, which so far averages 4 per cent. copper.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

KERR, STUART AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

"A MARKED INCREASE IN ACTIVITY."

The fourteenth annual general meeting of Kerr, Stuart and Co., Limited, was held, on the 8th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr Herbert L. Reed (chairman and managing director), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the net profits for the year amounted to £28,780, and they were proposing to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares. The year had been a very difficult one; in the early part of it very little work was obtainable. Later in the year, however, they were able to obtain considerable orders for locomotives and boilers, and a pronounced improvement in the position had taken place, as reflected in the balance-sheet, the figures of which showed a marked increase in activity. The railway companies, both for this year and the forthcoming year, had put in hand, large programmes for the construction of new rolling stock, a considerable proportion of which was being put out to tender to the companies engaged in the business. This company had recently received a large order for locomotive boilers from the Great Western Railway. The acute depression which characterised the locomotive industry until the last few months had its cause in root principles, of the disappearance of which there was yet no tangible sign. These were chiefly the inability of their foreign clients, for financial reasons, to purchase rolling stock, and also the inability of firms in this country to compete with the Continental manufacturers for orders put up to international competition. How long this would last it was difficult to say, but there were distinct signs that Continental prices were approaching nearer to those of manufacturers in this country. The Chairman then dealt with the position of the locomotive industry in India, and said that, in view of the small number of locomotives ordered last year by the Indian Government, it was quite evident that the Peninsular Locomotive Company, a portion of whose capital was held by Kerr, Stuart and Co., could not tender advantageously without some assistance from the Government, and in view of the tariff board's report, the Government was not in a position to give such assistance. The tariff board had, however, recommended an extended scheme for bounties on steel wagons manufactured in India, and the Government had given the company a large order for wagons at an agreed price. Having referred to the interest acquired by Kerr, Stuart and Co. in Gas and Fuel Plants, Limited, the Chairman, in conclusion, said he thought they had now laid the foundation of a successful enterprise for the company.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

DORMAN, LONG AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR.

POSITION OF THE STEEL AND IRON TRADES.

BIG BRIDGE CONTRACTS OBTAINED.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs Dorman, Long and Co., Limited, was held at the registered office, Zetland road, Middlesbrough, on Tuesday, the 9th instant, Sir Arthur J. Dorman, K.B.E., in the chair.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, Sir Arthur Dorman, Bart, said:

I should like to refer to the loss the company have sustained through the recent death of my very old friend, Mr C. Arthur Head, who was one of the original directors of the company. He always took a keen interest in its affairs, and his advice and assistance will be greatly missed. The directors, at their meeting this morning, passed a resolution of sympathy with Mrs Head and the family of their late colleague. I hope I may be allowed to associate the shareholders with that expression of sympathy.

I will call upon Mr G. B. Nancarrow to read the auditors' report.

In accordance with the provisions of the articles of association, I confirm the minutes of the thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting held on December 21, 1923.

I assume that, as usual, you will take the directors' report and balance-sheet, which you have before you, as read.

I will now ask you at once to refer to the directors' report. Later, I will deal in detail with those items in the balance-sheet which call for special comment.

HALF-A-MILLION PROFIT.

You will see that the profit earned in the year was £504,984. Debenture interest and redemption service absorb £208,500 and £27,872 respectively, dividend on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares takes £31,083, and £120,000 is required to pay interest on the 8 per cent. preferred ordinary shares. We have charged against the profit and loss account £7,044, being the balance of the expenses incurred in amalgamating the several subsidiary companies in 1923. These sums, together with directors' fees, make a total of £397,499, leaving a balance on the year's working of £107,484. Including £202,667 brought in from last year, the amount at our disposal is, therefore, £310,151.

Your directors view with great concern the fact that no dividend has been paid in recent years on the ordinary shares, but in view of the small balance remaining out of the year's working after meeting prior and preferential charges, they do not feel justified in reducing the amount brought in from last year in order to pay a dividend this year, and they have decided, therefore, to write off £100,000 on account of depreciation and to carry forward the balance, viz., £210,151.

While we would like to have been able to place a better result before you, I cannot help remarking that a profit of £505,000 is not unsatisfactory, taking into consideration the conditions under which we have been working. When I tell you that, even in this year of depression, with one of our works idle and the others only working intermittently, we produced 650,000 tons of finished steel from our own resources of raw material, except for a percentage of imported ore, and in addition 65,000 tons of bridge and constructional work, you will appreciate readily what would be the effect of a favourable turn in the market.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

I will now deal with certain other items in the balance-sheet. Debts due by the company amount to £1,332,251, as against £1,513,599 last year. The reduction is largely due to the progress which has been made towards the settlement of questions of taxation and of claims by the company which were outstanding with the Government, whereby our liability has been reduced by approximately £280,000. We are satisfied, so are our auditors, that in the amount now standing in our books, ample provision has been made for any possible future claims.

The general reserve fund has been increased by £50,000, which was transferred from the profits of last year, and it now stands at £700,644. Below this you will notice a new item, viz., a reserve for deferred war repairs. After a prolonged negotiation with the Government, a settlement of the company's claim on account of the increased cost of repairs deferred owing to the war has been reached, and this settlement has enabled us to place to a special reserve account the sum of £311,986. This will be drawn upon as the repairs in question are carried out, so that in course of time it will disappear.

WORKS EXTENSION.

Capital expenditure shows an increase of £220,144 during the year, due principally to the erection of further coking plant at Acklam, extensions of our by-product plant, and to the provision of a new coal shipping plant at Clarence. After writing off for depreciation the sum of £100,000 out of this year's profits, capital expenditure will then stand at £9,582,170.

Turning now to our investments in other companies, the most important in many respects is our interest in Pearson and Dorman, Long, Limited. You will remember that we hold a half-share in this concern, the other half being held by the Whitehall Securities Corporation, Limited, representing Lord Cowdray. This company controls a large portion of the coal-bearing district of Kent, and if our hopes as to the value of the coal are realised, it promises to be a profitable undertaking.

In the construction of the colliery which has been commenced at Betteshanger, the policy of Messrs Pearson and Dorman, Long, Limited, has been to instal permanent surface plant and equipment as from the beginning, so that when coal is reached no time will be lost in its commercial development. This has meant heavy initial capital outlay, but we are in full agreement with the policy, which will render possible an earlier return in the way of profits than could have been attained if the preliminary stages of the work had been carried out with temporary plant and buildings.

Sinking, which commenced last May, has progressed satisfactorily, and one pit has already reached a depth of some 180 yards, having been carried successfully through the water-bearing chalk.

ANOTHER COLLIERY PURCHASED.

Messrs Pearson and Dorman, Long, Limited, have also acquired Snowdown Colliery, situated on the main Dover-Canterbury line. At the time of purchase this colliery was engaged in working an unprofitable seam, and was also suffering from having to make use of antiquated and, in many instances, temporary surface plant. It has now been closed down to enable the management to complete the sinking of one of the pits to a seam of better quality already reached by the other, and to install more modern plant.

Provision of the capital required in this undertaking is naturally a heavy drain on our resources, but we are very sanguine in our belief that the views held by Messrs Pearson and Dorman, Long's expert advisers as to the value of the coal will be borne out by results.

Since our last meeting we have acquired a controlling interest in the British Structural Steel Company, operating in Buenos Aires. As the result of a visit paid to the Argentine Republic this year by Mr Charles Dorman and Colonel Byrne, two of our directors who are on the board of the British Structural Steel Company, we have decided to support the policy of that company to extend its activities.

For a long time we have felt the need for a more direct representation in the Argentine, and with the holding we now possess in that company we have what is practically a branch of our own undertaking.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

Our interest in Wade and Dorman, whose works are in Durban and Johannesburg, remains the same as it was a year ago. During the year a visit was paid to South Africa by Mr Arthur Dorman, and he found the works and organisation generally in a satisfactory condition. Several new machines have been ordered to enable the output to be increased, and we look forward confidently to our future prospects in that country.

It will not be out of place here to mention that in recent years we have adopted the policy of sending representatives of our board to visit our various overseas connections. The result is to maintain a much closer touch between us, and the effect is immediately apparent.

You will remember that in 1921 we bought an interest in the business of Braithwaite and Co., Engineers, Limited, with the special object of securing the order for the material for the Bombay Pipe Line.

This material has all been despatched, and as we wish eventually to have a fuller control of whatever form our representation in India may take, we have now resold our interest in Braithwaite

THE OUTLOOK.

I would now like to say a few words about the position of the iron and steel trade of the country as I see it to-day. It is passing through a time of trouble which, if not actually critical, is more serious than anything I can remember. The causes are many, all contributing in a greater or less degree to the troubles which beset us, but in my opinion our greatest difficulty to-day lies in the disparity which exists between the prices which Continental makers are able to quote and those we are forced to maintain by the conditions obtaining in this country.

In the long run, I am satisfied that increasing stability in industrial conditions on the Continent will bring with it a steady rise in the cost of production, so that British and Continental prices will, sooner or later, come closer together.

Unfortunately, this may prove a long process, and until it is finished the iron and steel trade of this country may find it difficult to maintain its position in the markets of the world unless some change takes place in the conditions under which it is to-day working.

The obvious remedy is for us to reduce the cost of production, but I find it difficult to see how we are to bring it much below its present figure.

The price of British steel to-day is less than 40 per cent. above pre-war prices. Wages in some branches of the iron and steel trade have reached a low level compared with other sections of the community.

The profits which are being earned are barely sufficient to meet prior and preferential charges, and in some cases not even the latter. In fact, so far as we can ourselves control the matter, we are approaching, if we have not reached, our limit in regard to production costs, so that unless a reduction is effected in the cost of those items of our charges which we cannot influence, such as railway charges, taxation and local rates, and the general cost of living, which to-day is more than 70 per cent. above the pre-war level, I can see but little prospect of being able to offer more attractive prices in our home or overseas markets.

LIMITING OUTPUT.

I am convinced that any step, such as an amalgamation of interests with a view to limiting output, which must have the ultimate effect of raising prices at home, is not in itself going to help us.

In an unprotected home market, the immediate result would be to make the foreign market even more attractive to the British buyer than it is to-day, while a rise in our prices would have a disastrous effect on our power to meet competition in the overseas market.

With a protected home market we might eventually find ourselves able to "dump" our surplus production abroad at a low price, which would enable us to retain our export trade; but the fact remains that not very long ago the country declared itself as definitely opposed to any policy of the kind.

It seems to me, therefore, that except by reducing the cost of production, any remedy we can adopt to-day to meet this disparity, in prices must react unfavourable on our export trade, which is already in a sufficiently precarious position.

Before the war this country's exports of iron and steel were in the neighbourhood of 5,000,000 tons per annum. To-day the figure is at the rate of not more than 4,000,000 tons, and as Continental output increases, as it is doing, our exports are more likely to diminish than to increase.

THE REMEDY.

I will not dwell upon the importance of its export trade to this country; you all know it, and all I will say is that unless there is before long a radical reduction in the cost of living in this country, and in the price that the iron and steel trade has to pay for those services which it does not control, I am convinced that there will be a decline in the export of iron and steel, which will affect seriously the purchasing power of this country in foreign markets. If this is not to happen, it may become necessary to subsidise the export of iron and steel produced in Great Britain until such time as equilibrium is once more restored between British and Continental conditions of life.

This brings me to the end of my remarks, but before passing to the resolutions, which will be put to the meeting, I would like to say a few words to express my appreciation of the work of our staff during the year. From top to bottom they have worked with the utmost zeal in the service of the company, and I want to give them every credit for having given us their whole-hearted service under conditions which have not been altogether encouraging.

Sir Hugh Bell formally seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the chairman, the staff, and the managing director concluded the proceedings.

and Co. to their managing director (Mr Humphreys) and his friends. The sale price showed a satisfactory profit, but as the transaction was effected after the date of the balance-sheet, it does not come into this year's accounts.

Our interests in Horden Collieries, Limited, and the Bowesfield Steel Company, Limited, remain the same as last year, and they stand in our books at a figure which is considerably below their market value. Both these companies are paying us a steady return on our investment.

During the year we took advantage of a favourable opportunity to dispose of the £75,000 of our own 4 per cent. debenture stock, which formed part of our investments appearing in last year's balance-sheet.

NEED OF CAPITAL.

The last item on the balance-sheet to which I will make special reference is that of stocks in hand, which you will see amount to the high figure of £2,937,946. Of this total, £2,000,000 represents minerals, pig-iron and steel in various stages of manufacture all valued at below current prices. This is an amount much beyond our requirements, but it has been very difficult in these bad times to keep stocks within a reasonable limit.

Until recently our business has been conducted on the basis of short credits, but now that we have embarked upon long-term contracts, such as the Sydney Harbour and other bridges, to which I will shortly refer, it becomes necessary for us to reduce our stocks considerably in order to help us in finding the capital required to finance contracts of this nature in their earlier stages before we begin to receive payments.

During the year our iron and steel-making plants have been maintained in good order. We have taken no steps towards increasing their capacity, because we think that it is already sufficient for our purposes, and we have concentrated our efforts, first on building up our raw material resources, and secondly on extending wherever desirable those of our departments which help to absorb our steel output. In addition, we have strengthened our by-product plants, which become every day a more important feature of our undertaking.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

We have recently taken an important step in forming a new department with the object of undertaking bridge contracts as a whole. Hitherto our part in bridge-building has been confined as a rule to the steelwork of the superstructure, and while this has brought many valuable orders to our bridge yard, we did not consider we were in a position to do ourselves full justice unless we were able to undertake complete contracts, including the construction of the civil engineering portion of the work. The new department is established in London, where we have secured the services of Mr R. Freeman, M.I.C.E., and Mr G. G. Imbault as our consulting engineers.

I am glad to say that we have made a good start. We have already obtained the order for the Sydney Harbour bridge at a price of four and a-quarter million pounds, and within the last few days we have heard that our tender for the bridge over the Tyne, which it is proposed to erect at Newcastle, has been considered favourably by the Newcastle and Gateshead Corporations. We understand that it is now in the hands of their engineer, and we hope shortly to hear that it has met with their final approval. In each of these contracts we included in our tender what we considered a satisfactory margin of profit.

We have placed the Sydney contract in the hands of Mr L. Ennis, who until recently was our general manager, and whom we have now elected to a seat on the board. Mr Ennis is well qualified to supervise an undertaking of this importance and magnitude, as he has had several years of experience in bridge-building in America. He was also responsible for the design and construction of our steel works and rolling mills at Redcar.

WORKS IN AUSTRALIA.

We believe we are in an especially advantageous position to carry out this contract, as we are already established in Australia with works both at Melbourne and Sydney. The Sydney works will be supplemented by a special fabricating shop adjoining the site of the bridge, which will be provided with the finest equipment of heavy structural machinery that it is possible to obtain.

We are fortunate in our choice of consulting engineers. Mr Freeman is a partner in the firm of Sir Douglas Fox and Partners, and Mr Imbault is well known in engineering circles as having been responsible for the erection of several important bridges. Our architects are Sir John Burnet and Partners.

We are sparing no pains to secure the services for our construction staff of the best brains obtainable, and altogether I feel very confident that this contract will be completed to the satisfaction of the New South Wales Government and their chief engineer, Dr J. C. Bradfield.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

"EXTREMELY PROFITABLE YEAR."

DIVIDEND INCREASED TO 20 PER CENT., FREE OF TAX.
RECORD OUTPUT—LARGE INCREASE IN SALES.

The twelfth annual ordinary general meeting of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Limited, was held, on the 8th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr W. F. Turner (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr Alfred W. Berry) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—At the annual meeting which was held exactly a year ago to-day we were able to report to you that the new financial year had started well, and that, given anything like settled conditions throughout the Far East, it was anticipated that the year's trading would be an extremely profitable one. That forecast has proved to be correct, and we have the pleasure of submitting to you to-day a report and statement of accounts for the past year which I think you will regard as altogether satisfactory. We recommend the declaration of a balance dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, free of tax, as compared with 16 per cent., free of tax, for the preceding year, and we carry forward an unusually large amount for reasons which I will explain later.

The report states that the gross profit of the Kailan Mining Administration for the past year amounted to \$10,830,007. This compares with a gross profit of \$9,205,492 for the preceding year. After providing for interest on the 6 per cent. Kailan bonds, \$56,880; redemption of bonds for the year, \$24,000; reserve for depreciation, \$1,624,501; the proportion of profit to which the Chihli Provincial Government is entitled, and other items, there is a net profit remaining of \$7,330,371, as compared with \$6,109,768 in the preceding year.

YEAR'S AVAILABLE PROFIT.

The proportion of this profit brought to credit of our profit and loss account, together with interest in China, is £494,622. Interest in Europe, exchange and minor items bring up the total credit to £521,635. Administration and expenses of all kinds in Europe, including a donation of £635 to Japanese earthquake relief funds, amount to £21,410, leaving a net profit for the year of £500,225. The corresponding figure last year was £397,467. The balance brought forward from the previous year's account was £9,937, and we have a credit of £100,958 for repayment of excess profits duty, of which you were informed at the general meeting last year. These sums make a total credit of £611,121. Income-tax absorbs £113,746, and corporation profits tax, which, happily, appears for the last time, is estimated at £14,345, so there remains a balance of £483,030 to be carried to the balance-sheet. An interim dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, was paid on May 1st last, amounting to £140,000, which leaves available the sum of £343,030 shown in the balance-sheet.

THE DIVIDEND.

Out of this balance we propose that a further dividend of 10 per cent. be declared to-day, free of income-tax (making 20 per cent. for the year, free of tax), that is, £140,000. The directors' further remuneration under article 83 of the articles of association amounts to £16,624, so that there will remain a balance of £186,406 to be carried forward to the next account. This balance may be taken to consist of the £9,937 profit brought forward from the preceding year, the £100,958 in respect of excess profits, which is, of course, profit earned in earlier years, and £75,510, balance of the profit of the year 1923-24. It is equal to about 13 per cent. on the share capital. Under ordinary circumstances it would not have been necessary to carry forward anything like so large a sum, and the board would have proposed a larger dividend, which is fully justified by the financial position, but, having regard to the present position of our affairs in China, which is referred to later in the report, we have felt it our duty to restrict the dividend and maintain a condition of exceptional strength until we have returned to a settled state of things in China.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

The balance-sheet shows liabilities to creditors £120,593, which is about £30,000 more than in the preceding year, the difference being in respect of claims of the Inland Revenue. The reserve for corporation profits tax was estimated at £38,519, and the half-year's debenture interest credited to June 30th was £28,080, making a total of £187,192. On the other side there is a large increase in the cash, which stands at £696,779, being over £300,000 more than in the preceding balance-sheet. Bills receiv-

able were £20,262, against £8,339 last year. The debtors, £2,621, are about as usual, but I must point out that the debtor balance on current account with the Kailan Mining Administration, which was included last time under the head of debtors, has now been shown separately in the balance-sheet, the figure being £134,072. There is nothing else that needs mention. I think it will be agreed that the balance-sheet is all that can be desired.

INCREASED COAL SALES.

Now as regards the history of the year's working. The report states that the sales of coal amounted to 4,284,160 tons, an increase of 571,236 tons, which is about 15½ per cent. over the preceding year. These figures would have been larger if the means of transport had been adequate to the demands of the trade. I mentioned at the last meeting that the Kailan Mining Administration had bought 100 coal wagons in China and had sold them to the Peking-Mukden Railway under a hire purchase agreement. These wagons had been in use only during the last two months of the year 1922-23, but with their help and certain improvements in the handling of the railway traffic the large stocks which had accumulated at the mines had been worked off by September, 1923. In view of the great advantage thus obtained, a further contract has been entered into by the Kailan Mining Administration with the Peking-Mukden Railway for the sale to them on the hire purchase principle of 200 more wagons. These are being manufactured in Europe, and the first consignment of 50 wagons will be made from Antwerp before the end of the present month.

RECORD OUTPUT.

The output for the year was 4,464,000 tons, against 3,874,000 tons in the preceding year. It is just over 100,000 tons in excess of the previous record figure of the year 1920-21. Some difficulty is experienced in maintaining an adequate supply of labour throughout the year, labour being withdrawn at certain seasons for agricultural purposes, but everything possible is being done to make the service in the mines attractive, and to increase the permanent mining population. Development work has continued on a large scale, the consequence being that the coal in sight at June 30th last was estimated at 27,658,000 tons, against 26,505,000 tons at the close of the preceding year, which was itself a record figure. The general manager reports that "our mines were never previously better equipped and better developed than at the end of the year under review."

EFFECT OF HOSTILITIES IN CHINA.

You will see from these particulars that at the end of the financial year the business was in a highly flourishing condition. The sales were well maintained for the first two months—that is, July and August—of the current year. The report states that in the month of September we received advice that, owing to preparations for war in North China, the transport of coal from the mines had been stopped. Hostilities between the rival armies began towards the end of September, and continued through the greater part of October. Fortunately, no fighting, beyond a mere brush on one occasion during the retreat of the Southern Army, took place in the neighbourhood of our mines. The chief struggle occurred at Shanhaikwan, some distance beyond our port of Chinwangtao, and at the end of October we were advised by cable that, so far as our area was concerned, hostilities had ceased. A further telegram on November 6th stated that the situation was all clear, and that no damage had been done. The effect on our business of the railway being monopolised for the transport of troops and material is seen in the figures of coal despatched from the mines. For the first week of September it was 75,000 tons, and for the second week 50,000 tons, in the third and fourth weeks it fell to 10,000 and 12,000 tons respectively, while for the three weeks to November 29th the figures were 15,000, 20,000, and 20,000 respectively. The sales fell from 74,000 tons in the first week of September to 16,000 in the first week of November. There was an improvement to 26,000 tons and 25,000 tons in the third and fourth weeks respectively. The recovery from this state of things is simply a question of a return to normal facilities for the transport of our coal.

MINES WORKING TO FULL CAPACITY.

I am not going to make any pronouncement upon the general situation in China beyond this modest one, that to all appearance things are settling down, and the time of year is not favourable to the recurrence of hostilities. The latest private advices we have

are to the effect that the war for us is happily over, and no damage has been done, and that commercial traffic is likely to be resumed. It is obvious that this resumption must be gradual, and we must moderate our expectations accordingly, bearing in mind, at the same time, that it is to the interest of the Chinese Government and the whole community that the resumption should not be delayed. The mines are being worked to their full capacity. We shall have enormous stocks available to meet the heavy demands that will be made upon us, and the general manager tells us that the mines were never better equipped and ready for future operations. We may, therefore, I think, look with confidence for a return, at no distant date, of the prosperity which was interrupted a few months ago.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

I move: "That the directors' report and accounts to June 30, 1924, be, and they are hereby received and adopted, and that a final dividend be declared of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, payable on December 9, 1924."

The Right Hon. Lord Southborough, G.C.B., seconded the resolution, which, after the chairman had replied to a few questions, was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Edmund Davis, the retiring directors (Mr Félicien Cattier, Mr Lambert Jadot, and Col. H. A. Micklem) were unanimously re-elected.

The Chairman next moved the confirmation of the appointment to the board of Major W. S. Nathan, C.M.G., remarking that he told the shareholders at the last meeting that Major Nathan was about to be elected. That had been done, and it now required confirmation on the part of the shareholders.

Col. H. A. Micklem, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., in seconding the motion, said he thought it would be a source of great satisfaction to all the shareholders to have on the board Major Nathan, who had been the general manager in China for many years, and did very good service for the company. They all knew that in a very large measure the present prosperity of the company was due to him.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr H. T. A. Fidge, seconded by Mr J. Dixon, the auditors (Messrs Annan, Dexter, and Co.) were reappointed, and the proceedings then terminated.

PARENT TYRE COMPANY, LIMITED.

PERIOD OF ACTIVE AND PROFITABLE TRADING.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Parent Tyre Company, Limited, was held, on the 11th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, Sir Arthur Du Cros, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr E. Morrissey) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The balance-sheet which we are considering to-day only carries our affairs up to April 30 last, and is, therefore, somewhat out of date. Substantial alterations in the figures have since taken place, the nature of which I will indicate. Generally, the period has been one of active and profitable trading, combined with some realisations and adjustments of our affairs. Our efforts have been mainly directed to three points: (1) The security and increase in value of our assets, and the resultant increase of our reserve account; (2) the diminution of our liabilities; and (3) the extension of our business and profits.

The recovery in the value of Dunlop shares has enabled us to

increase our reserve fund from £417,000 to £700,000, after deducting the proposed payment of a bonus of 4s per share on the deferred shares, to which I will refer later. Our liabilities have been reduced by, approximately, 50 per cent. of the figure appearing in the balance-sheet, and our profits, both in revenue and capital, are such that we are in a position to pay the dividend and bonus recommended in the resolutions before you to-day without encroaching upon the earnings, whether from investment or trading, of the seven and a half months which have already elapsed of the current financial year. These last-named earnings are available and will, I anticipate, provide a further substantial dividend on the deferred shares for the period to April 30th next, as well as permitting the payment of all fixed dividends on the preferred and ordinary shares to that date.

BOARD'S POLICY.

In a finance business, profits are naturally represented at times by unrealised assets and not by cash, and in computing the profit for any period, much depends upon the valuation placed on such assets. In this respect, it is the policy of the board to err, if anything, on the prudent side, and to value on such a basis that legitimate internal reserve may be created against depreciation or fluctuations in value which might possibly occur before security of this character are converted into cash. We have, in fact, already commenced to accumulate an internal reserve of this character.

The broad policy of the board is to maintain this company as of investment and holding company in such a way that the whole of its issued capital of approximately £2,350,000 will be permanently, and actually represented by investments in sound prior securities, the interest return from which will be sufficient to meet in full and fixed dividends upon our own preference and ordinary capital, to pay, in addition, a substantial dividend on the deferred shares. That is, in fact, the present position of the company. The final of business upon which we are engaged, and which we must undertake in the future under our authorised powers, is being, which will be, provided by utilising surplus assets—that is, assets which we hold in excess of the amount represented by our issued capital—and also by utilising the credits which are at our command as reason of the sound intrinsic position of the company.

Where new business is undertaken by the company involving fresh liabilities, new assets, in the judgment of the directors, of equivalent value are almost invariably acquired on the other side. The company is pursuing a cautious policy, and does not engage in business where this is not the case or where there is undue risk. In considering, therefore, the liabilities appearing on the balance sheet from time to time, this fact should be borne in mind, and in further fact that by a realisation of new securities the position regard to liabilities may materially alter for the better in a short space of time.

INTERESTS IN ALLIED COMPANIES.

As to the nature of our present investments the directors consider it would be inadvisable, in the interests of the shareholders, to publish an exact list of what they are, but our interests in allied companies are large, and are increasing, and they include, our investment, in the form of prior security, in Joint Industrial Limited. In connection with this investment and all our other investments in allied companies, I have to state that they are all in the nature of prior securities, and that the amount of the prior securities is fully represented in the balance-sheets of all the allied companies by tangible, realisable assets, with, in fact, a substantial margin over and above the amounts of our investments. I mention this fact particularly because this item of investments in allied companies is not always the strongest feature of a finance company's balance-sheet. Generally, we have ac-



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	£8,734,660
Reserve Fund	£4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	£4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

64 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

plished a good deal in the direction of diversifying and readjusting our investments, and we did this with sufficient promptitude to benefit by the rise which has recently taken place in good securities.

As to the reserve account, it will be remembered that our holding of Dunlop "C" preference shares stood in our books at 15s 9d per share, the price to which they were written down in August, 1921. At the time that was done I stated to the shareholders that this company might be in a position one day to write back this investment to its original figure. As a matter of fact, we have since April 30, 1924, written the balance of this investment back from 15s 9d to approximately its original cost price to us, but no credit is taken in our profit and loss account in this respect, the amount being carried to the reserve account.

DIVIDENDS AND BONUS.

By having recourse to that part of the reserve account which has been built up in the past out of capital profits, we are enabled to pay a bonus of 4s per share on the deferred shares without having to deduct therefrom income-tax, nor will the shareholders, so we are advised by our auditors and solicitors, have to pay income-tax or super-tax in respect of such bonus.

The proposed distribution of dividends and bonus at the present moment, I am glad to say, can be made without any strain upon the cash resources of the company.

In connection with these matters, I wish to reiterate two points which have been previously mentioned:—(1) that the profits earned by the company are sufficient to pay the dividends and bonus now recommended without resorting to the reserve fund; and (2) that the directors have the power, should they desire to exercise it, of making a bonus distribution to the deferred shareholders at any time from the reserve account, although there is no present intention of exercising that power. The reserve account will be left as follows:—We start with the figure of £417,000 at April 30 last, and to that we add £425,000, the increase in value written back in respect of our investment for the time being in the Dunlop "C" preference shares, making the total amount of the reserve £842,000. From this total there is deducted the amount of the bonus recommended to be paid on the deferred shares, amounting to £144,131, leaving the reserve account at the net figure of, approximately, £700,000, which I mentioned previously, or almost the total of the deferred share capital.

The report and accounts were approved, and extraordinary resolutions altering the title of the company to that of "The Parent Trust and Finance Company, Limited," and sanctioning the various alterations to the articles of association were passed unanimously.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE TRANSVAAL.)

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in Johannesburg, on November 6, 1924, Sir Evelyn Wallers, K.B.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

The annual reports and accounts contain full details of the highly satisfactory results of operations during the period under review. The net profit amounted to £1,855,634 11s 11d, which is a record for your company. This sum, together with the balance of £216,381 14s 2d unappropriated at the beginning of the year, makes a total of £2,072,016 6s 1d to the credit of appropriation account. The allocation of this amount is detailed in the directors' report, the chief items being two dividends of 50 per cent. each declared during the year, and absorbing £1,400,000, Government and Provincial taxes amounting to no less than £252,654 7s 6d, and the net expenditure of £95,441 15s 10d on capital account at the mine, principally in connection with the sinking and equipment of No. 2 circular shaft, the provision of additional housing accommodation for our employees, and the erection of a new recreation hall, which has added considerably to the amenities of life on the property. The balance unappropriated at the end of the financial year totalled £313,813 4s 2d, and is represented by cash and cash assets, after allowing for liabilities.

During the year 1,384,000 tons of ore were milled, a gratifying figure, which eclipses the record established the year before. The effect of a fractional decrease in the recovery of gold per ton milled was countered by the increased tonnage milled, with the result that the gold output was the largest for any year in your company's history. Working costs increased by 5d per ton milled, as compared with the previous year, partly owing to the record development footage accomplished; but this was more than offset by the rise of 5s 1d per fine ounce in the average price realised for gold, as a result of which the working profit reached the record figure of £1,825,890.

When addressing you twelve months ago, I pointed out that the satisfactory results of operations during the year ended June 30, 1923, were largely due to the noteworthy improvements effected in our mining and metallurgical methods, as the outcome of prolonged research by our technical advisers. This same factor is mainly responsible for the even better results achieved during the past year. Additional improvements have been effected in drilling methods, in the heat treatment of drill steel, in the supply and control of compressed air and in the economical use of explosives, which have induced a further increase in underground efficiency. The introduction of jackhammer machines for stoping purposes has been attended with considerable success, and has led to a remarkable improvement in rock breaking efficiency.

On the metallurgical side, the results achieved during the year under review were entirely satisfactory. The substitution of corundum blankets for amalgamation plates has led to a substantial increase in the recovery of osmiridium concentrates, the sale of the year's output of such concentrates adding £26,744 to our revenue.

DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS.

Development operations were vigorously prosecuted during the year, the footage accomplished being increased to the record figure of 28,018 feet, quite apart from the work done in sinking No. 2 circular shaft, with which I will deal later. The results obtained were satisfactory.

The payable ore developed during the year amounted to 1,762,200 tons of an average value of 9.6 dwts per ton, with the result that the ore reserve recalculated at June 30th last totalled 9,064,400 tons of an average value of 8.5 dwts per ton, over an estimated stoping width of 65.4 inches. This reserve includes 701,600 tons of ore, valued at 6.3 dwts per ton, contained in shaft and safety pillars, and at present unavailable. I need not emphasise the fact that the position disclosed by the foregoing figures is an eminently sound one.

By comparison with the position twelve months earlier, the tonnage in reserve has been more than maintained, but the average value has decreased by .3 dwt per ton, chiefly due to the more conservative basis adopted for the recalculation.

Excellent progress has been made with the sinking of the new No. 2 circular shaft, which has been equipped with its permanent headgear, and reached a depth of 1,963 feet at the end of October. It is expected to complete the sinking of the shaft to its final depth of about 2,800 feet by about March of next year. A connection will be made with the reef workings as soon as possible, and the additional ventilation facilities thus provided will assist the rapid development of the western area of the mine.

As regards operations during the current financial year, the average monthly profit for the three months July to September was £150,196, with working costs averaging 17s 5d per ton milled. The monthly development footage was increased to about 3,100 feet, and has exposed very satisfactory values.

The three winzes which are being sunk from the 15th level, on the east of No. 1 circular shaft, encountered good values during the quarter. The winze on the west of No. 1 circular shaft has passed out of the unpayable zone exposed on the 15th level, and is now in payable reef. The two winzes further west have been unpayable on the footwall leader, but those from the 14th level, still further west, are exposing high-grade reef.

As I have already mentioned, development from the Modder Deep mine has been quite up to expectations, and the values recently obtained in the rise from the 18th level to No. 2 circular shaft confirm this; for 295 feet sampled the average value was 23.8 dwts over 22 inches, or 523 inch-dwts.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts
(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

132 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS
CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

UPPER LEADER ON 15TH LEVEL.

On the 15th level, to the west of No. 1 circular shaft, the leaders, which are mined together in the eastern portion of the mine, are separated by a considerable thickness of quartzite. The upper reef is usually a very narrow one, though it often carries high values, and has in the past been auxiliary to the footwall reef, the principal gold-bearing body; as such, it has been extensively mined in the western half of your property. Owing to the parting between the two reefs, the primary development does not expose the upper leader, and information as to its position and value can only be obtained by secondary development. For this reason, the upper leader values are usually not available for inclusion in the published quarterly reports on development, though, of course, they are taken into account when calculating the reserve at the year end.

On the 14th and 15th levels, the upper leader has assumed greater importance, for it has been found to be payable over considerable stretches in which the footwall reef has proved unpayable. Since the end of the financial year this reef has been exposed in the 15th West Drive, and the winzes and rises adjacent thereto, and has been found to carry very satisfactory values. It is probable, therefore, that the area above the 15th level West, which was not included in the payable reserve at the end of the financial year, will be brought in when the reserve is recalculated next year.

With the holding of the rise from the Modder Deep to the upper workings, it will be possible to start secondary development on the upper leader on the 18th level; a trial exposure on this level has averaged over 1,000 inch-dwts for 35 feet sampled.

Work has also been started to reopen what is known as the South Reef. Medium-grade ore was mined from this reef, and a considerable tonnage is still standing intact, which should give a good margin of profit under present conditions.

You will perceive, from the annual reports before you, and also from my remarks this morning, that the period under review has been one of steady progress in all directions, that the position at the mine remains an exceptionally strong one, and that its future prospects are highly encouraging.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE, LIMITED.

OPENING UP NEW REEFS.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Van Ryn Gold Mines, Estate, Limited, was held, on the 10th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr L. B. Burns (the chairman) said that since the meeting a year ago the company had made considerable progress. Improved and improving monthly returns, with accompanying reductions in working costs, the increased dividend they were able to declare at the end of the financial year in June last, satisfactory developments in newly-exploited areas in various sections of the mine, and the recent acquisition of a considerable number of mining claims adjoining their property—these were all significant indications of the improved position in which the company stood to-day. The balance of £44,600 carried forward to the current year's account was substantially the same as last year's figure, in spite of the fact that they had paid out in dividends £87,500, free of tax, as compared with £75,000 for 1922-23. In addition, £9,950 had been written off permanent works, &c. The figures of the accounts showed clearly the strong financial position of the company, and he would point out that the 1,400,000 tons of fully-developed ore—a big asset—stood in the balance-sheet at nil, the cost having been met out of working expenses.

The new ground comprised a block of 133 claims acquired from the liquidators of the Modder West Gold Mining Company, and a further 18 claims pegged out on the same line of reef, making 151 new claims adjoining the company's present mining area on the north.

The Government mining engineer of the Union of South Africa, in his last annual report, referred to the work done by this company, stating that "the Van Ryn Estate continues to renew its life by opening up neglected leaders on the main reef series." This process had so far been accomplished without affecting the profits; in fact, since 1918 the dividends had practically been doubled. This had been due largely to the very material drop in working costs since the 1922 strike, but, of course, a great deal of credit was due to the local management and the technical staff for the efforts they had made, and were continuing to make, to improve the lay-out of the work on the mine. This work had been found to be justified by the longer life now assured owing to the satisfactory results which had attended the opening up of new reefs. The measures taken comprised extensive sandfilling, improvements in and alterations to the reduction works, and the complete electrification of the power plant.

The directors had decided to pay an interim dividend for the six months ended December 31st of 10 per cent. (2s a share), free of tax, which worked out gross at 2s 3.0d.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Dec. 31, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666
4% Conversion Loan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	153
4% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% and 5% War Stock ..	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
National War Bonds	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,166	2,166	2,017
4% Funding Loan	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	994	890	813
4% Victory Bonds	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396	396
Treasury Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	325	314	314
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	319	289	185	150	150	150	150
National Savings Certs. ..	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	366	363
Other Debt*	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128	1,132
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	..	..	616	652	588	628
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	1,107	1,121	878	619	608	186	200
Temporary Advances ..	1	243	205	154	147	194	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities ..	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,661	7,708
Total Liabilities	57	46	47	49	66	70	70	64	67
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,775

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances	Dec. 8, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Dec. 6, '24.	Dec. 6, '24.
Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	14,250,000..	..	19,250,000..	19,250,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.	187,290,500..	186,155,500..	180,945,000..	17,300,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	645,730,000..	588,320,000..	628,510,000..	4,110,000
Total Floating Debt	847,270,500..	774,475,500..	828,705,000..	40,660,000

* Includes £18,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 6, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 8, 1923.	Receipts Week Ended Dec. 6, 1924.	Receipts Week Ended Dec. 8, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April ..	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of England ..	..	5,069,613	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland ..	..	1,564,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	101,800,000	69,205,000	88,414,000	2,509,000	3,114,000
Excise	135,900,000	91,251,000	98,295,000	1,686,000	1,837,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	15,600,000	5,105,000	4,470,000	140,000	115,000
Estate, &c., Duties	56,000,000	41,250,000	38,210,000	700,000	1,070,000
Stamps	21,000,000	13,240,000	13,080,000	300,000	240,000
Land Tax	1,250,000	690,000	540,000	10,000	..
Mineral Rights Duty ..	265,000,000	127,897,000	130,510,000	1,354,000	1,319,000
Property & Income Tax ..	61,000,000	28,540,000	24,690,000	450,000	690,000
Super-Tax	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	20,000,000	11,720,000	14,820,000	480,000	470,000
Corporation Profits Tax ..	53,500,000	37,500,000	35,400,000	1,000,000	750,000
Post Office	900,000	760,000	690,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	12,250,000	9,694,036	8,505,923	1,027,376	107,471
Miscellaneous—	11,850,000	8,248,546	9,402,653	3,876	297,727
Ordinary Receipts	30,000,000	21,206,336	28,092,639	737,415	6,769
Special Receipts	794,050,000	466,306,918	495,094,615	10,995,667	9,916,967
Revenue	..	472,938,532	501,912,782	..	..
Total, inc. Balance	..	..	..	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid:—	..	..	..	..	..
Bullion	..	..	65,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	5,920,000	4,800,000	..	50,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—	..	..	..	..	..
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 and 1924	..	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	..	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	..	260,719	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904	..	..	520,000	..	520,000
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	650,000	820,000	250,000	..
(c) For other Issues:—	..	..	..	..	..
By Treasury Bills	1,656,692,000	1,726,870,000	55,385,000	54,894,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	19,150,000	37,500,000	600,000	350,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	16,403,870	30,295,452	479,500	850,575	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	..	3,700,000	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances ..	..	572,919,000	585,655,000	36,550,000	26,300,000
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—	..	..	..	..	..
Dividends on Shares acquired ..	..	23,109	50,081	..	..
Repayments—	..	..	..	..	..
In respect of Cunard Loan	..	130,000	130,000	130,000	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	..	592,439	208,959	15,398	..
In respect of Issues under Section 59 (4) of Finance Act, 1920	..	1,622,025	..	..	13,27
Total	..	2,755,579,476	2,892,283,056	104,398,565	92,684,81

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 6, 1924.	Issues, Week Ended Dec. 6, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 8, 1924.
National Debt Services—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	248,891,232	249,093,117	45,627,607
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	18,522,287	24,727,762	115,947
Road Fund	15,000,000	4,364,044	3,755,044	..
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	7,587,891	7,227,205	..
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,608,729	75,000
Land Settlement	750,000	377,549	396,422	..
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	1,656,635	1,614,357	17,468
Supply Services	408,919,000	251,775,706	250,089,289	6,681,308
Expenditure	793,759,000	536,228,079	539,510,925	52,499,462
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	..	5,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	..	690,000	820,000	40,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1922 and 1924	..	5,950,000	4,670,000	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914	..	6,000	12,000	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	..	324,541	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	..	10,500	..
Under Contract Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 (Exchequer Bonds, 1923)	..	..	520,000	520,000
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Repayment of amounts borrowed	..	5,920,000	4,750,000	130,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	1,616,520,000	1,697,175,000	51,275,000	55,180,300
Principal of National Saving Certificates	21,350,000	23,850,000	550,000	650,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	6,586,653	32,222,296	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Act, 1914 to 1919	50	7,463,440	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	558,879,500	578,012,000	..	10,471,000
Anglo Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	..	23,109	50,081	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—				
Conard Loan Repayments	..	130,000	..	130,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	55,214	..	..
Balance in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,068,912	2,136,421	Incr. Dec. for Week	56,097
Bank of Ireland	958,850	816,377	Incr. Dec. for Week	151,994
Total	3,027,762	2,952,818	Incr. Dec. for Week	95,897

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 60 of 1924. Treasury, December 8, 1924.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER
Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills dated from Dec. 15—Dec. 20 were opened on Dec. 12, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £59,155,000. For bills at three months dated Monday at £99 2s 0d and above in full. Tuesday to Saturday at £99 1s 9d, about 27 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £45,000,000; in bonds, nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Nov. 7, 1924.	35,000,000	59,080,000	£ 14 1 6	£ 100 0 0
Nov. 14, ..	52,975,000	59,000,000	£ 14 0 6 5	£ 100 0 0
Nov. 21, ..	35,000,000	57,040,000	£ 13 3 38	£ 100 0 0
Nov. 28, ..	35,000,000	72,040,000	£ 12 10 7 9	£ 100 0 0
Dec. 5, ..	45,000,000	64,675,000	£ 12 15 17	£ 100 0 0
Dec. 12, ..	45,000,000	59,155,000	£ 13 5 9 3	£ nil

Tenders will be received on Dec. 19, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £40,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Bank of England.	Redemption Account.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Bank of England.	Redemption Account.
Mar. 25, 1922.	300,351	14,255	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	15,9	£ 81,479
June 28, ..	295,374	13,338	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	16,3	£ 84,458
Sept. 27, ..	289,127	12,648	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	16,6	£ 84,458
Dec. 27, ..	301,337	12,872	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	16,9	£ 84,458
1923.						
Mar. 28, ..	285,616	12,518	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,3	£ 84,458
June 27, ..	286,503	12,516	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,3	£ 84,458
Sept. 27, ..	282,784	12,401	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,5	£ 84,458
Dec. 26, ..	293,070	12,571	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,6	£ 84,458
1924.						
Mar. 26, ..	281,538	11,908	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,6	£ 84,458
June 25, ..	290,316	12,472	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,6	£ 84,458
Sept. 24, ..	285,592	12,227	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,3	£ 84,458
Nov. 28, ..	283,078	12,277	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,3	£ 84,458
Dec. 13, ..	288,098	12,249	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,1	£ 84,458
Dec. 20, ..	290,879	12,294	£ 5,000	£ 8,500	17,3	£ 84,458

Since July 31, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in and not yet cancelled. Maximum advance issue for 1920 fixed at £30,000,000, for 1921 at £30,000,000, for 1922 at £30,000,000, for 1923 at £30,000,000, and for 1924 at £30,000,000.

SECURITY FIRST **ROYAL** **INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED** HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, December 10, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£ 146,433,260	Government debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other securities	£ 8,734,900
		Gold coin & bullion	£ 126,683,260
	146,433,260		146,433,260

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital	£ 14,553,000	Government securities	£ 57,042,360
Reserve	£ 3,292,075	Other securities	£ 72,740,160
Public deposits	£ 10,039,431	Notes	£ 21,988,080
Other deposits	£ 125,696,953	Gold and silver coin	£ 1,820,760
Seven-day & other bills	£ 9,921		
	153,591,380		153,591,380

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Dec. 10, 1924.	Incr. or Dec. on Last Week.	Incr. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,392,075	+	£ 69,271
Public deposits	£ 10,039,431	+	£ 360,145
Other deposits	£ 125,696,953	+	£ 7,572,748
Government securities	£ 57,042,360	+	£ 7,110,000
Other securities	£ 72,740,160	+	£ 6,443,831
Reserve	£ 3,292,075	+	£ 1,454,319
Note circulation	£ 124,445,175	+	£ 2,309,916
Gold and bullion	£ 128,504,026	+	£ 9,306
% of reserve to liabilities	174%	+	174%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.
Nov. 5, 1924.	£ 128,494,564	£ 123,847,105	£ 119,050,507	24,397,459
12, ..	£ 128,491,253	£ 122,870,320	£ 113,719,929	25,373,933
19, ..	£ 128,497,363	£ 122,235,025	£ 117,635,257	26,012,338
26, ..	£ 128,491,489	£ 123,066,325	£ 123,589,474	25,175,164
Dec. 3, 1924.	£ 128,494,723	£ 123,795,065	£ 137,004,026	24,446,655
10, ..	£ 128,504,026	£ 124,445,175	£ 129,782,529	23,808,811

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to November 26	£ 31,591,458	£ 1,443,403	£ 2,628,513	£ 35,663,374
Dec. 5, ..	774,205	31,840	56,413	862,458
Dec. 10, ..	753,199	32,330	64,733	850,262
Total to date 1924	£ 33,118,862	£ 1,507,381	£ 2,748,677	£ 37,374,920
Do 1923.	£ 30,678,925	£ 1,472,334	£ 2,882,215	£ 34,833,474
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ £ 2,439,937	+ £ 35,047	+ £ 66,462	+ £ 2,541,446
%	7 9 %	2 3 %	2 3 %	7 2 %
Total for year 1923	£ 32,270,373	£ 1,546,565	£ 2,810,654	£ 36,627,592
Total for year 1922	£ 32,780,635	£ 1,674,661	£ 2,806,165	£ 37,261,461
Increase or decrease in 1923	- £ 510,262	- £ 128,096	- £ 4,489	- £ 642,856
%	- 1 6 %	- 7 6 %	- 0 2 %	- 1 7 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of November.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Dec. 6.
	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	26	25
BIRMINGHAM	£ 8,891,000	£ 10,326,000
BRISTOL	£ 4,011,000	£ 4,932,000
DUBLIN	£ 4,810,000	£ 5,051,000
HULL	£ 4,077,000	£ 4,356,000
LEEDS	£ 3,948,000	£ 3,224,000
LEICESTER	£ 3,618,000	£ 3,970,000
LIVERPOOL	£ 6,817,000	£ 7,134,000
MANCHESTER	£ 8,679,000	£ 7,344,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	£ 2,455,000	£ 2,668,000
NOTTINGHAM	£ 4,682,000	£ 4,320,000
SHEFFIELD	£ 4,682,000	£ 4,320,000
Total	£ 142,398,000	£ 150,530,000

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS. (000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. November, 1924.	Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Countess and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Willis & Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Total.
ASSETS.											
Coin, bank and currency notes, and balances with the Bank of England	£ 6,336	£ 33,642	£ 1,472	£ 2,777	£ 33,736	£ 51,662	£ 28,081	£ 4,074	£ 27,060	£ 3,991	£ 192,831
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	1,881	7,784	694	1,268	8,522	12,432	7,550	129	8,434	1,200	49,894
Items in transit	3,923	20,467	2,152	4,366	15,530	15,547	15,546	3,696	22,080	2,441	105,748
Money at call and short notice	3,134	35,143	2,174	1,200	52,836	51,653	40,566	2,840	44,229	3,392	237,167
Bills discounted	9,725	63,674	4,184	9,467	77,719	40,379	43,259	17,387	53,875	4,994	324,663
Investments	37,001	142,928	7,600	7,705	159,317	191,125	128,860	16,811	117,078	19,152	827,577
Advances to customers and other accounts	5,708	10,099	19	1,633	19,478	33,548	10,324	..	13,606	2,080	96,495
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	1,744	5,224	346	695	5,634	5,584	4,370	806	4,182	870	29,455
Bank premises account	..	7,455	..	..	6,580	5,849	2,754	..	2,992	..	25,630
Investments in affiliated banks	69,452	326,416	18,641	29,111	379,352	407,779	281,310	45,743	293,536	38,120	1,889,460
Ratio of cash to current, deposit, and other accounts	10.59	11.50	8.64	10.79	10.05	14.74	11.14	10.24	10.33	12.10	11.56
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up	£ 2,349	£ 15,592	£ 800	£ 1,060	£ 14,373	£ 11,977	£ 9,479	£ 1,500	£ 9,052	£ 1,875	£ 68,057
Reserve fund	£ 1,600	£ 8,250	£ 800	£ 530	£ 10,000	£ 11,977	£ 9,479	£ 1,200	£ 9,052	£ 1,200	£ 54,088
Current, deposit, and other accounts	£ 59,795	£ 292,475	£ 17,022	£ 25,720	£ 335,501	£ 350,277	£ 252,028	£ 39,778	£ 261,812	£ 32,965	£ 1,667,373
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	£ 5,708	£ 10,099	£ 19	£ 1,633	£ 19,478	£ 33,548	£ 10,324	£ ..	£ 13,606	£ 2,080	£ 96,495
Notes in circulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reduction of bank premises account	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	69,452	326,416	18,641	29,111	379,352	407,779	281,310	45,743	293,536	38,120	1,889,460

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Rentenbank appeared in the Economist of October 11; German Gold Discount, and Egypt in November 15; Canada, Reichsbank, and Bulgaria in November 29; Denmark, Danzig, Russia, and Portugal in December 6.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Dec. 5, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 21, 1924.	Dec. 8, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	3,027,930	3,046,250	3,050,820	3,118,140
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	89,960	87,700	92,410	79,520
Bills discounted for member banks	248,930	221,410	233,840	746,260
Bills discounted in open market	354,610	281,000	275,250	298,370
Government obligations owned	574,940	582,220	587,080	91,300
All other resources	88,850	88,920	88,260	71,340
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	22,910	26,720	24,670	30,070
Other deposits	2,282,480	2,175,930	2,245,830	1,905,440
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation.	1,949,016	1,945,510	1,923,460	2,554,440
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation				49
All other liabilities	14,140	14,140	13,610	25,410
Capital and surplus	333,070	335,080	333,160	328,480
Ratio of total resources to gross deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.	75.1%	77.7%	76.8%	76.4%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 6, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Dec. 8, 1924.	May 24, 1924.
Gold.....	238,638	238,995	239,034	239,488	272,042	104,918
Balance abroad and foreign bills	54,359	54,835	60,355	60,030	34,781	112,172
Swedish and for Gov. securities..	54,286	54,302	54,527	54,894	104,850	32,465
Discounts and loans	474,253	376,867	350,967	358,212	451,253	112,668
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	496,535	537,085	494,405	507,334	520,069	226,555
Deposits at notice	266,408	132,703	130,235	127,905	296,447	369,660

BANK OF ESTHONIA.—In Est. marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
Reserve of money (cash)	835,545	970,158	1,008,444	1,120,278
Cash in for. money, gold, & deposits abroad	716,038	706,573	656,553	25,805
Bills and other assets in foreign currency	311,104	295,768	273,004	284,470
Discounts and loans	5,215,336	5,241,975	5,274,787	4,971,721
LIABILITIES.				
Capital paid up and reserve funds	398,381	396,381	396,381	322,283
Notes issued	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000
Deposits	3,638,335	3,708,354	3,708,622	2,961,062
Commercial credits	513,024	524,668	567,144	633,076

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 3, 1924.	Nov. 25, 1924.	Nov. 19, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.	Nov. 24, 1924.
Total cash.....	12,056	12,180	12,733	14,974	15,993
Gold coin & bullion	23,606	23,604	23,603	15,765	15,993
Of which held abroad	7,923	7,923	7,923	2,506	2,506
Foreign bills and discounts	47,764	48,286	50,829	56,133	24,468
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	27,300	26,000	26,000	33,555	4,005
Capital paid up	10,260	10,260	10,260	10,260	8,000
Government deposits	78,495	78,529	77,778	41,793	16,997
Other deposits	50,700	50,211	51,547	42,975	16,995

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
Gold.....	5,713	30,702	28,332	25,582	16,394
Silver.....	56	55	54	39	252
Dollars, & sterling, &c.	61,241	60,464	58,903	55,639	43,926
Discount and credits	38,097	34,757	33,828	33,565	15,916
LIABILITIES.					
Capital.....	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve.....	100	100	100	100	59,010
Banknotes in circulation	89,344	89,726	86,919	80,248	74,481
Deposits.....	40,127	35,972	33,995	34,535	5,791

BANK OF POLAND.—In Zloty (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 20, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.
Gold.....	102,809	101,936	101,396	103,687	100,333
Foreign coin and balance with foreign banks	247,035	249,303	245,413	241,895	237,555
Private loans & discounts	271,512	266,825	266,321	261,576	255,164
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	497,600	412,784	473,860	503,702	438,427
Deposits.....	87,959	146,274	101,516	60,069	105,996

BANK OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
*Liabilities of the Austro-Hungarian Bank to the Banking Office	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,099,538	10,096,961
Discounts & advances	2,419,080	2,295,050	2,258,211	2,454,251	2,359,025	1,678,343
Gold & silver held for	1,050,559	1,050,561	1,050,593	1,050,454	1,050,274	1,052,393
Foreign bills and balances abroad	713,837	704,737	675,242	669,661	658,592	1,497,008
Other assets.....	227,357	229,258	228,787	227,497	227,080	439,490
LIABILITIES.						
State notes circulatn.	8,500,942	8,004,783	8,202,844	8,398,508	8,585,847	9,250,688
Deposits.....	4,668,969	5,027,415	4,721,547	4,719,566	4,487,109	4,371,952
Other liabilities.....	1,340,470	1,347,046	1,387,980	1,383,127	1,381,553	1,141,565

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

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In krone (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
Gold.....	110,643,144	110,606,045	110,521,919	110,521,919	110,521,919	62,116,639
Foreign bills.....	4,312,555,149	4,297,492,183	4,306,100,161	4,306,100,161	4,306,100,161	3,504,651,906
Bills discounted	1,943,877,611	1,974,039,763	2,039,352,639	2,039,352,639	2,039,352,639	1,092,580,464
Treasury bills	2,196,180,794	2,200,128,794	2,200,128,794	2,200,128,794	2,200,128,794	2,535,546,861
LIABILITIES.						
Reserve fund.....	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	6,577,616,340
Notes in circulation	8,072,021,092	7,319,565,959	7,603,213,794	7,603,213,794	7,603,213,794	6,173,321,030
Deposits.....	484,749,725	1,225,953,401	1,046,107,573	1,046,107,573	1,046,107,573	617,321,030

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 7, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
Metal reserve—Gold coin and bullion	508,411,247	506,106,272	506,106,272	506,106,272	506,106,272	506,106,272
Drinks and notes	1,819,382,624	1,819,382,624	1,819,382,624	1,819,382,624	1,819,382,624	1,819,382,624
Silver coin and bullion	13,300,882	13,300,882	13,300,882	13,300,882	13,300,882	13,300,882
Interest bills, warrants, and securities	1,984,539,716	1,907,565,829	1,921,068,735	1,921,068,735	1,921,068,735	1,921,068,735
Advances to the Treasury	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354
LIABILITIES.						
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664
Notes in circulation	4,442,643,752	4,088,859,830	4,392,851,728	4,392,851,728	4,392,851,728	4,392,851,728
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	2,873,418,283	2,379,964,108	2,379,964,108	2,379,964,108	2,379,964,108	2,379,964,108

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Sept. 15, 1924.	Aug. 30, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1923.
Gold and balances abroad	2,556,347	2,652,723	2,584,931	2,612,013	1,439,027
Government loans and securities	3,969,073	3,969,893	3,971,866	3,951,581	4,075,986
Discounts and loans	2,315,759	2,227,036	2,100,498	2,049,915	1,446,932
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	4,788,492	4,423,859	4,594,664	4,424,771	4,474,771
Government deposits	349,205	845,857	787,568	820,729	243,059
Private sight deposits	1,843,786	1,920,868	1,845,408	1,890,903	1,373,630
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,070,502	1,072,211	1,073,973	1,073,471	1,012,639

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
Gold.....	72,333	72,331	72,330	72,330	68,759
Other coin and notes	21,642	21,872	21,120	20,405	21,404
Foreign credits	393,245	383,545	383,364	386,244	355,837
Bills	1,316,276	1,321,567	1,321,567	1,321,567	1,367,657
Govt. advances	4,564,524	4,564,524	4,564,524	4,564,524	4,564,524
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	6,034,273	5,926,949	5,990,269	6,049,094	5,826,454
State credits	389,952	389,952	389,952	389,952	379,040
Deposits	643,241	710,330	622,474	681,396	482,249

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 11, 1924.	Oct. 4, 1924.	Sept. 27, 1924.	Oct. 13, 1924.	May 12, 1924.
Gold.....	562,957	562,957	562,957	562,957	545,275
Silver, &c.	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709
Government loan	11,541,953	11,537,719	11,554,489	11,942,515	12,585,130
Other advances	7,975,250	7,767,850	7,693,859	6,273,414	5,037,433
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	19,016,607	18,846,889	18,877,450	17,681,992	15,845,426
State credits	6,640,179	6,760,279	6,760,279	6,461,500	7,077,350

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 6, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Dec. 8, 1924.	Position May 30, 1914
Gold.....	2,344,351	2,534,943	2,534,943	2,534,950	2,527,618	521,775
Silver.....	853,044	853,044	853,044	853,044	853,044	853,044
Loans & discounts	2,528,829	2,497,692	2,516,777	2,516,777	2,516,777	728,800
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,516,973	4,474,380	4,501,313	4,552,981	4,285,538	901,550
Deposits	927,953	930,089	933,933	934,910	966,981	477,500

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 20, 1924.	Nov. 10, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 20, 1924.	Nov. 20, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914
Total cash.....	1,592,891	1,545,567	1,555,378	1,570,617	1,601,867	1,221,875
Inland bills	3,462,036	3,369,120	3,387,012	3,394,406	3,394,406	418,400
Foreign bills.....	18,466	16,677	15,677	15,626	15,653	81,300
Advances to the Treasury	5,533,430	5,533,430	5,533,430	5,585,863	5,839,050	nil
Other advances	2,195,096	2,396,289	2,442,051	1,908,852	2,576,634	79,175
Securities.....	374,731	379,378	379,432	386,101	385,015	205,700
LIABILITIES.						
Note circulation	13,690,100	14,052,422	13,966,536	13,660,441	12,634,330	1,556,925
Deposits & drafts	1,585,154	1,651,578	1,675,151	1,799,427	1,508,820	193,975

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 5, 1924.	Dec. 6, 1924.	Dec. 7, 1924.	Dec. 8, 1924.	Dec. 9, 1924.	Dec. 10, 1924.	Dec. 11, 1924.	Dec. 12, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Market rates of discount—								
6 months' do	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 month's do	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months' do	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 month's do	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8
Loans—Day to day.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Deposits—								
At notice.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

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

Comparison with previous weeks :—

BULLION.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Week ended December 10, 1924.

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	To—	£
United States of America ..	251,268	Russia ..	431,822
British West Africa ..	35,292	Netherlands ..	5,450
Other countries ..	1,500	France ..	3,615
		Spain ..	1,818
		Egypt ..	10,800
		Gibraltar ..	2,125
		Aden ..	3,650
		British India ..	231,023
Total declared value of imports ..	288,060	Total declared value of exports ..	754,903

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on November 30, 1924:—	
In India ..	Nil
In England—	£
Cash at the Bank of England ..	2,017
British Government securities—	
Value as on September 30, 1924 ..	30,047,063
Since purchased (cost price) ..	10,189,894
	40,238,974

SIDNEY TURNER, Accountant-General.

India Office, December 11, 1924.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on December 10th as follows:—

GOLD.

Only a very small amount of gold came on offer this week, and was absorbed by Indian and trade demand. Gold valued at \$3,000,000 has arrived in New York from France, and a shipment of \$2,000,000 from New York to Germany is also reported.

SILVER.

The market has been rather quiet during the week. Some moderate buying orders have come from India, and a certain amount of bear covering has taken place on account of China. The pronounced appreciation of the currency pound has not materially affected the tone of the silver market, which has been characterised by only small supplies. The Continent has been a seller, and intermittent sales have been made by America. The immediate future of prices is uncertain. Unless India continues to give support, it is possible that the improvement in the exchange with the United States will make itself more felt.

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS.

(In Lacs of Rupees.)

	Nov. 15.	Nov. 22.	Nov. 30.
Notes in circulation ..	18,088	18,034	18,006
Silver coin and bullion in India ..	8,543	8,489	8,462
Silver coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Gold coin and bullion in India ..	2,232	2,232	2,232
Gold coin and bullion out of India ..	..	..	..
Securities (Indian Government) ..	5,713	5,713	5,713
Securities (British Government) ..	1,600	1,600	1,599

No silver coinage was reported during the week ending 30th ult. The stock in Shanghai on the 6th inst. consisted of about 51,900,000 ounces in sycee, 39,000,000 dollars, and 2,280 silver bars, as compared with about 52,600,000 ounces of sycee, 39,000,000 dollars, and 870 silver bars on the 29th ult.

NOTICES.

Barclay's Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new branch at 368 London road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, under the management of Mr W. F. Bell, who is also manager of Thornton Heath Branch.

Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, Limited, announce that a branch has now been opened at 11 Boulevard des Moulins, Monte Carlo.

A branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, has been opened at Ingham (Queensland).

The Midland Bank, Limited, announce that Mr A. T. Jackson, formerly an assistant general manager, has been appointed a joint general manager. They also announce the opening of a new office at Rhiwbina, Whitechurch, near Cardiff, under the supervision of Mr C. Woodcock, manager of the Queen street, Cardiff, branch. A new branch has been opened at 790 Holloway road, Upper Holloway, London, N. 19, under the management of Mr J. C. McTurk.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Dec. 5, 1924.	(c) Week ended Dec. 7, 1924.	Miles Open.	Week ended Dec. 6, 1924.			Aggregate 49 Weeks, 1924.		
			Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total Receipts.
Great Western ..	3,754	200,000	355,000	538,000	302,200	165,700	29,533,000	30,034,000
Do for 1923 ..	3,754	197,000	329,000	526,000	288,000	171,000	29,533,000	30,034,000
London & N. Eastern (c) ..	6,722	354,000	681,000	1,035,000	17,800	335,300	5,322,000	5,322,000
Do same period 1923 ..	6,702	346,000	709,000	1,035,000	15,600	351,900	5,016,000	5,016,000
London, Mid., & Scottish ..	6,942	493,000	885,000	1,375,000	2,237,000	426,700	73,901,000	73,901,000
Do for 1923 ..	6,942	480,000	882,000	1,362,000	2,085,000	439,300	74,745,000	74,745,000
Southern ..	2,155	265,000	104,500	370,000	630,800	1,676,800	21,985,000	21,985,000
Do for 1923 ..	2,142	249,500	105,500	355,000	567,600	1,787,300	22,054,900	22,054,900
Metropolitan (c) ..	79	32,482	3,744	35,226	905,088	19,399	2,097,487	2,097,487
Do for 1923 ..	79	31,935	3,657	35,592	1,588,792	185,531	1,744,323	1,744,323
Underground E.R. (c) ..	..	..	..	..	238,246	..	11,718,227	11,718,227
Do for 1923 ..	..	..	..	..	222,41	..	11,122,744	11,122,744
Lon. & Sub. Group (c) ..	..	..	..	..	36,409	..	1,891,659	1,891,659
Do for 1923 ..	..	..	..	..	35,700	..	1,915,101	1,915,101
Belfast & Co. Down (b) ..	80	2,913	1,190	4,103	221,115	59,028	280,143	280,143
Dublin and S. East (b) ..	160	6,009	3,196	9,205	306,858	167,586	474,444	474,444
Great Northern (b) ..	562	15,754	16,700	32,450	923,250	999,700	1,922,950	1,922,950
Great Southern (b) ..	1,750	27,971	52,717	80,688	..	..	4,058,333	4,058,333

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	32 weeks	Nov. 8	1,072	Rs. 3,49,000	+ Rs. 13,312	Rs. 91,79,546	+ 12,08,006
Barsi L. Ry.	32 weeks	15	118	58,000	+ 29,000	11,40,000	+ 1,65,000
Bengal & N. Western ..	7 weeks	15	2,062	6,31,070	+ 96,245	31,7,380	+ 65,151
Bengal Nagpur ..	31 weeks	Dec. 8	2,800	14,05,000	+ 22,000	4,83,02,028	+ 33,51,101
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	36 weeks	Dec. 6	5,005	25,08,000	+ 3,000	7,84,50,000	+ 41,91,000
Burma.	32 weeks	Nov. 8	1,342	1,03,895	+ 438	2,11,06,279	+ 5,46,019
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka ..	9 weeks	29	239	1,23,000	+ 52	9,54,857	+ 37,866
East Indian ..	36 weeks	Dec. 6	2,873	31,72,000	+ 1,04,000	118,24,000	+ 66,10,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	35 weeks	Nov. 29	3,225	31,14,100	+ 1,30,000	9,41,57,516	+ 10,87,034
Madras & S. Mahr ..	33 weeks	15	3,029	13,75,000	+ 1,37,49	8,44,40,328	+ 26,58,781
Rohilk'd & Kumaon ..	6 weeks	8	259	28,211	+ 8,102	1,66,791	+ 94,425
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	6 weeks	8	287	52,904	+ 4,658	2,47,652	+ 10,717
South Indian ..	31 weeks	8	1,877	8,83,713	+ 51,8	2,98,87,664	+ 11,42,263

ARGENTINE (a).

			£	+	£	+
Argentina N.E.	23weeks	Dec. 6	754	13,400	+ 1,900	294,500 + 35,700
Argentine Trans.	33weeks	Nov. 29	3,332	707	58,500	- 23,98
B. A. and Pacific	23weeks	Dec. 6	2,602	128,000	+ 3,000	3,39,000 + 330,000
B. A. Central	22weeks	Nov. 30	1,222	85	297,188	66,679
B. A. Gt. Southern	23weeks	Dec. 6	4,713	231,000	+ 21,000	4,510,000 + 635,000
B. A. Western	23weeks	6	1,882	91,000	+ 3,000	2,167,000 + 329,000
Central Argentine	23weeks	6	3,305	205,000	+ 21,000	4,99,000 + 357,000
Corrientes Central	23weeks	6	2,202	61,000	+ 11,000	1,497,600 + 141,000
Entre Rios	23weeks	6	729	24,500	+ 2,200	513,000 + 74,100

CANADIAN.

Canadian National..	49 weeks	Dec. 7	..	\$ 4,791,608	—	\$ 637,146	\$ 221,063,034	—	\$ 24,848,080
Canadian Pacific...	49 weeks	7	14,025	\$ 3,765,000	—	\$ 794,000	\$ 170,800,000	—	\$ 10,871,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil..	49 weeks	Dec. 6	1,011	19,100	+ 6,800	490,200	+ 21,100
Leopoldina	49 weeks	6	1,831	3,500	+ 8,110	1,53,751	+ 25,782
San Paulo	49 weeks	7	1,534	48,424	+ 19,843	1,83,310	+ 399,250

CHILEAN.

Antofagasta	49 weeks	Dec. 7	838	38,680	—	7,670	1,891,955	+	112.7
Nitrate (½-monthly)	46 weeks	Nov. 15	366	43,302	+	15,093	855,133	+	188.0

CUBAN.

Havana Central	22 weeks	Nov. 29	1,271	14,791	513	266,438	7,378
United of Havana ..	24 weeks	Dec. 6	1,250	65,813	+ 7,016	1,476,727	+ 155,931

URUGUAYAN.

Central Uruguay...	23 weeks	Dec. 6	273	38,868	+	6,232	573,426	+	3,108
C. Urug. (East. Ext.)	23 weeks	6	311	7,299	+	1,102	10,070	-	911
C. Urug. (North. Ext.)	23 weeks	6	185	4,078	+	311	53,328	-	4,743
C. Urug. (West. Ext.)	23 weeks	6	211	3,617	+	452	59,015	+	7,123

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Alcoy and Gandia ..	49weeks	Dec. 6	33	Pa. 35,000 +	1,000	1,18,350 +	139,050
Egyptian Delta ..	35weeks	Nov. 20	600	15,268 -	621	225,299 +	29,989
Gt. Southern of Spain ..	48weeks	29	104	Pe115,122 +	7,471	4,956,988	314,544
Calcutta Tramways ..	22weeks	30	397	\$377,500 -	7,400	5,698,300 +	633,375
New Cape Central ..	46weeks	15	205	2,638 -	30	123,517 +	2,668
Paraguay Central ..	23weeks	Dec. 6	274	5,310 +	1,540	103,000 +	17,750
Salvador	23weeks	6	100	3,234 +	436	100,000 +	17,750

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.							
Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week.		Total Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
Anglo-Argentine ...	49 weeks	Dec. 8	329	\$86,462	2,8 94	4,274,846	+ 132
Buenos Aires ...	22 weeks	Nov. 30	12	\$14,056	-	297,668	+ 6
croze Tramways ...	1 week	Dec. 6	12	\$13,105	+ 89	..	+ 6,924
Burnley Corporation	19 weeks	Nov. 9	35	\$25,896	+ 3,321	70,145	+ 6,924
Calcutta Tramways	19 weeks	Nov. 9	4	..	+ 102	100,941	+ 6
Chatham & District	8 weeks	Dec. 4	..	\$4,428	381	..	..
Egyptian Markets ...	27 weeks	Dec. 6	106	\$45,938	+ 1,564	1,210,533	+ 26
Glasgow Corporation	61 weeks	Dec. 6	11	\$1,835	15	136,553	+ 1
Tramways ...	53 weeks	Aug. 27	288	1,614	65	47,593	- 60
Isle of Thanet Trams	36 weeks	Dec. 6	124	\$25,629	+ 2,112	907,658	- 60
Leamshire Trams	56 weeks	Nov. 10	164	\$80,478	2,9 8	2,9 3, 36	- 192
Liverpool Corporation	30 weeks	Nov. 30	..	Rs 44,183	+ 4,519	1,08,799	- 42
Tramways ...	44 weeks	Dec. 6	..	\$4,725	+ 1,165	212,877	+ 39
Malacca Elec. & Water	44 weeks	Dec. 6	..	\$14,779	+ 2,041	63,102	+ 137
Pernambuco Tramway							
Singapore Trams							

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM.—The report for the year ended July 31, 1924, shows that the balance transferred from revenue account is £195,080, as compared with £224,253. The disposable profit is £74,069, against £148,359. No dividend is paid on the ordinary shares, against 7½d per share for previous two years. The sum of £67,000 has been transferred to sinking funds accounts, and £5,000 to reserve and contingent reserve account. The total assets are given as £2,365,395, against £2,480,425. Stocks of stores stand at £308,593, and stocks of products at £142,164. Sundry debtors are at £163,465. Investments are given in the balance-sheet at £139,933, all in Government securities at cost. Cash stands at £65,310, against £163,023 in previous balance-sheet.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY.—The net revenue from all sources for year ended June 30, 1924, is £424,262, against £416,472 in preceding year. The number of passengers carried was 68,252,632, against 67,692,851. The amount of freight hauled was 351,308 tons, against 377,822 tons. The decrease is stated in the report to be mainly due to the less active condition of the lumber business throughout the year. The total electric power delivered during the year was 216,146,016 K.W.H.; as compared with 192,453,979. The dividend on the deferred ordinary stock is £6 9s 8d per cent., free of income-tax. The sum of £60,470 is carried forward.

BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.—The balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year which ended September 30, 1924, show balance available for distribution, after providing for depreciation, of £138,609, which the directors recommend should be distributed as follows:—Dividend of 5 per cent. on preference stock, £35,000; dividend of 8 per cent. (free of income-tax) on ordinary shares, £76,576; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £27,033. There has been only a very slight improvement in trade on the coast of India during the year. The company's mail services have been performed with regularity. Five steamers are now under construction for the company, viz., three cargo steamers of 8,000 tons each and two cargo-passenger steamers of 8,500 tons each. The company's vessels have happily run free from serious accident throughout the year. The directors record with regret the retirement of the secretary, Mr P. W. Armour, owing to indifferent health, after over fifty years of loyal and devoted service, during nearly forty years of which he was secretary to the company. The balance-sheet will be found fully analysed in another column. The total assets are shown in one item at £14,703,839.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING.—The amount brought to the credit of the company's profit and loss account at June 30, 1924, including interest in China, less certain small expenses, is £494,622. Interest, exchange, and other items bring up the total credit to £521,635. After deducting administration and other expenses in Europe, £21,409, there remains a net profit of £500,225. Adding the amount brought forward from the last account, £9,937, and the amount recovered in respect of excess profits duty less expenses, £100,958, there is a total credit of £611,121. Income-tax and corporation profits tax amount to £128,091, and the available balance of the year is £483,030. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. (£140,000), free of income-tax, was paid on May 1, 1924. The board propose that a further dividend of 10 per cent. be declared, free of income-tax (making a total of 20 per cent. free of income-tax, for the year), payable on December 9, 1924. The further remuneration to which the directors are entitled under Article 83 of the articles of association is £16,624, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £186,406, including the whole of the credit in respect of excess profits duty, which will be dealt with at a future date, when the position of the company's interests in China has become normal. The sales of coal by the Kailan Mining Administration for the year amounted to 4,284,160 tons, an increase of 571,236 tons compared with the preceding year.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO.—The report for the year ending July 31, 1924, shows that the available balance of profit after deduction of debenture interest and interim dividend as shown by the accounts is £55,323, which the directors recommend shall be dealt with as follows:—To the payment of a final dividend of 3 per cent. on the preference shares, making, with the interim dividend already paid, 6 per cent. for the year, £5,940, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £49,383. The report states that, in common with the other shipbuilding districts of the country, the output of the shipbuilding and the marine engineering side of their business has been adversely affected by the depressed conditions of the industry generally and by labour disputes during the year covered by the accounts. In the latter respect the outlook appears brighter. A contract has been secured for one of the two torpedo-boat destroyers recently placed by the British Government, being the first vessels of this type ordered since the conclusion of the war. The motor-boat business has been satisfactory, and they have recently secured orders for coastal motor torpedo boats from the Swedish Government. The commercial vehicle sales have increased by 40 per cent., and the new War Office subsidy type of 30-cwt. vehicle put on the market by them in October is showing very encouraging results, both as regards performance and sales, so that a further increase in sales is anticipated during the current year. The buildings, plant, and machinery have been well maintained, and further capital expenditure incurred at Basingstoke in order to reduce the costs of manufacture. Ample depreciation has been provided for in the accounts.

PEKIN SYNDICATE, LIMITED.—The report for the year ended June 30, 1924, amounted to £156,281—viz., interest on loans, deposit and current accounts, dividend on shares, commission and transfer fees, £42,282; and profit on collieries, £113,999. The expenditure during the same period on salaries and expenses of administration in London was £12,500, in Paris £1,530, and in China £12,564, making a total of £26,603. After transferring the amounts of £6,000 and £7,511 to reserve against shares in other

companies and debtors respectively, there is left a credit balance of £116,167, which is carried to profit and loss account in the balance-sheet. To that amount has been added the credit balance of £18,316 16s 2d, being difference in exchange in respect of adjustment of floating assets and liabilities in China, thus bringing it up to £134,483. From this amount the sum of £25,000 has been transferred to reserve account for redemption of capital expenditure on the collieries, the balance of £109,484 being added to the credit balance of £78,402 on profit and loss account at June 30, 1923, making a total of £187,885 7s 4d to the credit of profit and loss account, which amount the directors propose should be carried forward to the next account.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

AMALGAMATED COTTON MILLS TRUST.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Oct. 31, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Oct. 31, 1923.
7½% pref. shares ..	800,000 ..	Invests. in cotton mill cos. at cost	7,954,571 .. + 100,000
7½% "B" pref. ..	1,800,000 ..	Other investments (at book value)	78,263 .. - 10,061
Ord. shares ..	4,650,000 ..	Loans & accrued interest ..	181,296 .. + 361,106
Premium on shrs. ..	23,261 .. - 368,221	Sundry debtors ..	38,916 .. + 28,738
Loan ..	150,731 .. - 25,132		
Sundry loans ..	571,297 .. + 109,343		
Sundry creditors ..	19,259 .. - 1,188		
Bank overdraft ..	223,206 .. + 44,197		
Profit and loss ..	15,292 .. + 1,428		
Total ..	8,253,046 .. - 242,429	Total ..	8,253,046 .. - 242,429

BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
5% cum. pref. shrs. ..	700,000 ..	Steamers, motor vessels, tug-tenders, barges and other small craft, payments on account of new steamers, coal, stores, heritable and other property, including docks, jetties, coal sheds, work-shops, moorings, &c., debts owing to the company, cash in hand, and sundry investments ..	14,703,839 .. - 809,785
Ord. shares ..	957,200 ..		
4½% deb. stk. ..	1,657,200 ..		
Debs. issued ..	— 15,420		
Reserve fund ..	400,000 ..		
Insurance fund ..	1,000,000 ..		
Debts & liabilities, including bills payable, remittances appertaining to next year, unclosed accounts, and sundry deposits with the company ..	9,906,618 .. - 795,893		
Profit and loss ..	82,821 .. + 1,528		
Total ..	14,703,839 .. - 809,785	Total ..	14,703,839 .. - 809,785

ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
Pref. shares ..	243,380 ..	Book value of fleet, plant, and investments, including payments on account of steamers under construction ..	3,834,419 .. + 171,899
Def. shares ..	1,040,880 ..	Stores ..	105,986 .. + 2,165
Int. accrued ..	1,660 .. - 389	Debtors ..	368,038 .. + 11,007
4½% debentures ..	178,250 .. - 35,150	Insurance on steamers' unpierced policies ..	16,543 .. - 1,365
Creditors & contingencies ..	854,010 .. + 8,075	Cash ..	130,202 .. + 73,147
Freight and passage money ..	266,887 .. + 78,127		
Underwriting account ..	387,780 .. + 14,081		
Repair & renewal account ..	380,000 .. + 50,000		
General reserve ..	900,000 .. + 150,000		
Revenue account ..	202,541 .. - 7,891		
Total ..	4,455,188 .. + 256,853	Total ..	4,455,188 .. + 256,853

PETER WALKER (WARRINGTON) AND ROBERT CAIN AND SONS.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.
8% cum. pref. ..	2,000,000 ..	Properties, goodwill, loans, &c., and sundry investments ..	6,332,483 .. + 253,443
Ord. shares ..	2,270,000 ..	Debtors ..	49,813 .. - 27,386
7% debts ..	1,967,900 .. - 11,400	Stocks ..	27,188 .. - 4,181
Int. accrued ..	34,638 .. - 187	Cash ..	192,768 .. + 1,460
Mort. deb. sinking fund ..	32,149 .. + 11,449	Peter Walker and Son dividend ..	212,500 .. + 56,250
Debentures to be drawn ..	11,400 .. + 700	Funds in hands of trustee for debenture holders ..	79,678 .. + 79,652
Creditors ..	427,373 .. + 299,676	Discount on issue of debentures ..	150,000 ..
Half-year's pref. dividend ..	80,000 ..		
Reserve ..	70,000 .. + 50,000		
Profit and loss ..	150,970 .. + 9,000		
Total ..	7,044,430 .. + 369,238	Total ..	7,044,430 .. + 369,238

BALDWIN, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.	Amount.	Compared with June 30, 1923.
5½% pref. shares ..	250,000 ..	Properties ..	3,512,180 .. - 48,840
Ord. shares ..	4,154,155 ..	Stock ..	1,533,244 .. + 205,194
5½% cum. "B" pref. ..	1,543,693 ..	Investments ..	4,234,130 .. - 16,313
4½% deb. stock ..	500,000 ..	Loans to subsidiaries ..	493,072 .. + 9,753
7½% deb. stock ..	4,227,500 .. - 22,500	Sundry debtors ..	973,296 .. + 198,581
Sundry creditors ..	759,763 .. - 388,084	National War Bonds ..	615,000 .. - 99,909
Deb. int. accrued ..	94,781 .. - 844	Cash ..	50,008 ..
Bank overdraft ..	571,812 .. + 571,812	Premium ..	211,066 .. + 11,367
Pref. dividend ..	45,467 ..		
Outstanding deb. warrants ..	849 .. + 16		
Reserves ..	893,352 .. - 1,055		
Profit and loss ..	526,618 .. + 102,478		
Total ..	11,567,990 .. + 261,823	Total ..	11,567,990 .. + 261,823

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	October, 1924.			November, 1924.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
Aurora W. United (10s shares) ..	13,500	14,438	2,012	12,800	13,891	1,832
Brakpan ..	79,000	81,389	55,250	80,050	83,400	53,320
City Deep ..	57,500	61,107	13,840	58,100	61,442	13,330
Consolidated ..	223,000	239,641	85,944	223,000	239,592	80,695
Crown Mines (10s shares) ..	36,700	38,519	6,039	36,000	38,121	5,080
Durban Roadport Deep ..	140,000	149,225	18,576	140,000	149,308	14,302
East Rand Proprietary ..	34,600	38,596	5,709	34,000	35,788	4,353
Ferreira Deep ..	71,000	71,347	46,014	71,500	70,947	43,586
Geduld Proprietary ..	67,600	68,644	3,378	68,300	67,854	2,897
Goldenhuis Deep ..	4,000	6,144	1,403	4,400	6,842	1,754
Glyn's Lydenburg ..	169,000	174,753	210,182	165,000	169,468	175,419
Government Areas ..	53,000	51,564	2,296	50,500	50,489	391
Kleinfontein, New ..	92,000	115,395	25,311	80,000	104,022	18,022
Langlaagte Estate ..	13,722	15,741	4,880	13,550	15,077	15,005
Luipards Vlei ..	14,000	13,101	16,104	14,000	11,022	50,171
Meyer and Charlton ..	45,500	41,904	57,462	42,500	37,903	72,619
Modderfontein B. ..	30,500	44,190	2,235	29,800	43,830	2,130
Modderfontein Deep Levels ..	45,500	108,660	72,619	42,500	109,556	164,339
Modderfontein East ..	127,000	271,370	163,855	121,000	266,574	38,385
New State Areas ..	67,000	110,967	41,034	68,000	109,556	2,145
Nourse Mines ..	53,300	65,472	3,004	52,500	60,865	2,540
Primrose, New ..	23,000	24,419	58,411	186,000	226,781	50,065
Randfontein Estates ..	30,500	38,849	2,028	8,900	8,850	46,540
Robinson (25 shares) ..	77,000	111,576	46,576	75,000	109,845	11,803
Robinson Deep ..	59,000	59,478	11,207	57,200	57,200	16,235
Rose Deep ..	91,100	81,354	18,872	91,000	75,261	16,235
Simmer and Jack ..	67,600	135,399	66,446	63,000	124,547	59,346
Spring Mines ..	11,400	12,460	3,241	15,820	24,802	5,528
Sub-Nigel ..	39,000	45,332	11,065	37,500	42,878	10,030
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates ..	68,300	138,170	75,044	64,000	128,926	65,648
Van Ryn ..	51,500	71,515	8,343	48,000	62,833	5,621
Village Deep ..	40,000	44,396	4,021	38,000	42,238	3,660
West Rand Consolidated ..	39,400	65,122	2,511	36,400	62,815	26,815
West Springs ..	40,000	62,088	11,617	40,700	49,631	9,388
Witwatersrand Deep ..	50,000	48,846	6,003	48,500	45,572	5,021
Witwatersrand (Knights) ..	34,700	36,053	3,093	33,000	33,531	1,988
Wolhuter ..						

c £4 11s 6d per fine oz. d £4 8s 3d net per fine oz.
e £4 9s 0d per fine oz. f £4 5s 6d per fine oz. * Loss.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER, 1924.

Gold.	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.		Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cy. Works.	Mill.	Cy. Works.		
Abbotiakoona ..	5,520				236	13,410
Akim ..	8,063				7,616	32,353
Asanti ..	5,436				6,280	
Associated Gold ..	3,300	8,000	2,359	351	2,710	
Balgat ..	3,750				7,519	18,400
Blackwater ..	4,494				5,052	
Boulder Perseverance ..	10,025	20,588	4,307	745	\$148,026	\$7,930
Champion Reef ..	37,560				4,950	6,763
El Oro ..	9,144				3,995	17,000
Globe and Phoenix ..	9,548				21,960	
Golden Horse Sho. ..	7,836				30	15,541
Gr. Boulder Proprietary ..	14,971				\$215,000	\$77,220
Hobon ..	30,932	8,710	1,390		10,100	
Lake View and Star ..	12,013	19,308	5,162	865	6,027	
Mexico of El Oro ..	13,500				8,703	
Mysore ..	Clean up for	Novem.			\$112,700	
Nundyroog ..	3,126				11,519	
Oregum ..	56,300				35,884	8,225
Oroya Links ..	7,389				2,482	
Shamva ..	17,600				25,500	
South Kalguri ..	375	ong to ns of silver	41,117	oss fine silver	3,551	
St John del Rey ..	5,500				745	6,295
Tomboy ..	120					
Transvaal Silver & Base Metals ..						
Vipond ..						
Wade's Gold ..						

* Loss.

	Output.	Other Notes in Return.
Tin.	Tons.	
Anglo-Nigerian	11	Black tin; arsenic, 70 tons; est. value, £9,144.
East Pool and Agar	53.9	Tin concentrates.
Ex-Lands Nigeria	35	Black tin.
Geevor	51	..
Jos	193	..
Lower Blaichl	81	..
Monqu	50	..
Narakuta Extended	29	Despatched, 18 tons.
Nigerian Base Metals	54	Tin concentrates.
Northern Nigeria	80	Concentrates sold, 16 tons.
Pari	6	Est. value, £875; est. cost, £335.
Premier Hydraulic	21	..
Rukuba	3	Despatched, 3 tons.
South Crofty	52	Black tin, value £9,096; arsenic and sundries.
Tavoy	44	£2,054.
Trenoh	555	Value, £8,000.
		Est. value, £8,455; est. cost, £991.
Copper.		
Indian	15,000	Of 4% copper; 1,770 tons 2½% copper.
Messina	452	From 1,150 tons of concentrates.
Poderosa	330	(Metric) assaying 26% copper.
Tanganyika Union Miners	7,888	..
Cool.		
Durban Navigation	48,577	For week ended Dec. 6th.
East Kent	1,492	..
Miscellaneous.		
Burma Ruby	..	37,000 loads produced Rs14,000. Sluices ran 300 hours, producing Rs2,270.
Keeler Silver	126,244	..
Zinc Corporation	3,751	Lead concentrates and 2,822 tons zinc concentrates.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.			
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	%
Bank of London & South America	Sept. 30	410,685	415,708	826,393	..	354,000	10	412,393	..	..
Commercial Bank of Scotland	Oct. 31	56,220	335,117	391,337	..	193,750	16 A	72,587	347,217	16 A
National Bank of Scotland	Nov. 1	65,959	291,583	357,542	..	136,400	16 B	66,142	296,229	16 B
Breweries.										
Bell and Co.	Oct. 31	6,595	32,687	39,282	5,425	13,562	12½	9,000	27,219	12½
Chicago Breweries	Nov. 30	..	Dr 16,369	Dr 16,319	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northampton Brewery	Sept. 30	28,894	41,004	69,898	8,250	18,750	15½	13,000	Dr 2,078	15½
Officer's Brewery	Sept. 30	57,086	27,796	84,882	2,400	9,871	15	72,611	12,169	10
Peter Walker (Warrington), and Robert Cain and Sons	Sept. 30	25,470	426,300	451,770	160,000	204,300	9	53,000	392,225	9
Showell's Brewery	Sept. 27	8,373	34,929	43,302	13,800	12,000	15	10,000	29,098	12½
Stretton's Derby Brewery	Sept. 30	13,100	69,404	82,504	12,600	20,000	10	21,067	28,837	15
Thomas Salt and Co.	Aug. 31	72,460	85,429	157,889	11,347	4,504	7	10,069	131,969	10
Wenlock Brewery	Oct. 31	36,478	72,104	108,582	7,500	25,000	10½	25,000	51,082	7
Canals and Docks.										
Hills' Dry Docks, &c.	June 30	481	Dr 12,092	Dr 11,611	..	..	..	..	Dr 11,611	..
Financial, Land and Investment.										
Bovril Australian Estates	Dec. 31	51,227	15,641	66,866	13,688	..	..	53,180	15,220	..
Government and General Invest.	Nov. 30	..	16,082	16,082	3,859	8,170	14	1,533	14,370	13
Western Canada Investment	June 30	7,850	8,403	16,253	5,000	1,250	2½	7,000	..	..
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Arncliffe Coal	Sept. 30	21,977	14,171	36,148	1,163	13,000	20½	21,985	43,104	30½
Baldwin's	June 30	424,140	216,757	640,897	90,935	..	..	526,618	212,153	..
John I. Thornycroft and Co.	July 31	45,132	16,132	61,264	11,880	..	..	49,384	8,754	..
Millom and Askam Hematite Iron	Sept. 30	15,563	40,655	56,218	36,750	..	..	19,468	32,859	..
Richard Hill and Co.	Sept. 30	6,069	2,232	8,301	5,400	..	..	2,901	5,266	..
Motor and Cycle.										
Rudge-Whitworth	Aug. 31	3,949	Dr 2,634	1,315	..	..	..	1,315	Dr 30,786	..
Oil.										
British Burmah Petroleum	July 31	25,486	52,099	77,585	..	..	..	72,000	5,585	73,530
Rubber, &c.										
Bekoh Consolidated	June 30	13,304	3,343	16,647	..	..	..	16,647	9,065	..
Caamano Tenguel Estate	Dec. 31	11,902	Dr 3,955	7,947	..	..	..	2,133	5,814	..
Kuala Lumpur	June 30	19,961	19,556	39,517	..	11,000	5½	13,517	10,974	..
Lenggeng Rubber	July 31	2,780	356	3,136	..	..	..	3,136	316	..
New Hayoe Rubber	June 30	..	40	40	..	..	..	40	3,196	..
Sekong	July 31	Dr 8,594	3,088	Dr 5,506	..	..	..	5,000	2,007	..
Sembilan Estates	July 31	6,451	7,618	14,069	..	7,392	6	6,677	7,028	7½
Tebrau	June 30	3,732	13,294	17,026	..	11,625	10	5,401	12,480	10
Shipping.										
British India Steam Navigation	Sept. 30	25,504	113,105	138,609	35,000	76,576	8½	27,033	112,678	8½
Orient Steam Navigation	June 30	72,821	286,821	359,642	7,301	137,412	12½	64,929	269,624	12½
Textiles.										
Northern American Trust	Nov. 1	84,075	92,394	176,469	35,985	34,100	16	17,635	88,749	15
W. and R. Cook	Oct. 31	2,851	4,924	7,775	..	3,489	7½	1,000	4,863	6½
Wm. Fison and Co.	Oct. 31	3,236	2,953	6,189	3,300	6,000	6	1,889	20,146	6½
Tramways and Omnibus.										
British Columbia Electric Rly.	June 30	43,337	283,283	326,620	72,000	111,475	4/16/2	60,470	284,457	4/16/2
Tramways and Omnibus.										
British Motor Cab	Mar. 31	Dr 706,829	3,590	Dr 708,218	..	..	..	Dr 708,218	..	..
East Kent Road Car	Sept. 30	6,401	22,074	28,475	..	19,968	10	1,000	20,407	10
United Automobile Services	Sept. 30	5,478	33,345	38,823	..	22,054	10	8,546	8,223	..
Trusts.										
Army and Navy Investment	Nov. 30	13,095	47,157	60,252	13,950	18,600	12	14,000	13,702	11
Other Companies.										
Amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust	Oct. 31	16,720	149,697	166,417	151,125	..	..	15,292	153,883	..
Card Clothing and Belting	Sept. 30	..	26,494	26,494	4,618	7,474	5	6,519	7,883	..
Carreras	Oct. 31	138,828	379,845	518,673	20,000	120,000	50½	26,910	351,763	25½
D. Jones, Dickinson, and Co.	Sept. 27	3,303	9,697	13,000	2,400	4,800	6	2,053	7,920	6
Edison-Swan Electric	June 30	19,304	74,914	94,218	7,500	19,143	10	50,000	17,575	7½
Idris and Co.	Oct. 31	4,075	12,216	16,291	7,300	5,900	10	3,091	15,667	10
London Cremation Co.	Oct. 31	136	3,328	3,464	266	940	10	1,976	282	..
Manbre Sugar and Malt	Sept. 30	113,553	223,843	337,396	7,000	95,228	17½	25,000	142,148	17½
Pinner's Hall (Austin Friars)	Sept. 30	5,428	14,194	19,622	..	9,333	8	3,500	11,829	7
R. Hood, Haggie, and Son	Oct. 31	46,831	60,346	107,177	4,000	36,000	15	15,000	52,177	10½
R. and J. Dick	Aug. 31	Dr 51,565	31,145	Dr 20,410	..	..	..	20,000	Dr 40,410	..
Waterlow and Sons	Sept. 30	37,680	198,657	236,337	56,700	86,250	12½	50,000	43,387	12½

† Free of tax. (a) Paid on a capital of £75,000. (b) Deferred dividend absorbed £67,378. (c) 2 per cent. on Old Ord., 13 per cent. on New Ord.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated December 11th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: Home consumers of pig-iron have covered their immediate requirements, and are now out of the market for any further quantities up to the end of this year. At the same time the export business has fallen off. Sellers are rather easier in their quotations, and No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. can now be obtained at 8s 6d per ton, and East Coast mixed numbers hematite at 88s. Manufactured iron and steel: The situation remains unchanged, but there are indications that some improvement may be expected after the turn of the year. Meantime prices remain unaltered as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Consumers have good stocks

at their works, and with deliveries coming forward under old contracts are not prepared to make further purchases at the present time. Therefore, sellers maintain their quotations on the basis of best Bilbao Rubio at 22s 6d per ton, c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—A spell of stagnation, due in the main to the approaching end of the year, has come over the pig-iron and raw steel branches, and no business of weight is passing, while specifications have dropped off to such an extent that a considerable proportion of the output is being put into stock. In consequence of this ruinous condition some of the large works will be closed down for a fortnight, and in a few cases three weeks for the Christmas holidays. The outlook for crude steel is far from good, owing to the excessive productive capacity of the trade and

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended November 30.		Eleven Months Ended November 30.	
	1923.	1924.	1923.	1924.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	8,340,851	14,098,418	88,115,898	108,811,938
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	501,494	1,197,945	5,204,983	7,701,740
C. Meat	9,042,591	8,072,952	103,015,559	97,790,760
D. Animals living, for food	1,911,471	2,337,492	11,813,095	20,605,347
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	14,518,687	14,348,653	136,897,913	150,444,379
F. " " dutiable	10,922,689	13,488,697	104,063,985	116,740,772
G. Tobacco	1,579,215	2,548,952	14,105,014	14,953,262
Total, Class I.	46,816,908	56,693,009	463,176,507	516,568,198
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	850	2,000	11,583	14,081
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	494,534	458,732	5,235,597	5,301,541
C. Iron ore and scrap	622,717	466,347	7,033,926	8,028,478
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,031,648	1,365,657	11,376,586	14,109,992
E. Wood and timber	1,352,422	4,707,212	44,010,271	47,270,716
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	13,126,998	14,354,116	75,095,338	102,317,195
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woolen	2,870,011	4,873,962	46,133,308	66,798,885
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	1,352,422	1,166,577	1,497,942	1,337,754
I. Other textile materials	1,028,877	1,640,400	8,973,491	12,236,404
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	3,419,811	3,772,201	40,855,528	46,642,237
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,245,922	1,395,841	15,404,172	10,406,450
L. Paper-making materials	950,851	1,078,342	10,594,858	8,548,019
M. Rubber	1,289,531	831,705	11,138,376	..
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	985,478	1,124,247	9,694,779	10,260,431
Total, Class II.	32,117,839	36,187,422	285,056,155	353,112,063
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	5,355	539	20,054	5,786
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	738,880	837,350	6,906,575	7,889,404
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,123,119	1,805,666	12,591,461	20,392,760
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	2,432,132	2,441,481	22,866,442	29,557,617
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	692,876	703,750	6,441,097	6,857,316
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	256,615	365,618	2,153,136	2,929,108
G. Machinery	713,216	800,142	8,451,588	9,488,636
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	593,416	462,017	4,207,535	4,833,371
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	750,891	793,524	8,002,486	8,446,922
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,014,809	1,114,107	10,645,429	13,504,242
K. Silk and silk manufactures	2,175,961	1,931,706	20,840,993	23,110,794
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,333,243	1,477,101	13,151,297	15,285,387
M. Apparel	1,307,314	1,585,824	15,522,783	17,841,049
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, & colours	1,136,240	1,479,662	12,320,409	13,501,316
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	2,288,632	3,281,852	32,013,915	36,555,816
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,021,451	1,301,126	10,844,095	12,761,555
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,368,576	1,363,160	12,430,246	13,179,466
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	802,214	652,797	7,011,821	8,350,290
S. Rubber manufactures	369,640	441,169	4,547,937	4,344,979
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,371,644	2,577,716	24,435,815	24,140,502
Total, Class III.	23,293,234	25,226,357	235,415,139	272,718,816
IV.—Animals, not for food	101,975	227,589	1,354,041	2,283,189
V.—Parcel post, non-dutiable articles	261,035	405,851	3,486,324	3,648,288
Total	101,596,991	118,740,228	988,488,166	1,148,330,554

the prospect of continued underselling by countries having depleted exchanges. More than one responsible leader of industry has declared that nothing can keep the steel trade on its legs except a State subsidy to be given until the economic position on the Continent is modified. Prices are steady, but rather weaker in crude materials. Wrought iron is not sharing in the upward movement noticeable in other directions, and the works have been doing badly for at least three years. The railway wagon builders have very little work on hand from private owners. Except in the cheapest classes of goods the electro-plate and cutlery trades are quiet, and not much new business is likely to be booked until February when buying is usually resumed. The fuel market continues stagnant except for a rather better inquiry at home for steam season demand for house coal has been the poorest for many years. A comparatively small proportion of the public has got in stocks for the winter. Prices are largely nominal, and bargains can be for the winter. Quotations at pits are:—screened branch, 32s; Yorkshire hard, 20s; Blyth ditto, 18s; Durhams, 22s; rough slacks, 9s to 11s; smalls, 4s to 5s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The improved position of the pig-iron market is being maintained. Prices are firm, and in some instances advances have been obtained. Shipments from the Clyde for the week ending December 6th totalled 2,345 tons, of which 2,245 tons were on overseas account. Figures for the corresponding week of last year were 824 and 682 tons respectively. In the steel trade a better tone exists than is customary at this season. Orders are fairly plentiful, though not for great tonnages. Specifications for plates and sections have been received from several foreign Governments for new and repair naval use, but

for another year. The majority of manufacturers are in favour of its continuance, but merchants are agitating for a higher commission than 1 per cent., and the fact that over 50 per cent. of the output is under the control of one centralised agency is a difficulty in the way of agreement aiming at the satisfaction of the claims of the merchants.

CUMBERLAND IRON.

(BY OUR WORKINGTON CORRESPONDENT.)

Though business is now quiet in the Cumberland and North Lancashire hematite pig-iron trade, the volume at command in the past few weeks was sufficiently large to enable makers to deplete their somewhat heavy stocks, and to dispose of their increased production. The number of furnaces in blast between Workington and Carnforth rose from eleven to a total of thirteen, and in the course of a few days a second furnace will be lighted at Millom, and the blowing in of an additional furnace at Cleator Moor before the end of the year is not improbable. Makers are not sold as far ahead as circumstances would have permitted, and clearly they are anticipating a further improvement in the early spring, when they can obtain prices that will leave them a reasonable margin of profit. Activity in the steel trade is nothing more than occasional, orders of railway material being as difficult as ever to come by, and it is doubtful whether there will be any operations of an important character during the next five or six months. Native hematite iron ore output is rising, Scotch and East Coast smelters' needs have increased, as well as those of the local furnaces. Superior sorts of low-phosphoric ore are 21s 6d to 23s 6d, and ordinary kinds 16s 6d to 17s 6d per ton. The coal trade is very dull, Irish business being conspicuous by its absence, on account of Scotch and Lancashire competition, and most of the 8,000 tons being shipped across Channel every week is either going into stock in the Dublin yards, or represents deliveries on old gas contracts in Belfast. Best round at 24s f.o.b. is from 4s to 5s higher than competitors' figure. Coke is a fuller make for the local smelters on ordinary iron at 22s to 23s 6d according to carbon content.

METALS.

The market for tin opened with a quieter tone, and prices generally ruled in buyers' favour, in sympathy with lower Eastern cables, combined with a slow consumptive demand. Values, however, were slightly irregular, especially with regard to forward positions, though closing firm. Standard cash sold £256, £255 17s 6d, £256 5s, and £259 5s, with three months' fluctuating between £260-£258 17s 6d and £262. In the East sales were reported at £262 15s, £260 15s, and £261 15s. Copper was a generally firm market, and a fair business resulted in standard cash at £63 15s-£65 16s 3d, and £64 18s 9d, while three months' was dealt in at £65-£64 16s 3d, and £66. Lead active and dearer. Good soft foreign pig quoted £41 15s to £39 5s as to position; English, £43. Spelter also dearer at £36 7s 6d ton, and a fair business was recorded. Antimony, firm. English refined quoted £70; foreign ditto, £60 to £60 10s. Aluminium, steady. Home trade quoted £125; export, £130. Quicksilver, firmer. Spot, £12 5s to £12 10s per bottle.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—Cables from the overseas markets this week indicate that the demand for wool is still general, but prices seem to have eased somewhat from the recent high point. This is most noticeable in regard to the sales at Auckland and Napier, and it now seems improbable that the exceedingly high level established at the opening of the season in New Zealand will be maintained. The fact remains, however, that both in the primary markets and in London wool is selling at very high prices, and it is impossible to sell semi and fully-manufactured goods at anything like replacement costs. There has been a slackening off in demand in this centre during the week, but there is no appreciable change in quotations for tops and yarns. It is possible to buy merino tops at a shade below the market level, and warp 64s may be quoted at 80d to 81d. In crossbreds there is no quotable change, prices being steady at late rates, though the actual volume of business is smaller than it was two or three weeks ago. It seems probable that the trade generally will experience a rather quiet time until after the turn of the year. Yarns do not make much progress, recent advances in wool and tops having made it extremely difficult for spinners to do business on a remunerative basis.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Coleman street Wool Exchange has finally closed its doors on the Colonial wool trade for the current year, and the record for 1924 has been one succession of rises. True the May and July series were nothing great, withdrawals being heavy, but owners seemed to sense the future, and the withdrawals afterwards made sensible advances, all through the year the biggest members of the trade asserting that they were "backing wool." Those who have done this have had a very profitable time, and in the aggregate those engaged in handling the raw material have proved 1924 to be a very encouraging time indeed. All through the year wool has wonderfully improved in value, so much so that at the recent auctions Australian new clips catalogued at the corresponding

series in 1923 have made anything from 6d to 10d per lb more in the grease. In other words, growers are receiving this season an all-round average of £10 per bale more than a year ago, and when clips run from 500 to 1,000 bales, it means an important addition to the revenue. Such important pastoral companies as the N.Z. and A. Land Company, the Australian Pastoral Company, and the Peel River Land and Mineral Company will all materially gain by the sensible enhancement in the price of wool. We are certain they are doing the right thing to meet the market, and turn their new clips into hard cash.

The closing week of the auctions has hardly seen the same high prices realised for even combing wools that took place during the first half of the series. This is seen in some of the rather wasty, fine-haired Queenslands being rather heavily withdrawn. One has missed in this series the keen onslaught of French buyers; in fact, competition from that quarter has been a little disappointing. Good straight combing merinos have mostly appreciated 5 per cent., but there has been no advance in medium and faulty merinos, which during the past week have lost a little ground. Still, the standard of prices ruling for all merino wools has been good, and if extreme rates have not always been forthcoming, the series certainly closed with the market sound and intact.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 5, 1924.

Descriptions.	Official Quotations.									
	G.O.	S.G.O.	L.M.	S.L.M.	Md.	S.M.	G.M.	S.G.M.	M.F.	
American.....	11-28 11-88 12-28	12-58 12-98 13-33	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28	13-53 13-78 14-28
Brazilian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Peruvian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Rough.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Moderately rough.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Smooth.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Tanguis.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Mitani.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Egyptian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Upper.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Sakellaris.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Brown.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Soudan.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
West Indian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Do Sea Island.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
East African.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
West African.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Australian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
East Indian.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Surat.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Broach.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Tinnivelly.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Amer. Sind/Punjab.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
*Western.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
*Northern.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Coconuts.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Complab.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Omra, No. 1.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Omra, No. 2.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Khandeish.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Bengal.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13
Sind.....	12-63 12-88 13-13	13-13 13-38 13-63	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13	13-63 13-88 14-13

* Hand-ginned 40 points less.

MANCHESTER, December 11.

Although inquiry in the market has been fairly extensive, actual trade has not been important. A feature of interest has been the advance in Egyptian cotton, and yarn and cloth made from that material have been dearer. In piece goods for India the demand remains disappointing, and buyers seem more determined than ever to resist current rates, the opinion being held that more favourable opportunities of purchasing will exist in the near future. Further orders have been placed for China, chiefly in white shirtings, and producers are now more deeply sold. Bleaching cloths and fine goods have moved off fairly well for Java and Singapore. Occasional lines of fair weight have been put through for Egypt, and a steady demand has been met with for South America and the Continent in finishing styles. Manufacturers all round are maintaining their better position. American yarns for home use have not been bought freely, but here and there fair contracts have been arranged. The larger production is being absorbed. Quotations in Egyptian yarns have been put up, and although some trade has been done, the dearer prices to a considerable extent have checked buying.

(1.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

Descriptions.	Previous Weeks in 1924.									
	Dec. 11, 1924.	Dec. 4.	Nov. 27.	Nov. 20.	Nov. 13.	Nov. 6.	Oct. 30.	Oct. 23.	Oct. 16.	Oct. 9.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American.....	13-02	13-08	13-55	13-72	13-70	13-55	13-55	13-55	13-55	13-55
—Sakellaris Fully Good Fair.....	28-70	26-50	26-00	25-80	25-00	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50
Yarns—32's twist.....	23-4	23-4	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
—40's twist.....	24-4	24-4	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
—60's twist (Egyptian).....	41-1	41-1	39	38	37	37	37	37	37	37
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 18 by 18, 8 1/2 lbs.....	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 11, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
		d	d	d	d	d
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	13-02	20-83	14-60	11-04	12-17	27-34
— Sakellaris Fully Good Fair	28-70	24-40	17-65	20-75	25-00	49-00
— Egyptian	23-74	23-84	20-78	18	28	52-4
Yarns—32's twist	24-4	23-4	20-4	17-4	26-4	49-4
— 40's twist	41-1	38	28	32	42	91
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	s	s	s	s	s	s
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36	6	40	30	0	49
36-in. Shirts, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	41	3	43	6	31	0
36-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 16, 10 lbs	19	0	23	0	18	0
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8-1/2 lbs	17	6	21	36	18	0

Naturals, in bags, quoted 34s to 39s; layers, large boxes, 55s to 65s; ditto small, 75s to 80s. Dates in fair request, and market steady. Halloweet quoted 20s; Khadowie, 19s; and Siar, 14s 9d to 15s. Landed terms, London. Evaporated fruits firmly held. Californian apricots, standards, old crop, 78s to 80s; choice 90s; new, extra choice, 110s to 125s; fancy, 125s. Peaches, old, choice, 48s; new extra, ditto, 57s; fancy, 65s. Plums: Oregon size, 30/40, quoted, 66s; 40/50, at 54s; Californian, 70/80, 44s per cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—General course of trade proved quiet during the week, but price changes were not of much importance. Sardines—Portuguese, quarter flats, quoted 4s to 4s 3d; Clubs, 4s 6d to 5s; 12 oz, 6s to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 11s to 12s 6d per dozen tins. Salmon—1 lb flat reds, labelled, 55s to 58s; ditto, tall, 47s 6d to 48s 6d; 1 lb tall, Pink, 25s to 27s; cases of 96, 1/2 lbs, 29s to 30s case. Canned Fruits—There is only a small movement and supplies adequate to requirements. Singapore Pines, 48-1 1/2s, 55 6d to 58 9d; cubes, 2 1/2s, 9s 6d to 10s; slices, 48-1 1/2s, 5s to 5s 3d. Californian apricots, 2 1/2s, 8s to 10s 6d; ditto, 1 1/2s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d. Pears, 2 1/2s, 14s 6d to 16s 6d. Peaches, 2 1/2s, 10s to 11s 6d; ditto, 1 1/2s, 6s 3d. Fruit Salad, 1 1/2s, 10s 6d; 2 1/2s, 20s. Loganberries, 10s to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Meats—Danish Lunch Tongues in good demand for sixes. Corned Beef steady though trade is on the quiet side. There is not much continental demand at present. Condensed milk meets with quiet support and machine-skimmed offers at attractive prices for the period of the year. Full cream commands steady rates.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 25s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £23 to £39; Cochinchina, £21 to £48. Ceylon bristle, £21 to £28 10s; cinnamon leaf oil, 5d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 1d; Java, 6s.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed firmer, with a good demand for Plate descriptions. Calcutta, afloat, £23 5s; December-January, £23 7s 6d; April-May, £23 5s. Plate, afloat, £21 15s; November-December, £21 15s; January-February, £21 15s, £22 3s 9d, and £21 15s. Rapeseed quiet. Toria, new, December-January, sold, £20 17s 6d; and real bold Ferozepore, November-December, £21. Cottonseed and real bold Egyptian, black, December-January, £13 3s. Sakellariadis, steady. Egyptian, black, December-January, £10 12s 6d. December-January, £12 10s. Bombay, December-January, £10 12s 6d. December-January, £12 10s. Chinese, December-January, £27 15s. paid. Gingly seed easier. Chinese, December-January, £23 10s; Groundnuts lower. Coromandel machine-dried, December-January, £24 15s; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £23 10s; East African, November-December, £27. Soya beans steady. Manchurian, November-December, sold, £12 17s 6d; December-January, £12 12s 6d. Castor seed lower. Bombay, December-January, £25 per ton.

OLFS.—Linseed firmer. Spot, net, naked, 46s 6d; December, 45s 6d; January-April, 45s 9d; May-August, 46s. Rape quiet. Crude, spot, 52s; refined, 55s. Castor-oil easier. First

pressure, spot, quoted 71s; second pressure, 69s; and pharmaceutical, 76s per cwt. Hull, with London, 2s per cwt extra. Cotton quiet. Crude Egyptian, spot, 46s 6d; Bombay, 44s 6d; common edible, 51s; deodorised, 53s. Chinawood quiet. Hankow, spot (barrels), 80s 6d; December-January, 78s 6d. Cocoa-nut firm. Ceylon, spot, 48s 6d; December-January, 48s; Cochinchina, ditto, nominally 62s 6d. Soya dull. Oriental, barrels, November-December, 45s 9d; bulk, 41s 6d. Cod steady. English, spot, 36s to 37s. Groundnuts, quiet. English, crushed, naked, spot, 56s; deodorised, barrels, 66s. Turpentine irregular. American, spot, 58s; January-April, 59s. Rosin firm. American, grade B, 16s 6d; G, 17s; WG, 19s 6d; WW, 21s 6d per cwt. French WW, 20s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchesters and Woolner write on December 10th as follows: The tallow market was steadier during the week, and prices were about 6d dearer to-day. There has been a little improvement in the demand for immediate requirements, and the reduced prices for shipment from Australia have attracted a few buyers. South America is too dear. At auction to-day 914 casks tallow were offered, and 781 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 53s 9d; good to fair, 53s to 50s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 44s; hard, 53s 9d. Australian beef: Fine, 53s 3d; good to fair, 51s to 49s; dull to dark, 45s 6d to 44s; sweet, 53s 6d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 48s. Present shipment from South America, 48s 9d to 48s. The market letter is unchanged. Town tallow, 45s 6d per cwt. Rough fat per 8 lbs, 6d; melted stuff, 35s per cwt. Quotations are:—Town, 45s, net cash, naked, ex works. Country: Fair casks, 45s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b., good coloured, 49s; fair to dull, 46s to 45s. Bone fat: white, none; pale, none; benzine, 40s 6d; melted stuff, 40s, f.o.b.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—DECEMBER 11.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	5 8 to 7 0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	4 0 to 4 6
Shorthorns	6 6 to 6 8	Canadians	nominal
Devons	7 2 to 7 4	Sheep—Downs	11 4 to 12 4
Norfolks	nominal	Ewes	7 0 to 7 4
Scottish	nominal	Crossbred	nominal
Irish	nominal	Scottish	nominal
Fat Cows	nominal	Lamb—Downs	nominal

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—DECEMBER 11.

English—King Edwards	10 0 to 11 0	Per Cwt.	Blackland—	8 6 to 9 0
British Queens	8 6 to 0	s d s	King Edwards	8 6 to 9 0
Majestic	8 6 to 0	s d s	Evergoods	8 0 to 8 6

Commercial Times.—Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY.			
COCOA. —Duty, British grown			
9d. 4d. foreign 14cwt.	4 0	4 0	
Trinidad, per cwt.	55 0	75 0	
Grenada	55 0	75 0	
Ceylon, plantation	100 0	125 0	
Guayaquil	76 0	98 0	
Malta, finest	59 0	63 0	
COFFEES. —British grown			
9d. 4d. foreign 14cwt.	158 0	158 0	
Do good to fine	160 0	160 0	
Costa Rica, ord. to mid	160 0	160 0	
Good to fine	160 0	160 0	
Central American, gd	120 0	155 0	
ord. to mid	120 0	155 0	
Mid. to fine	155 0	155 0	
Colombian, ordina	130 0	135 0	
Do gd. ord. to low mid	130 0	135 0	
Do mid. to fine	160 0	175 0	
CHEMICALS.			
Acid, citric	1 4	1 4	
Nitric	0 2	0 4	
Oxalic, net	0 6	0 6	
Tartaric, English	1 04	1 04	
Foreign	0 114	1 06	
Alum lump per ton	11 18	12 0	
Do ground	11 18	12 0	
Ammonia, carb. ton	37 0	39 0	
Muriatic, white, ton	26 15	31 15	
Sulphate	24 0	25 0	
arsenic, lump, per ton	80 0	85 0	
Powder	36 0	37 0	
Asbes, pot.	65 0	78 0	
Pearl do	nom	nom	
Bleaching powd. P.M.	20 0	20 0	
Borax, gran.	25 0	25 0	
Do crystals	25 0	25 0	
Do powder	25 0	25 0	
Cream Tartar	80 0	81 0	
Calomel	per lb	4 3	
Iodine, dry	per oz	18 0	
Sulphate of Soda, p.ton	13 12 1/2	14 0	
Potash			
Chlorate, net	0 34	0 4	
Prussiate	0 8	0 10	
Do foreign	0 8	0 10	
Sulphate	per ton	15 12 1/2	
Sal-Acetone	per lb	1 18	
Sal-Ammoniac, p.cwt.	5 0	5 0	
Soda-Bicarb., per ton	5 0	5 0	
Crystals, per ton	5 0	5 0	
Alkali	6 15 0	6 15 0	
Canstic	15 17 1/2	15 17 1/2	
Sugar of lead, white, ton	9 0	9 0	
Foreign white	8 48	8 50	
Sulphate Quinine			
English Brands	2 3 0	2 3 0	
Foreign	2 2 0	2 2 0	
Sulphate of Copper, p.ton	25 10 0	25 10 0	
Zinc, cut	nom	nom	
Sulphur Flour	9 9 0	9 10 0	
Do Roll	9 9 0	9 10 0	
Vermilion, Chinese, p.ton	3 9 0	4 0	
English	3 9 0	4 0	
Oil Peppermint, H.G.H.	47 0	49 0	
COFFEE—per ton a.f.	4 0	4 0	
Malabar, Nov.-Jan.	31 15 0	31 15 0	
Ceylon	30 10 0	30 10 0	
FM Singapore	30 10 0	30 10 0	
FM Sumatra	29 12 0	29 12 0	
COGNAC—per lb	2 0	2 0	

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor:
A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1924.

No. 4,243.

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £25,000,000.

The Alliance grants Insurances of all kinds.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Full information respecting

ESTATE DUTY

and
CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL
POLICIES

Issued by the Company may be
obtained on application from the
Head Office or any of the Offices
or Agencies of the Company.
O. MORGAN OWEN, General Manager.

Centralbanken for Norge

a/s under off. adm.

CHRISTIANIA, NORWAY

TRANSACTS ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS.

Correspondents in all Norwegian places
of any importance.

CREDITO ITALIANO.

Capital Lire 400,000,000
Paid Up Lire 310,000,000
Reserve Lire 110,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 22 ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4.

Managers: D. A. HORNER.

F. N. SCHILLER.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business, having
correspondents in all Countries, and is specially pre-
pared to grant facilities for the development of trade
between the British Empire and Italy.

Every facility provided to Letter of Credit holders,
and all other exchange operations transacted by Italian
branches, particularly at the Chief Office and Sub-Offices
in Rome.

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

Telegrams: "Italocredi, Cannon, London."

Telephone: 7802-7803 City.

OWING TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, "THE
ECONOMIST" WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK ON
THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th,
INSTEAD OF SATURDAY, THE 27th.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The Money Market....	997	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		The Merchant Navy.....	1019
Playing With Fire	999	Agricultural Economics ..	1019
The Problem of Morocco..	1000	Educational Idealism	1019
Bankers and Credit Insur-		Books Received.....	1020
ance.....	1001	Stock Exchange News—	
Building Costs and New		The Stock Markets	1020
Methods	1002	New Issues.....	1021
Coal Production, Wages,		Active Securities	1022
and Costs	1004	Company Meetings....	1023
Financial and Commercial		Government Returns—	
Conditions in Poland ..	1004	Public Income and Expen-	
The Problems of Canada.—		diture	1033
II: The Myth of the Map	1006	Treasury Bills and Bonds	
Notes of the Week—		by Public Tender	1034
European Instability and		Currency Notes Account..	1034
British Trade.....	1007	National Debt	1034
Preference Without Food		Bankers' Gazette—	
Taxes	1007	Bank of England	1034
America and the Debt		Clearing Returns	1035
Problem	1008	Overseas Bank Returns ..	1035
Cost of Living	1008	Loan and Discount Rates	1036
Employment in November		Overseas Bank Rates	1036
Exchequer Bond Conver-		Rates of Exchange	1036
sion Result.....	1008	India Council Bills and	
Turkey and Her Creditors	1009	Transfers	1037
Agricultural Wage Settle-		Imports & Exports of Gold	1037
ments	1009	Gold and Silver Prices....	1037
Hukuang Railway Default		Company News—	
The Belgian Congo	1009	Mining Output Statistics.	1037
Non-Ferrous Metal Group		Dividend Announcements	1038
Rand December Dividends		Weekly Traffic Returns ..	1038
Mexican Eagle Oil Co....	1011	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	1039
Ind. Coope's Progress	1011	Reports and Notices.....	1039
Allsopp's Year	1011	Profit and Loss Accounts	1041
Overseas Correspondence—		Commercial Reports—	
United States	1012	Corn Trade.....	1040
France	1013	Iron and Coal Trade	1040
Germany	1014	Metals	1042
India	1015	Cotton Trade	1042
Spain	1016	Wool Trade	1042
Czechoslovakia	1017	Vegetable Oils	1043
Hong Kong	1017	Hide and Leather Trades	1043
Letters to the Editor—		Overseas Produce Markets	1043
Bankers & Shipping Com-		Price Current	1044
panies	1018		
Canada's Problems	1019		

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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

Office: Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C.2.
Copies of the Economist may always be obtained in the City at
W. Abbott, Limited, 32 Eastcheap.
Barker and Howard, Sugar Loaf court, Leadenhall street.
P. W. Cooper and Co., 11 King street, Cheapside.
Davies and Co., 95 Bishopsgate.
Leathwait and Simmons, 34 Throgmorton street.
Pottle and Son, 15 Cullum street.
Willing and Co., Limited, 50 Cophall avenue, and 123 Moorgate.

THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has been much less plentiful, and on Tuesday a
little business in discounting January bills for the market
was done by the Bank of England. Discount rates re-
mained firm, in anticipation of considerable pressure
between now and the end of the year, and three months'

bank bills were not easy to place at $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., yesterday's Treasury bills being taken well above this rate.

	Dec. 19, 1924.	Dec. 12, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.	Nov. 28, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4	4	4	4	5 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount/Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses (Notice	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate 3 months' bills	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	..

The Bank return showed increases of £8,000 in the stock of gold and £1,059,000 in the circulation, with a consequent decrease of £1,051,000 in the Reserve. Repayments of Ways and Means Advances reduced the Government securities by 15 millions, but the Public deposits were, nevertheless, half-a-million higher. There was also a small decrease in the Other securities, and all these movements were at the expense of the Other deposits, which declined by 17 millions. The customary demands of the Christmas season produced an expansion of £5,763,900 in the Currency Note circulation, the amount outstanding being £296,642,400, including £1,357,700 for notes called in but not yet cancelled. The fiduciary issue is £244,834,700, or £3,356,200 below the maximum.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

With the approach of Christmas, markets have inclined to dullness. Thursday was the last Stock Exchange settlement of the year, and a certain amount of liquidation has taken place for "window-dressing" purposes. Gilt-edged stocks have been quiet, with a slight tendency to recede. In the foreign market the feature has been the opening of dealings in the scrip of the new Greek loan, which rose at one time to $7\frac{3}{4}$ premium; French bonds have been dull, but Germans maintain their strength. In the home railway market the wages demands have checked activity, but Undergrounds have been strong. The rubber share market is quiet, but tea shares continue active, on the good dividend declarations which are appearing, while oils are generally heavy. Industrials, on the whole, have been irregular, and Kaffirs have hardly responded at all to this week's dividend declarations.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The proximity of the Christmas holidays has caused considerable irregularities in markets in many cases. The price of wheat ruled steady, there being substantial inquiry for Great Britain and the Continent generally. The depression in the sugar market referred to last week has been more noticeable. Good tea was steady, but common and medium varieties were irregular in price. Dried fruit was quiet, with movements towards weakness here and there. Coal was in demand at Cardiff, and prices displayed an upward trend. Tin and copper were accorded good support. Our Bradford correspondent speaks of "an easier tendency in wool prices in practically all the primary markets." Better business is reported from Manchester in the cotton trade. The hide market is weak. Linseed is firm, but irregular. Rubber maintained its position. Other particulars of markets will be found on later pages from our special trade correspondents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

In the foreign exchange market business has again been dull, the main interest being the recovery in sterling during the last two days, and the strenuous efforts that are being made to support the French franc. After falling away at the close of the 12th to a price of \$4.69 sterling was fairly steady at just over that figure until Thursday, when it moved up again to \$4.70 $\frac{1}{2}$, and was quoted yesterday morning at \$4.70 $\frac{1}{2}$. No new factors have intervened, and the main support for the rate continues to come from New York. On the American side sterling is still talked higher, and it will be of much interest to see whether this attitude will be sufficient to

hold the rate until in the spring the forces normally in favour of sterling at that time of the year can play their part. Forward rates during the week have narrowed a little to par— $\frac{1}{8}$ cent per month over spot. The Paris rate throughout the week has shown the influence of strong intervention, but any recovery made has again been lost, the rate standing yesterday morning at 87.70, as compared with 87.65 a week ago. It is doubtful, too, whether the present attempt at stabilisation will succeed in withstanding for very long the pressure of the market. Contrary to the usual movement, Brussels this week shows a definite recovery from 95.25 to 94.50. In Paris forward rates at 40-50 centimes above spot are about the same as last week, while in Brussels they are rather narrower at 3-7 centimes above. Italy this week, partly as the result of heavy grain purchases, and partly through the fear of political complications in connection with Albania, has moved up somewhat sharply from 108.80 to 110.30. Spain also, with its further troubles in Morocco and uncertain conditions at home, shows a rise from 33.25 to 33.67 $\frac{1}{2}$. Berlin, Vienna, and Warsaw show their normal gold movements, and Budapest remains as before, stabilised on sterling at 345,000. Helsingfors also remains close to the dollar, and Stockholm, after going rather against us, shows at 17.43 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 17.40, its rough approximation to the dollar, as does Switzerland, moving up from 24.22 to 24.26 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Amsterdam has gone in our favour from 11.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11.64 $\frac{1}{2}$. Copenhagen, after a rapid rise, has recovered quickly to 26.57 $\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with 26.65 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the announcement of the extension for a further period of the sterling credits falling due about this time. Christiania, however, has risen slightly from 30.98 to 31.03 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the East the rupee at 15 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d is 1-6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d higher than a week ago, while the yen has cheapened slightly from 1s. 7 45-64d to 1s 7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The silver market has shown pronounced weakness, mainly on selling from China, and though India has come in as a buyer on lower levels, a further fall is probable. Hong Kong stands at 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d as compared with 2s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Shanghai at 3s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, as compared with 3s 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d a week ago. In South America Rio, after falling away a little, closes the same as a week ago at 5 20-32d. Buenos Aires has moved up from 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 45 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and Valparaiso has appreciated from 41.20 to 40.30 pesos. Monte Video, on the other hand, has dropped from 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 49d.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 13th:—

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£		£
Supply Services	5,330	From Revenue	8,669
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,090	Increase in Debt	1,122
Sinking Fund	656		
Sundries	87		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	628		
	9,791		9,791

The Revenue for the week amounted to £8,669,000, as compared with £12,676,800 in the corresponding week last year. Customs were slightly lower at £2,253,000, against £2,446,000, and Excise at £1,819,000, against £2,218,000. Property and Income-tax amounted to £1,383,000, as compared with £1,704,000, and Super-tax to £440,000, against £460,000. Interest on sundry loans was nil, as compared with £1,762,800 last year. Ordinary receipts were higher at £1,131,700, against £59,730, but special receipts were lower at £17,300 against £1,186,200. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £1,121,500, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)			
	£		£
Treasury Bills	4,409	Bank of England Advances ..	9,250
National Savings Certificates ..	150	Sundries	410
Public Department Advances ..	5,750		
Treasury Bonds	473		
	10,782		9,669

The floating debt was increased by £920,000 to £829,625,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to December 13).

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£		£
Total Expenditure ..	545,931,802	Raised by Revenue ..	474,975,954
		Decrease in Balances ..	3,517,039
		Amount borrowed ..	67,438,809
Total	545,931,802	Total	545,931,802

ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1924-25.

EXPENDITURE.		RECEIPTS.	
	£		£
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—British Columbia Electric Railway, Mexican Railway, Bank of London and South America, National Bank of Scotland, Western Alliance Reinsurance, Orient Steam Navigation, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, United States Debenture Corporation, Pekin Syndicate, British Burmah Petroleum, Baldwins, Harrods (Buenos Aires), Richard Thomas and Co., Carreras, Edison Swan Electric and Showell's Brewery. Mr W. S. Webber, at the meeting of Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, after showing a very favourable position as to working costs in comparison with the whole of the Witwatersrand, said, in reference to the agitation for an increase in European employees' wages, that it would be impossible to have different rates for poor and rich mines, and that the basal truth was that poor mines could not face any increase in working costs. Mr Vincent W. Yorke, at the meeting of the Mexican Railway, said that trade unionism in Mexico was exercising a tyranny which was in many ways without parallel on this side of the Atlantic. He felt sure that if the present state of the relations between employer and employed was allowed to continue, it would be impossible for capital in any sort of public undertaking to earn a reasonable return.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

PLAYING WITH FIRE.

MR BALDWIN'S statement on commercial policy in the House of Commons on Wednesday was appropriately described by Mr Lloyd George as "one of the gravest statements which he had heard from the lips of a Prime Minister"; for his proposals lay the way open to a complete revolution of the fiscal system on which the economic strength of this country has been built up, and the only system under which Great Britain can hope to work its way back through the tangle of post-war difficulties to a plane of normal prosperity. We do not think that Mr Baldwin and most of his Ministers have any present intention of travelling along the road to protection very far. Indeed, we believe that Mr Baldwin is perfectly honest and sincere when he proclaims adherence to his election pledge, and repudiates the accusation that he means to introduce a general tariff. There are several good reasons for this view. It would seem impossible, in the first place, that the Cabinet has not learnt the great lesson of the last three elections, or fails to realise the strength of the Free Trade vote, which, after being antagonised with such disastrous results in 1923, did so much, on the strength of Mr Baldwin's pledge, to swell the Unionist wave of 1924. The Cabinet know the cost of arousing the enmity of this body of opinion once more. Again, the motor industry has just afforded a valuable object lesson in the stimulating effects of free competition. The large orders booked at the Motor Show in October have naturally been followed by a decision not to re-impose the former McKenna duties. The various industries formerly protected by them must now take their place in the queue which will rapidly

gather outside the portals of the Board of Trade, and make a case if they can on the grounds of exceptional circumstances. If the introduction of a general tariff was the conscious object of the Government, the re-instatement of the McKenna duties would be a useful first step. It is avoided because the meaning of the motor trade experience is too patently obvious.

But if, as we believe, Mr Baldwin is sincere in his promise that he is not inserting the thin end of the general tariff wedge, he is nevertheless playing with fire. Strictly interpreted, the "safeguarding" proposals which Mr Baldwin outlined mean general protection, which will be available to any industry which can prove certain things. What, according to Mr Baldwin's words, has an industry to prove? In the first place, an industry, to be a successful tariff claimant, must be "of substantial importance." This description is wide enough to bring almost every industry under its wing. Then it must be "efficient"—again a vague and undefinable qualification. Then (we quote the Prime Minister's actual sentences): "It must be subject to exceptional competition arising from such things as depreciated exchanges, bounties, or subsidies, and lower wages in foreign countries or longer hours. I am not at all sure that it would not be fair to take into account the differences in taxation as between this country and others." Let us look for a moment at some of the forms of competition thus enumerated. The occasional times of stress caused by sudden and substantial depreciation of exchanges are, we trust, largely behind us. But if low wages and longer hours in other countries are to be a ground for a tariff claim, then practically all industries in the country rank for protection—steel because of the wages in Belgium or India, cotton textiles because of Japanese wages, and so on *ad infinitum*. Certainly, if the comparison of taxation here and in other countries is to be a ground for protection, every single industry in the country may hopefully apply. On every tariff duty granted there is to be preference for the Dominions. Thus the foundation stone is laid for a complete national superstructure of Protection and Preference. The Prime Minister may, we believe he does, intend to build no more than a humble bungalow. But what of his followers, among whom, in the Press, in the House of Commons, in industry, and even in the Cabinet, are numbered unrepentant whole-hog Protectionists, determined to take advantage of every chance of establishing a better foothold on the slippery slope? Take, for example, the *Morning Post* of Thursday: "The Conservative Government has embarked upon an enterprise which, as we believe, will by degrees raise into new and beneficent conditions the whole industrial life of this country." The italics are ours. The real danger is that Mr Baldwin and Mr Churchill may be stampeded by forces behind them, and too strong for them, into the morass of Protection on whose edge they are now so perilously playing. The new "safeguarding" Bill—why not honestly and unequivocally call it a Tariff Bill?—will be very anxiously scanned to see whether it includes all those abundant qualification tests previously described in these columns, which, if Mr Baldwin stands by his pledge, it must contain.

The appearance of Mr Churchill as defender of Protectionist proposals was, of course, the *bonne bouche* of the House of Commons debate. On the whole, he extricated himself cleverly from an awkward position, by taunting his Free Trade opponents with fiscal peccadilloes in circumstances very different from the present, and by attempting to belittle the fiscal significance of the Premier's statement. In this he was adroit, if not wholly successful, and succeeded in leaving the impression that his presence at the Treasury is a bulwark against the excesses of his Protectionist colleagues. In his arguments against the discriminating duties of the old Safeguarding of Industries Act, he was sound and convincing. With the most-favoured-nation clause incorporated in the Anglo-German agreement, the discriminating system is more than ever out of court. But his deduction from this argument is less sound. To say that the discriminating method of the old Act was absurd is not to say that the system of a general duty, now proposed, is right. The only proper corollary to an exposure of the follies

of the old Act is that we should have done once and for all with these tariff tinkering in every shape and form.

Although unemployment came in for comparatively little mention in the debate, it is, of course, the *raison d'être* of Mr Baldwin's proposals. If the country believed that "safeguarding," or Protection, could seriously reduce unemployment, it would turn to these expedients. But that the country thinks otherwise has been abundantly and recently proved. The solution of unemployment, as the country realises, is only to be sought in the restoration of confidence in Europe, and in concentration on the problem of enabling our industries to produce cheaply and efficiently enough to make headway in international competition. Mr Baldwin's proposals, whatever be their real meaning, can be nothing but harmful in either respect. Mr Lloyd George put the matter succinctly when he said:—"The thing that matters is that we should be prepared to face that competition in the neutral markets. This takes us away from the best method of doing that. Any business man knows perfectly well what the difficulty is. You have to consider the lowering of the costs of production—not by the lowering of wages. Often you can increase the wages, and at the same time increase production and lessen the cost, and this by a better understanding between those who are engaged in the industry. Better co-operation, yes, and increased efficiency in equipment and management. These are the things upon which we ought to concentrate. The worst of proposals like that of the Government is this: it is taking the mind of the country away from the method of confronting the most dangerous competition which we are ever likely to be confronted with by substituting this vicious, false, artificial, barren scheme for a real method of confronting your difficulties."

The more that we philander with the barren doctrine of trade restraint and tariff juggling, the further away shall we be from facing the problems which must be solved before our industry and our trade can return to a satisfactory degree of activity and prosperity.

THE PROBLEM OF MOROCCO.

RATHER more than two years ago, the *débâcle* of the Greek army in Anatolia suddenly raised the question of the Black Sea Straits. Within the next few weeks it is possible that the question of the Straits of Gibraltar may be raised in an equally acute form by the discomfiture of the Spanish Army in Morocco.

The Spanish zone in Morocco, as it was projected in 1904 and placed at the Spanish Government's disposal in 1912, includes the whole coast-line of Morocco northwards and eastwards from Larache on the Atlantic to the Algerian frontier. It thus entirely surrounds the Tangier zone, and masks the straits on the African side opposite Gibraltar; and this was the object with which Spain was originally introduced into the arrangements regarding Morocco between Great Britain and France. One of the foundations of the Anglo-French entente was that France, in return for giving a free hand to Great Britain in Egypt, should receive a free hand herself in Morocco as far as this could be given her without prejudice to the naval position of Great Britain in the straits and at Gibraltar. The creation of the Spanish zone was the Anglo-French method of adjusting the respective interests of the two entente Powers; and for twelve years national pride has induced Spain to pour out her blood and treasure in order to fulfil the function of a non-conducting medium for the convenience of her neighbours. Now Spain is abandoning, or rather being compelled by the Moors to abandon, her rôle, and Great Britain and France find themselves face to face with the problem which Spain has obligingly averted for them hitherto. The situation is not eased by the fact that Italy has shown an inclination to take on the rôle of Germany as the aggrieved Power, with a claim either to share in the pickings of

Morocco or to obtain compensation elsewhere for consenting to hold aloof.

It is true that the Spaniards have never at any time succeeded in overrunning more than a fraction of the zone assigned to them—which is, indeed, as difficult a country to master as the highlands of the Mosul Vilayet or the North-West Frontier of India. She has merely occupied two patches of territory in the neighbourhood of her two ancient African *presidios*, or fortresses, Melilla and Ceuta. The occupied territory in the hinterland of Ceuta was, however, the vital region from the international point of view; for, so long as Spain held Larache and Tetuan, with the peninsula to the north of them, she insulated both Tangier and the African coast of the straits opposite Gibraltar from the possessions of any other Power. At the present moment, the Spanish Army has fallen back to the line of the Tetuan-Tangier road, thus exposing the Tangier zone on its southern side; and though the Spanish Government intends to stand on this line, it is very doubtful whether it can do so. The harbour of Tetuan is under fire from the Rifis, and—what is more serious—the land communications between Tetuan and Ceuta are threatened by a rising of the Anjera tribe, which occupies a country bordering on the straits in the triangle between Ceuta, Tetuan, and Tangier. It is not impossible that the Spaniards may be driven—perhaps not into the sea, like the Greeks, but at any rate inside the walls of Ceuta.

With that eventuality in mind, it is interesting to look at the situation as it appears to France, for France, after all, has greater local interests at stake on land than any other European Power, just as we, on our part, have the greatest local interest at stake on sea. From the French point of view, the danger created by the withdrawal of the Spaniards and the triumph of Abdu'l Karim is double. It threatens to undo the work which General Lyautey has been doing in the French zone of Morocco during the last twelve years, and it also threatens the position of France as an imperial Power throughout North Africa, and, indeed, throughout the Muslim world.

The threat to General Lyautey's work in Morocco is a question of geography. Morocco (like Gaul in Caesar) consists of three parts: the lowlands, along the Atlantic seaboard, in which most of the potential wealth of the country lies, the Rif mountains skirting the Mediterranean, and the much larger mountain mass of the Atlas in the interior. So long as they are unsubdued, the mountaineers of the Rif and the Atlas can, if they choose, prevent any foreign Power from developing the wealth of the lowlands in peace and quiet. By the diplomatic arrangements of 1904 and 1912 the Rif was assigned to Spain, and the other two parts of the country to France, and France easily occupied the Western plains. The pacification of the Atlas, on the other hand, was as large a task as, in the nineteenth century, Russia undertook in the Caucasus and Great Britain refrained from undertaking in Afghanistan. It must be accomplished very gradually if it was to be done with the minimum of effort, and therefore the first object of the French was to isolate the Atlas in order to be able to deal with it at leisure. The critical flank was on the north, for here the Atlas and the Rif approach nearest to one another, and if their tribesmen were to join hands, the tribes of the Atlas might be able to obtain arms by gun-running from the Rif Coast, which is inhospitable and difficult to patrol. The French, therefore, drove a railway, East and West, between the two mountain ranges, thus establishing land communications between Casablanca and Fez on one side and Algeria on the other. The corridor, however, is very narrow; the railway skirts the southern boundary of the Spanish zone, and a short distance further South again crosses the Atlas—with tribes in its central fastnesses which are still holding out against French domination. It is no wonder if France feels that, by the failure of Spain, her own position in Morocco is threatened.

In addition, there is the larger issue, for Abdu'l Karim and the Rifis are the counterparts in North Africa of Mustafa Kemal and the Turkish Nationalists in the Middle East. Once again, when Islam was being driven to believe that God had deserted His people and delivered them into the hand of the unbelievers, a leader and a

nation have arisen who have proved themselves capable, or have been rendered capable by Divine intervention, of victoriously opposing a European aggressor in arms. In many ways the victory of the Rifis is the more striking of the two. They are a far smaller nation than the Turks, with no training in Western methods of warfare, and no powerful friends in the background, while Spain, whom they have defeated, is not, like Greece, a small and only recently Westernised State, but a country with 20 million inhabitants, an ancient and distinguished member of Western society. Thus the retreat from Sheshuan has dealt a greater blow to Western prestige than the retreat from Afum Kara Hissar, and the reverberations among the neighbouring Islamic peoples may be proportionately violent. The Turkish national movement has been accompanied by sympathetic movements almost everywhere in the Middle East. Afghanistan has shaken off the British control of her foreign policy, Persia has repudiated the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, Ibn Sa'ud has lifted up his horn in Arabia. How will the national movement in the Rif affect kindred Moorish and Arab peoples—not only the recalcitrant tribesmen of the Atlas, but the submerged *indigènes* of Algeria, or the more civilised and Westernised Nationalists of Tunis and Egypt? This is doubtless giving cause for thought at the moment not only to Marshal Lyautey, but to Marshal Allenby.

How, we should be curious to know, does the balance of British interests appear to the mind of Mr Austen Chamberlain? Which prospect does the present British Government find the more unpalatable? A French control over the African shores of the Straits of Gibraltar, or the emergence of a new independent Islamic Republic—sovereign by force of arms and in defiance of a Western Power—in a part of the Islamic world which had seemed to be securely under the dominion of Britain, France, and Italy? It is a hard fact that the substitution of French for Spanish control in the Spanish Zone would make Gibraltar strategically valueless in the hypothetical eventuality of an Anglo-French War, for it would give the command of the Straits to France instead of to ourselves. As it is, Gibraltar is antiquated as a fortress, and during the war there was some vague suggestion that it might be ceded to Spain (which would be a great satisfaction to Spanish *amour propre*) in exchange for some more spacious site—suitable for a *place d'armes* on the scale of modern warfare—within the boundaries of the Spanish Zone on the African side. Is this a possibility in the present circumstances? Probably not, for France appears to have made up her mind, first, that Spain shall have no successor in Morocco except her, and secondly, that, if Spain definitely withdraws from her Zone, France cannot afford to leave a vacuum, but must positively take Spain's place in some way or other. This was foreshadowed in the very significant interview which Marshal Lyautey took care to give to the *Times* correspondent at Tangier on November 8th, when the Marshal was on the way back to his post from a visit to France, where presumably he had arranged with the Government what action France should take if the worst came to the worst. Since then it is reported that the French Ambassador at Madrid has been pressing the unfortunate Spanish Government to announce its intentions. The French apparently contend that by the Anglo-French Agreement of April, 1904, Great Britain gave France a free hand in the whole of Morocco in case Spain were to abstain from playing the rôle allotted to her; that in 1912, again, France obtained a protectorate over the whole of Morocco by her agreement with the Sultan; and that, by her agreement with Spain in the November of that year, she merely transferred her own rights to Spain, in respect of a certain zone, on the definite condition that Spain should "watch over the tranquillity" of the zone in question. *Il appartient à l'Espagne de veiller sur la tranquillité de la dite zone* was the text. Does this mean that Spain is obliged to maintain order, or merely that she is the only foreign Power which is entitled to make the attempt? The coming diplomatic debate between Spain, France, and Great Britain, from which Italy will not readily let herself be excluded, will turn on the interpretation of these words.

Meanwhile, much also depends on the statesmanship of Abdu'l Karim. Will he, like Mustafa Kemal, have

the wisdom to limit his aims to securing the independence of his own people, who form a distinct national entity, or will he attempt to shoulder the burden of Islam, and declare a general war on Western Imperialism in North Africa? We can understand the motive force behind his resistance to Spain, who, instead of bringing tranquillity, has made a desert. The Rifis have fairly won their independence, and a Rif Republic would be just as good a screen for Gibraltar as a Spanish Zone. If, on the other hand, Abdu'l Karim is so ill-advised as to raid beyond his own borders, and to make himself impossible to France, then we can do nothing for him, while he will be doing a very bad turn to us.

BANKERS AND CREDIT INSURANCE.

IN his address last week before the Corporation of Insurance Brokers, Mr Stanley Spain, underwriter of the Trade Indemnity Company, Limited, explained some of the difficulties which still check the development of credit insurance as applied to overseas trade. Mr Spain and his official chief, Mr Cuthbert Heath, of Lloyd's, chairman of the Trade Indemnity Company, have done a really notable work in lifting credit insurance out of the slough of scepticism in which it was threatened with suffocation. They began with it in a tentative way as a branch of the Excess Insurance Company, Limited, of which Mr Cuthbert Heath has been the inspiring guardian. Then in 1918 the branch became the Trade Indemnity Company, with a small paid-up capital of £20,000, formed under the auspices of the British Trade Corporation. The Government then came into the field with their emergency export credits scheme, which was designed, under the post-war emergencies, to take risks upon which no commercially-managed company could safely venture. Though the export credits scheme has, on paper, made some pecuniary loss, it has, on the whole, served its main purpose of importing confidence into a situation where confidence was difficult to come by. Now that foreign exchanges are settling down the business of insuring credits can pass gradually from the emergency stage to that of a sound business proposition conducted on recognised insurance lines. That has been so far realised that some of the leading composite insurance offices have associated themselves with the Trade Indemnity Company, subscribed towards its recently increased capital of £250,000, fully paid up, and nominated representatives on the board of directors. We have, therefore, to deal now not merely with a pioneer company struggling to establish an exceedingly difficult and hitherto unexplored class of insurance business, but with an established concern strongly supported and informed with the best available experience. If, as Mr Spain gives us to understand is now probable, the bankers can be secured against certain risks in accepting credit insurance policies as collateral, the field should be open for a large and welcome expansion in business. And such an expansion would not only be of immediate benefit to bankers and to the Trade Indemnity Company, but would also materially assist—what we all desire so cordially—the expansion of our overseas trade.

The purpose of credit insurance is described as a means of protecting the seller from not being paid for his goods. And seeing that the money to be paid for goods sold is the basis of bills of exchange dealt in by bankers and discount houses, the protection of credit insurance must cover the banker or discount if it is to facilitate those dealings upon which the free movement of goods depends. One great difficulty in gaining the confidence of bankers arises, as Mr Spain frankly explained, out of the "invalidating clauses" which the Trade Indemnity Company is obliged to insert in its policies. The banker rightly judges that his security in a credit policy is greatly weakened by the power which the company retains of refusing to pay losses for reasons adequate to itself. These "invalidating clauses" exist to protect the company against failure on the part of the assured to preserve that utmost good faith—*uberrima*

fides—which is of the essence of insurance. But the banker has no control over the assured, and a policy may be invalidated by acts or omissions by the assured without the banker's knowing anything about it until the policy is invalidated.

We may, perhaps, explain this feature in some detail, and then deal with Mr Spain's proposal to surmount the difficulty of protecting the banker as an innocent third party against the omissions or offences of the assured. All credit policies are based on declarations by the assured of amounts at risk and circumstances of risk. The company never knowingly accepts at its own risk more than from 50 to 70 per cent., in order that the assured may themselves be serious partakers in the hazards insured against. All transactions insured must be new. The company will not insure any contract of sale entered into more than 14 days (usually much less) before the date of application for cover. This freshness is essential, as may readily be seen; if it were possible for the assured to cover risks which information received subsequent to the contract of sale showed to be extra hazardous, there would be a perpetual selection by unscrupulous assured persons against the insuring company. In all declarations of values at risk and circumstances of risk there must be the utmost good faith on the part of the assured; if in this vital respect he fails, then the company has power to invalidate the policy. The applicant may possibly not have read the declarations with sufficient care, and may have omitted to notify the company of default within the prescribed periods. Deception may be deliberate and wilful. The power to invalidate as against the assured must be preserved; the difficulty is the protection of the banker, who has advanced money or discounted bills of exchange against the loss of his collateral security, the credit insurance policy, when the company feels obliged to exercise its invalidatory powers.

Upon this most important point we may quote some relevant passages from Mr Spain's address, as reported in the *Times* :—

"If a Bill, for instance, was discounted with a banker on the strength of a credit policy, and it turned out, subsequently, that the assured had committed some act which would invalidate the policy, then the banker should not suffer through such act. He felt sure that when the Government scheme of financing export credits ceased bankers would welcome their assistance in this manner as a reasonable substitute for the Government Department. He reminded brokers that, although a great field existed for the operations of genuine insurance, the City of London was overrun with financial transactions of a nature not welcome to a credit insurance company.....He had had many conversations with the principal bankers in London and, with but few exceptions, they had expressed the hope that the company should join hands with them. He was afraid they would have to come down a step or two from the severe regulations of the banking platform in order to make that possible. His company and the French company co-operating with them were negotiating a scheme with bankers which, he thought, would go a long way towards bridging the gulf.....The banker rightly assumed that his security in a credit policy was greatly weakened by the power which the company had of refusing to pay losses for any reason whatsoever. They were considering the desirability of eliminating the power of these 'invalidating clauses' for the benefit of the banker only."

This last sentence indicates plainly the proposed way out: that the company should indemnify bankers in respect of their bona-fide interests against the operation of the "invalidating clauses." In other words, that though a policy may be invalidated against an errant assured, the interests of innocent third parties should not be permitted thereby to suffer.

There are two risks which a credit insurance company cannot assume under present conditions. They are the political hazards of a war, or of the imminence of war, leading to a moratorium, and possibly a collapse of credit. The Trade Indemnity Company does not include the insurance of what may be called temporary loss through delay in payment for goods. A collapse of credit upon the outbreak of war cannot be insured against by a

commercial company. The risk is too great, too wide in its range. Mr. Cuthbert Heath has more than once expressed the view that the Government, in return for a portion of the premiums paid under credit insurance, should reinsure the catastrophic risk of war, insurrection, or a general moratorium. This proposal is too large to be discussed at the end of an article. But we may say that reinsurance of this kind is not within the Government's ordinary legal powers. It could only assume this catastrophic risk by special legislation in time of peace, or by emergency legislation in time of war. If a great war should unhappily break out again, the Government of the day would find, as did Mr Asquith's Government in August, 1914, that huge commercial risks had to be assumed if the business of the country were to be saved from a disastrous collapse.

BUILDING COSTS AND NEW METHODS.

DURING the debate in the House of Commons on the housing problem, Mr Neville Chamberlain laid considerable emphasis on the advantage of steel houses, and so bringing in new materials and fresh labour resources as an aid to meeting the large unsatisfied demand. This is clearly one of the most hopeful ways of tackling this baffling problem, for it goes to the root of the economic difficulty. At the same time, it is far from being a simple solution, for new methods naturally present a new set of difficulties. Considerable interest, therefore, attaches to the following statement, which we have received from a well-informed correspondent :—

It will be remembered that during the days of the Addison Housing Scheme, various new materials and methods of construction were tried, with varying degrees of success. One effect of the Wheatley Act has been to stimulate interest in new forms of house building, and the present year has witnessed a crop of new proposals, the most important of which are those for the erection of the so-called steel houses, and the new material for construction which Commander Burney is putting on the market. The house-building industry, which has hitherto been little affected by the changes in methods and materials, which have been widely introduced in the construction of large structures with such marked success, cannot permanently continue on the lines laid down by long tradition, however excellent the tradition may be in many respects. But that is not to say that in the very near future there will be a revolution in the processes and materials of house building. The question is far more complicated than those who are rightly searching for means of providing a large number of reasonably cheap houses appear to realise.

The working-class house, if it is to meet with general satisfaction, must possess certain qualities. In the first place, it must be reasonably durable, and its length of life must extend to the period which will make loan repayment to cover the capital cost and charges an economic proposition. Secondly, the cost of repairs and maintenance must be reasonable. In the third place, it must be weather-resisting and dry. That is to say, it must keep out rain, and extremes of heat and cold. It must not be hot in summer and cold in winter. Moreover, it must be so constructed as to prevent the condensation of moisture within its rooms. Stone and brick houses fulfil these conditions to a marked degree. A stone shell or a brick shell (whether of the solid or cavity kind), with inner plaster lined walls, is durable, and not excessively costly to maintain in a proper condition. It excludes wet, it is not greatly influenced by changes in temperature, and is free from "condensation." These requirements are essential for health and comfort, and new types of houses must conform to these standards. In judging of the feasibility and desirability of new materials and new methods of construction, therefore, we must take into account the quality of the product as well as the price for which new houses can be produced. Not all the various proposals for revolutionising house building would conform to these standards, and even those which have been, or are being, adopted will need to be modified and improved if they are to become satisfactory substitutes for the normal type of house, and to conform to the neces-

sary standards. These technical questions, though they must be borne in mind and taken into consideration in determining the real value of new types of house construction, need not, however, detain us further.

The economic advantages which may accrue from the adoption of hitherto unused methods and materials are twofold. They relate to the supply and price of houses. Firstly, in so far as they call into use new raw materials and new types of labour, they may augment the supply of houses beyond the maximum possible with the available resources of the existing building industry. If the national need cannot be met by normal means because of a shortage of the supply of one or more raw materials, or of particular kinds of skilled labour, it is clear that alternative methods provide the only ready means of satisfying the national demand. Secondly, an alternative source of supply of houses may have far-reaching effects on prices. Houses built with new materials or by new methods of construction do not, as a matter of fact, work out appreciably cheaper than brick houses. Nevertheless, the building industry has to reckon with a new competitor, and it must make its prices comparable with those charged for the alternative supply of houses. The new competition will also tend to eliminate any unjustifiable rise in the prices of "normal" houses, whilst in a district where, because of the heavy charges for certain raw materials, owing perhaps to heavy freight rates, new methods may actually lower the price of houses.

It has been assumed that new types of houses are not going to supersede those to which we have become accustomed, and that they will be rather in the nature of a supplementary source of supply. This assumption is perfectly unassailable, if only because in the new types there are numerous practical defects still to be overcome, and because in the case of some new types at least, the cost of repair and maintenance appears likely to counterbalance any reduced capital expenditure on their construction.

Exaggerated hopes, however, are entertained as to the savings which the various new materials and methods will effect. A house, however much you may simplify its construction and its constituent parts, is a very complex product, and none of the new proposals which are being canvassed to-day claims to reduce more than one or two, or at any rate, a few, of the numerous items in the construction of the completed fabric. They may be designed to cheapen the outer structure, or the roofing, or the inner walls, but do not eliminate these items of cost, and others still remain unaltered. The land and its development, fences, and paths, and gateways, still remain as items of cost. To these must be added windows and window frames, doors and other joiners' work, light castings of various kinds, sinks, lavatories, and W.C.'s., and so on. These items contribute a considerable proportion of the total cost of a house, and in most schemes for new types of houses they are not tackled. A wooden house, for example, equipped and fitted internally like the usual brick house, offers little or no saving as compared with a brick house of equal accommodation and convenience. The Weir house, it is clear, is not going to bring down prices very substantially, at any rate in England, even if it can be produced on a large scale. The standardisation of internal fittings which is being developed could, of course, be applied to brick, stone, and concrete houses, and reduce costs, which would place the older type of house in a more favourable position to compete with Weir houses.

It will be seen from the table given below how the various items of cost enter into the price of houses. The figures are average figures, and are based upon the costs of houses erected under the State housing scheme. They refer to the A3 type of house, containing a living room, three bedrooms, bath and offices, and the average area within the containing walls was 809 square feet.

ANALYSIS OF COSTS.		Provincial Towns.	
	London.		%
Land, development, paths, gates, fences	16.8	....	15.6
House—			
1. Materials.....	49.1	....	50.0
2. Labour.....	34.1	....	34.4
	100.0	....	100.0

Each item may be analysed further as follows :—

	Percentage of Total Cost.	
	London.	Provinces.
1. Land, &c.		
Land	4.5	4.1
Development—(1) Labour	5.4	5.5
(2) Materials ..	4.7	3.6
Paths, gates, fences	2.3	2.4
2. Materials.		
Cement and lime	3.2	3.4
Slates and tiles	6.0	6.2
Bricks	11.1	11.4
Timber carcassing	3.8	4.1
Timber joinery	6.2	5.8
Lead	2.4	2.6
Light castings.....	4.7	5.0
Miscellaneous	11.7	11.5
3. Labour—		
Bricklayers	7.6	7.7
Carpenters and joiners	7.6	7.7
Slaters and tilers	0.6	0.6
Plasterers	2.8	2.8
Plumbers	1.5	1.5
Painters	2.5	2.5
General labourers	11.5	11.6

There is little scope for new methods of construction which will affect the first group of costs, i.e., those relating to land and land development, &c. These charges account broadly for about a sixth of the total cost of the State-assisted house. Of the remaining charges, none can be eliminated. The question is whether any of them can be satisfactorily replaced by substitutes. There do not appear to be alternatives to the timber carcassing and joinery, lead and light castings used; or, at any rate, alternatives which will result in substantial saving under existing conditions. The real hope as regards these components is more standardisation and greater efficiency of production, which would cheapen all types of houses. As a matter of fact, most of the alternatives are substitutes for bricks, slates and tiles. That is to say, they are concerned with the shell of the house rather than interior fittings. The articles on which savings might be effected may be summarised as follows :—

	Percentage of Total Cost.	
	London.	Provinces.
1. Materials—		
Cement and lime	3.2	3.4
Slates and tiles	6.0	6.2
Bricks	11.1	11.4
Miscellaneous (say)	2.0	2.0
2. Labour—		
Bricklayer	7.6	7.7
Slater and tiler	0.6	0.6
Plasterer	2.8	2.8
General labourer (say)	2.0	2.0
Total	35.3	36.1

The use of new materials and methods of construction for outer and inner walls, roofing, ceilings, flues and chimney-pots, &c., may reduce the above charges, which amount roughly to a third of the cost of a house. If the saving were one of 10 per cent., then the total cost of the house would be reduced by 3 to 4 per cent., which might easily be swallowed up in additional maintenance charges.

Some of the new methods, however, do not supersede entirely the use of bricks, slates and tiles; some, on the other hand, would probably reduce the costs of timber carcassing. It is, therefore, impossible to generalise on the question, but probably sufficient has been said to show that, broadly speaking, attention has been directed to the use of alternatives for certain component items in the working-class house, and therefore the possibility of economies is limited. In practice, such new methods and materials as have been tried do not yield houses much, if any, cheaper than those erected in the normal way. Concrete houses are as costly as brick houses, and may be even costlier and less satisfactory. A large town in the North of England recently obtained tenders for concrete houses in excess of the cost of erecting brick dwellings. The Weir house of, say, the A3 type, could not, on present costs, compete successfully in many parts of England and Wales with brick houses, and it is interesting to observe that the committee appointed by Mr. Wheatley to inquire into alternative methods, in its interim report expressed the view that "the life of such houses will be shorter, and the maintenance charges will be greater than in either a brick or concrete structure."

It is not, however, suggested that there is no room for new methods and materials for house building. They should be encouraged; but even if they be improved upon and further cheapened, it is not to be expected that the solution of the housing problem will be anything but a costly business.

COAL PRODUCTION, WAGES, AND COSTS.

WHILE it is most gratifying that the public should be kept informed as to the true position of a great national industry like that of the mines, it is very much to be regretted that the publication of the ascertainment should be so long delayed. The figures recently issued by the Mines Department only cover the first and second quarters of the year,* and do not, therefore, help very much in forming an estimate of the present position, which, it is claimed in some quarters, is one of very considerable gravity. In this bureaucratic age one should learn, however, to be thankful for small mercies, and the figures themselves, though belated, are of the greatest interest. They relate, as our readers will know, to undertakings which, between them, account for from 93 to 95 per cent. of the total coal production of this country, and give particulars, under separate headings, of all the local mining districts. Within the scope of a short article, however, it is not possible to do more than summarise the results for the country as a whole, though it should be borne in mind that the general picture thus obtained is not necessarily typical of any individual area.

The following table gives the principal totals for the last four quarters for which returns have, up to the present, been made public:—

	1923.		1924.	
	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.
Tonnage disposable tons	56,863,078	62,053,820	61,201,718	56,299,463
Wages	£ 37,733,759	39,261,510	33,581,084	38,471,418
Stores and timber	£ 6,413,744	6,732,766	6,587,208	6,188,100
Other costs	£ 7,896,861	8,177,266	7,953,070	7,903,062
Royalties	£ 1,531,347	1,573,676	1,624,764	1,470,446
Net costs	£ 53,566,626	55,661,970	54,638,688	53,980,250
Commercial disposals	£ 56,463,071	61,744,941	63,215,635	56,889,864
Credit balance	£ 2,896,445	6,082,971	8,576,945	2,909,614

The credit balance is, of course, a very different thing from profit; for, under the terms of the National Agreement which regulates the industry, it forms a fund out of which, amongst other things, the wages to be paid in the ensuing period are, in part, determined or met. The true meaning of these figures, however, is only apparent when they are reduced to a tonnage basis. In order to take a longer view of the course of development, we have included in the next table the principal returns per ton since the beginning of 1922:—

Period.	Pro-ceeds per ton.	Wages per ton.	Net Cost per ton.	Net Balance, Credit (+) or Debit (—) per Ton.	Output per Man-shift Worked.	Earnings per Man-shift Worked.
1922.	s d	s d	s d	s d	Cwts.	s d
First quarter	20 9 90	13 4 08	19 8 28	+ 1 1 62	18 23	11 0 18
Second quarter	18 11 41	12 7 39	18 11 58	— 0 0 17	17 80	10 2 51
Third quarter	18 3 08	11 4 48	17 2 08	+ 1 1 00	17 94	9 3 97
Fourth quarter	18 6 18	11 4 09	16 11 90	+ 1 6 28	18 10	9 5 25
1923.	s d	s d	s d	s d	Cwts.	s d
First quarter	18 11 56	11 6 58	16 6 24	+ 2 5 32	18 25	9 7 72
Second quarter	20 5 21	11 11 46	17 2 57	+ 3 2 64	17 90	9 9 77
Third quarter	19 10 31	13 3 26	18 10 09	+ 1 0 22	17 42	10 7 20
Fourth quarter	19 10 81	12 7 85	17 11 28	+ 1 11 53	17 76	10 3 33
1924.	s d	s d	s d	s d	Cwts.	s d
First quarter	20 7 89	12 7 30	17 10 26	+ 2 9 63	17 79	10 2 82
Second quarter	20 2 51	13 8 00	19 2 11	+ 1 0 40	17 48	10 11 12

Commercial disposals naturally govern wage rates, though this influence does not usually make itself felt until the ensuing period. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that ascertainties for this purpose are made every two months, and not quarterly, a disturbing factor for the student of mining statistics who has only the published returns to go upon. The net cost per ton fell steadily during 1922, rose again in the two middle

* Cmd. 2274 and 2283. 2d.

quarters of 1923, while a fall over the turn of the year was followed by a rise, in the second quarter of this year, to a level higher than any recorded since the beginning of the year before last. Of this increase of about 1s 4d in the cost of production in the second quarter over the level of the preceding quarter, wages account for 1s 0.70d, and the item "other costs," including such things as management, salaries and insurances, for 2½d. The effect of this has been to reduce the credit balance, and this, in turn, will show a falling-off in wages for the third quarter when the figures are ultimately published. It may be noted, in passing, that the Cumberland district showed a deficit in three out of the four last quarters, and the North Wales field in two.

To arrive at a truer picture of the wages actually earned in the industry, however, it is necessary to consider the earnings and the output per man-shift actually worked. The figures for 1922 do not call for special comment, but, since the beginning of 1923, it is a significant fact that the output has diminished as the earnings have increased, and vice versa. Moreover, while earnings in the June quarter of this year are but little over a penny less than those received in the first quarter of 1922—which is the highest point reached in the last two and a-half years—the output per man-shift was under 17½ tons, as against nearly 18½ tons in the earlier quarter.

Our last table completes this general statistical view of the industry:—

	1923.		1924.	
	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.
Number employed	1,108,259	1,120,204	1,111,280	1,107,457
No. of man-shifts worked	71,196,686	76,405,692	75,390,164	70,417,149
No. lost	6,402,572	6,637,723	7,097,159	5,962,902

The ratio between the number of man-shifts actually worked and the number lost that could have been worked gives a rough indication of the absenteeism prevalent during the period, while on the basis of the figures for the number of man-shifts worked, the average earnings per man-shift and the total number of men employed, we can arrive at the average weekly wage paid throughout the industry quarter by quarter.

Our view of the twelve months ended June 30th last may be summed up by saying that, during that period, the proceeds, credit balance, and output per shift followed the same general variations; while wages, both per ton and per shift, tended to vary inversely as the output per shift, and absenteeism in the main directly as wages. The average weekly wage actually earned throughout the industry was in the neighbourhood of 53s 5d, both in the first and second quarters of this year, the fall in the number of man-shifts worked in the latter period almost exactly counteracting the rise in the earnings per man-shift.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS IN POLAND.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE stability that has marked Polish public finances during the past few months has borne testimony to the reality of the reforms carried out early in the year. The new currency has kept without difficulty its parity with gold, and Budget equilibrium has been maintained. There is, however, little alleviation at present of the difficulties of the industrial situation. High prices continue, with a serious effect on home, and even more on foreign, markets. This period of strain was, of course foreseen, but none the less it has caused a certain amount of pessimism in some circles in Poland, where present difficulties have hindered to some extent a just appreciation of the very great progress that has been made.

Since February this year the Polish Ministry of Finance has succeeded in keeping expenditure within the limits of the legitimate resources of the State. Expenditure in the eight months February to September amounted to

1,021 million zlotys, and revenue receipts to 929 millions. The balance of 92 millions has been provided out of the proceeds of certain special sources of revenue, including loans. During the first eight months of the year, the three most important of these special receipts realised:—

	Million Zlotys
Internal loans	26.6
External loans	54.1
Gain from issue of subsidiary coinage and notes	35.4
	116.1

The proceeds of these special resources are held as a special fund, which has in part been used to cover such part of the deficit shown above as was not met out of funds previously in hand. This use of what are in reality capital receipts can be defended on the ground that the Budget includes large sums of such expenditure, as, for example, a total of 61 millions on capital expenditure on the railways in the eight months February to September.

It is to be noticed that there was actually a surplus of 12 millions in the four months February to May, but a deficit of 104 millions occurred the succeeding four months. This variation is accounted for by the fact that the Property Tax (the exceptional levy falling on property for the three years of financial reform 1924-6) is payable by instalments, which fall due in the spring and autumn each year; hence the position is relatively less favourable in the summer months. One good feature of the revenue side is the steady growth of the regular sources of taxation—in particular, Customs, Excise, and the Turnover Tax. Monopolies (tobacco and salt) have also yielded far more than was anticipated. The outlook of the Property Tax is not quite so bright, though it would be unsafe at present to prophesy that its estimated quota for the year will not be attained.

The future of the Budget position depends much upon the success that is achieved in limiting expenditure. The rise of prices has inevitably forced the expenditure of the State upwards, and a large increase of expenditure for next year is foreshadowed in the estimates for 1925 recently published in preliminary form, and in the additional credits sanctioned for the last months of this year. The former show a total of 1,982 million zlotys, whereas the latter amount to 125 millions, and bring the total estimates of expenditure for the current year up to 1,717 millions. One urgent need, as regards expenditure, is the standardisation of Government wages and salaries. There is good ground for hope, however, that prices will commence to fall before long, and it is clear that the door should be left open for possible economies in salaries in this event. More important is the avoidance, as far as possible, of expenditure on new services, and of capital expenditure, except in so far as it can be met from the capital resources of the State.

The volume of currency in circulation has now gone some way towards reaching a normal level. Approximately 600 millions of zlotys had been issued by the beginning of October, of which 460 millions were banknotes of the Bank of Poland and the remainder Government issues of smaller denominations. This amount for a population of about twenty-eight millions works out at 21.5 zlotys a head (a little under 18s). This would not appear to be large. Estimates of normal requirements vary a good deal, but 30 zlotys a head has been given as a moderate estimate. The point would appear, however, to have been reached when the question of locating the limit of absorption must be studied carefully. A further increase of 43 millions took place in the Bank's issues during October.

Since it commenced its operations at the beginning of May this year the Bank of Poland has shown considerable caution as regards its discount policy, and has not yet yielded to the inevitable clamour for fresh credits. It has built up a strong holding of foreign currency during the period—at the end of October its issues were covered to the extent of 68 per cent. by gold and stable foreign currencies, which should prove a valuable safeguard in the event of temporary difficulties affecting the foreign exchange market. This cover must not, however, blind us to the fact that the only real safety lies in a limitation of issue of the zloty at present.

The most pressing problem of the moment is that of

ALL BRANCHES OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING BANKERS TRUST COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE, NEW YORK
16 WALL STREET

LONDON PARIS
26 Old Broad Street 3 & 5 Place Vendôme

the industrial situation. The bank has had to meet the enormous demand for increased credit facilities by the definite "rationing" of accommodation, and by an enormous official discount rate of 12 per cent. Apart from the facilities offered by the Bank, short-term loans can only be obtained at rates amounting to 3 or 4 per cent. per month. Such a shortage of short-term credit has, of course, been very keenly felt by industry—it has put a heavy strain on business enterprise. Prices, meanwhile, have not been falling, and this has been the main cause of difficulties since the spring. Since August, too, prices have actually risen. The situation may be seen from the following figures:—

Last Week of Each Month.	Wholesale Price Index (Jan. 1914=1).	Cost of Living in Warsaw (Jan. 1914=1).
January	111.2	120.5
February	110.5	126.3
March	104	125.6
April	106.6	123.7
May	102.3	127.2
June	109.2	134.7
July	112.4	141.1

Fortunately, although preliminary figures show a further small rise in October, there has been a definite fall in wholesale prices during the first week of November. Much of the rise is attributable to the general increase in the price of grain, whilst the cost of living has been pushed up also by the gradual slackening of the restriction on rents, which are slowly returning to an economic level. Rents are still low, however, and apart from this element the cost of living would have to be accounted very high for a country largely engaged on raising food and raw materials.

There are unquestionably many ways in which remedies can come from the side of the State. Economy in expenditure—capital expenditure being avoided for the present—would provide opportunities for reducing taxation, and this would relieve appreciably the burden on industry. Credit policy is for the banks; but it is a subject worthy of the most careful and constant study with the object of securing that the available credit resources of the country are utilised to the greatest advantage. Greater co-ordination between the banks is required from this point of view. Many of the remedies lie in the hands of the industrial and commercial classes themselves. An increase in the productivity of labour is greatly needed, but it may well be that the first step must be a more serious attempt than has yet been made to secure a reduction of prices by agreement between the various interests concerned. Without a serious effort of this character it will not be possible for Poland to overcome foreign competition either at home or abroad. Already Poland is offering considerable attractions as a market to the foreign exporter, especially where the latter is prepared to give up to six months' credit—and of this fact German exporters are fully aware already. The more stable currency conditions have removed one of the greatest dangers to intercourse, and an increase of trade with this country, of which the beginning can already be traced, may be hoped for in the near future. But before confidence in Polish credit is restored, and before she can benefit from outside help to enlarge her diminished capital resources,

practical assistance to the development of our trade in overseas markets, whether in the Empire or outside it. Meanwhile, the country will not fail to observe that Mr Baldwin, in proposing to provide £1,000,000 from the Treasury as a "money equivalent" to the value of the discarded preferences, admits the important fact that Imperial Preference costs the British taxpayer money. We are grateful to him for this useful admission. We also take note of the following passage: "What was said in the speeches to which I have listened this afternoon is quite true, that you can never get a complete system of Preference as it has been understood in this country until such a time as the country consents to have taxes on food, by which I mean taxes on the food of normal, general, and daily consumption. Such taxation.....is not to-day practical politics in this country."

America and the Debt Problem.—The discussions in America of the Inter-Allied debt problem do not as yet appear to be leading to any clear solution. According to a *Times* cable, a short debate took place in the United States Congress on Tuesday on the settlements of the Lithuanian and Polish debts, during the course of which Mr Crisp, of Georgia, a Democratic member of the Debt Funding Commission, told the House that he would not, "either as a member of the Debt Commission or as a member of this House, vote to settle the indebtedness of any of these other countries in any way which will substantially vary from the basic settlement made with Great Britain." We do not think that there is at present any likelihood of America's offering to modify the terms of the British debt, or of her giving us "most-favoured-nation" treatment. If, therefore, Mr Crisp represents the opinion of the Debt Commission, it means, not that our payments are to be reduced to what France and Italy can pay, but that the latter are to be asked to pay the British terms. At present this is out of the question without precipitating a new exchange catastrophe. On the other hand, there is general recognition in America that terms could not reasonably be asked of France and Italy unless these also can be applied to the claim of Great Britain against these countries. Mr Crisp reminded his hearers that many people had been put into the Bankruptcy Court for trying to give preference to some creditors over others, and stated that in the exchanges between M. Jusserand and Mr Mellon "no definite proposition was made, nor was any suggestion made that would for a moment be accepted by this country." Thus, on the surface the problem is as much at a deadlock as ever, and we doubt if the time is ripe for a solution. But two tendencies are at work which will ultimately untie the knot. The first is that outside administrative and official circles there is much franker recognition of the fact that in the end the European debts cannot be collected at face value, or even on a 3 per cent. basis, and in many quarters complete cancellation is not excluded from discussion. Thus, in the recent political campaign, Senator Borah—whose position as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee makes his opinion of great importance—told his audience in the North-West that he would be prepared to cancel the European debts if this act facilitated disarmament. The Senator from Idaho perhaps does not appreciate that, while France might be willing to reduce her armaments in return for security, she is not likely to do so for a cash consideration. But the fact that in the most "pro-American" circles conditional cancellation is discussed is itself proof that in no part of the United States is public opinion merely out to insist upon its pound of flesh. The second tendency is the recognition that a settlement is not a matter which concerns America and her debts alone, but is one in which there must be all-round agreement, and, in particular, common policy between England and America.

Cost of Living.—The official Ministry of Labour index of the cost of living rose another point in November. This advance was due to increases, partly seasonal, in the price of food. For food alone, according to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, the average increase over the pre-war level was 80 per cent. at December 1st, as compared with

79 per cent. at November 1st, and 76 per cent. a year ago. How the cost of living figure has moved month by month over recent years is shown below:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER JULY, 1914.—All items.
(Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, and Light, &c.)

Month (beginning of)	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
January	85-90	120	125	165	92	78	77
February	90	120	130	151	88	77	79
March	90	115	130	141	86	76	78
April	90-95	110	132	133	82	74	73
May	95-100	105	141	128	81	70	71
June	100	105	150	119	80	69	69
July	100-105	105-110	152	119	84	69	70
August	110	115	155	122	81	71	71
September	110	115	161	120	79	73	72
October	115-120	120	164	110	78	75	76
November	120-125	125	176	103	80	75	80
December	120	125	169	99	80	77	81

The advance in the food price figures was the net result of slight declines in sugar, butter, and bacon, more than counterbalanced by an almost general rise in other articles of food, especially eggs and tea. It will be seen from the above table that the index figure at August 1st was the same as on August 1, 1923. Since then the seasonal upward turn has been steeper than that of last year, to the extent of four points.

Employment in November.—Over the whole field of employment the change in November was slight, but such movement as occurred was in the right direction. The aggregate of registered unemployed fell by about 14,000, and a slight decline took place both in the trade union percentage of unemployment and in the percentage of all workers covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The trade union figure fell from 8.7 to 8.6 per cent., the latter figure, according to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, comparing with 10.5 per cent. a year ago. How this percentage has moved month by month may be seen from the table appended:—

TRADE UNION UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENTAGES.

	1913.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January ..	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February ..	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	7.5
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	7.0
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	7.2
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	14.6	11.1	7.4
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	7.9
September ..	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	8.6
October	2.2	0.4	2.6	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	8.7
November...	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	8.6
December...	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..

* Excluding coal miners.

The unemployment percentage among the 11½ millions covered by the Unemployment Insurance Acts in Great Britain and Northern Ireland fell from 11.1 per cent at October 27th to 11 per cent. at November 24th. A year ago it was 11.5. Thus the decline as compared with a year ago is very much less pronounced than in the trade union figure, which represents mainly skilled workers. The totals of registered unemployed compare as follows:—December 1, 1924, 1,233,000; October 27, 1924, 1,247,000; November 26, 1923, 1,304,000. Thus the latest figure is 71,000 lower than the total of a year ago. The features of November were a further considerable improvement in the cotton industry, and a serious decline in the tinplate trade. In the latter the increase in number of unemployed in November amounted to over 10 per cent., while unemployment in the cotton textile industry declined by 3 per cent.

Exchequer Bond Conversion Result.—In answer to a question in the House of Commons on Thursday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that of the £134,600,000 5½ per cent. Exchequer Bonds, maturing on February 1st next, approximately £81 millions have been converted under the recent conversion offer, about

£57 millions in 4½ per cent. Conversion loan, 1940-44, and about £24 millions in 4½ per cent. Treasury bonds, 1934. The cash payment in respect of Conversion loan will be about £1,250,000. While no addition will be made to the nominal total of the National Debt from this operation, the future saving in interest will be something over a million a year.

Turkey and Her Creditors.—The Turkish bondholders have been disappointed again. The Franco-German Arbitral Tribunal set up by the Treaty of Versailles has decided against the claim put before it by the French section of the bondholders for payment to them, at the pre-war rate of exchange, of the sums collected by the Debt Council and deposited in German and Austrian banks during the war. The Council was then under German control, and made no payments to subjects of the Allied Powers, and the French bondholders, as the most numerous section, took the lead by arrangement in claiming repayment. The Tribunal has decided that they have no *locus standi* before it; that the Debt Council was within its rights in depositing the money, but that, not being a subject of an Allied Power, or domiciled in an allied country, it cannot reclaim the money before the Tribunal. (We gather that it might withdraw the money from the banks, but it would only be paid in depreciated marks and kronen.) The British section of the bondholders might put their claim before the Anglo-German tribunal, but the Council of Foreign Bondholders, in notifying the decision, intimates, under the circumstances, that it may be scarcely worth their while to do so. The decision is obviously based merely on legal technicalities, but it appears to be final. However, the coupons affected by the decision have been cut from the bonds and deposited with the Council, so that the matter stands apart from the general question of the future resumption of the service of the debt. The Angora Government intimated some time ago that the service would only be resumed after the reapportionment of the pre-war debt between Turkey and the States which have gained territory from her since 1913, as provided by the Treaty of Lausanne. The reapportionment was effected early in November, and Turkey is now responsible for slightly more than 62 per cent. of the total—apart from certain loans contracted in 1912-14, of which her share is 76 per cent., but these, apparently, are not held in Great Britain. Appeals from some of the States concerned have been before the Council of the League of Nations, which has referred them to an arbitrator, who has been appointed this week, and will sit at Constantinople. His decisions will be final, but their only "sanction" will consist in the injury to the credit of any Government which may disregard them. But it is believed that the Angora Government is now quite alive to the necessity of restoring the credit of Turkey, and has been greatly impressed by the success of the Greek loan. Ismet Pasha, at any rate, recognised this necessity last July, in a speech at Magnesia. And the recent rise in the quotations of the Unified Debt reflects the hopes of the bondholders.

Agricultural Wage Settlements.—Considerable progress has been made by the Agricultural Wages Committees in arriving at agreements determining the new minimum rates of wages in the various counties. In many cases the new rates have been agreed upon unanimously as a compromise between the offer of the farmers and the claim of the workers, but there is evidence that in some areas the agreements are the result of majority decisions, the employers' representatives forming the minority. According to the reports so far available, the following rates of wages have been agreed upon for ordinary labourers:—Norfolk, 28s (winter), 29s (summer); Bedford, 29s; Berkshire, 29s 2d; Warwickshire, 30s; Carnarvon and Anglesey, Essex, Cumberland and Westmorland, Cambridge and Isle of Ely, Northants, Bucks, Worcester and Dorset, 30s; Hereford, 31s; Kesteven and Lindsey, Somerset and Notts, 32s; Rutland, 32s 6d; North Riding, 33s; East Riding and Leicester, 34s; West Riding, Derbyshire, and the Holland district, 36s. The rates represent increases in most cases of 2s or 3s a week over those previously in operation, though

SKANDINAVISKA KREDITAKTIEBOLAGET

GOTHENBURG. STOCKHOLM. MALMÖ.

Branches in all parts of Sweden.

Paid-up Capital and Reserves - - Kr. 182,000,000

Telegraphic Address: "Kreditbolaget."

THE BANK AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR BANKING BUSINESS WITH SCANDINAVIA.

in one case, Cumberland and Westmorland, the new rate shows no change. The hours of labour in respect of which the rates are payable vary in the different areas. In some cases they have been fixed at 48 per week in winter, with longer hours, 50 to 54, in summer, and in others, uniform hours for the whole year have been agreed upon, usually 50 to 54 per week. Several of the committees have also arrived at agreements on the subject of the minimum rates of wages for special classes of workers, horsemen, cattle-men, shepherds, &c., and for youths, women, and girls, and also in regard to overtime rates. In a few cases a weekly half-holiday has been agreed upon. A very complete agreement has been made in Norfolk, hitherto a storm-centre of the agricultural industry, which contains provision for a guaranteed week for all men who present themselves regularly for work. A similar provision appears in the Derbyshire agreement. In some areas a definite period of operation, varying from six to twelve months, is specified in the agreements, and in one case, the East Riding of Yorkshire, it is provided that the minimum rate shall be subject to adjustment in correspondence with variations in the cost of living index number.

The Hukuang Railway Default.—A correspondent writes:—The coupons of the Hukuang Railway 5 per cent. bonds of 1911, due last Monday, were not paid, and, as the loan is a charge on provincial revenues, it is a direct obligation of the Chinese Government. The revenues in question have not reached Peking, the traffic has been interrupted, and the Treasury is empty; but in well-informed quarters it is expected that unless some fresh change takes place in the situation at Peking, the bondholders will not have to wait very long. The Provisional Government is believed to be fully aware of the necessity of preserving the credit of the Republic, and to be able to give adequate security for the very moderate sum required. There is some reason to believe that negotiations on the subject are already taking place. So soon as there is a stable Government at Peking it will receive financial aid from the Consortium. Meanwhile, the obligations of the Republic are not likely to be repudiated except by a purely Bolshevik Government. And, though Chinese Ministers may be demonstratively Nationalist, Chinese business traditions are wholly opposed to Bolshevism.

The Belgian Congo.—The development of the vast resources of Belgium's only colony depends mainly on the adequacy of transport and labour; and, according to the report of the British Consul at Boma, just issued by the Overseas Trade Department*, both are at present insufficient. Only two routes into the country are now commercially practicable: that by sea to Matadi, nearly 100 miles up the Congo, and thence by rail to Leopoldville, and that by the Rhodesian railways to the head of navigation on the Congo at Bukoma, connecting with the sea at Beira or Capetown. The routes by East African ports and the lakes, or by the Nile (or Port Sudan) via Khartoum, are at present far too costly, as involving repeated transfer and handling. The Matadi-Leopoldville railway can only carry 5,000 to 6,000 tons annually, though it is hoped that it may shortly be electrified and its capacity doubled. The natives have at present too few wants to stimulate their industry, though the example of those

* H.M. Stationery Office.

employed in the mines and oil factories and on public works tends to raise the standard of living. The chief exports in 1922, with their values in millions of Belgian francs, were:—Copper, 133.1; oil nuts, 40.6; diamonds, 21.6; gold, 20.7; ivory, 16.7; gum copal, 15.3; palm oil, 14.3; tin ore, 8.9; cotton, 5.6; rubber, 3.3; cocoa, 1.6; with smaller amounts of skins, coffee, and rice, though the collection of wild rubber, which formerly caused so much misery, has all but ceased. In 1923 Great Britain took the largest share of the exports, after Belgium—chiefly copper, oil nuts, and palm oil; in 1922, however, her share in the total trade fell off heavily; but with her African dependencies, particularly Rhodesia, she has much the largest share in the imports after Belgium. Hydro-electric installations are hoped for, there are valuable coalfields and minerals, including gold and diamonds, and an immense amount of valuable timber, whenever it can be got out. The Government has established agricultural experimental stations, and is doing its best to regulate the conditions of native labour and to promote hygiene. The missionaries, both Catholic and Protestant, are doing excellent work in civilising, educating, and promoting the health of the natives, and great progress has been made by Belgium in opening up the country, in spite of the serious physical and financial difficulties in the way. The report gives useful advice to British exporters and intending planters, but the time for the latter is not yet come.

The Non-Ferrous Metal Group.—There has, during the past week or two, been an expansion in the demand for base metals, and all coming within this category have shown a very strong undertone. Copper has been stronger, with reports from New York quite cheerful, and with supplies on a more moderate scale, the metal has responded to the improved demand. Values this week have been higher, with manufactured copper also dearer, and there is every prospect of better markets early in 1925. In the United States the demand on domestic account is well maintained, and on the export side some big sales have been made. Both France and Germany are prominent buyers of American copper, and the unsold surplus in the States, U.K., and Continent is estimated at not more than 150,000 tons. The world output for all 1924 will be heavy, but demand is now keeping pace with production, and the technical position of the commodity is certainly better than it was. Copper has been kept down for a long time, but it is likely to rise during the first quarter of the coming year. The outlook for consumption and the moderate world supplies are the two best points for the metal. In the case of tin there has been some improvement, with forward values well above cash, and the metal at over £260 certainly looks favourable for the tin producers. The market has been interested in the final sales of the remains of the tin held under the Bandoeng agreement, and probably the year 1925 will open with no surplus left. This would increase the visible supply to some extent, but producers and consumers would know exactly where they stood. The Straits shipments for December will be heavy, but American users are in the market for nearby shipments, and certainly the feeling is more hopeful. The world stocks at the end of the year will approximate 21,000 to 22,000 tons. This compares with fully 40,000 tons two years back, and in the coming year the United States alone will call for 75,000 tons of metallic tin. The Welsh tinplate industry is rather dull, but this is only seasonal slackness, and users are not too well covered. The lead position has been very strong, and there does not appear to be the slightest sign of any relief from the shortage of supplies. The U.K. imports this year have been on a very heavy scale, and prices of late have risen to well over £42 per ton for prompt material, but this has not checked the demand. Large contracts have been placed for pig lead for February and March shipment at high prices, and there is no possibility of any material expansion in supplies for some time to come. Values in the United States have been advanced to a very high level in order to prevent export sales and to attract the Mexican lead; thus Europe has to fall back largely on Spain and Australia, with a fair amount coming along from Burmah and Africa. The trade demand for building and electrical purposes is very

persistent, and there are no surplus stocks of any kind in the public warehouses. Germany has been a keen buyer of lead, lately, and further business is expected. So keen has the demand for foreign soft pig-lead been that it has been impossible to find sufficient to go round, and in some cases antimonial lead has been taken after being neglected for a long time. The zinc market has also improved largely with the others, and Germany has been buying quite liberally both in Belgium and also in the United States. The American deliveries for last month were the highest ever recorded for peace times, and stocks have been cut down considerably. Prompt zinc has been over £37 this week, with the undertone firm.

The Rand December Dividends.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Some three months ago agreeable anticipations were indulged in regarding the dividend announcements which would be made by the Transvaal gold mining companies in respect of the second half of 1924. In the meantime, the currency price of the precious metal has fallen away to such an extent that, allowing for exchange charges, &c., the companies are now no better off than they would be under normal conditions. (Incidentally, it may be remarked that fairly sharp declines have taken place in the shares of a number of those undertakings which, as shown in our issue of November 15th, stood to be especially hit by the fall in the gold premium.) As a result, the announcements do not make so brilliant a showing as hoped for. By the treatment of larger quantities of ore, and/or reductions in working costs, several companies during the past six months have earned profits permitting larger distributions than for the second half of 1923. The Brakpan, Crown, Cons. Main Reef, Geduld, Government Areas, Springs, and two Van Ryns are the principal instances in point. On the other hand, the Modder B only maintained its total owing to the increase in the rate for the first half of the year as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. The Witwatersrand Gold will pay no more than 5 per cent., as against 12½ per cent. for the second half of 1923, thereby reducing this year's total to 17½ per cent.; and several of the other low-graders have "felt a draught." In the case of the Durban Deep, capital expenditure has been a factor. We compare the last three half-yearly distributions and the totals for 1923 and 1924:—

Company.	Dec., 1923.	Total, 1923.	June, 1924.	Dec., 1924.	Total, 1924.
Aurora West	10	15	10	10	20
Brakpan	22½	42½	20	25	45
City Deep	25	45	25	25	50
Consolidated Main Reef	6½	6½	6½	6½	12½
Crown Mines	40	67½	40	40	80
Durban Deep	5	5	5	5	10
East Rand Proprietary	..	..	..	3½	3½
Geduld Proprietary	5	5	5	5	10
Government G.M. Areas	16½	27½	16½	17½	33½
Langlaagte Estate	30	60	32½	32½	65
Meyer and Charlton	7½	17½	7½	5	12½
Modderfontein "B"	50	100	50	50	100
Modderfontein Deep	60	110	60	50	110
New Goch	80	140	70	75	145
New Kleinfontein	..	10	..	..	..
New Modderfontein	2½	2½	..	2½	5
New Primrose	50	100	50	50	100
New Unified	5	5	..	7½	12½
Nourse Mines	5	5	..	2½	7½
Robinson Deep "A"	5	8½	3½	2½	6
Do "B"	6/	10/	6/	5/6	17/1
Rose Deep	..	..	..	5	5
Simmer and Jack	11½	17½	11½	11½	22½
Springs Mines	..	..	..	20	20
Sub Nigel	17½	30	15	17½	32½
Van Ryn Gold	3½	7½	5	3½	8½
Van Ryn Deep	7½*	15*	10*	10*	20*
Village Deep	27½	52½	30	32½	62½
Witwatersrand Deep	5	10	5	3½	8½
Witwatersrand Gold	7½	15	7½	7½	15
Johannesburg Consol.	12½	27½	12½	5	17½
Rand Selection	..	12½*	15*	..	15*
Rand Mines	30	30	..	50	50
..	60	120	60	60	120

* Tax free. † Including distribution announced in March. This table does not include declarations made at dates other than June and December.

Interesting features are the announcement of a maiden dividend of 1s by the Robinson Deep upon its "B" shares, that company's declaration of 5s 6d upon its "A" shares including the final instalment of arrears; the re-entry of the Simmer and Jack with 20 per cent. upon its reorganised capital, and the declaration of 3½ per cent. by the East Rand Proprietary—the first since the 2½ per cent. of June, 1916. Of the thirty mining enterprises scheduled above, rather over half will pay more for 1924 than for the preceding year. This, in itself, can scarcely be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory. The Rand Mines is content to maintain the 120 per cent. rate; the Rand Selection scores a marked advance.

Mexican Eagle Oil Company.—The annoyance which the Stock Exchange may feel at the unsatisfactory and peculiarly timed announcements of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company does not help the bewildered shareholders, who want some independent opinion of that company's prospects in Mexico. The statement which the financial agents of the company issued on Tuesday last regarding this year's operations is certainly depressing. Hitherto the expenditure on exploratory drilling has been confined to an amount equivalent to the profit on refining the company's own production, which has enabled the company to write off each year the whole cost of its exploration for new oilfields, leaving the profit on oil purchased and refined to provide for depreciation generally and the first preference dividend. If the dividend due on April 30th next is to be postponed till June, then it must be taken that the exploratory work is practically eating up both the profits on crude oil produced and crude oil purchased, and that if it so continues for a few years without new fields being discovered, there will be nothing left of the company's resources except the physical assets. Is it conceivable that the Mexican Eagle Oil will come to that? A critical stage has certainly been reached, as will be appreciated from the following table:—

	Year 1922.	Year 1923.	Year 1924.
	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
Crude oil produced	12,390,429	9,251,591	5,300,000
Oil purchased	4,418,910	11,100,000	13,600,000
Total shipments	22,619,149	21,609,000	18,000,000
	\$	\$	\$
Gross profits (Mexican gold)	26,815,709	19,590,395	?
Exploration outlays (Mexican gold)	1,525,493	7,604,970	..
Depreciation and reserve	6,141,465	7,390,905	..
Distributed in dividends	12,786,726	4,093,687	..
Carried forward	4,632,560	5,141,392	..

The profit this year has been "seriously affected" by the prolonged strike at the Tampico refinery, which has naturally put up the overhead cost. Further, the profit derived from sales in the Mexican domestic market and in Central America will show a "considerable reduction" as compared with 1923, due mainly to increased competition and the political conditions in Mexico. Moreover, the cost of crude oil purchases was "somewhat higher" than in 1923. Against these adversities must be set the exchange profit resulting from the fall in the sterling value of the Mexican peso. It is hardly wise to attempt to guess the net results this year, but it would be surprising to see the gross profits (after allowing for exchange profits) at a figure much above, and they may be below, \$15,000,000. If the conservative policy of writing off the cost of exploratory drilling and providing for adequate depreciation is to be maintained, and the first preference dividend continued next year, then the Mexican Eagle has to find new production or extend existing fields or purchase crude oil very favourably in the immediate future. What are its chances? We think its chances are decidedly better than they were, say, six months ago. The Standard Oil subsidiary has recently discovered what seems to be a new pool in the heavy oil districts north of Cacalilao. The Mexican Eagle holdings in Corcovado are, as far as can be gathered, in the immediate neighbourhood, and, according to the statement, are being "actively tested." Then the Doheny interests not long ago brought in a gusher in new

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:

70 Federal Street.
BUENOS AYRES: HAVANA:
501 Bartolome Mitre. Pedro Gomez Mena Eldg.

Collections effected and documentary credits established in all parts of the United States for banking correspondents abroad.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

territory at Tres Hermanos, north of the "Southern Fields," from which only "stripping production" is being obtained. This shows that extensions of the once prolific "Southern Fields" are not impossible. Hence the Mexican Eagle exploratory drilling in the Tamiahua Lagoon has good chances of success, especially in view of the encouraging evidence already found. The company's "stripping production" in the "Southern Fields" has been maintained, and operations are being continued in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, where small producers of lighter grade oil have been obtained. But it cannot be denied that time is against the shareholders. Not only has new production to be found in the immediate future if the first preference dividend is to be paid next June, but new production of the size and importance of the old-time gushers must be discovered if the former fortunes of the company are to be restored. The best that can be said is that nothing is impossible in Mexico.

Ind. Coope's Progress.—The brewery industry continues to flourish. This week we have to deal with two prominent undertakings interested in this trade, namely, Ind. Coope and Co. and Allsopp and Sons. It may be remembered that Ind. Coope and Co. was reconstructed under an arrangement sanctioned by the Court in 1912; this company holds all the issued capital of the Leeds and Batley Breweries, and has a controlling interest in Bindley and Co., Robinson's Brewery, and B. Grant and Co. As will be seen by the following table, the advent of the war and post-war events were both very favourable to the progress of the concern:—

Year Ended Sept. 30th.	Gross Profits.	Interest on Debenture Stocks and Mortgages.	Depreciation.	Ordinary Dividend.	To Reserve &c.	Carried Forward.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914..	110,821	58,332	28,516	..	..	14,290
1915..	146,238	54,300	34,375	..	40,000	680
1916..	152,906	53,625	36,084	..	50,000	2,494
1917..	204,717	58,186	34,186	14,026	50,000	23,277
1918..	392,575	55,686	29,991	20,671	185,000	57,281
1919..	474,202	55,722	39,373	49,594	285,000	103,872
1920..	415,249	53,814	45,863	91,341	85,000	139,613
1921..	375,657	53,504	49,783	168,000	10,000	106,345
1922..	349,982	55,986	48,879	137,000	60,000	104,482
1923..	347,880	60,482	48,534	90,375	50,000	109,226
1924..	378,302	61,792	45,416	116,250	50,000	153,490

The ordinary distribution is on a generous scale. In addition to a dividend of 15 per cent., a bonus of 10 per cent. is declared. In 1919 the capital of this undertaking was increased from £400,000 to £600,000, and in December, 1922, to £1,000,000. The issued capital at present is £600,000. On turning to the balance-sheet, the most noticeable item is goodwill, which remains unchanged at £375,000, although the company is enjoying a wave of prosperity. Properties are up from £1,586,110 to £1,720,784. Cash at £234,442 compares with £166,292 a year ago, and stocks at £221,393 are £55,000 higher. The balance-sheet is analysed in our usual column.

Allsopp's Year.—For the twelve months ended September 30th last a further improvement is recorded in the accounts of Samuel Allsopp and Sons. Ordinary shareholders in particular will probably be gratified with results which enable the directors to declare an ordinary dividend of 5½ per cent., as against 4½ per cent. a year ago. The

following table shows how the undertaking has fared over a period of years:—

	1914-15.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Trading profit	£ 120,717	£ 355,434	£ 346,918	£ 251,125	£ 239,327	£ 253,774	£ 273,748
Debt interest, &c.	71,201	100,058	102,365	101,160	104,355	91,783	101,938
Red. of Certs. of Rights Depreciation & repairs ..	45,917	104,964	114,916	92,140	77,780	71,850	73,468
Net profit	3,599	150,414	129,637	57,825	57,792	90,141	95,442
Brought forward	13,048	19,324	19,324	19,324	19,324	20,714	19,325
Reserve	16,647	169,738	148,961	77,149	77,116	110,855	114,767
Preference dividend ..	..	72,061	51,871	..	..	..	20,000
Ordinary dividend	..	58,413	54,413	47,107	47,107	53,913	56,564
		(5½ %)	(5½ %)	(3 %)	(3 %)	(4½ %)	(5½ %)
Carried forward	16,647	21,116	19,661	20,013	19,979	19,954	19,325

The drop in the amount of debenture interest paid in 1922-3 is due to a change in the form of accounts, which brings in interest on the 4½ per cent. mortgage debentures as a charge before calculating the balance available for distribution. In consequence the amount charged a year ago was for nine months only. In the accounts before us interest for the full 12 months has been charged. Depreciation and repairs need slightly more this year; in other directions there is little room for comment. It may be recalled that in 1913, under a scheme of arrangement, the authorised and paid-up capital of this company was reduced from £1,870,000, consisting of £770,000 ordinary and £1,100,000 preference stock, to £744,250, made up of £19,250 ordinary and £55,000 preference stock; in other words, the two classes of capital were reduced by 97½ and 95 per cent. respectively. Preference stocks were then consolidated into £74,250 ordinary stock, and the capital was increased to £1,200,000 by the creation of 651,500 ordinary and 1,600,000 participating preference shares of 10s each. In January, 1922, the ordinary stock was converted into £1 shares. Another scheme of arrangement was entered into with the 4½ per cent. debenture holders, which was sanctioned in 1915. The balance-sheet will be found analysed on another page. On the whole, it is an informative statement. It would be stronger if the item of £700,000 for goodwill could be reduced.

Oversea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUE—OCTOBER RAILROAD EARNINGS—COMMODITY PRICES HIGHER—RECORD BANK CLEARINGS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 8.

Thus far, the Government's new financing programme has met with marked success. There has been a big oversubscription to the offering of about \$200,000,000 30-year 4 per cent. bonds, total applications approximating half a billion dollars, and, according to Washington advices, very satisfactory progress has been made with the first part of the Treasury's fiscal operation, which will involve the refunding or retirement, by December 1, 1929, of more than \$8,000,000,000 Government obligations. The new bonds are to be dated December 15, 1924, and will mature on December 15, 1954, although they are redeemable after 20 years, at the option of the Treasury Department, on four months' notice. While the current offering is for approximately \$200,000,000, the Secretary of the Treasury has reserved the right to allot additional bonds to the extent that Third Liberty Loan 4½ per cent. bonds, maturing September 15, 1928, and Treasury notes of Series A-1925, also Treasury certificates of indebtedness of Series TM-1925, both maturing March 15, 1925, are tendered in payment. Treasury certificates of indebtedness falling due on December 15th will likewise be accepted in payment for the new bonds, but will be considered a part of the cash offering. The latter is restricted to the necessary cash requirements to carry the Treasury until the March (1925) financing period. On December 1st of this year there were outstanding \$2,978,776,250 of the Third Liberty Loan 4½ per cent. bonds, which mature in September, 1928; present indications are that the hopes of Treasury officials that a large amount of these will be converted into the new 20-30-year Government bonds will be realised.

While the new Treasury offering was the outstanding feature of the past week, financing by foreign governments and domestic interests reached unusually heavy dimensions. Excluding the Government's offering, new bond issues offered to the public totalled nearly \$96,000,000. If this pace is maintained throughout the month, as now seems likely, approximately \$500,000,000 of new bonds will have been offered in December. Recently there has been a material falling off in the volume of State and municipal issues, but this has been more than offset by foreign financing, which last week included an issue of \$30,000,000 Argentine Government 34-year external sinking fund 6 per cent. gold bonds of 1924, Series B, offered here at 95, and interest to yield over 6.35 per cent. to maturity, and \$10,000,000 French National Mail Steamship Lines 25-year 7s, guaranteed by the French Government. Under the terms of the agreement covering the recent \$30,000,000 Argentine flotation, the New York banking syndicate, which underwrote that issue, has the option of taking \$10,000,000 more on the same conditions; the syndicate also agrees to purchase \$20,000,000 Argentine Treasury notes to refund a like amount of notes maturing February 25th of next year. Many other pieces of foreign financing are being negotiated here. Among the largest loans, and one that is considered imminent, is an issue of Belgian Government bonds, which may amount to as much as \$100,000,000.

During October, Class I. railroads in the United States established a new high record for any month since the war in net operating income. The latter totalled \$127,105,100, or \$23,329,400 more than in October a year ago, and \$10,000,000 greater than the record earnings for September of this year. Not since August, 1918, have these carriers reported a total even approaching that for October. Net operating income for October of this year was equivalent to an annual return at the rate of 5.91 per cent. on the tentative property valuation as of January 1, 1923. The amount allowed under the Transportation Act is 5.75 per cent., but railway officials contend that the tentative valuation fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission is much below the actual value of their property. For the first ten months of this year the railroads have cut their expenditures for maintenance by nearly \$193,000,000, or about 10 per cent.; this big saving is due to the excellent condition of equipment and road bed, as a result of extensive outlays for such purposes in previous years. For the first ten months of the present year, combined net operating income amounted to \$805,075,000, as compared with \$826,616,250 in the same period of last year.

Commodity prices generally continued to soar during November. Bradstreet's index number as at December 1st was \$13,5289, representing a gain of 1.3 per cent. for November and of 10.6 per cent. from the low point of this year on July 1st. Last month's rise in general price levels was the fifth successive advance since July 1st. Only three of 13 groups declined, namely, textiles, building materials, and naval stores, and the declines in these were slight. On the other hand, nine groups advanced, including breadstuffs, live stock, provisions, hides and leather, metals, coal and coke, oils and miscellaneous products. Compared with the August 1, 1914, index, the December 1st number is 55.4 per cent. higher.

Total bank clearings at 122 cities in this country last month reached the second largest monthly total of this year, and the highest figure ever recorded for November. Although there were only 23 business days last month, clearings aggregated \$39,089,888,000, which was 1.3 per cent. below the year's high record for October, but 15 per cent. above the total for November of last year. Ordinarily, November is a light month so far as bank clearings are concerned. The main reasons for the big showing in the eleventh month of this year are found in the tremendous activity in stock market speculation and in the enormous bond sales, together with marked expansion of business in a number of lines, notably the steel trade and industry. For the eleven months of this year, bank clearings at 122 cities totalled \$400,987,026,000, an increase of 9.2 per cent. over the like period of 1923. The gain at New York City was 15.2 per cent., and outside of New York, 2.4 per cent.

FRANCE.—NEW LOAN RESULTS—FURTHER BORROWING—BANK RATE—RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE—REVENUE—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, December 17.

THE new issue of 5 per cent. ten-year Treasury Bonds has proved unexpectedly successful, and the Government is now amply provided with resources to meet the end-of-the-year payments. It was announced on Monday by the Finance Minister, M. Clementel, that it is now definitely known that subscriptions to a total of 4,936 millions have been received. When the lists were closed a week ago the hope was entertained in official circles that the 4,000 millions, which it was the object of the loan to raise, had been subscribed, but there were fears that this total might not have been reached. The final details will not be known, however, until the earlier part of next week, and as several large subscriptions are known to have been received at the last moment, it is probable that the total will exceed five milliards. The whole of the yield from the new loan will be entirely fresh money, as subscriptions had to be made in cash. It is stated that an exceptionally large proportion of the bonds were taken up by small investors, who were no doubt attracted by the fact that the issue must be redeemed within ten years with a bonus of 50 per cent. of the amount invested. Colour is given to this statement by the fact that, according to the latest available return of the French savings banks, covering the period from December 1st to 10th, withdrawals amounted to no less than 18,689,351f, as compared with deposits of 5,789,591f. The same return indicates that since January 1st the total surplus of deposits at these popular banks has amounted to only 510,827f. The fact is explained on the ground that small savers, who formerly used the savings banks, are now more and more being tempted by the higher rates of interest paid on National Defence Bonds and similar issues.

Encouraged by the success of his first venture, M. Clementel has announced that, now the Budget has been balanced, he proposes in the near future to arrange for the issue of a huge new loan, with the triple object of unifying, consolidating, or renewing the existing debt. The Minister repeats that not a centime of the new loan will be applied to meet ordinary Budget purposes, as the Government is firmly resolved to undertake no fresh expenditure unless the cost thereof is met from current taxation. M. Clementel's argument appears to be based on the fact that it was found possible to arrange for the recent Morgan loan to be issued at 94, against the bare signature of the French Government, whereas Germany has been able to secure a loan, even at the lower price of 92, only by consenting to a long list of guarantee conditions. He recognises, nevertheless, that it will not be possible to repeat this success unless a determined effort is made still further to improve the situation by a carefully planned consolidation loan. To this end he proposes to create an entirely new organisation, to be known as a Caisse d'Amortissement, which will have the power (which the Government does not at present possess) to buy in, on the Bourse, for redemption purposes. The new body will be under the control of a board of directors consisting of high public officials, financial experts, and representatives of the various great economic, industrial, and other organisations of the country. With a view to ensuring the complete success of the forthcoming consolidation loan, M. Clementel proposes, as an inducement to holders to exchange their existing scrip against the new issue, to offer them the descriptions of securities that will meet their several tastes. He is now working out a scheme to issue simultaneously several different categories of securities, including bonds yielding the normal market rate of interest, others yielding lower rates of interest, but offering substantial lottery prizes, and yet others which, while paying a low rate of interest, will carry valuable rights in the way of exemption from taxation, &c. In this way he expects to please all tastes. In the Finance Minister's opinion, France has now passed the culminating point of her financial difficulties, and from January 1st next her situation can only improve. The question of inter-Allied debts, as might be expected, continues to be regarded here as distinctly a thing apart.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15 Gracechurch St., London, E.C.3
Capital Authorised £3,000,000
Paid-Up Capital 1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 1,407,811

Branches and Agencies:

INDIA, BURMAH, SIAM, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

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

Fixed Deposit Rates will be quoted upon application.
On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances, provided interest for the half-year amounts to £1.
JAMES STEWART, Chief Manager.

The action of the Bank of France in raising its discount rate from 6 to 7 per cent. has led to the question being raised as to whether this will have any repercussion on the rate of interest that will be allowed in future on Treasury and National Defence Bonds. The Minister states categorically that he does not propose to modify the present rates, in view of the fact that these securities are exempt from all taxation, and of the satisfactory manner in which they continue to be absorbed by the public.

Now that the loan has been issued, M. Clementel's predecessor, M. de Lasteyrie, has lost no time in combating the allegation of the present Ministry to the effect that the recent issue became imperative owing to the Poincaré Government's having left unprovided for a deficit of 4,000 millions on the current financial year. This alleged deficit, M. de Lasteyrie shows, was merely a paper one, and included notably an item of over 2½ milliards of credits authorised before 1919, representing expenditure which was long ago paid off, and which involves no real burden on the present financial year.

Architects and contractors interested in the reconstitution of the devastated regions are bringing pressure to bear on the Government to set forth the manner in which the financing of the work yet to be done is to be accomplished during the coming year. For the time being, construction is practically at a standstill for want of ready money. Out of a total estimated expenditure of 90 milliards, 20 milliard francs have yet to be furnished. The progress that has been accomplished may be gauged from the fact that the reconstructed area is now yielding about 5,000 million francs in taxation per annum, as compared with only 964 millions in 1919. Meanwhile money is so scarce that the Government is being urged to allocate to reconstruction work all cash above 4,000 million francs that may have been produced by the recent loan. The Minister responsible has promised that 6,000 million francs shall be devoted to reconstruction work in 1925, but his proposals as to the manner and form in which this money shall be provided are regarded as entirely unsatisfactory. Only 2,500 millions of the amount, it is proposed, will be in cash, but this sum will first have to be voted by Parliament and then to be raised by a further Crédit National loan, the success of which is regarded as doubtful, in view of the present low quotations of these bonds. In any case none of the money would be available before April, and even then small claimants and school reconstruction would absorb most of it under their priority rights. The balance of the total would be payable in 30-year obligations (which experience this year has shown to be almost worthless, from the practical point of view), and ten-year obligations. The latter have a nominal value of 96 per cent., but are quoted in the market at 75 per cent. only, hence contractors find it politic to cease operations entirely rather than accept these bonds in payment.

The return of taxation for November shows that the total revenue during the month (exclusive of that from the Postal and Telegraph Department, which is now dealt with under a separate return) amounted to 2,472,994,900f, as compared with 3,047 millions in October (which is the highest figure ever reached), 2,015½ millions in September, 1,788½ millions in August, and 2,529½ millions in July. Of this total, 2,376,544,400f was from "ordinary and permanent" sources, the "exceptional" revenue, which amounted to 153,573,500f, being drawn from

various sources, and including 57,123,000 from the now expired special tax on war profits. The revenue for the month shows an increase of 512,415,900 as compared with the corresponding month of 1923. For the first eleven months of the year the total revenue from normal sources has amounted to 23,112,660,700, or 4,893,692,400 more than during the corresponding period of 1923. The revenue from indirect taxation and monopolies during November worked out at over 144 millions in excess of Budget estimates, the total excess of this kind for the eleven months now being 2,258,995,700. While the luxury tax yielded only 1,676,000, or about 60 per cent. of what was expected from it during the month, the tax on turnover produced 369,193,000, or 58,131,000 more than had been anticipated. Registrations were 50½ millions in excess of estimates, and stamp duties nearly 12½ millions above them. Income-tax yielded 718,747,800 millions, or over 254 millions more than in November last year, largely through stricter methods of collection.

The foreign trade returns continue satisfactory, exports during November having had a total value of 3,432,683,000, while imports were valued at 3,414,967,000, these figures indicating a falling off of 100 million francs in exports on the month and an increase in imports of about 17 millions. The month's exchanges, however, still leave a balance of 17,716,000 in favour of this country (as compared with one of about 134 millions in October). The figures for the first eleven months of 1924 show an increase of 37½ per cent. in the value of the exports and of 25 per cent. in that of the imports as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. The total balance in favour of this country since January 1st last now amounts to 1,398,000,000, as compared with an adverse balance of 1,063,000,000 on the first eleven months of 1923. The exports of manufactured goods during the eleven months have been over 7,984 million francs more than during the same period of last year, while the imports of the same category of merchandise has increased only by 652 millions. The imports of raw materials, on the other hand, are returned as having increased by over 5,124 millions. In weight, the total imports have decreased during the past eleven months' period by 300,365 tons, while exports have increased by 266,237 tons.

GERMANY.—CABINET—REPARATIONS BONDS—COMPANY FINANCES—BUDGET—CURRENCY AND PRICES—INDUSTRY—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 16.

THE Cabinet crisis is likely to be solved before very long, but an entirely satisfactory solution is excluded by the composition of the new Reichstag; for while the General Election undoubtedly registered public approval of the policy so far pursued by the Marx Cabinet, it produced no sufficient change in party relations of strength to make any party combination inevitable. The much-talked-of "bourgeois Cabinet," which means bringing in the German-Nationals, but keeping the Social-Democrats out, is plainly impracticable. As was the case during the crisis over the Dawes bills last summer, the Nationals, now that the possibility of office stares them in the face, are by no means enthusiastic. They realise that a reversal of Dr Marx's foreign policy is out of the question, but in view of their past utterances they cannot admit this. Meantime, important questions await solution: the commercial treaties, the tariff, taxation reform, and the never-resting question of restoration of debts.

The first stage of distribution of the Reparations Industrial Bonds has been reached. The Finance Ministry announces that the proportion of company capital taken by the bonds is 17.1 per cent. This figure has been reached on the basis of the property tax assessment of December 31, 1923, and it shows the total taxable net assets of the companies concerned to be 29,240 million marks. This distribution concerns the industrial bonds only in their relation to the Allies. The domestic distribution will be different. The Dawes Committee,

taking into account that the bonds scheme as defined in its report would unequally burden various interests, suggested internal redistribution, as a matter for Germans themselves, and the suggestion has been taken up. Contrary to the original plan, the companies will not issue individual bonds to be handed to the trustee, but bonds in favour of the Bank for Industrial Bonds, which will in turn create a uniform type of industrial bond for the trustee. Only some of the greatest concerns, whose combined bonds burden is 1,500 million marks, will issue individual bonds, and of these only 500 million marks will be realisable in the open market. The effective burden will not be in the nature of private bonds or mortgages for a total capital sum of 5,000 million marks, but rather of periodically varying liabilities for interest and amortisation, the amount of which for each individual concern will change according to (1) the varying value of all chargeable industrial property, and (2) the varying value of the chargeable property of the individual concern as shown by recurring property-tax assessments. The 5,000 million mark bonds really represent only the Allies' security. They are imposed on all concerns in industry, shipping, and private railways, in so far as these concerns are assessed for property tax at 50,000 marks or more. Each will be liable (after the moratorium and semi-moratorium years) for 6 per cent. on 17.1 per cent. of its taxable property. The ultimate dimensions of the burden on an individual concern, however, will be known only when the internal redistribution plan above referred to is carried through under the Contributions Law (Aufbringungsgesetz), which requires proportionate contributions towards interest and amortisation from concerns outside industry proper, i.e., commercial, banking, and insurance concerns, &c. (but not from agriculture), which reduces the exemption limit for all classes of concerns to 20,000 marks.

The industrial gold-mark balance-sheets now being issued indicate that, given normal business conditions, the industrial bonds burden can be fairly easily borne. Analyses of the first 300 or 400 of the balance-sheets show that the average financial strength is considerably greater than it was in 1913. In general, the companies increased their assets, in particular their land, buildings, and plant, while their liabilities did not proportionately increase and often declined. Hence the average capitalisation as refixed to-day is considerably higher than before the war. Some classes of industries, in particular those connected with munitions, profited more than others. The biggest gainers seem to be chemical concerns, next engineering, while certain non-war industries, such as paper and wood, have come off badly. The munitions industries were obliged to expand their plant, and often they were helped in this with State credits, which they repaid very cheaply; and during the mark-depreciation years all classes of companies got rid easily of their pre-war long-term debts. The following table of assets, compiled from the pre-war and the new balance-sheets of the seven companies in the "Aniline Concern," shows how far expansion could go under the influence of war and inflation:—

	Dec. 31, 1913.	Jan. 1, 1924.
Land, buildings, plant	180,700,000	317,340,000
Wares in stock	102,970,000	214,680,000
Interests in other concerns	33,130,000	200,050,000
Cash, claims for debts, &c.	149,330,000	197,400,000

The total value of assets is 940,370,000 marks, against 480,510,000 marks in 1913. On the liabilities side, short-term debts increased from 58,040,000 marks to 136,710,000 marks, but as bonds and mortgages dwindled from 70,480,000 marks to 9,230,000 marks, the surplus of assets is very much greater than in 1913; so that, after refixing reserves at 145 millions, against 166 millions in 1913, the new capital could be fixed at 645,000,000 marks, against 144,000,000 marks. In the ten intervening years the Aniline concern issued stock worth at exchange of the subscription date about 300,000,000 gold marks. The real gain from war conditions and currency depreciation seems to have been about 200,000,000 marks. On such concerns the Reparations bonds would appear to lie lightly; but the doubtful question of the companies' net

earning powers under the changed conditions of to-day has yet to be cleared up.

The total debt of the Republic on October 31st was 3,266,500,000 marks, of which 415,600,000 marks were Dollar and Rentenmark Treasury Bills, 1,435,500,000 marks bank debts, including 1,200 million marks to the Rentenbank, 926,400,000 marks to the Foreign loan, and 489 millions guarantees, &c. To the Reichsrat has been submitted the estimates for the financial year 1925, with the official warning that they have little meaning. The estimates of revenue for 1924 are summarily repeated for 1925, on the bad ground that taxation is about to be changed. In 1925 the direct tax yield is expected to fall below that of 1924, in which it has so far considerably exceeded the estimates. Another ground for uncertainty is that the agreement with the States and municipalities regarding subventions terminates at the end of the current (1924) financial year. This uncertainty has not prevented the Finance Ministry's entering the subvention for 1925 at 1,357,600,000 marks. In general, the 1925 estimates seem to be pure guesswork, which, if the Government keeps to its plan to revise taxation before the spring (among other changes, the Sales Tax, now 1½ per cent., is to be further reduced to 1 per cent.), will require complete recasting. The chief figures are: General Administration Budget, ordinary: revenue, 5,500 million marks, whereof 4,100 millions from direct, 1,000 millions from indirect taxes; recurring expenditure, 5,100 millions, non-recurring 184,400,000 marks. From the surplus a sum of 161,700,000 marks balance is allotted for the War Burdens Budget. General Administration Budget, extraordinary: revenue, 155,900,000 marks; expenditure, 433,400,000 marks, which includes 141,200,000 marks towards the War Burdens Budget. The amount to be raised by loan is 277,500,000 marks. The War Burdens Budget totals 162,200,000 marks ordinary expenditure and 1,238,000,000 marks extraordinary expenditure.

The credit situation has much improved. Interest rates are still moving downward. In a public speech the Reichsbank President, Dr Schacht, states that under the new banking law the Reichsbank is sovereign over the currency, that the reichmark's gold parity will be maintained, and that business must adapt itself to this fact. The foreign credits which are abundantly coming in, added Dr Schacht, are mostly short-term, and the Reichsbank must be prepared for their withdrawal should foreign interest rates rise. This consideration is behind the bank's policy of accumulating exchange. The bank's holding of gold and exchange (the exchange being shown in the returns only in so far as it is booked as legal cover) totals over 2 milliard marks. Private capital, said Dr Schacht, is reaccumulating. Banking and savings bank deposits have doubled since the beginning of the year, and now total an estimated 6½ milliard marks. The Reichsbank has already considered the reduction of its discount rate. Credit is still being rationed by the bank, but the ration of April, 1924, has been increased 15 per cent. Dr Schacht appealed to the commercial banks to work for the restoration of a private discount market. The Government has authorised the lending of Rentenbank moneys to agricultural credit institutions, without waiting for the proposed conversion of the bank. A Government decree requires the substitution of "Reichsmarks" (i.e., new Reichmarks) for "Gold-Marks" and "Rentenmarks" in taxation and other accounts, including the new company balance-sheets.

The official wholesale prices index number for December 10th is 129.8, against 128.5 one week earlier. The *Wirtschaftskurve*, published by the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, gives the following index figures (on the basis of 100 in 1914) for manufactured articles:—

Motors	150.00	Metal-thread lamps	93.67
Motor-cars	198.84	Bottles	170.00
Diving belts	105.56	Plates	88.46
Bicycles	137.70	Boilers	120.18
Typewriters	140.95	Woollen stockings	270.00
Writing tables	100.00	Boots	136.36

Unemployed on November 30th numbered 436,000, against 427,000 on November 15th. This is probably the usual seasonal increase. The improvement in the iron and steel industry continues, and prices have risen considerably.

The syndicate for semi-finished materials has been formed, the Gutehoffnung concern alone staying outside. The reports published here concerning the proposed International Steel Cartel are contradictory. At a time when part of the foreign Press reported that Franco-German negotiations with this aim had been suspended owing to the conviction that all European countries, including Great Britain, must be roped in, some organs of the Rhenish-Westphalian Heavy Industry were proclaiming that no negotiations at all for a syndicate had taken place, but only negotiations directly connected with the pending Franco-German Commercial Treaty; and some of these German organs still declare that an international steel syndicate is undesirable, and even, in view of the absence elsewhere of national organisations resembling the new German Steel Syndicate, impossible.

Although the final report for 1924 has not yet been published, it appears that the belief that the harvest was very bad is mistaken. The Statistical Bureau's data, which, however, are not yet complete, indicate that the yield of wheat was only about 5 per cent. below the advance estimates made in August, of rye 4.2 per cent. below. This would mean 16 per cent. less wheat and 14 per cent. less rye than in 1923, but 1923 was a very good year. The potato crop exceeded by 1,500,000 tons, or 4.7 per cent., that of 1923.

Stocks, after a brief set-back at the beginning of the Cabinet crisis, have been active, and quotations have held well. Interest is concentrated on mining and metallurgical stocks, owing in part to a favourable balance-sheet of the Kloeckner concern. In general, the metal and mining companies seem to have come well out of the currency revolution.

INDIA.—TEA PRICES—STEEL BOUNTY—COTTON MILL PRODUCTION—CURRENCY COMMISSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, November 27.

THE visit of an America tea expert has directed renewed attention to the large sums being spent on promoting tea consumption, coincident with a deliberate restriction of production, which has raised tea quotations to the high levels now operative, while simultaneously encouraging a remarkably active and persistent demand for tea shares. While consumption continues to expand, the statistics so far available show that Indian production this year is not likely to exceed last year's outturn, and until conclusive evidence is forthcoming that consumption is undergoing permanent extension, the cautious policy followed by producers since the heavy slump experienced in 1920-21 is likely to continue. It is recognised that present prices are exceptionally profitable, and may tend to curtail demand; but tea companies have considerable arrears to make up in the way of profits, and are well content to accept the good fortune Providence (assisted by a judicious manipulation of the markets) has sent them. While high dividends are being distributed—to reward old investors and attract new ones—a portion of current profits is also being utilised for garden improvement in preparation for larger outturns as soon as market conditions appear to render relaxation of present restrictions expedient. Russia, for the first time since the war, is making direct purchases in the Calcutta market, but the large sums spent on tea propaganda in the United States, despite Sir Charles Higham's gallant effort, have so far

THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

A HISTORY

of the Financial and Economic
Evolution of MODERN GREECE

by

M. S. EULAMBIO.

Managing Director of the National Bank of Greece.

Price 15s. 0d.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., EAST HARDING ST., LONDON, E.C.4.

not yielded much fruit. More Indian and Ceylon tea is being consumed in America, but at the expense of China and Japan tea, which is, therefore, forced to find other markets—the net gain to the tea industry being, therefore, exactly nil. It is beginning to be realised here that newspaper advertising, unsupported by other forms of propaganda, is bound to leave tea consumption in America more or less at its present figure. Meanwhile, in view of present prices, British consumers can afford to regard American restraint with considerable satisfaction, inasmuch as at the present moment a large increase in the American demand would send London quotations skywards.

The Government of India, rather than raise the tariff on steel beyond the standard fixed in May last, has decided to concede the Tata Company a bounty, based on output, not exceeding 50 lakhs of rupees per annum, utilising in this fashion a percentage of the larger revenue derived from the higher steel tariff already operative. There is no reason to anticipate that the Legislative Assembly, at its January meeting, will fail to endorse this proposal. That the rise in exchange since the Steel Protection Act was adopted has entirely nullified its intentions was demonstrated to the Tariff Board by facts and figures which placed the contention beyond challenge. On the other hand, to vary the tariff with every fluctuation of one or two pence in the sterling value of the rupee would have made the steel import trade a hopeless gamble while simultaneously inflicting an unfair burden on consumers. Accordingly, the *via media* now put forward has met with general approval. A bounty, if easy to concede, is also more easy than a tariff to withdraw. It benefits one concern only, and need not continue beyond the duration of the exchange fluctuations that constitute its *raison d'être*. The new concession will not avert the necessity of a capital reconstruction of the Tata Steel Company, the over-capitalisation of which the Tariff Board estimated at approximately four crores of rupees, the sum now being freely mentioned as the amount shortly destined to be "written off." The bounty possesses another significance. It places beyond all doubt the determination of the Government of India to secure the conservation and extension of the Indian steel industry until such time as it can dispense with State aid, and satisfy the main requirements of the Indian market. The deliberate endeavour of the Continental steel producers to drive the Indian industry out of the market cannot, therefore, in any circumstances, succeed.

The Lancashire industry has "stolen a march" on the Indian cotton mills in provoking a share boom, but there are unmistakable signs that the Bombay mills will soon be again earning substantial profits. In August yarn output was 9 per cent., and the output of woven goods 22.5 per cent., better than in August last year. The following statement shows, in thousands of yards, the production of piecegoods woven in Indian mills, compared with the imports of such goods from foreign countries:—

FIVE MONTHS (April to August).

	1924.		1923.	
	Production.	Imports.	Production.	Imports.
Grey and bleached ..	563,000	566,796	458,924	454,016
Coloured.....	233,295	153,612	199,942	140,500

In the same five months the value of goods woven in Indian mills was Rs. 23,92 lakhs, and of imported goods Rs. 29,27 lakhs.

It is now believed, in well-informed quarters, that at the end of the present busy season, with its testing experience, another Royal Commission will be appointed to investigate Indian currency and exchange problems, and review, in the light of later experience, the validity of the conclusions arrived at by the Babington-Smith Committee, which reported in 1919. Indian interests will naturally press for strong representation on such a body, but the advisability of appointing an independent chairman, unassociated with any of the many previous inquiries, is generally recognised. The necessity of a fresh survey not being challenged, the only remaining doubt concerns the selection of the period most appropriate for initiating an inquiry. Abnormal and confusing as international conditions still remain, it is hoped the situation will have become sufficiently stable to permit of a reasonably accurate visualisation and interpretation of the main factors in the

case next year. It would be optimistic to hope that its conclusions, whatever they may be, will command general assent, but any programme put forward on its own responsibility and initiative by the Government of India would, outside official circles, probably command no support at all.

Sir Basil Blackett is consequently wise to delegate his responsibility. It is said of the last Commission, which went so wildly astray in its conclusions, that its *personnel* was predominantly non-Indian, and that the minority report, which made a more correct forecast, was the sole production of an Indian expert (Sir Dadiba Dalal, until recently India's High Commissioner in London). It will probably be found expedient on this occasion to place the Indian *personnel* on the Commission in a majority, thereby carrying the delegation of responsibility a stage further, and disposing in advance of the persistent insinuation that India's currency and exchange policy is shaped primarily to promote British interests.

SPAIN. — NATIONAL WEALTH—NEW ISSUES — RAILWAY REORGANISATION—BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, December 11.

A FRESH contribution to the few existing estimates of the national wealth has been recently published by the Banco Urquijo, which arrives at the following figures:—

	Capital Value in million pesetas.
Agriculture.....	76,675
Live stock	10,119
Mines	7,093
Buildings	35,700
Industrial production	48,247
Railways.....	7,000
Mercantile marine	300
Capital of limited companies.....	9,500
National Debt	12,623
Gold and silver	3,214
Banks' current accounts.....	6,179
Stocks of merchandise.....	1,500
Total wealth	218,150

According to reliable critics, the compilation has been very carefully conducted, but the figures arrived at should not be taken as final owing to the lack of reliable statistics, specially in respect of industry and commerce. At a Congress of the Spanish Chambers of Commerce, held in 1923, the total figure of the national wealth in the year 1895 was given at 58,548 million pesetas, and taking both estimates with the necessary reserves, they would show that the wealth of the country is now 3.72 times greater than 29 years ago. For the sake of comparison we state below the wealth of some European countries in 1919 (according to the *Annuaire General de la France et de l'Etranger*), and of the United States (from a recent estimate by the Department of Commerce) all converted in pesetas:—

	Total Wealth. Mil. Pesetas.	Population.	Individual Relative Wealth. Pesetas.
United States.....	1,661,765	109,000,000	15,225
Great Britain.....	330,000	45,300,000	9,492
Germany.....	400,000	90,000,000	6,666
France.....	320,000	41,000,000	7,804
Italy.....	90,000	36,500,000	2,465

Although the wealth of these countries is now greater than five years ago, the comparison should incline us to the conclusion that Urquijo's figures, which give a mean figure of 9,900 pesetas per capita for Spain, are too optimistic, and should be discounted.

The necessity for renewing a line of bonds falling due on November 4th was seized on as the occasion to ask for 300 millions fresh money. This issue was subscribed nearly nine times over. It took the form of four-year 5 per cent. bonds, redeemable at a premium of 1 per cent. After this issue the total short-term debt outstanding amounts to 4,325 millions pesetas. In view of the difficulties in Morocco, and the frequent assaults on the stability of the present régime, the result of this call on the market is a striking display of confidence in the future of the country. Many private issues of capital have also met with full success. Among others, the new *Compañia Telefonica Nacional de*

España issued 23,700,000 pesetas in 7 per cent. cumulative preferred shares, and the Andaluces Railway Company have placed 16,000,000 6 per cent. debentures.

In accordance with the terms of the Royal Decree of July 12th, the companies had to decide within three months whether they would come into the new system or abide by their old concessions. The second alternative meant the suppression of the 15 per cent. increase of rates authorised by the Government a few years ago, and the State grant to pay for the last rise in the salaries of the men. The two items mean for the North of Spain Company a reduction of income amounting to 65 millions, and to the Madrid Zaragoza and Alicante Company, a decrease in receipts of 58 millions pesetas, and the 1925 balance-sheet of those companies would have closed with a net loss of 30 and 36 millions pesetas respectively. There was, therefore, no real alternative for the big companies but to fall into line with the new organisation.

The official result of the Budget for the fiscal year ended on March 31st last establishes the deficit at 576,315,000 pesetas. The yield of taxes continues to increase. For the first quarter of the present fiscal year the receipts were 862 millions, against 830 for the same period of 1923.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. — BUDGET DEBATE — STATE FINANCE — HOUSING — EXCHANGE — AUSTRIAN TREATY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PRAGUE, December 4.

THE debate upon the Budget was not marked by any material criticism from the Opposition, and, in the absence of the Germans, the Magyars, and the People's Party, it was carried without any real resistance. During the course of the debate, and in the Press, much attention has been drawn to criticism, in certain English journals, of the conduct of State finance in Central Europe, and especially to the suggestion of international financial control in this new republic. Strong objections are made to these criticisms on all sides. Czech State finances, it is asserted, never stood in such a good position, and foreign capital is assured, *e.g.*:—The yield of the State Tobacco Monopoly (which is one of the guarantees for the State loan raised in England in 1922) is 1,048 million crowns, as against an estimate of 1,000 millions, and for next year the estimated yield is over 1,700 million crowns, which will cover both capital and interest of the loan. As to the charge that artificial tariff barriers have been created by the political settlement in Central Europe, it is pointed out that Austria, Hungary, and Germany have all raised their Customs tariffs, whereas Czecho-Slovakia, by its series of commercial treaties, has considerably reduced her tariffs.

Some financial papers, however, take advantage of this foreign criticism to emphasise the need for a better understanding of the real condition of the State finances, now that the evils of the deflation policy have been realised in bitter experience. Industrial capital has paid dearly for the somewhat precipitate deflation policy pursued for the last three years. It owes to the banks debts to the value of 30 milliard Czech crowns (i.e., at present rate of exchange, 5 milliards in gold). Bank capital has, of course, gained tremendously. The largest single bank, Zivnostenska Banka, has a reserve of five milliard Czech crowns. Increases in interest on deposit accounts amount to .5 per cent., whereas the increase of debt amounts to 1.5-2 per cent.

The crisis in the building trade is also attributable to the same cause. Most of the new buildings were started in 1920 or 1921, when the exchange was at its lowest, and credit available. Deflation led to heavy losses by the building corporations—losses which must ultimately be met by the taxpayer, *e.g.*:—A corporation for erecting dwelling-houses started with a capital of 10 million Czech crowns, two millions of its own and eight millions borrowed. In 1921, when the exchange was 5 cents to the crown, the houses were worth 500,000 gold crowns, and debt to bank 400,000 gold crowns;

to-day the houses are worth 500,000 gold crowns, and debt to bank 1,300,000 gold crowns.

The national desire to maintain an *unnaturally* high exchange has led to this position, in which the banks can go far towards eliminating all trade not dependent upon themselves, and to dictating prices, even though the State must suffer because the merchant cannot pay taxes.

Great hopes are entertained as to the benefits to be derived from the Austro-Czech Commercial Treaty, just signed at Vienna. The former agreements between these two countries—the compensation treaty of March 12, 1919, the tentative commercial agreement of May 5, 1921, &c.—were really only introductions to the treaty now concluded. The importance of these two countries, the one to the other, may be realised from the fact that Czecho-Slovakia's exports to Austria amount to 23.2 per cent. of her total exports, to the value of 228.9 million gold crowns; while Austria exports 10.2 per cent. of her goods, to the value of 104.8 million gold crowns, to her neighbour. Czecho-Slovakia stands first in the list of nations exporting to Austria, and third among those importing from her.

The latest commercial treaty, drawn up upon the basis of "best-favoured-nation" agreements, involves reductions in Customs tariffs upon more than 33 per cent. of the goods dealt in by the two countries. Especially important are the facilities agreed upon as regards the exchange of raw material, semi-finished and finished products.

Transport difficulties between the two countries have been removed by agreeing to mutual liberty of transport, including freedom from Customs upon the same. There is to be no delay or limitation of transport except for technical reasons, or of public security and the like. This is the first tariff agreement signed by Austria since the war, and it is hoped that it will be a basis for the settlement of Central Europe and the increase of trade and improvement of conditions among all the former Austro-Hungarian territories.

HONG KONG.—PUBLIC FINANCE—PUBLIC WORKS—TRADE CONDITIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONG KONG, October 31.

ON the day that Dr Sun Yat Sen came very near to destroying the ancient metropolis of South China the Governor of Hong Kong was presenting his estimates for the ensuing year, exhibiting a sound financial position, in striking contrast to the penury of the neighbouring capital. Budget time in Hong Kong causes little excitement, but the rapid growth of revenue and expenditure to figures more than double those for the year preceding the Great War has attracted rather more attention than usual.

For 1925 there is estimated an expenditure of \$30,463,000 (approximately £3½ millions sterling), against a revenue of \$21,812,000 (£2½ millions), leaving a deficit of 8½ million dollars. These figures compare with an actual expenditure of \$21,572,000 and revenue of \$24,783,000 for 1923, and revised estimates of \$26,120,000 expenditure and \$23,800,000 revenue for the present year. The deficit anticipated for 1925 will be set off against the steadily accumulating balance of assets over liabilities, which is expected to be about \$14 millions at the end of this year. It is, however, extremely unlikely that the deficit will amount to so high a figure as \$8½ millions, for the estimated revenue from opium (one of the principal sources of income) has been based on the assumption that means will be found for checking the demand for the drug, a pious hope which has been cherished for some years past, but seems further off from realisation than ever. Land sales, which last year yielded \$3½ millions, are also expected to bring in less, but, as in the case of opium, all depends upon the course of events in the Republic, for as the War Lords wax fat so does the flow of "squeezed" money continue to pour into this safe deposit, where it is absorbed by the property market.

The largest item of expenditure in the Budget is on account of public works extraordinary, over \$9 millions

having been allotted under this heading, as compared with \$1½ millions in 1913. Much of this will be spent on road construction in continuation of the policy of opening up the more remote districts of the island and the new territories on the mainland initiated by a former Governor, the late Sir Henry May. There are, of course, many other directions in which this money will be used, for the Government is committed to various schemes for the development of the colony and its all important harbour. As there is no municipal authority in Hong Kong, all work of this nature is within the province of the Public Works Department, which is directly under the control of the Government. Hitherto this department's undertakings have been financed from current revenue, and although this arrangement may be continued for a few more years, the Governor warned the Council that before long it will be necessary to resort to loans, the many schemes of development in contemplation being too costly to be met by the present generation of taxpayers. This warning was accompanied by a very interesting outline of policy which appears to be well suited to the situation here. Briefly, the suggested method is to finance minor development work out of revenue; to float in London a long-dated inscribed issue of Government stock for works of permanent value to the colony, such as the contemplated water works, which will be of considerable magnitude; and for development schemes which involve a heavy initial outlay, but bring in a big return on completion, principally harbour reclamations. His Excellency recommends short-term debentures or Treasury Bills. It is certainly refreshing to find the executive abandoning the old policy of saddling the present-day taxpayer with the entire cost of improvements which will be of greater benefit to future generations, but unfortunately Sir Reginald Stubbs' term of office is nearing completion. It is to be hoped that his policy will receive the approval of Whitehall, if it has not been inspired from that quarter, and be commended to future Governors.

A good deal of plotting is going on amongst the various prominent Chinese who have taken refuge in Hong Kong, and bonds issued with the guarantee of the Merchants Volunteer organisation are being hawked round the local markets and are being widely purchased. The bonds, which are issued in various denominations from \$100 downwards, bear interest at 10 per cent., and are redeemable in six months, by which time it is hoped that Canton will be in the hands of Chan Kwing Ming. Whether the funds so raised will be sufficient to tempt Chan Kwing Ming to move in the matter remains to be seen.

In the meantime, the excitement caused by the tragic events of two weeks ago has subsided, and trade is gradually being resumed, although a number of business houses in Canton are still closed. The country is undoubtedly bare of supplies, and means will be found to meet whatever demand there is, but considerable uneasiness prevails amongst dealers, and there seems to be no immediate prospect of a return of confidence without which there can be no all-round expansion in the trade of these parts.

Letters to the Editor.

BANKERS AND SHIPPING COMPANIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In six typical cases of compulsory liquidation of "boom-promoted" shipping companies, recorded during the current year, the joint stock banks have figured as creditors for some £450,000. The proportion of the amount which has been, or will be, recovered cannot be precisely estimated. In three instances realisation of total assets is known to have produced less than half the sums due to bankers—to say nothing of other creditors—but it is believed that a substantial percentage of the overdrafts of the bankrupt companies was backed by guarantors, recourse to whom may have proved, or will eventually

prove, effective. There remains, when all is said, a strong presumption that the salvage likely to accrue to the banks from these recent "shipwrecks" will not obviate the necessity of writing off considerable sums as bad debts. It may also be safely assumed that the liquidations were forced by the banks at this juncture lest such assets as were in sight should "waste" to zero. Deterioration of cargo tonnage is capable, under unfavourable conditions, of proceeding rapidly.

Under these circumstances it is of interest to note that, while the joint stock banks do not figure in Lloyd's Register as shipowners, they still none the less effectively "own" a not inconsiderable quantity of tonnage, whose trading operations they may not indeed control, but whose existence is entirely at their disposal. To illustrate the position, without claiming that my researches are exhaustive, I have amalgamated the accounts of 18 shipping companies, registered for the most part in 1919, and thus endeavoured to construct a synoptic picture of what represents in the main the "Bankers' Fleet." This combined argosy comprises 64 vessels, all of the "tramp" type, variously aged and sized. The fleet's aggregate tonnage (round figures are given for simplicity throughout) amounts to 158,000 gross tons, of which all but 36,000 tons was built prior to 1914, while 68,000 tons is over 20 years old. The average size of each unit works out at just under 2,500 tons, and the average age at 14½ years. There will accordingly be a tendency for the fleet's operations, on account of vessels' size, to be restricted to the European coal and ore trades—where rates are peculiarly depressed—while, in view of average age, costs for renewals, repairs, and general running expenses may be expected to be heavy.

The vital question, however, for the "owners" is the value of the assets. The fact that these are found to stand in the books at £4,550,000 has little more relevance than the consideration that the original shareholders—now "late," as well as absentee proprietors—were induced to subscribe £3,450,000 of capital. In parenthesis, one may hope that these unfortunate investors are not grudging by their banking successors the first (and final) dividends which optimism distributed in 1920-21. Having regard to recent sale prices, we consider £6 per gross ton a fair value to place on the "Bankers' Fleet." As there are no other net assets disclosed by the amalgamated balance-sheet—the "combine's" creditors, excluding bank loans, claiming £125,000 more than the aggregate of the assets, less the fleet—it is difficult to put the total value of this shipping property at more than £1,000,000. Against this security, bank loans amount to no less than £1,127,000. How far these loans are guaranteed by third parties is unknown. It is certain that if the banks foreclosed, and this quantity of not very attractive tonnage were thrown rapidly on the market, there would be a deficiency as between the banks and other creditors of much over half a million sterling. On the other hand, this "fleet in pawn" gets older, less able to compete with new economical tonnage, every month. Its net earning capacity is represented by a minus quantity, the combined results of its component units' last year's trading, after paying interest on banks' loans, but before providing anything for depreciation, showing a loss of £78,000. The joint stock banks would appear to be in the position of having bought for £7 a ton an elderly fleet which is not succeeding in earning interest on, much less providing for amortisation of, the capital sum invested by the banks on the security of an already inadequate and yearly wasting asset.

There is talk of an early shipping "boom," and M. Meyer, Under-Secretary of State for the Mercantile Marine of France, is reported to be considering the constitution of a State-aided "crédit maritime" to provide approved advances to shipping companies. If such advances are not to be limited to French "nationals," the English banks would doubtless be agreeable to assign to this "crédit" at—to borrow the phrase of our estate agents—"a very reasonable consideration" some million and a quarter sterling's worth of advances "found surplus to the requirements of their portfolios."—Yours, &c.,
December 2nd, 1924.
SCRUTATOR.

CANADA'S PROBLEMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have just been reading the *Economist* of December 13th, and the article entitled "The Problems of Canada," by "A Recent Visitor." I am astounded to read, on page 951: "Canada has been overbuilt with railways.....But, instead of the investor losing his capital, the Government has taken on the responsibility for a large amount of unremunerative capital." Has the writer not heard of the Canadian Government's treatment of the shareholders in the Grand Trunk Railway?—Yours, &c.,

ARCHIBALD F. F. SMITH.

64 Ennismore gardens, S.W. 7, December 15th, 1924.

[Our correspondent is quite right in calling attention to the writing off of certain items in the capital of companies now included in the Canadian National railways. But these are greatly exceeded by the enormous amount of bonded indebtedness for which the Canadian taxpayer has assumed liability and is paying interest, though there is no prospect of the earnings of the systems being sufficient to meet these charges.—Ed. Econ.]

Books and Publications.

THE MERCHANT NAVY.*

THIS is the second volume of Mr Hurd's History of the Great War, and carries the story from the sinking of the "Lusitania" down to the declaration of "unrestricted submarine warfare" by the Germans on February 1, 1917.

It is very much to be welcomed that the magnificent manner in which members of the merchant service performed their arduous duties should be placed on permanent record, and this volume certainly does not suffer from lack of material. The author has, moreover, extended the normal meaning of his title to include the activities of mine-sweepers and certain other classes of mobilised merchant seamen, whose work was none the less important by reason of the lack of publicity usually assigned to it. The story is told in a manner at once able and fair, and the author, who has enjoyed access to official documents, is to be congratulated on the efficient manner in which he has performed his task. He has often chosen to leave to the gallant survivors the task of telling their tale in their own unvarnished way, and to allow the reader to draw his own conclusions as to the brutality of a mode of submarine warfare unrestricted in all but name long before the official German declaration of February, 1917. From the point of view of the general reader, however, it would probably have been preferable to have limited the number of incidents which are contained in this volume, and to have relegated those cases which do not call for particular comment to a special appendix. There is a certain sameness in many of the sinkings which are reported, and it is difficult, even for Mr Hurd, to avoid an element of monotony in this long catalogue of ruthlessness, the resistance of which, however, forms not the least glorious of the many great achievements of the British race.

Few things stand out more, perhaps, during the period covered by this volume than the story of the sinking of the steamer "Coquet" early in 1916. The unfortunate crew were left in open boats in the Mediterranean 200 miles from land, and those who survived the attacks of the elements were left to suffer death or imprisonment at the hands of the Bedouins of Tripolitana. The account of the cynical brutality of so many German commanders is, even at this space of time, a despicable one, though it is pleasant to find it broken here and there by touches of human kindness, such as that of the commander of the raider "Seeadler," who, on learning that one of his victims and his wife were on their honeymoon, provided them with a special state-room.

Particular mention should be made of the calm and

* "The Merchant Navy." By Archibald Hurd. Vol. II.; xviii + 464 pp. (London) John Murray. 21s.

judicial manner in which the author writes of the trial of Captain Fryatt, a man who "upheld a right which is vital to those who go down to the sea, and defended it with constancy, loyalty, and unflinching courage." This case of murder, with some, at least, of the appearances of legality, made even the friends of Germany ashamed; while if its purpose was to strike terror into the hearts of our merchant seamen—and there could have been no other—it was as futile as it was immoral, as shortsighted as it was illegal.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.

THIS volume* is one of a series of social science textbooks, edited by Dr R. T. Ely, of which it is the sixteenth. It is significant of the interest taken in the subject in the United States that this is the second of the series which deals with agricultural economics, while another, dealing with marketing for agriculture, may also be included in the same category.

Dr Gray has aimed at the production of a text-book, not only for the use of students, but also adapted to the needs, as he expresses it, "of the large class of general readers whose interest in the economic problems of agriculture is being awakened." He has succeeded in achieving both objects. The book is carefully planned on a closely analytical method, so that the subjects dealt with in each chapter can be easily followed and readily remembered, while at the end of each chapter is a series of questions on the text, and a list of books for suggested reading. The requirements of the student using the book mainly in preparation for examinations are thus met in the most convenient manner. But the qualities of lucid and orderly sequence which commend the book to the student render it equally attractive to the general reader.

Dr Gray, in his preface, gives a faintly apologetic reason for postponing the chapters on value and price—"the central themes of economics"—to the end of the book. His plan is first to discuss the farm as a business proposition under different systems of farming, then to deal with the different factors of production, and, through a description of the process of marketing, to lead up to a discussion, from both the theoretical and practical sides, of the factors which determine prices. This appears to be a logical and readily defensible arrangement of the subject.

It only remains to add that the book is clearly written and contains a wealth of illustrative and informative graphs and tables. These are largely based on American data, but the matter of the book is none the less suitable for English readers.

* "Introduction to Agricultural Economics." By Lewis Cecil Gray, Ph.D. (New York) The Macmillan Company. 1924. 12s net

EDUCATIONAL IDEALISM.*

IT is an encouraging sign of the extent of genuine interest in and concern for education, that a fourth, revised, and enlarged edition should now have been published of the very scholarly and significant little book which Mr Lane Fox Pitt originally issued in 1913. He is a quite unrepentant, and at the same time, a thoroughly scientific, idealist. He holds that "a strenuous commercial life, as things are to-day, is not the best school for learning the nature of good, or high moral purpose"; that the methods of strenuous competition are out of place, more, are definitely detrimental to real education; and that sound educational method, without which there is no remedy for the ills from which we suffer, is only to be achieved when our teachers have a thorough knowledge "of the composition and working of the human mind." Included in that knowledge must be all the facts revealed to us by the newer schools of psycho-physics.

The genuine understanding of these fundamental facts would lead to the remodelling and readjustment of our whole educational system. Competition, in contradistinction to emulation, as an incentive to effort (and incidentally as the great fostering cause of egoism) would be abolished. Bribes would disappear. Punishment would be mitigated. Children would be discouraged from assimilating false ideals while their minds are young and plastic. Noble ideals would be placed before them, and we should contrive and continue, by suitable examples and illustra-

* "The Purpose of Education." By St George Lane Fox Pitt New Revised Edition. Cambridge University Press. 4s.

tions, to make these appear really interesting and attractive. Ideas so instilled tend to develop spontaneity of action; in a sense, they become instinctive, and would have vastly greater weight and influence over life and conduct than mere intellectual concepts acquired late in life.

Certainly no teacher or parent could fail to derive new and stimulating ideas from the perusal of this book; the stimulus will be all the greater from the fact that Mr Fox Pitt's pages are wholly free from the sort of "slick" talk with which one is only too drearily familiar in works on education. His is a clear and rigorous mind, and he never pretends that difficult things are easy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Current Problems in Finance and Government.* By Sir Josiah Stamp. (London) P. S. King and Son. 10s 6d net.
- Autobiography of John Stuart Mill.* (London) Humphrey Milford. 12s 6d net.
- Economic History of South Africa.* By M. H. de Kock. (Capetown and Johannesburg) Juta and Co. 15s net.
- Capitalist Combination in the Coal Industry.* By D. J. Williams. (London) Labour Publishing Company. 6s net.
- Practical Tuning of Power Looms.* By J. W. Hutchinson. (Bradford) Wool Record, 10 Booth street. 7s. 6d.
- Bain's Apportioning Tables.* By Alexander Bain. (London) Gall and Inglis. 18s net.
- The Express Foreign Money Reckoner.* By J. Gall Inglis, F.R.S.E. (London) Gall and Inglis. 2s 6d net.
- Handbuch für die Internationale Petroleum-Industrie, 1925.* (Berlin) Druck und Verlag: Finanz-Verlag Ges. m.b.H.
- Cost of Living in the United States.* U.S. Department of Labour. (Washington) Bulletin No. 357. *Hours of Labour in Lumber Manufacturing, 1923.* No. 363.
- United States Department of Labour: Wages and Hours of Labour in Foundries and Machine Shops, 1923.* (Washington) Bulletin No. 362.
- Dominion of New Zealand: Monthly Abstract of Statistics.* October, 1924. (Wellington) Census and Statistics Office. 1s.
- Co-opération et Prévoyance Sociale en Tchécoslovaquie. Rédigé par A. Klímt.* (Prague) Imprimerie "Politika."
- After Many Years' Going to the Co-ops. and Company Shops. Effects of Above Systems on the Higher Cost of Living.* By W. T. Parker. (Bristol) W. T. Parker, 28 Lancashire road, Bishopston. 3d.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—
- Civil Judicial Statistics for the Year 1923.* 9d.
- Ministry of Health—Agricultural Rates Act, 1923.* Statement showing amount of grants paid under above Act as regards each Spending Authority in England and Wales. 1s.
- League of Nations, Thirtieth Session of the Council.* Report by Lord Parmoor, British Representative. 6d.
- League of Nations. Fifth Assembly.* Report of the British Delegates relating to the Protocol for the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.
- Report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1923.* 1s.
- Report from His Majesty's Representatives Abroad on the Methods Adopted in Parliaments of Foreign Countries for dealing with International Questions.* 1s.
- British Oversea Settlement Delegation to Canada.* Report regarding System of Child Migration and Settlement in Canada.
- National Savings Committee: Eight Annual Report, 1924.* 2d.
- International Labour Conference, League of Nations: Recommendations adopted by the Conference at its Sixth Session, June 16-July 5, 1924.* Authentic text. Texts adopted by a Provisional Vote of the Conference. Cmd. 2292. 6d.
- War Charges Validity: Memorandum and Annexes on Proposed Ways and Means Resolution.* Cmd. 2295. 8d.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54 Lombard Street, London.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - £20,000,000
ISSUED CAPITAL - £15,592,372
RESERVE FUND - £8,250,000
DEPOSITS (30th June, 1924) - £295,698,105

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARRANGED.

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH:

168 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, January 7. | ACCOUNT, January 8.

The principal event of importance in the Stock Exchange markets this week has been the commencement of dealings in the new Greek 7 per cent. loan. Allotments were on a very small scale, and a chorus of protest immediately arose from the more modest investor who found himself cut out altogether in such cases as those where his application did not exceed £2,000. The price opened at 6 premium, rose to 7½ premium, gave way a couple of points, and then recovered. A large volume of business has been done, and, notwithstanding the unfortunate impression conveyed by the method of allotment that the small investor has not received all the consideration to which he is entitled, a good deal of business has been done.

British Government funds are inclined to be dull, owing to the approach of the end of the year, which checks fresh buying. Thursday in this week was the final Stock Exchange settlement for the current year, and the next account is fixed for January 8, 1925. Consequently, people who desire to make as fair a show as possible with their bankers on New Year's Eve have been turning out stocks in order to realise the cash.

Dealings in the Consol market are for money only, but the desire to be supplied with funds in advance of the New Year is the reason why capital has hung back from seeking Stock Exchange securities at the present time. Victoria's offer of six million pounds 4½ per cent. stock at 98½ was not warmly welcomed.

The success of the Greek loan turned attention to the senior Greek issues, prices of which in most cases stand better on the week. A general fall occurred in Chinese bonds, owing to the default of payment of the coupon on the Hukuang Loan. The market in French descriptions has been dull, in consequence of the exchange. Germans maintain their price, the new scrip at 7½ premium, and a further rise in Peruvian preference reflected the satisfaction felt with the recently-issued report. Turkish bonds have been good also; the improvement in their case is due to the expectation that Turkey may be granted facilities for issuing a new loan under international auspices. Egyptians are steady.

While the steam stocks in the Home Railway market remain heavy, owing to the wage programme formulated by the N.U.R., the Undergrounds have gone ahead in brisk fashion, scarcity of stock being noticeable in this section. Grand Trunk Pacific debenture still feels the effects of would-be profit-taking. Mexican Rails are weak, on the speech made at the company's meeting by Colonel York on Wednesday. Argentine Rails, finding little public support, have tended to dwindle in price.

Raw rubber continues to advance in price, without bringing about any corresponding improvement in business. The public are doing little in rubber shares, most of the speculative attention being confined to tea shares, where substantial rises have occurred in most of the popular varieties and also in a good many of those whose names are less familiar. The dividends being declared at the present time are, on the whole, very gratifying to the shareholders, and the price of tea itself is well held. Amongst oil shares, Mexican Eagles fell sharply on the issue of the report, which tended to exercise a depressing influence upon the list, though Lobitos rose abruptly, despite the general limpness of oil prices. Courtaulds are what the market calls the star turn amongst industrials, the price jumping to the accompaniment of rumours that credited the company with having acquired an interest in a new and important branch of artificial silk manufacture. Other textiles are over-shadowed by the excitement that has surrounded Courtaulds. The tobacco market was a little disappointed by the British American Company's dividend.

A slump in Associated Portland Cement came about upon the liquidation of a line of stock—said by some people to be 150,000 shares. Upon this being absorbed there was a recovery from the lowest, and Eastwoods have been a strong spot. The banking market, with insurance shares, keeps very

hard, but in the shipping list, P. and O. deferred still feels the effect of a cautious speech made by Lord Inchcape at last week's meeting. Whisky issues have been prominently strong, on further amalgamation rumours. The newspaper group moved rather erratically. In the iron and steel market, the new issue of 6½ per cent. debenture stock at 99½ by Arm- the new scrip strong was a factor making for caution. The new scrip started at a discount of about 15s. Active Christmas trade is associated with the strength shown by stores and hotel shares. The wireless group is heavy, Marconis giving way, though Radios are supported from New York.

Dividend declarations this week by the Kafir gold-producers have passed almost unnoticed by the public. The market maintains a tolerably firm front, undisturbed by any fresh accessions of public business. There are a few reductions of dividends—e.g., from the Village Deep and the Langlaagte Estates. The passing of the dividend on Durban Deeps was unexpected, but a distribution on East Rands came as a pleasant surprise, without its having any influence on the price of the shares. Chartered have been a good market, touching 17s, and holding most of the strength. Diamonds are quiet, Paris lending little support, but the French have been heavy buyers of Rio Tintos, and this caused a brisk advance. Tin-mining shares are harder, West Africans participating in the improvement, and there has been a firmer tendency amongst Canadian mining shares, on favourable news from some of the properties. But the mining markets as a whole remain quiet, and animation can hardly be looked for on this side of the New Year.

NEW ISSUES.

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

Amount previously recorded.....	Nominal Capital.	Cash Sub- scription.	First Payment.	Further Li- a- bility.
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—	£	£	£	£
..	194,618,824	..	..	..
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 13, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Dec. 13, 1924, Dr £2,200,000 ..	150,000	..	150,000	£
To the Public—	£	£	£	£
Government of Victoria, 26,000,000 4½ % Inscribed Stock (red. at par, 1940-1960), issued at 97½ ..	6,000,000	..	5,850,000	.. 5,550,000
Port of London Authority, £3,000,000 4½ % Inscribed Stock, issued at 98½ (red. at par, 1940-60) ..	3,000,000	..	2,955,000	.. 150,000 .. 2,805,000
Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., £3,000,000 6½ % Deb. Stock, issued at 99½ (red. at par, Dec. 16, 1939) ..	3,000,000	..	2,985,000	.. 150,000 .. 2,835,000
Masey's Bromley Brewery, 150,000 7% Cum. Ptg. Pref., £1, at par ..	150,000	..	150,000	.. 18,750 .. 131,250
Tingha (N.S.W.), Hydraulic Tin Mines, 100,500 Shares, £1, at par ..	109,500	..	109,500	.. 5,475 .. 104,025
Total offered to the public ..	..	.. 12,049,500	..	624,225 .. 11,425,275
To Shareholders only—	£	£	£	£
Northern General Transport, 75,000 Ord. Shares, £1, at par ..	75,000	..	75,000	.. 9,375 .. 65,625
Semenyih Rubber Estates, 90,028 Shares, 2s, at 3s ..	9,002	..	13,501	.. 13,501
Tanganyika Forests and Lumber, £150,000 7½ % Deb. Stock, at 98½ ..	150,000	..	147,750	.. 15,000 .. 132,750
Total offered to shareholders ..	..	.. 236,251	..	37,876 .. 198,375
Total offered for subscription to date ..	..	..	..	..
1924 .. 207,064,575	1923 .. 271,353,173			
1925 .. 269,927,045	1922 .. 575,575,550			
1926 .. 571,887,650	1921 .. 388,978,203			
1927 .. 370,141,418	1920 .. 367,549,656			
1928 .. 362,893,297	1919 .. 1,036,059,951			
1918 .. 1,034,257,477	1918 .. 1,393,381,441			

Government of Victoria.—Issue of £6,000,000 4½ per cent inscribed stock, 1940-60, at £97 10s per cent. The loan is raised for the construction of railways and rolling-stock, roads, irrigation, and water and electricity development. Interest is payable half-yearly on January 1st and July 1st, and principle is repayable in London at par on July 1, 1960, though the Government of Victoria reserves the right to redeem the stock, in whole or in part, at par on or after July 1, 1940, on giving three months' notice. An annual sinking fund of 10s per cent. will be applied towards redemption. The purchase price is payable as to 5 per cent. on application and the balance on January 23rd, and six months' interest will be paid on July 1st. No details of the finances of the State are given in the prospectus, but, according to official returns, Victoria's debt on June 30th last amounted to about £124,000,000, which is now to be increased to £130,000,000. Of the former total £112,000,000 is employed in direct interest-bearing undertakings. The railways, in which £67,000,000 is invested, it is stated, are self-supporting, and last year revenue reached the "record" figure of £12,025,987. The interest and principal of this issue are not liable to taxation in the State of Victoria. This is a trustee stock, and can be recommended to investors.

Port of London Authority.—Issue of £3,000,000 Port of London 4½ per cent. inscribed stock at £98½ per cent. The proceeds are required mainly for the purpose of paying off temporary loans to meet capital expenditure on the improvement and development of the facilities of the port and the redemption of £1,000,000 Port of London 5½ per cent. inscribed stock. The stock now offered will rank as to security *pari passu* with the 3½ per cent., 4 per cent., and 6 per cent. inscribed stocks, and the "B" Port stock, and after the £9,379,752 "A" Port stock. The principal is repayable at par on July 1, 1960, the Port of London Authority having the option of redemption in whole or in part at par on or after July 1, 1940, on giving six months' notice. A sound investment.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., Limited.—Authorised share capital £11,012,500, of which £10,012,500 has been issued. Debenture stock for £6,257,000 is outstanding. This is an issue of £3,000,000 consolidated mortgage debenture stock at 99½ per cent., carrying interest at 6½ per cent. per annum. Repayment is to be made at par on December 16, 1939, but the company may redeem the whole or any part of the stock by drawings at 102 per cent. after December 16, 1926, on giving three months' notice, or by purchase in the market at any time at any price less than 102 per cent. The stock will constitute a specific mortgage on certain specified freehold land and works of the company in England, and a floating charge on all other assets, subject only to the mortgages and charges securing the existing debenture stock. The present issue is made for the purpose of funding floating indebtedness incurred in financing contracts for the provision of a townsite, warehouses, ships, and other utilities, works, and services in connection with the Newfoundland Power and Paper Company, Limited, and also for the purpose of financing other civil engineering contracts. The balance-sheet at December 31, 1923, showed net assets of £16,939,688. Adding the proceeds of the £2,000,000 three-year notes issued in the current year and the proceeds of the present issue of debenture stock, and deducting the 4 per cent. debenture stock, the second debenture stock, and the outstanding notes, the balance of assets is shown as £15,482,687. Profits are given for three years. For 1923 they were £655,651; for the two previous years they were very close to this amount. Interest on debenture stocks, including the present issue, will absorb £514,135. In view of the fact that the issued share capital is over £10 millions, the present new issue, unless the Newfoundland venture yields a steady return within a comparatively early period, will be something in the nature of a burden for shareholders.

Western Australian Bank.—Authorised capital £1,000,000, in £1 shares, of which £500,000 has been issued. This is an advertisement for information only, in compliance with the regulations of the Stock Exchange Committee. The Western Australian Bank was established in 1841, and has 50 branches and 29 sub-branches in Western Australia. For 36 half-years to March, 1923, dividends were at the rate of 20 per cent., free of State dividend tax. In January, 1923, the shareholders received, in addition, a share bonus of 20 per cent. For the three half-years ended September, 1924, 17½ per cent. was paid in each period, with a 2½ per cent. bonus for the six months to March last. Up to 1922 the issued capital was £250,000, but the share bonus distributed in 1923 brought it up to £300,000, and in the same year 78,000 shares were issued in Australia at £2 10s per share. In July last a further 122,000 shares were issued. At the last general meeting the directors were empowered to issue the balance of £500,000 of the capital, and in exercise of this power a City finance house has purchased 100,000 shares, and 50,000 shares will be offered in Australia. The new shares will not rank for any dividend for the half-year ending March 30, 1925, but will be entitled to a full dividend in respect of the half-year ending September 28th next. The additional capital is required "to deal with the increased volume of new business offering and the growing demand of the bank's customers, resulting from the rapid development and general progress of the State of Western Australia." This appears to be a sound issue.

Thorne and Company, Limited.—Authorised share capital £575,000, in 275,000 7½ per cent. first preference, 150,000 9 per cent. second preference, and 150,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, all of which has been issued. Particulars are advertised of this undertaking in order to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. The original company was incorporated in March, 1890, to carry on the business of exporters of cotton and other goods to China, and to acquire the business of auctioneering goods then carried on by Maitland and Co. at Shanghai. The original company was voluntarily wound up in 1904, and the present undertaking was formed with a capital of £150,000, half in preference and half in ordinary £5 shares. This was subsequently increased to the present figure, and in 1919 the preference interest was raised from 6 to 7½ per cent., while in the following year the shares were subdivided into £1 shares. In 1923 the concern was turned into a public company. Investors should be favoured with details of profits and a balance-sheet if they are to purchase these shares in the open market.

Massey's Burnley Brewery, Limited.—Authorised capital £350,000, divided into 100,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, 150,000 7 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares, and 100,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. It is stated that £300,000 5½ per cent. mortgage venture stock is to be created. This is an issue of 150,000 cumulative participating £1 shares at par. The shares now offered are to provide the cash portion of the purchase price of Messrs Astley's properties and business, and also to provide additional working capital. The company has recently entered into an agreement for the purchase of a brewery business Astley's—for £320,000, of which £120,000 is payable in cash and the balance in debenture stock. For the past seven years the average annual profits of Massey's Burnley Brewery are certified at £22,879, and Astley's profits have shown an average of £32,747 for the past five years. It is estimated by the board that, after allowing for depreciation and interest on debenture stock, the annual balance will be sufficient to cover the fixed dividend on the preference shares two and a half times. The element of speculation is not absent.

Cobbold and Co., Limited.—Share capital £250,000, all of which has been issued. The company was incorporated in March, 1924, as a private company under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917, to acquire from Messrs J. D. Cobbold, P. W. Cobbold, and J. M. Cobbold, all of Ipswich, the businesses and assets of Cobbold and Co. and Cobbold and Son, brewers and wine and spirit merchants, of Ipswich, who had been established for over 200 years. The purchase price was £750,000, payable as to £250,000 in cash and as to £500,000 in £500,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the company at par, to be allotted to the vendors or their nominees. The company owns the Cliff Brewery, Ipswich, and some 270 licensed properties in and around Ipswich, 233 of which are freehold, 18 leasehold, and 19 copyhold. The £500,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock is constituted and secured by trust deeds, which contain a first mortgage upon the freehold, leasehold, and copyhold properties, and a floating charge on the company's other assets. This stock is limited to £500,000. It is repayable by means of an accumulative redemption fund commencing in 1928, and calculated to redeem the whole of the stock by the end of 30 years after commencement. The redemption fund will be applied in the redemption of the stock by purchase at not exceeding £103 per cent., or in drawings at £103 per cent. The stock is also redeemable at the option of the company at £103 per cent., at any time on six months' notice after September 30, 1928. Any stock not previously redeemed is repayable at £103 per cent. on October 31, 1957. These and other details are given in an advertisement in the Press made to comply with Stock Exchange regulations. The information offered is rather more than usual, but we are still in the dark as to the value of assets.

The Alcohol Fuel Corporation, Limited.—Share capital £200,000, divided into 147,180 "A" ordinary shares of £1 each and 105,640 "B" ordinary shares of 10s each. The issued capital consists of 141,875 "A" ordinary and 52,820 "B" ordinary shares. The object of the company is implied in its title. This is a prospectusless issue, and as permission is being applied for to deal on the London Stock Exchange in the shares of the company, we hope that those of our readers who intend to purchase the shares, and have no more information than that stated in the advertisement, will demand further particulars.

Tingha (N.S.W.) Hydraulic Tin Mines, Limited.—The authorised capital of this undertaking is £200,000, in ordinary shares of £1 each. Of these, 190,000 have been issued, and a further 10,000 are under option. This is an offer for sale of 109,500 ordinary £1 shares at par, by the Anglo-Oriental and General Investment Trust, Limited, who have subscribed for the shares in the first place. The company has been formed to acquire and work certain areas in New South Wales for alluvial tin, comprising a total of 2,817 acres. Certain contiguous areas have also been acquired, extending to about 539 acres, including water rights and sites for storage dams, which form the basis of a scheme of water races and reservoirs. It is stated in the offer that the Government of New South Wales has advanced to the lessees the sum of £15,000 for the development of the water scheme, of which £8,500 has been utilised. Approximately 10 miles of head-water race has already been constructed. As regards the mineral deposits, it is estimated that in certain prospected areas the tin oxide content amounts to an average of 2.71 lb per cubic yard. Preliminary expenses are estimated at £3,000. The purchase price is £100,000, and has been satisfied as to £80,000 in fully-paid shares and £20,000 in cash. The liability to the Government of New South Wales in respect of the repayment of a portion of the sum advanced will be met

in due course. The directors and their friends have underwritten 30,000 of the shares being offered, but at what commission is not disclosed.

To complete our record of new issues and summary of profit and loss accounts, company secretaries are requested to furnish us with copies of new prospectuses and report and accounts. Our readers can also assist by forwarding copies of prospectuses and company reports and accounts which may fall into their hands.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Price	Week	Latest	Price	Week	Latest	Rise or
							Fall.
War 4½%, 1925-28 .. 97½ .. 97½ ..							
Loans 5%, 1925-45 .. 97½ .. 97½ ..							
4%, 1925-42 .. 101½ .. 101½ ..							
Funding Loan 4% .. 89½ .. 89½ ..							
Victory Bonds 4% .. 93½ .. 93½ ..							
Conversion Loan 3½% .. 79½ .. 79½ ..							
Consols 2½% .. 57½ .. 57½ ..							
Irish Land Stock 2½% .. 59½ .. 59½ ..							
Local Loans 3% .. 66½ .. 66½ ..							
Aust. 6%, 1931-41 .. 106 .. 106 ..							
Canada 4½%, 1920-25 .. 99½ .. 99½ ..							
India 3½% Stock .. 66½ .. 66½ ..							
Do 7%, 1925-31 .. 106 .. 106½ ..							
Do 5½%, 1933 .. 103½ .. 101½ ..							
Do 4% .. 85½ .. 85½ ..							
N.S.W. 5½%, 1922-32 .. 100 .. 100 ..							
Nigeria 6%, 1924-32 .. 114 .. 114 ..							
U. of S.A. 6%, 1930-40 .. 105 .. 105 ..							
Victoria 5½%, 1924-34 .. 101 .. 101 ..							
W. Aust. 6%, 1930-40 .. 103½ .. 103 ..							

British Railways.

Great Western, Ord. 108½ .. 108 ..							
London & North-Eastern .. 83½ .. 83 ..							
Do Pref. Ord. 30½ .. 30½ ..							
Do Def. Ord. 30½ .. 30½ ..							
London, Mid., and .. 100½ .. 100½ ..							
Scottish, Ord. 81½ .. 82½ ..							
Metropolitan .. 55½ .. 55½ ..							
Metropolitan District .. 55½ .. 55½ ..							
Southern, Ord. "A" .. 41½ .. 41½ ..							
Do Ord. "B" .. 38 .. 38 ..							
Do Pref. Ord. 43½ .. 43½ ..							
Do Def. Ord. 43½ .. 43½ ..							
Underground Electric .. 21½ .. 21½ ..							
Do "A" (1) .. 99½ .. 99½ ..							
Do Inc. Bds. (£100) .. 99½ .. 99½ ..							

Banks.

Barclays B (£1, f.p.d.) .. 2½ .. 2½ ..							
Chartered Bk of India .. 20½ .. 20½ ..							
Lloyds (£5 with £1 .. 3½ .. 3½ ..							
Midland (£12, with .. 8½ .. 8½ ..							
Nat. Bank of Egypt .. 27 .. 27 ..							
Nat. Bank of S. Africa .. 7½ .. 7½ ..							
National Provincial .. 11½ .. 11½ ..							
Standard of S. Africa .. 11½ .. 11½ ..							
Westminster Bank .. 18½ .. 18½ ..							

Colonial and Foreign Railways.

Ansotaga Cons. 85 .. 87½ ..							
B.A. and Pacific .. 79 .. 78½ ..							
B.A. & Southern .. 86½ .. 86½ ..							
Buenos Ayres West .. 76½ .. 74½ ..							
Canadian Pacific .. 160x .. 161 ..							
Central Argentine .. 72 .. 71½ ..							
Leopoldina .. 29 .. 28½ ..							
Mexican Railway .. 9 .. 7 ..							
Do 1st Pref. .. 23 .. 27 ..							
Do 2nd Pref. .. 16 .. 14 ..							
San Paulo .. 159 .. 159½ ..							
United Havana .. 85 .. 84½ ..							

American Railroads.

Chesapeake & Ohio .. 103 .. 101x ..							
Er .. 33½ .. 33½ ..							
Do 4½ 1st Pref. 48 .. 49 ..							
Southern .. 81 .. 83 ..							
Do Non-um Pref. 85 .. 88 ..							

Foreign Government Securities.

Argentine 5%, 1886-7 .. 100 .. 101 ..							
Austrian 6% Guar. 95½ .. 95½ ..							
Belgian 3% .. 73 .. 73 ..							
Brill 5% und. 1914 .. 72 .. 73 ..							
Chilian 4½%, 1895 .. 85 .. 85 ..							
Do 7½% .. 108 .. 107½ ..							
Chinese 5%, 1912 .. 70 .. 67 ..							
Egyptian 4% .. 76½ .. 76½ ..							
French 5% .. 20½ .. 20½ ..							
Do 4% .. 17 .. 17 ..							
German 3% Loan .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
Do 7%, 1924 .. 74pm .. 78pm ..							
Greek 5%, 1884 .. 54 .. 56 ..							
Hungarian 7½%, 1924 .. 94 .. 94 ..							
Japanese 4½%, 1910 .. 65 .. 64 ..							
Do 6%, 1924 .. 91½ .. 92 ..							
Mexican Cons. 1899 .. 37½ .. 36½ ..							
Peruvian Corp. Pref. .. 39 .. 39x ..							
P.L.M. 6% .. 93½ .. 93½ ..							
Portuguese (New) .. 26 .. 29 ..							
Russian 5%, 1906 .. 6 .. 6 ..							
Spanish 4% .. 65 .. 65 ..							
Seine (Dept.) 7% .. 103½ .. 103 ..							
Siamese 7% .. 106½ .. 106½ ..							

Telegraphs.

Anglo-American "A" .. 24½ .. 24½ ..							
Marconi Wireless .. 18 .. 18½ ..							
Marconi Canada .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
Marconi Marine .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							

Miscellaneous.

Aerated Bread (£1) .. 1½x .. 1½x ..							
Amal. Cottons (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Anglo Persian Oil (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..							
Armstrong (Sir W.G.) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Ass. Pind. Cement (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Barker, John (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
B'ham Small Arms (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Brazil Traction (£100) .. 56½ .. 57½ ..							
British-American .. 5 .. 5 ..							
Tobacco (£1) .. 5 .. 5 ..							
Burmah Oil (£1) .. 5 .. 5 ..							
Coats (J. and P.) (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..							
Courtaulds (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Cunard (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Dorman, Long (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Dunlop Rubber (6/8) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Finlay Cotton Spinn. .. 24½ .. 24½ ..							
Forestal Land (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
Furness, Withy (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
Highlands and Low .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
lands Rubber (£1) .. 1½ .. 1½ ..							
Hudson's Bay (£1) .. 5 .. 5 ..							
Imperial Tobacco (£1) .. 4 .. 4 ..							
Linggi Plantins (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Lipton (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Lever Bros 7% OmP (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Do 8% Om A Pr (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Do 20% OmP Ord (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Lister (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Lobitos Oilfields (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Lyons (J.) & Co. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Mexican Eagle (£10) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Nobel Industries (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Pekin (2) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Rubber Plantations .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Investment (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Shell Transport (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Smithfield Argentine .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Meat (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Union Cold Storage .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Do 7% Cum. Pref. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Do 7% Cum. Prf (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
United Dairies (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
United Serdang (2) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
United Tobacco (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Vallambrosa (2) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Vickers (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Watney Del. Sls. .. 21½ .. 21½ ..							

Mines.

Brakpan (£1) .. 3½ .. 3½ ..							
Broken Hill Prop. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Charterhouse (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Consolidated Gold Fields (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Crown Mines (10) .. 2 .. 2 ..							
De Beers Def. (£24) .. 12 .. 12 ..							
East Rand Prop. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Geduld (£1) .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Gov. Gold Areas .. 7 .. 7 ..							
Knights .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Modderfontein (10) .. 4 .. 4 ..							
Modderfont. "B" (5) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Modderfont. Deep (5) .. 2 .. 2 ..							
Premier Def. (10) .. 5 .. 5 ..							
Randfontein Est. (£1) .. 1 .. 1 ..							
Rand Mines (5) .. 2 .. 2 ..							
Selukwe .. 3 .. 3 ..							
Rio Tinto (25) .. 38 .. 39 ..							
Spring Mines (£1) .. 2 .. 2 ..							

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

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

IMPORTANCE OF VANCOUVER AS A SHIPPING PORT.

The twenty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the members of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool street Station, London, E.C., Mr J. Davidson (deputy chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr R. W. Bartlett, A.C.A.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors, The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I have to apologise for the absence of the chairman of the company, Mr R. M. Horne-Payne. He has asked me, as his deputy, to take the chair, and to read his speech to you, which I will now do, with your permission. It is as follows:—

"It is a very great pleasure to us to meet you to-day with a statement of affairs which reflects a year of satisfactory progress and prosperity. The net revenue of the company is £424 10s 9d, as compared with £416,472 7s 9d last year, despite the fact that in April, 1924, the company spontaneously made a large reduction in its charge for current for domestic lighting, as stated in the report. I am happy to be able to state that the public have demonstrated their appreciation of this policy, and realise that we are as constantly and as much concerned for their direct interests as we are for our own. The relations between the public and the company are most cordial.

THE DIVIDENDS.

"Interim dividends on the preferred and deferred stocks of 3½ per cent., free of tax, were paid to you in June last, and, as you will see from the report, we recommend you to approve the declaration of final dividends of 18s 8d per cent. on the preferred ordinary and £2 12s 2d per cent. on the deferred ordinary stock, both free of income-tax, making, with the interim dividends already paid, total dividends for the year of £4 16s 2d per cent., free of tax, on the preferred ordinary stock, and £6 9s 8d per cent., free of tax, on the deferred ordinary stock. These dividends are not large, but they will, no doubt, be regarded as satisfactory, having regard to the fact that we are able to pay them after making proper allowance for depreciation and providing in a proper manner for the upkeep of the property. In considering this matter we have also to take into account the fact that expansion in the territories served is once again the order of the day, and it is necessary for us to provide some time ahead the increased facilities which we know will surely be required from

Mr Mackay said he would like to know if the chairman could tell them whether there had been any revival of building operations in the Vancouver district.

The Chairman, in reply, thanked Sir William Fry for his congratulatory remarks. With reference to the inquiry as to the result of the reduction in the charge for electric current, it was too early to state the precise effects, but their experience of past reductions showed that consumption was always stimulated thereby, and he believed it would have the same effect in the case of the last reduction. In regard to building operations in Vancouver, he could say that when he was there last year and two years before he saw a tremendous increase in the number of houses being built, specially in the residential district of Point Grey.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the payment of the dividends recommended by the directors, and the motion was seconded by Mr. G. P. Norton, and passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Harold G. Brown, seconded by the Chairman, the Hon. Sir Frank Barnard, K.C.M.G., and Mr G. P. Norton were re-elected directors of the company.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT AND STAFF.

Mr T. Blundell Brown proposed a vote of thanks to the president and staff of the company in British Columbia, remarking that the shareholders had reason to be congratulated upon the manner in which the affairs of the company were conducted in Canada. The results of the past year's working were a better testimony than anything he could say as to the excellence of the management out there.

Sir Ernest Harvey, in seconding the motion, said he would like to take the opportunity of expressing the sympathy of the board with the Province of British Columbia in the death of the Agent-General, Mr Wade, which happened a short time ago. That gentleman had been a very able, capable, and hard-working representative of British Columbia.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

Messrs Price, Waterhouse, and Co., of London and Vancouver, were elected auditors of the company for the ensuing year, on the proposition of Mr D. Northall Laurie, seconded by Mr John Horne-Payne.

A hearty vote of thanks to the board for their conduct of the affairs of the company during the past 12 months concluded the proceedings.

MEXICAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

A YEAR OF DIFFICULTIES.

HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.

The 19th ordinary general meeting of the Mexican Railway Company, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury circus, London, Mr Vincent W. Yorke (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen, it was impossible for us to present any accounts at our last general meeting, and the accounts issued with the report before us to-day are those covering a whole year's working to June 30th last. I cannot help thinking that it would be better if we could fall into line with almost all the railway companies in the world and publish our accounts once a year instead of twice a year as we always have done, and I throw out the suggestion for your consideration.

A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The year we are reviewing has been a very troubled one. There was a serious revolution which lasted from early in December till early in February, a serious landslide on the mountain, and a serious strike of the port workers at Vera Cruz. Even after the revolution had been suppressed and through traffic to Vera Cruz had been resumed, it was some time before normal conditions of operation could be restored. There were constant attacks on trains by rebel bands, and persistent rumours of further attacks which not only prevented many passengers from travelling, but led to merchants diverting their shipments to other routes. In view of all that happened it is really rather remarkable that our traffic has not shown a greater falling off. The average daily earnings for the year were \$31,800, as against \$30,000 for the preceding year. We have taken no account in our figures of the charges for military movement of trains during the rebellion. As the fighting was mainly along our line, and both the Government and the rebels made extensive use of our services, the bill will be a heavy one, and we hope that eventually it will be paid to us.

We made every effort to economise in expenditure during the trouble, but found it no easy matter to do so. The salaries of the chief officials were cut down by 50 per cent., and the hours and pay of the clerical staff reduced to low figures, but the wages of the trainmen, who had to work all sorts of hours on military trains, were much higher than in normal times, and the men in

the shops had to be given work in order to enable them to live. The economies realised were, therefore, quite insignificant, and the expenses for the whole year were only some \$12,515, or £1,250, less than those of the preceding year.

We have earned the small sum of £17,800 as the result of operating the railway, and may, in my opinion, considering all the adverse features of the period, congratulate ourselves on having done so well. On the other hand, we have collected in increases of rates and credited to the Government in respect of indemnity during the year the large sum of £145,000, and it is by the collection of this money that we have been able to pay our current debenture interest and to keep our heads above water.

We estimate that there will be due to us about £2,500,000 when we have finally agreed with the Government the compensation owing to us under the Railway Law, and the accounts show that we have received just over £500,000 to the end of June last. To this there will have to be added about £70,000, so far as we can estimate it in London, which has been collected on account of the 10 per cent. railway tax. If we were in a position to earn a fair return from the operation of the railway, the sums which are thus being paid on account would be of the greatest service to us in enabling us to pay for the new equipment necessitated by the wear and tear of the long revolutionary period, and to liquidate the heavy arrears of debenture interest. As it is, the money can only be devoted to the payment of current interest.

CURRENT HALF-YEAR.

The results of operation for the current half-year were most discouraging, I am sorry to say. The gross traffics are about 7 per cent. less than the average of the three years 1920-23, while the expenses for the months of July and August show the high ratio of 94 per cent. to the receipts. On the one hand there is very little confidence in commercial circles, and, on the other hand, the demands of labour keep expenses at a very high level. In fact, our difficulties with labour are the most alarming feature of the situation. Not only are we paying more men than we require, and paying them at very high rates, but we are obtaining very poor service in return. The spirit of "Ca' canny" appears to be rampant among our employees, and trade unionism is exercising a tyranny which is in many ways without parallel on this side of the Atlantic. I feel sure that if the present state of the relations between employer and employee is allowed to continue, it will be impossible for capital in any sort of public service undertaking to earn a reasonable return. The remedy really lies in the public opinion of the country. We have seen a considerable revulsion lately in public opinion on these questions at home, and I saw certain signs of a similar revulsion in Mexico when I was last there, and the sooner that it manifests itself and is translated into action the better it will be not only for our interests but for the interests of the whole country.

The electrification of the mountain section, Esperanza to Orizaba, is now an accomplished fact. It has, of course, yet to be demonstrated that the economies which were promised to us will be realised, but at any rate it is most satisfactory that the preliminary trials have been made without any hitch, and I hope to be able to speak to you of a considerable saving in expense in six months time.

I will now read to you the cable which we received from the general manager this morning. He says:—

"General local conditions all over system good; locusts have not caused any serious damage. Owing to difficulties between Governments, British imports through Vera Cruz have already declined and will, I anticipate, be further reduced. Electric engines working satisfactorily, and doing better than was anticipated. By the end of the month no steam engines will be used upon mountain division. Labour conditions difficult, and at present hard to say if men will remain reasonable, but I feel hopeful. Government firmly established, and considerable economies already being discussed. A general hopeful feeling as to future prevails, but no great improvement in business can be expected without foreign financial assistance." I think that on the whole we may look on that as a hopeful and satisfactory cable.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

To turn to the political situation, General Obregon completed his four years' tenure of the office of President on November 30th last, and handed over his duties to General Calles. It is too early to say what the verdict of history with regard to the Presidency of General Obregon may be, but I believe myself that it will be a favourable one. He took over the Government in 1920 after the country had for seven years been distraught by internal dissensions, ravaged by bandits, and reduced in most parts to a state bordering on anarchy. With the exception of the two or three months of revolution at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, almost complete order has prevailed in all parts of the vast Republic during the whole period of his office. This remarkable result has been arrived at not by the exercise of the drastic brutality which

has disfigured so many pages of Mexican history, but by a combination of tact, firmness, and good humour which, to my mind, has been wholly admirable. His Government has shown their goodwill towards foreigners by entering into the agreement with the International Committee of Bankers, in which they acknowledge their indebtedness, and have paid not less than £3,000,000 in satisfaction of their debts. There can be no doubt that further substantial sums would have been paid by now if the abortive revolution had not absorbed so much of the energies and financial resources of the Government. He has had the satisfaction of seeing his country recognised by all the great nations of the world, with the exception of ourselves. In spite of the virtual and, latterly, actual rupture of diplomatic relations between our country and Mexico, his conduct towards this company has been invariably just and correct. Almost the last act of his Presidency was to sanction the arrangement with regard to the 10 per cent. tax. The question involved was a complicated one, and the company found itself in a delicate and difficult position, but the settlement arrived at is undoubtedly fair to both parties, and we cannot be sufficiently grateful to the late President for the friendly consideration which he has shown us on this and many other occasions.

GENERAL CALLES.

The personality of General Calles, who now succeeds General Obregon, is a matter of considerable moment to all interested in Mexico, and I feel that I ought to say a few words to you on the subject. Though I have not had the advantage of meeting him myself, I can quote to you the opinion of one whom I can guarantee to be a highly competent observer of Mexican affairs. He writes that "He is credited with all sorts of advanced and Socialistic theories, but foreigners who came in contact with him during his period as Governor of Sonora declare him to have been a most able administrator, a man of his word, and one who held fairly the balance between Capital and Labour." That is an excellent character to give to any man. He took advantage of the short period which intervened between his election as President and his assumption of office to make an extensive trip over a great part of the Continent of Europe and the United States. I am sure that his visit there will have been of great value to him both in making clear to him how much Mexican credit has depreciated on this side of the Atlantic, where it once stood so high, and how the acute differences of recent years between Capital and Labour have been, or are being, arranged in the various countries. The experience which he will have gained must have made clear to him the great need of capital in which Mexico stands to-day, and how hopeless it is for her to expect to get it until the demands of labour there are moderated to such an extent as will enable businesses engaged in public service like ours to earn, at any rate, a modest living.

I spoke to you at some length at our last meeting on the subject of the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Mexico. I feel the situation to be a very delicate one, and I do not wish to-day to say anything more than that I most fervently hope that some bridge may be found at the earliest possible moment, so that without any loss of dignity on either side the old relations of friendship and affection may be re-established between the two countries.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

WESTERN ALLIANCE REINSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

AMALGAMATION APPROVED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Western Alliance Reinsurance Company, Limited, was held, on the 15th instant, at the registered offices, Nos. 37 to 41, Gracechurch street, London, for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing a resolution providing for the amalgamation of the company with the Consolidated Assurance Company, Limited. Mr E. A. Colquhoun, the chairman of the company, presided.

The chairman called upon Mr J. C. Gould as an independent director to state the reasons which had influenced the board in coming to their unanimous recommendation that the offer of the "Consolidated" Company should be accepted.

Mr J. C. Gould recalled that the company had been formed in 1919, the shares being issued at a premium of 1s. There had been no underwriting or promotion profit of any kind, and the directors had been able to recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. from the first year of operation, a course which had established a precedent. That policy had, however, been justified, in that dividends had been continued each year, and for the last 2½ years increased to 6 per cent., while, at the same time, the assets of the company had appreciated to £86,331. Those years had not been altogether easy. The year 1921 had been a bad fire year for the company, and since 1922 the marine business with all companies had given anxiety. In the case of their own company, however, the funds were more than adequate to meet all claims.

FACTORS INFLUENCING BOARD'S DECISION.

The board had also had to study carefully the company's investments and securities. The entry of the Labour Government into power had caused a slump in gilt-edged securities, which had taken some time to recover. In addition, they had been faced by the bugbear of rates of exchange with violent fluctuations which could not be foreseen, and, furthermore, the collapse of certain reinsurance companies in this country had led to much more onerous terms and conditions being insisted upon by the ceding companies. The success of the Western Alliance had been achieved only by careful and conservative management. The company had been managed by the Consolidated Assurance Company (Limited) since its inception, and in view of the fact that the close of the current year terminated that management agreement, consideration was given as to what steps might be taken in order to reduce the ratio of management expenses, and also to meet the increasing competition from former enemy reinsurance companies, who had again entered the field. After consultation with the Consolidated Assurance Company (Limited) the management of that company had suggested that those difficulties could be best solved by amalgamation or absorption. The prospects of sharing in a world-wide and 21-year-old reinsurance organisation, combined with the terms offered, the relief of the uncalled liability of 10s per share, together with the guarantee of a final dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, were such that the directors, after full investigation by Mr Wheelock and himself, had felt bound to recommend the offer to the shareholders. The result would be to establish, with good business, the strongest British reinsurance company that existed.

MR GOULD'S VIEWS.

Mr Gould, in reply to questions from shareholders, said: In the first place, let me say that we independent directors, myself, Lord Amthill, and Mr Wheelock, are grateful to the Consolidated directors for having given us all information, and laid before us every source of information that we required. Although it is not within the province of any one of the directors at this meeting to discuss the position of the Consolidated Company, I think I may say that we, having had vested in us certain authority on behalf of the shareholders, and being men of recognised standing, if I may say so, we can be taken as having carried out our duties honestly. The Consolidated Company has not, nor has it in this past year, had to face any unprecedented or heavy losses. With regard to the price of the shares, there is no means of saying what price the Stock Exchange will place on a share.

You must remember that the City Equitable crash had a very deleterious effect on the prices of the shares of all insurance companies, and it is that influence which to a certain extent has prejudiced the value of all reinsurance companies' shares. On the top of that, too, a number of reinsurance companies formed in 1918-1920 have had a most unfortunate experience, and all that has tended to make the shares of reinsurance companies something to be regarded carefully when considered for investment purposes. All that has a tendency to depress values. I do not know that I can say anything more than that the Consolidated Company paid a 10 per cent. interim dividend this year. We have investigated the accounts of the Consolidated Company most fully, and we have nothing to fear.

The motion was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

BANK OF LONDON AND SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THE AMALGAMATION.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of London and South America, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at River Plate House, London, Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr J. A. Stark), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: To-day's meeting marks a distinct milestone on the path which this bank has travelled so long and so successfully. At the annual meeting last year I was able to tell you of the arrangements entered into with the London and Brazilian Bank, and to-day, with those arrangements completed, I am presenting to you for the first time a balance-sheet for the Bank of London and South America, Limited, containing the combined figures of the two banks. Last year I was addressing to all intents and purposes a single shareholder, to-day, with the accretion of the old London and Brazilian Bank shareholders, my remarks are directed to over 3,000 shareholders, although Lloyds Bank still remains the predominant partner.

Many of you will no doubt have been interested in trying to compare our present figures with those that have been presented to you on previous occasions, but I must warn you that any exact comparison is rendered impossible by the changed circumstances.

The amount of current, deposit, and other accounts at head office and the branches appears in the balance-sheet before you at £45,022,046, an increase of about £500,000 over the combined figures for 1923 of the individual banks. But if this year we had converted the London and Brazilian Bank figures at 16d, according to their former practice, our figures to-day would have shown an approximate increase of seven millions. Equally you may wish for an explanation as to the note appearing against the figures for the credit of our published reserve. This stands at £3,600,000. The same total as the combined figures of the former London and River Plate Bank, £2,100,000, and the London and Brazilian Bank, £1,500,000, but you will notice that, instead of £1,500,000 being specified as coming from the London and Brazilian Bank, the increase figure of £1,650,000 is specially noted on the balance-sheet as arising from that source.

The combined reserves already totalled £3,600,000, and were in excess of our fully-paid capital of £3,540,000. We considered that it was unnecessary to increase the reserve by the addition of funds which, until the amalgamation, formed a portion of the unallocated profits, and, therefore, decided, with the approval of both of our legal advisers and our auditors, to adjust the matter by transferring £150,000 (the approximate balance of the profit and loss account of the London and Brazilian Bank as at the date of taking over) from the London and River Plate Bank reserve to the reserve arising from the purchase of the London and Brazilian Bank, with the result that our total reserve remains at £3,600,000, and our profit and loss account has suffered no depletion. The figures for our current and deposit accounts, bills receivable, and bills for collection show a gratifying and healthy increase.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Our profit and loss account stands at £624,792. This figure has been arrived at after allowing for all bad debts, after paying off all the accrued expenses of the amalgamation of, and also after placing a very substantial sum to our internal contingency fund. Our cash at £11,688,799 bears a very strong proportion to our liabilities on current and deposit accounts, and the amounts of our advances, bills purchased and discounted, and our bills for collection show a welcome increase, reflecting the greater activity in trade. Of the total £52,991,594 under the omnibus heading, our bills discounted account for £16,700,000, and our advances for £16,200,000. Our premises account varies somewhat from the sum of the two individual banks' figures under this heading. This is caused partly, on the one hand, by additions and alterations in consequence of the amalgamation, and, on the other hand, by sales of properties vacated. Considerable receipts are anticipated in the future on this account, and you will be glad to hear that all the sales since the amalgamation have been effected at prices well above those at which they stood in our books. The depreciation on capital employed abroad at the rates of exchange ruling on September 30th amounted to £1,402,346. This unrealised paper depreciation has been reduced since that date by an improvement in the exchanges.

ARGENTINA.

The past year has been one of increasing prosperity in the Argentine Republic, in which it has been our privilege to assist and to share, exceptionally fine harvests have been enjoyed, the price of cattle has improved, wool has been in strong demand, and firm prices have been obtained for all classes of Argentine produce. During the nine months to September 30th 9,500,000 tons of cereals have been exported, an increase of more than two and a quarter million tons over the figures for the corresponding period of last year, and the price per ton has been very much more favourable this year than last. Meat shipments for the same period are 7,433,000 quarters of frozen and chilled beef this year, as against 4,800,000 last year, and the figures for mutton and lamb also show an increase. Exported by-products—hides, tallow, and the like—have been larger and of greater value, and the same applies to most of the other minor products—butter, flour, and other items that it is not necessary to detail. The outstanding feature of the 1923-24 grain shipments is the unusually high specific weight and clean condition of the grain. Cotton growing has become of some importance in the Republic of late years, but it cannot be said yet to have passed the experimental stage. The annual production is at present some 45,000 bales, of which 10,000 to 12,000 are consumed locally. Of the Argentine products consumed locally, the sugar and wine industries have been prosperous, especially the latter. The sugar crop, that averages more or less 240,000 tons per annum, is able, practically, to satisfy the country's needs. Whilst in 1911 Argentina imported 41,000,000 litres of foreign wine, in 1923 the figure fell to 2,640,000 litres.

As regards imports, when the 1924 figures are available there is good reason to believe that Great Britain will still head the list of shippers to the Argentine.

When reviewing the banking position in Argentina last year I ventured the opinion that better times were imminent. I am now

pleased to be able to say that my hopes have been realised. Although the past year has been marked by a general reduction in bank deposits, it is satisfactory to find there has been no diminution in our own. With a healthier upward movement in loans and advances there is a corresponding fall in the unemployed surplus cash reserves, and rates for discount and loan business—very weak earlier in the year when money was so plentiful—are now decidedly firmer.

The railways, encouraged by the continued friendly relations existing between them and the Argentine Government, are now undertaking several permanent improvements to their different lines, and are constructing many new stations in the suburban areas, enlarging their termini, and generally making their properties worthy of the important cities they serve.

The period under review has seen the biggest general export movement on record, and the manner in which the produce has been carried to ports of shipment without delay and to the satisfaction of all parties speaks volumes for the excellence of the railways themselves, and for the cordial assistance afforded them by the Government authorities.

The continual large exports have improved the exchange of the gold dollar from 40d a year ago to 45d to-day, and with the increase in public revenues tending to improve the national finances and the lack of any disturbing element in politics to cause anxiety it is not unduly optimistic to say that the outlook for the future appears promising.

URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY.

The hopes which I expressed last year that Uruguay was on the way to a return to its previous prosperity have fortunately been fulfilled. At the end of the country's financial year, June 30th, the pleasing announcement was made that instead of the anticipated deficit in the accounts of some \$4,000,000 there was actually a surplus of \$127,000. There is an evident desire in Government circles for sound finance, and the discussion of the Budget in the Chamber of Deputies manifests a wholly praiseworthy determination to keep expenditure within the limits of revenue. There is a satisfactory absence of political unrest in the country, for the President, Señor Serrato, displays a tolerant recognition of the rights of all parties and enjoys the confidence of the people. Favourable exchanges are stimulating imports, no commercial failures of importance have been recorded recently, and the outlook for trade in general is promising.

Paraguay now appears to have started on a period of peace and prosperity. A scheme presented to Congress, if approved, will provide not only for the resumption of payment of interest on the country's foreign debt, but also for an increase in the annual amortisation.

BRAZIL.

The period under review has been an eventful one for Brazil. Supported by the views of the British Financial Mission, the Government has rigidly adhered to its avowed policy of retrenchment, and it is a matter of universal regret that the process of reorganisation of its finances should have been temporarily interrupted by seditious movements in certain quarters during recent months.

The general adherence of the Brazilian people to the established régime justifies the hope that now the Government will be freed from further revolutionary attempts to hamper its efforts in the long and arduous task before it. That it is meeting with success is evidenced by the substantial reduction in previous years' deficits that is being effected. Continued progress on these lines, coupled with the reported considerable increase in revenue derived from new taxes—amongst these being that of income-tax—would lead one to assume that equilibrium in the Budget may be obtained in the not distant future.

Expansion in general is shown in Brazil's varied exports, and the enhanced prices of most of her principal products have led to severe stringency in monetary conditions. Long-term currency deposits are scarce, and lending rates have hardened correspondingly.

CHILE.

Taken as a whole, the commercial movement in Chile during the past year had been fairly good, and your bank, despite a few misfortunes, has shared in the prosperity. In my review last year it was stated that the total exports of nitrate of soda for the year to June 30, 1924, would probably reach 2,300,000 tons. They actually were 2,150,000, and since then the shipments for the last five months have been 1,056,000 tons, against 840,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1923. The f.o.b. value of those 2,150,000 tons was approximately £22,000,000 (including export duty), and it is not unreasonable to expect that the value of the current nitrate year's shipments will not be less.

Serious and decided efforts are being made to economise in many of the services, in contrast to the alleged extravagances of previous Governments, and it is to be hoped that those efforts will bear fruit and result in a higher level of exchange.

Our three branches in Colombia continue to progress satisfactorily. The effects of last year's crisis have not wholly disappeared in Bogotá, where our branch is now working in its new premises in the centre of the business quarter, but in Manizales and Medellín commercial enterprises have benefited by the rise in price of Colombian coffees. Mild coffee is the principal export of the country, and should its relatively high price persist for some time, all Colombian enterprises will naturally reap the advantage.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, was declared.

On the motion of Mr Kenneth Mathieson, seconded by Mr L. D. Cunliffe, the retiring directors (Messrs J. W. Beaumont Pease, Follett Holt, R. A. Thurburn, E. A. Benn, and M. J. Bonn) were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the staff for their loyal work to the bank during the past year was carried amid applause.

NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The ninety-ninth annual general meeting of the National Bank of Scotland, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at Edinburgh, the Duke of Montrose, K.T., the governor, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, his Grace said that when last they met they were looking forward to an improvement in trade after the very grave depression which had existed for two or three years, but he regretted that such had not materialised to the extent anticipated. Many trades and businesses were still suffering from unsettled exchanges on the Continent and in America, but they were hopeful of more stable rates following the adoption of the Dawes scheme by their Allies and by Germany. The directors had had a difficult year. Although the demands for fresh accommodation for trade purposes had not been so heavy as they would wish, all applications which came before the board had received careful and sympathetic consideration.

Coming to the balance-sheet, his Grace said the reserve fund had benefited to the extent of £50,000 from the year's profits, and now stood at £1,300,000, being £200,000 in excess of the paid-up capital. The experience of most banking institutions—and they were no exception—had been a gradual drop in deposits. Their figures, which stood at £31,018,368, showed a fall of approximately £1,300,000. This reduction was, he feared, not due to trade expansion, but to necessitous requirements by many of the depositors.

On the assets side the cash on hand and on short loan showed a small increase, the liquid position showing a satisfactory ratio of 24 per cent., against the bank's liabilities to the public. It would also be noted that the bank's investments in British Government securities had been reduced by £1,769,530 during the year, sales being necessitated by the withdrawal of deposits. It might here be remarked that these investments showed a large surplus, constituting an inner reserve of some value. A considerable amount represented by the above figures was on short-dated securities, and, in this respect, the necessity had not arisen of holding so much money in Treasury Bills as in former years. The advances for trade and other purposes, represented by bills discounted, loans on stocks and securities and advances on current account, of a total amount of £15,673,292, showed an increase of £675,685. The profit and loss account showed a net profit of £291,583. The dividend of 16 per cent., which had been paid for the past nine years, was again recommended, and with £50,000 placed to reserve fund, and other allocations on a liberal scale, a balance of £66,141 was carried forward to next year.

The report was adopted.

UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

CAPITAL REORGANISATION APPROVED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the United States Debenture Corporation, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, to consider resolutions for the reorganisation of the capital. Mr Robert V. Buxton, D.S.O., presided.

The secretary (Mr P. M. Spence) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the resolutions, said: The scheme which is now before you, and which we have called you together to approve, in our opinion, offers terms to the debenture holders which, we believe, gives them a better security and at only a slight cost to the shareholders, and, if approved by you, will place the capital of the company on a much sounder and better basis than heretofore. The great difficulty has been to offer the debenture holders sufficiently attractive terms to induce them to release the uncalled capital from their charge upon it. This charge the debenture holders have under the trust deed.

You will see by the scheme that we propose giving the debenture holders 15 per cent. more stock, but reducing the rate of interest from 4½ to 4 per cent. This will give them £4 12s of interest, instead of £4 10s. We also propose to make it impossible for the corporation to pledge its assets to a greater extent than 10 per cent. of its subscribed capital. Hitherto it has had power to pledge all its assets. A further proposal which will add considerably to the security of the debenture holders is that the corporation should limit the amount it may invest in any one security to 3 per cent. of the subscribed debenture and share capital.

The small increase in the interest payable to the debenture holders will only cost the company £1,050 per annum, which we consider reasonable in the circumstances; but, in exchange for this, the shareholders are to obtain the concession from the debenture holders that the amount which the company can borrow on debenture stock shall be an amount equal to the subscribed capital, so that when the capital of the company is increased, as we propose at present, there will be £367,500, amount of unissued debenture stock available, should a favourable opportunity arise for using the proceeds.

OBSTACLE SURMOUNTED.

The other difficulty was that, in raising fresh capital, there was the danger that the investment of the new money might not earn sufficient to enable the board to continue the dividend we have paid for the last four years—namely, of 12½ per cent. We believe we have surmounted this obstacle by arranging the share capital as set out in the scheme, by proposing that the share capital shall in future be on the basis of £1 of ordinary share capital to £2 of preference capital. Your directors are confident that, with reasonable prospects of investing the money in the future, they can maintain the dividend at 12½ per cent. In our calculations, your directors have assumed that they will be able to invest the proceeds of the new capital at an average return of 6 per cent. As a matter of fact, the investments made for some time past show a better average than that.

With regard to the terms offered to the 4½ per cent. preference shareholders, the shareholders may remember that this stock was taken as part of the scheme for writing off £1 per share some years ago, and in the prospectus it was set out that the uncalled capital formed part of their security, and therefore it was thought that they might have a slight grievance if they were not offered some small increase in interest for agreeing to the scheme. We propose, therefore, to offer them £87 10s of 5½ per



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2.

Authorised Capital £10,000,000 Reserve Fund - £4,000,000	Issued Capital - £8,734,660 Paid-Up Capital - £4,367,330
---	---

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

53 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

cent. preference stock, which, although writing down their capital by 12½ per cent., gives them a yield of £4 16s 3d, as against £4 10s hitherto. Their stock will then form part of a large issue of 5½ per cent. preference stock, which should command a better market price than heretofore.

PROPOSED ISSUE.

Should you agree to the scheme before you, which, at present, is subject to the approval of the debenture-holders, we propose, after the consent of the Court has been obtained to the reduction of capital, to offer to the shareholders, giving them a preferential consideration, £700,000 of 5½ per cent. preference stock and 225,000 ordinary shares, and so soon as the shares are fully paid to convert them into stock, so that when these issues have been made the 5½ per cent. preference issue will amount to £1,050,000 and the ordinary stock issue to £525,000. The effect of this will be that by the issue of the stock and shares referred to the company should receive over £1,000,000 in cash, to be invested in securities similar to those already held, whereas if the uncalled capital were called up the proceeds, which might not amount to £900,000, would, under the trust deed, have to be handed over to the trustees and invested in gilt-edged securities. Our scheme is placed before you to obviate this, and to place the company, once and for all, on a sound effective basis, and in line with other successful investment trust companies.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the scheme was also unanimously approved at separate meetings of the holders of the 5½ per cent. and 4½ per cent. cumulative preference stock.

ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED. NAPLES AS A PORT OF CALL.

The 25th ordinary general meeting of the Orient Steam Navigation Company, Limited, was held, on the 19th inst., at 3 and 5 Fenchurch avenue, London.

Sir Kenneth S. Anderson, Bart., K.C.M.G., who presided, said that the balance available, after payment of the preferred dividend, was £345,039, and the directors again recommended a dividend of 12½ per cent., free of income-tax, on the deferred shares, transferring £150,000 to general reserve account, and carrying forward £64,929. There had been a considerable reduction over all in the average earnings per voyage during the past year, but this had been set off to some extent by savings in expenditure.

For the last 40 years or more the company had made Naples a port of call, but regulations and requirements of continuously increasing severity had been imposed upon them since the war which were strongly suggestive of a desire to bring about their abandonment of the trade, in order that the Italian flag, which at present enjoyed every consideration in every port of the British Empire, might enjoy a monopoly of Empire trade in Italian ports. They had already drawn the attention of the Imperial Government to the situation, and he trusted that the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, which conceded to the Italian emigrant the privileges of citizenship, would also take note of it.

CONDENSING SALOON ACCOMMODATION.

The company's policy of condensing the entire saloon accommodation, inaugurated in the *Ormonde*, and continued in the new steamers, was being gradually completed by the necessary adaptation of the *Orsova*, *Orviato*, and *Osterley*, so that with the first sailing in 1925 Orient liners would cease to carry second-class passengers. The results had been entirely satisfactory, and had fully justified their expectation that they would be able to extend a higher standard of comfort to their passengers without increased cost. The *Orama*, the first of their new steamers, sailed on November 15th, and reached Fremantle last Monday morning, and all the reports received went to confirm the high opinion they had already formed of her capabilities and attractions, not the least among which was the large percentage of single-berth cabins. Her sister ship, the *Oronsay*, now completing with Messrs John Brown and Co., at Clydebank, would be delivered early next month, and in April last they ordered from Messrs Vickers a third new steamer of 20,000 tons, which would be substantially a replica of *Orama* and *Oronsay*, subject to certain improvements which experience in building the other two had suggested. The third steamer, the *Otranto*, was due to be delivered towards the end of 1925.

They had been relying upon the expeditious completion by the Port of London Authority of the wet and dry docks, locks, and entrances at Tilbury, but, despite repeated representations, endorsed by the Chamber of Shipping, absolutely nothing had been done; and although they had within the last two days received assurances that the work would at once be put in hand, a deplorable interval of time, during which the company would at best suffer much inconvenience and expense, must elapse before this grave reproach to the Port of London could be removed. The

crucial issue was not whether the additional expenditure would show a direct and immediate return, but whether the Port of London would keep pace with the development of maritime transport, or, by its failure to do so, see its mail and passenger traffic reluctantly driven away to other ports.

COMPANY'S FINE FLEET.

There had been a good deal of talk lately of a projected new mail and passenger service to Australia with a speed of over 20 knots, but he continued to believe that in the airship lay the best hope of any radical reduction in the time of transit. With the advent of their three new steamers, the Orient Line would be equipped with ships which would certainly have no superior in the trade, if, indeed, they had any equals. They would, of course, require a considerable expansion in the numbers they carried to justify the existence of those new steamers, but he saw no reason to be other than optimistic if they could keep clear of droughts, strikes, and foreign assaults on British interests such as the Italian to which he had referred. Australia was enjoying a spell of prosperity; wool prices were high, and seemed likely to be maintained; prospects for the coming harvest were excellent, and even the export of frozen beef, which had been the darkest spot in the picture, showed some improvement. The omens, therefore, were good, assuming that the cost of production, which was exceedingly high, did not further advance to the point where it strangled even the primary industries.

He could say with confidence that the reputation of the company had never stood higher; that it had never been in a stronger position to take advantage of any expansion in the trade, and that, given the slightest encouragement, the three new ships would be merely an earnest of more and, if possible, finer ones to come in the near future.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED.

"YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS." INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, was held in Johannesburg on Tuesday, November 18th last.

Mr W. S. Webber occupied the chair, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1924, said:—

The position of your company has steadily improved for many years, and last year was no exception. The profit made was larger than ever before, the position sounder, and the future is full of hope. It is true that some people financially interested in South Africa viewed the recent change of Government with some anxiety. The prosperity of South Africa at the present stage of the development of the country is, however, so closely bound up with the prosperity of the mining industry that it is impossible to think that any body of men who have the good of South Africa at heart, as we feel sure the members of the present Government have, can willingly pursue any policy which will lead to the injury or prejudice of the leading industry of the country. The mining industry of the Rand has been carried on under four different forms of Government; it has survived two long periods of war, and we look with confidence for its prosperity to be continued under the present Government. There will certainly be no lack of energy and goodwill in the efforts of the mining industry to work along true lines of progress.

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.

The directors' report and statements for the financial year ended June 30th last record a year of unprecedented success, and the directors were in the happy position of being able to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year, which is a record dividend for this company, the highest previous dividend on the increased capital of the company being the 12½ per cent. paid in September, 1923. Before examining the details of the year's profits, I shall deal with the balance-sheet, commencing with the company's liabilities.

Issued capital.—The issued capital of the company remains unchanged at £3,950,000.

Reserve fund.—£150,000 has been added to the reserve fund, which now stands at £400,000. The directors intend to continue the policy of strengthening the reserve fund as opportunity occurs from time to time. They consider that this policy will further strengthen the position of the company, and will provide an insurance fund to meet any unforeseen difficulties and losses in the future.

Sundry creditors, £869,628.—A decrease of £209,954 compared with the previous year is shown in this account, principally owing

to a reduction in the deposit money held by the company at the close of the financial year.

Contingent liabilities, £166,733.—These show a small increase of £6,864. They are chiefly in connection with the company's holding of Standard Bank shares, which, as you know, are not fully-paid shares. This is a contingent liability which we can view with equanimity.

ASSETS.

Investments in stocks and shares, £4,036,269.—The increase of £370,235 compared with the previous year is due chiefly to the fact that the capital of the Carlton Hotel Company was increased from £1,000 to £150,000, and the loan made by your company repaid, and that debentures were created in connection with the loan to the Delagoa Bay Lands Syndicate. As a consequence, it will be observed that the account "Loans to South African companies" has disappeared from the balance-sheet. The remainder of the increase represents the difference between shares purchased and shares realised during the year, less the depreciation written off certain of your shareholdings to bring their book value down to their market value at June 30 last. No credit has been taken in the accounts for the appreciation of certain shareholdings over their book value at the close of the financial year. This appreciation to-day represents a very large sum.

MINING PROPERTIES AND REAL ESTATE.

Mining properties, including advances to mining companies, £272,658.—The decrease of £120,455 compared with the previous year represents repayments of loans to mining companies, chiefly New State Areas, whose debt has been repaid in full.

Real estate and buildings, £357,408.—This is £31,182 less than a year ago, owing to the realisation of several properties in Johannesburg and the sale of building plots on the company's estates. The Yeoville, Berea, and Upper Houghton estates are practically sold out, and consequently the most valuable estate remaining to the company is the Lower Houghton. A number of plots were sold on this estate during the year under review, and we are now taking in hand its more rapid development. This will involve a certain amount of expenditure which, however, should amply justify itself.

Two areas on the Houghton estate, measuring 40 acres in the aggregate, were given to the town for public purposes.

Loans on mortgage and real estate, £197,053.—The investments under this heading are more than they were a year ago by £55,824. This represents the difference between fresh loans granted and the amount by which mortgage bonds and balances due on plots sold have been paid off or reduced.

Loans at short call on market and other securities, £150,715.—A smaller amount by £239,570 of the company's funds was employed in this business at the end of last year than at the end of the previous year, and this difference is reflected in the increased cash balance of £608,971, which is £239,416 higher than last year.

Sundry debtors and dividends accrued, £358,444.—This account shows an increase of £52,562 as compared with that for the previous year, due to the fact that the dividends declared as at June 30th, but not paid until after the end of our financial year, were higher, and partly to an increase in the ordinary current accounts of the company.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The whole financial position as disclosed by the balance-sheet is exceedingly strong and thoroughly sound from whatever point it is viewed. It will be seen that the liabilities to the public are only £869,628, and that if these be deducted from the assets there remains a surplus of £5,118,490, which is £252,497 more than the surplus shown by the last balance-sheet. Further, it must always be remembered that whilst your directors from year to year write down any of your investments in stocks and shares which stand in the books above market values, they do not write up those which stand in the books below market values. The result to-day is that the aggregate appreciation of your assets represents a very large sum which does not appear in the accounts, and consequently the financial position of the company is substantially stronger than even the excellent position disclosed by the balance-sheet would indicate.

Perhaps shareholders generally do not know the extent to which this satisfactory state of affairs is directly attributable to the close personal supervision given to the affairs of the company by their permanent chairman, Mr S. B. Joel. His attention to the business and interests of the company is unceasing, and he ungrudgingly places the whole of his wide knowledge and experience, and his recognised ability at the disposal of the company. Only those who are in close touch with the business of the company can appreciate how much its prosperity is due to the work of Mr. Joel.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Having dealt with the general financial position of the company

as shown in the balance-sheet, we now turn to examine the results of the year's operations as illustrated in the profit and loss account. The gross profit for the year, after provision had been made for taxation in both South Africa and England, depreciation, and had and doubtful debts, amounted to £784,819. The expenses, less the sums received from other companies, were £38,572, so that the net profit for the year was £746,247. This is the figure which is the real measure of the year's work. It exceeds the net profit for the previous financial year by £242,406, and is larger than any profit which the company has made since its inception. This result was principally due to increased dividends on our shareholdings.

Adding to the net profit the sum of £172,243 brought forward from the previous year, the total amount available was £918,490. Of this amount, the dividend of 15 per cent. absorbed £592,500, there was added to the reserve fund £150,000, and the balance of £175,990 was carried forward to the current year. If these results are compared with those for the previous year, when a dividend of 12½ per cent. was paid, no addition was made to the reserve fund, and £3,757 less was carried forward, I think it may be safely said that the results of last year's work afford ample grounds for gratification on the part of everybody connected with the company, and that, in conjunction with the balance-sheet, they must inspire confidence in the future of the company.

COMPANY'S INTERESTS.

As hitherto, the company's principal interests are connected with the gold-mining industry of the Witwatersrand. The mines of the group crushed a total of 7,598,800 tons of ore for the year ended June 30th last, and produced 2,483,449 ounces of gold, which sold for £11,590,939. Of the latter sum, £7,281,890 was spent in working costs, leaving a profit of £4,309,049. The dividends declared for the year amounted to £1,937,344, the payments to the Government in respect of leased areas and Union and provincial taxation amounted to £1,287,000, the balance being expended on capital account, redemption of debentures, interest, &c.

The prosperity of mining ventures, as of all industrial undertakings, depends upon the capacity to produce revenue which exceeds the expenditure. Now, so far as the revenue is concerned, the price of the product of mining is fixed by circumstances which are outside the influence of the mining industry. The price of gold has remained fairly steady for some time. In the calendar year 1922 it averaged £4 12s 5d for a fine ounce; in 1923 the average was £4 10s 9d; and for the first nine months of this year it was £4 14s 5d. Just at present the tendency seems to be for British exchange with America to improve, and for the price of gold to fall. Admittedly, it is difficult, if not impossible, to say what the future will bring, but we are face to face with the possibility that this fall in the price of gold may continue until it reaches the normal price. The gold premium will then disappear, and we may return to the gold standard of currency before the Government has decided what steps to take upon the report of the Commission which it intends to appoint. It becomes necessary that we should prepare for this possible contingency and devote our efforts towards the decrease of the costs of working. This brings us to consider the expenditure of the gold-mining industry.

WORKING COSTS.

Working costs are, fortunately, still showing a tendency to decrease. The working costs for the whole of the Witwatersrand were in June, 1922, 22s 8d a ton of ore treated; in June, 1923, 20s 1d a ton; and in June, 1924, 19s 8d a ton.

For our own group the corresponding figures were:—June, 1922, 21s 2d; June, 1923, 20s 6d; June, 1924, 18s 10d. If allowance is made for the fact that we always charge the realisation costs of gold and exchange to working costs, which is not the practice with other groups, then the comparable figures become:—

June, 1922, 20s 5d, as compared with the Witwatersrand average of 22s 8d; June, 1923, 19s 9d, as compared with the Witwatersrand average of 20s 1d; and June, 1924, 17s 10d, as compared with the Witwatersrand average of 19s 8d. This comparison with the average figures for the Witwatersrand is a striking testimony to the efficiency of the administration and management of our group. In June, 1914, the average working costs of the Witwatersrand were 17s 1d per ton, so that it will be seen that the average costs are still considerably above the pre-war figure. The chief factors in the working costs of the mines are stores, wages, and efficiency. Let us deal with the prospects of these factors separately.

The prices of stores are substantially higher than in 1914, but this is not beyond remedy by our Government. The cost of transport forms a considerable proportion of the total cost of stores. Railway rates in South Africa are very high. Some reductions have been made, but the mines have not benefited much from such reductions, which have been made chiefly on articles which the mines do not use. The burden of these high rates falls very largely on the primary industries of the country—farming and mining.

felt it was necessary to do this in order to assist in the development of the new and the recently opened departments. The South American Stores appeared as debtors for £106,673 in respect of their dividends, which had been paid since the close of the accounts. The company's investments, standing at £190,724, were in gilt-edged securities, and showed an increase of £39,435. Cash on fixed deposit, held against trustees' securities, amounted to £75,000, against nothing in the previous balance-sheet. Cash at bank and in hand stood at £45,209. Adding these last four items together, it would be seen that they had cash, or its equivalent, amounting to £417,607, against £249,130 in the previous year. This was an increase of £168,477. Their financial position was very strong, and he felt sure the shareholders would consider it most satisfactory. Since the close of the financial year the company's holding in British Government securities had been increased by £110,000, and now amounted to the substantial sum of £300,000. The improvement in the rate of exchange further benefited the financial position very materially, as the value of their assets was thereby increased. Thus since the close of the year a considerable part of the reserve had been freed automatically, and the position would be further improved should the recovery in the exchange continue.

PROSPECTS.

The board did not think the time had yet come for the payment of an interim dividend on the preference shares, and the board proposed to maintain for the present the December date for the declaration of the preference dividend. As to the probability of a distribution at an early date upon the ordinary shares, it was, of course, very difficult to speak with any degree of certainty. They were, it was true, anticipating a further improvement in net profit during the current year, but the board did not think the prospects, so far as they could see and forecast them at the present moment, were sufficient to warrant them in holding out confident hopes of paying a dividend on the ordinary shares in respect of the current year.

Sir Woodman went on to say that conditions in Argentina were but slowly improving. However, if conditions in the provinces continued to improve, the South American Stores should show larger profits during their current financial year. Unless, however, the improvement was very substantial, it was improbable that that company's distribution would show any material change from that of the past year. Finally, he referred with keen gratification to the proposed visit of the Prince of Wales to Argentina. As to Argentina generally, the forecast they had recently received from Buenos Aires as to the current year was hopeful of improved trade and results. The outcome of the first three months' trading down to the end of November so far justified the hope that they had finished with the bad years, and that the net profits for the current year would show an improvement on the past year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CARRERAS, LIMITED. RECORD PROFITS.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of Carreras, Limited, was held, on the 18th instant, at the offices of the company, City road, London, Mr Louis B. Baron presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—I have recently returned from a visit to my father, our chairman, who specially requested me to offer his congratulations to the shareholders on the coming-of-age of this company. At one of our previous meetings, our chairman, who has had a very wide business experience, referred to this company as his youngest child, and to-day he is proud of the child which you have all helped to bring up. It has now reached full age without its health being impaired, and has grown into a very healthy and vigorous condition, which I venture to think is a great pleasure to all of us.

YEAR'S RESULTS.

As I have already intimated, this is our twenty-first annual general meeting, and it gives your directors great satisfaction that the figures they have to put before you to-day are a fitting celebration of the company's coming-of-age. Our results this year surpass anything we have previously achieved, the profit being £480,000, against £180,000 last year, and the balance available for distribution, £619,000.

Looking back over the years since the inception of the company, and remembering all the difficulties with which we have had to contend, is a great satisfaction to the directors, as well as to the shareholders, of this company to feel that the efforts that have been made to overcome these difficulties have not been in vain, and that to-day your company is able to take its place as one of the leading tobacco manufacturers of this country, and of the world.

The achievement which we celebrate to-day has been brought about principally through our determination to give the public the best that can be produced, and the high measure of popularity which our brands enjoy is evidence that the smoking public appreciates this fact. Our success makes us all the more determined to put forth all the efforts of which we are capable, so that in the future we may do everything possible to maintain a consistent rate of progress. I think you will also agree that it is very fitting that this twenty-first year of our existence has been the occasion for the opening of an additional factory.

For a long time past it has been difficult to cope with our orders in the building in which we are met to-day, and some months ago we began to look out for additional accommodation. Ultimately, we were successful in purchasing a well-constructed and well-arranged factory building in New North street, Theobald's road.

Naturally, a good deal had to be done in the way of alterations to make the factory suitable for our requirements, and to equip it with all the most modern machinery for the manufacture of cigarettes and tobacco under the most hygienic conditions. As a result of the splendid co-operation between the workers in our various departments, led by your directors, the removal from one place to another was accomplished over a single week-end, and in an amazingly short space of time we were carrying out the various processes of manufacture and despatch of goods from New North street, as well as from Arcadia Works.

There is one other matter which I wish to mention, and it is a suggestion which originated in the mind of our chairman, Mr Bernhard Baron. My father wishes me to say that on this twenty-first anniversary of the company, he thinks we should all be reminded of the great debt which we owe to our soldiers, sailors, and airmen who fought in the Great War, and but for whose efforts business prosperity, as well as many other things which we prize in this country, would have been impossible.

Mr Bernhard Baron, our chairman, has therefore sent instructions that the company should contribute the sum of £2,000 to Earl Haig's British Legion Fund for ex-Service men and their dependents in distressed circumstances, and that he will contribute a further £1,000 as his own personal gift in addition to the company's contribution to the same worthy object.

Mr Bernhard Baron, our chairman, feels that, in view of the great services and tremendous sacrifices made by our soldiers, sailors, and airmen, it should not be necessary for continuous appeals for money to be made to support the men who fought in the Great War, and who now cannot find work. Many of them lost the means and the power of supporting themselves and their dependents, and the community at large are reaping the benefit of their sacrifice. Mr Bernhard Baron, therefore, makes the suggestion that the commercial world would only be making an acknowledgement which is more than due if every successful company would vote a generous contribution to Earl Haig's Fund on behalf of these men, not on the ground of charity, but because they are entitled to the best provision that can be made for their needs and the greatest possible relief from anxiety about the future.

I will conclude by saying that the present financial year has started very satisfactorily, and we shall do everything possible to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

SHOWELL'S BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR DAVENPORT ON ITS SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual meeting of shareholders of Showell's Brewery Company, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad street, E.C., on the 18th instant, Mr. James Davenport, chairman, presiding.

Mr W. G. Holland, secretary, read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors on the accounts for the year ended September 27th.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said a year ago he stated that the balance-sheet showed a sound and even a strong financial position. To-day their financial position was even stronger, and their revenue account showed a further increase. As a result they were able to recommend a dividend on their ordinary shares of 15 per cent., as against 12½ per cent. last year, and to place £10,000 to reserve account (increasing it to £65,000), against £5,000 similarly transferred a year ago. On the assets side of the balance-sheet an exceedingly strong financial position was maintained. Cash was £54,000, against £47,900; sundry debtors £39,100, against £33,500; their holdings of British Government stocks, taken at cost (and they were worth considerably more), totalled over £103,000; sundry other investments stand at just under £30,000 (and a large proportion of this consisted of the company's own

debentures bought at advantageous prices); whilst stock-in-trade was £31,500, against £28,800 in the previous account. On the liabilities side of the account, the reserve stood at £55,000, against £50,000, and with the allocation they proposed to make would appear next year at £65,000. It was growing very nicely, and he hoped they would continue to see this increase. The bulk of the item sundry creditors and reserves consisted of internal reserves accumulated during their administration, and constituted a strength which they might regard with considerable satisfaction. The actual liabilities included in that figure were relatively small, any liabilities they were amply covered by the cash at bank. He thought they would be satisfied with the financial position of the company.

As to the revenue account, they brought in £8,372, and the profit for the year was £34,920, leaving the sum of £43,301 available for distribution. The preference dividend for the year absorbed £13,800, the dividend of 15 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders would take £12,000; they proposed placing £10,000 to reserve, leaving a carry-forward of £7,501. The revenue account might also be looked upon as satisfactory. A year ago we were in the turmoil of politics. He thought they were not unduly optimistic in now looking forward to a fairly long rest from elections, and the unsettlement they inevitably bring. And he thought they were also justified in saying they believed the brewing industry would receive fair treatment.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

EDISON SWAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED TURNOVER AND PROFIT.

The forty-first ordinary general meeting of the Edison Swan Electric Company, Limited, was held, on the 17th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, Mr C. F. Spencer (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that sums of £14,418 and £3,015 had been appropriated out of the sinking fund to the redemption of first and second debenture stocks respectively, whilst the sinking fund had been increased to £24,873. The net debt on first and second debenture stocks was £312,786 on June 30, 1924, and the interest accrued thereon was £5,340. On June 30, 1923, the debt due to the bankers was £314,150, but during the last completed year £109,000 had been paid off. Further repayments had been made since July 1 of the current year, and they hoped to make additional reductions early in the new year.

There was a balance of profit, after providing for general expenses, &c., of £122,140. Out of that sum they had set aside £10,000 as reserve for bad and doubtful debts, &c., whilst loan charges had absorbed £37,225, leaving a net profit of £74,914. They were proposing to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, being an increase of 2½ per cent. on last year's dividend, and to allocate £50,000 to the reserve fund. After making such appropriations there remained a sum of £17,575 to carry forward to the current year's account, and that sum would more than cover any sums payable in respect of corporation profits tax.

The board's policy was to build up reserves and reduce debts, and since the board was reconstituted some two years ago, a sum of £80,000 had been placed to reserve account, whilst debenture and other loan debts had been reduced by £127,433. He looked forward with pleasurable anticipation to the time when the charges for loan interest would be substantially reduced as a result of their policy.

With regard to the present year's trading the turnover and profit for the five months to November 30 last showed a substantial increase on the figures for the corresponding period of 1923. Every phase of the company's activities and operations had been carefully examined, resulting in substantial economies.

They must not be unmindful of the possible effects on their business of foreign competition. He saw evidence of foreign competition making inroads into profits at no very distant date, unless some legislation safeguarding some of the industries in which they were engaged was adopted.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the British Burmah Petroleum Company, Limited, was held, on the 19th instant, at the Cannon street Hotel, London, the Hon. Lionel Holland, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Chairman said that the general anticipation of improvement in the oil business had not materialised during the past year. The outstanding factor militating against profitable expansion was

the prodigious oil production in the U.S.A., altogether outstripping the rapidly growing demand and causing a slump in selling prices. This company's revenue arose in a considerable degree from sales of benzine in Europe, where the selling price had been reduced by the sale of U.S.A. benzine at a cut figure, leaving scarcely any margin of profit. Had the price of benzine been maintained at the figure of a few years ago, the company's revenue would have been greater by over £150,000. The price realised for their kerosene was reduced since October, 1922, and the higher cost of tinning had also cut into the net revenue from this source, while the Excise duty of one anna per gallon levied by the Government of India absorbed over £75,000 in the year. The trading profit, £195,000, was £29,000 less than in the previous year, and the net profit was £52,008—a decrease of £20,000—after meeting expenses in Burmah and London (which were reduced by £4,000—£5,000), depreciation and interest. Last year £73,000 was obtained by refund of taxes, enabling them to declare dividends absorbing over £77,000. This year the corresponding receipt was £16,000, and though the trading results did not vary materially, it was impossible to recommend a dividend.

Large economies had been made at the refinery and on the field, revenue expenditure being down by nearly £50,000. They had lived down and were surmounting a period of depression, and were rapidly reducing debenture liability, while depreciation allowances were maintained. The position in essentials was sound, but until prices and conditions improved (which, it was generally thought, would not be long delayed), they could not look for a return of the prosperity which had enabled the company since 1917 to pay over £1,000,000 in dividends.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 13, 1924.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 15, 1923.	Receipts. Week Ended Dec. 13, 1924.	Receipts. Week Ended Dec. 15, 1923.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England...	..	5,069,615	5,442,665	..	..
Bank of Ireland....	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..	..
REVENUE.		6,631,614	6,818,167	..	..
Customs	101,800,000	71,463,000	90,860,000	2,258,000	2,446,000
Excise	135,900,000	93,070,000	100,508,000	1,819,000	2,218,000
Motor Vehicle Duties ..	5,100,000	5,105,000	4,470,000	..	..
Estate, &c., Duties.....	56,000,000	42,520,000	39,000,000	1,270,000	790,000
Stamps	21,000,000	13,470,000	14,000,000	230,000	990,000
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	1,250,000	690,000	540,000	..	..
Property & Income Tax	265,000,000	123,240,000	132,214,000	1,383,000	1,704,000
Super-Tax	61,000,000	28,980,000	25,150,000	440,000	460,000
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	8,000,000	..	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	20,000,000	11,940,000	15,180,000	220,000	360,000
Post Office	53,500,000	38,400,000	36,150,000	900,000	750,000
Crown Lands	900,000	760,000	690,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	12,250,000	9,694,036	10,268,748	..	1,762,825
Miscellaneous—					
Ordinary Receipts...	11,850,000	8,380,269	9,462,383	131,713	59,730
Special Receipts....	30,000,000	21,223,659	23,728,250	17,523	1,186,211
Revenue	794,050,000	474,275,954	507,771,361	8,669,036	12,676,766
Total, inc. Balance	..	481,607,568	514,589,548	..	..
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid:—					
Bullion	..	..	65,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	..	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	5,920,000	4,870,000	..	..	70,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts, 1922 and 1924	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914 ..	4,000	12,000	..	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	260,719	..	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904	..	520,000	..	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921	650,000	820,000	..	..	..
(c) For other Issues:—					
By Treasury Bills	1,713,836,000	1,782,460,000	57,144,000	55,590,000	..
By National Savings Certificates	19,800,000	37,950,000	650,000	450,000	..
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33	16,876,370	31,429,452	472,500	1,134,000	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	3,700,000	..	..	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances	579,319,000	612,455,000	6,400,000	26,800,000	..
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—					
Dividends on Shares acquired..	25,108	50,081	..	..	..
Repayments—					
In respect of Cunard Loan	130,000	130,000	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	592,439	208,959	..	..	..
In respect of Issues under Section 59 (4) of Finance Act, 1920	1,622,025	..	..	..	..
Total	2,828,915,012	2,989,003,822	73,335,536	96,720,766	..

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

EXPENDITURE.	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Dec. 13, 1924, to Dec. 15, 1923.	Issues Week Ended Dec. 15, 1923.	Issues Week Ended Dec. 15, 1923.
National Debt Services—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	251,981,352	265,299,455	3,090,120
Sinking Fund	45,000,000	19,178,571	29,504,946	16,206,338
Road Fund	15,000,000	4,364,044	3,754,044	4,777,184
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,163,084	7,537,205	575,193
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,608,978	310,000
Land Settlement	750,000	383,213	415,465	5,664
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,440,000	1,703,097	1,614,357	249
Supply Services	408,919,000	257,105,706	255,944,289	5,330,000
Expenditure	793,759,000	545,931,802	566,678,739	8,555,000
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Bullion	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921	720,000	820,000	30,000	..
Issues to Meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Acts 1922 and 1924	6,200,000	4,920,000	250,000	250,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914	6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924	324,541	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	..	10,500	..	..
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 (Exchequer Bonds, 1923)	..	520,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921—				
Redemption of amounts borrowed	5,920,000	4,750,000	..	..
Treasury Bills	1,669,255,000	1,749,360,000	52,735,000	52,185,000
Principal of National Saving Certificates	21,850,000	24,400,000	500,000	550,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	6,586,653	32,222,296	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	50	7,463,440	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	563,779,500	594,612,000	9,900,000	16,500,000
Anglo Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners	23,109	50,081	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—				
Cunard Loan Repayments	130,000	130,000	130,000	..
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911	..	55,214	..	..
Balance in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,825,830,437	2,986,093,052	73,248,723	96,752,814
Bank of Ireland	2,006,725	1,941,621	62,187	194,800
Bank of Scotland	1,107,850	979,149	149,000	162,752
Total	3,114,575	2,020,770	86,613	32,048

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 63 of 1924.
Treasury, December 15, 1924.

TREASURY BILLS AND BONDS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bonds and Treasury Bills were opened on Dec. 19, 1924, and the total amount applied for was £42,715,000. For bills at three months dated Monday at £99 1s 4d and above in full. Tuesday at £99 1s 1d, about 97 per cent., and above in full. Wednesday at £99 1s 1d, about 97 per cent., and above in full. Saturday £99 1s 1d, about 97 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were as follows:—In bills at 3 months, £35,000,000; in bonds, nil.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.	4% Treasury Bonds. Average Price.
Nov. 14, 1924.	£ 30,000,000	£ 52,975,000	£ s d 3 14 0-65	£ s d 94 10 0
Nov. 21, 1924.	30,000,000	57,400,000	3 13 9-38	nil
Nov. 28, 1924.	30,000,000	72,040,000	3 12 10-79	94 10 0
Dec. 5, 1924.	45,000,000	64,675,000	3 12 3-17	94 10 0
Dec. 12, 1924.	45,000,000	59,155,000	3 13 5-98	nil
Dec. 19, 1924.	40,000,000	42,715,000	3 15 5-31	nil

Tenders will be received on Dec. 24, 1924, for Treasury Bonds and Bills to be issued to the maximum amount of £45,000,000. The amount of Treasury Bonds issued will not exceed £4,000,000.

CURRENCY NOTES ACCOUNT.—(000's omitted.)

Date.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Accounts.	Redemption Account.	Notes and Certificates Outstanding.	Investments in Accounts.	Redemption Account.
Mar. 29, 1922.	500,351	14,255	5,000	18,500	19,450	15-9
June 29, 1922.	295,374	13,338	6,000	28,500	19,660	16-3
Sept. 27, 1922.	289,127	12,648	7,000	27,000	21,150	16-6
Dec. 27, 1922.	301,337	12,872	7,000	27,000	21,150	15-9
Mar. 29, 1923.	285,616	12,318	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3
June 27, 1923.	286,503	12,516	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3
Sept. 27, 1923.	282,784	12,401	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3
Dec. 27, 1923.	299,070	12,571	7,000	27,000	22,450	16-5
Mar. 29, 1924.	281,538	11,908	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-6
June 27, 1924.	290,316	12,472	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-0
Sept. 27, 1924.	285,592	12,227	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3
Dec. 27, 1924.	288,098	12,249	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-1
Mar. 29, 1925.	286,642	12,348	7,000	27,000	22,450	17-3

Since July 31, 1920, notes and certificates outstanding include notes called in but not yet cancelled. Maximum fiduciary issue for 1920 fixed at £20,600,000, for 1921 at £317,555,200, for 1922 at £292,938,400, for 1923 at £270,185,800, and for 1924 at £248,150,900.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Dec. 15, 1924.
Funded Debt	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314
Term Annuities	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14
3% Conversion Loan	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666
4% War Stock	..	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
4% War Stock	..	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	..	2,047	2,040	1,995	1,953	2,095	2,095	2,166
National War Bonds	..	1,509	1,476	1,413	1,201	953	924	820
4% Funding Loan	..	409	409	406	401	399	400	396
4% Victory Bonds	..	360	357	347	335	325	314	314
Treasury Bonds	..	20	323	319	289	185	150	150
Exchequer Bonds	..	267	274	285	342	354	367	363
National Savings Certs.	..	1,306	1,181	1,132	1,087	1,157	1,149	1,128
Other Debt*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French)	..	51	51	1,121	1,121	1,149	1,128	632
Treasury Bills	..	15	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107	1,107
Temporary Advances	..	1	243	205	147	194	208	197
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,829	7,574	7,655	7,742	7,801	7,709
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,776

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Dec. 15, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Dec. 15, '24.	Dec. 15, '24.
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	3,750,000	..	10,000,000	9,250,000
Advances by Public Deptms.	207,990,500	186,155,500	186,695,000	5,750,000
Treasury Bills Outstanding	649,130,000	588,320,000	632,930,000	4,420,000
Total Floating Debt	860,870,500	774,475,500	829,625,000	920,000

* Includes £29,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
CENTENARY YEAR, 1924.
ASSETS EXCEED £12,700,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4 and 4, St. James' Street, S.W.1.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Week ended Wednesday, December 17, 1924.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued	146,434,760
Government debt	11,015,100
Other securities	8,734,900
Gold coin & bullion ..	126,684,760
146,434,760	146,434,760

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Proprietors' capital ..	14,553,000
Reserve	3,324,464
Public deposits*	10,557,365
Other deposits	108,750,895
Seven-day & other bills	10,025
137,195,749	137,195,749

* Including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts.

	Amount, Dec. 17, 1924.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Rest	£ 3,324,464	+ 32,389	+ 36,525
Public deposits	10,557,365	+ 517,934	+ 4,817,808
Other deposits	108,750,895	+ 16,946,058	+ 930,534
Government securities ..	42,039,552	+ 15,002,811	+ 5,368,980
Other securities	72,398,360	+ 41,806	+ 3,521,740
Notes	126,684,760	+ 1,051,014	+ 3,169,324
Gold and silver coin ..	126,684,760	+ 1,058,605	+ 2,681,390
% of reserve to liabilities	19%	+ 8%	+ 3%

Date.	Coin and Bullion.	Deposits.	Securities in Banking Department.	Reserve and % of Reserve to Liabilities.	Bank Rate.
1924.					
Nov. 12	128,494,253	122,870,320	113,719,929	25,373,933	4%
19	128,497,363	122,235,025	117,763,257	26,012,338	4%
26	128,491,489	123,066,325	123,589,474	26,175,164	4%
Dec. 3	128,494,720	123,796,065	127,004,026	24,448,655	4%
10	128,504,026	124,445,175	129,782,529	23,808,851	4%
17	128,511,617	125,503,780	114,437,912	22,757,837	4%

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

Week Ending—	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1924.				
January 1 to December 3	32,365,663	1,475,051	2,683,914	36,524,628
Dec. 10	31,306,859	1,503,577	2,733,444	35,543,880
Dec. 17	31,067	31,067	59,007	778,536
Total to date 1924	33,807,324	1,538,448	2,807,684	38,153,456
Do 1923	32,780,635	1,574,561	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1924	+ 2,506,465	+ 34,871	+ 68,240	+ 2,609,576
	+ 8.3 %	+ 2.3 %	+ 2.4 %	+ 7.3 %
Total for year 1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
Total for year 1922	32,780,635	1,574,561	2,806,165	37,161,461
Increase or decrease in 1923	+ 510,262	+ 28,096	+ 4,489	+ 533,869
	+ 1.6 %	+ 1.8 %	+ 0.2 %	+ 1.4 %

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of November.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Dec. 13.
	1923.	1924.
Number of Working Days	26	25
BIRMINGHAM	8,891,000	10,326,000
BRISTOL	4,011,000	4,332,000
DUBLIN	4,810,000	5,051,000
HULL	4,077,000	4,356,000
LEEDS	2,948,000	3,224,000
LIVERPOOL	38,048,000	39,709,000
MANCHESTER	63,817,000	68,696,000
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,679,000	7,349,000
NOTTINGHAM	2,455,000	2,658,000
SHEFFIELD	4,662,000	4,230,000
Total	142,398,000	150,530,000

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest return of the German Rentenbank appeared in the *Economist* of October 11; German Gold Discount in November 15; Canada and Reichsbank in November 29; Denmark and Danzig in December 6; Esthonia, Lithuania, Poland, Bank of Serbs, Roumania and Italy in December 16.

U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS.—In \$'s (000's omitted).

	Dec. 13, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Dec. 14, 1923.
RESOURCES.				
Total gold reserve	2,997,500	3,027,930	3,046,250	3,115,640
Legal tender notes and silver reserve	95,220	89,560	87,700	78,010
Bills discounted for member banks	254,260	248,830	291,410	761,930
Bills bought in open market	352,840	354,610	281,000	339,380
Government obligations owned	551,900	574,940	582,220	96,290
All other resources	87,980	88,850	83,920	71,350
LIABILITIES.				
Government deposits	35,980	22,910	26,720	26,610
Other deposits	2,223,340	2,282,480	2,175,990	1,945,070
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	1,853,610	1,849,016	1,845,510	2,266,820
F.R.B. Notes in actual circulation	13,860	14,140	14,140	25,750
All other liabilities	333,040	333,070	335,080	318,510
Capital and surplus	..	..	..	..
Ratio of total resources to gross deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	75.2%	75.1%	77.7%	75.3%

SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK.—In £'s (000's omitted).

	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Nov. 8, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Oct. 25, 1924.	Nov. 9, 1924.
ASSETS.						
Gold coin and bullion.....	552	552	551	551	551	551
Gold certificates.....	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,223	10,103
Gold and silver coin.....	50	50	50	50	50	12
United States bonds.....	4,697	4,440	4,221	5,100	4,351	5,212
U.S. bills discounted.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	750
Loans & advances to Govt. Investments.....	423	423	423	423	423	1
LIABILITIES.						
Capital.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve.....	153	153	153	153	153	40
Notes in circulation.....	10,405	10,391	10,607	10,855	10,209	10,747
Bankers' deposits.....	5,007	4,711	4,843	4,887	4,812	4,911
Reserve of cash reserves in liabilities to public.....	68.6 %	69.9 %	68.4 %	67.1 %	70.3 %	68.7 %

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In kronen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 7, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1924.	Dec. 7, 1923.
Gold	110,668,007	110,668,007	110,668,007	62,116,638
Foreign bills	4,418,460,254	4,312,551,149	4,287,492,183	3,546,317,756
Bills discounted	1,928,870,381	1,943,877,611	1,974,039,763	1,070,480,035
Treasury bills	2,195,265,719	2,196,180,794	2,200,128,794	2,534,490,383
LIABILITIES.				
Reserve fund	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011	4,872,011
Notes in circulation	7,796,146,510	8,072,021,092	7,519,565,959	6,502,232,212
Deposits	850,335,050	484,749,725	1,225,953,401	711,085,682

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 7, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 23, 1924.
Metal reserve—			
Gold coin and bullion	512,429,809	508,411,247	506,106,272
Drifts and notes	1,881,851,113	1,816,101,676	1,848,382,594
Silver coin and bullion	13,300,375	13,300,882	13,300,882
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,963,259,112	1,984,539,716	1,907,565,829
Advances to the Treasury	1,974,780,735	1,975,631,354	1,975,631,354
LIABILITIES.			
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664
Notes in circulation	4,263,076,594	4,444,643,752	4,088,859,830
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	2,143,328,750	2,873,418,282	2,237,954,108

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In leva (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 14, 1924.	June 22, 1924.	May 31, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1923.
Monetary reserves	77,199	80,679	95,903	94,232	57,083
Notes on foreign banks	4,020	2,692	930	940	690
Foreign bills	101,724	145,792	187,434	97,944	—
Credit with foreign correspondents	761,546	642,927	465,584	498,179	362,309
Note circulation	4,495,758	4,474,085	4,843,907	5,054,661	3,875,493
Loans to the State	3,884,471	3,660,255	3,591,397	3,051,591	3,997,804

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Oct. 15, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.
Gold and balances abroad	2,399,365	2,556,348	2,652,723	2,584,931
Government loans and securities	3,978,523	3,969,073	3,969,896	3,971,866
Discounts and loans	2,407,001	2,315,759	2,247,036	2,100,498
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	4,753,778	4,788,426	4,653,859	4,504,664
Government deposits	834,706	849,205	845,857	787,568
Private sight deposits	1,669,226	1,843,757	1,920,668	1,845,408
Private deposits at fixed dates	1,069,713	1,070,501	1,072,211	1,073,973

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-issuing Department.

(In Tchernovets—000's omitted). (Note: 1 Tchernovets = 10 gold roubles).

Assets.	Dec. 16, 1924.	Dec. 1, 1924.	Nov. 16, 1924.	Nov. 1, 1924.	Dec. 16, 1923.
Gold in coin and bullion	13,630	13,140	13,140	13,140	8,753
Platinum	1,298	1,298	1,298	1,197	110
Foreign bank notes	9,742	10,138	10,070	10,070	4,877
Drifts in sterling (less 10%)	356	360	352	353	447
Bills (less 10% discount)	25,639	25,022	23,382	23,382	6,790
Securities covering advances on goods (less 10%)	8,722	8,727	9,705	9,207	6,572
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	57,339	57,719	57,569	56,411	27,200
Balance to which notes may still be issued	2,048	968	378	1,139	280

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 13, 1924.	Dec. 6, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Dec. 15, 1923.	Position May 30, 1914.
Gold	2,534,948	2,534,951	2,534,947	2,534,943	2,527,775	521,775
Silver	653,191	653,044	653,017	651,777	650,761	728,600
Loans & discounts	2,507,615	2,528,829	2,497,692	2,516,740	2,295,281	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,511,033	4,516,973	4,474,380	4,501,313	4,272,922	901,550
Deposits	936,753	927,093	930,089	933,933	973,539	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 19, 1924.	Nov. 12, 1924.	Oct. 29, 1924.	Oct. 22, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1924.	Oct. 10, 1924.
Coin and bullion	9,619	9,614	9,612	9,585	9,577	27,246
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balance abroad	342,991	350,876	345,532	305,796	82,059	82,059
Discounts	163,301	165,654	166,785	173,463	165,167	165,167
Government loans	1,657,184	1,666,058	1,660,596	1,619,711	1,061,151	1,061,151
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	1,762,062	1,782,178	1,778,734	1,747,490	1,344,314	1,344,314
Deposits	68,871	63,053	59,661	61,228	48,905	48,905

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £m (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1924.	Sept. 30, 1924.	Aug. 31, 1924.	July 31, 1924.	Oct. 31, 1923.	Position May 31, 1914.
Gold	5,358	5,358	5,358	5,357	3,369	1,571
Govt. securities	56,792	51,244	45,942	46,138	46,211	2,084
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circula.	41,710	32,590	26,511	26,352	33,530	2,400
Govt. deposits	17,044	14,733	14,287	15,058	9,896	2,315
Other deposits	15,344	15,563	14,897	14,543	12,332	2,660

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 12, 1924.	Dec. 13, 1924.	Dec. 14, 1924.	Dec. 15, 1924.	Dec. 16, 1924.	Dec. 17, 1924.	Dec. 18, 1924.	Dec. 19, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
3 months' do	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
4 months' do	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
6 months' do	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months'	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
6 months'	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Loans Day to day	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Short	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Deposit allowances: Banks	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Discount houses at call	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
At 10 days	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.	Trade Bills.
	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
Nov. 28, 1924.	23 3/4	33 3/4	33 3/4
Dec. 2, 1924.	23 3/4	33 3/4	33 3/4
Dec. 9, 1924.	23 3/4	33 3/4	33 3/4
Dec. 16, 1924.	23 3/4	33 3/4	33 3/4
Dec. 23, 1924.	23 3/4	33 3/4	33 3/4

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	%		Changed.	%
Amsterdam	Dec. 13, 1924.	.. 4	Madrid	Mar. 25, 1923.	.. 6
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923.	.. 7½	Paris	Dec. 11, 1924.	.. 7
Belgrade	.. 6		Prague	May 27, 1924.	.. 7
Berlin	Jan. 30, 1921.	.. 10	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924.	.. 8
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923.	.. 5½	Rome	July 11, 1922.	.. 5½
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920.	.. 12½	Sofia	.. 7	
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924.	.. 12½	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923.	.. 5½
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924.	.. 6	Swiss Bank	.. 4	
Christiania	Nov. 25, 1924.	.. 6½	places	July 14, 1923.	.. 4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924.	.. 7	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919.	.. 8
Danzig	Sept. 11, 1924.	.. 10	Vienna	Nov. 6, 1924.	.. 13
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924.	.. 9	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923.	.. 9			
New York Federal Reserve	Aug. 8, 1924.	.. 3	Irish	July 5, 1923.	.. 5

The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 5½% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6% for agricultural bills (of not more than six months).

Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.

We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, as from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent.

RATES OF EXCHANGE

	London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 21, 1923.	Dec. 12, 1924.	Dec. 19, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	84-60-65	88-00-05	87-20-25
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	17-20-11	19-65-19-70	19-75-80
Vienna	kroner to £1	T.T.	24-02	307/312-000	330/335-000	330/335-000
Prague	kroner to £1	T.T.	24-02	148½-149½	155-155½	155-155½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-22½	..	24-30-30	24-35-55
Reval	Estmk. to £1	T.T.	..	17-35-50	17-30-17-70	17-30-17-70
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25-22½	..	24-26-51	24-29-55
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22½	845-858	920-930	920-925
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	80/90-000	340/350-000	340/350-000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	815-835	855-860	865-870
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25-22½	600-630	635-645	635-645
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22½	380-395	310-315	312-317
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-48½-49	11-62-62½	11-64½-65
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	96-10-15	95-47-52	94-15-25
Christiana	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	29-28-33	30-97-31-02	31-07-12
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18-159	16-54-57	17-35-39	17-45-48
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	24-43-48	26-68-71	26-60-65
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22½	176½-177	186-6	187-4
Greece	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	25-22½	220-225	255-260	255-260
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	100½-100½	108-80-90	110-20-30
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	25-01-04	24-20-23	24-28-31
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	33-36-39	33-35-38	33-64-67
Lisbon	escudos to £1	T.T.	53½d	1½-1½	2½-2½	2½-2½
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	4-68½	4-68½	4-70½-71
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86½	4-47½	4-70½	4-72½-73
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86½	4-47½	4-70½	4-72½-73
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47-62½	40½-2	44½-18	45½-35
Rio de Janeiro	pence to peso	T.T.	16	5½	5½	5½-35
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	43½-43½	49½-50½	48½-49½
Valparaiso	pence to peso	T.T.	13-33	40-40	41-20	40-30
Lima	soles to £1	90 days	pe	62½ prem.	114½ prem.	114½ prem.
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	T.T.	10 to 11	16-5½d-16d	16-5½d-16d	16-5½d-16d
Bombay	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Gold	1s 5½d-16d	1s 6-16½d	1s 6-16½d
Madras	ster. to rupee	T.T.	Sov. 1s	5½d-16d	5½d-16d	5½d-16d
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d
Shanghai	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	3s 3½d-4d	3s 3½d-4d	3s 3½d-4d
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d
Yokohama	ster. to dollar	T.T.	..	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d	2s 4½d-4d
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24-58½	12s 1½d-1½d	1s 7½d-3d	1s 7½d-3d
Mexico	pence to dols.	T.T.	24-066	12s 2d	12s 1½d	12s 1½d
				25d-27d	24½d-25½d	26d-28d

† Rate for previous day.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

The Irving Bank—Columbia Trust Company cable the following money and exchange rates in New York:—

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.		Interim Date of Div.	Final Date of Div.	Method of Payment.	Last Year's Dividend.	Pre-vious Year's Dividend.
	Interim Div.	Final Div.					
Bank of New Zealand	1/4 p.s.	Dec. 16	..	..	..	..	..
Bank of Persia	4 p.s.	Jan. 19	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Ulster Bank	2 1/2	Dec. 20	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Bengal and North-Western	5% (4% bonus of 1%)	Feb. 7	Less tax 2/5 in £	..	..	13	11
Chesapeake and Ohio	\$2 p.s.	Jan. 1	Quarterly	..	..	..	..
Louisville and Nashville	3 %	Feb. 10	..	..	..	..	..
Midland Great Western	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Mining.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Apex Mines	7 1/2 %	Feb. 7	..	..	..	..	..
Aurora West	10 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	20	15
Brakpan Mines	..	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..
British Platinum and Gold	1/6 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	7 1/2	nil
City Deep	25 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Consolidated Main Reef	6 1/2 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Crown Mines	40 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
De Beers Consolidated, Def.	20 %	Dec. 31	Tax free	..	..	..	..
East Rand Proprietary	..	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Geduld Proprietary	17 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goldenhuis Deep	5 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Gopeng Consolidated	9 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Government Gold Areas	3 1/2 %	Feb. 4	..	..	..	..	..
Kinta Tin	1/9 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Langlaagte Estate and Gold	5 %	Feb. 18	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Leopoldville Tin	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malayan Tin Dredging	1/10 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meyer and Charlton	60 %	..	..	..	..	100	100
Modderfontein "B"	50 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Modderfontein Deep Levels	75 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Natal Navigation Collieries	7 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Kleinfontein	24 %	Feb. 7	..	..	..	..	..
New Modderfontein	50 %	Feb. 18	Tax free	..	..	..	..
New Primrose	7 1/2 %	Feb. 4	..	..	..	..	..
New United Main Reef	21 %	Feb. 4	..	..	..	..	..
Nource Mines	24 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Pengkalen	2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pontgibaud Silver-Lead Mining	15 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rand Mines	60 %	Feb. 10	Tax free	..	..	120	140
Rand Selection Corporation	50 %	..	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Rezenide Mines	15 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Robinson Deep, "A" Shares	5/6 p.s.	Feb. 5	..	..	..	..	..
Do "B"	1 p.s.	Feb. 5	..	..	..	..	..
Rose Deep	11 1/2 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
San Francisco Mines of Mexico	20 %	Jan. 6	Less tax at 4/6	..	..	32 1/2	15
Shanhu Mines	5 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Sherwood Star	25 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Simmer and Jack	20 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
South African Coal (Withbank)	24 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
South African Townships	10 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Southern Perak Dredging	1 p.s.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spring Mines	17 1/2 %	Feb. 19	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Sub Nigel	3 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sunlight Besi	1 p.s.	Dec. 17	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration	10 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Tronoh Mines	1 p.s.	Dec. 18	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Van Ryn Deep	32 1/2 %	Feb. 4	..	..	..	..	..
Village Deep	32 %	Feb. 4	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Witwatersrand	6 %	Feb. 18	..	..	..	..	..
Tea and Rubber.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bekoh Consolidated Rubber	2 1/2 %	Feb. 1	..	..	..	..	..
Jorehaut Tea	20 %	Jan. 9	Less tax at 3/11 1/4	..	..	..	..
Kibwezi Rubber (Liq.)	3 1/2 p.s.	..	..	..	..	8	8
Langen Rubber	..	..	Less tax at 4/6 in £	..	..	..	..
Pundaloya Tea	10 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Soemba Rubber	20 %	Jan. 7	Less tax 4/6 in £	..	..	5	nil
Standard Tea	20 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Tebrau Rubber	..	..	Less tax	..	..	10	10
Other Companies.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Antigua Sugar	..	..	Tax free	..	..	4	7 1/2
Australian Pastoral	7 1/2 %	Jan. 1	..	..	..	10	10
Beecham Estates and Pills	1 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Bertrams	..	..	..	..	..	7 1/2	10
Bull's Metal and Melio	..	..	..	..	..	10	10
Canadian Northern Pacific Lands	5 %	Jan. 15	..	..	..	16	12
City and General Properties	6 %	..	..	..	..	5	10
Cleveland Bridge & Engineering	..	..	Tax free	..	..	20	20
Cleveland Salt, Def.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Consolidated London Properties	1 p.s.	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Dundee Perth Shipping	2 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Extension, & C., Telg.	5 1/2 %	Jan. 15	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Eastern Telegraph	2 1/2 %	Jan. 15	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Finlay and Co.	..	..	Less tax	..	..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Howard and Bullough	1/6 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Imperial Tobacco of Canada	1 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	13	12
Investors' Mortgage Security	14 %	..	..	..	..	10	10
J. F. and H. Roberts	3 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	5	5
Khedivial Mail Steamship	4 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	10	8
Leeds and Wakefield Breweries	13 %	Dec. 18	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Mackay Companies	3 %	Jan. 20	Quarterly	..	..	..	..
Mexican Petroleum	12 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	15	5
Newcastle Breweries	5 %	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..	..
New Investment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Eastern Improved Dwigs.	4 1/2 %	..	..	..	..	7	7
Ohlsson's Cape Breweries	2 1/2 %	..	Less tax at 2/3 in £	..	..	..	..
Pan-American Petroleum, "A"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
and "B" Stocks	2 %	Jan. 20	Quarterly	..	..	..	..
Parkinson and W. and B. Cowan	1/6 p.s.	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Reeves and Sons	1/6 p.s.	Jan. 16	Less tax	..	..	8	8
Rolls-Royce	..	..	..	..	..	15	4 1/2
Rossleigh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Samuel Allsopp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Santa Rita Nitrate	5 %	Dec. 24	Less tax	..	..	10	10
Seabrooke and Sons	..	Jan. 10	Tax free	..	..	..	..
Shavington Water and Power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sir H. W. Trickett	10 %	..	Less tax	..	..	15	15 (a)
Stoll Picture Theatre	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Standard Motor	..	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Third Scottish American Trust	9 %	Jan. 1	..	..	..	10	20
Tinsley Park Colliery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Discount and Securities	5 1/2 %	..	Tax free	..	..	12 1/2	12 1/2
Waterlow and Sons, Def.	10 %	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellman Smith Owen Engineering	5 %	..	Less tax	..	..	..	..
Western Canada Invest.	..	..	..	..	..	2 1/2	5
Wyman and Sons	7 1/2 %	Jan. 1	Less tax	..	..	..	..

(a) Tax free.
EBERH VALLEY STEEL.—The directors have decided to pay no dividend on the preference shares. A similar decision was made last year, but later the full dividend for the year was paid.
MEXICAN EAGLE OIL.—The dividend on the 7 per cent. first preference shares due on October 31st last will be paid on December 31st.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Name of Railway.	Miles Open.	Week ended Dec. 12, 1924.			Week ended Dec. 13, 1924.			Aggregate 50 Weeks, 1924.		
		Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.	Passen- gers, &c.	Goods, &c.	Total for Week.
Great Western	3,754	202,000	352,000	554,000	132,400	169,300	301,700	3,017,000	5,147,000	8,164,000
Do for 1923	3,751	215,000	359,000	574,000	130,700	175,000	305,700	3,066,000	5,240,000	8,306,000
London & N. Eastern (c)	6,722	357,000	783,000	1,140,000	221,400	341,700	563,100	2,214,000	3,417,000	5,631,000
Do same period 1923	6,702	371,000	835,000	1,206,000	219,800	362,800	582,600	2,253,000	3,565,000	5,818,000
London, Mid. & Scottish	6,942	516,000	935,000	1,451,000	315,300	482,000	797,300	3,153,000	4,820,000	7,973,000
Do for 1923	6,942	511,000	932,000	1,443,000	317,500	480,000	797,500	3,175,000	4,800,000	7,975,000
Southern	2,155	272,300	115,500	387,800	165,800	59,500	225,300	1,658,000	595,000	2,253,000
Do for 1923	2,142	268,300	118,000	386,300	165,500	59,500	225,000	1,653,000	595,000	2,248,000
Metropolitan (c)	79	34,605	3,744	38,349	1,939,693	196,143	2,135,836	..	..	..
Do for 1923	79	32,871	3,659	36,530	1,591,663	189,190	1,780,853	..	..	..
Underground E.R. (c)	..	..	..	227,612	..	..	11,945,839	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	233,731	..	..	11,566,475	..	..	..
Lon. & Sub. Group (c)	..	..	..	37,697	..	..	1,982,729	..	..	..
Do for 1923	..	..	..	37,697	..	..	1,982,729	..	..	..
Belfast & Co. Down (b)	80	3,043	1,275	4,318	224,358	60,303	284,661	..	..	..
Dublin and S. East (b)	160	5,036	3,100	8,136	311,891	170,686	482,577	..	..	..
Great Northern (b)	562	13,556	20,900	34,456	936,800	1,020,600	1,957,400	..	..	..
Do for 1923	562	13,556	20,900	34,456	936,800	1,020,600	1,957,400	..	..	..
Great Southern (b)	1,750	30,184	50,737	80,921	..	..	4,139,254	..	..	..

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week.		Total Gross Receipts.	
				1924.	+ or -	1924.	+ or -
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	33 weeks	Nov. 15	1,072	Rs. 3,47,000	Rs. + 24,095	Rs. 95,36,184	Rs. + 11,01,739
Barsi L. Ry.	33 weeks	Nov. 15	22	35,200	+ 26,700	11,75,200	+ 1,39,200
Bengal & N. Western ..	8 weeks	Nov. 22	2,062	6,47,670	+ 72,108	38,05,050	+ 6,95,700
Bengal Nagpur	15 weeks	Nov. 15	2,800	15,16,000	+ 2,07,000	4,98,18,028	+ 35,58,059
Bombay, Bar., & C.I. ..	37 weeks	Dec. 13	5,005	24,02,000	+ 1,75,000	8,08,87,000	+ 40,16,000
Burma	33 weeks	Nov. 15	1,342	6,40,000	+ 27,145	10,59,857	+ 10,721
Delhi, Umballa & Kalka	10 weeks	Dec. 6	239	1,15,000	+ 1,15,000	7,72,76,016	+ 10,721
East Indian	37 weeks	Dec. 13	2,873	32,54,000	+ 1,21,000	12,07,78,000	+ 64,89,000
G. Indian Peninsula ..	36 weeks	Dec. 13	3,225	31,18,500	+ 1,52,200	9,72,76,016	+ 10,39,919
Madras & S. Mahr.	34 weeks	Nov. 22	3,049	14,25,000	+ 1,11,534	5,00,03,725	+ 29,08,712
Rohtak'd & Kumaon ..	7 weeks	Nov. 15	259	28,844	+ 9,724	1,95,635	+ 1,04,149
Do Lucknow-Breilly ..	7 weeks	Nov. 15	287	55,836	+ 5,403	3,03,488	+ 5,414
South Indian	33 weeks	Nov. 15	1,877	9,22,020	+ 70,675	5,17,34,284	+ 12,12,468

will be invited to attend a meeting as soon as possible, at which the position of the company will be reported and an arrangement be proposed for dealing with the situation pending such an improvement in conditions as will permit interest payments to be resumed.

MILLOM AND ASKAM HEMATITE IRON.—Report for the year ended September 30, 1924, states that the result of the year's operations shows a profit of £49,957, which, after providing for the debenture stock interest and redemption, £9,303, leaves a net profit of £40,654, against £32,859 in preceding year. This, with the amount brought in, makes a total of £56,218 available for appropriation. The dividends on the preference shares for the half-year ended September 30, 1923, and March 31, 1924, absorb £24,500, leaving a credit balance of £31,718, out of which the directors recommend the payment of the dividend on the preference shares for the half-year to September 30th last, absorbing £12,250, and the carrying forward of the balance, £19,468. The ordinary shareholders again have to go without a dividend. The report states that the extreme depression in the iron trade continued during the period under review, and only one furnace was kept in blast. In the circumstances, the directors think that the results may not be considered unsatisfactory. The whole of the works and plant have been maintained in an efficient condition, and a considerably increased output both at the blast furnaces and mines can be obtained when trade conditions revive.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest year 1924-25, 1923-24, 1922-23, and 1921-22:—

	1924-1925.	1923-1924.	1922-1923.	1921-1922.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to Dec. 13.....	Cwts. 209,134	Cwts. 442,203	Cwts. 571,954	Cwts. 455,350
15 weeks to Dec. 13.....	3,643,569	5,968,707	7,182,550	6,751,938
Average price of English wheat per cwt.....	s d 12 3	s d 9 10	s d 9 7½	s d 10 8½

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1920 to 1923:—

	QUANTITIES SOLD.			AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1924.						
Dec. 6.....	Cwts. 246,306	Cwts. 497,569	Cwts. 87,493	s d 12 5	s d 14 11	s d 9 9
Dec. 13.....	209,134	395,360	77,168	12 3	14 5	9 8
1920.....	157,389	375,932	40,644	20 0	20 9	15 2
1921.....	455,349	302,700	77,000	10 8	12 9	10 2
1922.....	577,954	420,911	74,710	9 8	9 6	9 5
1923.....	442,203	545,362	66,999	9 10	10 7	9 2

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

Weather conditions proved more favourable for field work during the week, and farmers were able to make better progress with seeding operations. Sowings of winter wheat, however, are smaller than desired owing to the saturated condition of the soil during the autumn months, and which hindered or prevented work on heavy lands. Crops above ground present a healthy appearance, the young plants being strong and even in growth. Supplies of native wheat at the principal statute markets continue on a fair scale, but a good deal of the offerings are in poor condition, and realise low prices. Suitable milling grades rule at 12s to 12s 4d per 112 lbs, free on rail, but millers purchase sparingly, while well stocked for the present with imported descriptions. Foreign kinds ruled firmer owing to higher c.i.f. values, and sellers somewhat reserved. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 71s, No. 2 hard Winter 67s 6d, and choice white Karachi 64s 3d, all ex ship, per 496 lbs. Firm conditions prevailed in the floating and forward cargo section, and prices were again dearer in sympathy with higher American cables and unfavourable weather reports for harvesting in Australia. A fairly good business transpired, chiefly in white kinds. Steamers of Australian, January shipment, sold 64s 6d bags, 64s bulk, ditto February 64s 7½d to 65s 3d, choice white Karachi, afloat, 62s, February 62s 6d, Barusso, 63½ lbs, January-February, 63s 3d, No. 1 Northern Duluth, early December, 63s 3d, white Pacific, afloat, 62s, all per 480 lbs c.i.f. terms. Maize cargoes firmer, owing to improved Continental inquiries, and Plate steamers arrived sold 43s 3d to 43s 9d afloat, 44s 6d per 480 lbs. Flour firmer owing to the wheat position, but actual trade moves quietly. London standard straight run quoted 52s, patents 54s to 55s. Town whites 52s per sack, delivered in London area. Imported fully steady. Manitoba patents range from 50s to 52s, Minneapolis 50s to 51s, and Australian 47s to 47s 6d, all per 280 lbs, ex store. Barley firm but quiet. Californian quoted 69s to 71s, Chilean Chevalier 84s to 87s, Polish, ex store, 60s to 68s per 448 lbs. No. 3

Canadian Western, ex ship, 41s 3d, No. 4 ditto 40s, landed 42s, American malting, 48 lbs, ex ship, 39s 6d, landed 41s 3d per 400 lbs. English ranges from 10s 9d to 20s per 112 lbs, free on rail. Maize firmer. Plate, ex ship, quoted 43s 9d, ditto landed 45s 6d, and Odessa in latter position 45s 6d per 480 lbs. Oats firmly held. Plate, ex ship, quoted 29s, ditto landed 30s. No. 2 Canadian Western, ex ship, 34s 6d, ditto landed 35s 9d. American white clipped, 38 lbs, landed, 31s, all per 320 lbs. English 9s to 10s 4d per 112 lbs, free on rail. Millers' offers steady. Broad bran quoted 9s, middlings 9s 6d, fine ditto 12s, bags included, ex mill, powdered oat husks 8s 9d, feed oatmeal 10s 9d, ground oats 13s 9d, all per cwt, free on rail. Oatmeal firmer. London made flaked 20s 6d, rolled oats 20s, medium also fine cut 20s, coarse and medium pinhead 20s ordinary Scottish oatmeal 20s, American and Canadian rolled oats 21s per cwt.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated December 18th, is as follows:—Pig-iron: A fair amount of business has been done during the past few days, but the tendency now is to mark time in view of the approaching holidays. It is expected that two of the furnaces now idle at one of the local works will be blown in during January for the production of hematite. No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is still maintained at 81s 6d, and East Coast mixed numbers hematite at 88s. Manufactured iron and steel: There is no improvement yet, and prices are unchanged as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: Only one or two cargoes are changing hands, and sellers are quoting best Rubio 22s 6d per ton c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business, at any rate for forward delivery, is suspended for the year. The holiday stoppage at the majority of the local works will vary from four to ten days, which is the normal period, but the great steel-making plants of United Steel Companies, Limited, are closing for two weeks, and probably longer. Works are busy on steel for the motor trade, steel strip, magnet steel, and steel sheets. Makers



Inland Telegrams: Arcosarcos Ave. London. Telephone: London Wall 6626 (ten lines).

Cables: Arcosarcos. Codes: A.B.C. 5th & 6th Editions. Bentley's Marconi, Zebra.

ARCOS LTD

SOVIET HOUSE

49, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Sole purchasing and selling Agency in Great Britain for the Government of the U.S.S.R.

ARCOS IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

TIMBER, FLAX, PETROLEUM SPIRIT, OIL, METALS, ORES, CHEMICALS, CRUDE DRUGS, Etc., Etc.

ARCOS EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

MANUFACTURED GOODS OF ALL KINDS.

Turnover (June, 1920, to October, 1924) £46,141,420

BRANCHES:

MOSCOW: Trsvskaya 1. (Ugol Pl. Revolutail.)

CONSTANTINOPLE: Grande rue de Pera, No. 464.

Agents in U.S.A.: Amtorg Trading Corporation, 136, Liberty Street, New York.

LENINGRAD: Ul. Gortzena, 24.

KHARKOV: Chernoglasovskaya, 1.

TIPLIS: 38 Rustaveli Prospekt.

RIGA: Valdemars iela 61, dz. 3.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.				Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefere.	Ordinary.				
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		£	%
Banks.										
Royal Bank of Australia	Sept. 30*	£ 41,002	£ 62,533	£ 103,535	..	£ 37,500	10	£ 40,000	£ 26,035	61.643
Breweries.										
Ind. Coope. and Co.	Sept. 30	109,226	220,514	329,740	..	116,250	25	60,000	153,490	145.114
Leeds and Wakefield	Sept. 30	7,483	35,943	43,426	4,500	8,438	10½	16,000	14,488	12.649
Newcastle Breweries	Oct. 31	54,985	84,895	139,880	12,700	60,000	15	..	67,880	34.209
Samuel Allsopp and Sons	Sept. 30	19,324	95,369	114,693	56,566	17,364	5½	21,389	19,374	90.141
Financial, Land, &c.										
Investors' Mortgage Security	Sept. 30	18,524	102,801	121,325	29,718	51,445	13	20,000	20,162	71.690
Iron, Coal, and Steel.										
Bertrams	Sept. 30	1,950	8,190	10,140	..	4,500	10	3,625	2,015	7.060
Motor and Cycle.										
Rossleigh	Sept. 30	8,353	32,419	40,772	465	17,437	30	..	22,870	24.988
Nitrate.										
London	June 30	16,418	85,573	101,991	..	40,000	20½	50,000	11,991	53.450
Rubber, &c.										
Kong Lee (Perak)	Aug. 31	173	3,655	3,828	..	3,250	10	..	578	2.132
Shops and Stores.										
Finlay and Co.	Sept. 30	339	14,805	15,144	827	7,140	7½	5,000	2,177	10.115

* Half-year.

† Free of tax.

of tramway steel are obtaining comparatively little overseas business, owing to the handicap of deflated exchanges. Stovegrates and light castings for the building trade are in demand. The pig-iron position has gone weak again, and prices are inclined to droop. There is, however, an improved demand for hematite for making acid steel. The coal fuel market does not improve, and there is a good deal of surplus coal and coke about, enabling actual buyers to secure concessions in price. Consumption of blast furnace coke is at a low ebb. Best hand-picked branch is quoted at 32s per ton, Yorkshire hards at 20s per ton, Blyth hards at 18s 6d per ton, and Durham hards at 22s. per ton.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In the iron and steel trade the usual seasonal falling off in activity is observable. During the present week at a number of the works and warehouses stock-taking will be engaged in, and orders passing to the mills will be only to meet pressing requirements. The pig-iron market shows a slight decline in volume of business this week, and prices are weaker. The total shipments of the various brands from the Clyde last week were 2,189 tons, of which 2,022 tons were on overseas account. For the corresponding week of last year the shipments were 1,496 and 1,391 tons respectively. Steel makers are not benefiting much by the shipbuilding and engineering orders placed recently in the district, but it is anticipated that after the opening of the year a very considerable improvement in conditions will be found. In the re-rolled branch, steel bars are in fair request for export to the East, but the home trade is more or less stagnant for the present. This also applies to the bar iron trade, but the feeling is hopeful in view of the fact that the locomotive and general engineers are well supplied with orders, and in a better position to buy in the near future than they have been for some time past. There is a sharp demand for steel sheets of the lighter gauges for prompt shipment to Japan, to arrive before the new duties come into force in March, and some good lines have been placed locally. Galvanised sheets are going well, with works fully booked up till February. The demand from India has slackened, but is expected to come on again early in the New Year.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The approach of the Christmas holidays has given the coal market at Cardiff this week a measure of exceptional support, and it has been diffused enough to strengthen prices generally and in some cases to lead to higher quotations. Production and exports have also been above the average, and have closely approximated the best weekly returns for the current year. German competition is becoming more active. Exporters have been informed by their agents in Paris that under the Dawes scheme the supplies to France of reparation coal will be considerably reduced owing to the steadily increasing outputs of the French mines, and that Germany was already competing actively for French seaboard as well as inland business. The accuracy of this forecast seems to be confirmed by reports that Germany has this week contracted with the Paris Electrical Works and with other consumers in France for the supply of 850,000 tons over next year, for the supply of 200,000 tons of steam coal for the Italian State Railways, and for the supply of 5,000 tons for the Swedish State Railways. In the normal markets for Cardiff coals there are no indications of an expansion, and a reaction is feared

after the holidays. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 27s to 28s; second Admiralties, 26s to 27s; best drys, 27s. to 27s 6d; black veins, 24s 9d to 25s 3d; Western Valleys, 24s 3d to 24s 9d; Eastern Valleys, 23s to 23s 9d; best bunker smalls, 16s to 17s 6d; ordinary cargo smalls, 14s to 14s 6d; coking smalls, 16s to 17s 6d; anthracite big vein large, 45s to 49s; red vein large, 33s 6d to 35s; machine-made cobbles, 52s 6d to 56s 6d; French nuts, 57s 6d to 60s; rubbly culm, 11s to 11s 6d; coke for export, 45s to 50s; inland blast furnace coke at ovens, 27s 6d to 32s 6d; patent fuel, 25s 6d to 25s; pitwood, ex ship, 32s to 32s 6d.

In the tinplate trade the position is a slightly improved one. The stabilisation agreement has been renewed for another period of twelve months, and prices are unchanged at the minimum figures.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

IMPORTANT NEW PUBLICATION.

ARMAMENTS YEAR-BOOK

General and Statistical Information.

The Secretariat of the League of Nations has issued an *Armaments Year-Book*, containing information concerning 37 countries, Members and non-Members of the League of Nations, as follows:

Albania, Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of South Africa, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, United States of America.

The *Year-Book* consists of a series of monographs, each of which deals with one State, and is generally divided into three parts.

The first—and strictly military—part, which is the most important, gives detailed information concerning the organisation and composition of the armed forces (supreme military authority; large units; arms and services; recruiting system; budgetary effectives, etc.).

The second part deals with the question of budget expenditure on National Defence (analysis of expenditure, detailed notes on the various systems of accounting, etc.).

The third part is concerned with industries capable of being used for war purposes, in particular the production of the more important raw materials (coal, petroleum, mineral ores, chemical products, etc.) and the trade in these materials.

The *Year-Book* contains numerous statistical tables.

The sources of the above information, which has been drawn from official and public documents in the respective countries, are indicated at the end of each monograph.

900 pp., 8vo, bound in cloth.

17/6 net.

CONSTABLE AND COMPANY, LTD.,

10-12, Orange Street, W.C.2.

METALS.

The market for tin opened with a fairly steady tone, and prices tended in sellers' favour under higher cable advices from the East, combined with a fair consumptive demand, though slight irregularity was noticeable at times. Standard cash was dealt in at £259-£261 10s, £259 10s, and £261 17s 6d, with three months £262-£265 5s and £264 17s 6d. Sales in the East were reported at £262 10s to £265 10s. Copper was accorded strong support, and a large business transpired at firmer prices, though top points were not generally maintained. Standard cash changed hands at £65 10s-£66 5s, £65 15s, three months £66 15s-£67 5s, £66 10s 3d. Lead active and firmer, though slightly irregular. Good soft foreign pig quoted £42 12s 6d-£43 15s, and English £44. Spelter also firmer, with £39 15s, and quotations ruling at £37 5s to £37 15s sustained inquiries, quotations ruling at £55 to £60, £70, foreign refined £60 to £61, and for shipment £55 to £60, c.i.f. Aluminium easier. Home trade quoted £120 and export £122 per ton. Quicksilver firm. Spot quoted £12 7s 6d per bottle.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:—An easier tendency in wool prices in practically all the primary markets this week has had the effect of curtailing business in this centre. Although tops are still being sold at prices well below replacement values based on the current cost of wool, most topmakers have reduced their quotations to-day, and it is possible to buy any quality at from 1d, in the case of low and medium crossbreds, to 1d in fine crossbreds and merinos below prices ruling a week ago. It cannot be said, however, that values are really being tested. Most users appear to be well covered, and as they are experiencing the greatest difficulty in getting new business on anything like a remunerative basis, they are content to mark time and wait for the outlook to become clearer. It does not seem likely that wool will show any drastic fall, especially as stocks on the Continent and in the United States are in exceptionally small compass, but it would make for greater stability if the price of the raw material could be got to a level more in keeping with the prices of semi and fully-manufactured goods. Warp 64's tops are quoted to-day at 80d, super 60's at 75d, 58's average at 62d to 63d, 56's average at 53d, 46's carded at 35d, and 40's prepared at 32½d

per lb. The demand for yarns is exceedingly restricted, and short time is still general.

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

This week sees the end of the Australian sales, the resumption taking place on January 10th at Sydney. There is only one more sale to take place at Dunedin next Monday, when New Zealand shuts down until January 5th, the Dominion sales being resumed on that date at Christchurch. The Christmas recess will be very welcome, but the first week in January always sees two sales held at Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania, many buyers going over to the Island from Melbourne and Sydney, combining pleasure with work. Tasmania still grows some magnificent wool, and for both merinos and crossbreds the wools are most difficult to beat. However, we shall hear more about the sales later on. In the meantime, buyers will welcome this respite from the activity and great pressure which has been put upon them during the past three months, and with the next London sales opening on January 20th, the trade is going to have nearly a month in which to size up the situation, and make up its mind what the future has in store.

The direct outcome of the recent London sales shows that, notwithstanding the quietness and ease in prices which has come over the situation in Bradford, the raw material still occupies a very strong position. Most descriptions lost 5 per cent. during the closing week of the recent auctions, and practically all the sales "down under" have seen merinos ease 5 to 7½ per cent., with the exception of specialities, that is, where superfine quality is concerned, these wools this season being scarce.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 12, 1924.

Descriptions.	Official Quotations.									
American.....	G.O. 8GO. LM.	SLM. Md. SM.	GM. SGM. MF.							
	1141 1201 1241	1281 1311 1336	1356 1391 1441							
	135 75 35	5 35 60	80 115 165							
	off off off	on on on	on on on							
Brazilian—	Mid. Fair.	Fair.	Gd. Fair.							
Pernam, Macco, &c	1276	1426	1526							
Parahyba, Rio	1276	1426	1526							
Grande.....	1276	1426	1526							
Ceara, &c.....	1276	1426	1526							
Sao Paulo.....	1301	1351	1401							
Peruvian—	M.F. Fair.	Gd. Fr.	Good.							
Rough.....	1700	1800	1900							
Moderately rough	1376	1451	1526							
Smooth.....	1551	1601	1676							
Tanguis.....	1551	1601	1676							
Mitafid.....	1950	2100	2200							
Egyptian—	Fair.	Gd. Fr.	F.G.F.	Good.						
Upper.....	1685	1780	1835	1895						
Sakellaris.....	2320	2825	2900	3030						
Brown.....	1875	1990	2065	2210						
Soudan.....	Mid. M.F. Fair.	Gd. Fr.	Good.	Fine.						
West Indian.....	1141 1201 1241	1281 1311 1336	1356 1391 1441	1495						
Do Sea Island.....	1141 1201 1241	1281 1311 1336	1356 1391 1441	1495						
East African.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
West African.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
Australian.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
East Indian—	G.F. F.G.F. Gd.	F. Good.	Fine.	S'Ans. Choice. S'Ch.						
Surtee.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
Broach.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
Tinnivelly.....	1230 1270 1310	1145 1120 1295	1345							
Amer.-Bind/Punjab.	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
*Western.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
*Northern.....	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355	1400						
Coconada.....	(Fair, 1125)	1125 1135 1175	1215 1245 1275	1295 1325 1355						
Comptah.....	11215	11255	11255	11255						
Oomra, No. 1.....	11050 11100	11150 1200	1250	1300						
Oomra, No. 2.....	11100 11150	1125 1125	1275	1275						
Khandelsh.....	11050 11100	11150 1200	1250	1300						
Bengal.....	11065 11055	11245 1185	1225	1265						
Sind.....	11065 11095	11135 1175	1215	1255						

* Hand-ginned 40 points less.

MANCHESTER, December 18.

Inquiry in the market has tended to broaden, and on the whole rather more business has been done than in recent previous weeks. Some orders have been forced out by the hardening tendency in the raw material, and certain operators who have been holding aloof have been more inclined to give out contracts. In cloth for India some fairly substantial transactions have occurred in light fabrics, and more business has also been about in grey shirtings. In fancies offers have been too low. China trade has not been much in evidence, and limited quantities have been bought. Several minor outlets East and West, including Singapore, Egypt, and South America, have given a good deal of support to manufacturers in moderate lots, and the weaving section of the industry continues busier. Demand in American yarns has improved, and there has been a better turn over in medium counts. A few more sales have also been arranged in Egyptian spinnings. Business in export yarns has been irregular, and not of much weight.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Dec. 18, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Dec. 11.	Dec. 4.	Nov. 27.	Nov. 20.	Nov. 13.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American.....per lb	13.36	13.02	13.08	13.55	13.72	13.70
Sakellaris Fully Good Fair Egyptian.....per lb	29.10	28.70	26.50	26.00	25.80	25.00
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	23.2	23.4	23.2	24	24	24
—40's twist.....per lb	24.2	24.4	24.2	25	25	25
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	42	41.2	39	38.2	37.4	36.2
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	36	36	36	37	37	37
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	41	41	41	41	41	41
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	19	19	19	19	19	19
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.....	17	17	17	18	18	18

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

	Price, Dec. 18, 1924.	Corresponding dates in				
		1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American.....per lb	13.36	20.05	15.03	11.30	11.26	27.34
Sakellaris Fully Good Fair Egyptian.....per lb	29.10	22.90	17.80	20.75	25.00	49.00
Yarns—32's twist.....per lb	23.2	28	21	18.2	26	52.4
—40's twist.....per lb	24.2	28.2	20.4	17.4	25	49.4
—60's twist (Egyptian).....per lb	42	37	28	32	40	91
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's.....	36	39	30	31	47	79
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.....	41	42	32	31	44	75
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.....	19	22	18	18	26	44
39-in. ditto, 37 yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.....	17	20	16	16	21	38

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets this week have had a much firmer and even buoyant tone, and especially so as regards linseed oil, which, in sympathy with dearer seed, advanced sharply to £47 per ton naked ex Hull mill for December delivery, with forward positions at a premium of 5s to 10s per ton. On Thursday, however, realisations caused some reaction to the extent of 4s or 5s per ton. In an advancing market there has been little inducement to consumers to increase their recent purchases, which were done at £2 to £3 below current figures.

In the oilseed section there has been renewed activity in linseed in all positions. For Plate on passage up to £22 has been paid, and for December and December-January shipment, £22 5s, and for January-February, £22 10s, but business has been largely of a speculative character. London has been a fair buyer of Calcutta, £22 15s and £23, having been paid for seed on passage and up to £23 10s for shipment, but values show a slightly easier tendency now.

HIDE, LEATHER, AND ALLIED TRADES.

The hide market shows signs of a weakness which may be only of a temporary nature, as raw goods are at their worst at this season. At the auctions held in Bermondsey on Thursday, both classes of best and seconds ox hides were withdrawn in the absence of reasonable bids. Best cows made from 6½d to 7d, showing a fall of ½d on last prices. Calf sold from 8½d to 16½d, with slight declines in two classes and a fractional advance on one. Wools made from 8s 8d to 19s, and hogs from 9s 4d to 24s each. The imported hide market is weaker, and 9½d to 9½d has been taken for Argentine ox. The position is not clear, but many buyers think bottom has been reached. The Chicago position is cabled as steady, with best heavy packers selling at 18 cents.

Business in sole leather has fallen away this week, and only small deliveries to manufacturers have been made. Little business is now expected until the end of the year, as shoe manufacturers are busy stocktaking, and will not book ahead.

The upper leather position is firm, as stocks are not heavy and raw skins are very dear. Box and willow calf are wanted, also patent and glacé in common grades, but suede seems dropping out of favour.

The boot trade is fairly well employed, but there are still many factories working short time. The outlook, however, for the New Year is regarded with optimism, as the export section remains excellent.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Friday, December 19.

SUGAR.—There were no improving signs to note in this market. On the contrary, the depression recently observable becomes more intensified, as increasing supplies coming to hand from continental-producing countries coincide with trade buyers following a hand-to-mouth policy. Holland and Czechoslovakia in particular figure as

rather pressing sellers. Prices of British refined were reduced 1s per cwt. Messrs Tate and Lyle's cubes, 36s 9d to 37s 9d; granulated, 32s 10½d to 33s 4½d, as to quality; yellow crystals, spot, 30s 4½d. Home-grown granulated, 31s, ex works, Norfolk, and 32s 3d, Nottingham. Imported descriptions quiet, and prices favoured the buyer. White Java, spot, sold, 30s 6d, forward positions being nominally. Czechoslovak granulated, spot, quoted 30s 9d; ready for shipment, 17s 6d; January-March, 17s 9d, f.o.b. Hamburg. Dutch granulated, J quality, spot, sold, 30s 9d; Dinteloord, January, sold, 18s 3d, f.o.b., Rotterdam. Belgian granulated, spot, 30s 6d; ready for shipment, sellers, 17s 6d, f.o.b., Antwerp. Raw refining kinds continue in slow support. Cuban basis, 95 per cent., February-March, quoted 14s, and continental beet, basis 88 per cent., ready for shipment, 15s 6d, both c.f. and i. terms, U.K. White terminal received moderate patronage, but prices disclosed weakness. December sold, 17s to 16s 10½d; March, 17s; May, 17s 3d; August, 17s 9d to 17s 6d per cwt. Cuban receipts last week 4,010 tons, against 625 last year; exports 18,251, against 5,866; and stocks, old crop, 8,523, against 5,934 last year. Centrals at work total 31, against 20 in 1923.

COFFEE.—There was only a small movement in spot parcels during the week, chiefly on home-trade account. Prices remain steady, with supplies of the finer mild parcels limited.

COCOA.—Spot goods mostly unaltered in price, but trade proved quiet for all descriptions. Accra, F/F grade, January-March, sold 42s 6d to 41s 6d, f.o.b. terms.

TEA.—52,450 packages Indian were catalogued in auction during the week and passed with some irregularity. Common and medium teas were mostly steady, with slight weakness observable in common grades. General run of quality shows a falling off. Pekoe sold, 1s 8½d to 1s 11½d; broken orange, 1s 10d to 1s 3½d. Ceylon sales of 16 370 packages met with good attention, and apart from some slight irregularity, prices on balance manifested no material change. Pekoe sold, 1s 9½d to 2s 3½d; broken orange, 1s 11d to 2s 5d per lb, in bond. China sorts received moderate patronage. Low Monings sold, 1s to 1s 1d lb. 4,800 packages Java and Sumatra offered, and met with fair competition. Steady prices were realised for all fine qualities, but inferior kinds tended in buyers' favour. Pekoe sold, 1s 6½d to 1s 8½d; broken pekoe, 1s 3½d to 1s 9d; orange pekoe, 1s 6½d to 1s 9½d; broken orange pekoe, 1s 7d to 1s 9½d; pekoe souchong, 1s 6½d to 1s 7½d; with flowery broken orange pekoe Sumatra at 2s 2½d per lb, in bond.

RICE quiet for Eastern grain, but shippers were not pressing, and prices ruled steady, despite liberality of forecast regarding available export surplus in Burma. Two Stars, on spot, in small supply, and held for 18s; January-February quoted 14s 10½d, c.f. and i., London. Siam cabled firmer in local markets. Spanish and Italian quietly steady. Japanese peas, spot, 25s; January-February and February-March, 25s. Madagascar butter-beans, spot, 42s; for shipment, 35s to 36s per cwt, c.f. and i. terms, U.K.

SPICE.—Pepper steadily held, but there was not much response from buyers. Black Singapore L.S., January-March, quoted 5½d; Lampung ditto, 5½d; Muntok, January-March, 10½d; ditto, March-May, 10½d. Zanzibar cloves, October-December, 1s; January-March, 11½d. Tapioca quiet at about late rates, both with regard to spot and forward positions. Sago flour, January-March, 16s 6d per cwt, c.f. and i., U.K.

JUTE.—Market, after being easier, ruled steady, with buyers more in evidence. Firsts, to Continent, December-January, quoted £37 10s; January-February, also February-March, £37 15s ton. Hessians and twills remain quiet, at about late rates.

HEMP.—Manila dull, firmly held. J grade, December-February, buyers, £54; K ditto, £53; L, £52; and M, £51 per ton. New Zealand dull, and largely nominal. African sisal quiet, unaltered.

SHELLAC dull. T.N., spot, 31s 5d to 320s; and March, 28s 9d per cwt.

COPRA quiet, and easier. F.M.S. Straits, to Rotterdam, December-February, sold, £30 10s; January-March, £30 10s; Dutch East Indies, ditto, £30 5s; Ceylon, December-January, £32; South Sea F.M.S., £29 15s. Palm kernels, to Liverpool, January-March, £22 17s 6d ton.

RUBBER was accorded steady support, and market firmer. Plantation standard crepe and sheet, spot, also December, sold, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; January, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; January-March, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; April-June, 1s 6½d to 1s 6½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 6½d per lb.

FRUIT (Dried).—The general tone of the market remained quiet, and prices in some instances displayed a weaker tendency. Of currants, Pyrgos ½ cases quoted 42s; ½ bags, 40s 6d; Amalia, ½ cases, 43s to 44s; Patras, ditto, 46s to 48s; Gulph, 50s to 51s; finest, 53s; Vostizza, 58s to 62s. Sultanias easier. New Smyrna, good quality,

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed	Y60,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Y52,500,000
Reserve	Y13,380,000

Head Office - - - - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office 25 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2

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

The Bank is incorporated by a Charter and is under special supervision of the Imperial Japanese Government, issues its own notes in Formosa, conducts general Banking, and acts as Agents for other Banking Institutions. Deposits are received for fixed periods on terms

OILS.—Linseed firmer. Spot, net, naked, 48s 6d; December, 47s 9d; January-April, 48s; May-August, 48s 3d. Rape quiet. Crude, spot, 51s 6d; refined, 54s 6d. Castor-oil easier. First

TALLOW.—Messrs Colchester and Woolner write on December 17th as follows: The tallow market was firm during the week, and prices were about 1s dearer to-day. There is a good deal of competition for spot supplies, but for shipment buyers and sellers are too wide apart. The next auctions are fixed for January 7th. At auction to-day 899 casks tallow were offered, and 777 were sold. Quotations are:—Australian mutton: Fine, 54s 9d; good to fair, 54s 3d to 52s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 45s 6d; hard, 54s 6d. Australian beef: Fine, 52s 3d; good to fair, 52s 3d to 49s; dull to dark, 46s 6d to 45s 6d; sweet, 52s 6d. Present shipment from Australasia: Good mixed, 48s 6d. Present shipment from South America, 49s 6d to 49s. The market letter is dearer. Tallow 1s, stuff 1s. Town tallow, 45s 6d per cwt. Rough fat per 8 lbs, 6½d; melted stuff, 36s per cwt. Quotations are:—Towa, 46s, net cash, naked, ex. works Country: Frail casks, 46s; home melted, shipping casks, net, f.o.b. good coloured, 50s; fair to dull, 47s to 46s. Bone fat: white, none; pale, none; benzine, 41s; melted stuff, 41s, f.o.b.

Beasts—Herefords	7	2	d	6		
Shorthorns	6	8	7	0		
Devons	nominal					
Norfolks	8	0	8	4		
Scottish	8	10	9	3		
Irish	nominal					
Rat Cows	..	..	..	..		
Beasts—Heavy Bulls ..	s	d				
Canadian	8	4	8			
Sheep—Downs	11	8	12	6		
Ewes	7	4	8	0		
Crossbred	..	..	..	..		
Scottish	..	..	..	..		
Lamb—Downs	13	0	14	0		

		Per Cwt.						Per Cwt.			
		s	d	s	d			s	d	s	d
English—King Edwards	10	0	11	0	Blackland—						
British Queens	8	6	9	0	King Edwards	8	6	9	0		
Majestic	8	6	9	0	Evergood					8	6

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

[illegible]

HEAD OFFICE: 6, St. Andrew Square, EDINBURGH.
LONDON: 3, Lombard St., E.C.3; 17, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

New York—Trust Company of North America—98, Liberty Street.

Every description of Banking business transaction.

The Money Market....	1045	Books and Publications—	
Leading Articles—		Social Policy in Czechoslovakia	1065
Success	1047	The Banking Systems of the World	1066
Russian Debt to France..	1047	Books Received	1066
Single Premium Assurance With Loans	1049	Stock Exchange News—	
The Swiss Watchmaking Industry	1050	The Stock Markets	1066
Indian Currency and Trade Problems of Canada—III.	1050	New Issues	1067
The Railway Situation..	1051	Active Securities	1067
Notes of the Week—		Company Meetings....	1069
Mr Coolidge & the Jingoes	1053	Government Returns—	
Christmas in the Stock Exchange	1053	Public Income and Expenditure	1074
Wages in 1924	1053	National Debt	1074
Home Railway Dividend Results	1054	Bankers' Gazette—	
Co-operative Trade Improving	1054	Provincial Clearing Returns	1075
American Cotton Crop...	1054	Overseas Bank Returns ..	1075
The Supply of Capital in India	1055	Loan and Discount Rates	1076
The Position of the Fishing Industry	1055	Overseas Bank Rates	1076
The Sugar Position	1055	Rates of Exchange	1076
Hungarian Conditions...	1056	Gold and Silver Prices...	1076
Finnish Affairs	1056	Company News—	
Recovery in Uruguay ..	1057	Monthly Traffic Returns..	1068
Panama & the Canal Zone	1057	Analysis of Balance-Sheets	1076
The Stockbroker as Principal	1058	Dividend Announcements	1077
British-American Tobacco	1058	Reports and Notices	1077
Tin Dredging in the East..	1058	Profit and Loss Accounts	1078
Sulphide Corporation ..	1059	Commercial Reports—	
Roumanian Oil Companies' Finance	1059	Corn Trade	1077
Overseas Correspondence—		Iron and Coal Trade	1078
United States	1060	Metals	1078
Germany	1061	Wool Trade	1078
Canada	1062	Cotton Trade	1079
Holland	1063	Vegetable Oils	1079
Jugoslavia	1063	Hide and Leather Trades	1080
Argentina	1064	Overseas Produce Markets	1080

MONEY was scarce at the beginning of the week, and the Bank of England did some business in discounting January bills; but serious borrowing to cover the turn of the year was not expected to begin on a considerable scale until after Christmas. The discount market was quiet; houses that had full portfolios quoted $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. firm for three

months' bank bills, but those who wanted to buy usually found that $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. was the best rate that could be secured.

	Dec. 23, 1924.	Dec. 19, 1924.	Dec. 12, 1924.	Dec. 5, 1924.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
Bank Rate	4%	4%	4%	4%	3 (Jly. 5, '23)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Discount Call	2	2	2	2	1 (Jly. 5, '23)
Houses Notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½ (Jly. 5, '23)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3½	3½	3½	3½	..

THE STOCK MARKETS.

There has been more activity in the Stock Exchange than is customary at the festive season of the year, and business has been plentiful in certain directions, more particularly in the industrial sections. Gilt-edged stocks remain quiet, and Home Rails are steady, with Undergrounds displaying some strength. A further small increase in the price of rubber serves to maintain the firmness of rubber shares, and the buoyancy of tea shares continues. Tobacco and whisky shares are strong and many other sections show considerable animation. Kaffirs are stagnant, and Charteredreds have receded a little from the recent high level.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Business has been very much disturbed by the holidays, and it is unlikely that developments of any importance will occur until after the turn of the year. The position in the cotton trade is described as "cheerful" by our correspondent. In manufactured iron and steel, works here and there have recently received a few orders. Our Sheffield correspondent reports that South America promises to be a better customer next year. Tin displayed firmer features on improved inquiry. Rubber is active and in demand, while linseed oil continues to rise. On later pages further particulars of the commodity markets are given.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

During the short interval since Friday morning the foreign exchange market has been quiet, with no outstanding features other than some slight movement in sterling and a sudden rally in the franc, followed by a small decline. On Friday evening the dollar rate closed at \$4.70½, and rose on Saturday to \$4.71½. On Monday the rate was rather lower again at \$4.71, and yesterday morning was quoted at \$4.70½. Forward quotations remain at about ½ cent per month above par. Although the quotation still shows some difficulty in remaining above \$4.70, the large volume of funds in the United States, together with the belief in the strength of sterling, and a very strong desire to see it back at par continue to provide a steady support. After the weakness of the Paris rate early on Friday, determined intervention brought down the quotation sharply to a closing rate of 87.30, and on Saturday to 87.20. On Monday, however, it moved up at one time as high as 87.65, and yesterday morning showed only a slight recovery to 87.50. Active support continues. During the same period the Brussels rate moved from 94.40 to 94.65. Forward quotations in both centres show little change. After its recent sharp depreciation, the lira shows an improvement from 110.10 on Friday to 109.85 yesterday morning. Madrid, however, has continued to depreciate from 33.65½ to 33.75½ on the uncertain political outlook. Amsterdam and Switzerland have moved slightly in our favour, Stockholm slightly against us. On the Danish kronor the effect of the renewal of exchange credits has been only short, as the rate has moved up again from 26.60 to 26.76½, while Christiania also shows a sharp depreciation. In the East, the rupee was quoted yesterday at 1s 6 5-32d, as compared with 1s 6 9-64d on Friday. The yen was also slightly dearer. Silver remains weak. Hong Kong is ½d lower at 2s 4½d. Shanghai is also cheaper at 3s 2d. In South America, Buenos Aires, on high prices for agricultural products and excellent export prospects, continues very firm, having risen again since Friday from 45½d to 45¾d. Montevideo at 49½d is also ½d higher than the 49d quoted on Friday, while Rio has moved from 5½d to 5 27-32d, and Valparaiso from 40.30 to 40.20 pesos.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended December 20th:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	7,622	From Revenue	16,820
Interest, &c., on Debt	17,039	Increase in Debt	15,146
Sinking Fund	6,091		
Sundries	598		
Increase in Exchequer Balances	616		
	31,966		31,966

The Revenue for the week amounted to £16,819,900, as compared with £14,517,700 in the corresponding week last year. Customs were lower at £1,491,000, against £2,685,000, but Excise was higher at £8,094,000, against £7,326,000. Stamps brought in £1,090,000 as compared with £140,000. Property and Income-tax amounted to £933,000, against £936,000, and Super-tax was unaltered at £470,000. Ordinary receipts were lower at £91,900 as compared with £152,800, but Special Receipts were higher at £1,350,000, against £14,000. The week's operations increased the National Debt by £15,146,000, and caused the following changes:—

(000's omitted.)		(000's omitted.)	
	£		£
Treasury Bills	+ 10,746	Bank of England Advances ..	— 10,000
National Savings Certificates ..	+ 50	Sundries	— 80
Public Department Advances ..	+ 14,430		
	+ 25,226		— 10,080

The floating debt was increased by £15,160,000 to £844,785,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1924-1925 (April 1 to December 20).

£		£	
Total Expenditure ..	577,281,539	Raised by Revenue ..	491,795,872
		Decrease in Balances ..	2,900,858
		Amount borrowed ..	82,584,809
Total	577,281,539	Total	577,281,539

ESTIMATES for YEAR 1924-25.

£		£	
Ordinary Expenditure ..	786,848,000	Ordinary Receipts ..	764,050,000
Special Expenditure ..	3,178,000	Special Receipts ..	30,000,000
Total	790,026,000	Total	794,050,000
		Surplus	4,024,000

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—The Royal Bank of Australia, Bank of Montreal, Western Australian Bank, London Nitrate, Samuel Allsopp, Peter Walker (Warrington) and Robert Cain, and John I. Thornycroft. Mr Randal J. Alcock, J.P., at the meeting of the Royal Bank of Australia, said that the country was, on the whole, in a healthy and prosperous condition. They began the export season with good surpluses abroad, as yet unexpended, and with the problem of turning these to good account now firmly in hand, they could, he thought, face the future with much confidence. Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., at the meeting of the Bank of Montreal, said: "My last word is a word of confidence and encouragement. The interests of your bank are more closely bound up with those of Canada than ever before, and unless Canada prospers the bank cannot expect the prosperity it should enjoy. I believe Canada will prosper."

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include a special statistical article on The World's Cereal Crops.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

In order to meet a demand from many of our readers, we have made arrangements which will enable us to supply statistical or other information from our records, and to answer economic inquiries. A small charge will be made (with a minimum of half-a-guinea) to cover the cost of any special work involved.

SUCCESS.

THE path of history is strewn with the wreckage of unnecessary failures. Regularly by the roadside we find the remains of men who had the world before them, who started with the opportunity of splendid careers and great fortunes, but turned their back on their own chances and threw everything worth having away for the sake of some idea, some cause, some enthusiasm, which they allowed to seize hold of them and make them into monomaniacs and laughing-stocks to their generation. For the sake of something they fancied was a pearl of great price they sold all that they had—hopes, prospects, riches—and found when the deal was complete that the pearl they had purchased so dearly had no market value, and that they were fools for their pains.

It is, indeed, at once a laughable and a painful sight to watch men of first-class brains and capacity deliberately reject all the glittering prizes that life offers to chase some foolish, ridiculous will-o'-the-wisp for which no sensible man would sacrifice a single evening's leisure or enjoyment. What could be more absurd than Socrates, living in the world's great age, with the possibility at hand of a Career such as Athens in her prime alone could offer, wasting his time, and other people's time, in idle chatter at the street corners, and at the end dying absurdly over a drink of hemlock? What more painful and ludicrous than Rembrandt starving among riches, simply because he would not paint the pictures that the public wanted and were well within his powers to execute? Or Milton, blind, derided out of favour, dragging out a miserable existence and selling his life's work at the finish for a price that any unskilled labourer could earn to-day in a fortnight? Or Wilberforce and Clarkson surrendering careers, the one in politics and the other in the Church, for a few hundred thousand black men whom they had never seen, and who could not have disturbed the peace of mind of any sensible, well-regulated man?

These are a few examples among many that spring to the mind of men who have undervalued their own Careers and preferred to go hunting ideas instead of keeping to the main stream of prosperity and success. But even the most sensible of us to-day, in contemplating these now famous lives, must find it hard to realise how absurd they really were to their successful realistic contemporaries. Thanks to the admirable publicity work of Xenophon and Plato, Socrates has become a household name, and looking back on him from our own age, we cannot but let our critical sense be distorted by the post-mortem advertisement value of his peculiar life. In the same way, we cannot quite forget that Rembrandt's etchings now fetch thousands of pounds at Christie's, and that a first edition of "Paradise Lost" would undoubtedly be worth a lot of money in to-day's market. These considerations (though irrelevant when we remember that we have only one life to live) prevent us from realising the true absurdity of idealists who become famous after death. We see the truth far more clearly when we think of the thousands of others who threw away everything without achieving fame either in life or in death. Imagine Socrates dying with no Xenophon or Plato beside him to report and immortalise his death-bed, with no posthumous fame to counterbalance his unpopularity and failure; imagine the painter starving in an attic to paint pictures that no one would ever want to buy, or the poet giving up everything for the sake of a poem that no one would ever trouble to read; imagine the enthusiast living for a cause that died with him, or the martyr shedding blood that never became the seed of any church—then we can see what foolish risks the idealist runs when he throws away substance for shadow, and what a ridiculous, pitiable figure he really cuts.

Fortunately, this type of self-inflicted failure is rare in modern times. Our British House of Commons is, for example, mainly an assembly of realists who appreciate the Career at its proper value, will allow no nonsense to stand in the way of its achievement, and when one door to advancement is closed will jettison all the things that need to be jettisoned before another door can be tried. Thus we

get a thoroughly practical atmosphere, in which the successful man who gets there is admired as he ought to be. In a recent debate on Free Trade, our truly representative Prime Minister was heartily amused at the spectacle of a middle-aged politician belonging to a beaten—almost exterminated—party, expressing the same old beliefs in time of adversity that he had expressed in the day of success. As an honest but experienced man he was naturally tickled by the thought of a politician not merely out of office, but hundreds of miles away from any prospect of taking office, refusing to recolour and revarnish the outward appearance of his beliefs to a more fashionable and popular shade. He had no difficulty in evoking happy laughter from the House of Commons by his picture of the stranded idealist still talking about what he believed to be true, and getting every day further and further from the prospect of a successful Career. It was exactly the kind of joke that will appeal to an assembly of sensible men with no nonsense about them.

The acknowledged master in the art of self-advancement is our Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose speech, highly applauded as one of the greatest of a great rhetorical life, set out in unanswerable arguments the philosophy of the realist; the politician who faces things as they are, and understands that the duty of a successful man is to succeed. It is true, he said in effect, that having throughout my life been an ardent believer in Free Trade, I have now joined a Government that believes in Protection, and have been put up by my colleagues to argue the case for Protection. We are all politicians cut from the same block, and we can often amuse each other for an evening by charges of inconsistency, and by quotations that are meant to be embarrassing; but we are all in it together, and we all of us understand pretty well the rules of the game. I am different from most politicians, certainly, but the only difference is that I am cleverer, and manage to spend practically all my time in the House of Commons on the right-hand instead of the left-hand of the Speaker.

But politics, after all, represent as it were in a miniature the merits and shortcomings, the higher and the lower, the black, the white, and the grey of the man-in-the-street. We average citizens as we scatter for our Christmas festivities and look back over a year in which amid ups and downs we may note, perhaps, some new rung of the ladder mounted, a handsome dividend well earned, or a speculation aptly timed, may find it conducive to his peace of mind to know that our country is run not on fanciful or foolish principles, but by those who work upon the sound practical doctrine that "things are in the saddle and rule mankind."

And yet—when you have pondered again this Christmas the birth and beginnings of Christian Faith, and in the light of that revelation you turn back to modern conditions and contemporary personalities, to whom do you doff your hat—to the brilliant figure of the successful realist, or to the obscure idealist ridiculously living and (still more ridiculously) dying in his unshakeable belief?

THE RUSSIAN DEBT TO FRANCE.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

It is now possible to publish figures setting forth with some approach to accuracy the total and the nature of the debt owing to France by Russia. Total French investments in Russia, both before and during the war, amount to about 15,000 million gold francs, exclusive of interest accrued since 1917.

When it became a question after the war of securing from the Russian Government a recognition of its debts, the first thing to be done was to ascertain by whom the debt was held. The greater part of the French investments in Russia had been made in the form of bearer bonds, with no registration of ownership. In January, 1919, therefore, the French Government issued decrees providing for the listing and stamping of all Russian securities held by French citizens, and notifying all French creditors to declare, before August 1, 1919, the nature

and amount of their claims in respect of any countries that had formed part of the former Russian Government. Over 1,500,000 individual claims were thus registered. The details which follow have been extracted from this inventory.

The French pre-war claims against Russia may be divided into six groups, to which must be added a seventh, to bring in the sums advanced to the Russian Government by the Government of this country during the war. The total pre-war French investments in Russia are now represented as follows:—

	Gold Francs.	Per Cent. of Whole.
1. Russian State loans	7,442,768,487	83.90
2. Railway loans, guaranteed by the State	2,009,706,592	
3. Loans to Russian municipalities	523,175,000	5.2
4. Non-State Land banks	233,705,445	2.1
5. Foreign companies operating in Russia	190,626,000	1.7
6. Russian banks and industrial concerns	803,917,125	7.1
Total pre-war debt	11,262,998,649	
7. French Government credits to Russia during the war	3,450,000,000	
	14,712,998,649	

It will be noted that 12,900 millions of the total of just over 14,712 millions is composed of issues guaranteed by the Russian Government, which include loans floated on the French market before 1914, Russian internal and Treasury bonds, and obligations issued by Russian State Land Banks.

The Russian State loans issued in France first took the form of thirteen loans, bearing interest ranging from 3 per cent. to 4 per cent.—namely, 4 per cent. issues in 1867, 1869, 1880, and 1889; a gold and a 4 per cent. loan in 1890 (4 per cent. railway consolidated bonds); 3 per cent. issues in 1891 and 1894; 3½ per cent. gold in 1894; 4 per cent. gold in 1893 and 1894; 3 per cent. in 1896; and a 4 per cent. consolidated annuity in 1901. These thirteen issues absorbed a total of 4,583,115,000 gold francs of French savings. Then came three loans bearing higher interest, in which French participation was somewhat larger—namely, a 5 per cent. issue in 1906, to meet the cost of the Russo-Japanese War, of which the French took 986,772,000 gold francs, or 72 per cent.; a 4½ per cent. issue in 1909, of which France took 910,324,000 gold francs, or about 74 per cent.; and the 4½ per cent. consolidated issue of Russian railway obligations, of which 531,871,000 gold francs, or about 80 per cent., was absorbed in France.

The balance of the pre-war total of State guaranteed Russian loans is accounted for by the issue of 215 million gold francs placed on the French market by the State concern known as the Land Bank for the Nobility, and an issue of 236 million gold francs made in the interest of the Peasants' Land Bank, another State institution. The first-named consisted of an issue of 3½ per cent. perpetual bonds, and the second of 4½ per cent. scrip, redeemable in 1968. Over 90 per cent. of these two loans were taken up in France.

There were no Russian State issues in France during the war, but the Russian Government found it necessary, in order to be able to pay interest on its existing loans, and also to obtain the money to buy war material, to procure money from the French Treasury, through the medium of the Bank of France. The total of the advances thus obtained was 3,450 million gold francs, of which 1,530 million went to pay interest on previously existing loans. French capital also participated to some extent at this period in the credit operations on the Russian market. The French absorbed Russian Treasury bonds and Russian War Loan securities to the extent of 69,900,000 gold francs and 90,100,000 gold francs respectively.

The second of the above-given list of categories of the Russian debt to France is composed of various Russian railway loans, which were guaranteed by the Czar's Government. The greater part of these loans, amounting to a total of 1,941,600,000 gold francs, was floated in France, and quoted on the Paris Bourse. These include particularly the Russian bond issues of 1903, 1908, 1910, 1912, and 1913.

The loans to Russian municipalities included important issues for Warsaw, which was then, of course, included in the Russian Empire. The full list of the municipalities

which called extensively on the French market for money is as follows:—

	Gold Francs.
Petrograd	179,600,000
Moscow	132,200,000
Warsaw	126,600,000
Odessa	73,200,000
Bakou	13,000,000
Ekatérinoslav	10,600,000
Tiflis	6,700,000
Poti	7,400,000
Kieff	4,100,000

Group 4 represents French investments in privately-owned Russian land banks, which was comparatively small (being only about 2 per cent. of the total of the Russian issues held in this country). The French investments in non-Russian and non-French companies carrying on business in Russia consisted chiefly of securities issued by—

	Gold Francs.
Belgian companies	125,900,000
British companies	59,380,000
Swiss companies	4,980,000
Other companies	366,000

The much more important category of French investments in Russia included in Group 6 may be dissected as follows:—

	Gold Francs.
Commercial banks	178,499,398
Factories	150,094,958
Iron and steel works	103,360,333
Collieries	89,169,898
Oil concerns	40,689,065

The French investment of nearly 178½ million gold francs in Russian banks was distributed as follows:—

	Gold Francs.	(or about 50% of the total capital)
Banque Privée of Moscow	16,960,000	
Russian Bank for Commerce and Industry	730,000	(or 7.8% do.)
Russo-Asiatic Bank	51,210,000	(or 34% do.)
Private Commerce Bank of Petrograd	19,500,000	(or 18% do.)
Bank of Commerce for Siberia	16,850,000	(or 21% do.)
Union Bank of Moscow	21,250,000	(or 19% do.)

The principal groups of Russian blast furnaces, steel plants and collieries whose capital consisted of French money are shown by the following table, which gives the French proportion of the entire capital:—

	French Holding.	Per Cent. of Whole.
	Gold Francs.	
Briansk collieries	75,000,000	56
Ekatérinova mines	26,600,000	97
Southern Russian collieries	18,320,000	68
Sosnowice collieries	36,700,000	94
Dnieprovienné	22,570,000	51
Donetz	29,200,000	75
Makewaa	27,700,000	65
Taganrog	13,350,000	22
Donetz-Louriewka	10,540,000	16

The principal percentages of French capital invested in Russian factories and other industrial undertakings, in addition to the above, were the following:—

	Gold Francs.	Per Cent. of Whole Capital.
Hartmann	15,915,000	66
Maltzoff	8,670,000	10
Briansk	60,800,000	30
Haut-Volga	10,000,000	57
Tubes de Sosnowice	9,300,000	46
Russo-Belge	19,850,000	37
Wagons de Petrograd	1,900,000	16
Chantier de Nicolaïef	9,600,000	24

French capital in the Russian oil industry is not very large. French investments in the principal three descriptions of these securities which are quoted on the Paris Bourse amount to about 40 million gold francs, as follows:—

	Gold Francs.	Per Cent. of Whole Capital.
Lianozoff	13,300,000	16
Napthe	24,100,000	17
Baku	2,870,000	14

Other Russian undertakings in which French capital participated to a substantial extent are Société Cauchoutière Provodnik (for 49 per cent. of the whole capital), Southern Russian Soda (8 per cent.), and Toul Cartridge Factories (27 per cent.), while French capital is also invested in the securities of many other concerns of lesser importance.

The New York Trust Company

Capital, Surplus & Profits - \$28,000,000

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL
BANKING FACILITIES

100 Broadway

New York City

SINGLE PREMIUM ASSURANCE WITH LOANS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

A RICH man, paying income-tax at the rate of 4s 6d in the £, and super-tax at the rate of 5s in the £, is likely to be attracted when he is shown an investment which appears to give a gross yield of more than eleven per cent. and a net yield of more than six. If it further appears that the only elements of speculation in it are the maintenance of the existing rate of bonus in a well-managed life assurance office, and the continuance of taxation at or about the present level, he cannot be blamed for regarding it as a gilt-edged security. And it is to this, on the face of it, that the present vogue for single-premium policies with loans upon them is due.

It may be useful to give a typical example, and then to make a few comments upon this scheme which is to-day so much in mind.

A man aged 60 is to be shown how he can invest, say, £7,500 as a lump sum, with annual further sums invested of, say, £1,771 17s 6d during his lifetime, so as to secure an investment equivalent to a gross yield of £11 17s 6d per cent. on all the money so invested.

He effects this object by taking a whole-life policy for £100,000 under the with-profit table; he pays a single premium of £75,000, or, at least, he nominally pays it, for at one and the same moment he pays £75,000 and he borrows from the office £67,500 on the security of the policy itself; on this loan he pays interest at the rate of 5 per cent. gross, nominally £3,375 per annum, but really subject to tax deductions, which will be seen later. In effect, therefore, his initial payment in cash is nominally £7,500; but, as he may get income-tax rebate up to a maximum amount of 2s 3d in the £ on £7,000 of this, namely, £787 10s, the net initial outgo to him may be literally only £6,712 10s.

Further, the net yearly interest on the loan, after allowing for deduction of income-tax at 4s 6d—for he pays his interest to the office net of income-tax—is £2,615 12s 6d. After allowing for the fact that the gross interest forms a charge upon his income, and so escapes super-tax, at let us say, the 5s rate, when he comes to make his return for that purpose, it is further reduced to £1,771 17s 6d, the yearly saving on super-tax at 5s on the gross policy loan interest of £3,375 being £843 15s.

He is shown that the bonuses at, say, the end of 15 years, his normal expectation of life, assuming death to occur then, will have swollen the £100,000 sum assured to some £126,250; and this, it may be said, is only taking for granted a simple bonus of 35s per cent. per annum. Thus he sees that this sum would repay the original loan of £67,500, and leave a balance of £58,750.

This balance of £58,750 is equal to the return of his initial outgo of £6,712 10s, and of his 15 annual payments of net interest, after deduction of both taxes, of £1,771 17s 6d each, accumulated at £6 5s per annum

compound interest, net, over the whole period. That corresponds to a gross investment yield, subject to income-tax at 4s 6d and super-tax at 5s in the £, of £11 17s 6d per cent.

Certain variations in the yield arise, according to whether death occur earlier or later, but the yield, on these bases and hypotheses, is always a good one. With a higher rate of bonus than that adopted in this illustration—and many offices pay a higher rate—the yield might be still greater.

But now let us see whether the investment has anything to be said against it. In the first place the assurer is backing the bonuses, so to speak; for clearly, if the bonuses fell off badly, the yield would be much impaired. The immediate future of life assurance is certainly very bright, and those who assure at such late ages as 60 have not to look very far ahead. It is largely to elderly people that these policies appeal, and, indeed, it is easy for them to secure such policies, for the death risk is a very small element where a man pays a premium of 70 or 80 per cent. of the sum assured; and, at still older ages, there is little or no death risk at all, until it ceases to be necessary for the office even to examine the oldest lives.

One may say, perhaps, on this bonus forecast, that, so long as a good office be chosen, the stability of the bonuses over the next 15 or 20 years is quite a legitimate risk to take; nothing but another Great War is really likely to upset them, and, after all, that would upset almost any investment you like to choose.

But there is a further great assumption in these schemes: that is, the continuance of the present regulations concerning income-tax and super-tax, as affecting permissible deductions.

It would not be difficult, for instance, to draft a clause in the next Finance Act making loan interest on such policies no longer admissible as a charge upon income, thus scotching its present exemption from super-tax. The income-tax allowance in respect of that initial payment up to £7 per cent. might as easily be withdrawn. Somerset House knows that no life office could afford to offer a net yield of 6½ per cent. from its own resources; 4 per cent. is nearer the practicable figure, at the very best; the authorities may begin to ask themselves where the margin comes from, and whether it has any legitimate existence.

There have been similar stunts—the writer refrains from going so far as to say abuses—before; people will remember how short-term endowment assurances were being taken up some years ago in large numbers, because the income-tax allowance, running at the full rate of tax, as it then was, and operating on the whole of a large premium, often £15 or £20 per cent., gave such an extraordinarily good yield. What happened? Somerset House saw that the gain of these people was at the expense of the revenue; saw that regulations, intended to encourage life assurance, were being diverted, and, they thought, misused, to further the attractions of investment rather than those of life assurance business, and the result was drastic tightening up in the next

Finance Act. Full rate was no longer allowed on policies effected thenceforward, and in no case does income-tax allowance now apply to a premium which is above 7 per cent. of the sum assured.

Is it not extremely probable that something of this sort will again be done? And is it not possible that once more some of our existing privileges may be endangered by such straining of them as such a scheme as this involves? Somerset House has a heavy hand; Chancellors of the Exchequer are not likely to feel much sympathy with rich men's policies taken out with the idea of escaping tax. But Parliament uses blunt instruments, of the bludgeon rather than the rapier type, and there is a danger that the innocent may suffer with the guilty.

Looking broadly at the whole question, it is doubtful if the offices themselves are wise to encourage such business. The investment end of life assurance is the easiest end to sell, of course, but it is not the best end in the real interest of life assurance. It is the assurance end that is the thing of real economic value to the country; for it is the assurance end that enables men to turn income into capital; that creates new capital, in fact, as against the mere re-investment of existing capital. It is, moreover, from assurance, from contracts where the death risk is the primary, and the investment element only a secondary feature, that the wealth and prosperity of the offices has been built up, and to which the fine bonuses of the past have been due.

Offices must not too readily follow that line of least resistance which their agents and outdoor staff perhaps naturally follow; whole-life, rather than short-term endowment assurances, should be the bedrock of their campaign; the single premium policy, except for very young lives, at any rate, should be the last thing to which attention should be drawn.

Finally, those who contemplate effecting such policies as that analysed here, should realise that not only are they—possibly quite safely—backing bonuses, but they are, quite hazardingly, in the present writer's opinion, acting on the assumption that tax regulations are sure to remain as these are at present.

Some may think that whatever changes are made in the regulations affecting tax deductions, these will only affect future policies, and will not be retrospective. Too much reliance should not be placed on that argument; for in the Finance Act of 1915 many of the revisions were made retrospective—indeed, a careful reading of that Act, and that of 1916 as well, shows that almost all the changes were made retrospective, that is to say, made to affect already existing policies; the sole exception being that the limit of the income-tax allowance, in respect of premiums, to half the standard rate was only made to apply prospectively.

THE SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY.

(BY A GENEVA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE watchmaking industry, which is one of the oldest and most important of Swiss industries, settled during the sixteenth century in Switzerland, where it found the skilled workers it needed in the Cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Neuchâtel, and the Bernese Jura. The watchmakers generally worked at home or in small workshops, and everyone of them was capable of producing a complete watch—that is, of making himself every part of its mechanism.

Watchmaking ceased to be a domestic industry towards the middle of the nineteenth century. In 1840, first of all, the Vacheron and Constantin firm, at Geneva (a firm which still exists), introduced machinery in their workshops, and from that time big manufactories were established in all the watchmaking centres—at Geneva, La Chaux de Fonds, Le Locle, St. Imier, Bienne, &c.—and the domestic workshops gradually disappeared.

There are nearly 150 different kinds of operations in manufacturing a watch, and the industry has so much developed that there is a specialist for each distinct part of a watch. There are in all some 1,200 firms in Switzerland employing nearly 50,000 hands, but the number of

manufacturers producing complete watches does not exceed 400. In certain districts 90 per cent. of the population gets its living out of watchmaking. Switzerland exported before the war some four millions of gold, silver, and metal watches per annum, and the total annual value of the watchmaking industry's exports reached a sum of 183 million francs (£7,320,000). The war almost stopped that industry, but it was rapidly transformed, and for many years it produced more shell fuses and special pieces for motors than watches. The watchmaking industry was thus enabled to carry on until the end of the war; but it was hard hit by the subsequent economical crisis, and over 15,000 of its workers were for many months on the unemployment register. In order to meet this very grave situation, the Federal Government, in 1922, granted a subsidy, which made it possible for watchmakers to keep their workshops running and to export their goods, which prevented the emigration of many watch workers to the neighbouring countries. That State subsidy has not only contributed to save the watchmaking industry from disaster, it has also helped it to improve its situation to such an extent that its exports are now superior to the pre-war figures. In 1921 exports reached a value of 161½ million francs (£6,460,000), representing 7,850,000 pieces; in 1922 they rose to 178 million francs (£7,120,000), and 8,403,000 pieces; and to 213,400,000 francs (£8,536,000) and 10,152,000 pieces of every description in 1923; from January 1st to June 30, 1924, exports reaching the unprecedented figures of 7,934,899 pieces, representing a value of 91,987,000 francs (£4,487,480). As for unemployment, it decreased by 70 per cent. during 1922 and 1923, and it is now reduced to nearly nothing.

The manufacturing and exportation of cheap wrist watches has greatly developed during the past two years, and an increase has also been registered in the export of decorated, enamelled, and jewel watches. The most important foreign markets for Swiss watches are, in first place, the United States; in the second place, Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries; in the third place, Spain and Japan, but the latter's place is now gradually being taken by France and China. Besides the ordinary gold, silver, and steel watches which are generally manufactured in the Neuchâtel districts, the Swiss manufacturers have taken up the production of cheap clocks which were formerly made in Germany. They are also producing marine chronometers and decorated watches, the latter being in fashion at present; while some firms are now making new chronometers registering a 1-5th of a second, which are employed in all sorts of races and motor car trials.

Several manufacturers of "precision" watches are now devoting their efforts to the decoration of watches, which become beautiful objects, adorned with precious stones, gilded or enamelled. An interesting and successful experiment has been made, for instance, by one big firm, at Geneva, who have combined in their workshops the two local industries of watchmaking and jewellery, and are now producing remarkable works of art.

Watchmaking schools exist at Neuchâtel, La Chaux de Fonds, and Geneva—the last-named celebrated its centenary in September, 1923—and laboratories for experiments have been also established in all three towns, where the Government controls the standard of gold and silver watch cases.

INDIAN CURRENCY AND TRADE.

IN view of the abnormal features of the period, the report of the Indian Controller of Currency for the official year 1923-24 is a singularly instructive document, and, inasmuch as many of the factors alluded to are still operative, its interest is not merely historical. Dated September 27th, the report deals, in fact, to a certain extent with the course of events in India since the busy season closed. Prospectively as well as retrospectively, the facts disclosed are distinctly encouraging, incidentally assisting to put the political influences, which figure so prominently in the Indian as well as in the British Press, in correct

perspective. Politically, indeed, the factors last year were, at first glance, almost uniformly adverse, not merely in India itself, but in Europe which provides the great Dependency with some of its largest markets. Nevertheless, despite these discouraging circumstances, what happened? "Though," the report remarks, "it would be sanguine to hope that normal conditions are yet within reach of attainment, the year.....marked a continued advance towards their restoration." Furthermore, it is considered safe "to assume that the present revival, though less marked than the boom which immediately followed the war, follows sounder lines, and is more likely to endure."

The import trades, and especially the importation of piece-goods, mainly owing to price difficulties, have still to recover their former activity; such difficulties, however, it must be emphasised, originate not in India, but in circumstances external to that country, viz., the shortage and high price of cotton, and so forth, for which India itself offers neither the cause nor the cure. On the other hand, India's exports, as well as her favourable balance of trade, in 1923-24 established new records, and these favourable conditions were accompanied by an improvement in the exchange value of the rupee, an absorption of rupees by the public, a rise in the quotations for Government securities, and an exceptionally heavy demand for finance which led to stringent money conditions in the latter part of the year. The year, as the official analyst notes, was also marked by an improvement in Government finance; the short-term obligations of Government in the form of Treasury bills issued to the public were reduced to a nominal figure, and practical equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure of the Central Government was attained for the first time after five years of revenue deficits, though this result, beneficially, was reached more by a reduction of expenditure than by an improvement in the revenue returns.

A glance at the trade totals of the year will be found encouraging. The value of private exports of merchandise reached a record figure of Rs. 3,62 crores, exceeding those of the previous year by Rs. 47 crores, or 15 per cent., and those of the year 1919-20 which held the previous record by Rs. 35 crores, or 11 per cent. The value of imports of private merchandise dropped from Rs. 2,24 crores in the previous year to Rs. 2,17 crores, with the net result that exports exceeded imports by nearly Rs. 1,45 crores, as against Rs. 90 crores in the previous year, and Rs. 1,26 crores in the year 1919-20 when net exports last reached the maximum. In no month of the year did the imports of merchandise exceed the exports, and the net exports in the four months, December, 1923, to March, 1924, totalled Rs. 73 crores, or just one-half of the balance for the whole year. The imported piece-goods trade is summarised in the following two sentences:—"Cotton piece-goods decreased by 7 per cent. from 1,593 million to 1,486 million yards, and in value by 3 per cent. from Rs. 59 crores to Rs. 57 crores. The up-country markets showed a continued reluctance to purchase, which must be attributed in the present year more to high prices than to the effects of the political boycott." Indian politicians, who like to see their influence exaggerated, have had as much to do with the recent depression in the Lancashire trade with India as the proverbial fly on the wheel. The piece-goods trade will regain its former volume concurrently with a closer approximation to former prices, and not before.

India's heavy import of gold (Rs. 41 crores in 1922-23 and Rs. 29½ crores in 1923-24) in the last two years, accompanied by proportionately heavy purchases of silver, is officially ascribed to various causes: "agricultural prosperity, especially in the cotton-growing areas where the crops were excellent, and fetched high prices a feeling of insecurity arising from the non-co-operation campaign and the subsequent growth of communal antipathy, restricted purchase of piece-goods, owing to high prices, and lastly, the comparative cheapness of gold. The latter factor disappeared last year, but reappeared this year, with the result that in the six months ending September, 1924, India's gold imports have totalled 21 crores, and promise to excel, therefore, even the large purchases of 1923-24. It may be noted here that an important change was introduced during the year in the mechanism by

which the remittances of funds are effected by Government from India to meet their disbursements in London. The normal method has hitherto been the sale by tender in London once a week by the Secretary of State in Council of rupee bills or telegraphic transfers on the Government of India, supplemented by sales of intermediates at higher rates between the weekly sales. While the weekly sales in London continue as hitherto (though recently with somewhat disturbing effects as viewed by banking opinion in India), the purchase of sterling in India from exchange banks and recognised firms has been substituted for sales of intermediates by the India Office. "The object underlying the change," as the Controller of Currency observes, "was that the factors influencing the immediate course of exchange can be gauged more accurately and more promptly in India, and by regulating the purchases with reference to the varying conditions of the market, the operations of Government could be conducted so as to avoid violent fluctuations in rates with benefit both to trade and to the country generally." The new system has worked successfully, and the experience gained has fully justified its introduction.

There is space for only a brief reference to the expansion of currency during the year, and the measure of Government aid in financing trade in the shape of advances to the Imperial Bank of India. The figures supplied show a further decrease in the Government funds locked up in Government treasuries, and thus unavailable for trade purposes, the average balance in these treasuries amounting to 3,40 lakhs, as against 4,00 lakhs in the preceding year. The decrease is due in part to the opening of additional branches of the Imperial Bank of India, and the taking over by the branches of the Government Treasury business along with the Government balances. But the main reason is to be found in the efforts made to economise balances by the provision of additional currency chests at sub-treasuries. The economy shown is reflected in the remarkable fact that the 3,40 lakhs above alluded to were distributed over 1,381 treasuries and sub-treasuries. Also noteworthy is the extent to which the cash resources of the Imperial Bank have recently been helped by Government deposits, the figures indicating that from February last up to September the Government deposits have stood higher than the cash balance of the bank. The Government note circulation increased from 1,75 crores to 1,86 crores, the Broach cotton and the jute crop in Bengal being now financed almost entirely by notes. Neglecting gold, which has ceased to function as currency, there was a net absorption of currency of 15½ crores divided equally between notes and rupees, against the return from circulation of nearly 40 crores in the three previous years. Recent official pronouncements suggest that 15 4d gold is the official objective in relation to the Indian exchange, and there is a general impression in India that the rate will be held approximately at the level thereby indicated for the duration of the oncoming "busy season."

PROBLEMS OF CANADA—III. THE RAILWAY SITUATION.

(BY A RECENT VISITOR.)

THE preceding article showed what a vital part the railways play in linking together the scattered groups of population that constitute Canada. Yet the railway situation of Canada is one of the most remarkable in the world, and its development is deserving of the closest study. There are to-day two railway systems in Canada. The one is a private enterprise, subject, so far as rates are concerned, to a railway commission. It is conservatively capitalised, with immense assets, including large quantities of land given to it in the days of construction; for years it has consistently paid—even during the war—a handsome dividend, and with its ocean liners and trading ships claims, and not without justice, to be one of the greatest transportation systems in the world. It is, incidentally, Canada's largest taxpayer. It owns Canada's first trans-continental line, built over difficult mountain passes with Government assistance, and completed as one of

the conditions on which British Columbia entered into confederation. To its efficiency and enterprise the opening up of Western Canada, particularly in the last quarter of the XIXth Century, was largely due. The other is an even greater railway system—operating over 21,000 miles of line, against the 14,000 miles of the Canadian Pacific. It is a Government-owned system, composed mostly of bankrupt lines to which, in varying degree, the Provinces and the Federal Government had advanced or guaranteed loans. As an unified system it is still run at a very heavy loss. Indeed, it is only in the last two years that there has been any surplus of earnings over working expenses. The accounts of the system are only gradually being reduced to order, and the report for 1923 is the first one to give a really clear idea of the situation. The form of accounts is not in all respects comparable with the very meagre information given in the annual report of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but the following table, based upon figures taken from the two reports, represents an approximately accurate comparison:—

	Canadian National.	Canadian Pacific.
Mileage.....	21,851	13,658
	Million \$.	Million \$.
Gross earnings.....	262.8	195.8
Working expenses (inc. taxes, &c.)..	249.3	158.4
Net income before paying fixed charges.....	13.5	37.4
Fixed charges.....	65.2	13.5
Net surplus or deficit.....	-51.7	+ 23.9*
Capital—		
Stock.....	270	353
Debt.....	1,953	258

* Of which 35.1 is due to the public, and 30.1 due to the Government.
* The C.P.R., in addition, has net income of \$11.4 million from its fleet, hotels, telegraphs, &c.

The position of the "National" system has much improved in the last few years, the surplus over expenses in 1922 having been only \$1.5 millions, while prior to that the system showed large deficits. The amount to be found by the Canadian taxpayer has consequently fallen, but it is still a very large sum, and as it is far larger than the Finance Minister is able to meet out of his current taxes, the national debt is increasing in snowball fashion, and will continue to do so until the C.N.R. can pay the whole of its bonded obligations out of net revenue. This is not likely to happen for some time to come, and Canadian opinion will consider that Sir Henry Thornton will have done wonderfully well if he expands net revenue sufficiently to cover the interest charges due to the public.

In many countries in the world there exist together private and nationalised railways. But the feature of the Canadian situation is that the two systems parallel one another from ocean to ocean, and compete at hundreds of competitive points. The competition shows itself in duplicated services and in such matters as amenities on trains, such as radio receivers fitted on long-distance parlour cars, &c. The competition even extends to telegraph and telephone services which in Canada are run by the railways, and in every important town there are to be seen C.P.R. and C.N.R. offices next door to one another soliciting custom.

It is not necessary to rehearse here the complicated history of the way this situation has arisen. Suffice it to say that in the last twenty years before the war Canada was the scene of great activity in railway construction. Throughout Canadian railway history politics has played a considerable part. For example, the Grand Trunk was partly a Canadian and partly an American line. The Inter-Colonial Railway was built to satisfy the demand of the maritime provinces for a line which would retain through traffic entirely in Dominion territory. Again, several years after the C.P.R. completed its line from ocean to ocean a second trans-continental line was projected, and supported by the Government because of a very strong suspicion of the monopolistic position of the C.P.R.; but the various projects were not co-ordinated, and in the end three lines crossed the continent. It is worth noting here that one of these lines—the Canadian Northern—was able to profit from experience, which had shown that the C.P.R. route crossed the Rockies too far south. In the Western prairie provinces the area immediately to the north of the international boundary is dry, and the "fertile belt," which is the natural line of de-

velopment at this point, forms an arc to the north. The exploitation of this territory is one of the advantages which the C.N.R. has over the C.P.R. The pre-war decade was one of rapid building in advance of Canada's needs, and though population grew fast, the developed area and railway mileage grew faster still. Between 1900 and 1915 the mileage doubled. The population increased a little less than 50 per cent. Then came the war, and all the railways except the C.P.R. found themselves in difficulties. The Government was deeply committed financially to them, and it was feared that if they went into receivership it would not only be bad for Canada's credit in general, but would precipitate a financial crisis. Indeed, it was feared that one of Canada's leading banks, which was deeply committed with the Canadian Northern, would be in difficulties if the railway failed. The Government therefore appointed an expert Committee, the majority report of which advocated the Government taking over the Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific systems and the Canadian Northern and welding them into the present system. The Government already owned the Inter-Colonial, the National Transcontinental (a link leased to the Grand Trunk Pacific system), and some others. The present C.N.R. is the result of the report. Unfortunately, the balance-sheets of the amalgamated systems contained large amounts of capital, not merely of common stock, but of bonds, which perhaps would never be remunerative, and still larger amounts which can only be remunerative if and when Canada's development has proceeded very much further than at present. In a reorganisation on a commercial basis large amounts of such capital would have been written off; but the Government had already guaranteed large quantities of the bonded indebtedness, and under the war crisis undertook responsibility for much more. The system has, therefore, started on a greatly overcapitalised basis.*

The situation admits of five possibilities:—

1. The present situation may continue and be put on a permanent basis by the Minister of Finance finding out of current taxes the whole of the deficit on the bonded indebtedness.
2. The C.N.R. may succeed in taking sufficient traffic from the C.P.R. to enable it to pay its way.
3. Net receipts may increase through an understanding with the C.P.R. and the cessation of competition.
4. Net receipts may increase through better organisation.
5. The net receipts of the C.N.R. may increase through the rapid increase in population and trade.

The first of these is a desperate remedy which highly-taxed Canada is not yet ready to face. If, however, the other possibilities fail, it is obvious that the sooner the problem is met in this way the better. As to the second plan, a national appeal to the taxpayer to support his own railway might make serious inroads on the revenues of the C.P.R. This appeal is already made indirectly, and doubtless by many agents. But it is not yet the deliberate policy of the Government, for it would be extremely bad for Canada to cripple its greatest private corporation. Moreover, the C.P.R. still commands great political influence, though it is many years since the C.P.R. decided to "go out of politics." It is, however, not unimportant to remember that the dividends of the C.P.R. interest Great Britain rather than Canada, for, according to its last report, its common stock in February, 1924, was held in the following proportions:—

United Kingdom.....	50.73
Canada.....	21.14
United States.....	20.69
France.....	2.95
Elsewhere.....	4.49

* It is not proposed here to enter into the controversy as to the Grand Trunk Pacific debentures and whether the Canadian Government should acknowledge the liability to pay the interest thereon. But it is worth observing that if the C.N.R. had not been formed these debentures would most certainly have been practically worthless, and could have had no prospect of receiving any interest for very many years to come. They have received this year's interest in full; but in consequence of the fall in C.N.R. receipts from the present harvest they are unlikely to get full interest for the ensuing year. Their prospect of interest in the near future, however, is much brighter under the C.N.R. than it would otherwise be.

The idea of a working agreement between the systems, though it would seem to be almost imperative, would not be popular. The C.P.R. is still disliked as a great monopoly whose economic power and political influence is widely regarded—particularly in the West—as a danger to the country. In Canada, as in America, railway competition is regarded by the farmer as much more effective than any amount of control, and there is some evidence that the C.P.R. will be the better for a period of competition. It is said, for example, that it is the C.P.R. agents rather than those of the C.N.R. who exhibit many of the worst characteristics of bureaucracy—adherence to rigid rules and conservative methods of business. The suggestion was recently made that the whole of the national lines should be put under C.P.R. management, the latter becoming a public utility company with a limited dividend, and the Government retaining ownership of its lines, so that in the event of their yielding a surplus it would ultimately recoup some of its losses. But the proposal was made prematurely, and appeared to the public to be an attempt of the C.P.R. to capture or, rather, to buy off the competition of the C.N.R., and was consequently greeted with a storm of opposition. Something of this kind may be the ultimate solution; but for the present minor agreements for restricting competition are probably the utmost that is politically possible.

As to possible economies on the C.N.R., the field is probably not very large. Sir Henry Thornton's new broom has by general admission created a new *esprit de corps* among the C.N.R. staff. But the big economies from falling prices of material and the deflation of wages have already been experienced in the last three years. Moreover, the new management, with its enterprising reorganisation, involves expenditure. There is no radical improvement to be expected from internal economies.

There remains the hope of increasing traffic as a result of a larger population, and it is to that solution that Canada is pinning its faith.

Notes of the Week.

Mr Coolidge and the Jingoism.—At this season of the year we scan the horizon with more eagerness than ever for signs of influences working in the cause of peace on earth and goodwill towards men. We may give, therefore, a most hearty Christmas welcome to the courageous stand which President Coolidge is making against the mischievous campaign of scare and jingoism which has been developing in the United States in connection with naval affairs and Americo-Japanese relations. In our own country we are only too familiar with all the arts of the scaremonger, and in these small and crowded islands it is obviously much easier to counter them than in the vast territories of the United States. There the scaremonger has a wider field to play in; it is more difficult for the voice of reason to pursue and scotch him, and, therefore, the restoration of a proper perspective demands, even more insistently than it does here, a bold and courageous attitude by the occupants of the great places of the State. This fact Mr Coolidge has been quick to recognise. He has set his face against a special naval investigation, the chief result of which would obviously be alarmist comparisons of the naval strength of certain nations, and much fresh powder-and-shot for agitators. He has declared against competitive building, and has clearly shown his determination to stand, not merely by the letter, but by the spirit of the Washington Treaty. This attitude of the President, coupled with Mr Hughes's striking greetings to the new Japanese Ambassador at Washington, should have a considerable effect in countering the work of the scaremongers in the United States, and of their opposite numbers in Japan, whose activity has been at least equally prominent. Further grease should be applied to the wheels of Japanese-American relations by the voicing in at least one powerful organ of the American Press of an appeal to the Senate to repeal the embargo on immigration from Japan and to place her on a ration basis like other nations—in other words, to revert to President Coolidge's policy which it rejected last session. What strength of public opinion may lie behind this appeal we do not know, but it

may perhaps be regarded as a straw showing in what quarter the wind is setting. While in search for straws, we may note with satisfaction the information, contained in the official report of the Rome Session of the League of Nations Council, that the United States has agreed to send a delegate to the International Conference for the control of the Traffic in Arms, which is to meet in May. An official representative of the United States, it is reported, has assisted in preparing the Draft Convention, intended to replace the St. Germain Convention, which the Washington Government refused to ratify. No radical change in America's attitude to Europe is to be looked for. But now that Mr Coolidge has behind him an overwhelming vote of confidence, he seems likely to lead his country along the road of more friendly co-operation.

Christmas in the Stock Exchange.—Between the conditions prevailing to-day in the Stock Exchange markets and those which ruled at Christmas-tide last year, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, the contrast is so great as to make it worthy of remark. Twelve months ago the prospect of a Labour Government weighed like a blanket over the mind of every capitalist, large and small alike. None of the Stock Exchange markets pretended to activity. A dull blight lay upon the House. Clients declined to deal. They sold—in some cases very heavily—on the conviction that a few years of Labour Government would overthrow every canon of security and undermine the best traditions upon which financial confidence is based. The event proved, of course, that many of the fears were unfounded, but this did not become apparent until some weeks of the New Year had passed. Christmas was a subdued and rather apprehensive time in 1923, although the younger spirits in the Stock Exchange celebrated it with vigorous outbursts of horseplay. This year, conditions are very different. Some of the markets are quiet, but in others the hands of the investor and of the speculator are turning over everything with a view to getting into shares at reasonable prices in advance of the New Year. Purchases of stocks and shares do not fall for payment—except in the Consol market—until January 8th, and money can therefore remain undisturbed at the banks over the window-dressing period. Stock Exchange members find no time for play; their energies are too greatly absorbed by more profitable employment. Sweet charity takes liberal toll of the benefit shed by the substantial gains that have accrued of recent months to tea shares, textiles, brewery, and whiskey, trust companies' issues, Malayan tin—and a host of others. The year will end, in the Stock Exchange, upon a very cheerful note, and, in the circumstances, there is a ring of unwonted certainty in the wishes, which the House broadcasts to its clients, for a merry Christmas.

Wages in 1924.—The Ministry of Labour statistics relating to changes in rates of wages indicate that up to the end of November, 2,900,000 workpeople had received increases amounting to £580,000 a week, and 500,000 had sustained reductions of £64,000. Figures for December are not yet available, but it is improbable that they will materially affect these totals. An examination of the details on which the statistics are based reveals the fact that the workers who received increases were distributed in the main amongst less than a dozen important trades, while the bulk of the decrease was accounted for by changes affecting coal miners in Scotland, Northumberland, and Durham. Moreover, the number of workers whose wages come under review for the purpose of the compilation of the statistics is between 7 and 7½ millions, and it may be assumed that about 4 million workers, or over 50 per cent., received the same wages at the end as at the beginning of the year. The general position, therefore, is that wages in a few industries have risen, but in others there has been little or no movement in either direction. Since the end of 1920 the statistics show that the weekly average reduction in wages per head amongst the workers who are effectively covered by machinery for collective bargaining, has been 26s 6d a week in the building industry, 44s 6d in mining, 56s in the iron and steel trades, 31s in engineering and shipbuilding, 21s in the

textile trades, 19s 6d in the transport trades, and 20s in the public utility services. These figures contain several features of interest, amongst which the most prominent is the heavy fall in wages in the iron and steel trades. Attention is also again focused on the fact that wages have fallen to a greater extent in the unsheltered industries, mining, iron and steel, and engineering and ship-building, than in the sheltered trades, the building and transport industries, and the public utility services. The average for the textile trades, which are mainly unsheltered, gives a somewhat false comparison, as it includes the effect of changes in the wages of a large proportion of female workers, whereas the employees in other industries mentioned are mainly males. The wage negotiations of 1924 have been, on the whole, carried on with a small amount of serious friction between the parties, except in the case of builders and dockers. In the building industry an increase in wages in February, under a cost-of-living sliding scale, was followed by a further general increase in August, preceded by a six weeks stoppage of work, the total advance being 3d to 1d per hour. A dispute at the ports in February resulted in the concession of an increase in the wages of dockers of 2s a day. In the coal-mining industry the effect of the revised national agreement was an all-round advance in wages in May. From that date onwards wages in some districts remained unchanged at the minimum, but in others there was, on the whole, a gradual decline, and at the end of the year wages are at the minimum in all districts except the Eastern area and Radstock, though higher—apart from Scotland, Durham, and Northumberland—than a year earlier. On the railways, wages were raised and reduced by equal amounts in January and July. Shipbuilders received increases amounting usually to 7s a week. The industries in which wages generally remained unchanged included engineering, the cotton and wool textile trades, printing, the clothing trades, and agriculture, though in the latter case higher rates were agreed upon late in the year by the new committees.

Home Railway Dividend Prospects.—The programme of wage demands recently presented to the companies by the National Union of Railwaymen naturally produced a sobering effect upon the Home Railway market, but, seeing that the matter is not likely to come to a head for at least two months, the prices of the stocks have exhibited no marked signs of depression, and investors appear rather to be turning their attention to dividend prospects. With no figures of expenditure and net receipts, it is difficult to gauge the possibilities, but for what it is worth we give below a table of gross receipts of the four great railways for the first 50 weeks of this year, compiled from the weekly traffic returns, together with a comparison with the corresponding period of 1923:—

(000's omitted.)

1924.	Great Western.	L.&N.E.	L.M. and S.	South-eastern.	Total.	Inc. or Dec.
January to June (26 weeks) —						
Passengers	5,942	10,214	14,639	7,676	38,471	+ 1,174
Goods	8,801	17,759	22,588	2,919	52,067	+ 4,396
Total	14,743	27,973	37,227	10,595	90,538	+ 5,570
July to December (24 weeks) —						
Passengers	7,282	11,931	17,114	8,905	45,232	+ 1,943
Goods	8,122	16,558	21,012	2,873	48,565	+ 507
Total	15,404	28,489	38,126	11,778	93,797	+ 2,450
Total (50 weeks) —						
Passengers	13,224	22,145	31,753	16,581	83,703	+ 769
Goods	16,923	34,317	43,600	5,792	100,632	+ 3,889
Total	30,147	56,462	75,353	22,373	184,335	+ 3,120
Decrease	459	1,758	835	68	3,120	..

We have divided the period into two parts, because in the second half of 1923 freight rates were lowered to the level current throughout the past year; the figures show a slight increase in gross receipts from goods in the second half, though for the 50 weeks there is a decline of nearly £4 millions. Tonnage figures are available only up to the end of September, and these show a decrease of 3½ million tons, or 1.33 per cent., coal being down by 7½ million tons, or 4.75 per cent., while other minerals show an increase of 2½ million tons, or 5.36 per cent., and general merchandise an increase of nearly 2 million tons, or 4.39 per cent. Passenger receipts, it will be seen, are a little higher for the full period, thanks

to a substantial increase in the second half of the year. The heaviest decline in total receipts is shown by the London and North-Eastern, the decrease amounting to over 3 per cent. Those of the Great Western are down by 1.5 per cent., of the London, Midland, and Scottish by 1.1 per cent., and of the Southern by 0.3 per cent. In the matter of expenses, it is possible that some slight saving may have been made in the coal bill, while the cost of other materials as a whole probably shows little variation. Wages, too, will have absorbed very much the same (except in so far as the companies have been able to reduce numbers under the working of the eight-hour day), since the cost-of-living index figure has moved in a similar manner. How far the coming wages question will influence the directors in forming their dividend policy it is impossible to say, but, in view of the existence of the substantial reserves disclosed in last year's balance-sheets, a reduction in the dividends on the junior stocks seems hardly probable.

Co-operative Trade Improving.—A correspondent writes:—The promise of a restoration of the trading position of the Co-operative Wholesale Society made in the spring of the year has been fulfilled in the accounts just made ready for the meetings of the society in January. For the thirteen weeks ended September 27th the total sales of the society to the retail societies in membership were £17,104,566, which is a gain of 12 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1923. Of this the Manchester headquarters did £9,094,238; £2,697,176 was through the Newcastle branch and £4,686,067 through the London, Cardiff, and Bristol depots. Substantial increases were made in the furnishing and footwear sections, although, of course, grocery and provisions still constitute three-fourths of the co-operative turnover. In the co-operative productive works there has been an increase of 21 per cent., the supplies totalling £6,101,507, or nearly one-third of the aggregate trade. The slump in the business of the four jam factories has been arrested, and the production has risen to £358,733 in the three months, while the output of the margarine works has jumped 45 per cent. to £513,480. From the three soap works the weekly supply has been 776 tons, and the output for the quarter reached £548,862. This is an increase of only 3½ per cent. During the thirteen weeks, 842,150 sacks of flour and 761,151 sacks of offal were sent out from the ten mills of the society, the value of which was £2,442,815, which compares well with the £1,827,750 of the corresponding period of 1923. In the clothing trades the C.W.S. has been most successful in boots and shoes, its productions in seven factories and four tanneries having been £472,670. From the works 630,948 pairs were despatched, 250,000 of which were from the works at Leicester, some employees at which have just been celebrating their fiftieth year of co-operative service. The improved state of trade is reflected in the increase in deposits and withdrawals of the C.W.S. Bank, which amounted to £139,921,760 in the thirteen weeks, as compared with £119,918,512 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 10 per cent. The C.W.S. Bank now operates current accounts for 1,027 co-operative societies, 8,766 trade unions and friendly societies, and 3,454 clubs and other mutual organisations. This being the quarterly report, there is no effort made to gauge the course of profit, but the fact that trade has been restored to such a considerable degree suggests that when the results of the whole of the year's trade are known, they will enable the maintenance of the dividend being paid on purchases, after capital has received its reward, according to the orthodox co-operative practice.

American Cotton Crop.—The Census Bureau of the United States Government has published its tenth report for this season relating to the amount of cotton ginned up to December 12th, the total being given as 12,796,000 bales. Since the previous report a fortnight earlier 571,000 bales have been dealt with, and at the same time last year the amount was 9,549,000 bales. The statistics on the whole were rather better than expected, but the slightly easier prices which followed were not maintained, as the lower rates attracted trade buyers. There is now

a possibility of the ginning returns exceeding the final estimate of the crop of the Government of 13,153,000 bales, and more people than ever are convinced that the amount grown this season will be 13,500,000 bales. Whatever happens, users of American cotton throughout the world are assured of plentiful supplies during the next 12 months.

The Supply of Capital in India.—A committee has recently been appointed by the Government of India, consisting of members of the Legislature, and known as the "External Capital Committee," "to consider the question of the flow of capital into India from external sources." This committee, we understand, has sent a questionnaire to the Indian Chambers of Commerce, prominent business men, and economists in the following terms:—

FORMS OF CAPITAL.

1. What are the different forms in which external capital enters India?

ENCOURAGEMENT.

2. In which of these cases is the entry either unobjectionable or necessary in the interests of India generally and of Indian industries in particular?

3. Is it necessary to encourage the entry of any particular variety?

4. If so, what steps should be taken in this direction, and to what extent is capital likely to be forthcoming as the result of such steps?

REPLACEMENT.

5. How far is it possible to replace external by internal capital?

6. What measures are necessary for the—
(1) greater attraction of indigenous capital for industrial purposes, and
(2) development of banking organisation and credit facilities in India?

RESTRICTIONS.

7. What are the forms of external capital the entry of which is objectionable?

8. What are the objections in each such case?

9. What restrictions can and should be imposed in each such case?

10. What would be the effect of any such restriction on the—
(1) industries and development of the country generally,
(2) loan policy of Governments and local bodies, and
(3) holders of investments?

DIFFERENTIATION.

11. Is it necessary to differentiate in any respect, and, if so, how would you differentiate between—
(1) British and foreign capital, and
(2) Capital from foreign countries which exercise such discrimination and from those which do not?

PRACTICE ELSEWHERE.

12. What is the practice in other countries (especially in the British Dominions) in the matter of encouraging or restricting the flow of foreign capital?

The subject is one upon which little is known in India, and upon which a good deal of misconception prevails. The possibility of sending the document to economic and commercial authorities outside India was, we believe, considered, but there were obvious difficulties in making a choice. The Committee, however, would no doubt welcome and benefit by contributions upon the subject from this country.

The Position of the Fishing Industry.—A Grimsby correspondent writes:—After an unprecedentedly bad time the outlook of the fishing industry is at last improving. Well-managed trawlers are again being worked profitably, and revived hope is encouraging people to increase their exertions. Coal, always a formidable expense, is a little easier in price, and this, coupled with the larger demand for salted fish from Catholic peoples of the Mediterranean and South American countries, is providing the necessary margin of profit to the white fish industry. The improved position in Germany and the stabilisation of her currency once again bring German buyers into the herring market, and this has made all the difference to the present and future well-being of the drifter fishing. Few trawlers have been built of late years, and values are back to pre-war prices; in fact, some of the older ships are hardly saleable. Fish in the North Sea are scarcer than ever, notwithstanding the great chance they had during the war years, when large areas were unfished; otherwise the

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., U.S.A.:
70 Federal Street.

BUENOS AYRES: 501 Bartolome Mitre. HAVANA: Pedro Gomez Mena Bldg.

Foreign exchange orders executed in the New York market for banking correspondents abroad. Commercial banking business of all descriptions transacted.

Special Representative:
24, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.

increased prices of to-day would provide a handsome profit. Trawlers are having to depend on distant banks, such as the North coast of Russia, where the fish have much improved in quality owing to the trawler cutting down the size of the shoals, which at one time were so great that the fish were half starved, and consequently very thin. Lately some good cargoes have been landed from these grounds, and the better condition of the fish has merited higher prices. The North Sea ports will in future have to depend more and more on this fishery, which years ago was not exploited in winter. The Iceland Government has adopted very harsh measures against the British trawlers, and in this direction there is considerable ill feeling and a sense of injustice among our fishermen. On the slightest pretext, and often on very flimsy evidence of inshore fishing, skippers have been fined large sums of money, have had their nets confiscated, and sometimes have suffered imprisonment. The fishing trade is outraged, and all sections in the industry think it is time our Foreign Office had the question threshed out. The consumer still thinks the price of fish too high, and often with reason, for, with such a perishable commodity, prices fluctuate to an alarming degree. Everyone to-day feels the taxation burden, and attempts to hand it on. Yet one must remember the increased costs of catching the fish and the greater distances the trawl has to travel. The scarcity in home waters has not improved matters, and new types of trawl and new methods of fishing are bringing to port a larger percentage of immature fish, which does not augur well for the future. The difficult times have made people turn to all the by-products of fish, and in this direction to-day it may be safely said there is little waste compared with pre-war years. The manufacture of fish meal for cattle feeding is now a large industry, and our farmers are buyers of over half-a-million sterling of this commodity. A new industry, that of making a high-grade liquid glue out of fish, is another factor with possibilities. Unlike animal glue, marine glue has the advantage of remaining liquid; thus the carpenter or housewife has no need to heat the glue-pot. The handiness of the little tubes of fish glue is that they are always ready for use. Also, with all the modern talk of vitamins, cod liver oil is now eagerly sought after by cattle breeders, as supplying the necessary, if elusive, germ, and thus another by-product helps the fishery. Taking a long view of the future, it may be said there is a fair prospect of success attending well-managed concerns in our fisheries, but there is no justification for believing all difficulties are over, and the public will be well advised to look askance at any financial proposition promising big rewards in connection with the industry.

The Sugar Position.—The market position of sugar goes from bad to worse, and the forecast which we made early in November has turned out to be substantially correct. The experts have revised their estimates of crops, as we suggested they would, and the cheaper sugar for the consumer of which we spoke has now become an accomplished fact. We put the world's total production for the present sugar year at 21½ million tons, against 19,650,000 tons in the previous season; but this estimate, which looked rather high two months ago, may have to be revised, and world crops of no less than 22,000,000 tons are talked of. There would thus be an expansion of close on 2,500,000 tons to deal with, and of this increase Europe alone will contribute two million tons. Mr Licht now estimates the

European beet sugar crops at 7,143,000 tons, which would denote an improvement of no less than 2,086,000 tons over the figures for the previous year. Germany and Czechoslovakia are the principal contributors to this larger tonnage, and it is certain that both countries will have a very heavy amount of sugar available for export. Mr Licht thinks that the French crops will yield about 800,000 tons, which is well above the figures mentioned by the French factories; thus France will need less outside sugar than in previous years. But this is not all. There is every indication that the European sowings under beet will next season undergo a further large expansion, particularly in Germany and Czechoslovakia, as more capital is being attracted to the industry, and the position as regards fertilisers, &c., is more comfortable than it was, and there are hopes that Russia will do better with her sugar industry, although it will be some time before there is any hope of that country having anything to export. News as regards the cane crops in Cuba is all in favour of a big out-turn, and the market is now talking about a crop of 4,500,000 tons, some estimates even going a little higher. There is not much of the old crop sugar left, and shippers seem rather inclined to hasten as much as possible the export of the new season's supplies. Assuming that the American demand expands according to market forecasts, the United States will probably absorb 3,000,000 tons of the Cuban crop, the cutting of which has now begun, and the marketing of the surplus in the face of the largely increased European supplies should bring about a very interesting position in world sugar circles. The deliveries into consumption in this country of late have been disappointingly small to the trade, and no doubt buyers are fully alive to the possibilities of a lower range of prices being established in accordance with the views expressed in these pages at the beginning of November. The total for the 11 months ended November 30th was 1,438,831 tons, against 1,358,298 tons in the corresponding period of 1923. Of this quantity, 822,327 tons were home refined, against 875,371 tons in the previous year. The imports of raw sugar for the 11 months were 1,099,707 tons, against 1,075,508 tons, and imports of all sugars for the period dealt with were 1,606,355 tons, as compared with 1,405,904 tons in the 11 months ended November 30, 1923. The U.K. stocks at the end of last month stood at 150,050 tons, against 157,300 tons a year ago, and 326,950 tons in 1922. There has this month been a further big decline in values, and foreign beet sugars have been somewhat pressed for sale. The British refiners, finding that buyers are not inclined to do much, have reduced their selling prices, and all home-refined cubes, crystals, &c., have been marked down, current rates, compared with the best seen this year, showing a very considerable fall all round. It is quite likely that with the turn of the year operations in Cuba will be accelerated with the idea of placing the new crop supplies on the market as early as possible. Mr Guma is now inclined to look for a crop of close on 4½ million tons, but, assuming that it turns out to be fully 4,500,000 tons, the problem of finding buyers will not be easily solved. The American sugar interests may try to hold the market up, but obviously the speculative transactions which have been so prominent during recent years will no longer find favour, and the commodity all over the world will sell at prices based on a liberal supply and a moderate demand. Refiners, faced with liberal supplies of foreign raw material, and threatened with State-aided competition at home, will have to pursue a cautious policy in their own interests; thus sugar may accumulate at the shipping ports and make matters worse. Certainly the days of short supplies and inflated prices seem to have vanished, and unless there is an unexpected expansion in world demand, selling rates everywhere must keep in users' favour for some time to come.

Hungarian Conditions.—The new Foreign Minister, M. Tibor de Scitovszky, has more than once declared his intention of giving special attention to commercial and financial matters, writes a correspondent, and, according to the *Bellman* in the "Hunting of the Snark," what is said three times is true. The fact that Baron Korangi, the Finance Minister, gave up his diplomatic position in

Paris to serve his country as Finance Minister seems to afford some sort of precedent for appointing a banker and commercial expert to the office of Minister for Foreign Affairs. Outside Hungary such an appointment would mark a new departure. M. de Scitovszky has not only done duty in the Ministry of Commerce for several years, but also was managing director of the Credit Bank, the largest bank in Budapest; his credentials, therefore, are exceptionally satisfactory for dealing with such things as commercial treaties, and it is probable that his appointment is due to the necessity of having a business man to deal with Czechs and other neighbours. A very great deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed by import merchants at the high duties. These, they say, will ruin trade, which, however, seems to increase by leaps and bounds, in spite of these difficulties. The imports for the month of October were exactly two and a-half times as great as in the same month of last year, and exports were double, so that it looks as if the debit balance at the end of the year will not differ much from 1923, but it will be a balance between enormously increased dealings. It will be disappointing if the figures for November and December are not as good as, if not better than, those for October, in view of the good sugar crop and large stocks of maize to be exported. Some Hungarian towns are perplexed how to get rid of their pre-war debts, and are endeavouring to come to some understanding on the subject. For instance, one town contracted a loan of some two millions from a certain bank, which now claims to be paid 250 times as many paper crowns as were paid over to the Municipality before the war. Naturally, to provide so large a sum at the present time is not altogether a simple proposition. It is hoped to arrange the matter by compromise through the gold institution. There is as yet no diminution in the prices of food, and the all-round charges are pressing very heavily on the middle classes, and to this fact the falling off of attendance at many restaurants and even cafés afford significant, if tragic, testimony. Other things, such as shirts, gloves, and clothes are proportionately dear. In a country where salaries are on a low scale and there is a crisis in trade, it is easy to see how almost impossible it is for the poorer middle classes to live in any sort of comfort. That the crisis was foreseen as the inevitable result of the reconstruction plan being put into execution does not benefit the unfortunate consumers. The cause of the high prices, as is usual in such cases, is attributed first to Government and then to the great land-owners and need of agrarian reform. There may be truth in both these complaints. Probably the prosperous peasantry and small landowners are having their share in the profits to a greater extent than their wealthier neighbours, the large proprietors, and it is obvious that high duties tend to keep prices high in such things as coffee and cocoa, for instance, and other imported foodstuffs. As, however, Hungary is a self-supporting country, profits must go into the pockets of Hungarians themselves, and strict inquiry would seem to be urgently called for.

Finnish Affairs.—A correspondent writes:—The total value of Finnish imports (c.i.f.) amounted to 404.3 million marks in November, and to 4,394.0 million marks for the period January-November; the corresponding figures in 1923 were respectively 451.9 million marks and 4,251.6 million marks. The total value of exports (f.o.b.) was 522.8 million marks in November and 4,559.7 million marks in January-November; the corresponding figures in 1923 were respectively 357.4 million marks and 4,013.8 million marks. For the period January-November, exports, therefore, exceeded imports by 165.7 million marks. During October the price index number for export goods fell 6 points, the index number for import goods remaining unchanged at 947. The decrease in imports during November reflected the influence of the favourable harvest of the present year; the import of cereals was less than in November, 1923, by about 36 million marks; imports of feeding-stuffs were about half what they were last November. On the other hand, the recovery anticipated for the cotton industry has not yet materialised. According to official statistics this year's timber exports amounted, at the beginning of December, to 986,000 standards. If official anticipations are

realised, the total timber export for 1924 will be over 1,000,000 standards, thus exceeding the figure for last year by 100,000 standards, and reaching for the first time the same level as Sweden. The prices for timber prevailing in the autumn were relatively low. Sales for shipments in 1925 were estimated at the end of November to amount to 70,000 standards; on the same date last year sales for 1924 were estimated at about 20,000 standards. The prospects of this market in the coming year are still uncertain. The value of exports (f.o.b.) of timber in November was 327.7 million marks. Exports of paper amounted in November to 17,513 tons, compared with 13,306 tons in the corresponding month of last year. For January-November, paper exports totalled 166,153 tons, against 158,239 tons in the same period of 1923. The export of wood-pulp was well maintained in November. Chemical wood-pulp was exported in that month to the amount of 21,749 tons (compared with 11,684 tons in November last year), and ground wood-pulp and cardboard to a total of 8,875 tons, as against 3,300 tons in the same month of 1923. The total value (f.o.b.) of the products of the paper industry exported in November was 121.0 million marks. In October the National Debt, which is funded in its entirety, was reduced by 20.0 million marks. At the end of the month of October it amounted to 2,289.0 million marks. The total State revenue for the period January-August amounted to 1,824.7 million marks. The Municipal Central Bureau states that more than half (57.1 per cent.) of the amount of the Municipal Joint Loan from America (7 million dollars) will be utilised for extension of harbours, electrical plant, and waterworks. The balance will be applied to such social purposes as the erection of school buildings, dwelling-houses, and hospitals, &c. The average dollar rate in October was 39.78, the highest point touched being 39.85, and the lowest 39.75. Deposits in the savings banks amounted at the end of October to 1,695.5 million marks (1,490.4 million marks at the same date last year). During October, the wholesale price index fell three points to 1,114, while the cost of living index rose 20 points to 1,219 as a consequence principally of the increased prices of foodstuffs in foreign markets. Unemployment has increased; at the end of October the number of unemployed persons, men and women, was 1,594, against 800 at the same time last year. The Diet has authorised the Government to purchase half the shares of the Outokumpu Copper Mine. This mine (South-Eastern Finland) is estimated to contain 7-8 million tons of ore, yielding 4 per cent. copper.

Recovery in Uruguay.—Like other South American countries, Uruguay seems definitely to have emerged from the post-war depression. According to the Report (to September, 1924) of the British Vice-Consul at Montevideo, the improvement is due partly to the abundant crops (except of maize), but mainly to the excellent wool clip, which provided ready money, and enabled the cattle-owners to hold their stock till they could obtain better prices, and also improved the public revenue and the balance of trade. The improvement is reflected in an increased activity in building and greater use of commercial motor transport. The Budget estimates, through retrenchment and readjustment of taxation, show a small surplus, but the public debt has increased since 1914, including the new issues now pending, by some 60 million pesos, of which some 22 millions have been spent on public works, the rest representing Budget deficits. An attempt to borrow 35 million pesos in New York fell through last year, and about half the amount has been raised, to cover the deficits of the last two years, by an internal loan. New public works, including the rebuilding of the Montevideo Custom House, and repairs to roads, wharves, and bridges, have been provided for by raising 2½ million pesos in New York by Treasury bills. The remittances for the service of the External Debt have involved heavy losses through the unfavourable exchange, but proposals to export a portion of the unnecessarily large gold reserve have been frustrated by the opposition of the State Bank. (Since the Report was written there has been a considerable improvement in the exchange.) Great Britain takes the largest share of Uruguayan ex-

LEGAL & GENERAL
ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED
ALL INSURANCE
 EXCEPT MARINE
10, FLEET ST. LONDON E.C.4

ESTABLISHED 1836 ASSETS EXCEED £15,500,000
 General Manager W. A. WORKMAN, F.I.A.

ports, and in 1923 recovered from the United States the chief place in supplying her imports, but German competition is becoming keen. So with shipping, though here Great Britain has made a marked advance, and some two-fifths of the tonnage is British. German wool exporters, however, patriotically patronise German vessels, even at slightly higher freight rates. Improvements are in progress in the port of Montevideo. The principal British-owned railways, which are comprised in the Central Uruguay system, have had a record year, in spite of the disturbances of trade in Southern Brazil, but have suffered considerable losses on exchange. Changes are pending in the Customs valuation system, and a temporary and partial remission is contemplated of the export duties on washed wool. Uruguay is essentially "a cattle country," and some 96 per cent. of its exports are derived from the raising of cattle and sheep. This must be considered in any estimate of its prospects.

Panama and the Canal Zone.—In 1923 the imports into the Republic of Panama were about four times the value of the exports; two-thirds of the latter consisted of bananas, grown largely in Costa Rica, but exported through the Panamanian port of Bocas del Toro. If the province of Bocas del Toro is ruled out, the imports are ten times the value of the exports. The difference is made up by money coming in from the canal zone from the crews of United States warships, and from tourist traffic. This is the position as stated in the Report of the British Consul at Panama, which has just been issued by the Overseas Trade Department, and is revised to September, 1924. But there are great possibilities for coffee, rice, maize, and tobacco, of which the production is now insufficient, and possibly for sugar, which is only just sufficient for local needs; coconuts account for 9 per cent. of the exports, cacao, grown by the United Fruit Company, for nearly 10 per cent., and banana culture is extending in the neighbourhood of the Gatun Lake and on the Atlantic coast. Manganese is to be worked by an American company: gold is mined, and is now being dredged; and there appear to be good hopes of oil. Business conditions are affected by anxiety as to the impending treaty with the United States, and can only become normal again through improved production, which will be fostered by the system of roads now under construction, for which \$4,500,000 have been borrowed in New York. Germans and Czechoslovaks are being settled as colonists; the restrictions on Chinese immigration have been made more severe. British import trade, though only 10.8 per cent. of the total, was greater by more than 40 per cent. than in 1922, chiefly in small hardware, biscuits, and lard. American prohibition of intoxicants, it is noted, is causing American shipping to be registered in Panama, notably those engaged in tourist traffic. The canal traffic in 1923-24 was the largest on record—5,230 commercial and 418 U.S. Government transits, with an aggregate in tolls of \$24,290,963. In tonnage, the United States naturally came first, with 2,947 ships of a tonnage of 15,806,899; Great Britain second, with 1,265 ships, and a tonnage of 6,097,611; thereafter Japan, with 171 ships; Germany, with 150; Norway, with 136; and Holland, with 102. Half the total cargo passing was United States inter-coastal, and 35.5 per cent. was accounted for by four other routes—Europe and the North American

Pacific coast, the East Coast of the United States and the West Coast of South America, Europe and South America, and the United States and the Far East—which alone showed a slight decline. The canal, of course, cannot yet be regarded as a paying enterprise, owing to the cost of upkeep (\$5,000,000 annually); but it has increased the trade of the United States with 15 countries of the Pacific by 233 per cent. since its opening.

The Stockbroker as Principal.—Keen interest has been aroused in City circles, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, this week by the publication of a judgment given on Tuesday by the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal, sitting in London. The case before the tribunal was comparatively simple. A firm of London Stock Exchange brokers had shares open for certain German clients on the outbreak of war, the shares being financed partly by contango in the market, partly by the money of the firm and its bankers. At the end of the war, the London firm sought indemnity against the loss which had occurred, and the case came before the Tribunal just mentioned. The three gentlemen who compose the tribunal—Monsieur Borel (president), Mr Vaughan Williams, K.C., and Dr Zacharias, of Hamburg—laid it down that in regard to that part of the account which was contangoed in the market, the London firm were entitled to be indemnified against loss, on the ground that their position was that of agents. On the other hand, in respect of the stock which had been financed through the employment of the firm's or their bank's money, the London firm had adopted the attitude of principals, and that the loss which arose on this particular part must fall upon them. There was some difficulty in identifying the stocks which were carried over for the account of the German clients in the House, and with the firm's money, but this difficulty the tribunal overrode by deciding that the account would have to be dealt with proportionally. Where the importance of the matter lies to the Stock Exchange is in the fact that hitherto the position of a broker, member of the London Stock Exchange, has always been regarded as that of an agent. The matter has been fought out many times in the courts, but with an overwhelming majority of decisions in favour of the principle that a broker is an agent, and only such. The jobber is the principal on the one hand, the client on the other, the broker being a go-between and, therefore, not to be held legally liable for losses which may be sustained. For many years there has been no cause to reopen what is considered as a settled law, and the finding of this Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal comes by way of a complete surprise. What the authority of the tribunal may be, as judged by the standard of English law courts, it is hard to say. Apparently the firms concerned will have to abide by the decision, though it will be interesting to observe whether the London stockbrokers take steps to carry the matter further. In examining the matter, it has to be borne in mind that the case has no bearing whatever upon another question which exercised Stock Exchange opinion soon after the outbreak of war, when London brokers entertained some little doubt on the point of whether they were justified in closing commitments, open for German clients, without the consent of the latter. It may be recalled that the Stock Exchange Committee laid down a rule to the effect that when contangoed shares reached the making-up prices of the end-July, 1914, settlement, the seller could call upon the buyer either to sell the shares or to pay for them. The consequence was that when the rise in American rails occurred, as it did not long after the war started, the bulk of the American shares that were open on German account were closed by being sold, although at that time a lurking suspicion was felt in regard to the strict legality of the action. Brokers, of course, were unable to obtain instructions from their German clients, and could not be expected to pay for stock when the price of that stock rose to the make-up of the end-July, 1914, the last settlement prior to the outbreak of war. No question has ever arisen on this particular head, and, as already stated, it

has nothing to do with the case which has just been decided by the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal. But the ruling of the tribunal that a broker who employs his own money, or that of his bank, for taking-in stock for a client becomes *ipso facto* a principal is a mild shock to the established conviction that a broker is an agent. It remains to be seen whether the tribunal's decision will have any direct bearing upon the position of a broker *vis-à-vis* his client as it is held to stand to-day. Obviously, for the sake of everybody concerned, there should be no room for doubt as to the precise relationship which exists between broker, jobber, and client.

British-American Tobacco.—A new record of profits is chronicled in the accounts of the British American Tobacco Company for the year ended September 30th last. As will be seen from the comparative table below, the dividend is increased to 26½ per cent., free of British income-tax, but the payment requires considerably more than the 30 per cent. distributed for five consecutive years, when the ordinary capital was much smaller:—

	Sept. 30.	1914.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Profits, &c...	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	2,177,022	3,140,174	3,776,508	4,879,177	4,325,481	4,400,784	4,494,972	4,866,266	
Prof. div'nd	188,297	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	
Ord. div'nd	1,322,308	1,876,236	2,155,774	3,745,492	3,842,493	4,010,709	4,014,821	4,254,921	
To reserve...	(24½%) 1,500,000	(30%) nil	(30%) nil	(30%) nil	(24%) nil	(25%) Dr 122,900	(25%) ..	(26½%) ..	
Balance	Dr 104,583	1,038,878	1,394,734	908,685	255,788	1,387,075	254,894	382,345	
Br'ght for'd	1,973,902	1,966,700	3,005,578	727,778	1,634,200	1,889,877	3,276,952	3,531,770	
Carr'd for'd	930,319	3,005,578	4,400,312	1,636,463	1,890,188	3,276,952	3,531,846	3,914,116	

The amount carried forward is a very large sum, and lends credence to the many rumours which were about a year ago as to the capitalisation of reserves. Assets total £33,305,030, of which £16,032,944 consists of "Investments in associated companies," while £6,459,854 is for loans to such companies. Cash in hand is shown as £2,825,785, as against £4,247,040 a year ago. Being partly a holding company, it is difficult to estimate the total of reserves. In addition to the amount carried forward, there are various reserve items totalling over £2 millions. It is to be assumed that the associated companies also have made provision for reserve.

Tin Dredging in the East.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Included in the usual end-year batch of reports are the annual statements of a number of the British companies dredging for tin in the Straits Settlements. Of these the most important is the Malayan Tin Dredging. By an odd coincidence, each of the past two periods has benefited during about nine months from the operation of an additional machine: the latter started in September, 1922, and sunk in March, 1924. Thanks to the treatment of a larger yardage and to the increased price realised for the product, the company in the twelve months ended June 30th last earned a net profit of £53,100, in place of £36,500. Moreover, there was no repetition of the special appropriations which swallowed up so large a proportion of the profits of 1922-23. Hence the shareholders received dividends totalling 3s per share, as against 2s, and the substantially enhanced balance of £58,300 remained to be carried forward. Bar accident, the returns for the current year promise to double those of the past session, for an interim distribution of 1s per share was paid in August, and another of like amount, plus a bonus of 1s, has lately been declared. It is noteworthy that the Malayan Company has secured the benefit of a loan of £100,000 under the Trade Facilities Act. This is to be employed in the provision and installation of an electric power plant, and of an additional dredge. With regard to the sunken machine, the chairman announced at the meeting that, after various delays, a settlement had been arrived at with the underwriters. At least nine months will be required to float and recondition the dredge. Under favourable conditions, it should come into operation again shortly after the power station has been com-

pleted and the No. 6 dredge started up. Thus, there is a prospect in about a year's time of a substantial addition to the output at a lower ratio of cost. Last year 63 acres of ground were worked out, but 158 acres were acquired, leaving the company with 1,550 acres of virgin ground. No need for the shareholders to worry about the question of "life"! Quite naturally, the results of the subsidiary Southern Perak Dredging bear a close resemblance to those of the parent company. The net profit expanded from £14,700 to £25,600, and the dividends totalled 4s per share, in place of 2s. A second interim dividend of 1s, plus a bonus of 1s, has also been declared. The company last year devoted much attention to prospecting, and as a result made substantial additions to its ground. When a sufficiently large new area has been acquired the question of an additional dredge will receive consideration. It may be mentioned that the dredges of both companies are insured against loss of profits due to sinking, boiler bursts, lightning or storms. A feature in the position of this company just now is a marked expansion in the monthly profits due to the treatment of the expected richer ground. Last year's net earnings of the Pari Tin—formerly the Tronoh South—only amounted to £5,100, but as the issued capital stands at no more than £25,000, they sufficed to provide 15 per cent. The bulk of the capital is represented by investments. Here, also, an interim dividend is shortly payable.

Sulphide Corporation.—In commenting upon the 1923 report of this undertaking, we remarked that the fire in the Central mine was likely to have serious after-consequences. Actually they prove to have been worse than generally anticipated, absorbing the whole of last year's earnings. A net profit on operations of £60,000 was supplemented by £37,050 interest or profit on investments, and by £100,000 excess reserve for taxation written back, less £13,500 administration expenses. Practically the whole of the available balance of £184,000 was devoted to amortising the expenditure entailed by the disaster above referred to; thus there are no dividends. In respect of the twelve months ended June, 1923, both the preference and ordinary shares received 15 per cent. Even now there is no prospect of the extraction of ore from the northern section of the mine until towards the end of the current financial year, but the company should be able to earn moderate profits from the Junction mine (purchased in November 1923), as well as from its treatment operations. The decks having been cleared financially, the shareholders would seem warranted in hoping for some return in respect of 1924-25. At the moment the companies operating on the Broken Hill field are under the shadow of a threatened fresh outbreak of labour trouble, the surface employees having struck to enforce a demand for higher wages. Doubtless this step has been encouraged if not initiated by the knowledge that at the current prices of lead and zinc the companies are making large profits. What policy the employers intend to pursue is not yet known, but they could well afford, and probably will offer, a bonus dependent upon the prices of the metals.

Roumanian Oil Companies' Finance.—The two Roumanian oil companies, both "holding" concerns, whose shares are actively dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, namely, Phoenix Oil and Transport Company, and Steaua Romana (British), Limited, afford an interesting comparison. The belated accounts of the Phoenix for the year ending December, 1923, have only recently been issued. Those of the Steaua Romana for the year ending June, 1924, should be issued some time in February next. A noticeable feature of the Phoenix accounts is the statement of the auditors that "no reserve for depreciation has been made in the accounts nor, with one exception (the Orion), in those of the allied companies since acquisition." To make proper allowance for depreciation is nowhere more important than in the ac-

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, LTD.
EASTERN MERCHANTS.
AGENTS AND SECRETARIES OF TEA AND RUBBER
ESTATES. GENERAL EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS.
1-4, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

counts of oil companies. No asset is so "wasting" as an oil field, and it is the practice of conservatively financed oil companies to write off out of profits the whole cost of field expenditure. Sir Edward Manville, the chairman of the Phoenix, made light of the auditor's statement by arguing that the allied companies had been acquired on favourable terms, and that the purchase price at which they stood in the Phoenix balance-sheet was less than half their pre-war capital. Seeing that during the war these companies' properties were destroyed, this point is not too strong. He added that £75,568 received by one of the allied companies as war compensation (how it was obtained from the British Treasury when the other Roumanian companies still went without, remains a mystery), and any sums of the like nature would be applied to a reduction of the book value of the assets. That is all the more necessary seeing that preliminary expenses stand on the credit side of the balance-sheet at £80,709. In any case, the profits were not large enough to admit of adequate provision for depreciation. The net profits for the year were £77,862, but did not include profits from the Orion and the Roumanian Consolidated Companies, as those concerns were not acquired until the end of 1923. The figure of profits cannot, therefore, be compared with the figure for the production, 105,259 tons, as that comprised the output of all the allied companies. For the year 1924 the production is estimated at 185,000 tons. To pay a dividend on the increased capital of £3,512,235 would seem to require a much larger production and better market conditions than the oil régime of the Roumanian Government now permits, but Sir Edward Manville was hopeful that the dividend-paying stage would be reached by next July. The Steaua Romana has a capital of £2,025,000. Its revenue is derived from dividends declared on its shares in the Steaua Romana Company of Bucharest, from interest on its loan to a Roumanian banking group, who are co-shareholders, and from its commissions on sales of oil products handled by it in this country. The profit for the year to June, 1923, was £103,725, but this included interest on the loan to the Roumanian Banking Group which had accrued, but had not been paid in sterling. Since that date the loan and the interest accrued have been capitalised and the Roumanian banking group has been paying interest half-yearly in sterling. This should give the Steaua Romana (British) an income of approximately £60,000 per annum, apart from the commissions on sales in this country, which would yield about £15,000 per annum. The dividends declared by the Steaua Romana Company of Bucharest in lei are not likely to be converted at the present rate of exchange, but it is probable that these dividends next year will run into large figures. The production of the Steaua Romana has been greatly increased, and it is noticeable that it has held up better than that of any other company in Roumania. For the calendar year 1924 it is estimated at about 270,000 tons, as compared with 222,256 tons for the calendar year 1923. Within the last month some important gushers have been brought in on the company's holding in the Runcu field. There is another favourable feature which is common also to the Phoenix. At the end of this month the Roumanian Mines Council will proceed to the allotment of certain State oil lands, and it is generally expected that both the Steaua Romana and the Phoenix will figure in the allotment list. If the allotments are favourable, it will mean that the future of each company becomes much more assured. At the present market valuation the shares of these two companies—10s Steaua and 10s Phoenix—there can be little doubt that the shares of the former are more attractive as a speculative "lock-up" investment.

Obersea Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—GOLD EXPORTS—MARKED REVIVAL IN STEEL INDUSTRY—COTTON CROP FORECAST—MONEY FIRMER—STOCK MARKET REACTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 12.

FURTHER evidence of the marked revival in the steel industry since the election is found in the report of the United States Steel Corporation this week, showing that unfinished business on its books at the end of November amounted to 4,031,969 tons, representing an increase of 506,699 tons over October 31st. The November 30th total, although smaller than at the corresponding date a year ago, is the largest reported since April 30th of this year, and is sufficient to keep the leading producers' plants operating at full capacity for nearly three months. The corporation's shipments last month, it is figured, were between 900,000 and 1,000,000 tons, and incoming business approximately 1,500,000 tons, or considerably more than the finished capacity per month. The gain in new business during November was larger than the aggregate increase from July to October, inclusive. United States Steel's mills are now operating at close to 80 per cent. of capacity, as compared with 40 per cent. in July and 68 per cent. just before the election.

The Government's latest cotton crop estimate of 13,153,000 bales, as compared with the previous forecast of 12,992,000, was somewhat less than the majority of the trade had expected. The market, therefore, advanced sharply after publication of the report, but subsequently lost all of the gain, owing to a growing belief that the Department of Agriculture had under-estimated, rather than over-estimated, the probable crop. If this indicated crop is realised, it will be the ninth largest grown, in point of size. Based on the December 1st farm price of cotton, this year's crop, taking the Government's latest estimate of yield, is valued at \$1,421,356,262. In addition, the cottonseed is valued at approximately \$200,000,000, and the production of linter cotton will probably total some eight or nine hundred thousand bales. This year's crop will be the fifth largest in point of value, having been exceeded by the crops of 1923, 1919, 1918, and 1917. Nearly 93 per cent. of the crop had been ginned up to December 1st, the actual ginnings as reported by the Census Bureau having amounted to 12,225,025 bales, as compared with 9,243,380 bales last year and 9,319,601 in 1922 to the same date. A year ago nearly 91 per cent. of the crop had been ginned to December 1st, and in 1922 95.8 per cent. While the erratic fluctuations of the staple have served to restrict operations in the cotton textile trade and industry, cotton goods manufacturers find encouragement in the comparatively large crop now predicted, since present indications are that there will be an ample supply of raw cotton to meet all requirements, unless demand for goods should exceed expectations.

Although building returns for November fell below the total for October and for November of last year, the aggregate value of permits at 174 cities throughout the country, as reported to *Bradstreet's*, make an impressive showing, amounting to \$230,021,813, as against \$272,158,862 for October and \$250,536,981 for November, 1923. The shrinkage from October was about 15 per cent. and from November a year ago approximately 8 per cent. The decrease last month occurred mostly in New York City.

Only one small foreign loan was floated here during the past week, namely, \$2,500,000 International Railways of Central America 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, which were offered at 76 and interest to yield 6½ per cent. Additional foreign financing, however, is in process of nego-

tiation, but is not likely to be undertaken here until after the turn of the year. The next large piece of such financing will probably be for the account of the Belgian Government, which, it is understood, is preparing to offer two bond issues. One is expected to amount to about \$25,000,000, the proceeds to be used for extensive improvements to the railway system of the Congo. These bonds may be offered at a price to yield approximately 8 per cent., although the terms have not been fixed finally. The other issue may be as large as \$50,000,000, and its proceeds will be used for various Governmental purposes, it is said. The estimated yield on these bonds is expected to be around 7.75 per cent. They probably will not be placed on the market here until after the small issue has been disposed of.

Money rates generally have displayed a firmer tendency this week. On the Stock Exchange, call loan rates advanced to 4 per cent., and averaged 3½, while rates for time loans on Stock Exchange collateral were ½ of 1 per cent higher, than a week ago, current rates being quoted at 3¼ to 3¾ per cent. for maturities ranging from 30 to 90 days, and at 3¼ per cent. for four to six months' loans. The immediate cause of the stiffening in money rates is the shifting of funds in preparation to meet federal income-tax payments due December 15, and in connection with heavy Government financing on that date. Owing to continued active trading in the stock market, demand for call money has increased somewhat, but the amount of borrowing for fixed periods is very light.

The outward flow of gold from the United States to various European countries and to India is naturally attracting a great deal of attention. Shipments have been increasing the past few weeks, and there is much speculation as to what proportion the export movement may reach in ensuing months. Official figures showing total gold shipments for this month will not be available until late in January or the first part of February, but present indications are that exports during November and December will exceed imports for the first time since 1919. In that year gold exports exceeded imports by \$291,600,000, approximately. The total monetary stock of gold in the United States on November 1st amounted to \$4,570,067,375, or not quite one-half of the world's known monetary stock, which is estimated by competent authorities here at approximately \$9,650,315,056. For the ten months ending with October, the value of commodity exports from the United States exceeded that of imports by \$672,000,000, and the excess of exports for the entire year will probably be close to \$1,000,000,000. This compares with \$324,000,000 for the calendar year 1914. The National City Bank calls attention to the fact that this year's excess of exports will bring the excess in the twelve years since the opening of the World War up to the enormous total of \$22,000,000,000. There would have to be a great business revival, it is pointed out, and a much greater restoration of confidence in the value of gold throughout the world before the effects of this tremendous trade balance could be reversed and the gold-holding balance restored.

Although the stock market has continued very active, the volume of trading has diminished somewhat as compared with recent weeks, and the market as a whole has experienced the first substantial reaction since the full movement began shortly after the November 4th election. Public participation has been on a heavy scale, but more on the selling than on the buying side this week. Under extensive profit-taking and considerable short-selling prices of industrials and specialties, after reaching a new high average for this year of \$112.11 a share, declined sharply to \$110.84, while rails steadily declined from last Saturday's average of \$97.25 a share to \$95.76. To-day there has been a fairly general rally from the lowest levels on covering and fresh bullish demonstrations throughout the list. The upward movement had been checked by apprehension over a possible increase in the New York Federal Reserve Bank's discount rate, but was resumed when it was learned that no change in the present rate of 3 per cent. had been made this week at least.

The bond market has been active, with irregular price fluctuations. The general tendency, however, has been to lower levels as a result of firmer money.

GERMANY.—CABINET—ENGLISH TRADE POLICY—FINANCES—CURRENCY—INDUSTRY—FOREIGN TRADE—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, December 20.

DR MARX's failure to form a Cabinet, and the failure to form an alternative Cabinet under leadership of the German Nationals and the People's Party, are expressions of the fact that the Reichstag General Election of the 7th made no material change in relations of party strength. Owing to the permanent association of parties with class and economic interests (in one case with religion), no election can produce a sufficient change in Reichstag membership to create a parliamentary majority of the English kind. The alternative majority coalition system broke down finally a year ago, when the Social-Democrats abandoned the Stresemann Cabinet. The Marx minority Cabinet system of 1924 managed very well, and might be managing well to-day had not the Reichstag been dissolved in the impossible hope of securing a more practicable Reichstag. It is difficult to say what sort of a Cabinet will exist when the Reichstag assembles on January 5th. But even the coming into power of a Conservative Cabinet with the German Nationals dominating, although it might cause international nervousness, would probably have no disturbing influence on the Reparations settlement. The Nationals, as they showed last summer by surrendering on the Railway Corporation issue, realise that no Cabinet with an intransigent policy towards Reparations could exist for more than a few days.

The postponement of Great Britain's decision on the Cologne evacuation question is taken badly by the Nationalist Press. The delay in evacuating is not really considered a hardship. In view of the Ruhr occupation it has certain advantages for Germany, but the reasons given by Lord Curzon are denounced as unfounded. Mr Baldwin's statement of the 17th on the Safeguarding of Industries has made a great stir in business circles. A prolonged struggle between British Free-Traders and Tariff Reformers, like that which preceded the war, is expected. The British measures are naturally not welcomed here. The imposition of general duties, not ostensibly discriminating against individual nations, but protecting such British industries as are of substantial importance, as are efficient, and as are subject to exceptional competition, is taken here as *de facto* meaning Protection against particular countries, because only such countries as happen to export goods in the protected classes will suffer. Also if duties are imposed on certain kinds of goods to counterbalance a particular exporting nation's low wages or depreciated currency, all such exporting nations as do not enjoy the assumed advantage of low wages or depreciated currency will be formally put under a disadvantage. At present all German goods are produced under low-wage conditions, and since last winter most goods have been produced under long-hours conditions; therefore as Germany competes in nearly all branches of finished goods, Mr Baldwin's scheme might mean protection for nearly all goods. The course of the controversy in England will probably affect Tariff policy here.

Money is relatively plentiful. A report read at the Deutsche Bank shareholders' meeting mentions that deposits have doubled since the beginning of the year. Clearings in the first six months of this year recovered to about half the total of the same months of 1914, and have since then increased by about 10 per cent. a month. The condition of the other commercial banks is understood to be similar. The great increase in deposits is an indication of faith in the stability of the currency. The Gold Discount Bank is slowly liquidating its affairs. Its return for December 15th shows discounts totalling £6,309,854, against £6,657,449 on the 6th. Rediscounts fell from £2,969,734 to £2,482,688. The position of the private banks will be materially improved by the lapse of the Capital Flight Laws on December 31st. In view of the absence of the Reichstag, the Government cannot legislate for retention of any part of these numerous and complicated enactments; it is assumed, therefore, that next year unlimited transfers of cash and securities abroad

National Bank of Commerce in New York

Chairman of the Board
JAMES S. ALEXANDER
President
STEVENSON E. WARD

Capital Paid up \$25,000,000
Surplus \$25,000,000
Undivided Profits \$14,000,000

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

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE
2 & 3 Crosby Square, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.3



will be allowed; indeed, in view of the higher earning power of money at home, there is no reason for sending it abroad. The Government may, however, using some of its numerous exceptional authorisations, keep alive the restriction imposed by the law of January 14, 1924, upon the foundation of deposit banks. If it does, English banks, in spite of the Commercial Treaty, would not be able to carry on full banking business here.

The weekly wholesale-prices index number for December 10th was 129.6, the cost-of-living index number 122.3. The price-fall of early November seems to have come to an end. Iron and steel prices are firm. Bankruptcies in November numbered 621 against 752 in October, and 850 in September; cases of official supervision with moratorium (*Geschäftsaufsichte*) 219, against 265 and 301 respectively. Both the home and export pig-iron markets have become more active; there is a great demand from the foundries, caused in part by the too high prices of cast scrap, and there have been considerable sales to Scandinavia.

The following is a revised table of distribution of trade with the chief European countries in the first half of 1924. The large imports from Alsace-Lorraine, as distinguished from French imports, will be noted:—

(Millions of Gold Marks.)

	Imports from.	Exports to.
All countries	4,448.6	2,820.5
Great Britain	436.1	229.8
Belgium	65.8	40.7
France	89.5	39.8
Alsace-Lorraine	244.3	5.2
Italy	168.9	103.1
Spain	52.6	40.3
Switzerland	141.3	153.6
Austria	67.9	150.7
Czecho-Slovakia	209.9	167.1
Poland	197.0	134.8
Russia	64.3	36.2

These figures differ from those issued by the separate countries for their German trade, but as they exclude goods in transit they are more correct.

The Bourse last week was firm, with a continued demand for the big mining, iron, and steel companies' stocks. The end of the week saw big realisation sales by gainers on the rise, and the Bourse ended irregularly, some stocks having considerable reaction. The expected new Government declaration on the loans restoration question did not come, owing to the Cabinet crisis. Now that the parties have gained all the votes that are to be had by giving wild promises, they have become very discreet. The Prussian Cabinet has protested against its municipalities' somewhat half-hearted plans for restoration of their loans, or for resumption of interest-payments. The Government refers to the Third Taxation Decree of February, 1924, which does not, indeed, forbid such action by municipalities, but which implies that the municipal loans question must be regulated by the Republic or the States.

All the chief shipping companies, and in all 19 companies, have now published gold-mark balance-sheets, with the necessary restatements of assets, liabilities, and capital. The total pre-war capital of the 19 companies was 675,650,000 marks; the new capital total is 189,000,000 marks. This reduction, which makes such a sharp contrast with the conditions of purely industrial companies, is due to loss of tonnage, the gross tonnage having fallen from 4,130,000 tons to 1,620,000 tons. For 522 out of about 750 dividend securities quoted on the Berlin Bourse, the new gold-mark quotations have been computed, this being effected by multiplying the paper-mark quotations by the ratio of scaling down of paper-mark capital into new gold mark capital. Of the 522 stocks, 77.8 quote under par and 22.2 over par. The leading chemicals, mining, and metallurgical stocks and the stocks of the big banks are mostly over par. Twenty-three stocks quote under 50, and 13 quote over 150.

The financial and currency outlook for 1925 is favourable. The industrial outlook is fairly favourable. The events of 1924 have thoroughly justified the measures taken for stabilisation of the currency in November, 1923. But it has been shown that the substance of industry in no wise suffered from the five years of bad money. Also, most of the undesirable social phenomena of bad money have disappeared, although the revolution in the distribution of wealth has left permanent effects. The chief cause of anxiety for 1925 is the probable heavy import surplus. This would be sufficiently troublesome even if the foreign payment balance were not already burdened with Peace Treaty liabilities, but, as things are, it threatens to be disastrous. The menace to the new currency may be long postponed by the inflow of foreign private credits and loans, but ultimately the capital and interest of these loans must be transferred abroad. While it is possible that the Reparations burdens will bring about a fall in consumption, and so reduce unessential imports, the prospect of creating the necessary active trade balance by such means is very small.

CANADA.—WINTER ARRIVES—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—NOVA SCOTIA AND PROTECTION—TRADE RELATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND—BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON—REVENUES AND TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, December 6.

ANOTHER Canadian winter has now definitely set in, and, except in the woods, outdoor work will be more or less suspended till March. Thanks to the bountiful crops in Eastern Canada, and the increased prices available for them, farmers in that territory have been buying more freely than at any time since the war, and general business in the towns and cities has benefited. But even high prices scarcely avail to assuage the disappointment felt in Western Canada at what is now generally admitted to be the serious failure of the western crop. Not only has the latest official survey made a substantial cut in the previous estimates of grain production, but grading inspections show a much more serious impairment of quality by rain and frost than was previously suspected. Furthermore, owing to the lateness of the harvest, the marketing process has been greatly delayed, and a substantial por-

portion of the 120 odd million bushels of western wheat which will be available for export will not be forward at the lake ports in time to take advantage of the water route before next spring. This means that many farmers will not be able to get their grain money immediately, and will not make any but absolutely necessary purchases of winter supplies. Business, therefore, in the prairie provinces is facing another dull winter, for even where the farmers have received profitable returns for their crops, many of them have been compelled to devote large sums to the liquidation of their overhanging debts. Unfortunately, the livestock business in the West has not enjoyed the rise in prices which usually accompanies an increment in grain prices; it would certainly have done so if the American market had been open, but instead, the stockyards at Winnipeg and other points have recently been glutted with half-finished cattle which their owners prefer to sacrifice rather than feed throughout the winter on expensive grain. At present, western cattle raisers are receiving ridiculously low prices, and although there has been some improvement in the trade with Britain, the expensive rail haul to the seaboard prevents many western cattle from being shipped.

Nor is the industrial situation satisfactory. Very few factories are working at full capacity, and many manufacturers declare that they are filling orders on terms which admit a quite inadequate margin of profit. The spectre of serious unemployment has raised its head in practically all the large industrial centres, and it has been aggravated this year by two factors, the lessened scope for employment in the United States, and the smaller demand for labour by the lumber companies; however, owing to a recent fillip in the demand for lumber, more men will be required in the woods than seemed probable a month ago. The unemployment problem is peculiarly serious in Montreal, and the officials of the different charitable organisations recently intimated that they were unable to cope with it any longer. The result is that the civic authorities are planning to undertake at once extensive public works which otherwise would have been delayed for some time in order to furnish work for at least some of the unemployed. Meanwhile, behind the scenes at Ottawa constant pressure for a higher scale of tariff duties is being exerted upon the Government, and Conservative politicians are seeking to make party capital out of the unemployment situation, declaring that it would be cured by the adoption of the same level of protectionism as the United States now enjoys. The moral strength of the King Government is about to be severely tested this month by a massed drive on the part of the business interests of Nova Scotia, which returns 15 Liberals out of its 16 members, for higher duties on iron and steel by way of succour to the depressed industries of the Cape Breton area. Representatives of practically every public body in Ottawa, and politicians belonging to both historic parties, will hold a conference in Ottawa and lay before the Government a plea for a revision of the tariff, which will arrest the present decay of their main industries. Many iron and steel schedules are on a specific basis, duty being assessed at a fixed number of dollars per ton. The price of these goods has risen since the duties were last fixed, and the argument is that they no longer bear a relation to values sufficient to give a decent margin of protection. The Government will be urged by the Nova Scotians either to make the duties *ad valorem*, and to raise the present specific duties to a level which will give them the same scale of protection as was originally intended. It will be a difficult dilemma for the Government, because many Liberal members from Nova Scotia are backing the demand, and a leading Liberal paper, the *Montreal Herald*, is supporting it; and a blunt refusal might cost a number of seats at the next election. On the other hand, any elevation of the tariff is bound to arouse the indignation of the Progressives, who are at present very restless about the railway policies of the Government. The chances are that the Government will refuse the Nova Scotian demand because they are aware that while the economic plight of the province is not good, there is considerable divergence of local opinion about the proper remedy.

Canadian manufacturers who have an export trade with Australia and New Zealand do not relish the pros-

pect of the regulations which will insist that preferential tariff rates were only to be accorded to goods if three-fourths of their value is the direct product of the domestic labour of the exporting country. New Zealand now threatens to emulate Australia in imposing this condition, and to fix the proportion of Canadian labour, which must be employed at 75 per cent., instead of 25 per cent., as at present. The motor firms will be particularly affected, as they import from the United States the greater part of the steel and other raw material used in the manufacture of cars; indeed, some of the motor factories are little more than assembling plants. The old arrangements made it much more profitable for corporations like the Ford Company and General Motors to handle their export trade with Britain and the other Dominions from a Canadian base of operations, but when the proposed changes take effect it will become a moot point whether it will not pay them to finish cars in the United States and pay the duties imposed by the general tariff. The King Government is taking the matter up with the New Zealand Ministry, and asking that the proposed change be abandoned.

The British Columbia salmon pack, which is practically closed for the season, shows a very marked improvement over last year's figures. In the end it will amount to about 1,643,000 cases, as compared with 626,266 cases in 1923, and 1,290,326 cases in 1922. Prices are also satisfactory, and shares in packing companies have been rising steadily.

The revenue situation is worrying the Government. In his Budget calculations Mr Robb allowed for loss of some 26 millions of revenue, but already in the first seven months of the fiscal year ending October 31st the loss has been almost 32 million dollars, the respective figures being \$214,494,342 and \$247,349,945. There has been an increase of some 3 million dollars in the income-tax returns, but customs have fallen 8½, and excise almost 25½ million dollars. The reductions in ordinary expenditure have been trivial, amounting to only 2½ million dollars. The month of October, however, shows slightly higher revenues than September did, and the Finance Department hopes that the decline has been checked. The trade returns for the seven months period show a very large increase in Canada's favourable trade balance, which has risen to 120 million dollars from 14 million dollars in the parallel period of last year. Exports show a substantial gain, but the change is largely due to a steep decline in imports, which have fallen off to the tune of nearly 75 million dollars.

As the result of discontent with the results of the commercial treaty which was concluded a few years ago with the West Indies on preferential lines, the Government are sending this month to the West Indies a special trade mission, headed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and some readjustments may be made. The Government has also decided, not without long consideration, to continue Canadian support for another year to the Wembley Exhibition.

HOLLAND.—BANK RATE—NEW ISSUES—NATIONAL DEBT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, December 20.

It came as a surprise that the Netherlands Bank reduced their rates along the whole line by ½ per cent. on December 13th. A short time before there had even been talk of the possibility of an increase of the discount rate in connection with the considerable gold shipments which have taken place. In the fourth week of September the shipment of gold began, and continued almost uninterruptedly until the first week in November, in which time the total shipments amounted to 48 million guilders. However, a sudden change took place in the condition both of the money market as in that of the Netherlands Bank. In the week from November 24th to December 1st the gold supply of the Netherlands Bank increased by about 25,000,000. At first it was supposed that the imports came from America, but later it appeared that, in accordance with an agreement between the Netherlands Bank and the Java Bank, the latter institution transferred gold deposited here for its account to the Netherlands Bank.

At the same time, yet independent of this agreement, the Treasury was placed in a better position, because the Indian Government paid off in full their indebtedness to the Netherlands Government. By this more than 34,000,000 were released, with which the Netherlands Government paid off the advances of the Netherlands Bank and also a block of Treasury notes. Money rates immediately felt the effect of these favourable influences. The strengthening of the position of the Netherlands Bank has combined with the sudden ease of money to induce the bank to reduce the discount rate. That this has only been done to the extent of ½ per cent. is an indication of the careful policy which it is desired to follow in this respect. Still, the step taken indicates the confidence which is entertained in this country with reference to the near future.

The increased supply of money has at the same time brought about many new issues of bonds. The Government opened subscriptions, on the 22nd instant, for 60,000,000 Treasury bills and Treasury notes. Also a number of municipalities have proceeded to issue loans. Besides these, various plantations and industrial enterprises have made use of the more favourable conditions to provide capital requirements. The rates of interest offered by recent municipal borrowers clearly show, however, that for long-term loans on first-class security a rate of about 6 per cent. is still required. But a change seems to be approaching. The Municipality of The Hague has given notice of having received an offer for placing 10,000,000 debenture bonds at an interest rate of only 5½ per cent. and a price of issue of 98½ per cent.

The latest publication of the Central Bureau for Statistics gives a summary of the present condition of the consolidated debt of the Netherlands; a comparison of the years from 1915 to 1924 gives the following totals, divided according to the rate of interest:—

NOMINAL CAPITAL ON JANUARY 1 (Thousand Guilders).

	6 %	5 %	4½ %	4 %	3½ %	3 %	2½ %	Total.
1915	..	..	..	..	50,681	506,657	582,934	1,140,272
1916	..	275,000	..	..	49,952	500,760	580,279	1,405,991
1917	..	261,250	125,000	..	49,212	495,027	577,593	1,508,082
1918	..	247,500	124,680	125,000	48,449	489,017	574,818	1,508,464
1919	..	..	624,350	124,680	47,575	482,275	571,765	1,850,646
1920	..	350,000	619,300	124,350	46,575	474,463	568,201	2,182,889
1921	..	756,811	614,015	124,010	45,352	464,893	564,043	2,569,124
1922	..	713,083	604,681	123,650	44,290	455,940	560,442	2,502,086
1923	300,000	676,147	598,916	123,280	43,142	446,821	556,816	2,745,122
1924	400,000	639,560	592,881	122,890	41,990	437,942	553,146	2,788,409
1925	590,650	611,741	586,576	122,490	40,759	428,071	549,146	2,929,433

The total has, therefore, increased very materially. Nevertheless, this increased debt need not cause any anxiety, because, as has already been explained in these articles, steps have been taken to provide for the loan service out of the national receipts without disturbing the balancing of the Budget. The state of the floating debt also does not give any reason to suppose that it will be necessary to issue a new loan within a reasonable time.

JUGOSLAVIA.—CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT—FINANCIAL POLICY—BUSINESS CONDITIONS—EXPORT AND EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, December 6.

ECONOMIC life is again suffering severely from political friction, and the forthcoming elections, fixed for February 8th, have momentarily absorbed the national energies. The late coalition Government of the Serbian Democrats (Liberals) and Slovenian and Bosnian parties resigned, at the special request of the King, because it had to rely for support on the Croatian Peasant (Raditch) party, with alleged pro-Soviet leanings. All attempts at a wider coalition with the Serbian Radicals (Conservatives) failed, and finally the King entrusted the National Block (Serbian Radicals and Nationalist Democrats) with an election mandate. The struggle is very bitter, for on the issue of the elections the whole structure of the State will depend. The victory of the National Block will entail rigid centralisation, and the predominance of the Serbs in the kingdom, while that of the Opposition Block will mean a revision of the whole constitution, with wider autonomies

for Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia. The result is very uncertain, though the Opposition alleges that the Government will use all possible means of winning, not shrinking even from prohibiting entire parties (referring here particularly to the Raditch party).

The change of Government entails no change in financial policy, because it means simply the return of the former Minister. In his declaration, he reiterated the desire to pursue a deflationist policy, with stages of relative stability, to balance the Budget, and to effect savings in expenditure. Of greater interest are his promise not to favour export to the detriment of import, but to encourage their parallel growth, and the fact that the agio on import duties, thrice raised by the last Minister, has been left untouched. The new Customs tariff, which has been in preparation for some time, will aim chiefly at the protection of home industries, for which there is abundant raw material in the country. Foreign capital will be encouraged in order to ease the money shortage and give impetus to production. The Government has also decided to mint 200 million dinars of small change to replace the present paper. The debts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, transferred by the Reparations Commission to the Succession States, and accepted in principle at Innsbruck in 1923, will be gradually repaid, from the beginning of 1925. No mention is made of the previous decision of the Government to repay part of the State's debt to the National Bank from the proceeds of the sale of the gold received on liquidation of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. Government receipts and expenditure are near estimate, being for the five months, April to August, 4,171 and 4,159 million dinars respectively.

Business conditions in the country, though constantly improving, are still far from satisfactory, mainly as a result of three difficulties: shortage of money and the consequent high rate of interest, heavy indirect taxation, and the "law of compulsory composition." These are responsible for the disproportion between the great improvement in the exchange and the very slight improvement in the index figures of the cost of living. The index figures are: January, 1923, 2098 (sterling rate of dinar 430); January, 1924, 2034 (dinar 385 to £); October, 1924, 1981 (dinar 320 to the £); while in November it began to rise again. The rate of interest still persists at between 20 and 25 per cent., and a recent conference of business men to explore the possibilities of fixing the legal rate at 18 per cent. had to confess the practical difficulties of such a scheme.

The proportion of indirect taxation to total State receipts can be seen from a detailed examination of receipts for the five months quoted above:—Customs, tolls and dues, 1,131 millions; railways 976 millions; monopolies, 973 millions; direct taxes, 493 millions; and all other receipts, 598 millions. From this it is obvious that the heavy indirect taxation, together with the extortionate rate of interest due to the shortage of money, must enormously increase overhead charges, and thus prevent a fall in the cost of living, and a more rapid development of business and commerce. Lastly, the "Law of Compulsory Composition," which allows merchants to make settlements with their creditors and pay only part of the debt while continuing business, instead of declaring bankruptcy, has been much abused by speculative merchants, thereby injuring the reputation of honest business, and causing a feeling of insecurity in trade. Hence there is a strong movement for the abolition of this law.

Export was brisk during September and October, particularly owing to great demands for corn from Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, and Austria. Statistics compare favourably with last year:—

	1923.		1924.		Improvement	
	Tons.	Mill. Dinars.	Tons.	Mill. Dinars.		
September	334,766	914	384,596	937	15	2.5
October	334,163	965	415,163	1,009	24	4.5

The exchange remains firm, the sterling rate of the dinar having remained at 320 for the last four months, in spite of the recent rise of the £ in terms of the dollar.

ARGENTINA.—HARVESTS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS—PUBLIC FINANCE—ANGLO-ARGENTINE TRAMWAYS—MONEY AND EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, November 29.

THE present moment in Argentine commercial and financial affairs is marked by considerable expectancy and a certain measure of anxiety as to the results which will be obtained during the next few months from the twin sources of wealth, the agricultural and pastoral products of the Republic. Climatic conditions during November have been unusual, and not wholly favourable to either crops or cattle. Cattle are in many regions short of pasture, owing to dry weather and late frosts, which has meant heavy offers of cattle that would otherwise have been retained, and a consequent drop in price of roughly 5 to 7 cents paper the pound, live weight. Then, although cereal and linseed prices are high, there is grave reason to expect a far smaller net production than would naturally be looked for on the area sown. In a word, the possibility of a bumper crop forecast scarce a month ago disappears, and at the moment of writing the total production of wheat is not expected to reach 5,000,000 tons, a figure which means barely 4,000,000 tons for export, with the likelihood of reduction, and no possibility, humanly speaking, of an increase. The linseed position is even more doubtful, and production has been put as low as 700,000 tons, though the great area sown, 2,390,000 hectares, may well falsify this figure. Of the maize it is early to write with any assurance, but that the locust danger is greater than has been known for years is now admitted, and with many of the best maize regions covered with the pest, the worst is feared in some well-informed quarters.

It is necessary to strike the foregoing note of pessimism, since it alone explains the lull that characterises affairs in general. That it may be falsified at the last moment is the natural desire of everyone having dealings with Argentina, especially when the delicate position of the administrative finances is considered. By the use of gold shipments and the renewal of its floating debt, the Government has met all its engagements with punctuality, and, in a sense, without difficulty, but the estimates for 1925, which are based on the receipt of novel revenues, e.g., income-tax, are not likely to be treated in the extraordinary sessions of Congress now in progress. Indeed, the proposal has been made by the Senate that the 1924 Budget be prorogued to such time as the 1925 Budget estimates are sanctioned; a proposal which, if accepted by both Chambers, means that none of the new financial measures will be enforced during 1925. The possibility is not without certain advantages, but, as it is plain that Argentina's present revenue system does not meet administrative needs, and obviously cannot cope with the problem of the heavy incubus which the floating debt implies, the question is, how shall the problem be tackled? It must not be forgotten that the floating debt of the State railways is officially admitted at \$160,000,000 paper, and reasonable rumour puts it nearer \$40,000,000 paper higher. Since your correspondent last wrote, a further statement by the Administrator of the State Railway Department has been prepared, but has not been made public, owing, it is said, to the serious nature of the financial details therein contained. How in the face of such a position the acquisition of another system can be carried out, except on the basis of a large issue of national bonds to cover the major part of the purchase price, is hard to see. True, the national credit abroad stands firm and high, but even the consolidation of the floating debt now running involves such a large increase to the external payments required for service—assuming that consolidation can be effected—that to talk of additional obligations of importance is either visionary or alarming, according as one chooses to regard it. It should be mentioned that the Accountant-General's Department has prepared, at the instance of the Ministry of Finance, a pro-forma statement with actual figures to the end of October, and estimated totals for what remains of the current year, wherein the 1924 Budget is shown as closing with a small surplus, \$738,000 paper. The figures

are doubtless correct as a whole, but the impression given to the general public is misleading. It disguises the fact that on the whole scheme of administration the "per capita" liability for borrowed money has been rising steadily ever since 1914, and that even if it be admitted that a greater proportion of this money is owed at home than was the case prior to the above-mentioned date, the charge as a whole is heavy and burdensome to the national treasury, and, therefore, in the last resource, to the inhabitants of the Republic. During the last twelvemonth the gold shipments have amounted to some 33 million gold dollars, and the circulating medium, the paper money, has been reduced by some 50 million dollars paper. It is, however, questionable whether the onus of these shipments, in as far as the supplying of the necessary notes wherewith to retire the gold is concerned, has not fallen upon the Banco de la Nacion. And it is not altogether surprising that one of the Socialist Senators, Dr Justo, a man of admitted acumen and economic knowledge, has moved for a Parliamentary inquiry into the working of that institution. Whether the inquiry will be held is quite another matter; indeed, the probabilities are against anything of the sort. The point to bear in mind is, however, that a body of opinion unfavourable to the actual financial policy of the Government is gathering weight, and, in the event of any commercial set-back of importance, would unquestionably find more popular support than could be expected when business is running smoothly.

Mention of the Socialist party recalls the recent election for the Buenos Aires Town Council, in which this group has strengthened its position by several new members. The circumstance does not favour the chance of the Anglo-Argentine Tramway Company's just objection to the cancellation of concessions for the laying of subway lines being favourably considered. As is generally known, the Buenos Aires councillors have refused to consider an increase of the universal 10 cent tariff, and, in addition to declaring that the concession of December, 1909, has lapsed, they are already considering, or are about to consider, tenders for the new "tubes" from other would-be concessionaires. What the legal position of the Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company will be one cannot say, since any opinion expressed outside the Argentine courts at the present moment would be valueless. On the mutual convenience of an understanding between the city of Buenos Aires and the tramway company, there can be no two opinions whatsoever, and for the general public the most important thing is that the traffic problem, to-day so acute as to become a real and a heavy charge on everybody's affairs, be solved with the least possible delay. Insistence on the maintenance of the 10 cent fare as a condition to the building of the "tubes" has been preached in season and out of season by the Socialist leaders, regardless of logic and the fact that tramway fares are the one thing in Buenos Aires that remains at the pre-war level. If, as may be feared, other concessionaires build and run the various subterranean services of which the city stands in such need, they may be able to secure for themselves a profit, but it will be at the expense of that all-connecting and most efficient service which the tramways at present provide.

In the money market, rates for the greater part of November were easy, the Government securing short-date loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, for the usual term of six months, while 6 to 7 per cent. was the current cost of commercial discount, with advances to private individuals being made at 8 per cent. At the month-end, however, the disquieting news alluded to in the opening paragraph of this correspondence, coupled with a realisation that the steady extraction of gold meant a contraction of the paper in circulation, seems to cause some anxiety. Rates cannot at the moment be said to have changed, business for the present being expectant. But there is every reason to believe that unless some unforeseen and very favourable turn is given to the export outlook, and to the administrative finances, a sharp upward reaction will be experienced. Exchange, though it has recovered to 45d, banks' sight drawing, as against $44\frac{1}{2}$ last month, is equally uncertain, though the American dollar is 115.30, as against 119.40 last month. The States are this year buying freely both wool and hides; their shipments hither have latterly been re-

ported much reduced, and the gold export, together with the New York-London position, evidently helps appreciation of the Argentine dollar in the New York market. Continental rates may be described as wholly dependent on the European political situation in the various countries concerned. French francs have been as high as 16.50 to the dollar gold (Arg.), but are now a trifle better at 16.10. Italian lire are weak at 20, and the peseta is round about 6.35. Of interest locally is the premium on Uruguayan currency. It has moved to as high as 9 per cent. premium over that of Argentina, but is now down to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium, which on the London-Montevideo rate is more or less what it should be. Cereal prices are firm, with wheat at \$15.30 paper per 100 kilos, spot, Rosafé type, but as much as \$18 paid for finest Candeal by local millers. Linseed is \$22.80 paper, and maize \$11.70, both being largely speculative quotations. In the wool market the clip comes forward slowly, with prices for Rivers fine wools as high as \$36 paper the 10 kilos. Demand for this class is, however, not as active as is that for both medium and coarse cross wools, where in the range may be said to run between \$22 to \$28 paper per 10 kilos. Shipments this season are 25,000 bales, almost exactly the quantity shipped to same date last year. Freight rates are firmer on the month at 25s, San Lorenzo-U.K./Continent. The water level in the Parana is now rising, thus enabling bigger boats to be more readily fixed.

Books and Publications.

SOCIAL POLICY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

It was an essential part of the teaching of the present President of the Czechoslovak Republic, when still a professor at the University of Prague in pre-war days, that the Czech question was above all a social question. Almost from its inception the Nationalist movement aimed at raising the quality of each member of the nation on democratic lines, and it is, therefore, not surprising that social legislation should have loomed large in the annals of the Parliament of Prague during the six years of independent existence which the Republic has now enjoyed. This was all the more inevitable in that progress along these lines offered the only sure guarantee against that wave of Communist activity which spread so alarmingly over Central Europe towards the end of the World War. The measure of success which has already been achieved by the Czechoslovak Government in its many-sided social activities, makes us, therefore, grateful to the Social Institute of the Republic for the publication of this little volume in English.* Here will be found succinct accounts of such topics as the Eight-Hour Day, Factory Councils, Unemployment, Emigration, Social Insurance, and Trade Unions, in what is, after all, one of the most progressive of European countries. The general treatment is on the whole objective, though the authors share the optimism and enthusiasm of most writers on such subjects. It must also be confessed that the time which has already elapsed since the passing of this legislation, much of which is not more than three years old, is too short to enable anything like final judgments to be passed

* "Social Policy in the Czechoslovak Republic." Edited by the Social Institute of the Republic. 262 pp. Orbis, Prague.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

A HISTORY
of the Financial and Economic
Evolution of MODERN GREECE

by
M. S. EULAMBIO.

Managing Director of the National Bank of Greece.

Price 15s. 0d.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, LTD., EAST HARDING ST., LONDON, E.C.4

theron. It should be borne in mind, however, that Austrian social legislation had not progressed enormously; that Hungarian social legislation looked better on paper than in actual practice, and was, in any case, primarily intended as a factor in the process of Magyarisation; and, finally, that the disorganisation resultant upon the world-war was particularly apparent in the new Republic. Under these conditions the progress which has already been made towards normal conditions—which was still further hindered by an excess of virtue in deflationist policy—is certainly worthy of our respect.

The writer on the eight-hour day is fully aware of the difficulties of isolated action in this matter by a State whose exports play so important a rôle in its industrial economy, while Czechoslovakia has also realised that the policy of rent restrictions is but a poor contribution towards solving the very serious housing problem. Again, the scheme of State-aided building, which applied first to municipal schemes, but was extended, in 1921, to give assistance to private enterprise, and which consists in the payment by the State of such part of the interest and amortisation charges which cannot be covered by the rents, has only led, in five years, to the adoption of plans for the building of 20,985 houses.

The young Republic has provided for the maintenance of 701,400 war victims (invalids, widows, orphans, &c.), and has given assistance to large numbers of unemployed. Legislation to prevent or lessen unemployment itself, however, is naturally in its infancy.

A particularly interesting chapter is that devoted to Industrial Councils, which are claimed as being valuable pioneer work towards a new regulation of the relations between employers and employed. These councils in the mining industry superintend the enactment of official regulations, present motions concerning the improvement of production, investigate the operation of wage agreements, maintain discipline, mediate in disputes, and are responsible for the dismissal of employees. They also act as auditors of the books of the concern, but are not authorised to meddle with the administration by giving independent orders. In 1921 the principle was extended to other industries by the creation of industrial committees, whose powers are not, however, so far-reaching as those of the Mining Councils.

It is, of course, impossible, in the course of a short review, to do justice to the many topics referred to, but all students of social legislation would be well advised to consider developments in the most highly industrialised of the "new" States, and this small volume offers them the opportunity of doing so with a minimum of effort.

THE BANKING SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD.

This text-book on Colonial and foreign banking systems* deals in the first part with international, Continental, and central banking. The author makes useful comparisons between the financial mechanism of Britain and America, and shows how recent developments have tended to make banking more international in character. In one or two instances he makes somewhat sweeping assertions. For instance, he says: "In the underwriting of loans or important industrial issues banks found another fruitful source of revenue." As Germany and France are now debtor countries, and the share taken by the other countries is comparatively small, the only countries able to handle these large loans are England and America. But in England the underwriting has until now been undertaken by stockbrokers and by powerful financial institutions, &c., and, though some banks are doing a small amount, it still remains the exception and not the rule for banks to do underwriting. In America, where the banks do this underwriting in groups, the author fails to mention a significant fact, which has the effect of spreading the risks. That is that banks also sell their securities themselves over the counter. The Federal Reserve Act has opened the eyes of American bankers to the remunerative possibilities of foreign banking business.

The author gives a forceful picture of central banking. He shows that the Government is always represented on the boards of directors, either directly or indirectly. This

proves that central banks in the different countries are not immune from political manipulation. There is no doubt that the first essential of sound central banking is that the currency of each country should be managed on banking principles, and should be freed from all political interference. The one practical suggestion which was the outcome of the Genoa conference was that the Bank of England should call together representatives of central banks to discuss how this could be achieved. Present-day efforts with regard to the so-called central banks (such as the South African Reserve Bank, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the Imperial Bank of India) tend towards such reforms as will create a central bank in reality and not only in name.

In the part on Colonial banking, in which information is given which is not easily accessible to the average student, Canada forms an outstanding chapter; and in the part on foreign banking the author draws a fascinating picture of the manner in which the United States of America, and Japan, have Europeanised their banking systems.

This text-book deserves to be read, not by students for examination alone, but by thoughtful people who are desirous of seeing public finance put on a sound basis. One would like to suggest that in a subsequent edition a final chapter be added containing a summary of the essentials of the note issues, which the author gives separately for each country. He might also, for example, in drawing attention to the cheque systems of England and America, as well as the attempts of other countries in this direction, have shown some of the economies and advantages of this system, which has made deposit banking possible. And he has by no means emphasised with the arresting force it merits the lead which the Bank of England has given towards an ideal central bank. Lastly, one imagines that the author's own conclusions upon some of the vital points of the valuable information which he has gathered together would be interesting, if not also illuminating.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Agricultural Statistics of India, 1921-22. Vol. II. Area, Classification of Area, Area Under Irrigation, Crops, and Livestock, with Land Revenue Assessment, in certain Indian States. (Calcutta) Government of India, Central Publication Branch. 1924. 1s 6d.

Institute of Chartered Accountants. List of Members, 1925. (London) Gee and Co.

England To-day. By an Overseas Briton. (Torquay) Torquay Times and Devonshire Press, Limited. 1s net.

A Paper on Railway Economics. By S. C. Ghose. (Calcutta) The Book Company. 2s 6d net.

Foreign Affairs, December, 1924. (New York) Council of Foreign Relations, Inc. \$1.25.

The Slavonic Review, December, 1924. (London) School of Slavonic Studies in the University of London. King's College. 5s net.

STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET, January 7. ACCOUNT, January 8.

The Stock Exchange started Christmas week in a scene of very unseasonable activity. Although business was patchy, it came plentifully enough in certain directions, more particularly in those devoted to industrial shares. Gilt-edged stocks are dull; underwriters of the new Victoria stock are prepared to take up a fairly considerable slice of their obligation. The War Loan left off on Tuesday night at 101½, this giving a slightly better tone to the other members of the gilt-edged groups.

The success of the Greek Loan, following hard upon the heels of that achieved by the German Sevens, leads to the expectation that there may be other European borrowings in the near future, and on somewhat similar lines. Turkey and Portugal are both mentioned in this connection, with the result that the bonds of these countries are better. Brazilians

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

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

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

THE FOREIGN MANAGER.

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

have hardened. Nothing fresh has transpired in the French list.

Home railway stocks keep moderately steady, with the Undergrounds displaying the principal strength. The idea is that the Underground Electric Railways of London will make a good showing in respect of the year now ending. Amongst foreign railways, Cordoba Centrals and Entre Rios stand out with conspicuous rises in all their stocks, the Argentine Railway group being quiet and uninteresting.

Rubber continues to creep upwards, and the prices of many shares in the rubber market have already undergone a very quiet, but a substantial improvement during the past fortnight, the strength being well maintained. The tea market exhibits robust strength. Amongst oil shares, brisk rises in British controlled of both classes is one of the few features. Courtaulds have been resting after their exertions of last week, but Listers took up the running, and the price rose abruptly. Tobacco shares are strong throughout, the British American figures being regarded as healthy, although the dividend announcement, referred to last week, caused a temporary disappointment. Insurance shares are mostly harder where they have moved, while the banking and shipping sections remain quiescent. Whisky shares have been booming. Hotel, stores, restaurant and catering issues moved rather irregularly, demand on the one hand being met on the other by supply from people eager to even up their books before the end of the month. Hudsons Bays, Sudan Plantations, and other land shares are better. The iron and steel group shows recovery. A good deal of business in newspaper shares has left prices without noticeable change. The industrial market is animated, most of its many sections commanding an increasingly wide circle of attention.

Kaffirs do nothing but stagnate, and Chartered have fallen back a little after their brisk rise. Other Rhodesian land shares, with those of the copper companies, are firmer. Diamonds remain dull. In Burma Corporations there has been a huge turnover of shares during the last few business days, and considerable animation in tin shares, especially in those of the Malayan group, has left prices higher. A few West Africans came in for favourable attention, Keffis being particularly wanted amongst the lower-priced shares.

NEW ISSUES.

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

	Nominal Capital.	Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
Amount previously recorded.....	£ ..	£ 207,054,575 ..	£ ..	£ ..
ISSUES OF THE WEEK—				

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES.				
NET RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 20, 1924.				
April 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924, Dr £2,150,000 ..	£	£	£	£
To the Public—				
Beecham Estates and Pills, Limited, 300,000 Shares of £1, at 21s ..	300,000 ..	315,000 ..	30,000 ..	285,000 ..
Total offered to the public ..	..	315,000 ..	30,000 ..	285,000 ..
To Shareholders only—				
Scottish Investment Trust, 50,000 Shares of £2, at par ..	100,000 ..	100,000 ..	100,000 ..	..
'London and Provincial Trust, 64,016 Shares of £1, at par ..	64,016 ..	64,016 ..	16,004 ..	48,012 ..
Akoko Main Reef, £25,000 10% 3-year Convertible Debenture Notes (red.) at 120% ..	25,000 ..	25,000 ..	6,250 ..	18,750 ..
1927, issued at par ..	..	..	..	..
Total offered to shareholders ..	..	189,016 ..	122,254 ..	66,762 ..
Total only ..	..	..	..	..
Total offered for subscription for whole year—				
1924 ..	207,608,591 ..			
1923 ..	271,393,173 ..			
1922 ..	573,675,650 ..			
1921 ..	388,978,203 ..			
1920 ..	367,549,656 ..			
1919 ..	1,036,059,951 ..			
1918 ..	1,393,381,441 ..			
1917 ..	1,318,596,010 ..			
1916 ..	585,436,853 ..			

Beecham Estates and Pills.—Capital £1,850,000, divided into 900,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference and 950,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. There is also outstanding

£1,000,000 of 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock. This is an offer for sale of 300,000 ordinary £1 shares at 21s per share. The company was formed to acquire the business of "Beecham's Pills" and Covent Garden Markets and surrounding properties. For this purpose a prospectus was issued in May last, inviting public subscription for 900,000 8 per cent. preference shares of £1 each at par. At the date of the prospectus the value of the Covent Garden estate was estimated at £1,470,000. In the present offer, no statement is made as to the estimated value of the pill business, but the auditors certify annual net profits since September 30, 1919. These figures show an advance from £149,021 to £152,379 for 1923. It is also stated that the combined volume of trade of the pill businesses for the half-year to March 31st last is in excess of that for the corresponding period of the previous year, "while the net revenue from the Covent Garden estate properties for the then current year had been fully maintained." The net profits of the pill business for the year to September 30, 1923, were £152,379, and the net revenue of the estates for the twelve months to July 31, 1923, without deduction, in the latter case, of directors' remuneration and debenture interest, income and corporation profits tax, make a total of £256,213. Of this sum £132,000 has to be set aside for debenture interest, while directors' fees, &c., are charged at £9,500, which leaves a balance of £114,713 available for dividend on the ordinary shares. The ordinary dividend is limited to 10 per cent. until the reserve fund amounts to £500,000. The shares at present on offer were privately purchased in May last at 19s per share, and those who subscribe to the present issue at 21s per share are entitled to the interim dividend of 1s per share, payable on January 1st next. Two points stand out clearly in this proposition. The first is that it is "an offer for sale," and the second is that profits are shown in one case to July 31, 1923, and in the other case to September 30, 1923. This is one of the drawbacks attached to "an offer for sale." When fresh investors are being sought, an industrial concern, surely, should be more up-to-date with a statement of profits.

Coastal Oilfields of Colombia, Limited.—Issued ordinary capital £2,733,606, preference capital £632,422. In order to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, further particulars are advertised of the Coastal Oilfields of Colombia, Limited. The information given is supplemental to that published in the public Press on December 13th, and states that the management company to be formed to take over the agreement shall agree to drill five wells, and to bear the cost of drilling, other than the provision of adequate water supply. The company agrees that the management company shall have control of the producing and marketing operations, and undertakes to provide working capital. The proceeds of the oil produced are to be used to reimburse the concession of the present contract, to reimburse the operating expenses of the management company, and for division of the surplus as to 65 per cent. to the management company and 35 per cent. to the company.

ACTIVE SECURITIES.

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

British and Colonial Government Securities.				
	Price Last Week.	Latest Price.	Rise or Fall.	
War 5½% 1925-28 ..	97½ ..	97½ ..	..	..
Loans 4½% 1925-45 ..	97½ ..	97½ ..	..	..
Loans 5½% 1925-47 ..	101½ ..	101½ ..	..	..
Funding Loan 4½% ..	89½ ..	89½ ..	..	..
Victory Bonds 4½% ..	93½ ..	93½ ..	..	..
Conversion Loan 3½% 79 ..	79 ..	79 ..	..	..
Consols 2½% ..	57½ ..	57½ ..	..	..
Irish Land Stock 2½% 59 ..	59 ..	59 ..	..	..
Local Loans 3% ..	66½ ..	66½ ..	..	..
W. Aust. 6% 1930-40 ..	103 ..	103 ..	..	..
British Railways.				
Great Western, Ord. ...	108 ..	108½ ..	..	..
Lond. & North-Eastern 5% Pref. Ord. ...	83 ..	83 ..	..	..
Do Def. Ord. ...	30½ ..	30½ ..	..	..
Lond. Mid. and Scottish, Ord. ...	100½ ..	100½ ..	..	..
Metropolitan ...	82½ ..	82½ ..	..	..
Metropolitan District ...	55½ ..	55½ ..	..	..
Banks.				
Barclays B (£1, l.p.d.) ..	227 ..	227 ..	..	..
Chartered Bk of India ..	201½ ..	201½ ..	..	..
Lloyds (£5 with £1 paid) ..	3½ ..	3½ ..	..	..
Midland (£12, with £2 paid) ..	8½ ..	8½ ..	..	..
Nat. Bank of Egypt (£10) ..	27 ..	27 ..	..	..
Colonial and Foreign Railways.				
Antofagasta Cons. ...	87½ ..	88½ ..	..	..
B.A. and Pacific ...	78½ ..	78 ..	..	..
B.G. Southern ...	85½ ..	85½ ..	..	..
Buenos Ayres West. ...	74 ..	74 ..	..	..
Canadian Pacific ...	161 ..	161 ..	..	..
Central Argentine ...	71½ ..	71½ ..	..	..
Leopoldina ...	28½ ..	28½ ..	..	..
Mexican Railway ...	7 ..	7 ..	..	..
Do 1st Pref. ...	27 ..	27 ..	..	..
Do 2nd Pref. ...	14 ..	14 ..	..	..
San Paulo ...	159½ ..	159½ ..	..	..
United Havana ...	85 ..	85 ..	..	..
Telegraphs.				
Anglo-American "A" ..	24½ ..	24½ ..	..	..
Marconi Canada ...	1½ ..	1½ ..	..	..
Marconi Wireless ...	1½ ..	1½ ..	..	..

* "Colonial and Foreign Banking Systems." By Keith Le Che-minant, B.Com. (London) Routledge.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York*

Date.	Miles of Road.		Gross Earnings.		Net Earnings.	
	1922.	1923.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.	1923.	Increase or Decrease.
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept.	236,525	235,611	544,270,233	+ 44,549,658	129,300,309	+ 37,441,381
Oct.	236,015	235,608	586,328,886	+ 37,248,224	141,922,971	+ 20,895,375
Nov.	235,748	235,589	530,106,708	+ 7,648,500	124,931,318	+ 7,307,788
Dec.	235,555	235,379	493,099,550	- 19,212,804	106,246,158	- 2,439,155
	1923.	1924.	1924.		1924.	
Jan.	235,886	238,698	467,887,013	- 33,610,824	83,953,867	- 9,412,392
Feb.	235,876	235,706	477,899,944	+ 31,939,712	104,117,278	+ 33,387,370
Mar.	236,520	235,715	504,016,114	+ 30,628,340	114,754,514	+ 2,914,070
April	234,970	235,933	474,479,758	- 46,242,116	101,680,719	- 21,294,274
May	234,452	235,894	476,458,749	+ 70,476,339	95,048,087	+ 30,448,068
June	235,691	236,001	464,759,956	- 75,442,339	101,527,990	- 22,866,667
July	235,477	235,145	480,704,944	+ 53,517,158	112,626,696	+ 9,601,755
Aug.	235,945	235,172	507,406,011	- 55,952,018	131,669,714	- 21,248,287
Sept.	235,640	235,178	539,853,860	+ 5,116,223	165,049,814	+ 30,137,288

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month.		Total Receipts.	
				1923-24.	+ or -	1923-24.	+ or -

INDIAN.

Southern Punjab	5 mths	Aug. 31	717	Rs 973,063 +	Rs 95,442	Rs 58,35,014	+ 3,76,147
-----------------------	--------	---------	-----	--------------	-----------	--------------	------------

CANADIAN.

Canadian National	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross \$22,840,698 Net \$5,185,017	— 341,7075	195,325,323	— 110,701
Canadian Pacific	10 mths	31	Gross \$19,352,000 Net \$7,022,000	- 491,173	12,114,712	- 1,345,048
Temiscouta.....	1 mth	Sept. 30	Gross \$38,322	- 113,900	27,468,000 +	56,000

BRAZILIAN.

Brazil Gt. Sothrn.	6 mths	June 30	..	Mrs.81,000 +	13,500	426,500 +	48,785
State of Bahia ..	6 mths	Oct. 31	52	47,199 +	386	28,185 +	4,476

CHILE AND PERU.

Peruvian Corp.	5 mths	Nov. 3	1,066	\$1,483,200 +	379,000	7,259,650 +	875,350
Taital	5 mths	30	172	\$31,612 +	7,290	139,680 +	41,775

URUGUAYAN.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION transacted at all Branches and Agencies.
CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened on the usual terms, and **DEPOSITS RECEIVED** for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS opened at the Branches in Africa on terms which may be ascertained upon application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
DRAFTS issued, **MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES** made.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE business transacted.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and **COMMERCIAL CREDITS** established.
TRAVELLER'S LETTERS OF CREDIT issued available in all parts of the world.
PURCHASES and SALES of Stocks and Shares effected either through the Brokers or through Brokers selected by Customers.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, ETC., received and **COUPONS COLLECTED.**
STRONGROOMS provided for the safe custody of Securities and Valuable Customers.
ASSAY DEPARTMENT—Gold, etc., and all Mineral Ores assayed and **EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE** business undertaken. **Realised.**
INCOME TAX—Claims for recovery of Income Tax undertaken.
The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transactions of its customers.

Argentine Light and Power (a)	10 mths	Oct. 31		42,749	+	2,687	305,682	+	30,865
Barcelona Trac- repts. in ptes.	10 mths	31	(Gross	4,538,135		139,131	15,926,304	+	4,495,946
Brazilian Trac- receipts in \$.	10 mths	31	Net	2,802,776	+	42,855	17,585,481	+	3,635,080
Bri. Columbia Electric & L.	4 mths	31	(Gross	\$2,485,495	+	440,847	12,747,423	+	1,708,170
Burmah Electric	4 mths	31	Net	\$1,568,072	+	263,239	15,871,113	+	809,549
Trwys. & Lghts	(c)	Nov. 30	(Gross	\$915,328	+	31,961	3,592,897	+	158,655
Cape Elec. Trac-	1 mth	30	Net	\$260,908	+	3,077	996,700	+	11,860
Carthagenia and Herrerias Trms.	11 mths	Year 30	(c) Rs147,856	+	2,367	..	..	..	..
Cities Service Co.	Year	Oct. 31	Gross	\$31,180	..	..	..	..	..
Ele. Sub. of Havanna Lght. Ri.	32 weeks	Nov. 2	1	P57,879	+	13,255	732,660	+	49,138
Ele. Light & Power	10 mths	Oct. 31	22	\$1,163,814	+	113,839	7,289,353	+	697,181
International Light & Power	10 mths	Oct. 31	(Gross	\$2,482	+	9	34,026	+	1,975
Inter national Light & Power	4 mths	31	(Gross	\$1,947,400	+	67,351	11,794,474	+	734,731
Kalgoolie Elec.	4 mths	31	Net	\$56,462	+	29,177	6,570,637	+	76,351
Tramways	9 mths	Sept. 30	(Gross	\$23,833	+	1,781	94,075	+	6,297
Keystone Tele. ..	9 mths	30	Net	\$6,008	+	211	27,065	+	2,162
La Guaira Harbr.	1 mth	Nov. 30	(Gross	\$23,771	..	..	18,986	..	..
La Plata Electric	11 mths	31	Net	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lima Light, Pwr and Tramways	4 mths	Apr. 30	..	\$8,246	+	436	84,420	+	5,843
Manila Electric & Co.	12 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	\$85,354	+	13,916	344,241	+	65,670
Para Electric ..	11 mths	31	(Gross	\$318,195	+	8,892	3,698,670	+	118,964
Puebla Tram, &c.	1 mth	30	Net	\$158,856	+	2,881	1,878,512	+	136,069
Rangoon Electric	10 mths	31	(Gross	\$33,494	+	3,874	510,316	+	31,367
Shanghai Electric	10 mths	31	Net	\$15,303	+	690	123,885	+	1,782
Union Electric of Montevideo	1 mth	Nov. 30	Net M	\$88,900	..	..	..	..	..
Veracruz	1 mth	Oct. 31	(Gross	\$3,754,500	+	14,550	36,255,255	+	2,44,030
Winnipeg Electric	10 mths	Oct. 31	(Gross	\$2,237,715	+	20,200	20,893,545	+	2,85,870
	1 mth	30	Mex.	\$190,400	..	870	21,681,516	..	85,489
	1 mth	Oct. 31	Gross	\$56,423	+	1,236	..	..	..
	10 mths	Oct. 31	Net	\$65,800	..	69,300	12,907	..	254,500
	1 mth	Oct. 31	(Gross	\$430,181	..	6,841	3,234,303	..	35,913
	1 mth	Oct. 31	Net	\$162,198	..	12,852	1,470,565	..	42,743

The depression in the butter market referred to when addressing you in April last has been much relieved, and the dairyman has good reason to expect satisfactory prices now until well into the New Year. Herbage being abundant, the output is also expected

A vote of thanks to the directors, general manager, and staff of

the bank was moved by Mr John Bennie, and seconded by Mr C. W. Gray. In support, Mr Lush referred to the "open door" policy of the bank, and paid a compliment to the staff for their courtesy and help.

Mr Alexander Macneil, a director, replied, and said that the strength and stability of the bank was due to the late general manager, Mr Wilson. The general manager (Mr A. A. Laing) and the assistant general manager (Mr H. Le M. Latreille) also responded.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

STRONG LIQUID POSITION.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

REVIEW OF CANADIAN CONDITIONS.

ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS.

The one hundred and seventh annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held on December 1st in the board room at the bank's headquarters.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Sir Vincent Meredith, Bt., in moving the adoption of the report, said :—During the past year continued confused world-wide conditions have been a deterrent to business generally, resulting in cautious buying and unwillingness to undertake forward operations. Yet, despite relative dullness of trade and the heavy burden of taxation imposed on financial institutions, I am happy to say we have been able to earn our dividend and bonus. Low rates of interest in world money markets have naturally affected profits, but the resources of your bank are so large, and its earning power so constant that I feel assured you may depend upon the continuance of satisfactory profits.

IMPROVED OUTLOOK.

While hesitating to prophesy, I am satisfied that a gradual improvement in the trade situation is occurring. Statistical returns support this view, and, while there is irregularity in the movement, in the main the trend is upward. There has been a better demand for steel in various forms, especially from railroads; textile trades are generally recovering from the slump, and dealings in hides and leather have broadened. Other indices may be cited; thus, car loadings showed an increase until affected recently by the smaller prairie crop, while building operations have kept pace with last year, which, in turn, showed a substantial increase.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Figures of foreign trade are encouraging. In the 12 months period to October 31st the aggregate value of this commerce was \$160,000,000 greater than in the preceding year, the total being \$1,895,000,000. We have been able to reach this large amount chiefly because of the enormous Western grain crop in 1923, and, in a survey of economic conditions, there is no more satisfactory feature than the improvement in agricultural returns. Last year there was greater volume; this year there is greater value. Farm products have always made the largest contribution to Canada's export trade, being greater than the combined export value of all other commodities.

FOREST PRODUCTS.

The other outstanding item in respect of exports is forest products. In the seven months ending October 31 shipments of wood and wood products, including paper, declined in value about \$18,000,000, as compared with the preceding year, this decrease occurring in lumber and not in paper. On the import side, a shrinkage is again recorded, so much as \$75,000,000 since March 31st, and, while lower prices may account for some of this decrease, the cause must be attributed to a quiet condition of domestic trade. A gratifying feature of the statistics of foreign trade is the growth of favourable balance. In the last seven months the excess of exports over imports amounted to \$120,000,000, as compared with an excess of \$15,000,000 in the corresponding period of last year, and if the comparison is carried over a 12 months' period, the favourable balance is found to be still greater. I regard this increase in Canada's foreign trade credits as an augury of a not distant improvement in domestic business.

Foreign competition, which for some time past had been anticipated, is now being keenly felt in several basic Canadian products in neutral markets. This situation is due to the advantages the exporting countries abroad possess in their depreciated currencies and cheaper and more industrious labour.

IMMIGRATION.

Immigration has been disappointingly small, and without increase in population increase in production will remain obstinately slow. The problem belongs to other hands than mine, but I am convinced the day is not distant when this favoured land of Canada will be

HUMAN ASSETS

in every business organisation should be protected by Life Assurance.

It financially safeguards the business on the death of one responsible for its success.

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

will be happy to advise you.

Head Office :—

1 Dale St., Liverpool.

London :—

Chief Office, 1 Cornhill, E.C.3.

General Manager and Secretary :—HUGH LEWIS.

sought by the surplus population of Great Britain and Europe, as well as by those thrifty classes who will here find opportunity for further improving their condition.

CONDITIONS IN EUROPE.

Taking a general view of European conditions, it is evident that decided improvement has taken place during the last year. Exchanges have gained in stability and a greater degree of confidence exists, with the result that trade is expanding and moving with more freedom. The chief causes contributing to this betterment are the efforts made by various European countries to balance their budgets, and to this end substantial help has been forthcoming through external loans issued under the auspices of the League of Nations, and in some cases partially secured by international guarantees.

Continental currencies have moved in favour of England, and the pound sterling has substantially appreciated compared with the United States dollar; but what is of great importance to international trade is the disappearance of the wide and violent fluctuations which were formerly such a hindrance to business.

The recent German loan—the first step in applying the Dawes plan—was a conspicuous success, and has already produced a good effect on international finance.

In Great Britain, the result of the elections has proved to be the chief factor in favour of a recovery in trade, and, with a prospect of a stable Government for the next few years, there is a more optimistic feeling current, and already there are distinct signs of trade revival. In this connection, however, it would not be surprising if Germany were shortly to build a wall to keep out British and other goods, unless new commercial treaties are made. She has already drafted her new tariff, with some 1,600 articles, all of which will call for higher duties.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

The crop output has been considerably less than last year, about 200,000,000 bushels in the case of wheat, the decrease occurring in the Western provinces. Against this reduction can be set the higher prices paid for the product, the loss in quantity being nearly recovered in the greater value. This view, however, deals with the aggregate, and does not help farmers who have reaped little. Yet, upon the whole, the fact remains that the agricultural condition in the prairie provinces has improved during the last two years, partly because of a bumper crop followed by a fair one marketable at high prices, and partly because of the growth of mixed farming which gives farmers more baskets for their eggs. The reckless extravagance induced by war prices has also moderated, and it may be concluded that farming in the West, where intelligently pursued, has become a stable industry.

PURCHASE OF MOLSONS BANK.

As you are no doubt aware, there has always existed a close, friendly connection between this bank and the Molsons Bank since the latter's inception. When it was deemed advisable to amalgamate the Molsons Bank with a stronger institution, and we were approached, your directors decided to acquire the bank.

A WORD OF CONFIDENCE.

My last word is a word of confidence and encouragement. The interests of your bank are more closely bound up with those of Canada than ever before, and unless Canada prospers the bank cannot expect the prosperity it should enjoy. I believe Canada will prosper. It offers inducements to immigrants vastly superior to those of other countries which are at present endeavouring to

attract citizens. It stands third amongst the countries of the world in natural resources. We possess half of the forest area of the British Empire; our mines produced in 1923 \$214,000,000 worth of metals, and the surface is scarcely scratched. Canada stands second in the world in coal deposits. Her water powers are estimated at 18,000,000 horse-power, and she enjoys unexcelled transportation facilities. For those with some capital and a willingness to work, the cheap, rich lands of Western Canada offer a means of healthful subsistence, and, in time, a better competence than can be obtained elsewhere.

THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, general manager in submitting his annual address, said :—Mr Chairman and gentlemen, In presenting for your information and approval the 107th annual balance-sheet of the bank, I shall explain briefly the important changes shown therein, and comment upon some of the factors that have had a bearing upon our operations, and have influenced the results of our business for the past year.

Our cash, call loans, balances with other banks, Government and municipal bonds, and other readily realisable assets, apart from ordinary advances to customers, are about 64.23 per cent. of our total liabilities to the public.

I feel sure that this strong liquid position must be as satisfying to our friends as it is to ourselves. Depositors, as a rule, display more interest in this feature of our balance-sheet than borrowers, but the ability of a bank to withstand any stringent monetary condition without the necessity for calling in advances is a matter of prime importance to those who borrow money for commercial purposes.

SMALL SAVINGS WELCOME.

The increase in the number of depositors in our savings department has been greater in the past two years than ever before. I should like to emphasize, in connection with the growth of these deposits that this bank's services are at the disposal of every class of the population, and that we welcome those who, with a small deposit, wish to open a savings account.

It may be noted in this connection that the rate of interest on savings deposits paid by Canadian banks remains, as for many years past, at 3 per cent., such deposits comprising a large percentage of total bank deposits. In no other important country have depositors received a rate of interest so uniformly high regardless of market fluctuations in the value of money, except for deposits fixed for periods of three months or more.

PROFITS OF THE BANK.

The operations of the bank during the 12 months under review resulted in a profit of \$4,454,000, being a decrease of \$42,000 compared with the previous year. Based on the total of our capital, reserve, and undivided profits, these earnings represent a return of 8.06 per cent., which may be described as modest for a business of such dimensions as ours; but, as you know, our first consideration is to keep strong in cash and liquid assets.

The staff of the bank continue to serve our interests faithfully. With others of the salaried class, the incomes of our staff have not kept pace with the increasing cost of living during the war and following years. They have thus had to carry their share of the burden of disjointed economic conditions, but they will benefit through the return to more normal conditions which we hope is coming. We count ourselves fortunate, indeed, in having had

through these troublous years a most efficient staff of unquestioned loyalty.

Although the wheat crop in Canada was this year less than for the season of 1923 by something approaching 200,000,000 bushels, fortunately for the farmer the price had advanced to about \$1.65 per bushel from about \$1.00 last year, so that Canada's gross income from this staple product should be about the same.

The increase in the current income of the farmers in areas which have yielded favourable crops has naturally been reflected in improved financial and business conditions in those districts.

Adverse rates of sterling exchange continue to be a barrier to Canadian borrowings in England. During the 12 months under review, the rate for sterling exchange advanced from 4.3½ to 4.53, and should the present movement continue, the London market will once more become a field for the flotation of Canadian securities, and our services as bankers for new issues, which have been dormant since the war, will again be in demand.

TRADE CONDITIONS.

The detailed report on trade conditions in the several provinces will appear in the published account of this meeting. My view, in brief, of the situation is that business generally in Canada is unsatisfactory, but with some bright spots. This expression of opinion may not be popular, but it seems to me much better to look the matter squarely in the face than to allow ourselves to be led astray by popular delusions. That general trade is dull, to put it mildly, is no delusion. Many of our industries are running on half-time, with diminished profits or no profits at all. Taxation is heavy to an extent which discourages new enterprises. The cost of living is high and our population in point of numbers is at a standstill, or worse.

These are the conditions, as I see them, but I hope and believe we shall emerge from our difficulties presently.

CANADA : A FAVOURED LAND

We, in Canada, have much to be thankful for. If this were a poor country our case would be a bad one, but we have riches in our forests, our fields, our fisheries, and in our minerals, also in our mighty water powers, and in the industry and ambition of our people.

Where is there a country other than the United States where so high a standard of living prevails? A large portion of the community, notably farmers, who at an earlier day knew little of luxury, now have their electric light, telephones, motor-cars, and radios. We have no doles; poorhouses are hard to find, and, comparatively, there is little unemployment.

The United States for the moment possesses a stronger attraction for emigrants from the Old World, but, taking a longer view, Canada still stands out as a land of opportunity. Nowhere else in the world can the desirable settler from Europe find such good land, such cheap land, under such stable conditions of government, and so near to great purchasing markets for farm products.

The general manager then gave in detail reports on the conditions of trade, &c.

The report having been adopted, votes of thanks to the president, vice-president, directors, and staff were passed.

The votes of thanks having been responded to by the President and General Manager, the ballot for the appointment of auditors and the election of directors was duly proceeded with, and the meeting terminated.



The Anglo-South American Bank Ltd.

Head Office: 62, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital	£10,000,000	Issued Capital	- £8,734,660
Reserve Fund	- £4,000,000	Paid-Up Capital	- £4,367,330

The Bank, in addition to 6 branches in SPAIN, has, with its AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LTD., and
THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.
53 offices in the principal countries of LATIN AMERICA.

AUXILIARIES:

ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK
(Incorporated under the laws of the State of New York) and
BANQUE ANGLO-SUD AMERICAINE, Soc. Anon., PARIS.

THE LONDON NITRATE COMPANY, LIMITED.**SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.****POSITION AND PROSPECTS.****CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND THE NITRATE INDUSTRY.**

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of the London Nitrate Company, Limited, was held at Liverpool on the 19th instant, the chairman of directors, Mr Frank Tobin, C.B.E., presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said there were one or two items in the balance-sheet which called for a word of explanation. They would see that on the assets side there had been a sum of £14,332 written off for amortisation of grounds. That was an innovation, and the reason for its insertion in the accounts this year was that nitrate properties consisted of what might be called "wasting assets"; that was to say that each year the profits were derived to some extent from capital that they consumed. Companies had always felt, colliery companies in particular, that in imposing income-tax, allowance should be made for this fact. It had been applied for and argued *ad nauseam*, but never successfully, and the hope of getting any consideration on these grounds had been abandoned in England. Now, however, they were in a different position; an income-tax of 3 per cent. had been imposed by the Chilean Government, and they thought the Chilean Government would take into account the fact that capital was being consumed in making that profit, and would make an allowance off the income-tax in respect thereof. They might be quite sure that if they did not show in their accounts the amount of capital that had been consumed in making the year's profits, they would get no allowance, and he thought the shareholders would consider that the directors had been justified in introducing the item.

STOCKS ON HAND.

Some explanation is also needed with reference to the very large stocks of nitrate on hand at the end of the year—£85,000 worth. This was an exceptionally large amount, and was due to the fact that business in June, the last month of their working year, was exceptionally active, and that nitrate was being accumulated in the port for delivery in July, August, and even September of the following year. The stock on hand was therefore abnormally large at the end of June. For the same reason, they would see that sundry debtors showed an increase of about £35,000, as against the figure for the previous year. On the other hand, sundry creditors showed an increase of about £12,000, but as all the items composing these entries had been disposed of long ago, he did not think they called for further comment.

LIABILITIES.

On the liabilities side of the accounts they would see an item of £80,000 reserve for redemption of debenture stock. Last year they set aside for that purpose £30,000, and that had been devoted to the purchase of debenture stock to the amount of £29,390. This year they set aside £50,000 towards the redemption which falls due on April 1, 1926, and they thought they would be in a position next year to do the same, and that would leave them with only £20,000 to find in the first few months of 1926. Debenture holders might rest satisfied that the company would meet its obligations, and that they would, on April 1, 1926, have to look out for new investments.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning to the profit and loss account, income-tax and corporation profits tax showed a reduction of about £4,000, due to the fact that the corporation profits tax was only incurred for a small portion of the year, and now had disappeared altogether. The gross profits for the year amounted to £107,214, as against £80,377, and he hoped that was as satisfactory to the shareholders as it was to the board; it enabled them, in spite of the handsome sum which they had passed to the redemption of debentures, to propose a larger dividend.

OUTLOOK FOR THE INDUSTRY.

The outlook for the nitrate industry generally was distinctly favourable, and the remote prospects were also good, and he thought they must attribute the change which had taken place in the nitrate industry to the formation of the Association of Nitrate producers, who pooled their products, and placed them unreservedly in the hands of a representative committee for sale. Having given in some detail the procedure adopted by this committee, the chairman went on to refer to the value of advertising and propaganda work in connection with the industry, and said the benefits of increased consumption were shared by two bodies of people, the nitrate producers and the Government of Chile. They might, therefore, think it only fair that the Government of Chile, in order to increase their revenue from the heavy duties which they imposed on the nitrate industry, should give some material assistance to this propaganda work,

but he was sorry to say that their contribution was dimly meagre, and one not worthy of the nation of Chile.

GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TO THE INDUSTRY.

They would have gathered from what he had said that he looked forward with very considerable confidence to the future. There were, however, one or two points which gave the directors cause for thought, and the first one was the recent attitude of the Chilean Government to the nitrate industry, which, was, after all, the ewe lamb of the Chilean Treasury, a very large proportion of the Chilean revenue being derived from the export of nitrate and the duties imposed thereon. It was only natural to think, therefore, that the Chilean Government would do all they could to stimulate consumption and to assist in causing the growth of consumption, but they found that in order to scrape up a few dollars here and there, the Chilean Government kept on imposing new forms of taxation on the industry. It was quite a mistaken policy, because any such taxation only added to the cost of production. The real interest of the industry consisted in producing as cheaply as possible in order to stimulate consumption by selling the article cheaply. They had the finest fertiliser in the world for sale, and they wanted to sell it at an attractive price, and it was a mistaken policy of the Chilean Government to impose any taxation which tended to increase the cost of production and which would militate to some extent against increased sales. He did not know that they could do anything to cure that, but he hoped the Chilean Government would see their way to encourage and foster their industry rather than impede it by additional taxation.

LABOUR QUESTION.

The labour question also gave them cause for thought. At the present time labour was scarce, but just sufficient for the requirements of the industry. It was inevitable, however, that once Europe emerged from her present impoverished state, and when the consumption of nitrate increased largely, a great deal more labour would be required, and it was going to be very hard to find it. Labour in Chile, as all over the world, was demanding and asking, and he thought properly, for improved conditions in regard to better housing, better sanitation, and better medical service, and in this Labour had the fullest sympathy of the whole of the nitrate industry, and that sympathy was taking practical form. They were doing a great deal to improve the conditions in that respect in their own company, and the whole of the industry was also doing what they could in the same direction.

TRANSPORT.

The question of transport also caused some anxiety at the present time. Even a temporary breakdown of transport was a very serious matter, and there was a grave danger of congestion at certain points on the Nitrate Railways, which had a monopoly for the carriage of nitrate in the greater part of Parapaca, and they were very anxious to see that danger removed. The Government had been approached on the point, but no solution had as yet been arrived at.

With regard to the financial position of the company, he thought a glance at the balance-sheet would assure the shareholders that it was not only healthy, but strong. It was true that they had still a debenture debt to the extent of £120,000 to take care of, but they did not contemplate any difficulty with regard to that. To wipe out that debt would be satisfactory to the directors for a reason much stronger than the satisfying of their financial obligations; he had already used the words "wasting assets," and they must remember that they were using up their grounds every year; after a certain given number of years they would find themselves with an empty shell, which would consist of nothing more than their old machinery, and they must always have in their minds the necessity of making provision for the replacement of grounds as the opportunity occurred.

SOUND PROPERTY—GOOD PROSPECTS.

Having referred to the satisfactory results which were being obtained at the Santa Laura oficina, the expense of which had been more than justified by the results, the Chairman went on to say that a careful examination of the accounts and of the properties would enable any inquirer to realise that they had a sound property, with every prospect of still further enhancing its value. In conclusion, the Chairman paid a handsome tribute to the work of their agents on the Coast and the staff generally, and formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts and the confirmation of a final dividend of 2s 6d per share for the year, to be paid on December 20, 1924.

This was formally seconded by Sir James Reynolds, and carried. Mr E. B. Orme was unanimously re-elected a director of the company, and Messrs Harmood, Banner and Son were reappointed auditors of the company.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.**GRATIFYING RESULTS.**

The one hundred and sixty-sixth half-yearly meeting was held on November 5, 1924, at the Banking House, St George's terrace, Sir E. H. Wittenoom, chairman of directors, presiding.

The directors, in their report for the half-year ended September 29th, stated that the net profit was £40,877 19s 9d, which, with a balance of £32,540 10s 7d carried forward from the previous term, made £73,418 10s 4d available for distribution. This compared with a net profit of £39,195 14s 2d for the March half-year, and £36,271 for the corresponding period last year.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that the same conditions existed in the past half-year as he had pointed out at the previous meeting in regard to the preceding period, viz., that the bank had to deal with increased capital, which, of course, required additional business and more avenues for profitable employment; therefore, in such circumstances, it was gratifying to be able to maintain the same dividend as at that time last year, besides being able to carry forward such a substantial amount as £35,006 0s 4d. Dealing with the question of additional capital for the bank's operations, he quoted the following from his address to shareholders in March last:—"Your directors have not overlooked this matter, but the prospects of the money market have been neither opportune nor encouraging. The several Government loans recently floated have absorbed a quantity of money, and your directors hesitate to take any steps until assured of absolute success. The market is being carefully watched." He said that after the most careful consideration the directors decided to accept an offer from London for 100,000 shares at 30s premium, reserving 22,000 shares for Australia. This absorbed the full amount the shareholders had authorised the directors to place on the market. They would be gratified to learn that all the new shares had been promptly applied for and allotted. The directors were now asking the shareholders for an authorisation to increase the capital by a further £500,000.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO., LIMITED.**TRADE DEPRESSION AND LABOUR DISPUTES.**

The twenty-third annual general meeting of John I. Thornycroft and Co., Limited, was held on the 22nd instant, in London.

Sir John E. Thornycroft, K.B.E., who presided, said that the accounts showed a profit of £29,631, and, after providing for the debenture interest, it was proposed to pay the dividend on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares. The directors regretted that the results did not permit of the distribution of a further dividend, but he thought it would be agreed that it was no mean performance to have emerged at the end of the past three or four years, which had been a period of extraordinary depression, with a reserve intact of £250,000 and a carry forward of a further £49,383. In common with other shipbuilding districts, the past year's output had been adversely affected by the depressed conditions of the industry and by labour disputes. The ship-repairing side of the business had also been similarly affected, and, in this connection, the trouble took place when they were carrying out a large overhaul on the Mauretania at a time when the whole of the extensive machinery outfit of that boat was dismantled. The vessel, in her disabled condition, was towed to France, and the re-erection was successfully carried through and the overhaul eventually completed at Southampton. The performance of the vessel since as regarded speed had been better than it ever was—a result upon which they had been specially complimented by the Cunard Company. During the year they had lost some very considerable shipbuilding orders to the Continent, for the reason that the Continental prices at which orders had been accepted had been below the company's costs of actual labour and material. On the other hand, they had succeeded in obtaining an order for one of the two destroyers recently placed by the British Government. These were the first two vessels of this class ordered since the war, and the directors were hoping that further similar orders might be placed in the near future. On the motor vehicle side there was an increase of 40 per cent. in sales, and the current year showed a further increase over the previous year's figures. They had combined with another firm for the sale and manufacture of a 'semi-Diesel engine of an improved and satisfactory type. The directors believed there was very little chance of doing export business unless they worked on more standardised and mass production lines. He would point out, however, that no British motor manufacturer could be expected to take steps in this direction unless his home market was suitably protected.

The report was unanimously adopted.

PETER WALKER (WARRINGTON) AND ROBERT CAIN AND SONS, LIMITED.**HEAVY DUTIES ON BEER AND SPIRITS.**

The meeting of Peter Walker (Warrington) and Robert Cain and Sons, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad street, London, on the 19th instant, Sir Harmood Banner, Bart. (chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. Bosworth, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, after referring to the loss the company had sustained by the death of Sir William Cain, said that, taking into account all the conditions which had prevailed during the past financial year, the results were better than they foresaw 12 months ago. Sales were better, and went to prove the correctness of the directors' policy in keeping up the quality and strength of their production. The whole burden thrown on the brewing trade in 1923 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was borne by the company without seeking to pass any portion of it on to the consumer. With the present Government in power, they were hopeful at least of a cessation of a tax on the trade such as had been experienced during the past year, and for a period during which they might set themselves to work for a higher standard of affairs.

THE FUTURE.

As to the immediate future, they were faced with the fact that their materials during the coming year were going to cost them much more. They looked forward, however, to a reduction in the present unreasonable duties on beer and spirits. With regard to the beer duty, in 1920, when the duty was increased from 70s to 100s, wages were exceptionally high, and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the beer duty was regarded as a means of collecting from the wage-earner some equivalent of the income-tax, which then stood at 6s in the £—its highest point. Since then the income-tax had been reduced to 4s 6d, but though in many cases wages had fallen almost to pre-war level, the only change made in the beer duty had been that of last year, which resulted in a reduction of a penny per pint to the consumer. There was no hope for cheaper beer until the Chancellor of the Exchequer lightened the heavy burden now being carried by the industry.

As a result of the year's trading there was an available balance of £601,770, out of which they proposed to allocate £3,000 to the staff benevolent fund—a fund which was doing excellent work. They further proposed to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year, to transfer £50,000 to reserve, and increase the carry forward from £25,470 to £34,470.

Sir Charles Alexander Nall-Cain, Bart. (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The usual formal business having been transacted, the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

SAMUEL ALLSOPP AND SONS, LIMITED.**VERY FAVOURABLE BALANCE SHEET.**

The 36th ordinary annual general meeting of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, was held, on the 23rd instant, at the Cannon street, Hotel, London, E.C.

Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O. (the chairman), said that he did not think there was a single item in the balance-sheet that did not compare favourably with any item in any previous balance-sheet they had ever presented to the shareholders. Their reserves showed an increase of £29,000, the general reserve showing an

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank).

ESTABLISHED 1889.

Head Office: HELSINKI (Helsingfors),
FINLAND.

Capital and Reserves - Fmk. 257,000,000

Deposits and Cheque Accounts

(June 30, 1924) over - Fmk. 1,600,000,000

152 BRANCHES AT ALL IMPORTANT BUSINESS CENTRES IN FINLAND.

Telegraphic Address: Kansallispankki.

increase of £20,000, and the sinking fund for the redemption of the prior lien debenture stock £9,000. Their cash position was eminently satisfactory. Notwithstanding the purchases of properties they had made, their cash position was almost the same as it was 12 months ago. Their profit on trading for the year showed an increase of almost exactly £20,000.

Their sales during the year, excluding certain exceptional sales in bulk during the year ended September, 1923, showed on the whole a somewhat improving position. He did not think they were so fortunate as some brewery companies in the areas in which they worked. Unfortunately, a large proportion of their licensed premises were in the North of England, Wales, and elsewhere where trade had been exceptionally bad.

Their profits might be considered as satisfactory from the point of view that they were steadily improving over those of past years, and he hoped they would continue to improve, but he could not say that those profits were a fair yield on the original capital that had been invested in the company. With regard to attacks on their trade and prohibition, he did not think there was any likelihood at the present time, and he hoped for some years, that any Bills to that end would be encouraged by Parliament, and he hoped they might look forward to a time in which they might have a fair field to run their enterprise in the interests of shareholders and the interests of the public. With regard to their prospects, although they had increased wages to meet and a higher price for barley, there was the diminished cost of other materials and a tendency for unemployment to decrease. There was also an indication of an improvement in trade generally, not only in this country but in every country, which should be of benefit to them.

They had legitimate grounds for complaint, however, when they considered the question of taxation. The tax on beer was still £4 a barrel, and the reduction from £5 made in April, 1923, was coupled with the condition that brewers should reduce the price to consumers by 2s per barrel. He did not think there was any reason for agitation for the brewers to make a further reduction in price to the public which would be a very important thing for the brewers, because at the moment they were compelled to charge 6d or more a pint, which was a high price for the ordinary working man, particularly the agricultural labourer.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

GOVERNMENT RETURNS, &c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25. (See Note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	RECEIPTS.	RECEIPTS.
		Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England...	..	5,069,613	5,442,685	..
Bank of Ireland...	..	1,562,001	1,375,502	..
REVENUE.		6,631,614	6,818,167	..
Customs...	101,800,000	93,545,000	1,491,000	2,685,000
Excise...	135,900,000	101,164,000	8,094,000	7,326,000
Motor Vehicle Duties...	15,600,000	5,105,000	4,470,000	..
Estate, &c., Duties...	56,000,000	44,370,000	1,850,000	1,470,000
Stamps...	21,000,000	14,560,000	1,090,000	..
Land Tax, House Duty & Mineral Rights Duty	1,250,000	690,000	550,000	10,000
Property & Income Tax	265,000,000	130,215,000	933,000	936,000
Super Tax...	61,000,000	29,450,000	470,000	..
Excess Profits Duties, &c.	8,000,000	..	..	..
Corporation Profits Tax	20,000,000	12,390,000	155,000	370,000
Post Office...	53,500,000	39,400,000	37,000,000	850,000
Crown Lands...	900,000	760,000	..	..
Interest on Sundry Loans	..	..	..	90,000
Miscellaneous...	12,250,000	9,694,036	10,272,563	..
Ordinary Receipts...	8,472,177	9,615,176	91,918	3,815
Special Receipts...	30,000,000	22,573,659	29,292,361	152,793
Revenue...	794,050,000	491,795,872	522,289,100	16,819,918
Total, inc. Balance...	..	498,427,486	529,107,267	14,517,719
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid:—				
Bullion...	..	..	65,000	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904...	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921...	5,920,000	4,870,000	..	..
Money Raised by Creation of Debt:—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924...	4,500,000	3,370,000	..	..
Under the Housing Act, 1914...	4,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924...	260,719	..	..	..
By Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904...	..	520,000	..	..
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921...	650,000	820,000	..	..

	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from	RECEIPTS.	RECEIPTS.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.
(c) For other issues:—			
By Treasury Bills...	1,769,272,000	1,826,668,000	55,436,000
By National Savings Certificates...	20,400,000	38,300,000	600,000
By 4% Treasury Bonds, 1931-33...	16,876,370	32,185,452	..
By Other Debt created under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919...	3,700,000	..	..
(d) Ways and Means Advances...	597,169,000	727,116,500	18,150,000
Dividends on Shares acquired...	23,109	50,081	..
Repayments:—			
In respect of Cunard Loan...	130,000	130,000	..
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921...	592,439	208,959	..
In respect of Issues under Section 59 (4) of Finance Act, 1920...	1,622,025	..	..
Total...	2,919,920,930	3,163,497,041	91,005,918

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	ISSUES.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 22, 1923.
NATIONAL DEBT SERVICES:—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	269,019,937	17,038,585	2,939,021
Sinking Fund...	45,000,000	25,269,612	31,150,062	1,645,116
Road Fund...	15,000,000	4,504,044	3,869,044	140,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,563,084	7,887,205	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer...	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,929,087	320,109
Land Settlement...	750,000	387,574	438,215	22,750
Other Consolidated Fund Services...	2,440,000	1,756,847	1,872,376	53,750
Supply Services...	408,919,000	264,727,706	264,018,289	7,622,000
Expenditure...	793,759,000	577,281,539	580,402,754	31,349,737
OTHER ISSUES:—				
Temporary Advances:—				
Bullion...	..	5,000	..	..
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904...	73,782	73,782	..	..
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1921...	800,000	820,000	80,000	..
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure:—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1922 and 1924...	6,200,000	5,520,000	..	600,000
Under the Housing Act, 1914...	6,000	12,000	..	..
Under the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924...	324,541	..	..	..
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913...	..	10,500	..	..
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 (Exchequer Bonds, 1923)...	..	520,000	..	..
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1921...	5,920,000	4,750,000	..	..
Redemption of Debt:—				
Treasury Bills...	1,713,945,000	1,794,085,000	44,690,000	44,725,300
Principal of National Saving Certificates...	22,400,000	25,000,000	550,000	600,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off...	6,586,653	32,222,296	..	..
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919...	50	7,463,440	..	..
Ways and Means Advances Repaid...	582,499,500	709,641,500	13,720,000	115,029,500
Anglo-Persian Oil Company—Issued to the National Debt Commissioners...	23,109	50,081	..	..
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt:—				
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11, issued under Section 16 (1) (b) of the Finance Act, 1911...	130,000	130,000	..	..
Balance in Exchequer:—				
Bank of England...	..	..	..	..
Bank of Ireland...	..	..	..	..
Total...	3,730,756	2,735,474	116,181	185,296

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	ISSUES.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 22, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services:—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	269,019,937	17,038,585	2,939,021
Sinking Fund...	45,000,000	25,269,612	31,150,062	1,645,116
Road Fund...	15,000,000	4,504,044	3,869,044	140,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,563,084	7,887,205	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer...	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,929,087	320,109
Land Settlement...	750,000	387,574	438,215	22,750
Other Consolidated Fund Services...	2,440,000	1,756,847	1,872,376	53,750
Supply Services...	408,919,000	264,727,706	264,018,289	7,622,000
Expenditure...	793,759,000	577,281,539	580,402,754	31,349,737

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	ISSUES.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 22, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services:—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	269,019,937	17,038,585	2,939,021
Sinking Fund...	45,000,000	25,269,612	31,150,062	1,645,116
Road Fund...	15,000,000	4,504,044	3,869,044	140,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,563,084	7,887,205	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer...	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,929,087	320,109
Land Settlement...	750,000	387,574	438,215	22,750
Other Consolidated Fund Services...	2,440,000	1,756,847	1,872,376	53,750
Supply Services...	408,919,000	264,727,706	264,018,289	7,622,000
Expenditure...	793,759,000	577,281,539	580,402,754	31,349,737

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	ISSUES.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 22, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services:—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	269,019,937	17,038,585	2,939,021
Sinking Fund...	45,000,000	25,269,612	31,150,062	1,645,116
Road Fund...	15,000,000	4,504,044	3,869,044	140,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,563,084	7,887,205	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer...	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,929,087	320,109
Land Settlement...	750,000	387,574	438,215	22,750
Other Consolidated Fund Services...	2,440,000	1,756,847	1,872,376	53,750
Supply Services...	408,919,000	264,727,706	264,018,289	7,622,000
Expenditure...	793,759,000	577,281,539	580,402,754	31,349,737

	Estimate for the Year 1924-25 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from	ISSUES.	ISSUES.
	Apr. 1, 1924, to Dec. 20, 1924.	Apr. 1, 1923, to Dec. 22, 1923.	Week Ended Dec. 20, 1924.	Week Ended Dec. 22, 1923.
EXPENDITURE.				
National Debt Services:—				
Interest, &c.	305,000,000	269,019,937	17,038,585	2,939,021
Sinking Fund...	45,000,000	25,269,612	31,150,062	1,645,116
Road Fund...	15,000,000	4,504,044	3,869,044	140,000
Payments of Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	13,150,000	8,563,084	7,887,205	400,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer...	3,500,000	3,052,735	2,929,087	320,109
Land Settlement...	750,000	387,574	438,215	22,750
Other Consolidated Fund Services...	2,440,000	1,756,847	1,872,376	53,750
Supply Services...	408,919,000	264,727,706	264,018,289	7,622,000
Expenditure...	793,759,000	577,281,539	580,402,754	31,349,737

NOTE.—Budget Estimate as in H.C. No. 65 of 1924.

NATIONAL DEBT.—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1920.	Mar. 31, 1921.	Mar. 31, 1922.	Mar. 31, 1923.	Dec. 31, 1923.	Mar. 31, 1924.	Dec. 20, 1924.
Funded Debt...	588	315	315	315	315	314	314	314	314
Unfunded Debt...	30	20	19	18	16	14	14	14	14
4% Conversion Loan...	..	..	..	..	266	684	683	666	666
4% War Stock...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% and 5% War Stock...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National War Bonds...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Funding Loan...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4% Victory Bonds...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bonds...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Exchequer Bonds...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
National Savings Certs...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Debt*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
American Loan (Anglo-French)...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temporary Advances...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Capital Liabilities...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Liabilities...	711	8,079	7,876	7,623	7,721	7,812	7,871	7,707	7,791

* Includes debt to American Government.

	Dec. 22, '23.	Mar. 31, '24.	Dec. 20, '24.	Dec. 20, '24.
Ways and Means Advances	£ 211,372,500	£ 186,155,500	£ 201,125,000	£ 14,430,000
Advances by Bank of England	648,600,000	588,320,000	643,660,000	10,730,000
Advances by Public Deposits	..	..	..	..
Treasury Bills Outstanding	859,974,500	774,475,500	844,785,000	15,160,000
Total Floating Debt	1,469,972,500	1,454,951,000	1,449,565,000	24,320,000

* Includes £13,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

SECURITY FIRST
ROYAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED
HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON

The Bankers' Gazette.

As the *Economist* goes to press earlier this week, in consequence of the Christmas holidays, we are unable to give the returns of the Bank of England and other customary statistical matters.

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of November.
--	--------------------

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian crowns (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 15, 1924.	Dec. 7, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1923.
Metal reserve—			
Gold coin and bullion	514,793,094	512,429,809	508,411,247
Drafts and notes	1,885,419,132	1,881,851,113	1,816,101,676
Silver coin and bullion	13,293,328	13,300,882	13,300,882
Inland bills, warrants, and securities	1,916,410,171	1,963,259,112	1,984,539,716
Advances to the Treasury	1,974,780,735	1,974,780,735	1,975,531,354
LIABILITIES.			
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000)	432,186,664	432,186,664	432,186,664
Notes in circulation	4,155,178,493	4,263,076,694	4,442,643,752
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	2,244,460,382	2,143,328,750	2,875,418,282

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF THE SERBS, &c.—In dinars (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 15, 1924.	Nov. 30, 1924.	Nov. 22, 1924.	Nov. 15, 1924.	Dec. 15, 1923.
Gold	72,350	72,333	72,331	72,330	68,816
Other coin and notes	20,168	21,642	21,872	21,120	20,209
Foreign credits	366,115	393,245	383,545	383,361	359,968
Bills	1,277,271	1,316,276	1,321,567	1,328,401	1,340,456
Govt. advances	4,542,535	4,564,524	4,564,524	4,564,523	4,576,829
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,964,143	6,034,273	5,926,949	5,990,269	5,767,133
State credits	367,962	389,952	389,952	389,952	379,132
Deposits	614,696	643,241	643,241	672,474	491,459

BANK OF SPAIN.—In pesetas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 20, 1924.	Dec. 13, 1924.	Dec. 6, 1924.	Nov. 29, 1924.	Dec. 22, 1924.	Position May 30, 1924.
Gold	2,535,132	2,534,948	2,534,951	2,534,947	2,532,670	521,775
Silver	655,347	653,191	653,044	656,017	651,616	728,800
Loans & discounts	2,501,026	2,507,615	2,528,829	2,497,692	2,527,448	800,725
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Treasury bills	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	4,494,506	4,511,033	4,516,973	4,474,380	4,289,000	901,550
Deposits	926,788	936,753	927,093	930,089	988,730	477,500

BANK OF PORTUGAL.—In escudos (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 26, 1924.	Nov. 19, 1924.	Nov. 12, 1924.	Nov. 5, 1924.	Oct. 17, 1923.
Coin and bullion	9,622	9,619	9,614	9,612	27,246
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,574	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	320,506	342,931	350,876	345,532	82,059
Discounts	163,301	165,654	166,594	166,785	165,167
Government loans	1,632,545	1,657,184	1,666,058	1,660,506	1,061,151
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,745,650	1,762,062	1,782,178	1,778,734	1,344,314
Deposits	72,443	68,871	63,053	59,061	48,905

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 19, 1924.	Dec. 20, 1924.	Dec. 21, 1924.	Dec. 22, 1924.	Dec. 23, 1924.	Dec. 24, 1924.	Dec. 25, 1924.	Dec. 26, 1924.
Bank rate (changed from 3% July 5, 1923)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Market rates of discount—								
60 days' bankers' drafts	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
3 months' do	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
4 months' do	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
6 months' do	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—								
3 months	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Loans—Day to day	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Short	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Deposit allowances—Banks	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discount houses at call	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
At notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½

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

Comparison with previous weeks:—

		Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
Dec. 1924.	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	4	4½
5.....	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	4	4½
12.....	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	4	4½
19.....	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	4	4½
23.....	2½	3½	3½	4	4½	4	4½

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Changed.			Changed.		
Amsterdam	Dec. 13, 1924	4½	Madrid	Mar. 23, 1923	5
Athens	Jan. 14, 1923	7½	Paris	Dec. 11, 1924	7
Belgrade		6	Prague	May 27, 1924	6
Berlin	Jan. 30, 1924	10	Riga	Feb. 16, 1924	8
Brussels	Jan. 22, 1923	5½	Rome	July 11, 1922	5½
Bucharest	Sept. 4, 1920	6	Sofia		7
Budapest	Sept. 17, 1924	12½	Stockholm	Nov. 9, 1923	5½
Calcutta	Oct. 16, 1924	6	Swiss Bank		6
Christiania	Nov. 25, 1924	6½	places	July 14, 1923	4
Copenhagen	Jan. 17, 1924	7	Tokio	Nov. 18, 1919	8
Danzig	Sept. 11, 1924	10	Vienna	Nov. 6, 1924	13
Helsingfors	Mar. 5, 1924	9	Warsaw	(See note below)	
Lisbon	Sept. 12, 1923	9			

New York Federal Reserve Aug. 8, 1924 .. 3 Irish .. July 5, 1923 .. 5
 The Bank Rate of the South African Reserve Bank is 5½% for first-class commercial bills (90 days), and 6% for agricultural bills (not more than six months).
 Warsaw (Poland).—From February 20, 1924, discount rate, gold francs, 12% loans on collateral security, gold francs, 16%.
 We are informed that the head office of the De Javasche Bank at Batavia, as from October 20th, has increased its discount rate for bills from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent.

MOSCOW QUOTATIONS FOR CHERVONETZ.

According to advices received in London, the following are the Moscow quotations for chervonetz:—

£1,000 sterling equals 908 chervonetz.
“ 1923 ” “

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on	Usance	Par.	Dec. 21, 1923.	Dec. 19, 1924.	Dec. 23, 1924.
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	84-60-65	87-20-25
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20-43	17-20-11½	19-75-80
Vienna	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	307/312-000	330/335-000
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24-02	148½-149½	155-155½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	25-22½	24-35-55	24-40-60
Riga	latas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	1730	1770
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	25-22½	845-858	920-925
Budapest	kr. to £1	T.T.	24-02	80/90-000	340/350-000
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	815-835	865-870
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25-22½	600-630	635-645
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25-22½	380-395	312-317
Amsterdam	florin to £1	T.T.	12-107	11-484-49	11-642-65
Brussels	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	96-10-15	94-15-25
Christiania	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	29-28-33	31-07-12
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18-159	16-54-57	17-45-48
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18-159	24-43-48	26-60-65
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	25-22½	176½-177	184½-185
Greece	drachmas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	220-225	255-260
Italy	lire to £1	T.T.	25-22½	100½-100½	109-80-90
Switzerland	francs to £1	T.T.	25-22½	25-01-04	24-28-31
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25-22½	33-36-39	33-64-67
Lisbon	pence to escu.	T.T.	53½	14-14½	28-7½
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97½	97½
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	86½	4-36-1	4-70-7½
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4-86½	4-47-1	4-72-7½
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	4-762½	40½	45½-46
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5½	5½
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	43½-43½	48½-49
Valparaiso	pence to peso	90 days	13-33	40-40	40-40
Lima	king. to Per. £1	par	60½ prem.	114½ prem.	128½ prem
Calcutta	ster. to rupee	10 to	18-5½-6½	18-5½-6½	18-6½-6½
Bombay	ster. to rupee	Gold	18-5½-6½	18-5½-6½	18-6½-6½
Madras	ster. to rupee	Sovn.	18-5½-6½	18-5½-6½	18-6½-6½
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	24-42-4½	24-42-4½	24-42-4½
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	34-42-4½	34-42-4½	34-42-4½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	24-42-4½	24-42-4½	24-42-4½
Yokohama	ster. to yen	T.T.	24-58½	18-14½-14½	18-7½-7½
Manila	pence to peso	T.T.	24-06½	12½-12½	12½-12½
Mexico	pence to dol.	T.T.	25-22½	25-22½	25-22½

† Rate for previous day.

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

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

Country.	Par Value.	Usance.	Year 1924.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	10-00	Sight London	Dec. 20 21-81
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	5-25	“	Dec. 18 24-30
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £	100	“	Dec. 16 94-75
Nicaragua	Corobas to £	4-8665	“	Nov. 18 4-80
San Salvador	Colonos to £	9-73	“	Dec. 20 95-24
Guatemala	Pesos to £	90-23	“	Dec. 20 284
Costa Rica	Colonos to £	10-45	“	Nov. 28 18-60
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	19-20	“	Nov. 12 17½

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1924.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce.	Date.	Silver.
		Cash.	Forward.	Cash.
Dec. 20....	88 7	32 ½	32 ½	Jan. 4, 1918.. 44½
22....	88 5	32 ½	32 ½	4, 1919.. 48½
23....	88 9	32 ½	32 ½	Dec. 31, 1920.. 40½
24....	88 6	32 ½	32 ½	30, 1921.. 34½
25....	Christmas	Day	29, 1922.. 31½	
26....	Bank Holiday		24, 1923.. 33½	

NOTICES.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that the sub-branches of the bank at Tregaron and Ystradmynach will be converted into full branches on Thursday, January 1, 1925, the former under the management of Mr A. L. Roberts, of the Lampeter branch, and the latter under the management of Mr T. M. Oule, of the Bargoed branch.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce that they have opened a new branch at Shirley (Birmingham), under the management of Mr H. H. Hopkins, who is also manager of the Hall Green, Birmingham, branch.

ANALYSIS OF BALANCE-SHEETS.

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO.

LIABILITIES.		September 30, 1924.	ASSETS.		Compared with Sept. 30, 1923.		
Amount.		£	Amount.	£			
Ord. shares, £1 ..	16,071,402 ..	+	75	Real estate and bldgs. at cost	488,449 ..	+	4,403
6% cum. pref., £1 ..	4,500,000 ..			Plant, &c.	497,433 ..	+	24,186
Creditors ..	4,922,452 ..	+	277,656	Goodwill, &c.	200,000 ..		..
Reserves for building, &c.	500,000 ..		..	Loans to & current accounts with associat'd companies	6,459,854 ..	+	1,647,995
Premium on ord. shares ..	462,433 ..	+	17,466	Investments in associat'd companies	16,032,944 ..	+	412,569
Provision for redemption of coupons ..	55,670 ..	+	6,703	Stocks	6,148,602 ..	+	682,208
Special reserve ..	1,271,817 ..	+	14,102	Sundry debtors	651,963 ..	+	442,747
Profit and loss ..	5,521,256 ..	+	542,985	Cash ..	2,825,785 ..	+	1,421,255
Total	33,305,030 ..	+	858,987	Total	33,305,030 ..	+	858,987

COMPANY NEWS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or stated in Cash.		Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Interim div. † Final div.			Last Year	Previous Year
TEA AND RUBBER.						
Assam Consolidated Tea	4%*	..	..	Less tax	6	10
Braunton Rubber	3%*	Jan. 22	..	Tax free	7	7
Canio (Malay) Rubber	5%*	..	..	Less tax	10	..
Kuala Perlant Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax at 4/6 in £	5	10
Lumut Rubber	..	..	..	Less tax	..	..
United Temiang Rubber	7½%*	..	..	..	..	..
Zaloni Tea	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mining.						
Burma Corporation	6s. p.s.*	Feb. 16	..	Tax free	82	82
Ferreira Deep	5%*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Gabait Tributing Syndicate	10%*	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Wankie Colliery	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Companies.						
Aberdeen, Newcastle, and Hull Steam	5%†	..	..	Tax free	10	10
Real Spinning	3½ p.s.	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	15½	13½
Benn Bros.	6½%*	..	..	Tax free	..	..
Dee Spinning	12½%	..	..	Quarterly	..	..
Drake Spinning	19 p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Eagle Spinning	6*	Dec. 30	..	..	..	..
Edward and John Burke	4*	..	..	Tax free	..	..
English China Clay	30%	..	..	Less tax	7	7
Gorse Spinning	4%	Jan. 31	..	Less tax at 4/8 in £	..	..
Great Yarmouth Waterworks	1½ p.s.*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Hall and Co.	5½ p.s.*	Jan. 15	..	..	..	..
Hardy's Crown Brewery	1½%*	..	..	..	..	..
International Harvester	10*	Jan. 2	..	Quarterly	..	..
Kapp and Peterson	12%	..	..	..	..	..
Mackay Companies	5%	Jan. 12	..	Less tax	..	..
Marconi International Marine Communication	6*	Jan. 15	..	..	..	..
North British Cold Storage	12%†	Feb. 12	..	..	4½ p.s.	nil
North Eastern Breweries	4%	..	..	..	82	100
Quebec Power	\$1 p.s.*	..	..	..	15	6
Reading Co.	..	Dec. 22	..	Less tax	8	nil
Selby Spinning	5%*	..	..	Less tax	..	..
Stoll Picture Theatre	10*	..	..	..	..	..
Tamplin and Son's Brewery	..	..	..	..	..	..
Twyford's	5%	..	..	Less tax	..	..
United Service Transport Co.	7½%*	Jan. 1	..	Less tax	..	..
Wardrop & Co. Silkatone Colliery	..	..	..	..	..	..

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Dividend Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.			Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.		Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.
					Prefee.	Ordinary.			
					Amount.	Amount.	Rate.		Dividend.
Banks.									
Ulster Bank	Nov. 29	92,555	211,378	303,933	£	£	%	£	£
Western Australian	Sept. 29*	32,541	40,878	73,419	..	82,344	21½	130,000	91,589
Financial, Land, &c.									
Oilfields Finance	June 30	Dr 34,903	Dr 5,605	Dr 40,518	..	..	..	Dr 40,518	Dr 2,958
Iron, Coal, and Steel.									
United Strip and Bar Mills	June 30	Dr 42,698	12,588	Dr 30,110	..	..	..	Dr 30,110	Dr 36,280
Rubber, &c.									
Braunston (Malay)	Sept. 30	3,159	5,103	8,262	..	5,070	6	..	3,192
F.M.S. Timah	June 30	Dr 37,254	Dr 127	Dr 37,381	..	..	..	Dr 37,381	6,472
Langen Java	Aug. 31	5,336	11,087	16,423	..	10,000	8	..	..
Majedie (Johore)	Sept. 30	3,025	228	3,253	..	..	..	6,423	13,480
Tikam Batu	June 30	Dr 594	Dr 1,192	Dr 1,786	..	..	..	3,253	2,964
United Temiang	July 31	14,033	7,128	21,161	..	8,000	5	Dr 1,786	Dr 594
Other Companies.									
British-American Tobacco	Sept. 30	3,531,771	4,866,266	8,398,036	225,000	4,258,921	26½	..	13,161
Stoll Picture Theatre (Kingsway)	Nov. 3	5,898	31,075	36,973	12,750	11,431	8½	5,000	15,945
								3,914,115	4,494,972
								7,792	25,337

* Half-year.

† Tax free.

to the continued strength for forward values. No. 1 Northern Manitoba quoted 71s 6d, No. 2 ditto 70s 6d, No. 2 hard winter 68s, and choice white Karachi 65s 6d, all per 496 lbs ex ship terms. In the floating and forward cargo section a good demand prevailed, particularly for white descriptions, and prices were further advanced in sympathy with higher American cables and reserved sellers. Australian January sold 65s 4½d to 65s 9d, March 65s 9d, choice white Karachi January 63s, Rosafe 64½ lbs, December 65s, 64 lbs January-February 64s 9d, and ditto 63½ lbs, January-February 64s 6d, and No. 1 Northern Duluth afloat 64s 3d. Maize cargoes also very firm, and holders reserved in face of sustained inquiries on Continental account. A steamer of yellow South Russian February-March sold at 46s, all per 480 lbs c.i.f. terms.

IRON, STEEL, AND COAL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent's report, dated December 22nd, is as follows:—Pig-iron: The market is very quiet, and it is not expected that there will be much business doing now until after the Christmas and New Year holidays. The price of No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. is quoted to-day at 81s 6d, and mixed numbers East Coast hematite at 88s per ton. Manufactured iron and steel: Works have recently secured a few more orders, but specifications are rather slow in coming forward. Some improvement is looked for after the holidays. Some of the local steel works are closing for a fortnight, whilst others are only closing three days each week. Quotations are unchanged, as follows:—Steel ship plates, £9 15s; steel ship angles, £9 10s; iron bars, £12; steel rails, £9. Iron ore: There is practically no new business to report, and best Rubio is still quoted on the basis of 22s 6d per ton, c.i.f. Tees.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business in iron and steel material is confined to small lots to cover immediate requirements, and notwithstanding the improved outlook for finished goods users of pig-iron and billets are displaying unwonted caution with respect to 1925 commitments. Owing to this cause prices have eased off during the last few days, and orders could be placed at the former quotations. Trade in basic pig and steel is in a state of extreme depression, and a large proportion of the limited consumption is coming from the Continent. Increased work from the British railway companies is being booked in the axle, tyre, and spring departments, but very little is coming from India, formerly our best overseas market. South America is buying a little liberally, and promises to be a better customer next year than during the present twelve months. Engineering is looking up, and the depression in the machine tool department appears to have come to an end. Agricultural engineers, however, are still unable to obtain work from overseas, and South America continues to be a lost market for farm machines and implements. There is an improving demand for steel forgings and castings made from acid steel. House coal has sold rather more freely last week and this week, but sales are greatly below normal. Steams are a little firmer, but producers of coke seem anxious to book orders. Hand-picked branch is quoted at 30s to 32s, Yorkshire hard at 20s, Blyth hard at 18s 6d to 19s, and Durham hard at 22s 6d to 23s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes as follows:—In the iron, steel, and coal trades in the West of Scotland activity is chiefly confined to clearing off necessary requirements prior to the holiday stoppage. In the coal trade, export, which has been somewhat improved of late, has practically stopped for the year, but the prospects for the re-start are described as fair. The pig-iron market has gone back somewhat, with prices inclined to drop; but with the general improvement in the trading position abroad the optimism which is general in the iron and steel trade is justifiable. Several works intend closing down for the New Year holidays on the 30th inst., and extending the vacation till the middle of January; but others find the usual eight or ten days sufficient, and have a fair amount of work on hand with which to start the year.

Although fresh business is rather quiet, it is known that the placing of several good contracts has been held over till January. Sheet-makers, especially those engaged in the light sheet trade, are fully booked up, and colonial and foreign inquiries for galvanised sheets are very numerous. Several hundred tons have been placed locally for February shipment to India, and dealers have inquiries for March and April delivery. Structural engineers report good orders on hand, and estimates for prospective work more in evidence than for some considerable time. Wagon-builders are busy, and the locomotive and general engineering trade are fairly well provided with work.

METALS.

The market for tin displayed firmer features on improved inquiries, though movements were somewhat irregular, values opened 75s per ton dearer compared with close of last week. Standard cash quoted £265 10s-£265 15s, three months £268 10s-£268 15s. Settlement price £265 10s. Sales 1,100 tons, cash at £265 10s-£265 5s, and £265 10s, three months £269-£270, and finally £268 10s. English ingots £266 10s-£267 10s. Copper active at an advance of 15s per ton cash and 12s 6d forward. Standard cash quoted £66 10s-£66 12s 6d, three months £67 10s-£67 12s 6d. Settlement price £66 10s. 2,100 tons changed hands, cash at £66 7s 6d to £66 10s, three months £67 10s-£67 7s 6d, and £67 12s 6d. Electrolytic 15s-£71 5s, wire bars £71 5s. Lead irregular and occasionally the turn easier. 1,600 tons sold, good soft foreign pig, December, sold £42 10s, January £42, February £41 10s-£41, March £40 10s-£39 17s 6d-£40 2s 6d. Settlement price £42 12s 6d. English quoted £44 ton. Spelter firm, with fair sales. 900 tons changed hands, December at £37 17s 6d, February £37 10s-£37 12s 6d, March £37 7s 6d-£37 8s 9d, April £37 7s 6d-£37 8s 9d. Settlement price £37 17s 6d per ton. At the final session tin 40s to 50s ton dearer. Cash sold at £267 5s, three months £271 5s. Copper 7s 6d ton dearer. Near dates sold £66 16s 3d, three months £67 17s 6d. Lead and spelter also hardened on sustained buying orders. Quicksilver firmer. Spot £12 10s to £12 12s 6d per bottle. Tin plates unaltered.

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writing on Monday, says:—Business is more or less at a standstill, and although the tone of the market is fairly good, there is not really enough doing in tops and yarns to test values. Quotations are nominally unchanged, but the position favours the buyer, and in most qualities concessions could be obtained for definite orders. However, confidence is still expressed in the future, and it is expected that trade will revive early in the New Year. In order to show the course of prices during the past year, the following tabulation has been compiled:—

COLONIAL WOOL IN LONDON.									
First Cost, Clean, per lb, without Oil.									
	Feb.	April.	May.	July.	Oct.	Dec.			
	d	d	d	d	d	d			
70's super fleece	73	76	75	76	80	85			
64's good pieces	64	66	67	67	72	73			
56's fine c'brd. fleeces	47	47	45	44	54	57			
46's crossbred fleeces	26	27	26	24	28	35			

BRITISH WOOL (Bradford quotations per lb.)

	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
	d	d	d	d
Southdown	31	31	36	37
Cheviot hog	26	25½	31	32
Kent tegs	23	22	25	27½
Irish hog, pick and super	23	22	24½	26½
Lincoln hog	18½	18	19½	23
Scotch blackfaced	12½	12½	13½	15

TOPS IN OIL (Bradford quotations per lb.)

	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
	d	d	d	d
64's warp	71½	69	82½	80
60's super	65	63	75	75
58's average	54	53	61	62½
46's carded	28½	27	31	35
40's prepared	27½	26	29	32½

WORSTED YARNS (Bradford quotations per lb.)

	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.
	s	s	s	s
1-30's super, demi-lustre, 44-46's	3 4	3 10	4 0	4 3
2-24's, 46's	3 2	3 2	3 4	3 9
2-20's, 50's	3 11	3 11	4 0	4 4
2-48's, 70's	7 4	7 2	8 0	8 2

COLONIAL WOOL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

In our last communication we dealt specially with the New Zealand sales and the present standing of crossbred values. The question is well worth referring to again, because of the marketing of the new clip, the last sale of this year taking place at Dunedin on December 22nd. The new season opens on January 5th, hence the Christmas recess is going to be very short indeed. When the programme of sale dates was arranged only auctions up to January 31st were agreed upon, but we are now able to give readers the selling dates for the balance of the season. The principal qualities of wool sold at the respective centres are shown below, along with the dates:—

		46's to 64's
January	5, Christchurch	46's to 64's
	9, Wanganui	36's
	14, Napier	36's
	19, Wellington	36's
	23, Dunedin	46's
	28, Invercargill	46's
	31, Timaru	46's
February	5, Christchurch	46's
	10, Auckland	44's
	14, Wanganui	36's
	18, Napier	36's
	27, Christchurch	46's
	4, Invercargill	44's
March	9, Dunedin	46's
	13, Timaru	46's
	18, Napier	36's
	20, Wanganui	36's
	24, Auckland	44's
	27, Wellington	36's
	31, Christchurch	46's
April	3, Dunedin	46's

It can now be said that practically all the initial advance at Wellington, on November 15th, has disappeared, and the home trade is generally agreed that the rise was never warranted by the state of trade. The spurt was largely the outcome of sentiment and speculation, and not based upon actual or prospective needs.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL OFFICIAL QUOTATIONS—December 19, 1924.

Descriptions.	Official Quotations.									
	G.O.	SGO.	LM.	SLM.	Md.	SM.	GM.	SGM.	MF.	
American	111-58	112-18	12-58	12-98	13-28	13-58	13-78	14-13	14-63	
	146	86	45	5	25	25	75	110	160	
	off	off	off	on	on	on	on	on	on	
	Mid. Fair.			14-53			Gd. Fair.			
Brazilian—										
Pernam, Macao, &c.	13-03			14-53			15-53			
Parahyba, Rio	13-03			14-53			15-53			
Grande	13-03			14-53			15-53			
Ceara, &c.	13-28			13-78			14-28			
Sao Paulo	M.F.	Fair.		Gd. Fr.	Good.		Fine.			
Peruvian	11-97			11-97			12-25			
Rough	14-03	17-00		18-00			19-00			
Moderately rough	14-03	14-78		15-53			16-03			
Smooth	15-78	16-28		17-03			18-03			
Tangul	20-00			21-50			22-50			
Mitaf	Fair.	Gd. Fr.		F.G.F.	Good.		Fine.	Ex. Fine.		
Egyptian	17-75	18-70		19-25			20-65		21-20	
Upper	22-10	27-85		28-60			30-10		34-10	
Sakellaris	19-65	20-80		21-55			22-30		24-25	
Brown										
Soudan	Mid. M.F.	Fair.		Gd. Fr.	Good.		Fine.	Ex. Fine.		
	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
West Indian	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Do Sea Island	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
East African	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
	Mid. M.F.	Fair.		Gd. Fr.	Good.		Fine.	Ex. Fine.		
West African	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Australian	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
East Indian	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Surtee	11-35	11-75		12-15			12-55		13-35	
Broach	12-30	12-70		13-10			13-50		14-30	
Tinnivelly	11-35	11-45		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Amer. Bind/Punjab	11-95	12-35		12-75			13-15		13-55	
*Western	11-20	12-60		13-00			13-40		13-80	
*Northern	(Fair, 11-25)	11-55		11-55			11-55		11-55	
Cocoonada	11-25	11-50		12-00			12-50		13-00	
Comptah	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Comra, No. 1	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Comra, No. 2	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Khandesh	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Bengal	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	
Bind	11-50	11-50		11-50			11-50		11-50	

* Hand-ginned 40 points less.

MANCHESTER, December 22.

The market has continued to present a more cheerful appearance, and producers are in a healthier position as a result of the

recent increase in the turnover in yarn and cloth. Business, however, has been disturbed by the holidays, and no further developments of any importance can be expected until after the turn of the year. A steady demand has been reported in cloth for India, especially in light fabrics. Only occasional sales have been mentioned for China. In a variety of goods several of the smaller markets East and West have provided a number of small contracts, which in the aggregate have totalled to moderate dimensions. Manufacturers all round are fairly well sold. Quotations in American yarns continue rather firmer, but buying has been irregular. The Egyptian yarn market remains disturbed by the fluctuations in raw material rates.

(I.) Comparative Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	Price, Dec. 22, 1924.	Previous Weeks in 1924.				
		Dec. 18.	Dec. 11.	Dec. 4.	Nov. 27.	Nov. 20.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American	d	d	d	d	d	d
— Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	13-34	13-36	13-02	13-08	13-55	13-72
Yarns—32's twist	29-25	29-10	28-70	26-50	26-00	25-80
— 40's twist	23-1	23-3	23-4	23-3	24-1	24-1
— 60's twist (Egyptian)	42	42	41	39	38½	37½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds, 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	36 6	36 6	36 6	36 6	37 0	37 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	41 3	41 3	41 3	41 3	41 9	41 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds, 18 by 18, 10 lbs.	19 1½	19 1½	19 1½	19 1½	19 3	19 6
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs	17 6	17 6	17 6	17 6	18 0	18 0

(II.) Compared with Previous Years.

The Economist

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

New Series.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1924.

No. 14.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations,* supplemented from our own statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s 6d. Constable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

FOR another month British trade has held its ground, a condition for which the best that can be said is that it is better than at the corresponding season of last year, when we were suffering from a summer depression. Moreover, this general statement is only true in a broad way. Certain industries—notably the export coal, the iron, and the early stages of the steel industry—have been slipping back, but, on the other hand, a certain amount of improvement has taken place in some branches of the textile industries, especially cotton. Unemployment remains practically unchanged, and average prices in June remained extremely steady. But, just as last year an improvement began after July was over, there seem to be certain indications suggesting a similar history this year. In the first place, an improvement in cotton would bring about a better balance in British industry generally, for, in the light of the last 50 years of British history, it is difficult to imagine brisk and prosperous trade in the rest of the country while Lancashire is in a state of stagnation. A lower price for raw cotton, as a result of a good cotton crop, would give substance to present hopes of better things. Again, there has been a slight movement in the right direction in shipbuilding, Lloyd's Register recording an increase in the work under construction as against a reduction of one million tons in the merchant fleets of the world, mainly due to the breaking up of old ships. This process of taking antiquated shipping off the market is the first condition for a revival of shipping, and the progress made in twelve months is encouraging. A third important consideration is that the latest reports from the United States indicate that the set-back to American trade which occurred this spring does not now seem likely to lead to a serious depression, but that in several directions recovery is to be looked for. This is to some extent due to the fact that in the northern hemisphere generally (but particularly in Canada and the United States) the wheat crop is expected to be less than a year ago, and prices

are already hardening. It is expected that this will lead to a better balance of purchasing power between the agricultural and industrial communities of America, and as British crop reports are also favourable, it would seem that the farmer in this country will share in this benefit. Whether this is altogether a sound ground for expecting improvement is not quite certain. Larger shipments of

wheat may perhaps come out of Russia this year, and, in any case, with so large a proportion of British wages based on index figures, a rise in the cost of living will not help Great Britain in industrial competition.

Financial indications, like the direct indices of industry, show little variation. Stock Exchange securities generally are unchanged, and though the index of industrial securities is very slightly higher, the change is so small as to be of no significance. The greatest change in the financial figure is in respect of bankers' advances to industry, which are substantially higher than a year ago, and though we have not yet an index of production, we believe this change is a reflection of a substantially larger turnover of trade generally than in July, 1923.

The situation overseas is in most countries a little better than at the date of our last report, the only important exceptions being those countries which are directly concerned with the reparation crisis. Germany, Belgium, and France are in a state of suspense, and are clearly awaiting the outcome of the present Conference. South America, the Far East, and the Dominions are, if anything, all making a little headway. So far as the international trade situation is concerned, however, it cannot be said that in any quarter speculative optimism exists by way of an anticipation of a settlement in Europe. If such a settlement occurs, it will undoubtedly give a fresh outlet for enterprise, and may be expected to strengthen substantially other favourable influences to which we have referred. The following notes on conditions in various trades and

quite an accumulation of hides and skins of all sorts. Business in imported hides has slowed down, owing to the holidays, but frigorifics have recovered from their temporary weakness, and 9½d has been made for Argentine ox, and 11d for Uruguay ox. Saladeros remain firm, and dry B.A. Americanos have realised 11½d for 10/11 kilos average. All other classes of dry hides are quiet, but firm in price. Latest cables from New York report the Chicago position as weak, with best heavy packers now offering at 16½ cents—a fall of 1½ cents, as against last prices.

Boot manufacturers have been hardly pressed for deliveries of boots and shoes for the Christmas trade, and most of the factories in Leicester, Northampton, Norwich, and Stafford have been very busy dispatching goods during the past week. Taken all round, the year closes with a very hopeful feeling in the allied leather trades.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE MARKETS.

Mincing Lane, Tuesday, December 23.

SUGAR.—No change occurred in prices of spot parcels, with a moderate business passing in British makes. Of imported white Mauritius, spot, quoted 30s 6d; Dutch granulated ditto, 30s 7½d; Czecho ditto, 30s 9d; Belgian, 30s 3d; Hungarian crystals, 30s 3d. Forward positions quiet. Czecho granulated, ready, 17s 6d; January-March, 17s 9d, f.o.b., Hamburg. White Java, May-June shipment, quoted, 17s 9d, c.i.f., U.K. Raw kinds remain slow of sale. Peruvian, basis 96 per cent., prompt, quoted 14s 9d, and Cuban, February-March, 13s 9d; Brazilian, basis 80 per cent., December-January, sold, 14s, c.i.f., U.K. English-grown granulated, prompt delivery, 31s, ex works, Norfolk, and 31s 3d, ex works, Nottingham. White terminal irregular, and a fair business transpired. December sold at 17s 1½d; February, 17s 3d; March, 17s 4½d; May, 17s 7½d to 17s 6d; August, 17s 10½d to 17s 7½d per cwt.

COFFEE.—Spot market fully steady, with sustained inquiries for all the finer home trade qualities, and which continue to be sparingly offered.

COCOA.—Spot market quiet. Accra, for shipment, F.F. quality, January-March, quoted 41s 6d per cwt.

TEA.—Market quiet in absence of public sales, but rates show no material alteration.

SPICE.—Pepper steady. Black Singapore L.S., January-March, quoted 5½d; Lampong ditto, 5½d; Muntok, January-March, 10½d; March-May, 11d. Zanzibar cloves, spot, 1s to 1s 1d, as to quality; October-December, 11½d; January-March, 11d per lb. Tapioca quiet. Singapore flake, to Havre, January-March, sellers, 20s; Penang seed ditto, to London, 20s 6d. Sago flour, January-March, 17s. Desiccated coconut, fine cut, spot, 39s 3d; medium, 39s 6d; halves, December-January, 39s; January-February, 39s 9d per cwt. Ginger firm. Japan, spot, 105s; January-March shipment, 92s per cwt, c.i.f.

RICE remains quiet, though held for generally steady rates. Two stars, spot, quoted 18s; January-February, 14s 9d; February-March, 14s 7½d. Spanish, prompt shipment, 23s 6d to 23s 9d; Italian ditto, 22s 3d. Broken kinds dull. Japanese peas, spot, 25s; January-February, 25s 1½d. Rangoon beans, hand picked, spot, 12s 9d; for shipment, 13s. Madagascar butter beans, spot, 40s to 42s, as to quality; December-January, 35s per cwt.

JUTE.—Market firmer, and sellers showed more reserve. Firsts, to Continent, November-December, sold, £38 10s; January-February, £38 10s; February-March, £38 5s to £38 15s. Lightnings, December-January, also January-February, £36 15s; and February-March, £37 per ton. Hessians and twills firm, with moderate inquiries.

HEMP.—Manila firmer, and holders reserved. J grade, December-February, sold, £56; K ditto, £55; L, £54; and M, £52 10s per ton. New Zealand remains quiet, nominal. African sisal, No. 1, Tanganyika, November-January, quoted £49; and No. 1 Kenya, ditto, £48 per ton.

SHELLAC dull. T.N., spot, quoted 31s 5s to 320s; March, 285s; and May, 280s cwt.

COPRA quiet, but fully steady. F.M.S., Straits to Rotterdam, December-January, also February-March, quoted £30 13s 9d; Dutch E.I., ditto, £30 8s 9d; Ceylon, December-January, £31 15s; South Sea Islands, £29 15s. Palm kernels, to Liverpool, January-March, quoted £23 ton.

RUBBER active, and again dearer. Plantation standard, crepe, a lso sheet, spot, to January-March, sold, 1s 7½d to 1s 7½d; April-June, 1s 7½d to 1s 7½d; July-September, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d. Fine hard Para, spot, 1s 7d; soft fine, 1s 5d. To New York, ribbed smoked sheet, December-January, also January-February, sold, 1s 7½d per lb, c.i.f. terms. London stock of plantation is returned at 29,681 tons, being a reduction of 1,665 tons on the week.

FLOUR firmer. London standard straight run quoted 53s; patents, 55s to 56s; town whites, 53s per sack delivered in London area. Imported quiet, Manitoba ranges from 50s to 53s, as to quality; Minneapolis, 50s to 52s; and Australian, 47s to 48s, all per 280 lbs ex-store.

BARLEY.—Firm but quiet. Californian quoted 69s to 71s; Chilian Chevalier, 84s to 87s; Polish ex-store, 60s to 68s per 448 lbs; No. 3 Canadian Western, ex-ship, 41s 3d; No. 4, ditto, 40s; landed, 42s; American malting (48 lbs) ex-ship, 39s 9d; landed, 41s 9d per 400 lbs. English ranges from 10s 9d and 20s per 112 lbs free on rail.

MAIZE again firmer. Plate, ex-ship, quoted 44s 6d; ditto, landed, 46s; and Odessa, in latter position, 46s per 480 lbs.

OATS firm for landed parcels. Plate, ex ship, quoted 29s; ditto, landed, 30s 6d; No. 2 Canadian Western, ex ship, 34s 6d; ditto, landed, 35s 9d; American white clipped (38 lbs), landed, at 31s; all per 320 lbs. English, 9s to 10s 4d per 112 lbs, free on rail.

MILLERS' OFFALS quiet but firm. Broad bran quoted 9s; middlings, 9s 9d; fine ditto, 11s 9d, bags included, ex mill; powdered oat husks, 9s 9d; feed oatmeal, 10s 9d; ground oats, 14s 3d; all per cwt, free on rail.

OATMEAL quiet at the recent advance. London-made, flaked, 2cs 6d; rolled oats, 20s; medium, also fine cut, 20s; coarse and medium pinhead, 20s; ordinary Scottish oatmeal, 20s 6d; American and Canadian rolled oats, 21s 6d per cwt.

CANNED GOODS.—Market remains without new feature, but the general tone is firm, and prices display a hardening tendency regarding fruits. Quotations:—Sardines, Portuguese, ½ flats, 4s to 4s 3d; clubs, 4s 6d to 5s; 12 oz, 6s 6d to 7s 6d; 18 oz, 11s to 12s 6d per dozen tins. Salmon, 1 lb flat reds, labelled, 55s to 58s; ditto, tail, 47s 6d to 48s 6d; 1 lb tall, pink, 25s to 26s; case of 96 ½ lbs, 29s to 30s per case. Canned fruits firm, with only moderate supplies available. Singapore pines, 48 1½s, 5s 6d to 5s 9d; cubes, 2½s, 9s 6d to 10s; slices, 48 1½s, 5s to 5s 3d; Californian apricots, 2½s, 8s to 10s 6d; ditto, 1½s, 5s 3d to 5s 6d; pears, 2½s, 14s 6d to 16s 6d; peaches, 2½s, 9s 6d to 11s 6d; ditto, 1½s, 6s 3d; fruit salad, 1½s, 10s 6d; 2½s, 20s; loganberries, 10s to 11s 6d per dozen tins. Meats: Firm, and finest brands of corned beef 7s 6d to 10s dearer, owing to sustained Continental inquiries. Danish lunch tongues quiet for small sizes, but 6 lb tins sell readily. Condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, in fair demand at steady prices, but machine-skimmed again easier, owing to lack of support. Honey: New Zealand continues in good demand at full rates, and sellers reserved.

FRUIT (Dried).—General trade remained very quiet, as usual at this period of the year, and prices for the most part without material alteration. Quotations:—Currants: Pyrgos, ½ cases, 42s; ½ bags, 40s 6d; Amalia, ½ cases, 43s to 44s; Patras, ditto, 46s to 48s; Gulph, 50s to 51s; finest, 53s; Vostizza, 58s to 62s. Sultanias quiet. New Smyrna, good quality, 54s; finer, 65s to 70s; Carrabourra, 83s to 85s. Figs quietly steady. Naturals, in bags, 34s to 39s; layers, large boxes, 55s to 67s 6d. Raisins: Valencia in small supply. Australian, ½ cases, 38s to 40s. Dates in good demand at full rates. Hallowee, spot, 20s; Khadowie, 17s 6d; and Sair, 14s 9d to 15s. Evaporated fruits firm. Californian apricots, standards, old crop, 78s to 80s; choice, 90s; new, extra choice, 110s to 112s 6d; fancy, 125s. Peaches, old, choice, 48s; new extra choice, 57s; fancy, 65s. Plums, Oregon size, 30/40, 66s; 40/50, 54s; Californian, 70/80, 44s per cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts quoted 25s per 100. Coir yarn: Ceylon, £23 to £39; Cochlin, £21 10s to £48. Ceylon bristle, £21 to £28 10s; cinnamon leaf oil, 5d; Citronella: Ceylon, 3s 1d; Java, 6s.

OILSEEDS.—Linseed firm, and in fair demand. Calcutta, afloat, £24; December-January, £24 2s 6d paid; April-May, £24 1s 3d. Plate, afloat, £22 10s; December-January, £22 12s 6d; January-February, sold, £22 12s 6d. Rapeseed dull. Toria, new, December-January, £21 5s; and real bold Ferozepore, November-December, £21 15s. Cottonseed steady. Egyptian, black, December-January, £13 13s 9d. Sakellaridis, December-January, £13 2s 6d. Bombay, December-January, £10 17s 6d. Gingly seed quiet. Chinese, December-January, £28. Groundnuts quiet. Coromandel, machine-dried, December-January, £24 12s 6d; Chinese decorticated, f.a.q., December-January, £23 15s; East African, November-December, £26 15s. Soya beans steady. Manchurian, November-December, £12 18s 9d; December-January, £12 17s 6d. Castor seed weak. Bombay, December-January, £24 per ton.

OILS.—Linseed steady. Spot, net, naked, 48s 6d; January, 47s 6d; January-April, 48s; May-August, 48s 3d. Rape nominal.

Crude, spot, 51s 6d; refined, 54s 6d. Castor-oil quiet. First pressure, spot, quoted 70s; second pressure, 66s to 68s; and pharmaceutical, 75s per cwt; Hull, with London, 2s per cwt extra.

Cotton firmer. Crude Egyptian, spot, 47s 3d; Bombay, 45s; common edible, 52s; deodorised, 54s. Chinawood dull. Hankow, spot (barrels), 79s 6d; December-January, 77s. Cocoa-nut firm. Ceylon, spot, 48s 6d; December-January, 48s 3d; Cochlin, ditto, nominally 62s 6d. Soya steady. Oriental, barrels, December-January, 45s 6d; bulk, 42s 9d. Cod steady. English, spot, 36s to 37s. Groundnuts quiet. English, crushed, naked, spot, 56s; deodorised, barrels, 66s. Turpentine irregular. American spot, 60s 3d; January-April, 61s 3d. Rosin firm. American, grade B, 16s 6d; G, 17s; W.G., 19s 9d; W.W., 21s 6d per cwt. French W.W., 20s 3d per cwt. Petroleum steady. American, standard white, spot, 1s 1d; and water white, 1s 2d per gallon.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—DECEMBER 22.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs to sink the offal. Sheep, per stone.

Beasts—Herefords	d	s	d	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	d	s	d
Shorthorns	6	4	to 7	Canadian	4	4	to 4
Devons	nominal			Sheep—Downs	10	8	12
Norfolks	nominal			Ewes	7	4	8
Scottish	6	6	7	Crossbred			
Irish	6	6	7	Scottish			
Fat Cows				Lamb—Downs			

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—DECEMBER 22.

English—King Edwards	Per Cwt.	Blackland—	Per Cwt.
British Queens	10	King Edwards	8
Majestic	8	Evergoods	8
	6		0
	9		0
	0		0

The NET COST
of an **ANTICIPATED BONUS POLICY**
in the **NATIONAL PROVIDENT**
is considerably less
than that of
any **NON-PROFIT** policy.
Write for particulars to:—
48 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD *Continued from page 1.*

industries call attention to some of the most striking tendencies:—

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Iron and Steel.—The dullness of the iron and steel trades is partly attributable to holidays and stocktaking, July and August being the slackest months of the year in the best of times. In addition, the fall in fuel prices, especially coke, while bound to be beneficial in the long run, is at the moment causing buyers to hold off in expectation of a further scaling-down of prices. Foreign competition is also an important factor at the moment, although some observers believe that the pace is too hot to last, and any improvement in the Continental metallurgical position would immediately remove a good deal of pressure from the British market. The returns of production in June showed, as was anticipated, a considerable falling-off, the pig-iron output being 607,800 tons, as compared with 650,900 tons in May, and that of steel ingots and castings 651,500 tons, against 809,700 tons in the preceding month. The June figures are considerably below those of the same month last year. In 1923, however, a marked decline was recorded in July and August, so that last month's steel production was, in point of fact, greater than in either of those "holiday" months last year. A similar slackening of activity seems likely in the present instance. Pig-iron output has certainly been in excess of demand for the last week or two. Forge iron, for instance, is described as "practically a drug on the market," and the accumulation of stocks is reported from more than one centre. In other directions, such as hematite, reduced consumption corresponds more closely with existing requirements. Trade in special branches is more satisfactory, orders for tin plates, for instance, extending over the summer months, and in some cases to the end of the year. Galvanised sheets are greatly in demand, especially for foreign account.

Coal.—The coal trade remains quiet, and short-time working is being resorted to in numerous pits. Gas and house coals are passing through the quietest period of the year, domestic needs having been still further affected by the recent spell of hot weather, though a slight improvement next month is not unlikely. Industrial demand is small, supplies of coke, in particular, being more than ample for current requirements. The export trade remains slack, coal from the Ruhr being in keen competition with the British product. Best steam coal continues to find a market fairly readily, but the inferior varieties are not in great demand. Competition between various home producing areas is much in evidence, and the trend of prices is downwards.

Engineering.—The engineering trades, as a whole, have maintained or improved their position during the past month. Inquiries for ship construction are less in evidence after the recent "spurt," but the undertone is not unsatisfactory. Contracts for public works are still being placed by local authorities, of considerable magnitude in some cases. A large engineering firm has secured a further locomotive contract from India, and certain harbour and dock orders from other parts of the Empire. Overseas demand is in evidence also, in the machine-tool trade. Textile-machinery construction shows more activity, a number of Lancashire mills being engaged in replacing worn and out-of-date equipment. The electrical manufacturing industry is as busy as ever. Midland motor-car firms continue to work on active lines, though some falling-off in the next month or two, from seasonal causes, would not be unexpected. The motor-cycle industry reports a maintenance of prosperous conditions, orders, both home and foreign, tending to increase rather than to decline. **Hardware and Cutlery.**—In plate and cutlery generally, business has been of larger dimensions lately, increased demand being recorded in both cheaper and high-grade lines. Conditions in the hardware trade are moderately satisfactory.

Cotton.—The experience of cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire, writes our Manchester correspondent, has improved during the past month, and the general prospects can be described as brighter. There has been a tendency for inquiry to broaden, and although a large part of the demand has been at unworkable rates, the sales in many quarters have been of a more encouraging character. As is usual at this time of the year news relating to the progress of the crop in the United States has been followed very closely. Some operators are beginning to fear that the output next season will not be so large as at one time expected. The outlook remains very uncertain, and the crop may be anything from 12,000,000 to 14,000,000 bales. Spinners of American yarns continue to struggle against adverse conditions. More orders have recently been booked in medium and fine counts, but coarse numbers still lag behind. Producers of Egyptian yarns

have maintained their position, and a steady business has been done from week to week. In export yarns rather more inquiry has come through for India, and increased activity has also shown itself in coarse counts for Holland, and in extra hard descriptions for the Near East. Manufacturers of cloth have reported a large and increasing inquiry. A feature of interest has been the freer operations in standard grey goods for India. Shippers to China have not given any general support, most of the demand having run on white shirtings. There are now indications of rather more activity for Egypt and the Near Eastern outlets, and a fair amount of buying is taking place for Singapore and the Straits Settlements. Continental demand remains quieter, but something continues to be done in fancies for the United States. There are reports of better clearances in the home trade section, and some buyers are rather more prepared to place orders with makers. Compared with a month ago, a few more looms are working in certain Lancashire towns, and increased employment is available for the operatives.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—June was a period of quiet business, though the tone at London wool sales, and at local auctions of this year's clip, has been better than was expected. Manufacturers maintain their unwillingness to grant reductions of price, and towards the end of June the scarcity of new business at present rates caused some spinning firms to reduce their working hours. The woollen section remains more prosperous than the worsted, recent events having accentuated this difference in respective fortune. Export business is satisfactory. Some light on wage conditions, in relation to the unrest at present existing among workers in the industry, is furnished by the figures of the Wool Textile Delegation of the Federation of British Industries. The average weekly wage of some 50,000 operatives in different branches of the industry fell sharply during the latter part of 1923, but recovered appreciably in the first quarter of the present year. In this respect, however, the worsted has lagged behind the woollen branch, and the belief that the industry could bear a further increase was probably at the bottom of the operatives' refusal to accept a twelve-months' renewal of the existing wages agreement.

Boots and Shoes.—Demand is well maintained, and some factories have lately adopted overtime working. Orders, as a rule, run well into August, and seasonal influences, making for a slackening of production, have not up to the present been of very much importance.

Chemicals.—Though markets are usually quiet during summer months, demand has so far been steady, and is, on balance, rather stronger than a month ago. Slightly improved prospects in the cotton industry are no doubt reflected in this state of affairs.

Shipping.—Prevailing tendencies in the freight markets are still unfavourable. The *Economist's* Index Number fell to 108.6 in June, against 114.3 in May and a maximum of 123.8 attained in February last (1913 = 100). The index has now fallen below the 1923 average for the first time during the present year. For this a falling-away in demand for grain tonnage from the Plate is chiefly responsible, together with a less extensive decline in Canadian and United States requirements. The supply of available tonnage seems lately to have increased to an extent which upset shipowners' calculations, but unless European grain purchases prove to be on a larger scale than at present anticipated, the force of events will itself bring about an amelioration by compelling tramp owners to lay up their oldest and least profitable vessels.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The decline in business was more pronounced last month, when seasonal factors tended to accentuate tendencies already at work. As wage reductions and a certain small amount of unemployment are steadily reducing the purchasing power of the wage-earning classes retail trade is falling off, though up to the end of June it was little, if anything, below the level of June, 1923. Industry, as a whole, is certainly below that level. Apparently, demand had been less active some time before production actually began to slacken, and accumulated stocks of goods were more considerable than was commonly supposed. In April, when rescission was just beginning to become general, the Department of Commerce found that an index of stocks of 45 commodities stood at 136, as compared with 117 in April, 1923, and 100 in 1919. The iron and steel trades report a slight quickening of confidence, but May's sharp reduction was followed by a further decline in pig-iron output during June, and the corner seems hardly to have been turned as yet. The bituminous coal, and the textile industries, are also closely affected by prevailing tendencies. Trade slackness, the inflow of gold, and increasing bank reserves, have combined to make money very cheap, call money on the New York Exchange being as low as 2 per cent., with outside loans at 1½ per cent. The latest cotton forecast is less favourable than had been hoped for, and agricultural feeling

(Continued on page 8.)

THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD'S WOOL SUPPLIES.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THERE is a curious anomaly as regards wool, since, while the population of the world during the past generation has increased by several hundred millions, the production of wool has decreased by approximately 600,000,000 lbs. With practically the whole world demanding wool in continually increasing quantities, there is evidence that prices will continue to rise above their present levels, high as they may appear to be compared with pre-war prices. In all countries the use of wool is becoming greater every year, while production is moving in exactly the opposite direction. A brief glance at past consumption, present, and future prospects of requirements, and also of sources of supply, becomes therefore of considerable interest and value, not only to users of the raw material and those directly or indirectly interested in the woollen industry, but also to the public at large.

Australia has long been looked upon as the country producing the finest wools, and, until recent years, as the greatest potential source of supplies. Notwithstanding her millions of acres suitable for wool production, which at present are lying idle, and which can be obtained on almost ridiculously easy terms, either by purchase or lease, her production has of late years fallen away considerably, albeit the last three years have shown somewhat better returns than those immediately preceding. Yet the fact remains that for years production has been going steadily down, although Australia is probably the finest sheep-raising country in the world. One reason for the falling-off in production is undoubtedly the serious disorganisation produced by the war. The various State Government departments, too, in their migration proposals, have directed their propaganda chiefly towards cereal raising and fruit-growing, and have failed to lay sufficient stress upon the vast and far greater opportunities afforded by wool production. Again, the rush of native-born inhabitants from the country districts to the towns and cities has also had its effect in retarding the wool industry. Yet more money has been made, and is even now being made, from wool than from all the other industries combined, and the continued upward tendency of prices should go far towards resuscitating it. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that, although at times droughts have played havoc with the flocks, each year sees irrigation playing a more and more prominent part, and in many sections of the country the risk of failure through such a cause, if not entirely eliminated, has been reduced to a minimum. The fact that sheep require but little attention and thrive in the open all the year round in Australia renders the country ideal for wool-growing, while enormous areas of natural grasses in normal years satisfactorily solve the food problem. The life, it is true, may be slightly monotonous, but the profits which accrue are out of all proportion to the slight discomfort which may be experienced.

Just how Australian sheep-farmers view the situation may be gleaned from the fact that the representatives of the Pastoralists' Association towards the end of May presented a statement to the Prime Minister, Mr Bruce, demanding that immediate action is necessary to encourage and stabilise the wool industry, and suggesting the lines on which this can best be accomplished. The statement was prepared by the Woolgrowers' Council, representing 90 per cent. of the sheep-growers of the Commonwealth. It set out that, whereas the number of sheep increased by 86 millions from the year 1860 to 1891 (31 years), a decrease was shown over the period from 1891 to 1923 (32 years) of 27,617,897.

The decrease was most marked in the Western Division of New South Wales, the numbers falling from 15,379,178 to 4,627,808. The numbers for the current year are not yet available, but it is fairly certain that they will show yet available, but it is fairly certain that they will show a still further considerable falling away. The reasons set out for the decreases are drought periods, adverse legis-

lation, and pests. As regards legislation, it is stated the Federal Land Tax Assessments Act has had a most embarrassing and restricting effect on the industry. Those who promulgated the Federal land tax maintained that, if large estates are to be indiscriminately broken up, that will destroy some of the best stud flocks. It is evident, however, that it was brought in as a taxation measure as well. The incidence of both Federal and State income-taxes in the matter of "walk-in-walk-out" sales prevented the free exchange of pastoral and farming properties, a result which is most undesirable.

To-day it is estimated that there are some 100,000,000 less sheep in the world than there were in 1900, with approximately 150,000,000 to 200,000,000 more population to clothe and feed. The number of Australian sheep in 1921—the last year for which Government statistics are available—was approximately 82½ millions, an increase over the previous two years, but still far below the figures of 1910, when they totalled close upon 98,000,000; the peak being reached in 1891, when 106½ millions were shown in the official returns published.

The world's annual merino wool clip has declined by no less than 175,000,000 lbs. In 1921-2 Australian wool exports amounted to about 820 million lbs, the average value of the past five years being approximately £38 millions, or 70 per cent. of all her exports. While the number of lambs dropped every year in all sheep-breeding countries often temporarily doubles the flocks, it must be remembered that year by year the increasing population of the world requires more and more food, and the number of sheep killed for this purpose prevents the accumulation necessary to raise the flocks to such an extent as to render any fall in wool prices within the bounds of possibility. With the spread of civilisation naturally follows a similar spread of the use of civilised clothing, and with Orientals now consuming far more wool than ever before, and increasing their demands annually, it is easy to foresee that if Europe and America are to keep up their present standards of clothing the shortage must either be overcome, prices must be still further raised, or some suitable substitute found.

Roughly speaking, in 1900 the United States, with a population of approximately 75,000,000, possessed about 61 million sheep; to-day, with that population increased by about 50 per cent., she runs only about half that number of sheep from which wool suitable for clothing can be procured. Going back about 60 years, statistics show that British wool requirements were about 2 lbs per head of the population, and, notwithstanding the steady annual increase, as denoted by the Census, the requirements of wool per head have just about doubled. In the United States the increase has been from about 3 lbs to 6 lbs per head of the population.

In both the great English-speaking countries the tendency is ever progressive, and the demands for both wool and cotton are always on the increase. Then, again, at no distant date, Russia's millions will be clamouring with very heavy demands. How to keep pace with the world's continually increasing requirements affords a problem requiring very serious consideration. There is, of course, a limit to all things, and so there must be to the price of wool.

The successful development of the cotton industry in Australia and certain other parts of the British Empire may be a partial solution to the problem; but it seems, if not absolutely impossible, certainly highly improbable that the increase in the number of the world's sheep can ever more than keep pace with the continually growing populations of the United Kingdom and the United States. And there are all the other countries of the world to be supplied!

Undoubtedly prices will be kept in check to a certain extent by the increasing manufacture of cloth from wood pulp, paper, and fibres, but the outlook for wool is one of which pastoralists could well take greater advantage, and, while materially benefiting themselves, at the same time become the benefactors of the world at large.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

Period.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	24,336	1,904	1,189	3,404	15,842	156	..	1,135	665	1,311	1,776	43,087	..	1,918	7,269
1918	19,283	1,158	..	2,188	13,376	283	..	1,133	747	1,680	2,336	51,272	..	1,641	8,399
1920	19,434	1,866	928	2,891	8,960	328	534	1,257	867	1,446	2,437	48,811	199	1,641	9,303
1921	18,822	1,816	971	3,213	9,491	327	631	888	762	1,554	2,185	38,282	206	1,792	10,251
1922	21,133	1,770	826	3,596	9,929	381	1,185	845	735	1,539	2,064	34,821	259	1,579	11,434
1923	23,450	1,910	969	3,981	2,341	440	3,008	1,008	901	1,582	..	49,268	222	1,351	9,854
1923-June	23,995	1,970	1,077	4,352	1,988	428	3,107	1,089	940	1,449	2,160	49,268	220	1,278	10,496
July	22,066	1,857	1,156	4,312	2,242	454	3,227	766	916	1,237	2,100	48,485	211	1,393	10,572
August	22,265	1,927	731	4,517	2,075	460	3,265	1,225	986	1,199	2,100	52,365	231	943	12,653
September	22,221	1,833	757	4,410	2,686	437	3,042	869	889	1,692	2,100	44,445	233	762	9,404
October	22,714	2,088	999	4,862	2,052	504	2,497	936	975	1,692	2,100	52,521	261	1,405	7,357
November	22,471	2,089	1,121	4,583	1,935	464	3,126	858	946	1,409	2,100	49,945	241	1,753	7,119
December	22,496	1,936	1,340	4,303	2,324	435	2,671	817	874	1,760	2,100	48,912	240	2,004	9,554
1924-January	23,787	2,183	1,399	4,928	3,300	489	2,964	884	897	2,014	2,263	53,628	276	2,004	9,554
February	24,283	2,112	1,366	4,807	3,356	458	2,805	877	865	2,268	..	48,394	258	1,908	8,327
March	24,616	2,108	1,372	5,017	3,571	469	2,029	1,240	918	1,938	..	43,566	261	1,836	10,391
April	22,950	2,049	1,215	4,765	2,369	477	2,067	801	930	1,807	..	42,356	223	1,675	10,251
May	24,313	1,999	1,190	3,963	1,066	497	2,347	..	981	1,734	..	45,363	215	1,568	10,789
June	18,999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a Including lignite. b Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. c Saleable coal only. d Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. e Average of two months. f Strike period. g From 1919 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1920 excluding Saar and Palatinat; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. h Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. i Excl. Rhine mines. j Excl. Ruhr production. k Decrease due to coal strikes. l Upper Silesia only. m Excl. Saar v Average of five months.

PIG IRON.

Period.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	869	207	434	102	1,388	212	61	85	2,601	649	205	396	172	1,412	101
1918	768	..	109	..	843	106	64	90	3,260	812	1	151	..	1,176	75
1920	680	93	276	..	463	58	38	82	3,083	768	104	246	..	643	50
1921	222	73	280	..	625	81	26	51	1,401	314	66	255	..	750	63
1922	415	134	427	96	730	140	22	32	2,276	494	130	373	105	762	116
1923	630	182	443	77	333	117	23	75	3,392	719	190	415	83	417	100
1923-June	704	172	447	75	..	90	10	101	3,727	780	189	427	88	74	98
July	666	187	436	93	..	123	10	83	3,737	634	182	400	105	96	4
August	609	199	486	99	..	135	30	94	3,505	592	213	452	112	110	42
September	568	194	482	98	..	127	39	76	3,176	706	194	446	109	106	58
October	605	196	514	99	..	134	41	75	3,800	713	216	477	117	126	57
November	608	205	536	106	..	138	46	63	2,941	663	217	493	109	122	62
December	637	209	565	110	..	151	43	61	2,963	764	213	526	110	135	44
1924-January	647	209	586	116	..	162	48	65	3,067	701	231	541	117	147	49
February	623	206	590	118	..	165	42	61	3,124	780	226	555	114	151	48
March	679	230	640	135	..	187	43	79	3,501	838	241	573	138	156	46
April	628	240	651	..	..	186	46	85	3,285	723	241	567	..	157	48
May	661	247	658	..	..	184	47	86	2,657	823	251	599	..	152	48
June	617	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,053	663	..	..	..	..	2,075

c Excluding Luxembourg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October, 1918; for 1920-1923 figures not official. d Ingots and castings. e Decrease due to labour disputes. f Corrected figures from January, 1923, based on returns from works responsible in 1922 for 95% of total production.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K.										Index Numbers of Retail Prices.									
	Board of Trade.	Economist.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany ("Frankfurter Zeitung").	Holland.	Italy (Bacchi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	..	..
1913	100	100	h 100	h 100	d	100	h 100	100	100	100	h 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1918	224.9	..	..	..	233	339.2	..	373	409.1	..	..	..	207	177.8	h 100	h 100	h 100	h 100	h 100	h 100
1920	307.3	283.2	..	..	341	509.4	..	292	624.4	..	..	..	221	359	..	177.8	h 100	h 100	h 100	h 100
1921	197.2	181.0	366	1,675	178	345.0	4,217	182	577.5	..	57,046	..	190	222	191.2	227.9	201	241.3	241.3	241.3
1922	158.8	159.5	367	1,299	181	326.6	49,559	160	562.3	..	137,575	15,790	176	167.5	161.6	161.6	160.4	160.4	160.4	160.4
1923	159.1	162.1	497	992	204	418.9	26,523,815,669	151	574.6	247	21,645,826	63,118	172	163	180.6	178.7	176	153.9	153.9	153.9
1923-June	159.4	160.0	484	967	207	408.6	3,989,800	149	568.9	232	1,881,410	97,960	170	164	179.8	187.0	175	155.1	155.1	155.1
July	156.7	155.3	504	958	207	406.7	28,624,800	145	566.4	231	3,069,970	152,240	170	162	175.3	188.6	170	153.6	153.6	153.6
August	154.6	155.5	529	957	202	413.1	306,333,800	142	566.7	233	5,294,680	275,290	171	162	173.4	183.8	171	153.3	153.3	153.3
September	158.0	159.6	514	973	205	423.6	18,295,350,000	145	569.2	232	7,302,200	549,010	174	162	181.1	179.9	174	154.7	154.7	154.7
October	158.4	160.4	515	964	207	420.5	4,907,150,000	148	563.4	235	27,380,680	873,000	171	161	181.5	178.9	174	153.1	153.1	153.1
November	161.1	168.6	531	984	210	442.6	164,960,000,000	153	571.4	243	67,943,700	1,731,000	173	160	182.5	178.9	174	153.3	153.3	153.3
December	163.6	170.1	545	990	210	458.3	148,400,000,000	154	577.2	247	142,300,700	3,781,000	176	160	183.2	182.2	179	153.6	153.6	153.6
1924-January	165.4	173.1	580	1,029	223	494.6	14,060,000,000	156	572.8	251	248,429,600	4,811,788	161	161	183.4	182.4	172	156.7	156.7	156.7
February	166.9	173.3	622	1,036	227	543.7	147,250,000,000	158	579.8	251	252,167,700	4,811,788	161	161	183.4	182.4	172	156.7	156.7	156.7
March	165.4	172.3	625	1,022	228	499.3	151,780,000,000	155	578.7	254	248,429,600	4,811,788	161	161	183.4	182.4	172	156.7	156.7	156.7
April	164.7	172.2	515	1,015	225	449.5	151,890,000,000	154	578.7	263	242,321,800	4,811,788	161	161	180.4	174.0	174	151.1	151.1	151.1
May	163.7	168.1	557	981	219	458.3	143,010,000,000	153	570.7	261	104.0	..	..	160	178.3	..	176	150.6	150.6	150.6
June	162.6	168.3	..	..	220	465.0	115,900,000,000	..	566.1	262	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau middle of each month. d Beginning of the following month. e Revised index number. f 000's omitted. g Middle of month. h 1914. i Beginning of the following year. j Czervonetz roubles. k Zloty prices; April, 1924 - 109.1.

Wholesale Prices—Continued.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices.											Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)										
Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States, Bureau of Labour.	No. of Towns and Localities.	U.K.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.		Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	United States.					
						630	Vienna.	59	4	Paris.	71	Berlin.	Milan.	Madrid.	60						
1913	100	100	100	100		July, 1914	July, 1914.	April, 1914.	1901-1910.	1914.	Oct., 1913. Jan., April, June, 1914.	Aug., 1913. July, 1914.	Jan.-June, 1914.	1914.	1913.	1913.					
1918	153.1	..	195.8	194	Base.																
1920	223.3	152.0	259.4	226																	
1921	160.4	150.2	200.4	147	1918-July ..	210	..	..	d												
1922	128.4	145.6	195.0	149	1920-July ..	255	..	..	2492	341	..	935	..	1125	286	154					
1923	126.6	156.4	199.1	154	1921-July ..	222	53,300	100	2604	307	1124	1125	441	191	190	189					
					1922-July ..	181	264,511	90	3530	302	5392	6122	498	181	147	167					
					1923-July ..	171	1,090,300	109	3344	334	3765100	3288610	487	172	145	170					
1923-May	..	158.4	199.0	156	1923-June..	169	1,151,300	105	3496	331	765000										
June	..	155.2	197.7	153	July	171	1,090,380	109	3172	..	37651000	b 877020	491	170	146	170					
July	124.0	155.4	192.4	151	Aug.	173	1,049,600	112	3083	..	58601500	b 3289	487	173	145	..					
August	..	153.1	190.0	150	Sept.	175	1,084,100	117	3064	331	1500000000	b 59017	483	178	148	..					
September ..	..	156.8	210.2	154	Oct.	175	1,102,700	117	3043	..	14800000	b 487	178	149	172	172					
October	123.3	156.1	211.6	153	Nov.	177	1,114,900	120	3201	..	b 3657000000	b 501180000	502	174	150	..					
November	..	157.3	210.1	152	Dec.	179	1,124,300	122	3424	..	b 657000000	b 67940000	503	177	150	..					
December	..	157.5	210.5	151	1924-Jan. ..	179	1,174,000	124	..	345	e 124/000000	e 1071000000	499	182	150	173					
1924-January ..	151.4	156.7	210.9	151	Feb.	178	1,194,000	128	..	..	e 1100000000	e 963000000	501	178	150	..					
February	..	159.5	207.7	152	Mar.	173	1,199,600	130	..	..	e 1040000000	e 924000000	517	190	150	..					
March	..	157.5	205.7	150	April.	171	1,197,300	124	..	365	e 1070000000	e 934000000	521	180	148	170					
April	126.2	153.7	206.6	148	May	169	1,220,900	119	..	..	e 112 000000	e 989000000	522	195	145	..					
May	..	154.3	..	147	June	170	1,242,200	123	..	..	e 1150000000	e 1017000000	518	..	143	..					

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugoslavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	U.S.S.R.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markk.	Mark.	Drachm.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Pesetas.	Kronor.	Francs.	£.	Dollars.
1913.....	54,931	386,333	15,775	64,785	..	701,778	41,035	897,475	14,828	303,802	..	325,500	..	108,838	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1918.....	107,100	46,960	75,851	..	..	1,858,416	38,944	..	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	1,147	245,961
1920.....	142,491	1,077,973	184,486	245,277	116,265	4,158,748	299,681	8,256,417	177,519	2,335,135	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,126	353,568	8,214	425,152
1921.....	81,548	849,817	243,424	129,058	373,551	1,538,992	294,844	9,815,963	143,800	1,438,885	343,500	186,695	..	236,083	105,520	191,367	4,109	213,072
1922.....	74,950	767,035	336,472	121,323	465,785	1,991,717	398,254	516,700	257,123	1,313,730	536,823	167,436	..	252,768	97,027	159,539	3,382	266,042
1923.....	81,620	1,045,866	..	157,520	777,690	2,717,880	381,682	506,771	563,277	1,435,420	..	167,436	..	252,768	97,027	159,539	3,382	266,042
1923—May.....	77,706	896,988	452,809	147,243	1,087,117	2,596,881	458,088	512,095	414,701	1,587,350	627,591	160,130	101,695	252,873	101,616	168,432	3,571	361,346
June.....	78,353	1,195,202	385,275	155,809	862,274	2,558,336	418,829	512,095	376,896	1,956,397	627,591	159,533	91,903	214,384	111,085	168,432	3,403	312,949
July.....	68,018	1,023,184	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,648	389,000	512,095	323,412	1,292,733	779,854	157,464	96,460	148,438	103,194	171,843	2,928	288,033
Aug.....	82,614	1,107,143	..	165,385	958,403	2,633,617	367,435	512,095	364,542	1,187,111	779,854	150,975	78,300	210,538	112,937	171,843	3,562	279,757
Sept.....	75,155	1,095,638	..	160,814	842,044	2,613,376	409,255	512,095	402,711	1,356,773	779,854	156,474	78,880	239,446	126,876	171,843	3,285	316,339
Oct.....	88,768	1,106,099	..	168,749	992,362	3,068,974	468,140	434,883	591,462	1,301,420	..	176,660	101,354	309,018	126,876	171,843	3,285	316,339
Nov.....	91,414	1,123,834	..	174,815	860,356	3,160,504	449,826	432,836	547,324	1,410,507	..	176,660	101,354	309,018	126,876	171,843	3,285	316,339
Dec.....	96,793	1,296,996	..	172,698	599,884	3,826,834	381,810	489,160	524,370	1,837,484	..	174,751	95,008	309,018	126,876	171,843	3,285	316,339
1924—Jan.....	87,948	1,335,721	294,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	376,573	567,214	397,449	1,168,486	..	177,949	80,857	..	..	..	..	..
Feb.....	83,475	1,437,679	397,196	153,601	510,941	3,713,800	296,404	714,812	552,281	1,564,708	..	185,566	107,163	..	90,953	195,910	3,593	312,463
Mar.....	91,028	1,618,666	492,688	178,420	569,324	3,622,604	239,660	691,009	555,451	1,518,405	..	185,566	107,163	..	89,726	195,910	3,593	312,463
Apr.....	70,356	1,285,588	527,912	183,714	746,507	3,122,151	272,660	800,378	516,258	1,564,161	..	189,773	..	..	139,474	..	3,719	312,463
May.....	108,995	1,512,521	572,058	204,794	..	3,177,313	506,785	869,403	599,038	1,541,765	..	189,773	..	..	131,900	..	3,719	312,463
June.....	78,478	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

1913.....	43,771	302,882	7,778	53,113	..	573,351	33,482	841,583	9,917	209,303	..	256,917	..	88,136	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,094
1918.....	41,785	..	..	59,207	..	393,561	15,797	..	24,738	778,726	..	97,860	..	83,303	112,536	163,984	3,776	503,990
1920.....	111,206	737,675	136,917	132,589	102,365	2,241,249	241,343	5,785,083	55,343	981,177	110,051	141,775	..	130,548	121,133	178,345	7,119	673,371
1921.....	58,617	605,408	184,777	112,518	190,553	1,647,709	278,491	8,299,113	78,977	689,724	205,062	141,791	..	130,548	121,133	178,345	7,119	673,371
1922.....	59,595	519,636	360,810	97,991	400,965	1,720,166	369,734	330,833	207,090	775,197	307,597	101,769	..	54,596	120,765	146,583	4,059	314,798
1923.....	63,944	738,041	..	127,723	475,996	2,535,959	363,144	506,596	204,101	921,574	670,679	106,602	..	99,633	132,960	146,583	4,866	340,930
1923—May.....	71,555	577,542	196,769	127,010	540,946	2,675,045	245,400	580,351	267,799	784,614	689,367	104,129	94,067	139,125	104,887	121,798	2,888	309,390
June.....	62,884	755,616	141,268	130,377	491,883	2,479,391	527,300	580,351	115,246	943,150	642,416	97,860	96,247	98,757	112,337	121,798	2,333	312,177
July.....	59,504	732,152	..	120,981	447,756	2,423,781	653,700	580,351	165,312	791,571	547,169	96,694	102,260	93,185	106,431	154,352	1,979	296,725
Aug.....	60,103	727,426	..	133,359	627,292	2,542,820	511,710	580,351	220,503	841,821	706,851	107,933	102,160	115,316	111,710	154,352	1,979	296,725
Sept.....	63,836	820,206	..	127,465	501,931	2,434,645	476,300	580,351	408,762	802,916	914,014	127,771	110,960	116,238	111,023	154,352	2,070	306,065
Oct.....	71,323	880,206	..	137,179	494,062	2,813,539	474,978	562,195	427,449	1,075,154	965,386	125,848	88,930	163,450	117,570	163,652	6,066	328,207
Nov.....	65,768	865,058	..	157,293	434,132	2,941,386	355,768	513,024	214,327	1,057,037	753,626	126,124	75,848	174,028	111,116	163,652	10,159	395,564
Dec.....	72,340	1,043,759	..	132,340	573,749	3,113,938	474,978	513,024	214,327	1,057,037	753,626	126,124	75,848	174,028	111,116	163,652	10,159	395,564
1924—Jan.....	64,235	866,343	268,389	157,811	528,001	2,699,833	214,610	429,869	82,353	810,007	688,989	112,562	..	68,839	179,680	8,388	389,064	
Feb.....	67,975	1,081,642	342,496	151,759	332,266	3,918,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,103,473	646,074	125,465	..	59,027	179,680	5,780	358,576	
Mar.....	61,103	1,345,748	271,393	155,043	398,427	4,354,695	120,298	455,799	208,470	1,215,737	746,316	131,920	..	68,119	179,680	4,835	331,511	
Apr.....	62,867	1,064,265	352,986	162,630	646,874	4,027,041	192,629	480,764	130,348	1,199,262	725,294	136,431	..	74,446	..	3,282	335,645	
May.....	70,261	1,284,957	472,831	172,391	..	3,360,148	318,581	513,950	139,126	1,077,470	738,584	135,531	..	..	..	..	..	..
June.....	62,024	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111,000	..	109,220	..	..	..	..

c Owing to Ruhr occupation figure incomplete. d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Period September 22–October 21. g Old Greece only. h Valued at 1921 official rates. i Since January, 1922, the value of imports is based on declarations of importers, instead of official valuations previously used. j Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." k Period September 1–21. l Official values. m January to October, 1923, official figures. From November, 1923, provisional figures based on merchants' declarations, which may differ considerably from final figures based on official quarterly valuations. n From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. o Average of 5 months.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Value.										Quantity (Metric Tons).									
Period.	Aus- tralia.	British India.	New Zealand	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Bel- gium.	Czecho- slovakia.	France.	Ger- many.	Greece.	Hun- gary.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Spain.	Swit- zerland.	Brazil.		
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.												
1913.....	6,355	152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	..	3,685	4,068	..	5,041	..	987	661	489		
1918.....	7,696	137,704	75,583	1,966	3,768	135,721	82,456	..	..	2,446	..	..	404	..	233	295	145		
1920.....	13,172	258,929	111,410	5,062	7,994	191,179	174,219	1,112	326	4,245	1,570	..	1,151	294	703	458	271		
1921.....	8,222	330,720	66,616	3,461	4,447	139,481	140,820	1,472	333	3,339	2,175	77	194	1,436	404	582	357		
1922.....	9,850	199,524	63,528	2,817	4,008	153,956	137,719	q 1,772	266	4,285	3,823	87	279	1,683	344	364	441		
1923.....	11,088	184,765	75,294	3,575	4,584	165,589	189,203	q 2,203	349	4,577	4,097	107	313	1,612	266	..	556		
1923—Mar.....	10,077	179,178	91,873	3,642	4,578	195,609	221,895	1,705	207	4,087	5,220	125	316	1,289	300	194	542		
April.....	10,134	204,381	68,181	3,461	4,460	185,789	176,671	2,603	298	4,175	6,396	114	233	1,437	285	191	501		
May.....	11,148	192,423	82,265	3,353	4,470	199,359	184,910	1,898	248	4,502	4,013	107	341	1,378	253	218	501		
June.....	10,297	173,145	84,633	3,420	4,226	209,498	157,698	2,262	300	4,932	4,807	88	353	1,697	290	173	501		
July.....	11,656	158,466	77,074	3,578	4,883	161,367	183,593	2,197	341	4,864	4,160	94	290	1,633	471	157	591		
Aug.....	11,459	166,075	78,826	3,521	5,190	156,413	165,292	2,179	417	4,803	4,120	94	291	1,708	239	185	591		
Sept.....	8,869	182,690	71,351	3,210	4,477	82,618	190,503	2,264	457	5,063	3,420	108	250	1,776	239	185	591		
Oct.....	12,719	226,217	76,341	4,570	5,272	144,545	217,138	2,231	622	4,360	2,915	133	360	1,918	204	206	591		
Nov.....	13,079	226,979	72,085	3,647	5,011	156,664	228,287	2,327	402	4,945	3,393	128	348	1,791	248	226	591		
Dec.....	10,328	153,051	65,456	3,653	4,599	177,516	218,832	2,229	529	4,945	3,370	158	248	1,775	347	..	591		
1924—Jan.....	13,392	224,391	66,468	4,324	5,020	214,210	186,891	2,585	248	3,933	2,663	99	340	1,791	189	..	591		
Feb.....	11,804	173,686	62,134	3,782	4,675	294,114	153,908	2,629	332	4,395	2,749	137	250	1,615	140	..	459		
Mar.....	10,845	181,045	68,194	3,589	4,941	311,429	210,546	2,923	316	4,822	2,482	136	289	1,668	220	..	459		
April.....	9,822	190,173	60,203	..	6,737	247,618	..	2,749	363	4,924	2,550	92	323	1,803	..	..	459		
May.....	12,500	192,818	72,247	..	5,251	223,000	..	2,489	520	5,485	..	132	387	1,660	..	..	..		

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD. *Continued from page 2.*

generally reflects the material and psychological results of a cold and stormy spring. The tendency among industrialists and dealers to "fly to cover" seems, however, to have been overdone, and at least one well-known economic publicist has ventured definitely to predict a renewed forward movement in the autumn.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canadian crop prospects are less favourable than at this time last year, but the last week or two has yielded some improvement. Trade generally was rather better in the second half of June, and unemployment tended, consequently, to decline. In Australia the season has opened favourably for the primary producer, but business conditions are not so easy as many would have liked, difficulty being experienced in financing new works. In this respect the official policy of maintaining the note issue at practically a fixed amount has been criticised, though it may be for the country's benefit in the long run. Monetary conditions are much easier in India, where Bank rate has fallen to 5 per cent., and quietness is a feature common to most markets. The monsoon has been fairly satisfactory. Though its penetration up-country has been slow, the jute districts are receiving all the rain they require, and reaping has commenced. South Africa is picking up slightly after the disturbing effect of the election result, but the occurrence of drought conditions in some areas, especially Natal, is a discouraging factor.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Argentine trade situation remains steady on the whole. Exports of wheat and maize continue on an active scale, but the demand for tonnage has lately fallen off to some extent. More favourable conditions of working in the Chilean nitrate fields are indicated by a production of 22,224,000 metric quintals in the 12 months ended June 30th, against 14,996,000 and 8,910,000 in the two preceding years respectively. A revolutionary outbreak in Brazil has not yet affected trade to any great degree, though Government bonds have lately been weak. Coffee and cotton are firm, and sugar steady. Peruvian conditions show little change.

EUROPE.

French attention is concentrated on the London Conference, political uncertainty reacting on the commercial situation and causing a certain amount of "holding-off." Ruhr coal deliveries are coming through very well, and French metallurgical works are well occupied, though quieter conditions have obtained in the last few days. Among textiles, fair activity is reported in silk, but the woollen industry is not so busy as a month ago. Belgian trade is almost uniformly dull, a further reduction in output being contemplated, even in the relatively well-employed glass industry. Credit stringency is as acute as ever in Germany. Retailers are being compelled to dispose of stocks at reduced prices, and industrial output is being curtailed. Dutch trade is, if anything, slightly better, shipbuilding being one of the industries reporting an increased volume of orders. Monetary conditions remain very easy. Among Scandinavian countries, Norway has not yet recovered from the effects of recent labour troubles, Swedish trade shows seasonal slackness, though the pulp-market is firm, and something like a financial crisis has occurred in Denmark. No perceptible change has taken place in Finnish timber markets, which remain quiet. June crops were reported slightly above average. Austria continues to feel the effects of the credit crisis, though industrial conditions are slowly brightening. The numbers of unemployed fell from 82,551 in May to 68,475 in June. Hungarian agricultural prospects are good. The Italian political crisis did not affect trade to any great extent, and most industries still report a satisfactory amount of activity.

FAR EAST.

Mid-June intelligence from China indicates a certain recovery in demand after the holidays from nearly all parts except the North, where unfavourable weather has upset the crop outlook. The extent to which trade is dependent on the action of the military is illustrated by the revival which immediately succeeded the raising of the import tax on goods entering Szechuan province. The Japanese money market is easy, and trade shows little life. Reconstruction, however, continues to make satisfactory progress.

The Economist
MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

New Series.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1924.

No. 15.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our own statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s 6d. Constable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE success of the London Conference in agreeing upon plans for putting the Dawes Report into effect has not yet had time to influence the actual course of trade, and in so far as negotiations can be said to have affected the situation at all in July and early August, it has been by prolonging the state of uncertainty as to the future of Europe. Trade during July showed no marked change from that of previous months. The volume of output, except in the coal and iron trades, where it receded, remained good, and was reflected in satisfactory overseas trade returns. It is true that the comparison of imports and exports with the previous month and with the figures for the corresponding month a year ago makes the situation appear more favourable than is actually the case, for a year ago a prolonged dock strike occurred, while June of 1924 was a short month, and contained the Whitsun holidays. Nevertheless, the trade figures for the first seven months are well above those of 1923, and July is one of the best months of this year to date. On the other hand, there was a small increase in unemployment during the month, and detailed reports from industrial centres show the same sort of summer stagnation as was expressed at this time last year. It is on the order books that the London Conference had its chief effect, for clearly if the Conference had broken down there would almost inevitably have been a serious set-back to trade which would have followed. As the Conference has now resulted in an agreement based on compromise, trade is still a little uncertain as to what is going to happen to prices and to business generally. But as fear of a new collapse has been removed and any economic effects that the Dawes scheme may have upon trade will not become important for some time to come, the indications are that a new revival will set in after the holiday months. That the internal business of the country is large is shown by the rising railway traffic receipts and the state of the currency note issue, which has latterly risen to high figures, and is at the moment close to the legal maximum. The price of industrial securities is

rising, as are also average wages and bank clearings both in London and the provinces.

At this time of the year crop prospects are one of the leading influences upon trade psychology. In several European countries prospects have slightly improved, though not sufficiently to bring output up to normal; on the other hand, it becomes increasingly doubtful whether

Russia will have any grain to export this year. Canadian reports are not quite so pessimistic as a month ago, but are still bad. The conditions undoubtedly indicate high wheat prices during the coming cereal year. On balance, this is a disadvantage to this country, for the increased cost of living, with its effect on those wages which rise and fall automatically, and the fact that there will be less shipping employed in moving wheat, probably outweigh the benefit to arable farmers. The cotton crop, on the other hand, is likely to be better than last year's, and cotton prices may be lower than in the past year—a fact which should substantially increase Lancashire's trade turnover.

America has not yet reached the end of the process of readjustment in many trades, but the consensus of opinion inclines to the view that business expansion during the autumn is by no means an impossible contingency. Prospects of a short crop, even under a higher price régime, have thrown something of a cloud over the Canadian trade outlook. Elsewhere in the Empire business continues to show steady progress. India has passed through a few anxious days owing to the delayed arrival of the monsoon in some parts, but reports are now almost everywhere satisfactory. Argentina is experiencing similar anxiety, owing to unseasonable weather, which threatens growing crops. In Europe, as in England, the prolonged London Conference has not been without its effect on trade generally. French production appears to have slowed down slightly, and in Germany the currency, and credit famine, though less acute, still acts as a grave handicap to business of every kind. With the advent

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—JULY, 1924.

	JUNE.	JULY.	Compared with JULY, 1923.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
State Insurance (%)	9.4	9.9	— 1.6
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)	18.6	19.4	— 0.6
Iron (thous. ")	608	612	— 43
Steel (" ")	651	693	+ 54
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	88.5	108.1	+ 31.3
Re-exports (" ")	10.0	10.2	+ 1.4
Exports (" ")	62.0	71.3	+ 11.8
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts (£0,000)	383	412	+ 15
Shipping Freights (av. level)	109	104	+ 1
COMMODITY PRICES (" ")	177	182	+ 19
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	356	2000+	+ 335+
SECURITY VALUES (av. level)	115	115	+ 1
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Bank Notes (million £'s)	126	127	+ 1
Currency Notes (" ")	291	293	+ 4
Bank Deposits (" ")	1691	1682	+ 2
Bank Advances (" ")	808	808	+ 43
Banks Cash Ratio (%)	11.9	11.5	— 0.2
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)	734	763	+ 57
Manchester (" ")	14.1	15.1	+ 0.5
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rates %)	3	3½	+ ½
Day-to-day Loans (%)	1½	2½	+ ½

(1) 1913=100. (2) Economist Index No.; July, 1914=100.
(3) Bankers' Magazine Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921=100. (4) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts. * Av. weekly figures.
† Approximate figure.

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS
—ISSUED by the LEAGUE OF NATIONS—

A STATISTICAL REVIEW of the most recent information of the economic activity of Europe, The British Empire, America, Asia, etc., compiled from official and other defined sources.

The following among other subjects are dealt with in informative Tables:—

PRODUCTION: Coal, Iron and Steel; Shipping Construction, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE: Weight and Value of Imports and Exports; Movement of Shipping.

PRICE: Wholesale and Retail Price Index Numbers.

CURRENCY AND FINANCE: Reserves, Note Circulation, Discount Rates, Foreign Exchanges, Capital Issues, Bankruptcies, Savings Bank Deposits.

LABOUR: Unemployment Percentages.

This information is given where available for the following countries:—

ARGENTINE	DANZIG	JAPAN	PORTUGAL
AUSTRALIA	DENMARK	JUGO-SLAVIA	ROUMANIA
AUSTRIA	DUTCH EAST INDIES	LATVIA	RUSSIA
BELGIUM	EGYPT	LITHUANIA	SIAM
BOLIVIA	EQUADOR	LUXEMBURG	SOUTH AFRICA
BULGARIA	ESTHONIA	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
BRAZIL	FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN
CANADA	FRANCE	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND
CHILI	GERMANY	PALESTINE	UNITED KINGDOM
CHINA	GREECE	PARAGUAY	UNITED STATES
COLOMBIA	HUNGARY	PERU	URUGUAY
CUBA	INDIA	POLAND	VENEZUELA
CZECHOSLAVAKIA	ITALY		

OBTAINABLE FROM ANY BOOKSELLER OR FROM

The official publishers **CONSTABLE & CO. LTD.** 10 & 12 Orange Street W.C.2
PRICE 1/6 PER ISSUE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 18/- NET

London: Printed for the Proprietors by G. E. HART, St. Clements Press, Ltd., Newspaper Buildings, Portugal street, Kingsway, W.C.2, and Published by the Proprietors at Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, W.C.2.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD—Continued from page 9.

of stabilised monetary conditions, Poland is experiencing much the same difficulties. Reports from the Far East indicate no appreciable change in general conditions.

The following notes on conditions in various trades and countries call attention to some of the most striking tendencies:—

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Iron and Steel.—Conditions in the iron and steel trades are still unsatisfactory, though the situation in the last week or two has been, if anything, rather better than was expected. Though 11 fewer furnaces were in blast at the end of July than a month earlier, the low prices for pig-iron at present prevailing have induced a certain amount of buying. Whether this is merely a "flash in the pan" or the prelude to all-round improvement in the autumn, it is impossible to say. The movement is certainly not a general one, as Middlesbrough and Glasgow both report considerable difficulty in obtaining new orders as old contracts run out. The railways appear to be making an early start with their programme of renewals and reconstruction, which, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to run to a total of £55,000,000, and possibly this has something to do with the slightly more optimistic tone of recent reports. In the heavy steel trades business has been slow at picking up since the early August holidays, but the undertone of markets is at least as good as a month ago. In this connection the re-opening of the Ebbw Vale steel works, after a month's closure on account of trade depression, is a favourable sign.

Production figures for the month of July came out higher than those of June, but the average daily output, in point of fact, showed a decline. Foreign competition has become less formidable as a result of the appreciation in the franc's exchange value, though in semi-products Belgian influence is strong enough to keep prices at a more or less unprofitable level from the British manufacturer's point of view. Business in galvanised sheets is steady, while the recent rise in tin prices, together with the fall in output resulting from holidays in South Wales, has kept the tinplate market as firm as could be wished for, though dealings are not on a large scale.

Coal.—The coal trade as a whole remains dull. Industrial demand is confined within narrow limits, and the export side shows no definite signs of revival. On the other hand, house coals are slightly more in request, though this feature of the trade has been far too ill-marked as yet to merit the term "recovery." Best steam coals are steadier, and a fair amount of business has recently been transacted at Cardiff. The North-East coast ports have obtained certain foreign contracts in the last week or two, and, speaking generally, the trade is disposed to view the outlook for the coming months with more hopefulness than was the case as recently as the end of July.

Engineering.—Throughout the semi-depression under which the metal industries have been working for the last quarter, the more finished branches have tended to be less affected by unsettling influences than the earlier processes. An increased volume of work in the shipyards, particularly on the Clyde and at Barrow, has brought about a long-overdue improvement in employment conditions, but much more rapid progress will need to be made before the prospect for shipbuilding can be described as satisfactory. The main railway companies are placing various equipment orders, those of the London, Midland and Scottish being the most prominent, but the amounts involved have not so far been of very considerable dimensions. Numerous road construction schemes have lately been started, the most considerable being in Scotland and the West Riding of Yorkshire. The machine-tool trade is only moderately active, and the textile machinery industry quiet. Electrical equipment manufacturers continue to be very favourably situated as regards home and, to a less extent, export business. While the burst of activity of the last six months in motor-car construction may conceivably have passed its highest point, the volume of production remains considerable, and is attended by a steady decline in unemployment in the industry, and a fourfold increase in exports of cars in the first seven months of 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923.

Hardware and Cutlery.—Seasonal slackness is usually a marked feature of August business, and the present year has been no exception. Though a moderate volume of work is in progress on contracts placed a few weeks ago, new orders are not coming in very briskly. Cutlery firms are in a rather more favourable position. The market for stainless cutlery continues to expand.

Cotton.—Cotton spinners, manufacturers, and merchants, states our Manchester correspondent, continue more optimistic. This attitude is justified by the continuance of a large inquiry, with a tendency for business to broaden. Since a month ago there has been a marked fall in raw cotton prices, but rates for yarn and cloth have not given way to the same extent.

Many firms, therefore, have been able to improve their position. From week to week manufacturers of piece goods have experienced an extensive inquiry. Actual buying has ebbed and flowed somewhat, but demand has covered a wide range of fabrics, and has come from numerous outlets abroad. Spinners of American yarns have improved their position somewhat. Demand has broadened, and stocks at the mills have been reduced. It has been decided, however, to continue the short-time scheme until the end of the year. If a broad view of the situation is taken, there is ground for believing that Lancashire is about to experience more favourable industrial conditions, and it is anticipated that in a couple of months much more machinery will be running.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—After much hesitation early in the month, the July wool sales closed in buoyant fashion, with an appreciable recovery in prices, merinos, neglected of late, being in much better demand. Though manufacturers have long been complaining of their inability to pass on price increases in their raw material, the latest development is welcomed on the whole because it offers a firmer basis of values, recent fluctuations having been detrimental to business. The volume of production has lately tended to decline, and this feature was accentuated in the West Riding, and to a less extent in Scotland, during July. Short time is reported in the combing section, but spinners are better off, though the worsted side is much less well employed than the woollen.

Linen.—The Irish Linen Society reports that the warmer weather has improved the appearance of the new Irish crop, but prices remain very firm. A satisfactory amount of business has been put through in yarns, but the continued advance in yarn prices is rendering business difficult.

Boots and Shoes.—The tone of the market is decidedly hopeful. Summer trade was good up to the August holidays, and a fair number of orders are still in hand. Demands for the autumn trade have come in satisfactorily up to the present.

Chemicals.—Trade is on a moderate scale, but remains steady on the whole, the heavier alkali products being in fair demand. Manufacturers regard the outlook for autumn business as not altogether unpromising, though no large accession of orders is expected.

Building Trades.—The national strike of building operatives, which began on July 7 and was extended by the subsequent lock-out declared by the employers, has adversely affected the situation in all districts. Employment had previously been good as regards skilled and slack as regards unskilled workers. When once work has been restarted, and the arrears of the past six weeks overtaken, the industry should find steady employment for some months to come.

Shipping.—Apart from a steady demand for tonnage from the River Plate, the freight markets were dull all round during August. The latest Lloyd's figures show that a beginning has been made with the task of reducing the world's "surplus" tonnage, but after all permissible deductions are made there remains about 2½ million tons of more or less efficient tonnage afloat to-day over and above the 1914 total. During each of the last three years a marked decline in "free" freights has been recorded in the summer months, as is shown by the course of the *Economist's* shipping freights index number:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
April	129	115	117
May	125	115	114
June	117	107	109
July	115	103	104
August	113	100	..

A further decline in the present month would, therefore, not be altogether unexpected.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

While many branches of industry are still reporting unsatisfactory conditions, the prevailing sentiment is rather more optimistic, and manufacturers are inclined to view autumnal prospects with more confidence. The value of industrial securities has lately been rising (though this may be in part the result of abundantly cheap money), the average level of wholesale prices is becoming more stabilised, and much is expected from the increased purchasing power of the farmer arising out of higher grain prices throughout the world. The decline of the last few months has been so rapid as to give colour to the view that the process of readjustment has been more or less completed by this time—an interpretation of the facts which is supported by the experience of the steel industry. Between December, 1923, and March, 1924, output increased by no less than 41 per cent., and during the next three months declined by 49 per cent. During July, however, consumption was approximately equal to production. Most of the large basic industries of the United States are capable of expanding or contracting their output with extreme rapidity, and in these circumstances some observers believe that fluctuations in trade may for some time occur at frequent intervals, and move within fairly wide limits, without indicating any fundamental weakness in the general situation.

(Continued on page 16.)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE SINCE THE WAR.

THE League of Nations has performed an appropriate service in collecting from its members details regarding their foreign trade statistics and the manner of their preparation, and embodying the results in a handy volume*, published at a modest figure. The earlier part of the work contains a summary of the balance of international payments in individual countries. The remainder is based on a study of the published import and export figures of 36 different States, and suggests a number of interesting conclusions.

The following table, compiled from information given in the Memorandum, shows the rate per cent. of exports to imports in some of the most important countries of the world during the pre-war year and each of the years since 1919:—

Countries.	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
United Kingdom	80.1	54.6	81.2	74.6	82.3	81.0
British Empire—						
Canada	71.8	116.3	97.6	100.8	117.8	113.7
South Africa	157.7	208.7	92.9	130.1	127.5	137.8
India	106.7	123.4	78.5	82.1	97.6	116.6
Australia	98.5	111.7	154.2	80.0	125.1	89.2
New Zealand	103.2	177.5	75.1	104.5	122.7	105.8
Continental Europe—						
France	77.8	33.1	55.0	88.3	89.2	93.4
Germany	91.0	31.1	70.1	84.8	64.0	100.0
Belgium	73.6	43.9	68.5	71.3	67.7	70.8
Poland	70.7	36.5	43.9	47.9	59.0	64.2
Italy	..	..	54.9	53.6	66.2	57.5
Austria	112.7	2.8	49.9	68.4	103.1	..
Roumania	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States of America	138.8	209.3	151.9	134.5	112.6	101.9
South America—						
Argentina	101.6	149.8	96.8	89.5	96.0	..
Brazil	104.5	166.1	85.9	96.9	141.0	144.6
Chile	124.2	82.9	177.7	120.8	139.8	..
Colombia	150.1	220.4	192.3	99.9	176.5	169.5
Peru	156.2	166.1	113.7	138.9	..	..
Mexico	..	..	..	..	..	..
Far East—						
China	68.0	85.5	68.5	68.7	67.6	..
Japan	90.2	83.8	70.8	71.1	86.5	72.7

Comparisons should not be pressed too closely, on account of the very different connotation attached to the terms "imports" and "exports" in different countries. For instance, whilst most countries, including the United Kingdom, value exports f.o.b. and imports c.i.f., all the British Dominions (except India), as well as the United States, use an f.o.b. valuation for both categories, Australia and New Zealand adding a fixed 10 per cent. to cover freight. Again, the method of valuation may differ from country to country, or for the same country at different periods, and in this connection the general tendency during the last decade to substitute "declared" for "official" valuations deserves notice. These considerations do not, however, prevent us from making a number of broad and general observations. The effect of the 1920 "slump" in almost every part of the world except Continental Europe was much more serious as regards export than import trade, the "visible balance" tending to become much more unfavourable than was the case during the "boom." Since then there has been a steady recovery in most cases, an exception being Japan, which had an unusually unfavourable balance last year owing to the earthquake. The export balance of the United States has declined steadily year by year since 1919. Both France and Germany, it may be noted, showed a higher proportion between imports and exports last year than in 1913.

Our next table shows how the volume of trade, expressed as a percentage of the 1913 total, has fluctuated year by year. While British imports have more or less regained their pre-war volume, exports are still little more than three-fourths of the 1913 figure, though the position is much better than in 1920, when the proportion was less than half. Among the countries of the Empire, Canada has made extraordinarily rapid progress as regards her export trade (though unfavourable crop conditions may bring about a check this year), with New Zealand a good second.

* Memorandum on the Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Balances, 1910-1923; Vol. I., Balance of Payments and Summary Trade Tables. (Geneva) League of Nations. 2s 6d.

Countries.	1913.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
United Kingdom—						
Imports	100	89.4	88.3	74.3	85.7	96.7
Exports	100	54.9	71.1	49.9	69.0	77.0
Re exports	100	78.2	90.0	78.2	80.9	85.5
Total exports	100	58.9	74.3	54.8	71.0	78.4
British Empire—						
Imports	100	79.0	84.8	77.4	78.0	94.8
Exports	100	122.5	110.6	105.1	150.9	180.3
Canada—						
Imports	100	51.3	80.6	55.6	..	..
Exports	100	96.2	66.7	77.8	..	..
Merchandise exports	100	93.3	84.5	91.6	78.0	103.7
Gold exports	100	94.4	82.8	85.8	..	..
Total exports	100	94.4	82.8	85.8	..	..
South Africa—						
Imports	100	55.2	77.6	67.8	75.3	..
Exports	100	81.1	70.5	74.6	87.6	..
Australia—Exports	100	95.3	110.6	97.6	122.5	..
New Zealand—Exports	100	141.8	114.6	121.6	154.3	..
Continental Europe—						
France—Imports	100	131.4	129.9	86.4	..	..
Exports	100	57.9	109.4	105.1	109.7	156.2
Germany—Imports	100	..	36.5	55.2	58.5	44.7
Exports	100	..	36.7	(44.4)	61.2	52.8
Italy—Imports	100	100.0	95.5	95.8	..	92.7
Exports	100	68.3	87.8	(78.8)	..	89.5
United States of America—						
Imports	100	168.4	168.8	135.6	189.1	194.8
Exports	100	115.3	107.5	108.9	101.1	94.1
South America—Argentina—						
Imports	100	54.6	71.6	66.7	73.8	..
Exports	100	100.8	97.9	90.6	111.6	..
Far East—China—						
Imports	100	..	81.0	96.0	113.0	..
Exports	100	..	117.0	119.0	122.0	..
Japan—Imports	100	..	..	142.1	160.1	148.9
Exports	100	..	..	112.9	134.2	110.3

The United States shows a remarkable increase in imports, and a falling-off in exports. France is exporting much more than in 1913, but German trade has shrunk to about half its pre-war volume. Despite unfavourable political and economic conditions, both China and Japan carried on during 1922 a more extensive foreign trade than was the case ten years ago.

In a final table we show the respective shares of Great Britain and her most formidable competitors in the total import trade of various countries throughout the world during 1913 and 1922:—

(A blank denotes that the necessary statistics are not available; .. denotes that the proportion is less than 0.1 per cent.)

Imports into—	From U.Kingdom.		From U.S.A.		From France.		From Germany.		From Japan.	
	1913.	1922.	1913.	1922.	1913.	1922.	1913.	1922.	1913.	1922.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom.	..	..	19.8	23.6	6.2	4.8	11.6	2.9	0.6	0.8
British Empire—										
Canada	21.3	17.6	64.0	67.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
South Africa	56.8	56.4	8.9	11.3	1.4	1.7	8.2	5.3	0.3	1.2
India	64.2	60.3	2.7	6.1	1.5	0.8	6.9	4.7	2.6	5.5
Australia	51.8	51.4	13.7	18.3	2.8	2.6	8.8	0.1	1.2	3.4
New Zealand	59.7	55.5	9.5	14.1	0.7	0.3	3.1	0.1	0.7	1.6
Continental Europe—										
France	13.2	14.2	10.6	16.1	..	..	12.7	5.4	1.5	1.7
Germany	8.1	..	15.9	..	5.4	..	..	..	0.4	..
Belgium	10.3	14.3	8.3	11.5	19.8	20.8	15.1	13.4	0.4	0.8
Russia	12.6	12.8	5.8	33.0	4.2	1.3	4.75	28.0	0.4	..
Italy	16.2	12.8	14.3	27.9	7.8	7.3	16.8	8.0	1.7	..
Netherlands	8.7	16.1	11.3	13.3	0.8	2.8	29.1	29.9	0.1	0.8
Sweden	24.4	24.2	9.0	14.9	4.2	2.9	34.2	28.3	0.1	0.1
United S. of Am.	15.2	11.6	..	..	7.7	4.6	10.3	3.8	5.5	11.4
South America—										
Argentina	31.1	23.4	14.7	22.1	9.0	5.1	16.9	13.4	0.2	0.6
Brazil	24.5	25.8	15.7	22.8	9.8	6.0	27.5	8.9	0.1	0.2
Chile	30.0	24.0	16.7	26.8	5.5	5.0	24.6	13.9	0.1	..
Peru	26.3	19.1	28.8	39.8	4.6	3.1	17.3	10.8	0.2	1.8
Far East—										
China	16.5	14.9	6.0	17.3	0.9	0.5	4.8	2.5	20.4	23.7
Japan	16.8	12.3	16.8	31.5	0.8	1.0	9.4	5.9	..	..

It is evident that although the real value of America's imports in 1922 was very little more than in 1913, that country obtained a much larger share of a reduced volume of world trade in the post-war year. To a less extent the same is true of Japan. The German position, on the other hand, had deteriorated. Our own position is more doubtful. Most European countries effected a greater portion of their purchases here in 1922 than in 1913. Our exports to Europe were in both years under one-third of our total exports. On the other hand, a large number of extra-European countries, including all the self-governing Dominions of the Empire, the United States, most South American countries (with the important exception of Brazil), and the Far East bought a smaller proportion of their imports from us in 1922.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.														LIGNITE.				
Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho- slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czecho- slovakia.	Germany.	Hun- gary.		
1913	<i>d</i> 24,336	1,904	1,189	<i>a</i> 3,404	<i>g</i> 15,842	156	..	1,135	665	1,311	1,776	43,087	..	1,918	<i>g</i> 7,269	..		
1918	19,283	1,158	..	2,188	13,376	283	..	1,133	747	1,680	2,336	51,272	..	..	8,399	..		
1920	19,434	1,866	928	<i>c</i> 2,830	8,960	328	..	1,267	867	1,456	2,437	48,811	199	1,641	9,303	399		
1921	13,822	1,816	971	<i>c</i> 3,213	9,491	327	..	631	884	1,554	2,185	38,282	206	1,792	10,251	471		
1922	21,133	1,770	826	<i>c</i> 3,596	9,929	381	<i>h</i> 1,850	815	735	1,539	2,054	34,821	259	1,579	11,434	466		
1923	23,450	1,910	969	<i>c</i> 3,981	2,341	440	3,008	1,008	901	1,582	..	49,268	222	1,351	9,854	519		
1923—July	22,066	1,857	1,156	<i>e</i> 4,312	2,042	454	3,227	766	916	1,237	<i>e</i> 2,100	46,485	211	1,393	10,572	412		
August	22,627	1,911	1,217	4,517	2,075	460	3,265	863	986	1,199	<i>e</i> 2,100	52,365	231	943	12,653	440		
September	22,221	1,893	<i>q</i> 57	4,410	3,686	437	3,042	873	883	1,694	<i>e</i> 2,100	44,445	233	<i>q</i> 62	9,401	521		
October	25,714	2,088	999	4,862	2,052	504	7,497	936	936	1,694	<i>e</i> 2,100	52,521	261	1,005	7,357	659		
November	24,871	2,089	1,421	4,583	1,935	464	3,126	858	946	1,629	<i>e</i> 2,100	49,915	241	1,930	<i>e</i> 7,119	591		
December	22,496	1,936	1,340	4,303	2,343	435	2,677	817	874	1,760	<i>e</i> 2,100	48,315	240	1,735	9,554	594		
1924—January	23,787	2,183	1,399	4,928	3,300	489	2,964	884	897	2,014	2,263	53,628	276	2,001	8,327	598		
February	24,283	2,112	1,366	4,807	3,356	458	2,805	877	865	2,268	2,081	48,391	258	1,836	10,391	517		
March	24,616	2,108	1,372	5,017	3,571	468	2,694	1,240	930	1,918	2,458	43,566	261	1,675	10,251	454		
April	22,960	2,049	1,215	4,765	2,359	477	2,504	801	930	1,807	..	43,566	261	1,836	10,391	517		
May	24,313	1,999	1,190	<i>s</i> 4,865	1,312	497	2,988	881	918	1,743	..	43,566	261	1,675	10,251	454		
June	19,636	1,748	962	..	1,775	445	..	..	929	1,483	..	43,566	215	1,568	10,789	281		
July	19,693	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,610	..	1,356	9,040	..		

a Including lignite. c Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. d Saleable coal only. Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. e Average of two months. f Strike period. g From 1919 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1920 excluding Saar and Palatinat; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. h Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. i Exc. Rhine mines. j Exc. Ruhr production. k Decrease due to coal strike. l Excluding Saar. m Average of five months.

PIG IRON.

										STEEL.									
Period.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.	
Monthly Average.																			
1913	869	207	434	102	1,388	212	61	85	2,601	d									
1918	768		109		843	106	64	90	3,260	649	205	396		1,412	101	d	88	2,664	
1920	680	93	276		463	58	38	82	3,083	812	1	151		1,176	73	62	142	3,646	
1921	222	225	280		625	81	26	51	2,401	768	104	246		643	50	41	94	3,461	
1922	412	134	427	96	730	140	22	32	4,271	514	66	256		750	63	19	57	1,628	
1923	630	182	443	77	333	117	23	75	3,392	719	d 190	313	105	762	116	29	41	2,927	
											d	417	83	417	100	25	75	3,682	
1923—July	666	187	436	93	..	121	10	83	3,737	634	182	400	205	..	96	4	75	3,588	
August	609	199	486	99	..	135	30	94	3,505	592	213	452	112	..	110	42	107	3,755	
September	568	194	482	98	..	127	39	78	3,176	706	194	446	109	..	106	58	67	3,410	
October	605	196	514	99	..	134	41	75	3,200	713	216	477	117	..	126	57	69	3,634	
November	608	205	536	106	..	138	46	63	2,941	763	217	506	119	..	122	62	56	3,164	
December	637	209	565	110	..	153	43	61	2,968	664	215	493	109	..	135	44	42	2,909	
1924—January	647	209	586	116	..	162	48	65	3,067	701	231	541	110	..	147	49	42	3,692	
February	623	208	590	118	..	165	42	79	3,124	780	226	555	114	..	151	48	72	3,870	
March	679	250	640	135	..	187	43	85	3,501	838	241	573	138	..	156	46	96	4,265	
April	628	240	651	..	..	186	46	81	3,285	723	241	567	..	..	157	46	106	3,387	
May	661	247	658	..	..	184	47	86	2,657	823	251	599	..	..	152	49	110	2,670	
June	618	237	639	..	..	187	47	88	2,059	662	255	555	..	..	144	..	70	2,089	
July	622	..	..	..	..	1,812	704	..	1,812	704	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,899	

c Excluding Luxemburg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October 1913.

c Excluding Luxemburg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October, 1918; for 1920-1923 figures not official. d Ingots and castings. † Decrease due to labour disputes. * Corrected figures from January, 1923, based on returns from works responsible in 1922 for 99.6% of total output.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K.		Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany. ("Frankfurter Zeitung")	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.
	Bo'd of Trade.	Econo- mist.																
1913	100	100	h 100	h 100	d 100	100	h 100	e 100	100	c 100	h 100	100	100	100	h 100	100	h 100	100
1918	224.9	224.9			232	339.2		373	409.1			1	207	207		177.8	180	207
1920	307.3	283.2			341	509.4	2,130	292	624.4				221	359		227.9	204	241
1921	197.2	181.0	366	1,675	178	345.0	4,217	182	577.5		57,046		221	190	222	191.2	181	241
1922	158.8	159.5	367	1,299	181	326.6	49,559	160	562.3		137,575	15,790	176	173	167.5	161.6	176	158.8
1923	159.1	162.1	497	992	204	418.9	26,523,815,669	151	574.6	217,645,826	637,118	172	163	180.6	178.7	176	153	159.1
1923-July	156.7	155.3	504	958	207	406.7	28,624,800	145	566.4	231	152,240	170	162	175.3	188.6	170	153	156.7
August	154.6	155.6	529	957	202	413.1	306,335,800	142	566.7	233	5,294,680	275,290	171	162	173.4	183.8	171	153
September	158.0	159.6	514	973	205	423.6	18,295,360,000	145	569.2	232	7,302,200	174	162	181.1	179.9	174	154	158.0
October	160.4	160.4	515	969	207	420.5	7,490,150,000	148	563.4	235	27,380,680	873,000	171	161	181.6	178.9	174	154
November	161.1	168.6	531	984	207	426.6	148,490,000,000	153	571.4	243	67,943,700	1,731,000	173	160	182.5	181.0	177	153
December	163.6	170.1	545	930	210	458.3	143,000,000,000	156	577.2	247	142,300,700	3,781,000	176	160	182.5	182.2	179	153
1924-January	165.4	173.1	580	1,029	223	494.6	143,000,000,000	158	578.8	251	252,167,700	h 1.81	178	161	183.4	182.4	177	156
February	166.9	173.3	642	1,036	227	543.7	147,250,000,000	155	572.8	261	248,429,600	h 1.87	180	162	180.1	179.9	178	156
March	165.4	172.3	625	1,022	228	499.3	151,780,000,000	155	578.7	264	245,277,900	h 1.61	180	162	181.4	179.9	178	156
April	164.7	172.2	555	1,015	225	449.5	151,890,000,000	154	578.7	263	242,321,800	h 1.57	184	161	180.4	179.9	178	156
May	163.7	168.1	557	981	219	458.3	143,010,000,000	153	570.7	261	104.0	h 1.50		160	178.3	173.2	176	150
June	162.6	168.3	565	965	220	465.1	115,900,000,000	151	566.1	262	100.6	h 1.55		158	173.3		176	150
July	162.7	173.5	580		491.0	130,170,000,000			567.2	271								153

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau.

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau middle of each month. d Beginning of the following month. e Revised index number. f 000's omitted. g Middle of month. h 1914. i Beginning of the following year. j 1913. k 1912. l 1911. m 1910. n 1909. o 1908. p 1907. q 1906. r 1905. s 1904. t 1903. u 1902. v 1901. w 1900. x 1899. y 1898. z 1897. aa 1896. ab 1895. ac 1894. ad 1893. ae 1892. af 1891. ag 1890. ah 1889. ai 1888. aj 1887. ak 1886. al 1885. am 1884. an 1883. ao 1882. ap 1881. aq 1880. ar 1879. as 1878. at 1877. au 1876. av 1875. aw 1874. ax 1873. ay 1872. az 1871. ba 1870. bb 1869. bc 1868. bd 1867. be 1866. bf 1865. bg 1864. bh 1863. bi 1862. bj 1861. bk 1860. bl 1859. bm 1858. bn 1857. bo 1856. bp 1855. bq 1854. br 1853. bs 1852. bt 1851. bu 1850. bv 1849. bw 1848. bx 1847. by 1846. bz 1845. ca 1844. cb 1843. cc 1842. cd 1841. ce 1840. cf 1839. cg 1838. ch 1837. ci 1836. cj 1835. ck 1834. cl 1833. cm 1832. cn 1831. co 1830. cp 1829. cq 1828. cr 1827. cs 1826. ct 1825. cu 1824. cv 1823. cw 1822. cx 1821. cy 1820. cz 1819. da 1818. db 1817. dc 1816. dd 1815. de 1814. df 1813. dg 1812. dh 1811. di 1810. dj 1809. dk 1808. dl 1807. dm 1806. dn 1805. do 1804. dp 1803. dq 1802. dr 1801. ds 1800. dt 1799. du 1798. dv 1797. dw 1796. dx 1795. dy 1794. dz 1793. ea 1792. eb 1791. ec 1790. ed 1789. ee 1788. ef 1787. eg 1786. eh 1785. ei 1784. ej 1783. ek 1782. el 1781. em 1780. en 1779. eo 1778. ep 1777. eq 1776. er 1775. es 1774. et 1773. eu 1772. ev 1771. ew 1770. ex 1769. ey 1768. ez 1767. fa 1766. fb 1765. fc 1764. fd 1763. fe 1762. ff 1761. fg 1760. fh 1759. fi 1758. fj 1757. fk 1756. fl 1755. fm 1754. fn 1753. fo 1752. fp 1751. fq 1750. fr 1749. fs 1748. ft 1747. fu 1746. fv 1745. fw 1744. fx 1743. fy 1742. fz 1741. ga 1740. gb 1739. gc 1738. gd 1737. ge 1736. gf 1735. gg 1734. gh 1733. gi 1732. gj 1731. gk 1730. gl 1729. gm 1728. gn 1727. go 1726. gp 1725. gq 1724. gr 1723. gs 1722. gt 1721. gu 1720. gv 1719. gw 1718. gx 1717. gy 1716. gz 1715. ha 1714. hb 1713. hc 1712. hd 1711. he 1710. hf 1709. hg 1708. hh 1707. hi 1706. hj 1705. hk 1704. hl 1703. hm 1702. hn 1701. ho 1700. hp 1699. hq 1698. hr 1697. hs 1696. ht 1695. hu 1694. hv 1693. hw 1692. hx 1691. hy 1690. hz 1689. ia 1688. ib 1687. ic 1686. id 1685. ie 1684. if 1683. ig 1682. ih 1681. ii 1680. ij 1679. ik 1678. il 1677. im 1676. in 1675. io 1674. ip 1673. iq 1672. ir 1671. is 1670. it 1669. iu 1668. iv 1667. iw 1666. ix 1665. iy 1664. iz 1663. ja 1662. jb 1661. jc 1660. jd 1659. je 1658. jf 1657. jg 1656. jh 1655. ji 1654. jj 1653. jk 1652. jl 1651. jm 1650. jn 1649. jo 1648. jp 1647. jq 1646. jr 1645. js 1644. jt 1643. ju 1642. jv 1641. jw 1640. jx 1639. jy 1638. jz 1637. ka 1636. kb 1635. kc 1634. kd 1633. ke 1632. kf 1631. kg 1630. kh 1629. ki 1628. kj 1627. kk 1626. kl 1625. km 1624. kn 1623. ko 1622. kp 1621. kq 1620. kr 1619. ks 1618. kt 1617. ku 1616. kv 1615. kw 1614. kx 1613. ky 1612. kz 1611. la 1610. lb 1609. lc 1608. ld 1607. le 1606. lf 1605. lg 1604. lh 1603. li 1602. lj 1601. lk 1600. ll 1599. lm 1598. ln 1597. lo 1596. lp 1595. lq 1594. lr 1593. ls 1592. lt 1591. lu 1590. lv 1589. lw 1588. lx 1587. ly 1586. lz 1585. ma 1584. mb 1583. mc 1582. md 1581. me 1580. mf 1579. mg 1578. mh 1577. mi 1576. mj 1575. mk 1574. ml 1573. mn 1572. mo 1571. mp 1570. mq 1569. mr 1568. ms 1567. mt 1566. mu 1565. mv 1564. mw 1563. mx 1562. my 1561. mz 1560. na 1559. nb 1558. nc 1557. nd 1556. ne 1555. nf 1554. ng 1553. nh 1552. ni 1551. nj 1550. nk 1549. nl 1548. nm 1547. no 1546. np 1545. nq 1544. nr 1543. ns 1542. nt 1541. nu 1540. nv 1539. nw 1538. nx 1537. ny 1536. nz 1535. oa 1534. ob 1533. oc 1532. od 1531. oe 1530. of 1529. og 1528. oh 1527. oi 1526. oj 1525. ok 1524. ol 1523. om 1522. on 1521. oo 1520. op 1519. oq 1518. or 1517. os 1516. ot 1515. ou 1514. ov 1513. ow 1512. ox 1511. oy 1510. oz 1509. pa 1508. pb 1507. pc 1506. pd 1505. pe 1504. pf 1503. pg 1502. ph 1501. pi 1500. pj 1499. pk 1498. pl 1497. pm 1496. pn 1495. po 1494. pp 1493. pq 1492. pr 1491. ps 1490. pt 1489. pu 1488. pv 1487. pw 1486. px 1485. py 1484. pz 1483. qa 1482. qb 1481. qc 1480. qd 1479. qe 1478. qf 1477. qg 1476. qh 1475. qi 1474. qj 1473. qk 1472. ql 1471. qm 1470. qn 1469. qo 1468. qp 1467. qr 1466. qs 1465. qt 1464. qu 1463. qv 1462. qw 1461. qx 1460. qy 1459. qz 1458. ra 1457. rb 1456. rc 1455. rd 1454. re 1453. rf 1452. rg 1451. rh 1450. ri 1449. rj 1448. rk 1447. rl 1446. rm 1445. rn 1444. ro 1443. rp 1442. rq 1441. rr 1440. rs 1439. rt 1438. ru 1437. rv 1436. rw 1435. rx 1434. ry 1433. rz 1432. sa 1431. sb 1430. sc 1429. sd 1428. se 1427. sf 1426. sg 1425. sh 1424. si 1423. sj 1422. sk 1421. sl 1420. sm 1419. sn 1418. so 1417. sp 1416. sq 1415. sr 1414. ss 1413. st 1412. su 1411. sv 1410. sw 1409. sx 1408. sy 1407. sz 1406. ta 1405. tb 1404. tc 1403. td 1402. te 1401. tf 1400. tg 1399. th 1398. ti 1397. tj 1396. tk 1395. tl 1394. tm 1393. tn 1392. to 1391. tp 1390. tq 1389. tr 1388. ts 1387. tt 1386. tu 1385. tv 1384. tw 1383. tx 1382. ty 1381. tz 1380. ua 1379. ub 1378. uc 1377. ud 1376. ue 1375. uf 1374. ug 1373. uh 1372. ui 1371. uj 1370. uk 1369. ul 1368. um 1367. un 1366. uo 1365. up 1364. uq 1363. ur 1362. us 1361. ut 1360. uv 1359. uw 1358. ux 1357. uy 1356. uz 1355. va 1354. vb 1353. vc 1352. vd 1351. ve 1350. vf 1349. vg 1348. vh 1347. vi 1346. vj 1345. vk 1344.

Wholesale Prices—Continued.

					Index Numbers of Retail Prices.						Cost of Living.—(Base=100.)						
Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States, Bureau of Labour.	No. of Towns and Localities.	U.K.	Austria.	Bel- gium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.		Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	United States.	
						630	Vienna.	59	4	Paris.	71	Berlin.	Milan.	Madrid.	60		
1913	100	100	100	100		July, 1914.	July, 1914.	April, 1914.	1901-1910.	1914.	Oct., 1913. Jan., April, June, 1914.	Aug., 1913 July, 1914.	Jan.- June, 1914.	1914.	1913.	1913.	
1918	153·1	..	195·8	194		Base.	July, 1914.	April, 1914.	1901-1910.	1914.	Oct., 1913. Jan., April, June, 1914.	Aug., 1913 July, 1914.	Jan.- June, 1914.	1914.	1913.	1913.	
1920	223·3	152·0	259·4	226		1918—July ..	210	..	d	..	..	..	286	154	146	174	
1921	160·4	150·2	200·4	147		1920—July ..	255	53,300	100	2492	341	935	1125	441	191	190	217
1922	128·4	145·6	195·0	149		1921—July ..	229	264,511	100	2604	307	1125	1125	499	189	155	167
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	154		1922—July ..	181	1,090,300	90	3530	302	5392	6122	488	181	147	187
						1923—July ..	a	1,090,300	109	3344	334	3765100	3286100	487	172	145	170
1923—June		155·2	197·7	153		June ..	169	1,151,300	105	2531	331	765000	b 877020	491	170	146	170
July	124·0	155·4	192·4	151		Aug. ..	173	1,049,600	112	3083	..	58604500	b 59017	483	178	148	..
August	..	153·1	190·0	150		Sept. ..	175	1,084,100	117	3064	331	1500000000	b 1480000	487	178	149	173
September	..	156·8	210·2	154		Oct. ..	175	1,102,700	117	3045	..	65700000	b 107100000	502	174	150	..
October	125·5	156·1	211·6	153		Nov. ..	177	1,114,900	120	3201	..	353700000	b 67910000	503	177	150	..
November	..	157·3	210·1	152		Dec. ..	179	1,174,900	122	3424	345	c 12700000	e 98300000	499	182	150	173
December	..	157·5	210·5	151	1924	Jan. ..	179	1,174,900	124	..	..	c 104000000	e 93200000	510	178	150	..
1924—January	131·4	156·7	219·0	151		Feb. ..	178	1,194,000	130	..	..	c 110000000	e 93400000	517	190	150	170
February	..	159·5	207·7	152		Mar. ..	173	1,199,600	128	..	..	c 107000000	e 93900000	521	180	148	..
March	..	157·5	205·7	150		April. ..	171	1,197,500	124	..	365	c 112000000	e 101700000	512	195	145	..
April	126·2	153·7	206·6	148		May ..	169	1,227,900	119	..	..	c 107000000	e 101100000	518	..	143	..
May	..	154·3	204·4	147		June ..	170	1,244,200	123	..	365	c 115000000	e 101700000	518	..	143	..
June	..	151·8	..	145		July ..	..	1,239,100	125	..	..	c 112000000	e 101100000	518	..	143	..

a The first of the following month. b 000's omitted. d Yearly figures are averages. e 000,000's omitted.

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Czechoslovakia.	Denmark.	Finland.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Yugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.		
End of	Bank of England Notes.	Currency Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Reichs-bank Notes.	Reichs- und Darlehens-kassenscheine.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	
	£	£	Kronen.	Francs.	Leva.	Koruna.	Kron.	Francs.	Marks.	Marks.	Drachma.	Korona.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Gulden.
1913.....	29.6	323.2	1,067	183	2,299	152	113	5,714	2,593	149	245	14,308	3,344	1,072	51
1918.....	70.2	305.6	3,210	625.0	3,154	450	1,156	31,055	22,188	10,599	1,274	12,491	1,508	1,072	51
1920.....	113.3	367.6	30,646	6,250	3,915	1,189	557	141	3,556	68,865	12,349	25,175	4,688	1,013	35
1921.....	107.1	325.6	174,115	6,290	3,615	1,203	471	3,556	36,359	113,639	8,523	75,887	5,010	1,012	32
1922.....	102.9	295.4	4,060,171	6,701	3,886	1,064	459	36,359	1,280,095	13,663	3,149	931,337	5,790	1,066	32
1923.....	105.1	292.7	7,125,755	7,460	4,139	9,599	473	39,114	149,650,742	772	1,231	154,996	5,561	962	27
1923-June	102.7	286.5	5,432,619	7,017	3,811	9,376	482	1,352	36,689	17,231	12,444	154,996	5,561	962	27
July	104.2	291.7	5,684,134	7,179	3,714	9,448	447	1,389	37,339	43,995	12,096	154,996	5,561	962	27
Aug.	102.2	285.1	5,894,786	7,194	3,732	9,218	449	1,389	37,364	43,995	12,096	154,996	5,561	962	27
Sept.	101.6	282.8	6,225,105	7,150	3,873	9,111	459	1,383	37,696	28,228,115	8,727	154,996	5,561	962	27
Oct.	102.3	281.3	6,607,839	7,281	3,976	9,279	471	1,386	37,848	2,496,822,909	8,854	154,996	5,561	962	27
Nov.	102.6	281.6	7,125,755	7,278	3,978	9,251	473	1,352	37,329	400,267,424,702	m	1,049	154,996	5,561	962
Dec.	103.2	292.7	7,125,755	7,460	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	39,114	496,507,528,821	m	1,564	154,996	5,561	962
1924-Jan	103.1	277.5	6,656,311	7,632	4,748	8,280	463	1,400	40,245	587,874,526,821	m	1,564	154,996	5,561	962
Feb.	103.9	285.2	7,145,491	7,676	5,178	8,199	469	1,365	40,021	589,864,571,150	m	1,760	154,996	5,561	962
Mar.	103.2	290.1	7,314,917	7,638	5,055	8,078	481	1,361	40,021	775,948,637,595	m	1,709	154,996	5,561	962
Apr.	103.3	286.1	7,554,620	7,680	4,793	8,081	477	1,305	40,245	926,873,543,864	m	1,729	154,996	5,561	962
May	103.4	292.1	7,774,958	7,583	4,793	8,081	477	1,305	40,245	1,097,308,572,182	m	1,772	154,996	5,561	962
June	105.3	295.6	7,995,647	7,764	4,793	8,081	477	1,305	40,245	1,210,338,485,128	m	1,803	154,996	5,561	962
July	104.6	295.6	7,995,647	7,764	4,793	8,081	477	1,305	40,245	1,210,338,485,128	m	1,803	154,996	5,561	962

Period.	Italy.	Norway.	Poland.	Roumania.	Russia.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Egypt.	United States.	Japan.				
End of	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.				
	Lire.	Lire.	Kroner.	Marki p.	Zloty.	Lei.	Gd. Rbls.	Roubles.	Kronor.	Francs.	£	Dollars.	Yen.				
1913.....	2,284	499	108	a	n	437	..	57	234	314	10.0	227	2.2	726	343	424	
1918.....	11,750	2,124	431	a	9,485	..	1,165	..	976	589.9	5.50	6.1	44.5	3,402	291	1,144	
1920.....	19,732	2,268	410	a	17,540	..	52,592,600	25.5	750	1,024	58.7	52.2	9.1	37.3	4,264	2,639	
1921.....	19,209	2,267	385	e	15,126	..	178,509,900	28.0	628	1,009	56.5	44.4	8.3	35.3	3,256	2,811	
1922.....	18,012	2,267	396	e	17,317	..	178,509,900	28.0	576	982	52.2	40.8	8.3	34.3	2,951	308	
1923.....	17,182	..	385	125,371,955	..	16,203	..	9.6	586	894	52.1	39.2	8.8	25.8	2,966	3,371	
1923-June	17,336	2,428	415	3,566,649	..	16,549	..	12,456,610	13.5	545	880	52.0	38.1	8.2	24.2	2,905	3,011
July	17,382	2,428	405	4,478,709	..	17,043	..	16,584,480	18.4	561	886	52.0	38.9	8.4	23.4	2,951	3,061
Aug.	17,035	2,428	402	11,197,717	..	17,426	..	22,701,870	23.5	600	930	52.0	40.8	8.7	27.1	2,993	3,048
Sept.	17,145	2,428	394	23,080,402	..	17,722	..	98,833,300	26.8	568	920	52.0	40.3	8.8	36.4	2,985	3,048
Oct.	17,248	2,428	384	53,217,495	..	17,917	..	178,509,900	28.0	576	982	52.2	40.8	8.8	34.3	2,951	3,048
Nov.	17,048	2,428	396	125,371,955	..	17,711	..	330,018,100	30.8	529	884	52.4	37.6	8.6	33.3	2,743	2,936
Dec.	17,247	2,428	365	31,659,830	..	17,837	20	865,503,500	32.5	603	878	52.1	37.8	8.8	32.7	2,778	3,041
1924-Jan	16,758	2,428	369	528,913,413	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	33.8	557	901	53.9	37.2	8.9	31.8	2,737	3,041
Feb.	16,569	2,428	380	596,697,506	..	17,659	85	744,000,000	35.2	523	886	53.6	37.6	8.8	31.6	2,650	3,033
Mar.	16,819	2,428	380	670,388,687	245	17,753	124	491,350,000	36.7	513	877	56.9	37.1	9.0	29.9	2,647	3,071
Apr.	16,758	2,428	380	141,858,402	334	17,799	143	301,325,000	38.8	557	866	..	..	..	..	..	1,364
May	16,547	2,428	379	..	345	17,895	..	..	41.8	515	866	..	..	..	..	..	..
June	17,515	2,428	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1924-Jan

1924-July

1923-June

1

a Including German, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian notes, converted into national currency. *b* Three banks of issue: Banks of Italy, Naples, and Sicily. *c* Including Austro-Hungarian and other notes, converted after the War into national currency. *d* Gross issue, without deduction of notes held by Banking Department. *e* Including notes held on redemption account in respect of Currency Notes. *f* Includes notes called in, but not cancelled. *g* Since June, 1922, circulation in Luxembourg is included. *h* Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. *i* Including notes of the Bank of Crete, amalgamated with the National Bank. *j* Circulation in Union only. *k* Millions. *l* Millions. *m* Rentenmarks issued by Rentenbank, 1922, circulation in 1919, and those of the Ionian Bank, amalgamated in April, 1920. *n* Circulation in Union only. *o* Millions. *p* Thousands.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris.	Brussels.	Italy.	Switzer- land.	Madrid.	Amster- dam.	Stock- holm.	Christiania.	Copen- hagen.	Berlin.	Vienna.	New York.	Buenos Aires.
	Francs to £1.	Francs to £1.	Lire to £1.	Francs to £1.	Pesetas to £1.	Florins to £1.	Kronor to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Marks to £1.	Krone to £1.	Dollars to £1.	Pence to Dollars.
Par level	25-22½	25-22½	25-22½	25-22½	25-22½	12-107	18-159	18-159	18-159	20-43	24-04	4-86½	47-58
Highest, 1923	86-70	107-20	108½	25-91	25-91	11-91	18-73	31-05	26-67	50 billions	350,000	4-72½	44-48
Lowest "	72-45	68-05	89½	24-45	23-47	11-37	16-28	24-35	22-46	32,000	300,000	4-25½	38½
Beginning of—													
July, 1914	25-15	25-35½	25-25½	25-19½	26-10	12-11½	18-30	18-25	18-30	20-49½	24-55	4-87½	47-4½
January, 1919	27-97½	25-35½	30-31½	22-95½	23-67½	11-15	16-29½	16-85	17-67½	..	187½	4-76½	51½
January, 1920	40-52½	40-42½	50-00	21-16½	19-72½	17-60	18-60	18-60	18-60	187½	1,500	3-78½	62½
January, 1921	52-32½	58-07½	104½	23-55	27-66½	11-36½	17-56	22-42½	22-17½	262	1,500	3-54½	51½
January, 1922	66-30	54-66½	97½	21-70½	28-19½	11-44½	16-97½	26-99½	21-12½	791½	13,000	4-20	43½
January, 1923	66-30	72-85	93½	24-72½	29-73½	11-79	17-37½	25-12½	23-40	48,500	330,000	4-68	44½
January, 1924	87-85	99-45	106½	24-63½	33-58½	11-36½	16-26½	29-22½	24-44½	194 billions	305,500	4-29½	40½
March "	102-30	117-75	108½	24-82½	34-21½	11-53½	16-46½	32-87½	27-17½	194 billions	304,500	4-30½	43½
April "	74-95	89-00	98½	24-79½	32-22½	11-61½	16-29½	31-35	26-12½	20 billions	304,500	4-30½	41½
May "	85-75	81-25	97½	24-66½	31-76½	11-71	16-61½	31-74½	25-32½	18½ billions	310,500	4-38½	41½
June "	85-10	96-50	101½	24-52	32-02½	11-53½	16-24½	31-75½	25-32½	18½ billions	306,500	4-31½	41½
July "	88-32½	96-06½	101½	24-52	32-02½	11-49½	16-34½	32-37½	27-25	18½ billions	307,500	4-33½	40½
August "				23-64½	33-03½	11-51½	16-52½	32-52½	27-35½	18½ billions	312,500	4-40	40½

[illegible]

+ Sterling to Rupee. § Pence to Peco.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzer-land.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drachma.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Pesetas.	Kronor.	Francs.	£s.	Dollars.
1913.....	54,931	386,333	15,775	64,785	..	701,778	41,035	897,475	14,828	303,802	..	326,500	..	108,838	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1918.....	107,100	737,677	28,551	102,184	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,998,617	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1920.....	142,491	1,077,973	38,486	134,777	116,265	2,457,277	51,094	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1921.....	81,548	589,617	24,324	123,022	123,022	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1922.....	79,550	567,035	23,472	121,322	121,322	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1923.....	81,620	589,617	24,324	123,022	123,022	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1924—Jan.....	78,353	1,195,202	38,527	134,903	862,274	2,558,336	41,829	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Feb.....	80,101	1,023,184	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,618	38,944	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Mar.....	82,614	1,077,143	..	165,385	726,661	2,615,618	38,944	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Apr.....	75,155	1,077,143	..	165,385	726,661	2,615,618	38,944	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
May.....	88,768	1,068,255	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,618	38,944	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
June.....	91,414	1,123,834	..	174,811	860,356	3,160,040	44,926	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
July.....	88,768	1,068,255	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,618	38,944	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1924—Jan.....	87,948	1,335,721	39,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Feb.....	87,475	1,335,721	39,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Mar.....	91,028	1,618,666	42,912	178,621	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Apr.....	74,395	1,285,588	37,916	153,401	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
May.....	108,995	1,512,521	57,058	188,243	640,932	3,178,867	43,941	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
June.....	78,478	1,379,459	..	174,811	860,356	3,160,040	44,926	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
July.....	97,941	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzer-land.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drachma.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Pesetas.	Kronor.	Francs.	£s.	Dollars.
1913.....	43,771	302,882	7,778	53,113	..	573,351	33,482	841,583	4,917	209,303	..	256,917	..	88,136	68,112	114,700	2,626	201,024
1918.....	117,665	737,677	28,551	102,184	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,998,617	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1920.....	142,491	1,077,973	38,486	134,777	116,265	2,457,277	51,094	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1921.....	81,548	589,617	24,324	123,022	123,022	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1922.....	79,550	567,035	23,472	121,322	121,322	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1923.....	81,620	589,617	24,324	123,022	123,022	1,858,732	23,484	3,814,913	32,412	1,232,733	..	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
1924—Jan.....	87,948	1,335,721	39,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Feb.....	87,475	1,335,721	39,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Mar.....	91,028	1,618,666	42,912	178,621	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
Apr.....	74,395	1,285,588	37,916	153,401	638,058	2,887,921	37,673	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
May.....	108,995	1,512,521	57,058	188,243	640,932	3,178,867	43,941	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
June.....	78,478	1,379,459	..	174,811	860,356	3,160,040	44,926	4,158,748	48,266	1,877,115	288,818	277,702	..	118,435	281,125	353,568	4,147	245,361
July.....	97,941	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

^a Owing to Ruhr occupation figure incomplete. ^b Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. ^c Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. ^d Period September 22—October 21. ^e Old Greece only. ^f Valued at 1921 official rates. ^g Since January, 1922, the value of imports is based on declarations of importers, instead of official evaluations previously used. ^h Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." ⁱ A period September 1-21. ^j Official values. ^k From January to October, 1923, official figures. ^l From November, 1923, provisional figures based on merchants' declarations, which may differ considerably from final figures based on official quarterly valuations. ^m From April 1, 1924, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. ⁿ Average of 5 months.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Value.								Quantity (Metric Tons).										
Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Spain.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
Monthly Average.	£s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£s.	£s.	Yen.	Milreis.											
1913.....	6,355	^b 152,725	54,917	1,785	^s 3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	..	3,685	^h 4,068	..	..	5,041	..	987	661	489
1918.....	7,696	137,704	75,583	1,966	3,768	135,721	82,450	2,721	..	2,446	..	28	..	404	..	233	295	145
1920.....	13,172	258,929	111,410	5,062	7,994	191,179	174,219	1,112	326	4,245	1,570	..	45	1,151	294	703	468	271
1921.....	8,222	230,720	66,616	3,461	4,447	132,481	140,820	1,472	333	3,339	2,175	..	77	1,151	294	682	357	271
1922.....	9,850	199,524	63,528	2,817	4,008	153,956	137,719	^q 1,772	266	4,285	3,823	..	87	1,623	344	354	441	271
1923.....	11,088	184,765	75,294	3,575	4,584	165,589	189,203	^r 2,203	349	4,577	4,097	107	313	1,612	266	..	556	298
1924—April.....	10,134	204,381	68,181	3,461	4,460	185,789	176,671	2,603	298	4,175	6,396	114	233	1,437	285	191	501	234
May.....	11,148	192,423	82,265	3,353	4,470	139,359	184,910	1,898	248	4,502	4,013	107	341	1,378	253	218	501	267
June.....	10,297	173,145	84,633	3,420	4,226	209,498	157,698	2,262	300	4,932	4,807	88	353	1,597	290	173	501	293
July.....	11,636	158,466	77,074	3,578	4,883	161,367	183,593	2,197	341	4,864	4,160	97	211	1,633	471	157	591	365
Aug.....	11,459	166,075	78,826	3,521	5,190	156,413	165,292	2,179	417	4,803	4,120	94	290	1,708	239	185	591	291
Sept.....	8,869	182,690	71,351	3,210	4,477	126,618	190,503	3,264	457	5,063	3,420	106	350	1,776	204	206	591	281
Oct.....	12,719	222,217	76,541	4,570	5,296	144,545	217,198	2,231	622	4,360	2,915	133	260	1,918	214	226	591	325
Nov.....	13,272	205,979	72,084	3,647	5,011	156,664	228,287	2,327	402	4,945	3,370	158	248	1,775	347	..	591	363
Dec.....	10,328	153,051	65,456	3,653	4,599	177,516	218,832	2,229	529	5,165	2,850	129	340	1,791	189	..	591	299
1924—Jan.....	13,392	224,391	66,468	4,324	5,020	214,210	186,891	2,558	248	3,933	2,663	97	250	1,615	140	..	459	351
Feb.....	11,804	173,686	62,134	3,782	4,615	294,114	153,908	2,629	332	4,395	2,749	138	289	1,668	220	..	459	300
Mar.....	10,845	181,045	66,954	3,599	4,941	311,429	210,546	2,923	316	4,822	2,482	136	323	1,803	..	..	459	371
April.....	9,822	190,173	60,203	3,061	6,737	247,618	174,389	2,749	363	4,924	2,550	92	387	1,660	232	..	506	283
May.....	12,477	192,818	72,058	3,783	5,251	223,623	..	2,489	520	5,485	3,000	132	322	1,734	..	..	506	..
June.....	11,758	175,684	66,396	..	5,366	176,100	..	2,533	489	4,582	..	106	..	2,050	..	..	506	..

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD—Continued from page 10.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canadian grain crops made a bad start this year, and weather conditions so far have provided few opportunities for recovery. From the latest official bulletin a decline in the exportable wheat surplus of anything up to 40 or 50 per cent. is not improbable, but much depends on the next week or two, and the unofficial reports during the last few days have been more hopeful. The lumber trade is quiet, but pulp and paper manufacturing remains active. Eastern factories report a decline in production, in sympathy with trade movements over the United States border. Fair quantities of rain have fallen in many parts of Australia, and the pastoral and cereal outlook is promising. Conditions in manufacturing industries are less satisfactory, and the campaign for a still higher tariff continues. In India the monsoon this year was late, but is now well established, and anxiety has been relieved in most parts of the country. Up-country grain markets are strong, and reports from the jute districts fairly favourable. Prospects for the tea crop remain good. South African progress is slow, though business on the whole continues on a larger scale than at this time last year.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Argentine crop prospects are less brilliant. The weather has lately been cold and dry, and some anxiety is felt as to its effect on the cereal yield. Chilean business is steady, sales of nitrate having been on an increased scale recently. Peruvian conditions are irregular, and exchange has weakened. Though the San Paulo revolt had no very marked effect on Brazilian trade, its suppression has been followed by increased activity in most markets, cotton, coffee, and rice quotations all showing an upward tendency. A forty-five day moratorium has been declared in the case of bills, one party to which is resident in the state of San Paulo.

EUROPE.

Though the acreage sown is less than last year's, French crops are reported as being in good condition and of high quality. Trade as a whole is proceeding on quiet lines. Similar conditions apply in Belgium, where the steel industry is finding German competition a troublesome factor. The glass industry is now working at about 75 per cent. of normal capacity. Dutch foreign trade figures show a marked recovery as compared with last year, and shipping returns at Rotterdam tell the same

story. Many branches of industry, however, still labour under difficult conditions, which are reflected in the recently-disclosed position of a prominent financial institution. H.M. Commercial Secretary at Berlin describes the present situation as exceedingly unfavourable for German commerce and industry. Capital and credit are everywhere scarce, orders are no longer coming in in sufficient quantity, only a few undertakings are fully employed, output restriction and the closing down of factories obtaining in almost every part of the country. Norway has not yet recovered from the effect of recent regrettable trade disputes. Swedish harvest prospects have greatly improved owing to a substantial rainfall. In Denmark the suspension of a well-known bank has caused a slump in financial business, although the agricultural outlook is fairly good. Finnish trade figures are encouraging, but the low prices prevailing for timber and its products will probably lead to an attempt at organised output restriction in the coming season. Russian crops are likely to fall behind last year's in quantity, and the continuance of grain exports will be a matter of difficulty. A slight revival of confidence is observable in Austria, and unemployment has reached its lowest level since the reconstruction period, internal demand showing a tendency to expand. Poland is now passing through the period of acute trading depression and scarcity of capital and credit which is the invariable accompaniment of more settled financial conditions after a period of prolonged inflation. Seasonal quietness is very noticeable as regards Spanish trade and industry, but Italy has been less affected, the textile industries generally being well occupied with orders in hand, though wool spinners are hampered by difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies of raw material.

FAR EAST.

China seems as far off a general revival as ever, and although the market for cotton and woollen piece goods is not unsatisfactory at the moment, trade as a whole has tended to contract rather than expand since the beginning of the present year. Commercial circles are exercised as to the effects of the so-called "Luxury Tariff" introduced by the Japanese Government, contemplating a 100 per cent. import duty on many articles, ostensibly for the purpose of preventing luxurious habits, checking imports, and putting a stop to the reduction of Japanese specie balances abroad. The wide scope of the measure, however, has aroused much criticism in certain quarters, who declare that the measure is intended as a counter stroke to the United States ban on Japanese immigration.

The Economist

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

New Series.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1924.

No. 16.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations,* supplemented from our own statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s 6d. Constable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

At this time a year ago we were able to diagnose a tendency to increased confidence among merchants and manufacturers generally, although we found it necessary to qualify our general statement by saying that the ground for this slightly more optimistic sentiment might be nothing more substantial than a conviction that depression could not last for ever. While much the same

industries) to a seasonal decline which may quite conceivably be entirely offset during the next few months.

Other indications show that the volume of business (outside the coal and "heavy" metal industries) is appreciably larger than at this time a year ago, and is fairly well maintained, considering the time of year. The overseas trade returns are encouraging, the returns for eight months showing imports of raw materials for our staple industries, higher in nearly every case than last year, and a parallel increase in exports (again with the exception of coal, iron and steel). Bank deposits are tending to contract slightly, but advances are well maintained, and bank clearings remain at a considerably higher level than a year ago. Railway receipts during August were surprisingly good, and though the increase over July is chiefly to be ascribed to holiday passenger traffic, the tonnage of merchandise carried has also been well maintained.

Among individual industries the coal export trade is suffering rather from a failure of demand in many countries than from a recrudescence of foreign competition. The same remark applies to iron and steel. If anything, steel is feeling the change more acutely than pig-iron, the heavier branches and earlier processes of the industry being chiefly affected. In Lancashire the outlook is brighter, a good American crop holding out prospects of plentiful supplies of cotton during the coming season. The wool industry is, on the whole, rather better employed, although manufacturers are unable to pass on to customers the whole of recent increases in the price of raw material. The boot and shoe industry is an example of active production, and the building trades have settled down to work fairly satisfactorily after the strike. Shipping conditions have shown a welcome change for the better during the last three or four weeks.

Abroad, the rescission of activity in the United States has quite definitely come to an end. Reports from the British Empire are on the whole satisfactory. Canada's wheat

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—AUGUST, 1924.

	July.	Aug.	Compared with Aug., 1923.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %)	9.9	10.6	— 1.2
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)	19.4	19.0	— 0.1
Iron (thous. ")	612	589	— 11
Steel (" ")	693	527	— 40
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	108.1	102.2	+ 13.5
Re-exports (" ")	10.2	9.0	+ 2.9
Exports (" ")	71.3	66.3	+ 6.2
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts (£0,000)	412	444	+ 21
Shipping Freights (av. level ¹)	104	104	+ 4
COMMODITY PRICES (" ")	182	180	+ 17
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	2000†	2000†	+ 800†
SECURITY VALUES (av. level²)	115	116	+ 2
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Bank Notes (million £'s)*	127	126	+ 1
Currency Notes (" ")	293	290	+ 0.8
Bank Deposits (" ")	1682	1656	+ 3
Bank Advances (" ")	808	809	+ 50
Banks Cash Ratio (%)	11.5	11.6	— 0.1
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)*	763	699	+ 124
Manchester (" ")	15.1	13.9	+ 0.8
Three months' Bank Drafts	3½	3½	+ ½
(Discount Rates %)	2½	2½	+ ½
Day-to-day Loans (%)	2½	2½	+ ½

(¹) 1913=100. (²) Economist Index No.; July, 1914=100.
(³) Bankers' Magazine Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921=100. (⁴) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts. * Av. weekly figures.
† Approximate figure.

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS

ISSUED by the LEAGUE OF NATIONS

A STATISTICAL REVIEW of the most recent information of the economic activity of Europe, The British Empire, America, Asia, etc., compiled from official and other defined sources.

The following among other subjects are dealt with in informative Tables:—

PRODUCTION: Coal, Iron and Steel; Shipping Construction, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE: Weight and Value of Imports and Exports; Movement of Shipping.

PRICE: Wholesale and Retail Price Index Numbers.

CURRENCY AND FINANCE: Reserves, Note Circulation, Discount Rates, Foreign Exchanges, Capital Issues, Bankruptcies, Savings Bank Deposits.

LABOUR: Unemployment Percentages.

This information is given where available for the following countries:—

ARGENTINE	DANZIG	JAPAN	PORTUGAL
AUSTRALIA	DENMARK	JUGO-SLAVIA	ROUMANIA
AUSTRIA	DUTCH EAST INDIES	LATVIA	RUSSIA
BELGIUM	EGYPT	LITHUANIA	SIAM
BOLIVIA	EQUADOR	LUXEMBURG	SOUTH AFRICA
BULGARIA	ESTHONIA	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
BRAZIL	FINLAND	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN
CANADA	FRANCE	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND
CHILI	GERMANY	PALESTINE	UNITED KINGDOM
CHINA	GREECE	PARAGUAY	UNITED STATES
COLOMBIA	HUNGARY	PERU	URUGUAY
CUBA	INDIA	POLAND	VENEZUELA
CZECHOSLAVAKIA	ITALY		

OBTAINABLE FROM ANY BOOKSELLER OR FROM

The official publishers **CONSTABLE & CO. LTD.** 10 & 12 Orange Street W.C.2

PRICE 1/6 PER ISSUE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 18/- NET

crop is likely to be well up to average, though much behind last year's record yield. In Europe few changes of note have taken place in the last few weeks; the German situation is if anything slightly easier, while in France, Holland, Belgium, and the Scandinavian countries business is characterised by consistency rather than brilliance.

The following notes on conditions in various trades and countries call attention to some of the most striking tendencies:—

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Iron and Steel.—The outlook in the iron and steel trades, if very slightly better than a week or a fortnight ago, remains unpromising. Inquiry remains restricted, and new orders received are in too small volume to suggest any proximate return of confidence. The slackening of production during August was most marked in the steel trade, production falling, for the first time in twelve months, below the 1913 level. The decline from 689,300 tons in July to 527,500 tons in August indicates less active conditions than obtained twelve months ago, when, after a quiet spell in the summer months, something approaching a revival was experienced in September. The continuance of labour troubles at three large steel-producing works in the Sheffield district, with a capacity of about 20,000 tons per week, is likely to affect production for the current month. Pig-iron is marking time, and hoping for a reduction at the end of the month in coke prices, which will to some extent set off the concessions made in iron quotations recently. Buying is markedly from hand to mouth. The hematite trade has fallen away of recent weeks, the tendency towards accumulation of stock having led to the closing down of some furnaces. The earlier processes of steel manufacture, and the cheaper grades of the products seem to be feeling prevailing conditions more acutely than do the more finished and "tighter" branches, high-grade crucible steel makers, for instance, being fairly well booked in some cases. Foreign competition is not particularly severe at the moment, nor, on the other hand, is Continental demand for the British product likely to show marked signs of revival so long as the present discrepancy between British and foreign prices continues. Business in tinplates is beginning to show its usual autumnal expansion, though inquiry is not on a very large scale at the moment.

Coal.—Seasonal development in the home trade not having materialised to any great extent up to the present, attention is focussed mainly on the export trade, which continues to show a decline, the August total being some 413,000 tons below that of July, while the bunker trade also registered a decline. Short-time is fairly prevalent, various South Wales pits, for example, working only three or four days a week. Northumberland steam coal is, however, slightly firmer, and in Lancashire the outlook is a shade brighter, but elsewhere very little improvement is reported. Gas coals are dull, and stocks of coke are more than sufficient to cover present attenuated demand. Domestic requirements show a slight expansion with the approach of the colder season.

Engineering.—The August unemployment figures seem to point to a set-back of greater or less extent in some branches of engineering, particularly the motor industry, and while new business is certainly coming forward in some directions, its incidence is extremely irregular as between the different sections, and it appears to have little impetus. The larger concerns in the electrical industry are securing fairly substantial business, but the smaller concerns, which cater more for the requirements of ordinary domestic trade, are not so well off. Among the more favourably situated industries may be cited wagon-building, in which many Midland works have a fair volume of orders on hand, the machine-tool trade, in which autumn prospects are fairly hopeful, and the motor and cycle industries, which, in spite of the customary diminution in orders at the end of the summer (reflected in a rise of 4,000 in the unemployed total during August) are still very busily employed. The locomotive trade is irregular, some concerns being busy on foreign orders, while others remain slack. Textile machinery builders report but slight recrudescence of activity as yet. Shipbuilding is possibly a little brighter, but remains on the whole in a thoroughly depressed state.

Cotton.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The event of importance since a month ago has been the distinct fall in the price of raw cotton, the drop in American qualities being over 2½d per lb, and in Egyptian descriptions 1½d per lb. Spinners of yarn and manufacturers of cloth have not reduced their prices equivalent to the fall in the raw material, and in this way the position of producers has been improved. A considerable demand has been met with, but, as is usual in a falling market, much difficulty has been experienced in arranging transactions. There has been a tendency to increase estimates of the American cotton crop for this season, and many people believe that the final yield will be larger than the latest Government estimate. Some advices relating to the growth in Egypt have not been quite so satisfactory, there being an inclination to reduce forecasts of the output. Cloth manufacturers have reported a big inquiry. An encouraging business has been done for India, especially in grey staples, and Blackburn manu-

facturers have extended their engagements. Trade developments for China have been checked by the disturbances abroad. For Egypt, the Near East, and West Africa, operations have been more encouraging, and some improvement has shown itself in the turnover for South America. Fine fancy goods have again attracted considerable attention for the United States, and more orders have been booked for the Continent. The prices ruling in American yarns are more satisfactory than for a long time back. The mills, however, are still running only 20½ hours per week instead of the usual 48 hours. There is a probability of increased production at an early date. The prices now ruling would show a healthy margin of profit if the factories were running full time, but the shorter hours, of course, mean higher standing charges for the reduced output. In Egyptian yarns producers remain busy, but in the lower numbers a little ground has been lost. The undercurrent of demand in yarns suitable for shipment abroad is fairly encouraging. Now that raw material prices are on a much more reasonable level there is every probability of the recent trade improvement in Lancashire being maintained.

Woolen and Worsted Trades.—Though August was a slack month, the industry seems to have recovered some of the ground lost earlier in the summer, as a result of the partial recovery in Continental demand, which is not adequately reflected in the August trade returns. In the wool markets a considerable turnover has been recorded, chiefly on export account, merinos having improved their relative position. The demand for tops has been less marked, but business has been of fair dimensions, at satisfactory prices. Inquiries for yarn have increased, though buyers have been unwilling to shoulder the whole of the increase due to advanced raw material quotations. The home market for piece goods is irregular, and sensitive to very small price changes, each successive advance in the earlier stages of the industry tending to narrow still further the manufacturer's margin of profit. The outlook for the worsted trades is rather better than was the case a month earlier.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The improvement noted in recent months is fully maintained, although summer trade has come to an end. Northampton bootmakers are reported to have sufficient orders to maintain full-time working to the end of the year, while Leicester manufacturers are also actively engaged on goods for autumn and winter wear.

Chemicals.—The chemical trades remain "quiet to steady." The output of sulphuric acid for the twelve months ended June 30th last, at 1,273,000 tons, shows an increase of 4 per cent. on the period 1922-3, but is 15 per cent. below pre-war. Less than two-thirds of the national plant capacity is in use at present.

Building Trades.—On the resumption of work in the last few days of August, employment was again good in most districts as regards skilled operatives, with the exception of painters, but generally slack as far as unskilled labour was concerned. A shortage of certain classes of craftsmen, especially bricklayers and plasterers, is reported from several centres.

Shipping.—The summer dullness of freight markets has given place to a fairly general improvement, most marked in the first place as regards the grain carrying trade from British North America, and, more recently, from the Northern United States ports. The dimensions of the latter have been larger than for some years past, and have to some extent taken the market by surprise. The autumn revival generally seems to have started earlier than it did a year ago, and, given a continuance of reasonably stable conditions in Europe, the prospects for the industry remain satisfactory for some months to come.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Business conditions showed more widespread improvement during August, and the lowest point of the current cycle will, it is expected, prove to have been recorded by most industries in late June, or the first part of July. The flow of new orders for the United States Steel Corporation during the first three weeks of August was 10 per cent. greater than in July. How much ground has yet to be recovered is indicated by the fact that the July steel output of the country as a whole was only 1,785,000 tons, against 3,678,000 tons in July, 1923, the furnaces in blast on August 1st numbering only 144, as compared with 298 a year earlier. The textile industries remain slack, but stocks are gradually decreasing. In the cotton manufacturing districts, both in New England and the South, less short time is reported. Production in the automobile industry shows signs of fresh expansion. Throughout the period of trade recession building construction has remained remarkably active, and is still higher than at this time last year. As the harvesting has progressed, and the preparations for financing crop movements attained more considerable proportions, the money market has become firmer, with a slight upward movement in rates. Cotton crop reports have proved much more favourable than had been expected, and although this development has proved a check on high prices, which is paralleled in the experience of most of the grain States, both West and South are in a compara-

(Continued on page 23.)

THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE *Economist* has, in the past, from time to time made more or less extended inquiry into the various items constituting the true national balance-sheet resulting from our overseas trade and financial operations in any particular year. As our readers will doubtless be aware, such a compilation takes into account not merely the values of "visible" imports and exports of merchandise, bullion, and specie, but, in addition, what are usually described as "invisible" items, such as the earnings of Great Britain's mercantile marine, interest payable by foreign nationals on amounts borrowed in this country, exports of British capital, commissions earned by British bankers and insurance companies for services rendered to foreigners, &c. Of late years questions arising out of the balance of international payments have aroused an increasing interest in many overseas countries. The Third Assembly of the League of Nations some time ago passed a resolution drawing attention to the importance of a knowledge of the foreign trade balance and the balance of payments of individual foreign States as an integral part of the study of currency questions, and expressed a hope that inquiry into these subjects would be actively pressed forward. The first-fruits of this resolution are embodied in a memorandum on the subject, recently published by the League*, which give a large amount of information, some of which is new, and the remainder brought together for the first time in its present form. In our *Monthly Supplement* for August last, we examined certain matters regarding the foreign trade balance of various countries. In the columns which follow an attempt has been made to supplement this information by a brief summary of the balance of international payments in twelve different countries, regarding which the League was able to obtain particulars, with a few notes in explanation of the individual items:—

UNITED KINGDOM.

The League has used the estimates made at various times by the Board of Trade, and which are shown below. Similar figures for 1923, as quoted in the *Board of Trade Journal* of January 31, 1924, have been added:—

	1907.	1910.	1913.	1920.	1922.	1923.
Excess of imports of merchandise and bullion	142	159	158	343	170	203
Net income from overseas investments	160	187	210	200	175	150
Net national shipping income	25	90	94	340	110	110
Commissions	25	25	25	40	30	30
Other services	10	10	10	15	10	10
Total "invisible exports" on balance	280	312	338	595	325	300
Available for investment overseas	138	153	181	252	155	97
New overseas issues on London market in year	91	207	198	53	135	136
New overseas issues on London market in following year	142	166	169	116	136	..

The subject has been dealt with from time to time in the columns of the *Economist*, and we do not propose to go into details here.

AUSTRALIA.

The following estimate of the Australian balance of payments has been furnished by the Commonwealth Government, and refers to the year ending June 30, 1922, the latest period for which records concerning both overseas trade and public finance are available:—

	(In Million £'s.)		(In Million £'s.)
Dr. Merchandise imports	103.0	Cr. Merchandise exports	123.5
Bullion and specie imports	0.04	Bullion and specie exports	12.3
Interest on Public Debts raised abroad	18.3	Net public borrowings abroad	41.4
Balance, not accounted for	47.9		
	169.2		169.2

The balance of £48 millions is composed of a number of items on either side—many quite small—for which data

* "Memorandum on the Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Balances, 1910-1923." In two volumes. (Geneva). League of Nations, 1924.

cannot be obtained. The list supplied by the Australian Government includes, *inter alia*, on the creditor side, Australian shipping earnings, municipal and private borrowings, funds brought by immigrants; on the debtor side, interest on and repayment of municipal and private loans, investments abroad by Australian residents, and remittances to Australians travelling abroad.

BRITISH INDIA.

The following statement refers to the period ended March 31, 1923, and although specially prepared by an eminent official, is not one for which the Indian Government accepts responsibility:—

In lakhs of rupees; one lakh = Rs. 100,000.

In lakhs of rupees.		Cr.	
Dr.			
Imports of merchandise and treasure.....	312.42	Exports of merchandise and treasure.....	342.34
Allowance for under-valuation of imports.....	15.57	Borrowed in England.....	13.12
Net visible imports of funds ..	2.48	Balance	5.26
Invisible items—			
Interest.....	26.25		
Shipping services.....	*		
Financial and insurance commission	*		
Other services	4.00		
	<u>360.72</u>		<u>360.72</u>

* Estimated at 22.15 lakhs, and 9.00 lakhs respectively, but not included, as Indian import returns include cost of freight and insurance.

As regards "invisible items," the allocation of 26.25 lakhs to "interest" is based on the assumption that 10 per cent. of the existing British investments abroad may fairly be attributed to India. India's payments for shipping services are arrived at by applying the pre-war estimate of the British Board of Trade, that approximately 9 per cent. of the total receipts of the United Kingdom's shipping were earned on the Indian trade route, to *The Economist's* computation of such earnings in 1922, viz., £94 millions. Further allowance is made for services rendered by the mercantile marine of other countries, on the basis provided by the Indian trade return for 1922-23, which showed that of the total clearances, British tonnage accounted for 78 per cent., and a final amount is added on account of the coasting trade. Inquiries made in informed quarters show that insurance and similar charges in connection with Indian overseas trade come out, on the average, as follows:—Insurance charges, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent.; bankers' commission and bill stamps, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; minor charges, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; making a total of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. on the total value of imports and exports. For reasons stated in the footnote to the above table, neither shipping nor insurance items are included in the final computation. Under the heading "Miscellaneous items" are grouped such items as payment to London for management of capital invested in India, profits of foreign merchants in so far as not covered elsewhere, remittances of officers and civil servants. A net total figure of 4 crores is given, after balancing tourist expenditure and allowing for missionary expenditure in India, &c.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The following table has been supplied by the Census and Statistics Office of the Union, and is based on data supplied to the Public Accounts Committee:—

(In Million £'s.)

Dr.		Cr.	
Merchandise imports	51.5	Merchandise exports, bunkers, and ships' stores	65.0
Freight and insurance	4.0	Foreign loans and capital introduced by settlers	10.5
Spent by S. Africans abroad	4.0		
Interest remitted abroad.....	16.0		
	75.5		75.5

The figures presumably refer to 1922, which was in many ways a year of unusual difficulty in South African trade. No explanation is given as to manner in which the various "invisible" items are arrived at.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The post-war estimates of the balance of payments of the United States are unusually detailed and instructive. The Harvard University Committee on Economic Re-

search has published the results of an extended inquiry covering each of the years 1919 to 1921, while for 1922 an official Government estimate is available. The relevant figures are given below:—

(In Million Dollars.)

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922
"Debtor" items—"Visible"—				
Imports of merchandise	3,904	5,279	2,509	3,113
Imports of silver (net)	..	..	11	8
Imports of gold (net)	..	50	667	238
"Invisible"—				
Governmental expenditures abroad (net)	2,375	305	50	..
New foreign bond issues in United States	436	506	665	637
Foreign securities issued abroad but sold to Americans	39	481	227	326
American securities formerly held abroad, sold to Americans (net)	195	258	..	..
Other foreign investments of American capital	300	200	200	..
Interest payable on foreign capital in United States	100	100	100	100
Imports of United States currency (net)	..	..	100	100
Immigrants' remittances and relief	600	700	500	400
Tourists' expenditures	50	150	200	300
Total	7,999	8,029	5,229	5,122
"Creditor" items—"Visible"—				
Exports of merchandise	7,920	8,229	4,485	3,867
Exports of silver (net)	152	26	..	..
Exports of gold (net)	160	..	..	..
"Invisible"—				
Governmental receipts from foreign nations (net)	..	..	..	141
Foreign loans matured and paid	515	571	255	78
Foreign securities resold abroad	..	..	32	189
American securities sold abroad	..	..	16	27
Interest on American capital abroad	150	150	180	227
Ocean freight payments receivable (net)	93	93	33	7
Exports of United States currency	91	103	..	..
Total	9,081	9,172	5,001	4,536

In the above table some \$56 millions have been added to the official export figures for 1922 to cover the estimated value of parcel post shipments. The balance of net gold imports corresponds with the figures published in the trade returns. It will be noted that on account of capital items there was in 1922 a net debit balance of payment (i.e., import of securities) amounting to \$669,000,000. The total of foreign government, provincial and municipal loans floated in the U.S.A. in 1922 (including those of the Philippines) was \$664,000,000, of which \$131,000,000 resulted from refunding operations, and the total of corporation issues to \$217,000,000, from which \$50 million was deducted as representing refunding in one form or another. The net total is thus \$700,000,000. From this are deducted 8 per cent. on account of bankers' commission and market discount and 4 per cent. on account of commission and discount on refunding issues. The export of capital thus amounted to \$637,000,000.

Up-to-date information regarding interest movement in 1922 was unavailable at the time the table was drawn up, but it is believed that the sums paid and received considerably exceeded the figures published. The table shows a net debit balance of \$586 millions, accompanied by gold and silver imports of \$246 millions. The apparent paradox is, it is believed, explained by the reduction in the unfunded credit balance. Answers to a questionnaire sent out in this connection by the Department of Commerce to about 1,500 banks and trading concerns and exporting manufacturers have been summarised as follows:—

(In Million Dollars.)

Accounts receivable	July 1, 1921.	July 1, 1922.	Accounts payable to	July 1, 1921.	July 1, 1922.
from foreigners—	1921.	1922.	foreigners—	1921.	1922.
Banks	656	479	Banks	358	418
Business concerns	510	384	Business concerns	45	47
Total	1,176	863	Total	403	465

The net amount due to American bankers and business concerns thus declined from \$773 millions to \$398 millions. Many concerns were not, however, circularised. Commenting on the "investment" figures shown, the United States Department of Commerce sums up the situation as follows:—"Our foreign investments of all sorts during the four years have averaged about \$700,000,000 more than the investments of foreigners in this country; interest on them has grown steadily, and is greater than the amount of interest owed to foreigners, but not so great as the amount of new investment during the year. The Government, instead of spending money abroad, is now receiving it, principally because Great Britain has begun interest payments on its share of the Allied debt. Such payments amounted last year to \$103,812,000. This yearly excess of receipts on the Government account should continue, its amount depending upon the arrangements which may be entered into by the Debt Funding Commission with the other debtor nations."

ITALY.

The statement which follows, prepared for and published officially by the Italian Government, is not strictly a balance of payments, as certain items have been included which involve no monetary or credit transactions, such as reparation deliveries in kind. The table represents, rather, a balance of economic exchanges, and is not quite comparable in certain respects with the statements published for other countries:—

(In Million Lire.)

Dr.	1921.	1922.	Cr.	1921.	1922.
Visible items—			Visible items—		
Balance of imports	8,653.9	6,462.4	Reparation deliveries, &c.	110.4	440.5
Gold	9.2	37.7	Current invisible items—		
Current invisible items—			Net sea freight on goods	950.0	527.0
Net expenditure of			Net sea freight, passengers		115.6
Italian ships abroad	322.0	203.1	Expenditure of visitors	2,000.0	2,507.0
Net land freight on goods	135.8	132.3	Emigrants' remittances	4,500.0	3,400.0
Net sea freight, passengers	14.6	115.6	Money Orders received	283.4	274.7
Interest on Public Debt	86.6	115.6	Dividend of industrial undertakings	30.0	30.0
Net interest on bank debts	157.5	140.0	Capital movements—		
Capital movements—			Public Debt, Certificates sold	500.0	460.0
Amortisation of Public Debt	..	412.8	Balance	1,005.8	..
Investments in Foreign Securities	..	12.0			
Balance	..	231.9			
	9,379.6	7,747.8		9,379.6	7,747.8

The debit balance resulting from imports and exports of merchandise is based on the declared values published in the official returns. In the opinion of an eminent Italian authority, the figure shown is on the high side, the tendency of traders to declare goods at other than their true values, inaccuracy likely to arise from the conversion of foreign currencies into lire, and the non-inclusion of contraband goods and certain passengers' luggage tending on balance appreciably to reduce the "debit" balance. In explanation of other items, it is pointed out that freight earnings on goods carried in domestic vessels constitute, as in the case of all countries valuing their imports c.i.f., a considerable credit item. The sum to be deducted therefrom on account of export goods carried on foreign ships has already been included in the value of imported merchandise. The debit item of 132.3 million lire, in 1922, for land freight covers the difference between the Italian receipts and outgoings on account of postal packages, letters and telegraphs, charges for rolling stock, &c. The net amount of receipts by Italy from visitors has been based on the number of tickets sold abroad for Italian destinations and the returns of foreigners disembarking in Italian ports and Italians embarking for foreign ports. The figure for net remittances by emigrants embraces the known amounts remitted through the Bank of Naples, which has organised an extensive service for emigrants, estimates for the sums remitted through other credit institutions, the payments made by the United States to emigrants who fought in the American Army or to their families, and an estimate of the sums brought back by returning emigrants. The transfers by money orders are included in the succeeding item. Interest payments include remittances to holders of the Italian national debt in foreign countries. The sales to foreigners of public debt certificates are apparently computed by ascertaining the difference between the amount of interest payable abroad in the two years. The amortisation of foreign debt refers to payments made to Brazil, Canada, Holland and Sweden, and the 12 million lire invested abroad to the Italian contribution to the capital of the Austrian Bank of Issue. It is but fair to point out that many of these estimates are by no means universally accepted by Italian economists.

HOLLAND.

The following estimate of the international balance of payments for the three years 1920-22 has been published in the weekly journal, *In en Uitvoer*:—

(In Million Gulden.)

Dr.	1920.	1921.	1922.	Cr.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Merchandise imports	3,332	2,230	2,025	Merchandise exports	1,701	1,380	1,220
Dollar funds purchased	..	..	..	Additional exports	50	50	30
Re-purchase of gold	..	..	..	Net gold exports	11	11	..
Re-purchase of gold abroad	..	..	..	Diamond industry earnings	410	10	15
Foreign and Colonial Loans	250	50	..	Transit	450	200	160
Shipbuilding (net)	..	65	..	Shipping freights	475	230	175
Tourists	..	10	..	Yield from investments	..	..	..
				Colonial department expenditure	100	100	..
				Bonds exported	655	..	..
				Reduction in foreign balances	..	25	..
				Foreign capital imported	..	225	150
				Capital issued abroad	60	25	30
				Miscellaneous	..	..	..
Total	3,582	2,355	2,155	Total	3,582	2,355	2,155

* Subsequently raised to 30.

The item, "Additional Exports," on the credit side refers to certain articles, such as cheese, butter, and sugar, the actual receipts on account of which exceeded the values shown in the official returns. Imports and exports under bond are not included in the merchandise figures, nor are the diamonds imported and exported in postal packages. The earnings of this important Dutch industry are computed from published returns of production. The severe decline in net receipts from shipping freights in 1921 and 1922 is based on an estimated fall in rates of 66 per cent. in 1921, allowance being made for the increased size of the mercantile fleet, and a further fall in 1922, together with an increase in the amount of tonnage laid up.

During 1920 and 1921 Holland sold large quantities of her investments in American stock, which had been estimated at 1.25 milliard gulden in 1917. This goes far to explain the steady decrease in the "yield from investments," together with the heavy drop in the yield of colonial investments, owing to the collapse of sugar prices in the world's markets. The expenditure of the Colonial Department includes pensions and salaries, the service of the colonial debt, army and navy expenditure, &c. This expenditure amounts normally to about 100 million gulden per annum, the sum which is shown for the year 1920. In 1921, however, the expenses were met out of the proceeds of two colonial loans floated in the Netherlands, which amounted to approximately 100 million gulden, so that the account cancelled out. On the other hand, the national exchequer advanced about 50 million gulden to the colonies during the course of the year, advances which are shown on the debit side of the account. In 1922, the expenses of the Colonial Department were met by transferring about 300 million gulden of the loan floated by the Dutch East Indies in the United States of America to the Mother Country. No entry is, therefore, given on this account on the credit side in the column for 1922, but 150 million gulden is added to the receipts from issues placed abroad—the 325 million gulden entered against the heading being composed of this sum, 125 million gulden from a loan of the Dutch Government in the United States of America, and 50 million from other issues.

The export of bonds in 1921 is made up of sales of American stock refund to above and sales of Royal Dutch shares amounting to 33 million gulden. Against this export of bonds, from the point of view of the capital balance of the country as distinguished from the balance of payments, has to be placed capital imports estimated at 225 million gulden in 1921 and 150 million gulden in 1922. Under various services are grouped banking and insurance commissions, the profits of Dutch commercial firms not covered elsewhere, and various transactions carried out abroad.

DENMARK.

The Danish balance of payments during 1922 is set out below:—

(In Million Kroner.)

Dr.	Cr.
Merchandise imports	1,434
Shipping freights	60
Interest on loans	75
Miscellaneous	..
Merchandise exports	1,176
Shipping freights	165
Transit profits from foreign undertakings, &c.	20
Export of bonds	120
Balance	88
	1,569

Most of the items are self-explanatory. Under the heading "Miscellaneous" are grouped, *inter alia*, purchases of coal for Danish ships and net tourists' expenditure. The debit balance of Kr 88 millions represents an increase in the floating credits advanced to Denmark by foreign nations. As at December 31, 1922, Denmark's international indebtedness was approximately as shown:—

(In Million Kroner.)

Dr.	Cr.
Danish bonds, &c., abroad	945
Floating credits abroad	535
Foreign bonds, &c., held in Denmark	65
Floating credits to foreigners	315
Balance	1,100
	1,480

Unfortunately, the data available for calculating the Danish balance of payments during any given period are by no means complete, and the estimates given for net shipping freight receipts and transit profits on the credit side, as also for the miscellaneous item on the debit side, are conjectural.

NORWAY.

It has not been possible to prepare, under existing conditions, a complete table of Norway's balance of payments. The following statement gives, however, for 1922, an estimate of what is no doubt the most important invisible export, namely, the earnings of her shipping services:—

(In Million Kroner.)

Dr.	Cr.
Merchandise imports	1,313.9
Bullion imports	2.0
Merchandise exports	787.4
Shipping earnings	462.6
Balance	65.9
	1,315.9

The shipping earnings shown are, of course, gross, and not net; that is, they represent the gross amount of money receivable by the country for services rendered, not the net profits accruing to individual shipowners in return for those services.

SWEDEN.

In the following table is set out an official estimate of Sweden's balance of payments in 1922:—

(In Million Kroner.)

Dr.	Cr.
Merchandise imports	1,118
Bullion imports	299
Foreign securities purchased	50
Swedish securities repurchased	50
Foreign Debt service	17
Interest	10
Exchange losses	10
Net tourists' expenditure	30
Foreign relief, foreign lotteries, &c.	13
Balance	85
	1,682
Merchandise exports	1,151
Bullion exports	331
Swedish securities sold	20
Other capital imports	20
Interest received from abroad	15
Remittances from Sweden	15
Net freight receipts	130
	1,682

The degree of exactitude of the figures given varies appreciably. There is reason to believe, for instance, that the imports of capital and the sales of foreign bonds in Sweden have been estimated too conservatively. Calculation of exchange losses and tourists' expenditure is an even more hazardous matter. Certain items of minor importance have been omitted from the table altogether, on the assumption that they tend to cancel out.

The purchases by Sweden of Swedish bonds from abroad are estimated for the year 1922 at 50 million kronor. Very considerable quantities of Swedish securities have thus been repatriated during recent years. A record has been kept since 1914 of the repurchases through banks of Swedish Government bonds, from which it appears that such transactions amounted to a value of 107.7 million kronor in 1920, 76.2 million in 1921, and 28 million in 1922. Purchases effected privately are not included in these figures. In 1913 92 per cent. of the total national debt was believed to be held abroad. By the end of 1918 this percentage had fallen, after taking into account amortisation and repurchase of stock through banks, to 43 per cent., and by the end of 1922 to 21 per cent. The real fall, after taking into consideration pur-

chases which were not effected through banks, was no doubt greater, and it is believed that the quantity of Swedish Government bonds, apart from those of the 1919 Dollar Loan, now outside the country is relatively insignificant.

FINLAND.

The following very complete statement has been supplied by the Finnish Government in respect of the year 1922:—

(In Million F. Marks.)

Dr.			Cr.
Merchandise imports* ..	3,949.9	Merchandise exports	4,467.6
Merchandise smuggled ..	90.0	Port and lighthouse fees ..	50.0
Telegraphic fees abroad ..	4.5	Freights	145.0
Railways, expenses abroad ..	1.4	Emigrant remittances ..	127.0
Posts, expenses abroad ..	4.6	Finnish sailors' remittances ..	5.0
Diplomatic and Consular Services	21.9	Tourists in Finland	80.0
Contribution to League of Nations	3.3	Foreign insurance payments	45.0
Tourists' expenses abroad ..	102.0	Posts, receipts abroad ..	3.8
Insurance fees and claims ..	50.0	Interest on capital abroad ..	10.4
Interest and amortisation ..	303.4		
Balance	402.8		
	4,933.8		4,933.8

* Less insurance and other fees payable in Finland.

As this is the first occasion on which such a survey has been attempted, much of the machinery has necessarily been somewhat hastily improvised. Certain modifications in the figures may therefore be made on a subsequent occasion.

ARGENTINA.

Estimates of the Argentine balance have been made for some years past by Mr C. A. Tornquist. A combined statement for the two economic years 1920-21 and 1921-22 has been supplied to the League of Nations by the author. For purposes of comparison this statement is given below, together with those for 1918-19 and 1919-20:—

(In Gold Pesos, 000's omitted.)

Dr.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Imports of merchandise	599,350	844,200	1,504,760	
Service of foreign debt	44,390	42,500	87,100	
" Cédulas Hipotecarias ..	25,100	13,800	13,950	
Railway company dividends and interest	44,600	42,750	100,300	
Earnings of other foreign capital ..	43,210	52,900	66,400	
Remittances of foreign residents ..	50,700	45,400	68,000	
Expenditure by Argentine travellers abroad	20,000	27,000	43,000	
Argentine bonds repatriated ..		58,000	63,130	
Foreign mortgage capital repaid ..		23,000	2,000	
Other capital repaid, &c.		28,000	3,400	
Interest payments to United Kingdom			3,940	
Municipal short-term loans ..			1,650	
Subscriptions to foreign loans ..		43,870		
Increase in stock of gold		78,520		
Sums remitted to ex-belligerent countries	15,000	2,500	2,250	
Total	842,350	1,302,440	1,959,880	
Balance	+ 151,300	- 79,790	- 269,910	
Cr.				
Exports of merchandise	900,150	1,172,040	1,389,460	
Issues of existing companies ..	2,300	4,800	17,500	
Investment of new capital in Argentine	19,600	23,000	38,000	
Amortisation on British and French debt	57,400	2,000	83,680	
Interest on British and French debt	7,300	6,210	5,610	
Interest on foreign bonds	1,100	1,300	5,000	
Correspondents abroad		5,100	1,470	
Loan in U.S.A.			66,000	
Credits obtained by State railways			22,200	
Export of foreign bonds		2,200	6,500	
Export of Argentine bonds			22,050	
Sale of ships	1,600		4,300	
Money spent by foreign travellers ..	4,200	6,000	9,500	
Decrease in gold stock			18,700	
Total	993,650	1,222,650	1,689,970	

In an article dealing with these figures, Mr Tornquist observes that while in 1919-20 the adverse balance was covered almost three times by repatriation of Argentine bonds, repayment of and subscription to various foreign loans, and an increase in the gold stock, in the 1920-21-22 period the debit of the balance of pay-

ments was in great measure an economic debit for the country. It is believed that the "adverse" balance of 270 million pesos represents in part merchandise imported and not paid for at the time of arrival, and in part various credits remaining provisionally in the country, either deposited in banks or invested in Cédulas pending an appreciation of the currency such as would make its withdrawal a profitable financial operation.

As will be seen, the amount of detail given, and the degree of accuracy of the several items vary considerably from country to country. In the nature of things, "invisible" items must be a matter of more or less liberal estimate in all cases. Most of the balance-sheets already given refer to the year 1922, when normal conditions had by no means been restored in a large number of countries, and the 1923 returns would, if available, show a more hopeful state of affairs in many cases. "Invisible," as well as "visible" entries are liable, of course, to change most significantly from year to year, a "debtor" item in one year having quite conceivably to be placed on the "creditor" side the next. Some of the countries, again, for which estimates are, unfortunately, not available are precisely those regarding which such information would have been most interesting, e.g., France, Germany, Japan, &c.

Many other considerations indicate that great caution is required in the interpretation or comparison of the figures given, more especially in forming a judgment about the significance of the balances shown. We therefore conclude by setting out some of the criticisms expressed by the League of Nations in its Memorandum:—

"Very different interpretations are frequently given to the terms 'negative' or 'positive' balance of payments, or the equivalent more popular and misleading expressions 'unfavourable' or 'favourable' balance. An uncovered balance cannot exist. To every debtor there is a corresponding creditor, and for every payment effected a corresponding receipt of payment. Balances result, therefore, simply from the systems of accounting, and systems vary. In the majority of the statements given above, where a surplus or deficit is shown, that surplus or deficit represents changes in the floating commercial loans and advances of a country. A negative balance then means an increase in net floating indebtedness or a decrease in net floating assets, and a positive balance the reciprocal. The exclusion of these floating balances from the formal equation may be accepted as in accordance with the best recognised practice, and the expressions 'negative' or 'positive' balances are here used in the sense just indicated. In certain cases, however, the payments effected and received have been made to equate. The existence of such a formal equation is not by itself a proof that the balance of payments in the course of the year in question has been neither positive nor negative. Its cause may lie in the fact that, as in the Dutch statement for the year 1921, an estimate is made for the changes in foreign balances. Granted changes in foreign balances are not included in the statement, then there is no reason to expect an exact equation, for there is no *a priori* probability that within any defined period of time payments and receipts will cancel out.

"When capital transactions are, and commercial credit transactions are not, included in the balance of payments, with the result that any discrepancy between the active and passive of the account is normally covered by changes in floating credit balances, then there is no reason to expect that the balance of payments and the balance of indebtedness will move in a like direction. If, for example, any country's balance of visible and all invisible items save capital and credit transactions is zero, but that country during any particular year increases its foreign debt by capital issues abroad or obtains a repayment of loans which it has granted, operations both of which will augment its net international debit or reduce its net credit balance, a positive balance of payments will result. On the other hand, however, an increase of net indebtedness even under the first condition postulated above need not necessarily involve a positive balance of payments—for an increase of debt may be due to the addition of unpaid interest, and an

increase in the net debt balance may result from a writing down of foreign claims. Similarly, moneys due to any country from abroad may be directly invested abroad and never enter into the balance of payments. In these and never enter into the balance of payments. In these circumstances, it is necessary to pay particular attention to the causes which have contributed to any disequilibrium between the active and passive of the balance of payments, and among these causes more especially to the movements of capital.

"Very considerable error may arise from one of the 'invisible' items for which available statistics normally exist—namely, the flotation of loans in foreign markets. As a rule, the net proceeds of such loans, after deducting commission charges, &c., are entered in the statements of the lending country as a debit and of the borrowing country as a credit item. But it frequently happens that only a part of a loan raised during any given year is drawn upon by the borrowing country during the course of that year. Thus the Indian statement shows a debit balance of 17.13 lakhs of rupees, partly or fully covered by loans raised on the London market which are not shown among the invisible exports. The amount of new capital raised during the year ending March 31, 1923, in London by India and Ceylon together amounted to £37,626,000. But of this sum less than half was raised during the first six months, £17,351,000 during the month of October, and over a million and a half pounds in the

last quarter. Similarly, over £6,000,000 was issued by the London market, and \$31 millions by the United States during the months of November and December. It is usually impossible to ascertain or estimate the exact sums actually utilised for payments before the close of the year.

"Quite apart from the varying degree of exactitude which the information available rendered possible in the compilation of the tables, caution is required on account of the different practices adopted in showing gross or net figures against any particular item. The statement for the United Kingdom is net throughout. In the majority of other cases, when exactly the same item arises on both sides of the account—as, for instance, ocean freights or tourists' expenditure—the net balance only is given. But sometimes several items are entered into a single group and the balance of the groups given. Reference should finally be made to the essential difference between the final debit balance shown by, for instance, the United States of \$586,000,000, which greatly exceeds the estimated probable error, and the 'balances not accounted for,' as, for instance, that of Australia. In the first of these two cases the very full evidence supplied points definitely towards a negative balance, while in the second it did not prove possible to obtain complete evidence, and figures are simply posted to fill in the lacuna in the data for form's sake."

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD—Continued from page 18.

tively strong position this year. The restoration of a more balanced state of affairs as between East and West is the main foundation on which hopes of better trade conditions in the autumn and winter are being built.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Heavy rains during the greater part of August, followed by warmer weather at the end of the month, have greatly improved crop prospects in Western Canada, and while in certain more or less isolated districts the rain came too late to bring more relief, in the country as a whole the yield is now expected to be slightly above average. The ravages of rust and insect pests have this year been on a much smaller scale than usual. Business in general is marking time, and every endeavour is being made to maintain stocks at a low level, especially in the lumber industry. The Australian figures for the arrival of wool at the sea-board for the complete season 1923-24 show a shortage of 41 million pounds, as against the previous season's total. That this has not involved a corresponding decline in prosperity in the pastoral industry is evidenced by such indications as (1) prices realised at the Sydney sales, the average values for the last two seasons comparing as follows:—

	Per Bale.	1922-23.	1923-24.
		£ s d	£ s d
Greasy		23 6 11	31 2 2
Scoured		22 9 3	34 3 0

and (2) profits of pastoral companies, the eight representative concerns included in the index of the Sydney *Investment Digest* showing a 30 per cent. increase in earnings during the past year, as compared with 1922-23. In India the monsoon has caused serious floods in some districts (as, for instance, in the jute area, where production is now estimated at 7,000,000 bales, against 8,800,000 last year). A subsequent break up of the country, which threatened damage to standing crops, has now come to an end, and conditions are again favourable to good kharif crops. The strength of Bombay stock markets. In South Africa a leading feature of business has been aggravated by the seasonal quietness of business has been aggravated by the losses caused by drought and locusts. Gold output from the Rand, however, continues on a large scale, the total for the first eight months of 1924 being larger than in any corresponding period since the war. The decrease in the maize crop is a discouraging factor, against which, however, may be set a continuance of firm conditions in the wool market and higher prices for wheat this season. Bank deposits are increasing, and the decline in advances—a regular feature since the latter half of 1920—has been arrested.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Argentine export trade continues satisfactory, but local trade is quieter. The high level of grain, cattle and sheep prices is regarded by some observers as providing a favourable setting for future "boom" conditions, particularly if the London Agreement on Reparations results in a revival of German demand for raw materials from South America. The crops of wheat, oats and linseed have benefited by plentiful rainfall in the middle of the present month. After recording a rise of nearly 70 per cent. since the beginning of 1924, Brazilian

coffee quotations have shown a slightly weaker tendency during the last week or two, while quotations for native-grown cotton have declined by about 10 per cent. over the last three months. Sales of nitrate by the Chilean Producers' Association have lately increased considerably.

EUROPE.

The situation in French metallurgical industries shows much the same unsatisfactory features as have been noted in Great Britain, though possibly on a less considerable scale. Failing a revival of demand, the closing down of further blast furnaces would appear to be unavoidable. In the textile industries local demand for cotton is less active, and spinners, though on full time in most cases, are showing some reserve. Business continues active in the Roubaix and Tourcoing combed wool markets. Silk manufacturers have received satisfactory orders, but complaints are heard of labour shortage. Little improvement is shown in the general tendency of Belgian metal markets, though certain large manufacturers have received a few important foreign orders at the cost of significant concessions in prices. The glass industry is rather more active. In Germany the successful outcome of the London Conference has induced a more hopeful feeling, reflected up to the present chiefly in increased business on the Stock markets, though trade as a whole remains in a depressed state. Dutch and Swiss conditions continue to exhibit slow but steady improvement on the whole. The Swedish wood-pulp industry is still very active, and though the timber market has been affected by seasonal influences, the outlook for the autumn season is satisfactory. Danish harvest prospects improved considerably during the later weeks of the summer, and the yield is now generally estimated at, or slightly under, average. Finland, Lithuania, and Bulgaria are, however, according to the International Institute of Agriculture, the only European countries likely to show an increased production of wheat in 1924 as compared with 1923. The financial crisis in Austria appears now to have come to an end. The industrial situation is somewhat irregular, the electrical industries and certain branches of agricultural machinery manufacture being fully employed, while the coal and steel industries are rather badly off. Spanish trade continues to exhibit something more than seasonal dullness, but in Italy the uncertain factors of the political situation do not appear to have caused any setback in trade, the silk industry being particularly active. The grain crops are of somewhat disappointing magnitude, and the wine yield below last year's, but hemp has been a very successful crop this time.

FAR EAST.

The situation in China presents few bright features. Apart from the depressing effects of the political upheaval, much damage has been done to the crops by floods, the worst for several years. A strike of all the Chinese employed on the foreign settlement at Canton, in July and August, led to a suspension of business at that centre, particularly affecting the export of silk. Japanese imports for the first half of this year show an increase of 32 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period last year, and exports an increase of 13 per cent. Imports of "reconstruction" materials have been on a considerable scale throughout the greater part of the year.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.												LIGNITE.				
Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho- slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czecho- slovakia.	Germany.	Hun- gary.
1913	<i>d</i> 24,336	1,904	1,189	<i>a</i> 3,404	<i>g</i> 15,842	156	..	1,135	665	1,311	1,776	43,087	..	1,918	<i>g</i> 7,269	..
1918	19,283	1,158	..	2,188	13,776	283	..	1,133	747	1,680	2,336	51,272	..	1,641	8,303	..
1920	19,434	1,866	928	2,890	8,960	328	534	1,257	867	1,446	2,437	48,811	199	1,641	9,399	399
1921	13,822	1,816	971	3,213	9,491	381	631	884	852	1,354	2,885	38,282	806	1,792	10,251	488
1922	21,133	1,770	826	3,596	9,929	381	1,850	845	735	1,539	2,054	34,821	222	1,579	9,854	468
1923	23,450	1,910	969	3,981	2,341	440	3,008	1,008	901	1,582	..	49,268	..	1,351	9,854	519
1924—August	22,265	1,927	731	4,517	2,075	460	3,265	1,225	986	1,199	<i>v</i> 21,000	52,365	231	943	12,653	440
September	22,221	1,893	<i>q</i> 57	4,410	2,086	437	3,042	869	889	1,692	<i>v</i> 21,000	44,445	233	<i>q</i> 62	9,405	521
October	25,714	2,088	999	4,862	2,052	504	2,497	936	975	1,692	<i>v</i> 21,000	52,521	261	1,405	7,357	659
November	24,871	2,089	1,421	4,583	1,935	464	3,126	858	946	1,409	<i>v</i> 21,000	49,945	241	1,330	7,119	621
December	22,496	1,936	1,340	4,303	2,234	435	2,671	817	874	1,760	2,436	48,912	240	1,753	7,119	515
1924—January	23,787	2,183	1,399	4,928	3,300	489	2,964	884	897	2,014	2,263	53,628	276	2,004	9,554	594
February	24,283	2,112	1,366	4,807	3,356	458	2,805	877	865	2,268	2,081	48,394	258	1,908	8,337	598
March	24,616	2,108	1,372	5,017	3,571	469	2,694	1,240	918	1,938	2,458	43,566	261	1,836	10,391	517
April	22,960	2,049	1,215	4,765	2,369	477	2,504	801	930	1,807	..	<i>q</i> 32,956	223	1,675	10,251	454
May	24,313	1,999	1,190	4,865	1,312	497	2,988	554	981	1,743	..	<i>q</i> 35,363	215	1,568	10,789	281
June	19,636	1,848	962	4,544	1,775	445	..	565	929	1,497	..	<i>q</i> 34,610	190	1,356	9,034	..
July	22,247	1,971	1,197	..	2,510	532	..	..	997	1,331	..	..	..	1,529	9,670	..
August	24,428	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

a Including lignite. c Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. d Saleable coal only. Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. e Average of two months. f Strike period. g From 1919 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1920 excluding Saar and Palatinat; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. h Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. i Exc. Rhine mines. j Exc. Ruhr production. k Decrease due to coal strike. l Average of five months.

PIG IRON.

Period. Monthly Average.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	869	207	434	102	1,388	212	61	85	2,601	649	205	1,412	101	62	88
1918	680	93	276	...	883	106	64	90	3,060	812	1	1,178	73	53	142
1920	222	73	280	...	625	81	26	51	1,401	314	66	255	60	41	94
1921	415	134	427	96	730	140	22	32	2,276	494	130	373	105	762	1,688
1922	636	182	443	77	333	117	23	75	3,392	719	190	415	83	417	1,000
1923—August	609	199	486	99	...	135	30	94	3,505	592	213	452	112	...	107
September	568	194	482	98	...	127	39	75	3,176	706	194	446	109	...	67
October	606	196	514	99	...	127	39	75	3,176	706	194	446	109	...	67
November	608	205	536	106	...	138	46	63	2,941	713	216	477	117	...	69
December	637	209	565	110	...	153	43	61	2,968	664	213	526	110	...	69
1924—January	647	209	586	116	...	162	48	65	3,067	701	231	541	117	...	69
February	623	206	590	118	...	165	42	61	3,124	780	226	555	114	...	72
March	679	230	640	121	...	186	46	85	3,265	723	241	567	128	...	96
April	628	240	651	117	...	186	46	85	3,265	723	241	567	128	...	96
May	621	247	658	119	...	184	47	80	2,657	823	251	599	124	...	110
June	618	237	639	107	...	175	36	58	2,657	823	251	599	124	...	110
July	622	247	636	...	...	181	...	46	1,814	704	245	565	...	...	1,899
August	594	...	...	...	...	1921	537	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,568

c Excluding Luxembourg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October, 1918; for 1920-1923 figures not official. d Ingots and castings. e Decrease due to labour disputes. f Corrected figures from January, 1923, based on returns from works responsible in 1923 for 95% of total production.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1918	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1921	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1922	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1923	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1924—August	154.6	155.5	529	957	202	413.1	306,335,800	142	566.7	233	5,294,680	275,290	171	162	173.4
September	158.0	159.6	514	973	205	423.6	18,295,350,000	145	569.2	232	7,302,200	549,010	174	162	181.1
October	158.4	160.4	515	964	207	420.5	17,907,150,000	148	563.4	235	27,380,680	873,000	171	161	181.6
November	161.1	168.6	531	984	210	442.6	164,960,000,000	153	571.4	243	67,943,700	1,731,000	173	160	182.5
December	163.6	170.1	545	990	210	458.3	148,400,000,000	154	577.2	247	142,300,000	3,781,000	176	160	183.2
1924—January	165.4	173.1	580	1,029	223	494.6	143,060,000,000	156	570.8	251	252,167,700	4,181	178	161	183.4
February	166.9	173.3	642	1,036	227	543.7	147,250,000,000	158	572.8	261	248,429,600	4,181	178	162	183.4
March	165.4	172.3	625	1,022	228	499.3	151,780,000,000	155	578.7	264	245,279,900	4,181	178	162	183.4
April	164.7	172.2	655	1,015	225	449.5	151,890,000,000	154	578.7	263	242,321,800	4,181	178	162	183.4
May	163.7	168.1	557	981	219	458.3	143,010,000,000	153	570.7	261	242,321,800	4,181	178	162	183.4
June	162.6	168.3	565	965	220	465.1	115,900,000,000	151	566.1	262	242,321,800	4,181	178	162	183.4
July	162.6	172.9	566	997	213	480.8	130,170,000,000	151	567.4	265	242,321,800	4,181	178	162	183.4
August	166.2	171.2	...	...	231	477.0	132,490,000,000	...	572.3	...	...	...	157	170.6	179

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau middle of each month. d Beginning of the following month. e Revised index number. f 1000's omitted. g Middle of month. h 1914. j Beginning of the following year. k Czervonets rubles. l Zloty prices; April, 1924 = 109.1.

Wholesale Prices—Continued.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices.

Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)

Monthly Average.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1918	153.1	...	195.8	194	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1920	223.3	152.0	259.4	226	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1921	160.4	150.2	200.4	147	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1922	128.4	145.6	195.0	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1923	126.6	156.4	199.1	154	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924—July	124.0	155.4	192.4	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	125.1	156.1	193.0	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September	126.3	156.1	211.6	153	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October	126.3	157.3	210.1	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November	126.3	157.3	210.1	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	126.3	157.3	210.1	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924—January	131.4	156.7	210.9	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	131.4	156.7	207.7	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	126.2	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. b 000's omitted. c Yearly figures are averages. d 000,000's omitted.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugoslavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	U.S.S.R.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drachme.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Pesos.	Kronor.	Francs.	£.	Dollars.
1913.....	54,931	386,333	15,775	64,785	..	701,778	41,035	897,475	£14,828	303,802	..	326,500	..	108,838	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1918.....	107,100	46,960	75,851	11,265	1,858,416	38,944	8,256,417	177,519	2,355,135	288,818	777,702	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	245,961
1920.....	142,491	184,486	245,277	11,265	1,858,416	38,944	8,256,417	177,519	2,355,135	288,818	777,702	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	245,961
1921.....	81,648	107,973	184,486	11,265	1,858,416	38,944	8,256,417	177,519	2,355,135	288,818	777,702	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	245,961
1922.....	74,950	107,973	184,486	11,265	1,858,416	38,944	8,256,417	177,519	2,355,135	288,818	777,702	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	245,961
1923.....	81,620	107,973	184,486	11,265	1,858,416	38,944	8,256,417	177,519	2,355,135	288,818	777,702	..	50,696	..	49,150	102,776	200,122	245,961
1923—July ..	68,018	1,023,184	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,648	389,000	512,095	323,412	1,292,733	779,854	157,464	96,460	148,438	103,194	171,843	2,928	288,033
Aug.	82,614	1,077,143	..	165,385	726,661	2,615,648	389,000	512,095	323,412	1,292,733	779,854	157,464	96,460	148,438	103,194	171,843	2,928	288,033
Sept.	75,155	1,028,232	..	160,813	726,661	2,615,648	389,000	512,095	323,412	1,292,733	779,854	157,464	96,460	148,438	103,194	171,843	2,928	288,033
Oct.	88,763	1,106,099	..	168,749	992,362	3,069,974	468,140	434,883	591,462	1,301,420	724,618	192,923	88,854	280,236	140,006	231,001	4,661	316,437
Nov.	91,414	1,123,834	..	174,815	860,356	3,160,504	449,826	432,836	648,153	1,410,507	724,618	176,660	101,850	309,018	129,432	231,001	4,661	316,437
Dec.	98,793	1,296,996	..	172,698	999,884	3,262,834	489,160	489,160	524,370	1,837,484	724,618	177,991	95,008	309,018	109,103	231,001	4,661	316,437
1924—Jan. ..	87,948	1,335,721	294,868	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	567,214	397,449	1,168,486	642,687	724,618	177,991	95,008	309,018	109,103	231,001	4,661	316,437
Feb.	83,475	1,437,679	397,196	153,401	510,944	3,713,800	296,404	714,812	552,281	1,564,708	642,687	185,566	107,163	..	90,353	195,910	3,593	323,078
Mar.	91,028	1,618,666	492,688	178,621	569,324	3,622,604	339,296	691,029	555,451	1,518,405	642,687	186,545	123,441	..	89,726	195,910	3,593	323,078
Apr.	78,334	1,285,588	527,512	183,714	572,058	3,042,136	372,629	869,403	599,038	1,547,169	..	189,680	140,450	..	139,474	198,086	3,719	313,725
May	108,995	1,512,521	572,058	204,794	635,236	3,177,313	512,285	869,403	599,038	1,547,169	..	189,680	140,450	..	139,474	198,086	3,719	313,725
June	78,478	1,379,459	440,219	188,243	572,058	3,177,313	512,285	869,403	599,038	1,547,169	..	189,680	140,450	..	139,474	198,086	3,719	313,725
July	97,941	1,492,686	..	164,901	977,575	3,099,976	410,725	539,348	655,770	..	..	198,162	..	..	122,599	..	3,226	270,777
Aug.	93,226	..	..	..	..	3,071,943	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270,000

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugoslavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	U.S.S.R.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drachme.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Pesos.	Kronor.	Francs.	£.	Dollars.
1913.....	43,771	302,882	7,778	53,113	..	573,351	33,482	841,583	£9,917	209,303	..	256,917	..	88,136	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,024
1918.....	41,785	..	..	59,207	..	393,561	15,797	24,738	278,726	..	..	..	..	81,303	112,536	163,598	3,776	503,950
1920.....	111,206	737,675	136,917	132,589	102,365	2,241,249	241,343	5,785,083	55,343	981,177	110,051	141,775	..	84,180	91,133	273,022	7,119	713,373
1921.....	58,617	605,408	184,777	121,518	100,553	1,647,709	278,491	8,299,713	78,377	689,724	205,062	141,791	..	130,540	91,440	178,345	3,029	364,911
1922.....	59,959	519,836	360,810	97,997	400,965	1,720,166	369,734	330,833	207,090	775,197	307,597	101,769	..	54,596	120,765	96,757	4,069	313,758
1923.....	63,944	738,041	..	127,723	475,996	2,535,959	363,144	506,596	204,101	921,574	670,679	108,602	..	99,633	132,960	94,649	4,866	340,930
1923—July ..	59,504	732,152	..	120,981	447,756	2,423,781	653,700	580,351	165,312	791,571	547,169	95,694	102,260	93,185	105,431	154,352	1,979	295,725
Aug.	60,103	727,426	..	133,359	627,292	2,542,820	561,100	580,351	165,312	791,571	547,169	95,694	102,260	93,185	105,431	154,352	1,979	295,725
Sept.	63,836	820,206	..	127,465	504,931	2,434,645	476,300	580,351	165,312	791,571	547,169	95,694	102,260	93,185	105,431	154,352	1,979	295,725
Oct.	71,323	881,270	..	137,179	494,062	2,813,539	474,978	562,195	165,312	791,571	547,169	95,694	102,260	93,185	105,431	154,352	1,979	295,725
Nov.	65,768	865,058	..	157,293	434,132	2,941,386	355,766	513,234	214,527	1,057,037	753,626	126,124	75,848	174,026	111,116	163,652	1,059	395,664
Dec.	64,115	1,045,904	..	132,330	511,877	3,113,877	429,868	559,848	121,848	1,605,870	827,974	127,840	98,645	174,026	124,892	163,652	1,059	395,664
1924—Jan. ..	64,235	866,343	268,389	131,381	624,506	2,669,833	214,810	580,351	165,312	791,571	547,169	95,694	102,260	93,185	105,431	154,352	1,979	295,725
Feb.	67,975	1,081,642	342,496	151,759	332,266	2,938,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,013,473	658,969	116,522	96,818	..	68,893	179,680	8,388	389,054
Mar.	61,103	1,345,748	271,393	155,043	398,427	2,434,645	120,298	455,799	208,470	1,215,737	746,316	131,907	113,121	..	59,027	179,680	8,388	389,054
Apr.	62,867	1,064,265	352,986	162,630	646,874	2,402,041	192,629	480,764	130,348	1,199,262	725,294	136,431	121,381	..	74,446	179,680	8,388	389,054
May	70,261	1,284,957	472,831	172,391	657,040	2,360,148	318,581	513,950	319,126	1,095,485	738,584	135,531	..	..	109,219	163,102	4,569	325,758
June	62,024	1,074,263	342,709	156,195	479,286	2,922,304	515,524	474,457	153,759	1,218,013	650,665	110,784	..	..	126,951	163,102	2,938	298,682
July	71,283	1,159,181	..	164,659	604,145	2,513,713	734,014	572,260	327,719	..	..	134,417	..	..	124,610	..	2,020	270,697
Aug.	66,288	..	..	..	..	2,567,146	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	331,000

d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Period September 22–October 21. g Old Greece only used. h Since January, 1922, the value of imports is based on declarations of importers, instead of official evaluations previously used. i Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." j Period September 1–21. k Official values. l From January to October, 1923, official figures. From November, 1923, provisional figures based on merchants' declarations, which may differ considerably from final figures based on official quarterly valuations. m 15 days. n From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. o Average of 5 months.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Value.										Quantity (Metric Tons).									
Period.	Aus- tralia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.												
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.	Bel- gium.	Czecho- slovakia.	France.	Ger- many.	Greece.	Hun- gary.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Spain.	Swit- zerland.	Brazil.	
1913.....	6,355	^b 152,725	54,917	1,785	^s 3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	..	3,685	^h 6,068	..	..	5,041	..	987	661	489	
1918.....	7,696	137,704	75,583	1,966	3,768	136,721	82,450	..	..	2,446	..	28	..	404	..	233	295	145	
1920.....	13,172	258,929	111,410	5,062	7,994	191,179	174,219	1,112	326	4,445	1,570	..	45	1,151	294	703	468	271	
1921.....	8,222	230,720	66,616	3,461	4,447	132,481	140,820	1,472	333	3,239	2,175	77	194	1,435	404	682	357	175	
1922.....	9,850	199,524	63,528	2,817	4,008	153,956	137,719	^q 1,772	266	4,285	3,823	87	279	1,623	344	564	357	278	
1923.....	11,088	184,765	75,294	3,575	4,584	165,589	189,703	^q 2,203	349	4,577	4,097	107	313	1,612	266	..	556	292	
1923—May ..	11,148	192,423	82,265	3,353	4,470	199,359	184,910	^q 1,898	248	4,502	4,013	107	341	1,378	253	218	501	267	
June	10,297	173,145	84,633	3,420	4,226	209,498	167,608	2,262	300	4,932	4,807	88	353	1,597	290	173	501	263	
July	11,636	158,466	77,074	3,578	4,883	161,367	183,593	2,197	341	4,864	4,160	97	211	1,633	471	157	591	365	
Aug.	11,459	166,075	78,826	3,521	5,190	156,413	165,292	2,179	417	4,803	4,120	94	290	1,708	239	185	591	365	
Sept.	8,869	182,690	71,351	3,210	4,477	82,618	190,503	3,264	457	5,063	3,420	106	350	1,776	204	206	591	365	
Oct.	12,719	222,217	76,341	4,570	5,296	144,545	217,198	2,231	622	4,360	2,915	133	260	1,918	214	226	591	365	
Nov.	13,722	205,979	72,078	3,647	5,011	156,664	228,287	2,327	402	4,945	3,370	158	248	1,775	347	..	591	365	
Dec.	10,328	153,051	65,456	3,653	4,599	177,516	218,832	2,229	529	5,165	2,850	129	340	1,791	189	..	591	295	
1924—Jan.	13,392	165,688	65,458	4,020	5,020	214,210	186,891	2,558	248	3,933	2,663	97	250	1,615	140	..	459	300	
Feb.	11,804	179,645	62,134	3,782	4,676	209,114	153,908	2,629	332	4,395	2,749	138	289	1,668	220	..	459	300	
Mar.	10,845	190,236	66,954	3,599	4,941	311,429	210,546	2,253	316	4,822	2,423	136	323	1,803	229	..	459	371	
April	9,822	192,722	60,203	3,061	6,757	247,618	174,389	2,749	363	4,924	2,550	132	387	1,660	212	..	506	283	
May	12,477	197,497	72,058	3,783	5,251	223,623	214,088	2,489	520	5,485	3,000	132	372	1,734	..	..	506	..	
June	10,737	179,847	66,396	3,842	5,366	176,123	..	2,533	489	4,582	3,203	106	371	2,050	..	..	506	..	
July	13,335	185,394	72,631	..	5,505	152,900	..	2,754	446	5,140	3,123	160	372	2,443	..	..	506	..	

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS

ISSUED by the LEAGUE OF NATIONS

A STATISTICAL REVIEW of the most recent information of the economic activity of Europe, The British Empire, America, Asia, etc., compiled from official and other defined sources.

The following among other subjects are dealt with in informative Tables:—

PRODUCTION: Coal, Iron and Steel; Shipping Construction, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE: Weight and Value of Imports and Exports; Movement of Shipping.

PRICE: Wholesale and Retail Price Index Numbers.

CURRENCY AND FINANCE: Reserves, Note Circulation, Discount Rates, Foreign Exchanges, Capital Issues, Bankruptcies, Savings Bank Deposits.

LABOUR: Unemployment Percentages.

This information is given where available for the following countries:—

ARGENTINE	EQUADOR	NORWAY
AUSTRALIA	ESTHONIA	PALESTINE
AUSTRIA	FINLAND	PARAGUAY
BELGIUM	FRANCE	PERU
BOLIVIA	GERMANY	POLAND
BULGARIA	GREECE	PORTUGAL
BRAZIL	HUNGARY	ROUMANIA
CANADA	INDIA	RUSSIA
CHILI	ITALY	SIAM
CHINA	JAPAN	SOUTH AFRICA
COLOMBIA	JUGO-SLAVIA	SPAIN
CUBA	LATVIA	SWEDEN
CZECHOSLAVAKIA	LITHUANIA	SWITZERLAND
DANZIG	LUXEMBURG	UNITED KINGDOM
DENMARK	NETHERLANDS	UNITED STATES
DUTCH EAST INDIES	NEW ZEALAND	URUGUAY
EGYPT		VENEZUELA

OBTAINABLE FROM ANY BOOKSELLER OR FROM

The official publishers **CONSTABLE & CO. LTD.** 10 & 12 Orange Street W.C.2

Price 1/6 per issue.

Annual Subscription 18/- net.

The Economist

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1924.

No. 17.

New Series.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations,* supplemented from our own statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.

* League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s 6d. Constable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The general feeling with regard to trade conditions may be summed up by saying that while business has not so far shaken off the effects of the summer seasonal depression so quickly as it did a year ago, the outlook is rather brighter than was the case last month. Unemployment, it is true, is still on the up-grade, but recent changes in the statistical basis of the official figures have tended to exaggerate the increase which has taken place since August. Much has been made of the unsettlement caused by a General Election, but the event has at least put an end to a period of political suspense, the prolongation of which would have been more adverse to the national trade than an election itself. A year ago business pursued an even course, and tended, in fact, slightly to expand during the three weeks which preceded the election, the main repercussions of which were felt some weeks later, when nervousness among certain classes of investors affected the price of gilt-edged securities and brought about a mild and ephemeral "flight from the pound." It is reasonable to expect that, provided no startling readjustment of political power takes place, the General Election will have no unduly depressing effect on the course of trade for the next few months.

The most unfavourable feature in the whole situation is the absence of any sign of increased activity in the iron and steel trades. Conditions in this group, which is often regarded as a barometer of trade tendencies, stand out in marked contrast to the experience of other major industries at the moment. Sentiment in the coal trade, for instance, is slightly more hopeful, though increased demand may mostly be due to seasonal causes. The textile and other industries, again, are looking forward to transacting a considerably larger volume of business this winter than last, the better outlook for the Lancashire cotton trade being the outcome not merely of more satisfactory crop conditions in America, but a growing inquiry from important consumers at home and abroad. Among minor industries such as boots and shoes, pottery, &c., the gen-

eral tone is quite good, while the extent of the demand for shipping tonnage during the last few weeks has come as a surprise even to those closely concerned with the industry. Commercial bills are in fair supply in the City, and although the deposits of the London Clearing Banks showed a decline of £4 millions last month, the total of advances continues its steady increase, and is now £50 millions higher than at this time last year. The September returns of overseas trade were rather less favourable than those of August, but were certainly not indicative of any fundamental weakness in the situation as a whole.

In the United States the volume of trade continues to expand but slowly, and until the Presidential Election is over no marked change is expected. Among the countries of the Empire, India's position is favourable as a result of a satisfactory monsoon; in Canada the reduction in the wheat crops this year is not likely to affect purchasing power to any considerable extent owing to the much higher prices obtained and the reduction during the last twelve months of agricultural indebtedness to the banks. South American conditions are moderately satisfactory, the outlook for Argentina in particular having been improved as a result of considerable rainfall at a critical crop period.

In Europe the metallurgical industries are generally quiet, but in other lines of business a steady expansion can be traced over practically the whole of the Continent.

The following notes on conditions in various trades and countries call attention to some of the most striking tendencies:—

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Iron and Steel.—This group remains in the trough of depression, indications of better things which arise from time to time being usually short-lived. The September output of pig-iron recorded, at 569,200 tons, a decline of 20,000 tons from August's low figure, though about 10,000 more than that of September a year ago. A further reduction during the month in the number of active furnaces brings the total to 170, as compared with a "peak" figure of 223 in May of last year. The pig-iron

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—SEPTEMBER, 1924.

	AUG.	SEPT.	Compared with SEPT., 1923.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %)	10.6	10.8	— 0.9
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)	19.0	20.4	— 2.1
Iron (thous. ")	589	569	+ 10
Steel (" ")	527	645	— 50
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	102.2	100.9	+ 17.7
Re-exports (" ")	9.0	9.6	+ 1.8
Exports (" ")	66.3	63.3	— 0.6
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts (£0,000)	444	404	+ 7
Shipping Freights (av. level ¹)	104	110	+ 7
(" ")	180	184	+ 17
COMMODITY PRICES (" ")			
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	2000+	518	— 511
SECURITY VALUES (av. level ²)	116	116	+ 0.1
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Bank Notes (million £'s)*	126	124	— 0.1
Currency Notes (" ")	290	287	+ 3
Bank Deposits (" ")	1656	1652	+ 1
Bank Advances (" ")	809	811	+ 50
Banks Cash Ratio (%)	11.6	11.2	— 0.6
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)*	699	696	+ 40
Manchester (" ")	13.9	14.5	+ 1.5
Three months' Bank Drafts	3 1/2	3 1/2	+ 1/8
(Discount Rates %)	2 1/2	2 1/2	+ 1/4
Day-to-day Loans (%)	2 1/2	2 1/2	+ 1/4
(¹) 1913=100. (²) Economist Index No.; July, 1914=100.			
(*) Bankers' Magazine Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921=100. (†) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts. * Av. weekly figures.			
† Approximate figure.			

quarterly meeting was poorly attended, and has left the general situation unchanged. Continental competition seems to have increased to some extent during the last week or two. While the Midlands and Scotland are reported to be finding difficulty in some cases in obtaining sufficient business to carry through a normal working week, Middlesbrough is a little more hopeful, as it believed a fair amount of orders would be forthcoming were something like stability in prices to be attained. The General Election, however, is an unsettling influence. Production of steel ingots and castings last month amounted to 645,000 tons, against 527,500 in August, a holiday month, but fell short of last September's total by 50,000 tons. Structural steels continue in good, and boiler plates in fair, demand at lower prices, but large orders for such products as steel rails are coming in unsatisfactorily. Business in tinplates has suffered a slight temporary check owing to the Election. Steel sheets, however, remain in strong demand, chiefly on export account. A winter revival in the iron and steel trades is still being talked of, but at present it has to be admitted that, for the most part, the wish is father to the thought, recent price reductions having quite failed to bring about any appreciable quickening of activity.

Coal.—The market tone, on the whole, is better than was the case four weeks ago. Improvement is most marked in the best descriptions of house coal, which last week were in strong demand, with supplies inadequate. Steam coals are being inquired for, and the increased outward movement of shipping to overseas grain-exporting centres has improved the market for bunker coals generally. House coals are beginning to experience the first signs of winter demand. In South Wales the undertone is certainly better, prices being steadier and inclined to harden, the volume of exports slightly better, and inquiries rather more active. The anthracite trade is enjoying somewhat exceptional prosperity and working at full pressure. Improvement in the coal industry as a whole, however, will need to be carried much further, particularly on the export side, before conditions can be regarded with satisfaction, and full employment maintained in all areas.

Engineering.—No very marked change has taken place in engineering prospects. In some branches a slight improvement is recorded, in others a slight recession of activity. Employment over the whole industry is still described as "bad," but this term covers a wide range of different conditions. Railway engineering is very active at Doncaster, but less satisfactory elsewhere. A certain amount of demand for rolling-stock is emanating from British railways, but the resulting business is unevenly distributed. Textile machinery manufacture remains dull, mainly on account of the unfavourable export situation, and short-time working is being practised. Electrical manufacturers, however, are still optimistic as to the amount of business which continues to come forward. After a long spell of comparative idleness, the machine-tool trade is developing much greater strength, and the further outlook is not unpromising. The demand for cycles and motor-cycles has contracted lately, from seasonal causes, but with one of the best summers in the history of the trade behind them, manufacturers are not disposed to over-rate the importance of this feature. Seasonal decline, however, is a more serious factor in the motor industry, and the holding of the annual Olympia Show in October instead of November is a serious attempt to shorten the trade's "dead" period this year. At the moment, Manchester firms are well employed, but the outlook at Coventry is less certain. That there has been nothing very wrong with the export side of the industry may be seen from the following figures from the September Trade Returns:—

	Month of September.			First Nine Months of—		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
British Exports of—						
Touring cars Number	116	369	907	979	1,789	7,581
Commercial vehicles " "	73	96	106	412	632	1,265
Chassis " "	112	281	300	714	1,441	1,828
Total value of all cars, chassis, and parts						
Thous. £	220	435	617	1,948	2,636	4,519

The trade expansion indicated by these statistics is much greater than is commonly recognised.

Cotton.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Compared with a month ago, raw cotton prices do not show much change, but since then there has been a rise in values, followed by a decline. There has been a tendency for spinners and manufacturers to improve their position. Sufficient orders have been obtained to extend the engagements of producers. In the circumstances, a stiffer front has been presented by sellers to buyers, and undoubtedly the prices now ruling are more remunerative than for a long time back. Favourable reports have continued to be received with regard to the progress of the cotton crop in the United States. At the moment the official Government estimate is 12,500,000 bales, but most people expect an output of 13,000,000 bales, against only

10,200,000 bales for last season. Recently the cotton plants in Egypt have not done very well, and it is probable that the crop will be much smaller than was expected two or three months ago. Owing to the increased trade activity in Lancashire, the consumption of raw cotton is increasing. Manufacturers of piece goods have continued to experience an extensive inquiry. Further buying of an encouraging character has taken place for India in a variety of cloths. The outlook for China is chiefly in standard makes. Business has tended to broaden for the sales for South America. Fine fancy materials remain in active request for European countries and the United States. It is estimated that 80 per cent. of the looms in Lancashire are now working. In the spinning section the feature of interest has been the decision of users of American cotton to increase the working hours in the mills from 26½ to 32 per week. The scarcity of American yarns has become more pronounced. There has been an active demand, and it is now very difficult to secure early delivery. Sellers of Egyptian yarns have experienced a healthy inquiry, and producers in this section are in a strong position. A fair amount of business has been done in yarns for export purposes.

Woolen and Worsted Trades.—The story of the wool trade is one of continually rising prices for the raw material, and increasing pressure on the part of manufacturers to pass on to buyers of yarns and piece-goods at least some portion of this rise. The September wool sales realised all expectations as to a fresh range of high prices, increases up to 15 per cent. being recorded, but the last week or two has to some extent justified the doubts recently expressed as to stability of these prices in the future, in view of the fall in cotton prices and the large number of bulls in the market. Trade in Bradford maintains its slow improvement, but a scaling upwards of wool-top prices has had a restricting influence. A wider inquiry for yarns is at all compensate spinners for the increase in cost of their material. The piece-goods trade also continues to improve, and volume of business in the drapery and clothing trades is opening out on satisfactory lines for the winter.

Boots and Shoes.—A slight decline from a relatively high level of production in certain branches has been a feature of the last two or three weeks. The lull, such as it is, gives rise to little uneasiness, however, and output remains higher than at this time last year. Manufacturers of the heavier grades are best employed at the moment, the demand for the finer varieties having fallen off from seasonal causes.

Pottery.—Demand for the Christmas trade has proved of satisfactory dimensions. The export side of this industry is more active than the September returns would lead one to expect. Most potteries are now working full time, although as recently as the end of September about 18 per cent. of the firms furnishing returns to the Ministry of Labour were working, on an average, 14 hours less than the full-time week.

Building Trades.—A general improvement took place in September, although some variety of experience was recorded as between different centres and different occupations. Employment branches, but as regards painting a seasonal decline was in evidence.

Shipping.—Demand has lately been of quite unexpectedly large dimensions, and although volume has shown a slight falling-off in the last few days, no serious break is expected. The *Economist's* Index of Tramp Freight rates rose during September from 104 to 110 (1913 = 100), and will probably record a further rise for October. European grain requirements have been on an almost unprecedented scale, absorbing large amounts of tonnage at steadily increasing rates, while demand for the Plate and Australian waters has been on an increased scale. An unusually large proportion of Canada's wheat harvest is apparently being loaded at Vancouver this year.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
The Iron Age estimates that early this month about 63 per cent. of the total plant of the United States Steel Corporation is in operation. These figures do not point to any well-marked industrial revival as yet, and nothing of the kind seems any rate. At the same time, what slight movement exists in a favourable direction, and is, happily, most prominent as regards certain industries which were most unfavourably affected a few months ago. Railroad traffic, again, has lately been on an unexpectedly large scale, and though part of the produce, there is some reason to believe that many commodities are going into consumption faster than they are being produced, and that available stocks are insufficient to justify any long continuance of such a state of affairs. Money was abundant during the greater part of September, and it is expected that the autumnal movement of the crops will be financed without any increase in money rates. A heavier wheat-

(Continued on page 36.)

GERMAN UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

THE German Ministry of Labour has recently published an extensive study on the regional distribution of labour in the chief German industries. The monograph, which is accompanied by a number of highly detailed charts and statistical tables, is not only a valuable analysis of hitherto inaccessible facts, but is also a very useful study in the principles of what is known to economic theory as the localisation of industry. It is greatly to be regretted that its data do not permit of compendious reproduction. Among the bye-products, so to speak, of the investigation, however, is an analysis of the position of the German labour market since the war, which presents in a compact form very useful unemployment statistics. The following table gives the number of persons in receipt of public unemployment relief on the first day of each month, from December, 1918, to December, 1923 (from March, 1923, onwards the figures apply only to unoccupied Germany):—

Month.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January	..	905,137	454,775	410,238	165,248	85,418
February	..	1,076,368	430,766	423,164	202,594	150,220
March	..	1,053,854	370,296	426,600	212,526	190,008
April	..	829,758	329,505	413,321	115,845	222,410
May	..	700,000	292,307	394,262	64,708	253,529
June	..	620,000	271,660	357,352	28,626	185,982
July	..	560,000	322,923	314,475	15,137	139,016
August	..	550,000	403,835	267,108	11,671	249,192
September	..	535,000	414,601	232,057	16,678	534,259
October	..	520,000	392,823	185,806	24,813	954,373
November	..	500,000	361,311	150,104	42,900	1,464,447
December	501,610	470,000	350,087	149,337		

These figures, however, like the English unemployment insurance figures, are subject to so many qualifications and exceptions that they must be regarded as representative rather than comprehensive. They include only such unemployed who have a right to relief under certain statutory orders. They exclude those whose claim to benefit is exhausted, those whose unemployment cannot be traced to the consequences of war ("Kriegsfolgen"), and those who are on short time or who are working on Government relief works. The actual total of unemployment is alleged to be much greater. To supplement these figures, therefore, the Ministry supply other statistics.

The following table gives the percentages of unemployment among the members of some 40 trade unions, with a membership of about 6 millions, for a corresponding period:—

Month.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January	6.6	3.4	4.5	3.3	4.2
February	6.0	2.9	4.7	2.7	5.2
March	3.9	1.9	3.7	1.1	5.6
April	5.2	1.9	3.9	0.9	7.0
May	3.8	2.7	3.7	0.7	6.2
June	2.5	4.0	3.0	0.6	4.1
July	3.1	6.0	2.6	0.7	6.3
August	3.1	5.9	2.2	0.8	9.9
September	2.2	4.5	1.4	0.8	19.1
October	2.6	4.2	1.2	1.4	23.4
November	2.9	3.2	1.4	2.0	28.2
December	2.9	4.1	1.6	2.8	

The number of applicants at labour exchanges per 100 places offered is shown in the following:—

Month.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
January	195	156	210	150	218
February	205	143	206	145	246
March	165	132	188	113	250
April	153	139	189	113	272
May	162	151	175	107	219
June	148	174	169	103	206
July	147	187	151	106	180
August	148	195	142	109	268
September	134	184	132	122	402
October	138	174	128	138	600
November	158	185	136	165	902
December	169	204	148	195	941

Each table shows the same broad movement, although, as might be expected, in varying degrees of intensity. Unemployment appears to have been severe at the commencement of the period; the number of persons in receipt of public relief reached 1,076,368 in February, 1919. For the next year and a-half improvement was very slow; after the middle of 1921, however, it was quicker, and by the summer of 1922 unemployment was negligible. In July of that year the number of persons in receipt of public relief was 19,648, the trade union percentage 0.6, and the number of applicants per 100 jobs offered by the labour exchanges 106. This was the peak of the boom. In the autumn a decline set in. The figures of unemployment rose by leaps and bounds throughout the next year, and by the end of the period, December, 1923, the number of publicly supported unemployed (excluding Ruhr workers) was 1,464,447, and the trade union percentage exceeded 28, an unprecedentedly high figure.

It will be seen that with the exception of a period of about eighteen months in the years 1921-22, it was never true to say that Germany was immune from unemployment. On the contrary, she was very considerably affected, and at the worst period of last year suffered even more than we did in 1921. The causes of the final collapse are obvious; there is no need to go beyond inflation and the Ruhr to explain everything; as all three tables show, the depression must have been well-nigh universal. It is clear, however, that the earlier unemployment immediately after the war must have been much more localised. The number of publicly supported persons exceeded a million, while the number of unemployed trade unionists was only 6.6 per cent.—a high figure certainly, but not commensurate with the 28.2 per cent. which was shown last year, when the number of publicly supported unemployed was only 400,000 higher. In the opinion of the Ministry of Labour four causes were largely responsible for this condition of the Labour market. In the first place, the size of the Army and Navy had been reduced almost to nothing—only 117,000 in all services; secondly, there was great distress in the shipping trades, owing to the confiscation of the mercantile marine. Thirdly, large numbers of refugees crowded in from the annexed areas, and countervailing emigration was impossible, and finally the small rentier was ruined; by the autumn of 1922 no less than 500,000 had been compelled to have recourse to public assistance.

The tables from which the foregoing figures are derived do not carry us beyond December, 1923. From tables published elsewhere, however, it is possible to bring the record still further up to date. The effects of the currency crisis were most acute in January, 1924, when the number in receipt of public relief touched 1,528,000. Thenceforward, with the establishment of the Rentenmark, there commenced a recovery, slow at first, but attaining considerable speed as the spring wore on. By April the number in receipt of public relief had dropped to 703,000, and by June this number was reduced to almost a third, namely, 209,000. Since then there has been a mild recession, the August figure reaching 328,000, but whether this is purely seasonal or due to more far-reaching causes it is as yet too early to say.

LIGNITE.

^a Including lignite. ^c Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. ^d Saleable coal only. ^e Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. ^f Average of two months. ^g Strike period. ^h From 1919 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1920 excluding Saar and Palatinat; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. ⁱ Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. ^k Exc. Rhine mine. ^l Exc. Ruhr production. ^m Decreased due to coal strike. ⁿ Average of five months. ^o Exc. Saar.

STEEL

c Excluding Luxemburg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October, 1918; for 1920-1923 figures not official. to labour disputes. & Corrected figures from January, 1923, based on returns from works reestablished.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau middle of each month. d Revised index number. f'000's omitted. g Middle of month. h 1914. i Beginning of the following year. k (Unrevised) l Beginning of the following year. m Beginning of the following year. n Beginning of the following year. o Beginning of the following year. p Beginning of the following year. q Beginning of the following year. r Beginning of the following year. s Beginning of the following year. t Beginning of the following year. u Beginning of the following year. v Beginning of the following year. w Beginning of the following year. x Beginning of the following year. y Beginning of the following year. z Beginning of the following year.

Cost: 1.11

a The first of the following month, *b* 000's omitted, *c* Yearly figures are averages.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Aug. Sept.	1895 99.8	287.5	7,998,509	Rou-	Russia.	Sweden.	Switzer- land.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa	Egypt	United States.	Japan
---------------	--------------	-------	-----------	------	---------	---------	-------------------	------------	---------	-----------------	-------	----------------	-------

[illegible]

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

October " " 578 Pence to Pence.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Eesti Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drachm.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Kronor.	Francs.	£.	Dollars.
1913.....	54,931	..	386,333	15,775	64,785	..	701,778	41,035	897,475	14,828	303,809	..	326,500	..	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1918.....	107,100	..	..	46,960	75,851	..	1,858,416	38,944	..	61,559	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1920.....	149,491	..	1,077,973	184,486	245,277	116,265	4,158,748	299,681	8,256,417	177,519	2,235,135	288,818	277,702	..	102,778	200,122	4,147	246,961
1921.....	81,548	..	849,617	243,424	129,058	375,551	1,838,992	294,844	8,815,963	143,800	1,438,885	343,508	186,695	..	81,185	353,558	8,214	425,152
1922.....	74,950	..	m 767,035	336,472	121,322	465,785	1,931,717	328,254	516,700	257,123	1,313,730	536,283	168,966	70,375	117,857	191,357	4,102	213,072
1923.....	81,620	..	m 1,045,866	414,376	157,520	777,690	2,717,880	381,682	506,783	506,271	1,435,420	..	167,436	93,040	111,855	186,841	3,582	256,042
1923—Aug.	82,614	..	1,107,143	394,750	165,385	958,403	2,633,617	367,435	512,095	364,542	1,187,111	779,854	150,975	78,300	112,937	171,843	3,562	279,757
Sept.	75,155	..	1,098,255	..	160,874	842,044	2,613,376	409,255	512,095	402,713	1,135,773	779,854	166,474	78,880	126,876	171,843	3,285	261,399
Oct.	85,768	..	1,106,099	..	168,749	992,362	3,068,974	468,140	434,883	591,462	1,301,420	724,618	192,323	88,854	140,005	231,001	4,661	316,437
Nov.	91,414	..	1,123,834	..	174,815	860,556	3,160,504	493,826	432,856	648,153	1,410,507	724,618	176,660	101,354	129,432	231,001	4,275	296,822
Dec.	98,793	..	1,296,996	..	172,698	599,848	3,826,834	581,812	567,214	524,370	1,837,484	724,618	174,751	95,008	109,103	231,001	4,319	288,097
1924—Jan.	87,948	4,686	1,335,721	294,688	155,830	638,058	2,887,921	376,573	567,214	524,370	1,837,484	724,618	174,751	95,008	109,103	231,001	4,319	288,097
Feb.	83,475	5,202	1,437,679	397,196	153,401	510,944	3,713,800	296,404	714,812	524,370	1,837,484	724,618	174,751	95,008	109,103	231,001	4,319	288,097
Mar.	91,028	5,788	1,618,666	492,688	178,621	569,324	3,622,604	239,260	691,009	555,451	1,518,405	642,687	185,546	107,163	90,953	195,910	3,593	330,778
Apr.	74,395	5,709	1,285,588	527,912	183,714	748,507	3,292,151	372,690	800,378	516,258	1,564,161	642,687	185,546	123,441	89,726	195,910	3,916	306,718
May	108,995	5,967	1,512,521	572,058	204,794	1,035,236	3,177,313	512,285	869,403	599,038	1,547,169	642,687	185,546	140,450	139,474	198,086	3,719	313,725
June	78,478	5,522	1,379,459	440,219	188,283	642,132	3,178,867	439,841	734,278	522,259	1,088,262	642,687	185,546	131,910	138,086	198,086	3,830	290,048
July	97,941	4,966	1,492,686	465,101	164,901	977,575	3,099,976	410,725	539,348	655,770	1,481,522	642,687	185,546	108,847	138,086	198,086	3,215	281,369
Aug.	93,226	..	1,363,328	..	184,345	559,687	3,071,943	390,810	437,200	639,232	1,465,668	642,687	185,546	115,660	..	..	3,226	245,855
Sept.	91,330	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	254,630

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

1913.....	43,771	..	302,882	7,778	53,113	..	573,351	33,482	841,583	9,917	209,303	..	256,917	..	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,084
1918.....	41,785	..	..	..	59,207	..	393,561	15,797	..	..	..	..	..	..	112,536	163,598	3,776	603,990
1920.....	111,206	..	737,675	136,917	132,589	102,365	2,241,249	241,351	5,785,083	55,343	981,177	110,051	141,775	..	112,536	163,598	3,776	603,990
1921.....	58,617	..	605,408	184,771	121,518	190,553	1,647,709	278,491	8,299,731	78,977	1,059,747	205,062	141,791	..	191,133	273,092	7,119	673,573
1922.....	59,959	..	m 519,636	360,810	97,997	400,965	1,720,166	369,734	3,303,833	207,090	775,197	205,662	101,769	..	91,440	178,345	3,029	349,811
1923.....	63,944	..	738,041	299,171	127,723	475,996	2,535,959	363,144	d 5,066,936	204,101	921,574	670,679	108,602	54,596	96,757	146,798	4,059	313,758
1923—Aug.	60,103	..	727,426	167,044	133,359	627,292	2,542,820	561,100	p 5,800,351	220,503	841,821	706,851	107,933	102,160	111,710	154,352	1,777	305,055
Sept.	63,836	..	820,206	..	127,465	504,931	2,434,645	476,300	x 5,800,351	408,762	802,916	914,014	110,960	111,710	154,352	2,070	374,949	
Oct.	71,323	..	881,270	..	137,179	494,062	2,813,539	474,978	y 5,800,351	408,762	802,916	914,014	110,960	111,710	154,352	2,070	374,949	
Nov.	65,768	..	865,058	..	157,293	434,132	2,941,386	355,766	513,234	214,527	1,075,154	955,386	125,848	88,930	117,570	154,352	6,066	399,344
Dec.	64,115	..	1,045,904	..	133,330	373,745	3,113,874	367,928	513,234	214,527	1,075,154	955,386	125,848	88,930	117,570	154,352	6,066	399,344
1924—Jan.	64,235	3,692	866,343	268,389	135,811	624,506	2,699,833	214,810	429,869	82,353	840,007	668,989	124,892	124,892	154,352	1,777	305,055	
Feb.	67,975	3,633	1,081,642	242,496	151,759	332,266	2,918,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,035,473	646,074	125,652	96,818	68,993	179,680	3,884	389,064
Mar.	74,395	3,822	1,081,642	242,496	151,759	332,266	2,918,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,035,473	646,074	125,652	96,818	68,993	179,680	3,884	389,064
Apr.	62,867	3,184	1,061,265	352,986	162,630	646,874	2,918,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,035,473	646,074	125,652	96,818	68,993	179,680	3,884	389,064
May	70,261	3,598	1,284,957	472,831	172,391	657,004	2,922,108	116,629	480,764	130,348	1,199,262	725,294	136,431	131,211	69,119	179,680	4,835	331,511
June	62,024	4,126	1,074,269	342,709	136,195	479,286	2,362,304	513,524	474,457	153,759	1,095,485	738,584	135,531	121,381	69,119	179,680	4,835	331,511
July	71,283	4,053	1,159,181	..	164,659	604,145	2,913,713	736,404	572,260	237,719	842,485	650,665	104,784	..	126,511	163,102	4,569	325,758
Aug.	66,288	..	1,006,405	..	174,069	818,428	2,967,146	586,403	587,952	193,039	1,023,677	854,688	137,773	..	125,843	..	2,020	270,697
Sept.	63,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Period September 22—October 21. g Old Greece only used. h Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." i Official valuations previously published. j Valued at 1921 official rates. k Since January, 1922, the value of imports is based on declarations of importers, instead of official valuations. l From January to October, 1923, official figures. From November, 1923, provisional figures based on merchants' declarations, which may differ considerably from final figures based on official quarterly valuations. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." n From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. o Average of 5 months. p Average of first 6 months.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Value.								Quantity (Metric Tons).										
Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Spain.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.											
1913.....	6,355	^b 152,725	54,917	1,785	^s 3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	..	3,685	^h 6,068	..	..	5,041	..	987	661	489
1918.....	7,696	137,704	75,583	1,966	3,768	135,721	82,450	..	..	2,446	..	..	..	..	..	233	295	145
1920.....	13,172	258,929	111,510	2,594	4,794	191,179	274,219	1,112	326	4,245	1,570	28	..	1,151	294	703	468	271
1921.....	8,222	230,720	66,616	1,966	4,447	132,481	140,820	1,472	333	3,339	2,175	77	45	1,435	294	682	357	215
1922.....	9,850	199,524	63,528	2,817	4,008	153,956	137,719	^q 1,772	266	4,285	3,823	87	279	1,623	344	682	357	215
1923.....	11,088	184,765	75,294	2,817	4,584	165,889	189,203	^q 2,203	349	4,577	4,097	107	313	1,612	266	..	556	298
1923—June ..	10,297	173,145	84,633	3,420	4,226	209,498	157,698	^c 2,262	300	4,932	4,807	88	353	1,597	290	173	501	293
July ..	11,636	158,466	77,074	3,578	4,883	161,367	183,593	2,197	341	4,864	4,160	97	211	1,633	471	157	501	293
Aug. ..	11,459	166,075	78,826	3,521	4,190	156,413	165,292	2,179	417	4,803	4,120	94	320	1,708	239	185	591	291
Sept. ..	8,269	182,690	71,351	3,910	4,077	82,618	190,503	3,264	457	5,063	3,420	106	350	1,776	204	206	591	291
Oct. ..	12,719	222,617	75,341	4,570	5,296	144,545	217,198	2,231	622	4,360	2,915	133	260	1,918	214	214	591	291
Nov. ..	13,272	205,979	72,084	3,647	5,011	156,645	228,287	2,237	402	4,945	3,370	158	248	1,775	214	214	591	291
Dec. ..	10,328	153,051	65,456	3,653	4,599	177,516	218,832	2,229	529	5,165	3,570	158	248	1,775	214	214	591	291
1924—Jan. ..	13,392	224,391	66,468	4,324	5,020	214,210	186,891	2,558	248	4,923	2,663	127	340	1,791	189	..	591	352
Feb. ..	11,804	179,645	61,342	3,782	4,675	294,114	153,908	2,629	332	4,395	2,749	138	250	1,615	140	..	591	352
Mar. ..	10,845	190,236	66,354	3,559	4,941	311,429	120,546	2,923	316	4,282	2,482	136	283	1,668	220	..	591	352
Apr. ..	9,822	192,722	62,803	3,061	6,717	247,618	174,389	2,749	363	4,924	2,550	92	387	1,803	229	..	591	352
May ..	12,477	197,497	72,058	3,843	5,261	228,536	124,088	2,489	520	5,485	3,000	132	322	1,734	..	..	591	352
June ..	10,737	197,847	66,396	3,782	5,261	179,243	..	2,533	489	5,485	3,000	132	322	1,734	..	..	591	352
July ..	13,335	188,519	72,631	..	5,505	185,471	..	2,754	440	5,440	3,000	160	371	2,050	..	..	591	352
Aug. ..	11,736	195,188	61,970	..	5,832	143,297	..	2,921	562	4,457	3,300	106	479	2,443	..	..	591	352

crop than last year, with a greatly increased demand from Europe on account of short harvests in other countries, has put the farmer in a much more favourable position.

Though Canada's wheat crops will not greatly exceed 300 million bushels this year, against 474 millions in 1923, prices in Winnipeg are about 40 per cent. higher than they were a year ago, and, providing the average grade of the crop is as good and prices hold at current levels, the net return to the farmer should not be much less than last year. The main loss will naturally fall on the Canadian railways. No marked improvement has as yet been noted in industrial centres, but inquiry has been on a larger scale, and as the volume of current agricultural indebtedness is decidedly lower than a year ago, prospects of a larger demand for commodities during the next few months are reasonably bright. The wool-shearing season in Australia has been, on the whole, favourable, and the problem of financing the clip at continually increasing prices will probably be considerably eased by the issue of "emergency" currency on which the authorities have decided. In India a generally favourable monsoon and the continuance of satisfactory crop conditions seem to indicate that last year's trade experience will be repeated, and that, with lower prices for cotton piece-goods, this market will play an important part in the expansion of business to which Lancashire is looking forward. The Indian cotton crop is expected to be of much the same dimensions as last year, but the final jute forecast indicates a decline from about 8,500,000 bales in 1923 to 8,000,000 in 1924. South African conditions show no marked change. Transvaal gold production remains at a high level, but weather conditions have been to some extent unfavourable to cereal crops, and trade remains quiet in such lines as iron and steel, electrical goods, and textiles.

Argentine wheat, linseed, and oat crops are making satisfactory progress after the recent rains, but a further general fall would be welcome, especially in the South. Chilean conditions are quiet, though the volume of business is higher than at this time a year ago. Drought conditions have been unfavourable to growing crops. While Brazilian trade conditions are not

unsatisfactory, abnormally high food prices have created some amount of discontent, and import duties on certain descriptions of agricultural and dairy produce have been suspended by the Government until the end of the current year.

After an appreciable expansion during August, the French metallurgical industry has been quieter of recent weeks, and prices have tended to decline slightly. The textile industries are active—with the exception, possibly, of silk. The wine crop has been more satisfactory than was expected, owing to improved weather towards the end of September, but a deficiency in wheat production will necessitate considerable importation of cereals this year. The Belgian metal trades remain in a depressed condition, fresh business being difficult to secure, while German competition is increasing. In Germany a gradual improvement in economic conditions is observable, the financial crisis of the early summer having passed away, though an acute shortage of credit still exists. The mining, potash, and textile industries are rather more active, but the iron trade has become quieter after showing signs of increased vitality in the first part of September. The general tone of business in Holland remains fairly good. Stringency continues in the Norwegian money market, but such industries as wood pulp, paper and cellulose have been rather more active of recent weeks. The timber market is quiet. Most branches of Swedish industry report slightly improved conditions, and unemployment is a steadily decreasing evil, but conditions in the iron industry are still far from normal. Danish industrial circles are perturbed by the rise in German exports, and the Industrial Council, following an English example, has called the Government's attention to the alleged "dangers" of the Dawes Settlement. Favourable weather conditions in Czecho-Slovakia have been helpful in producing a good harvest in grain and hops, and the sugar-beet crop is of high quality this year. The Austrian industrial situation is less satisfactory, the unemployment returns showing an increase of 12 per cent. during September, chiefly owing to the steady dismissal of employees in the engineering industry and in Viennese banks. Italian business was quieter last month, after the abnormal activity of August, but the textile industries continue to be well employed. Spanish trade is exhibiting symptoms of quickening activity after a very dull summer.

A STATISTICAL REVIEW of the most recent information of the economic activity of Europe, The British Empire, America, Asia, etc., compiled from official and other defined sources.

The following among other subjects are dealt with in informative Tables:—

PRODUCTION: Coal, Iron and Steel; Shipping Construction, etc.

FOREIGN TRADE: Weight and Value of Imports and Exports; Movement of Shipping

PRICE : Wholesale and Retail Price Index Numbers.

CURRENCY AND FINANCE: Reserves, Note Circulation, Discount Rates, Foreign Exchanges, Capital Issues, Bankruptcies, Savings Bank Deposits.

LABOUR : Unemployment Percentages.

This information is given where available for the following countries :—

PORTUGAL
ROUMANIA
RUSSIA
SIAM
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
URUGUAY
VENEZUELA

OBTAINABLE FROM ANY BOOKSELLER OR FROM
The official publishers CONSTABLE & CO. LTD. 10 & 12 Orange Street W.C.2
 PRICE 1/6 PER ISSUE. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 18/- NET

London: Printed for the Proprietors by G. E. HART, St. Clements Press, Ltd., Newspaper Buildings, Portugal street, Kingsway, W.C.2, and Published by the Proprietors at Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, W.C.1.

No. 18.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations,* supplemented from our own statistical records. The table of crop yields on Page 44 has been supplied by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," is 6d. Constable.

THE STATE

THE General Election has been followed by a not altogether healthy upward movement in share values, but industry, as always, has been slow to respond to changed political conditions. So far, autumn trade has been disappointing in the "heavy" industries, and most encouraging in the textile groups. A glance at the detailed unemployment tables in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* shows that to the coal-mining industry belongs the doubtful distinction of having made the largest individual contribution to the sharp increase in unemployment during October; that shipbuilding has the largest percentage of workers unemployed (31.4 at October 27th last), and that the recent improvement in the cotton industry removed over 15,500 workers from the list during October.

HOME TRADE STATISTICS

UNEMPLOYMENT—	
(State Insurance %)	.....
PRODUCTION—	
Coal (million tons).....	
Iron thous. ").....	
Steel " ").....	
FOREIGN TRADE—	
Imports (million £'s).....	
Re-exports " ").....	
Exports " ").....	
TRANSPORT—	
Railway Receipts (£0,000)	
Shipping Freight (av. l.)	
COMMODITY PRICES (t.)	
TRADE DISPUTES (t.)	
working days lost)	
CURRENCY VALUES (av. l.)	

The returns of our overseas trade are beginning to reflect the marked rise in price of certain essential foodstuffs—notably wheat—and raw materials. Internal prices are rising, and this development is not without its serious side. For one thing, the increase will tend automatically to raise wages governed by index-number movements in “sheltered” trades, which, viewed as “charges” on British industry as a whole, should be less, and not more, in order to be restored in the body economy about a parallel increase in output. To be bound to meet with strenuous opposition, some people are loudly asserting that iron and steel, British shipbuilding, and other exports must be reduced if the present position is to be maintained.

The improvement record of the metallurgical industries does not come none too soon, and it is a condition that British engineering must secure contracts of first-class formidable foreign competition held “the ground won a

		SEPT.	OCT.	1923.	
UNEMPLOYMENT—		10·8 ..	11·1 ..	—	0·6
(State Insurance %)					
PRODUCTION—		20·4 ..	20·4 ..	—	2·1
Coal (million tons)		569 ..	586 ..	—	10
Iron thous. "		645 ..	678 ..	—	24
Steel (" "					
FOREIGN TRADE—		100·9 ..	120·5 ..	+	20·6
Imports (million £'s)		9·6 ..	12·9 ..	+	1·8
Re-exports (" "		63·3 ..	68·6 ..	—	2·7
Exports (" "					
TRANSPORT—		404 ..	373 ..	+	13
Railway Receipts (£0,000)		110 ..	116 ..	+	7·7
Shipping Freight (av. level) ¹		184 ..	189 ..	+	20·6
COMMODITY PRICES (" ") ²					
TRADE DISPUTES (thous.)		518 ..	377 ..	—	790
working days lost)		116 ..	116 ..	+	0·7
SECURITY VALUES (av. level) ³					
FINANCIAL DATA—		124 ..	124 ..		..
Bank Notes (million £'s)*		287 ..	286 ..	+	4
Currency Notes (" ")		1652 ..	1674 ..	+	4
Bank Deposits (" ")		811 ..	824 ..	+	47
Bank Advances (" ")		11·2 ..	11·5 ..	—	0·2
Banks Cash Ratio (%)					
Bank Clearings:		696 ..	726 ..	+	16
London (million £'s)*		14·5 ..	16·2 ..	+	1·2
Manchester (" ")					
Three months' Bank Drafts		3½ ..	3½ ..	+	½
(Discount Rates %)		2½ ..	2½ ..	+	½
Day-to-day Loans (%)					
(*) 1913 = 100. (2) Economist Index No. ; July, 1914 = 100					
(3) Bankers' Magazine Index No. of 365 securities; December					
1921 = 100. (4) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as %					
total current, deposit, and other accounts. * Av. weekly figure					

Iron and Steel.—At long last an improvement is recorded in the iron and steel trades. Political factors are concerned to some extent, but there seems to have been a general feeling among buyers that further delay would be dangerous. The volume of inquiries has noticeably increased, and in numerous cases definite orders have been placed in the last week or two. The October production figures were affected to but a slight extent by this movement, and show little change as compared with September, when allowance is made for the extra working day, the pig-iron output being returned at 586,400 tons, against 569,200 tons in September, and steel ingots and castings at 678,500 tons, against 645,000 tons. For the first time since February, however, a net increase was reported in the number of blast-furnaces operating, seven having been blown in during October, against six damped down

or blown out. Foundry iron sales are increasing, and stocks at the works are gradually being cleared, but smelters have so far shown no great inclination to commit themselves to large forward transactions. Better conditions in the hematite trade are signalled by the fact that, for the first time in nine months, an additional furnace was put into commission in the Furness district in the middle of November. Prices have risen as much as half-a-crown from the low-water-mark of a few weeks ago, though the average increase is somewhat less than this figure. East Coast sellers have been rather more willing to commit themselves as to the future, and have booked a certain number of orders for delivery anything up to six months ahead. Tin-plates and galvanised sheets are a shade less firm. The volume of buying is not greatly removed from the ordinary as regards steel rails and constructional steels, but the undertone is quite satisfactory. Generally speaking, domestic demands are chiefly responsible for the improvement in business, a number of fairly substantial railway inquiries, for instance, being in the air at the moment, but foreign competition is decidedly less in evidence, the margin between the British and foreign product being smaller than of late, and the amount of foreign material available for early delivery of no considerable amount.

Coal.—Better iron-and-steel prospects will eventually react on the coal trade, but up to the present such improvement as has been recorded has been of small dimensions, and has hardly begun to affect production, the weekly returns showing (with one exception) a steady decline throughout October. The figures, however, still afford a favourable comparison with those of last summer, when seasonal factors were, of course, predominant. A number of inquiries for forward supplies have been received from ironmasters, and some collieries are showing a disposition tentatively to advance prices. Steam coals are in steady request, though in South Wales the existence of certain stocks is a bar to any marked amelioration of prevailing conditions. Domestic consumption of house coal is heavier than of recent weeks, though export inquiries are on no considerable scale, but industrial demand remains below normal.

Engineering.—Conditions remain unsatisfactory in many respects, but sentiment is somewhat better than a month ago. The placing of one or two large foreign contracts recently is a welcome indication of the competitive ability of certain firms. Thus one large concern has obtained an order for 35 locomotives for Argentina, and another has secured a railway construction contract for New Zealand running to about £500,000, as well as an Indian order for 775 railway wagons. Ship-building orders continue to come in slowly, but in slightly increased volume. October launchings on the Tyne totalled 206,000 tons this year, against 105,000 tons in October, 1923. Carriage and wagon builders are well employed, and gradual expansion continues in the machine-tool section. Electrical engineering firms are, on the whole, moderately busy, agricultural machinery is in good demand, but the motor industry is engaged rather on export than home orders.

Cotton.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The trade done in cotton yarn and cloth during the past month has not been so large as in the previous four weeks. Many leading buyers have recently shown more disposition to act with caution, and the stiffer prices of spinners and manufacturers which are a result of the trade improvement are being resisted. The opinion evidently prevails that if orders are held back, more favourable opportunities of purchasing will prevail in the near future. The cotton crop in the United States continues to do very well, and there is a tendency to increase estimates of the yield, there being every probability of a production of over 13,000,000 bales. Consumption, however, is increasing, and freer buying is adding strength to the price of article. The Egyptian cotton crop has been estimated by the Alexandria Produce Association at 6,970,000 cantars. It is feared, however, that the shortage of Sakellaris will be a serious matter for Lancashire spinners. The demand for India has fallen off. Buyers are content to accept prices against old contracts without giving out further bids to follow on. The general trade conditions on the other side, however, are no worse, and it is believed that the lull will be temporary. Favourable developments in China are slow in taking place, and business continues to be restricted to sorting up lots. A considerable trade has been done for the Near Eastern outlets, quite active buying being reported for Egypt, Turkey, and the Levant. Rather freer operations have also occurred for the markets of Central and South America. Some improvement has shown itself in the home trade demand, and business has been rather healthier for some of our colonies. The American section of the spinning branch of the industry is now passing through a rather critical period. It is believed in some quarters that production is being increased too rapidly. The mills are at present working 32 hours a week, but by virtue of a ballot taken recently 30½ hours will be worked from the beginning of December. Demand has been on a smaller scale, and some spinners are beginning to lose ground. A fair amount of activity has shown itself in yarns for India and Germany. Quotations for Egyptian spinnings remain firm, but in certain quarters high prices are checking trade.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The “Bradford Chamber of Commerce Journal” states:—The rise in the value of fine wools and tops which followed the opening of the Australian season proved to be too rapid, and it went much too far to receive the sustained support of the consuming centres. Higher prices were paid in London than at the various sales in the Commonwealth. It is quite certain that manufacturers have not made prices for cloth which bear anything like a remunerative relationship either to the Australian or the London basis for wool.” Trade in the West Riding has been on quiet lines. Business in tops has been of slightly greater volume, but the piece goods trade is uneven. While general conditions remain steady rather than brilliant, a “sentimental” improvement is observable in most sections.

Boots and Shoes.—The volume of trade is satisfactory on the whole, although orders for next spring have not yet come in to the extent anticipated.

Pottery.—The Christmas demand is the best recorded since 1921, and in some potteries overtime is being worked. Stocks are believed to be running low in many cases, particularly the higher grades, and the general outlook is better than for some time past.

Shipping.—The volume of space chartered during recent weeks has fallen short of the high level established during September, with shippers inclined to adopt a waiting policy, and fluctuations in grain prices tending to restrict forward chartering by merchants. The *Economist* Freight Index Number showed, however, a further rise of 5 points during October, the figure for that month, 115.6, comparing with 110.5 in September last and 107.9 in October, 1924. A substantial amount of idle tonnage has lately been requisitioned, and it is doubtful whether freights can, during the remainder of the year, be raised to any materially higher figure by grain movements.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The decisive victory of President Coolidge is accepted as a "bull point," mainly because of the new element of "stability" in the political situation which it infers. Many important economic problems as regards taxation, transport, tariff, and financial policy were involved in the issue, and the slow, though perceptible, improvement of the last two or three months would have been much more plainly marked but for political uncertainty as to the future. The iron and steel trade has felt the full effect of this uncertainty, but the corner seems to have been turned, and production is slowly reaching a more profitable basis. The mill consumption of cotton in New England and the South was 22 per cent. higher in September than in August, though less than in any corresponding month for the past three years. Automobile production is again expanding, and building operations remain at a surprisingly high level. Employment, wages, and prices are all moving upward, more or less definitely, and matters generally seem to be shaping for greater all-round activity.

(Continued on page 44.)

ITALY'S ECONOMIC POSITION—Continued.

counteracted by conditions of more continuous employment. The number of unemployed, which had reached its maximum of 606,819 in January, 1922, and oscillated in 1923 between a maximum of 391,974 in January, and a minimum of 178,912 in August, was reduced in 1924 to a maximum of 280,775 in January, and to a minimum of 117,963 in July (in August, 118,955). Emigration is increasing, in spite of American restrictions, the excess of emigrants over returned men being 165,172 in 1921, 188,102 in 1922, 284,475 in 1923, and 163,322 in the first seven months of 1924.

On the whole, it seems that more continuous employment, and probably the larger number of members of the family which find employment, permits a higher level of living to the majority of workers and their dependants. The *per capita* consumption of wine, in a number of the most populous cities, increased from 40 litres in 1913 to 50 in 1923; of beer from 2.19 to 3.19 litres; of edible oils from 19 to 29 kilograms; of fresh meat from 14 to 21 kilograms; of salted meat from 4 to 19 kilograms; of sugar from 5.31 to 7.72 kilograms; of coffee from 0.615 to 1.263 kilograms; of tobacco from 0.615 to 0.709 kilograms; while the number of lamps for electrical illumination increased from 0.27 to 0.48. These indices of increasing well-being go far to justify the assumption that, in spite of political uncertainties, and the arduous struggle for a return to a normal condition of public and social life, the foundations of Italian economics are strong, and the outlook for the future is promising.

Nov. 19,
1924.

ITALY'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

BY LUIGI EINAUDI.

THE financial year 1923-24 closed with a deficit of 623 million lire, against an estimate of 2,616 million lire. In the first three months of the current year the yield of taxation has continued to expand. This increasing ability of taxpayers to pay has made the condition of the exchequer almost affluent, the effective income in the three months in question (July to September, 1924) being 3,894.6 million lire, against an effective expenditure of 3,622.7 million lire. These figures do not infer that the State budget has reached equilibrium, as certain disbursements may have merely been postponed. But they have an important meaning for the money market, for while the public exchequer, with its issues of bonds and exchequer bills, absorbed, in the financial year 1921-1922, 7,040 million lire from the private savings, and in 1922-23 3,237 millions, in the financial year 1923-24 bills and bonds up to 1,087 million lire were repaid, and in the three months from July 1st to September 30th the internal debt was further by 567 million lire.

This is, perhaps, the dominating factor in the present economic situation of Italy: the State is no more the greatest, and almost the only, consumer of current savings; it is refunding to the money market part of the sums previously received. Private savings, which found, in the war and after war years, an easy harbour in the continuous State issues, are obliged to find employment in agriculture, industry, and trade. The impetus which industry received during the war from State war demands was spent in 1920; after two years of uncertainty and social commotion, 1923 saw a return of abundant money due to the new factor in the capital situation.

Another potent element in economic progress is the increasing stabilisation of the lira. The increasing fixity of the gold value of the national currency, and the decreasing importance (owing to death or passage to productive occupations) of classes interested in the appreciation of the lira have induced many people to take heart of grace. The fear of Bolshevism, meanwhile, has vanished; the values of land, houses, and shares in joint-stock companies have risen in proportion. The average price of joint-stock company shares rose from 100 in April, 1922—perhaps the worst of all months on the Italian bourses owing to the prevalent Bolshevist fever—to 213.6 in October, 1924. This movement of capital prices put millions in the pockets of investors and speculators.

Savings deposits, which amounted to 28,126 million lire at June 30, 1922, increased to 32,333 millions at June 30, 1923, and to 35,000 in June, 1924. Net investments in joint-stock companies, which were 955 million lire in the year 1922, rose to 2,088 millions in 1923, and touched 2,300 millions in the first six months of 1924. Failures unfortunately increased, also, from a monthly average of 47 in 1918 to 49 in 1919, 53 in 1920, 149 in 1921, 305 in 1922, 474 in 1923, and 612 in the first nine months of 1924. In order to appreciate this movement, one should remember that in the war years failures were almost nonexistent, and that the present figures are a return to the old monthly average of 616 for 1913, and represent, probably, a more true index of the necessary elimination of the economic struggle.

As an instance of the effects of the growing influx of new savings in the industry, we may quote a few figures relating to the electrical industry. In the year 1898, the acting KW. were 87,000; in 1908, KW. 426,000; in 1918, KW. 1,240,000. At present there are in progress such a number of new installations, that the KW.

acting in 1928 may be estimated, even excluding future additions, at 2,341,000. The consumption, from KW.180,000,000 in the year 1898, rose to 1,000,000,000 in 1908, to 2,300,000,000 in 1915, to 4,120,000,000 in 1917-18, decreased to 3,830,000,000 in 1919-20 owing to social unrest, and may be estimated at 5,500,000,000 in the present year. The capital invested from 200 million lire in 1898, rose to 3,000 millions in 1924.

Only for agriculture we have up-to-date statistics of production. The year 1924 was unfortunate; 4.64 millions tons of wheat were produced, against 6.12 in 1923, and 7 millions of vine grapes, against 8.3. A partial compensation can be sought in the increase from 1.34 to 1.63 million tons in the yield of mulberry leaves (cocoons 42,500 to 49,500 tons), from 0.52 to 0.56 in rice, and from 2.26 to 2.6 in maize production. Higher prices have largely compensated the agriculturist for the smaller production, which, compared with the pre-war average of 1909-1914, is not so unsatisfactory as may be judged by comparison with 1923, which was an exceptionally bountiful year; the percentage of 1924 production on the 1909-1914 average being 94 per cent. for wheat, 98 per cent. for vine grapes, 150 per cent. for mulberry leaves (118 per cent. for cocoons), 114 per cent. for rice, and 101 per cent. for maize.

Current figures of industrial production may be had only for goods subject to excise, beer production rising from 1,187,508 hectolitres in the financial year 1922-1923 to 1,466,507 in 1923-1924; coffee substitutes from 7,804.4 to 8,351.8 tons; sugar from 270,279.4 to 318,987.3 tons; illuminating gas from 259.1 to 292.6 million cubic metres; electrical power consumed from 4,721.4 to 5,390.5 kilowatt-hours. Figures for metallurgical production are more belated; coke pig-iron produced in 1923 amounted to 218,039 tons, as against 140,211 in 1922; electrical-made coke to 15,704 tons, against 14,401; homogeneous iron and steel to 1,141,761 tons, against 981,419; lead to 17,131 tons, against 10,709; zinc to 3,684 tons, against 3,082.

The foreign trade figures show that Italy is gaining ground in outside markets as regards agricultural products and the output of the textile, rubber and motor-car industries. These are the most progressive industries in our country. I doubt very much, however, whether the voice of these industries, which should be mostly a Free Trade voice, will be able to make itself heard, against the potent Protectionist interests of the heavy iron and steel industries, in the negotiations for the conclusion of a Treaty of commerce with Germany, a Treaty which will fix the character of other most important commercial treaties to follow.

It is impossible to make an exact estimate of the real condition of the working classes. Statistics of wages are too old to be of much use. According to Mortara's index, wages increased from 100 in 1913-1914 to 480 in 1923, keeping approximately in touch with the lessening purchasing power of the lira. If we take 100 as the cost of living for a working family of 5 (2 adults and 3 children) in Turin in the first six months of 1914, we have the following minima and maxima after July 1, 1920 :—

Minimum.		Maximum.
1920.....	July.....	384.4 .. December.. 465.6
1921.....	".....	404.7 .. March..... 472.2
1922.....	April.....	424.5 .. January... 465.6
1923.....	March.....	435.8 .. December.. 466.7
1924.....	June.....	462.1 .. October... 492.9

The maximum in the cost of living after August 1, 1924, was reached in October, 1924. This ominous feature is

(Continued at foot of col. 2, page 38.)

FINANCE.
Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Notes in Circulation.																
Period.	United Kingdom.		Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	Finland.	France.	Germany.		Greece.	Hungary.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	
End of	Bank of England Notes.	Currency Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Reichsbank Notes.	Reichs- und Darlehens-kassenscheine.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.
	£	£	Kronen.	Francs.	Leva.	Koruna.	Kron.	Markat.	Francs.	Marks.	Marks.	Drachmas	Korona.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Gulden.
1913.....	29.6	383.2	..	1,067	189	..	152	113	5,714	2,593	149	^h 245	..	..	313	69
1918.....	70.2	357.6	30,646	3,410	2,299	450	1,156	1,156	31,055	22,188	10,599	1,274	14,308	3,344	1,069	69
1920.....	113.3	385.6	174,115	6,260	3,354	11,289	557	1,341	37,902	68,805	12,349	1,568	26,175	1,688	1,013	33
1921.....	107.1	285.4	4,080,177	6,260	3,354	12,150	471	1,356	36,359	8,523	13,663	3,149	75,887	5,040	1,012	32
1922.....	102.9	292.7	7,125,755	7,460	3,886	10,064	459	1,361	36,359	1,280,295	..	..	331,337	5,790	1,066	32
1923.....	105.1	292.7	7,125,755	7,460	3,886	10,064	459	1,361	36,114	149,6507,424,772	..	..	..	..	..	..
1923-Sept.	101.6	282.8	6,225,109	7,150	3,873	9,311	459	1,383	37,626	28,228,815	8,727	4,330	588,810	5,929	1,012	28
Oct.	102.3	281.3	6,607,839	7,281	3,976	9,279	471	1,365	37,848	2,496,822,909	8,854	4,523	744,926	5,881	1,015	28
Nov.	102.6	281.6	6,577,616	7,278	3,978	9,281	473	1,333	37,329	400,267,640,302	8,598	4,548	853,989	5,826	1,049	32
Dec.	105.1	292.7	7,125,755	7,460	3,939	9,559	473	1,352	39,114	496,507,424,772	8,727	4,330	1,084,674	5,774	1,008	32
1924-Jan	104.0	279.9	6,375,109	7,590	4,303	9,880	446	1,279	38,834	483,674,521,358	8,598	4,513	1,278,437	5,677	984	32
Feb.	103.1	285.2	6,556,311	7,652	4,509	9,509	450	1,376	39,345	576,948,526,821	8,598	4,513	1,278,437	5,677	984	32
Mar	103.9	290.1	7,144,901	7,676	4,748	8,800	463	1,400	40,214	589,864,440,190	8,598	4,513	1,278,437	5,677	984	32
Apl.	103.2	286.1	7,554,620	7,683	4,793	8,058	470	1,261	40,324	121,103,485,128	8,598	4,513	1,278,437	5,677	984	32
May	103.3	292.1	7,774,958	7,664	4,115	8,090	470	1,273	40,034	131,895,246,101	8,598	4,422	3,559,751	5,828	999	28
June	104.4	295.6	7,995,647	7,641	4,278	8,140	473	1,279	40,534	152,051,653,712	8,598	4,422	3,559,751	5,828	999	28
July	104.3	289.4	8,002,142	7,628	4,362	8,223	473	1,279	40,534	152,051,653,712	8,598	4,422	3,559,751	5,828	999	28
Aug.	104.6	287.5	7,998,509	7,641	4,278	8,140	473	1,279	40,534	152,051,653,712	8,598	4,422	3,559,751	5,828	999	28
Sept.	99.8	285.0	8,213,003	7,630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oct.	101.1	285.0	8,213,003	7,630	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
									Sweden.	Switzer-	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Egypt	United States.	Japan.

Period.	Italy.	Norway.	Poland.	Roumania.	Russia.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Egypt.	United States.	Japan.				
End of	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Total Dominion & Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.				
	Lires.	Lires.	Kroner.	Marki p.	Zloty.	Lei.	Gd. Rbls.	Roubles.	Toherv.	Kronor.	Francs.	£	£	£s.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Yen.
1913	2,284	499	108	a	n	437	p	2	..	234	314	10.0	227	2.3	726	343	42
1914	11,750	2,124	431	..	..	2,485	..	57	..	814	976	58.9	530	6.5	3,402	291	1,141
1915	19,732	2,268	483	229,538	e	1,165	..	1,165	..	760	1,024	58.9	522	9.1	4,364	266	1,541
1916	18,209	2,267	385	793,437	e	15,126	..	2,138,710	0.4	628	1,009	65.5	444	8.3	3,513	288	1,584
1917	18,012	2,267	396	125,371,965	..	7,917	..	178,509,900	23.7	576	982	52.2	408	8.8	2,951	308	1,693
1918	17,145	2,428	402	11,197,738	..	1,426	..	22,701,870	22.5	600	930	52.0	408	8.7	2,933	308	1,486
1919	17,248	2,428	394	23,080,402	..	17,722	..	22,592,600	22.5	560	927	52.0	410	8.4	33.5	2,950	304
1920	17,048	2,428	384	53,217,495	..	18,014	..	98,839,300	23.6	568	920	52.0	408	8.6	3,585	308	1,693
1921	17,247	2,428	395	12,571,955	..	17,517	..	178,509,900	23.7	576	982	52.2	408	8.8	3.4.3	2,951	308
1922	16,768	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,711	..	330,018,100	28.0	503	884	52.4	376	8.6	3.3.3	2,743	296
1923	16,559	2,428	380	596,244,208	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1924	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	523	886	56.9	376	8.8	3.1.6	2,650	303
1925	16,559	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1926	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	523	886	56.9	376	8.8	3.1.6	2,650	303
1927	16,559	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1928	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	523	886	56.9	376	8.8	3.1.6	2,650	303
1929	16,559	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1930	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	523	886	56.9	376	8.8	3.1.6	2,650	303
1931	16,559	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1932	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	523	886	56.9	376	8.8	3.1.6	2,650	303
1933	16,559	2,428	369	513,659,430	..	17,837	20	866,503,500	28.7	523	878	52.1	378	8.8	3.2.7	2,778	304
1934	16,819	2,428	380	528,913,419	..	17,832	51	768,000,000	29.5	52							

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

[illegible]

	Paris.	Brussels.	Italy.	Switzer- land.	Madrid.	Amster- dam.	Stock- holm.	Christiania.	Copen- hagen.	Berlin.	Vienna.	New York.	Buenos Aires.
	Francs to £1.	Francs to £1.	Lire to £1.	Francs to £1.	Pesetas to £1.	Florins to £1.	Kronor to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Marks to £1.	Krone to £1.	Dollars to £1.	Pence to Dollars
Par level	25.22	25.22	25.22	25.22	25.22	12.107	18.159	18.159	18.159	20.43	24.02	4.868	47.58
Highest, 1923	86.70	107.20	108	25.91	34.41	11.91	17.73	31.05	26.67	50 billions	350,000	4.72	44
Lowest "	72.45	68.06	89	24.45	29.47	11.37	16.28	24.35	22.46	32,000	300,000	4.85	38
Beginning of—	25.15	25.35	25.25	25.19	26.10	12.11	18.30	18.25	18.30	20.49	24.55	4.87	47
July, 1914	27.97	27.60	30.31	22.95	23.67	11.15	16.29	16.85	17.67	..	..	4.76	51
January, 1919	40.32	40.42	50.00	21.16	19.72	10.07	17.50	18.60	19.66	187	1,500	3.78	62
January, 1920	61.06	58.07	104	23.55	27.66	11.36	17.56	22.42	22.17	261	13,000	3.54	51
January, 1921	54.85	54.85	97	21.70	28.19	11.44	16.97	26.99	21.12	791	48,500	4.20	43
January, 1922	52.32	72.85	93	24.72	28.19	11.44	17.79	25.12	23.40	194	330,000	4.68	44
January, 1923	66.30	99.45	100	24.72	29.73	11.36	16.26	29.82	24.45	18	306,500	4.31	41
January, 1924	87.85	98.25	99	24.31	33.05	11.53	16.24	31.75	27.25	18	307,500	4.33	40
June "	85.75	96.50	101	24.31	33.05	11.53	16.24	31.75	27.25	18	312,500	4.40	40
July "	88.32	96.06	101	23.64	33.05	11.53	16.24	31.75	27.25	18	319,500	4.49	41
August "	82.39	82.25	101	23.35	33.60	11.52	16.75	31.42	25.57	18	315,500	4.46	41
September "	84.67	92.47	104	23.48	35.59	11.47	16.97	31.52	26.05	19	319,500	4.51	41
October "	86.40	94.26	104	23.48	35.59	11.47	16.97	31.52	26.05	19	319,500	4.51	41
November "	86.40	94.26	104	23.48	35.59	11.47	16.97	31.52	26.05	19	319,500	4.51	41

	Rio de Janeiro.	Monte Video.	Valpa- raiso.	Bombay.	Hong Kong.	Shanghai.	Yoko- hama.	Singa- pore.	Place.	Method of Quoting.	Oct. Quotations.		
	Pence to Mils.	Pence to Dollars.	Pesos to £.	10 to Gold Sovereign	Sterling to Dollar.	Sterling to Tael.	Sterling to Yen.	Sterling to Dollar.			Highest.	Lowest.	Average.
Par level	16	51	13.33	1 s d	1 s d	3 s d	2 0/8	2 4/8	New York	Dollars to £1.	4.56	4.47	4.525
Highest, 1923	6 1/2	44	41.20	1 5/8	2 2/8	3 5/8	2 7/8	2 3/8	Oct., 1923	..	4.49	4.42	4.462
Lowest "	4 1/2	37	33.20	1 3/8	2 2/8	3 0	2 0/8	2 3/8	Sept., 1924	..	4.52	4.45	4.487
Beginning of—	16 1/2	51	13 1/2	1 3/8	1 10/8	2 6 1/2	2 0 1/2	2 4 1/8	Oct., 1923	Francs to £1.	78.35	73.40	75.906
July, 1914	13 1/2	61	12 1/2	1 6 1/2	3 4 1/2	7 8 1/2	2 8	2 1 1/2	Sept., 1924	..	85.20	82.60	84.051
January, 1919	17 1/2	65	12 1/2	1 5 1/2	3 2 1/2	4 1 1/2	2 8 1/2	2 3 1/2	Oct., 1924	..	87.75	83.90	85.754
January, 1920	9 1/2	50	13 1/2	1 4	2 7 1/2	3 6 1/2	2 5 1/2	2 4 1/2	Amsterdam.	Florins to £1.	11.61	11.53	11.560
January, 1921	7 1/2	41	34.70	1 4 1/2	2 3 1/2	3 0 1/2	2 1 1/2	2 4 1/2	Oct., 19				

Monthly Average	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States. Bureau Labour	No. of Towns and Localities.	U.K.	Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.		Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
					630	105	Vienna.	59	4	Paris.	71	Berlin.	Milan.	Madrid.	80	32	
					Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1921.	1901-1910.	1914.	Oct., 1913. Jan., April, June, 1914.	Aug., 1913. July, 1914.	Jan.- June, 1914.	1914.	1913.	1913.
1913	100	100	100	100													
1918	153·1	..	195·8	194													
1920	223·3	152·0	259·4	226													
1921	160·4	150·2	200·4	147	1918—July ..	210	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	286	154	146	..
1922	128·4	145·6	195·0	149	1920—July ..	255	..	..	..	2492	341	..	1125	441	191	190	174
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	154	1921—July ..	222	..	53,300	100	2604	307	..	1124	494	189	165	180
					1922—July ..	181	185	264,511	90	3530	302	..	6392	488	181	147	187
					1923—July ..	171	180	1,090,300	109	3344	334	..	3765,100	487	172	145	170
1923—September ..	..	156·8	210·2	154	Oct.	175	186	1,102,700	117	3043	..	..	365	501	502	174	150
October	125·3	156·1	211·6	153	Nov.	177	..	1,114,900	120	3201	..	..	65700	67910	505	177	150
November	..	157·3	210·1	152	Dec.	177	..	1,124,900	112	3424	345	..	124,000	107,100	499	182	150
December	..	157·5	210·5	151	1924—Jan. ...	179	188	1,174,000	124	..	..	..	110,000	96,300	510	178	150
1924—January	151·4	156·7	210·5	148	Feb.	178	..	1,194,000	128	..	..	..	104,000	92,200	517	190	150
February	..	156·5	207·7	152	Mar.	173	..	1,199,600	130	..	365	..	107,000	93,400	521	180	148
March	..	157·5	205·7	150	April.	171	178	1,197,300	124	..	..	..	112,000	98,900	522	185	145
April	126·2	153·7	206·6	148	May	169	..	1,220,900	119	..	..	..	115,000	101,700	518	180	143
May	..	154·3	204·9	147	June	170	..	1,244,200	123	..	366	..	112,000	101,700	518	182	144
June	..	151·8	199·0	145	July	171	163	1,239,100	125	..	..	..	116,000	101,700	518	184	143
Jul	124·8	151·5	195·3	147	Aug.	172	..	1,314,200	127	..	..	..	114,000	100,000	512	182	144
August	..	148·8	200·1	150	Sept.	176	..	1,316,200	128	..	367	..	116,000	103,000	511	180	145
September	..	149·3	..	149	Oct.	180	..	..	..	..	..	..	122,000	..	516	189	146

YIELD OF FOOD CROPS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

The figures which follow are supplied by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, and show, in thousands of metric tons, the latest estimates of this year's food crops in all countries north of the Equator for which returns are available. The percentage column— are calculated on the basis of the original data, of which only a summary is given here.

Countries.	Wheat.			Rye.			Barley.			Oats.		
	1924.	1923.	Average 1918-22.	1924.	1923.	Average 1918-22.	1924.	1923.	Average 1918-22.	1924.	1923.	Average 1918-22.
England and Wales	1,395.1	1,546.2	1,816.2	..	..	..	1,043.5	980.5	1,036.1	1,538.3	1,374.7	1,571.5
Scotland	..	63.1	73.2	..	..	..	..	126.3	141.1	..	652.8	750.7
N. Ireland	..	6.2	9.6	..	0.7	..	..	2.0	2.3	..	310.1	328.8
Austria	244.5	241.9	202.0	391.1	402.3	(1) 345.2	157.1	171.0	(1) 121.9	..	375.4	(1) 265.9
Belgium	343.2	364.0	(2) 312.6	501.3	528.0	(2) 459.3	81.2	91.0	(2) 93.7	581.1	683.0	(2) 479.8
Bulgaria	770.7	985.8	796.0	112.1	174.3	150.8	173.0	240.9	192.9	107.5	133.4	91.7
Denmark	..	241.1	210.9	..	384.7	342.2	..	706.7	560.3	..	916.0	727.2
Czechoslovakia	933.3	985.9	(3) 895.1	1,178.5	1,354.9	(3) 1,166.5	1,037.3	1,197.1	(3) 951.2	1,233.1	1,330.8	(3) 993.3
Estonia	a) 7.6	(a) 10.1	(a) 11.7	144.6	165.4	(a) 145.7	123.3	89.2	(4) 123.7	160.4	115.3	(4) 137.1
Finland	18.9	12.9	11.7	287.6	240.0	260.2	125.9	82.5	120.5	476.1	309.0	418.3
France	7,684.0	7,499.8	(2) 6,741.4	1,012.9	927.6	(2) 939.0	1,000.1	980.3	(2) 783.2	4,293.1	4,890.8	(2) 3,643.1
Germany	2,537.0	2,819.7	(2) 2,322.3	5,998.0	7,174.7	(2) 5,750.8	2,392.9	2,380.2	(2) 1,744.3	6,134.5	5,575.5	(2) 4,563.2
Greece	262.9	363.5	301.8	(5) 46.4	(5) 67.6	(4) 57.0	134.3	154.6	(6) 137.9	59.0	86.6	(6) 60.6
Hungary	1,371.3	1,842.7	(3) 1,318.8	580.6	794.4	(3) 580.4	325.4	593.8	(3) 473.5	248.6	398.6	(3) 323.3
Irish Free State	..	28.3	58.0	..	..	..	..	121.2	159.3	..	510.2	745.7
Italy	4,620.6	6,119.1	4,640.6	155.1	164.7	145.7	188.6	228.6	197.1	483.4	578.1	508.0
Latvia	44.7	44.6	(3) 19.3	24.6	273.6	(3) 180.7	189.3	131.1	(3) 118.5	336.0	238.2	(3) 207.1
Lithuania	96.4	80.7	(7) 74.6	478.2	606.8	(7) 503.3	215.6	173.2	(7) 157.9	338.0	330.6	(7) 278.1
Luxembourg	7.1	8.2	12.1	8.0	10.0	9.1	3.5	4.4	2.6	28.0	46.1	22.8
Norway	15.1	16.0	26.0	17.6	18.8	24.7	91.1	71.5	109.0	142.1	116.1	212.2
Netherlands	117.4	166.3	169.9	372.4	364.6	386.5	68.5	64.1	62.7	313.6	302.2	309.8
Poland	894.3	1,353.6	(8) 1,153.3	3,823.3	5,962.4	(8) 5,013.5	1,245.7	1,655.5	(8) 1,296.7	2,571.0	3,522.4	(8) 2,505.6
Portugal	234.9	359.0	258.1	127.7	132.7	121.3	36.2	53.4	35.8	79.2	117.5	77.7
Roumania	..	2,779.3	(3) 2,103.6	..	244.0	(3) 234.8	..	1,325.3	(3) 1,499.7	..	909.6	(3) 1,097.2
Serb. Croat. Slov. State	1,906.8	1,662.0	(3) 1,263.6	163.8	150.0	(3) 142.1	333.3	306.2	(3) 273.2	282.1	311.7	(3) 287.5
Spain	3,344.3	4,275.9	3,669.7	725.8	713.2	690.6	1,362.0	2,435.5	1,870.8	360.3	586.9	487.7
Sweden	198.1	301.6	274.4	298.6	619.8	574.1	273.8	256.5	265.4	1,029.5	1,076.6	1,022.8
Switzerland	(9) 128.5	(9) 148.4	(9) 148.4	36.4	41.8	42.1	11.3	12.4	12.8	39.1	44.4	48.1
Canada	7,392.5	12,905.8	7,327.5	368.3	590.1	426.0	1,830.9	1,676.4	1,430.7	6,485.0	8,698.0	6,998.1
United States	23,291.6	21,384.7	23,977.0	1,671.4	1,600.8	1,991.7	4,375.3	4,314.9	4,050.4	21,909.1	18,866.9	18,906.0
India	9,910.5	10,142.2	9,015.4	..	..	..	..	3,167.0	3,039.6	..	..	..
Great Lebanon	24.0	38.0	(1) 21.3	..	..	..	..	16.0	15.9	0.6	0.9	(1) 0.7
Japan	673.9	773.0	787.3	..	..	..	1,640.0	1,599.1	1,967.1	156.9	169.2	153.2
Korea	271.9	220.5	247.4	..	..	..	735.3	668.9	779.5	..	..	86.3
Algeria	472.3	990.5	674.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	450.3	1,021.5	711.9	115.7	279.4	158.8
Egypt	930.4	1,106.4	912.5	..	..	..	223.7	261.0	233.6	..	..	..
French Morocco	685.0	545.7	507.1	..	..	..	1,050.0	770.1	695.0	..	6.0	4.1
Tunis	141.0	270.0	200.2	..	..	..	55.0	250.0	150.4	23.0	40.0	40.5
Total (o)	70,969.8	79,584.9	70,107.0	18,745.5	23,078.9	20,119.4	20,983.4	22,941.4	20,215.9	49,524.3	50,612.9	44,506.6

(a) Winter crop. (b) Spring crop. (1) 1922. (2) 1919 to 1922. (3) 1920 to 1922. (4) 1921 and 1922. (5) Including meslin. (6) 1918 to 1921. (7) 1919 to 1922, excluding Kiaipeda (Monal). (8) 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. (9) Including meslin and spelt.
(o) Exclusive of those countries whence returns for one of the three periods are unavailable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD—Continued from page 38.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Unfavourable October weather delayed October threshing operations in Canada, and has affected the grading of some parts of the crops. The latest yield estimate for wheat is 272 million bushels, as against 474 millions last year, the yield per acre being 12 bushels against 21 bushels last year. Oats and rye also show declines, but barley and flax-seed a slight increase. A somewhat better feeling prevails in industrial circles, the textile industry, in particular, showing improvement, but seasonal causes seem to be mainly responsible. Late August and September rains, at short intervals, have induced an optimistic feeling over most agricultural and pastoral areas in Australia, where high wool and wheat prices are producing all the outward and visible signs of prosperity. South African business has been quiet, unemployment continuing on a fairly considerable scale. Favourable features are the continuance of high gold production, the good rainfall some weeks ago, which brought relief to many parts of the Orange Free State and Natal, and a favourable start to the wool season.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Rainfall has been deficient in the Northern and Western, though fairly satisfactory in the Eastern areas of Argentina, linseed being the crop most affected by these conditions. The country is expecting a much more favourable trade balance this year, imports for the first nine months being back at the 1922 level, and exports quantitative increases over 1923, varying

between 15 and 85 per cent., the only exception being wool, exports of which have fallen by 15 per cent. Chilean conditions are steady. Brazil is likely to benefit from the phenomenal rise in coffee prices during the last three months, but as a "short" crop is in prospect the net gain is hardly likely to be considerable.

EUROPE.

French metallurgical industries have participated in the upward movement already noted in Great Britain. The woollen industry is more active, after a quieter spell during October. Competition for new business remains keen in the Belgian iron and steel trades, but the glass and textile industries of that country are rather more active. The German economic situation shows no marked improvement. The flotation of the Gold Loan does not appear to have made the obtaining of private loans overseas any less difficult than before, and the coming General Election is an unfavourable influence. Dutch conditions continue to show steady progress. The suspension of Den Norske Handelsbank has happily not affected Norwegian finance or industry to any great extent. In Austria the financial and economic crisis continues, though less acutely, and unemployment is still on the increase. A noteworthy re-activity, is reported from Spain, and despite political complications, Italian trade remains brisk throughout almost the whole industrial field. An appreciation of Italy's general economic position is given elsewhere in this Supplement.

The Economist

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

New Series.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1924.

No. 19.

In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and we have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations,* supplemented from our own statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s 6d. Constable.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

AN undoubted improvement in trade conditions during the last few weeks is to be inferred less from published statistics than from the decidedly more hopeful feeling which pervades almost every branch of industry. One can scarcely claim that the bright hopes of the early spring of 1924 have been realised—during the summer and early autumn, indeed, industry was losing rather than gaining ground. But the New Year is being faced with a degree of confidence which few would have ventured to predict as recently as two months ago. The fact that the Stock Exchange value of industrial shares has risen, since the General Election, much more rapidly than that of "gilt-edged" and fixed-interest stocks, bears witness to the existence of optimism among the members of the investing public comparable with that of manufacturers and traders.

The present year has, it is true, contributed very little to the relief of the national unemployment burden. Despite a slight decline in the Ministry of Labour's figure during November, 11 per cent. of insured workers are still recipients of unemployment relief, the total, at 1,233,000, showing a drop of only 71,000, as compared with November, 1923. The precise value to be put on these figures is by no means clear, since more than one change has been made in the conditions of eligibility during the year, and the Ministry's returns are far less clear than one could wish.

Outdoor relief, on the other hand, is of less formidable dimensions than a year ago, and as the trend of wage rates has been upwards this year (in the 11 months ended November 30th last 2,850,000 workers were returned as receiving increases averaging 4s 1d a week each, against 500,000 who suffered a decrease of 2s 7d), the workers' lot would appear to be rather a happier one this Christmas than last, in spite of the rise in living costs. The returns of overseas trade are noteworthy for the continuance of a heavy "visible" import balance, the average monthly excess for the eleven months of 1924

being nearly £27 millions, against £16 millions in 1923. One explanation of the failure of exports to rise in proportion to imports may be inferred from the fact that a rise of £33 millions in our shipments of manufactured goods has been largely offset by a decline of over £26 millions in the value of coal exports. The volume of railway and shipping traffic apparently suffered a seasonal decline last month. Of the various financial indicators, the most encouraging are the London and provincial cheque-clearing figures, and the discount totals of the London clearing banks, both of which are well above the level of November, 1923.

The iron and steel industries tend to be quiet at this time of the year, when stocktaking considerations assume unusual importance; but the recent course of business has afforded some ground for predication an appreciable expansion of output in the early months of 1925. Engineering conditions are still irregular, and in many ways unsatisfactory, but orders recently placed by the railway companies have had a beneficial effect. Cotton is not quite so active as of late, but confidence of better times in 1925 remains strong. Woollen spinners and manufacturers are by no means easy in mind as a

result of the continued upward curve of raw wool prices. Shipping tonnage is in less active demand, but the outlook for 1925 is not at all unpromising.

As regards conditions abroad, the United States is looking forward to a steady expansion of trade in the coming year. Among the countries of the Empire, Australia and New Zealand can claim to be classed as "prosperous," and the same may be said of Argentina among South American States. In Europe, German economic conditions have taken a turn for the better, and the same statement applies, at the other end of the world, to Japan. The following notes on conditions in various

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—NOVEMBER, 1924.

	Oct.	Nov.	Compared with Nov. 1923.
UNEMPLOYMENT—(State Insurance %)	11.1	11.0	— 0.5
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)	20.4	21.0	— 1.5
Iron (thous. ")	586	583	— 15
Steel (" ")	678	673	— 76
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	120.5	118.7	+ 1.7
Re-exports (" ")	12.9	12.3	+ 2.1
Exports (" ")	68.6	68.2	+ 2.4
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000)	373	347	— 1
Shipping Freight (av. level)	116	113	+ 1.6
COMMODITY PRICES(" ")	189	188	+ 11
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	377	134	— 882
SECURITY VALUES (av. level)	116	117	+ 3.2
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Bank Notes (million £'s)*	124	123	— 1.5
Currency Notes (" ")	286	287	+ 4.5
Bank Deposits (" ")	1674	1667	— 3.5
Bank Advances (" ")	824	828	+ 61
Banks Cash Ratio (%) (")	11.5	11.6	— 0.02
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)*	726	812	+ 97
Manchester (" ")	16.2	16.7	+ 1.7
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)	3 1/2	3 1/2	+ 7/8
Day-to-day Loans (%)	2 1/2	2 1/2	+ 1/8

(*) 1913=100. (2) Economist Index No.; July, 1914=100.

(3) Bankers' Magazine Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921=100. (4) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts. * Av. weekly figures.

trades and countries call attention to some of the most striking tendencies:—

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Iron and Steel.—While nothing has occurred to check the decidedly more hopeful feeling referred to a month ago, business has taken a quieter turn, in view of the approach of the Christmas holidays and the usual stocktaking period. Manufacturers are moderately well employed, and though little new business is expected to pass till the turn of the year, orders on hand are sufficient to ensure production at or about the current volume up to the end of January. The average daily output of pig-iron in November was the highest during any month since July, and, in the case of steel ingots and castings since May, although falling in both cases below the figure for earlier months this spring. The total furnaces in blast increased by two during November, and now stands at 173, as compared with a "peak" figure since 1921 of 223 in May, 1923. We give below an estimate of the total production of the United Kingdom in 1913, 1923, and 1924, based on data at present available:—

	Pig-Iron. Tons.	Steel Ingots and Castings. Tons.
1913	10,260,000	7,664,000
1923	7,440,000	8,481,800
1924	7,340,000	8,350,000

Pig-iron prices are firm. The demand for hematite is steady, and remaining stocks are being cleared satisfactorily. Steel orders emanate chiefly from the home market, the inquiry for constructional steels having lately been a strong feature. Foreign competition is less acute, French and Belgian makers being pre-occupied with the German market in anticipation of tariff factors which may arise next month, while domestic demand in Germany is taking a larger portion of that country's supplies. The tinplate trade is slightly better, after recording a surprisingly widespread decline in employment last month, and a few orders have lately been received for delivery up to the end of March.

Coal.—The demand for steam coal continues to show signs of improvement, and the export trade has been better during the last week or two than the Board of Trade figures for November would appear to indicate. Shipments from South Wales have reached something like 90 per cent. of the volume of last spring, and colliery employment in that area has improved. Taken all round, however, sentiment is more optimistic, as is evidenced by the tendency of some collieries to demand higher prices for forward contracts.

Engineering.—The engineering trades as a whole have improved their position during the last few weeks. Large orders placed by British railways have had a sensible effect on employment in certain branches, the locomotive trade in particular being fairly busy. The Horwich works of the L.M.S. Company have just resumed full-time operations, after working short-time since the summer, and contracts, especially for wagons, have been placed with several outside firms. A few new shipbuilding orders have been secured on the Clyde, though not sufficient to maintain activity at its recent comparatively high volume, and the outlook for 1925 cannot be described as particularly bright. Opinion is divided as to the effects likely to follow the extension of the Trade Facilities Act to shipbuilding. Business continues brisk in electrical factories in the Midlands, makers of wireless accessories being particularly busy. One large concern with works at Manchester has secured an important contract for South Africa, and another in connection with London Electric Railway extensions. The textile machinery industry remains depressed, but better things are expected as a result of renewals in Lancashire factories, following the recent increase in the volume of business in the cotton trade. Machine-tool makers were fairly well occupied during November, export demand being in evidence. The October show brought considerable new business to the motor trade, and overtime has been worked in certain Coventry factories. The demand for motor-cycles is still of large dimensions, but has fallen off to some extent in the pedal bicycle trade.

Cotton.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The business put through in the cotton industry this month has not been on a large scale, and most buyers, owing to the anticipation of lower values, have not been in the mood to give out big contracts to producers. In small lots, however, the turnover in yarn and cloth has been fairly encouraging, and, on the whole, spinners and manufacturers have maintained their better position fairly well. An event of importance has been the substantial advance in the price of Egyptian cotton, and this movement has had an adverse effect upon trade in cloths made from fine yarns. Further progress has been made by the cotton crop in America, and there is now every likelihood of the growth being nearly 13,500,000 bales. There is a difference of opinion with regard to consumption, but the requirements of users will probably be about 12,400,000 bales, against 11,200,000 bales last season. A further extension has been

made in working hours in the spinning mills using American cotton, and from the beginning of December production has been curtailed by only 8½ hours per week. The members of the Masters' Federation have, however, decided that conditions do not warrant a return to full-time working. Some difficulty is now being experienced in clearing the larger production, and the margin of profit for spinners has been narrowed. Business in export yarns has been very irregular, but, on the whole, rather more has been done for India and the Continent. Foreign inquiry for piece goods has again been extensive, but in numerous instances the offers from buyers have been too low, and there has been a slow response from our customers to Manchester rates. The Indian market has been quieter, although during the past week there has been some improvement in the sales in grey staples and lighter fabrics. A feature of interest has been the revival of buying for China, and an encouraging turnover has been reported, especially in white goods. It is estimated that on November 30th the spinning machinery of Lancashire was being operated at about 85 per cent. of capacity, as against only 60 per cent. a few months ago.

Woolen and Worsted Trades.—Wool prices have continued to advance, and Bradford buyers have been compelled to cover part, at least, of their requirements at a higher figure than they were willing to contemplate a few weeks ago. Spinners have increased their output, but profit margins are still extremely narrow, and if the advance in wool prices continues far into 1925, some restriction of business will be inevitable. Weavers report increased activity, and while retail demand is on fairly generous lines, merchants show a natural disinclination to buy very far forward.

Boots and Shoes.—The trend of trade is regarded as favourable in every way, many orders having been placed this month which are usually reserved for the new year. The export trade remains firm.

Pottery.—Home demand exhibits a seasonal falling away, and unemployment is tending to increase slightly. The export side of the industry is better situated, though the American market has lately proved disappointing.

Building Trades.—Employment during November was good on the whole as regards skilled workers, though still slack so far as unskilled labour was concerned. Weather conditions were responsible for short-time working in some districts. The slight decline in employment which occurred was entirely seasonal in character, and conditions show a marked advance on those of November, 1923.

Chemicals.—Despite seasonal slackness, the outlook for the new year is reasonably good, especially as regards industrial chemicals. Consumption of heavy chemicals is expected to be stimulated by price changes which are impending. A strong demand for potash products has been a leading feature of recent weeks.

Shipping.—Conditions in the shipping world are a shade less satisfactory. Our freight index number declined from 115.5 in October to 112.8 in November, but this decline was partly seasonal, the "peak" of harvest chartering for the Northern Hemisphere having been passed. The position remains fairly sound, however, demand for tonnage to load in Australia and the Plate being expected to attain substantial proportions in the new year. The revival, such as it is, in the export coal trade has been welcomed by shipowners.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Steadily increasing confidence is attested in several ways at the moment. Stock Exchange activity has reached, and maintained, an exceptionally high level, observers in close touch with the markets being inclined to believe that the majority of orders coming forward represent, not speculative activity, but genuine investment demand, and that some of the "records" established of recent weeks are destined to become the commonplaces of the next few years. With the balance between industrial activity and agricultural purchasing power better adjusted than was the case 12 months ago, America seems likely to resume in 1925 the process of developing her immense internal resources, which suffered a slight temporary check in 1924. At the end of November the *Iron Age* reported a noteworthy broadening in the demand for iron and steel. The unfilled orders of the Steel Corporation increased during the month by a greater amount than in any month since April, 1922. The railways "remain conspicuous on steel takings; general steel building work is of surprising proportions; a slow gain from the agricultural implement trade, until that is now on a 60 to 70 per cent. manufacturing rate, is reported; and automobile companies are placing liberal contracts with parts makers." All this points to a healthy state of affairs in many parts of the industrial field. A measure of revival in the cotton and silk textile industries is also indicated by recent reports. Prices are, on the average, fairly stable. Retail business is still on a "hand-to-mouth" basis in the East, but Western dealers are said to be showing a disposition to stock their shelves for a period of some months ahead.

(Continued on page 52.)

THE WORLD'S FOOD CROPS SINCE THE WAR.

WHEAT, RYE, AND BARLEY.

THE rise in cereal prices of recent months has focused considerable attention on problems relating to the world's food supply. A brief statistical review of production since the war, compiled mainly from data given in the Year-Book of the International Institute of Agriculture*, may not, therefore, be out of place. The totals are in every case exclusive of Russia, the pre-war figures for the Russian Succession States (Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Roumanian Bessarabia) being added to those for the rest of Europe for purposes of comparison with post-war years. Further, the total of crops harvested in any given calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere have been added to that of the following year for countries of the Southern Hemisphere, thus bringing the "annual" total into line with prevailing trade practice.

WHEAT.

The "noble cereal" naturally claims pride of place, and the post-war years have witnessed a remarkable expansion in the area down to this crop, thanks to which the virtual exit of Russia as an exporting country has been largely made good.

SOWN AREA (EXCLUDING RUSSIA).
(In Millions of Hectares.)

	Average, 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Europe	29.3	24.5	26.0	26.1	26.5	26.5
U.S.A.	19.1	24.7	25.8	25.2	23.6	21.8
Canada	4.0	7.4	9.4	9.1	9.2	9.1
India	11.8	12.1	10.4	11.4	12.5	12.6
Argentina	6.5	6.1	5.8	6.6	7.0	7.2
Australia	3.1	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0
Other countries	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.5	..
World total	79.8	84.5	87.6	88.5	89.1	..

* One hectare = 2.47 acres.

Final figures for the past year are not available in the case of all countries, though the general impression seems to be that the fall in the area down to wheat in America has not been made good by slight increases elsewhere. The European area has improved steadily—though very slowly—since the war, but is still below the average for the years 1909 to 1913. The area in the United States, on the other hand, has fallen from over 30 million hectares in 1919 to under 22 million hectares this year—a figure still over 14 per cent. above the pre-war average.

The increase in the total yield has been even more marked—at any rate, down to the current year—when the poor showing of the European and, especially, of the Canadian harvest was not compensated by a really excellent crop in the United States:—

PRODUCTION (EXCLUDING RUSSIA).
(In Millions of Quintals.)

	Average 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Europe	370.5	258.9	331.5	284.5	343.3	..
U.S.A.	187.8	226.7	221.8	236.1	213.8	232.5
Canada	53.6	71.6	81.9	108.8	129.1	73.9
India	95.8	102.8	68.1	99.9	100.5	99.1
Argentina	40.0	42.5	52.0	53.3	67.2	(50.2)
Australia	24.6	39.7	35.1	29.8	34.2	..
Other countries	49.8	45.9	55.5	47.8	57.5	..
World Total	822.1	788.1	845.9	860.2	945.6	..

* A Quintal is one-tenth of a metric ton, and is equal to 1.97 cwt.

Despite the increase in the area sown, the average yield per acre, save in the Argentine and Australia, has been less of recent years than in the pre-war period, though in 1923, which constituted a record, the earlier figures were exceeded in most cases, and, above all, in Canada. In 1924, however, there was a reaction, save in the case of the United States, where a smaller area yielded a

* International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Year Book, 1923. Price 8s.

bigger crop than in the previous year, and the average yield per acre was greater than the pre-war figure.

The 1924 total for Europe is not yet available. Returns from 23 countries, however, amount to only about 87 per cent. of the previous year's crop. The estimates for the Argentine are also disappointing.

RYE.

As a substitute for wheat, rye is the most important bread crop of certain European countries:—

SOWN AREA (EXCLUDING RUSSIA).
(In Millions of Hectares.)

	Average, 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Germany	5.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.3
Poland	5.1	2.9	3.6	4.5	4.6	4.4
Other European Countries	8.1	7.2	7.0	7.0	6.9	..
North America	0.9	2.0	2.6	3.6	2.7	2.1
World's total	19.6	16.6	17.7	19.3	18.8	..
Russia	24.7	19.1	19.4	18.5	21.6	..

The great importance of this cereal in Russia makes it essential to give some sort of estimate for the Soviet territory. The figures themselves are not, however, very reliable, though it is clear that the area remains appreciably less than in pre-war days.

YIELD (in Millions of Quintals).

	Average, 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Germany	101.3	49.3	68.0	52.3	66.8	60.0
Poland	57.5	18.7	42.6	50.1	59.6	38.2
Other European countries	92.2	72.0	86.1	79.8	84.3	..
North America	9.7	18.2	21.1	34.5	21.9	20.4
World's total	261.3	158.8	218.6	217.9	234.2	..
Russia	186.8	86.6	55.7	66.0	..	..

The yield per acre has been, in the main, well below that of pre-war days, while the disparity between Russia's share of the total acreage and that of the total yield is very striking, particularly since the war.

BARLEY.

As in the case of rye, barley is cultivated almost entirely in the Northern Hemisphere, though the area down to this cereal has shown a slight tendency to expand:—

SOWN AREA (EXCLUDING RUSSIA).
(In Million Hectares.)

	Average, 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Europe	10.9	10.3	10.4	10.6	11.0	10.5
North America	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.4
Asia	5.3	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.4	..
World's total	23.0	23.1	22.7	23.2	24.2	..

While the North American acreage remained practically unchanged in 1924 as compared with the previous year, the steady upward movement which has characterised European sowings met with a slight check last season:—

YIELD (EXCLUDING RUSSIA).
(In Million Quintals.)

	Average, 1909-13.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Europe	154.3	123.3	125.9	133.0	146.9	..
North America	50.1	55.0	46.7	55.3	59.9	62.1
Asia	57.3	61.4	53.7	58.9	54.9	..
World's total	285.5	256.6	254.2	264.4	290.7	..

Full returns are not as yet to hand, but it seems fairly certain that the European barley harvest in 1924 was smaller than that of the previous year, while Japan and Korea, at any rate, recorded an improvement.*

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

Period. Monthly Average.	COAL.										LIGNITE.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.	Austria.	Czechoslovakia.	Hungary.
1913	24,336	1,904	1,189	3,404	15,842	156	...	1,135	665	1,311	1,776	43,087	...	1,918	...
1918	19,283	1,158	...	2,188	13,376	283	...	1,133	747	1,680	2,336	51,272	...	...	...
1920	19,434	1,866	928	2,890	8,360	328	534	1,257	867	1,446	2,437	48,811	199	1,641	393
1921	13,822	1,816	971	3,213	9,491	327	631	888	863	1,554	2,185	38,282	206	1,792	471
1922	21,333	1,770	826	3,596	9,929	381	1,850	945	735	1,539	2,054	34,821	259	1,579	468
1923	23,450	1,910	969	3,981	5,185	440	3,008	1,008	901	1,582	...	49,268	222	1,351	519
1924-November	24,871	2,089	1,421	4,583	3,433	464	3,126	858	946	1,409	2,100	49,945	241	1,930	621
December	22,496	1,936	1,340	4,303	3,302	435	2,671	817	874	1,760	2,436	48,912	240	1,753	615
1924-January	23,787	2,183	1,399	4,928	8,725	469	2,964	884	897	2,014	2,263	53,628	276	2,004	594
February	24,283	2,112	1,366	4,807	9,726	458	2,805	877	865	2,268	2,081	48,394	258	1,908	598
March	24,616	2,108	1,372	5,017	10,826	469	2,694	1,240	918	1,938	2,458	43,566	261	1,836	517
April	22,960	2,049	1,215	4,765	10,439	477	2,504	801	930	1,807	2,327	47,356	223	1,675	454
May	24,313	1,999	1,190	4,865	2,621	497	2,968	554	981	1,743	...	55,363	215	1,568	281
June	19,636	1,848	962	4,454	9,107	445	2,479	568	829	1,497	...	34,810	190	1,356	304
July	22,247	1,973	1,197	5,046	11,274	445	2,463	581	997	1,334	...	36,347	214	1,529	494
August	24,445	1,702	1,108	4,905	10,804	475	1,394	525	955	1,390	...	37,968	221	1,531	448
September	22,330	1,569	1,108	5,006	11,388	496	2,909	...	968	1,820	...	44,111	212	1,740	...
October	23,341	1,926	1,112	4,104	11,522	538	...	...	998	1,621	...	49,430	...	1,789	...
November	20,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a Including lignite. b Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. c Saleable coal only. d Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. e Average of two months. f Strike period. g From 1919 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1920 excluding Saar and Palatinate; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. h Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. i Excluding Saar. j Excluding Rhine mines. k Decrease due to coal strike. l Average of five months.

PIG IRON.

Period. Monthly Average.	PIG IRON.										STEEL.				
	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	United States.
1913	869	207	434	102	1,388	212	61	85	2,601	649	205	396	172	1,412	88
1918	768	...	...	...	883	106	64	90	3,260	812	151	...	...	1,178	142
1920	680	93	276	...	463	58	32	82	3,083	768	104	246	...	643	94
1921	222	73	285	...	226	41	26	61	1,401	314	66	255	...	750	57
1922	415	124	427	96	730	140	22	32	2,276	494	130	373	105	762	41
1923	638	182	443	77	333	117	23	75	3,392	719	190	415	83	417	75
1924-November	608	205	536	106	...	138	46	63	2,941	763	217	493	109	...	122
December	637	209	565	110	...	153	43	61	2,968	664	213	526	110	...	135
1924-January	647	209	586	116	...	162	48	65	3,067	701	231	541	117	...	147
February	635	206	590	118	...	165	42	61	3,124	780	226	555	114	...	149
March	679	230	640	121	...	187	43	79	3,501	838	241	573	138	...	156
April	628	240	651	117	...	186	46	85	3,285	723	241	567	128	...	157
May	661	247	658	119	...	184	47	86	2,657	823	251	599	124	...	152
June	618	237	639	107	...	175	36	58	2,059	662	225	555	104	...	144
July	625	247	636	113	...	181	41	46	2,184	704	245	565	118	...	157
August	598	244	656	124	...	181	43	23	1,917	536	238	582	129	...	156
September	578	239	641	101	...	177	40	24	2,066	655	245	598	114	...	156
October	596	246	660	...	...	189	...	29	2,517	689	256	609	...	...	168
November	593	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,553	684	...	...	...	...	...

c Excluding Luxembourg, including Alsace-Lorraine and Saar, from 1913 to October, 1918; for 1920-1923 figures not official. d Ingots and castings. e Decrease due to labour disputes. f Corrected figures from January, 1923, based on returns from works representative in 1922 for 95% of total production.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K.										Other Countries.									
	Board of Trade.	Economist.	Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany ("Frankfurter Zeitung").	Holland.	Italy (Bacchi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	...	...
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1918	204.9	204.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1920	282.2	282.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1921	181.0	181.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1922	158.5	158.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1923	159.1	159.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924-November	161.1	161.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	163.6	163.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924-January	165.4	165.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	166.9	166.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	165.4	165.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	164.7	164.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	163.7	163.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	162.6	162.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	162.2	162.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	165.2	165.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September	166.9	166.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October	170.2	170.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November	170.0	170.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a From 1920 revised index. b End of the month. c New index compiled by Central Statistical Bureau middle of each month. d Beginning of the following month. e Revised index number. f 100,000,000's omitted. g Middle of month. h 1914. i Beginning of the following year. j Since January, 1924, number of commodities changed. k Prices shown in gold marks. l Zloty prices; April, 1924 = 109.1. m Since January, 1924, number of commodities changed. n Czervonets roubles.

Wholesale Prices—Continued.

Monthly Average.	Index Numbers of Retail Prices.										Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)									
	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States.	Belgium.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1918	153.1	...	195.8	194	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1920	223.3	152.0	259.4	226	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1921	160.4	150.2	200.4	147	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1922	128.4	145.6	195.0	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1923	126.6	156.4	199.1	154	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924-October	125.3	156.1	211.6	153	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
November	...	157.3	210.1	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	...	157.5	210.5	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1924-January	131.4	156.7	210.9	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	...	159.5	207.7	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	...	157.5	205.7	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	126.2	153.7	206.6	148	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	...	154.3	204.9	147	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	...	151.8	199.0	145	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	124.8	151.5	195.3	147	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	...	148.8	200.1	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
September	...	149.3	206.5	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
October	132.5	152.8	213.0	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. b Gold mark prices. c Yearly figures are averages. d 100,000,000's omitted.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Es- thonia.	France.	Fin- land.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo- Slavia.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Sweden.	Switz- er- land.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Esti- Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drach- mae.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Kronor.	Francs.	£s.	Dollars.
1913.....	54,931	..	386,333	15,775	64,785	..	701,778	41,035	897,475	14,828	303,802	..	326,500	..	70,505	159,985	2,271	147,932
1918.....	107,100	..	1,077,973	46,960	75,851	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,256,417	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	102,779	200,122	4,147	245,961
1920.....	142,921	..	1,437,973	58,486	94,277	..	2,256,416	38,944	2,256,417	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	102,779	200,122	4,147	245,961
1921.....	81,548	..	849,617	34,424	52,551	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,256,417	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	102,779	200,122	4,147	245,961
1922.....	74,950	..	767,035	33,672	52,551	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,256,417	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	102,779	200,122	4,147	245,961
1923.....	81,620	..	849,617	34,424	52,551	..	1,858,416	38,944	2,256,417	61,159	1,336,551	..	50,696	..	102,779	200,122	4,147	245,961
1923-Oct.	88,768	..	1,105,099	..	168,749	992,362	3,068,974	468,140	434,883	591,462	1,301,420	724,618	192,923	88,854	140,005	231,001	4,661	316,437
Nov.	91,414	..	1,123,834	..	174,815	860,356	3,160,504	449,826	432,836	648,153	1,410,507	724,618	176,660	101,354	129,432	231,001	4,319	296,829
Dec.	98,733	..	1,236,996	..	172,698	599,884	3,266,834	381,810	489,160	524,370	1,837,484	724,618	174,751	95,008	109,103	231,001	4,275	288,097
1924-Jan.	87,948	4,686	1,335,721	294,868	155,830	638,068	2,867,921	294,844	567,214	397,490	1,168,486	642,687	177,949	80,857	103,266	195,910	3,823	298,525
Feb.	85,475	5,202	1,437,679	397,196	153,401	510,944	3,713,800	296,404	714,812	552,281	1,564,708	642,687	177,949	80,857	103,266	195,910	3,823	298,525
Mar.	91,028	5,788	1,618,656	492,688	176,221	569,324	3,622,604	232,926	691,009	555,451	1,518,405	642,687	177,949	80,857	103,266	195,910	3,823	298,525
Apr.	74,395	5,709	1,285,588	527,912	183,714	748,507	3,292,151	272,690	800,378	516,258	1,564,161	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
May	108,995	5,957	1,512,521	502,058	204,794	1,035,236	3,177,313	512,285	869,403	599,038	1,547,169	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
June	78,478	5,522	1,379,459	440,219	188,243	642,132	3,178,867	439,451	734,278	522,259	2,088,282	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
July	97,941	4,966	1,492,686	463,101	164,901	977,575	3,099,976	410,725	539,348	655,770	1,481,522	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
Aug.	85,226	5,314	1,363,320	434,345	159,587	807,941	3,071,241	390,810	437,203	639,232	1,467,974	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
Sept.	91,330	5,324	1,475,811	465,351	182,070	444,543	3,156,970	417,535	518,492	777,901	1,385,745	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
Oct.	107,417	5,716	..	..	181,913	538,751	3,397,608	454,170	847,370	862,212	..	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718
Nov.	106,413	..	..	..	3,414,967	..	..	..	..	..	..	630,386	188,781	112,136	138,910	195,910	3,593	306,718

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Es- thonia.	France.	Fin- land.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo- Slavia.	Nether- lands.	Poland.	Sweden.	Switz- er- land.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Esti- Mark.	Francs.	Markat.	Mark.	Drach- mae.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Kronor.	Francs.	£s.	Dollars.
1913.....	43,771	..	302,882	7,778	53,113	..	573,351	33,482	841,583	14,917	209,303	..	256,917	..	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,024
1918.....	41,785	..	865,058	..	157,207	..	393,561	15,797	1,179,771	24,738	278,726	..	112,536	..	121,536	163,598	3,776	503,990
1920.....	111,206	..	737,675	136,971	132,589	102,365	2,241,249	241,343	5,785,083	55,343	981,177	110,051	112,536	..	121,536	163,598	3,776	503,990
1921.....	58,617	..	605,408	184,777	112,518	190,553	1,647,709	278,491	8,299,713	78,977	689,724	205,062	141,791	..	91,446	178,345	3,029	364,911
1922.....	59,959	..	519,630	360,810	97,997	400,965	1,720,166	369,734	3,300,333	207,090	775,197	307,597	101,769	54,596	96,757	146,798	4,059	515,758
1923.....	63,944	..	736,041	269,171	127,723	475,996	2,535,959	363,144	5,066,596	204,101	921,574	670,679	108,602	99,833	94,649	146,683	4,886	340,930
1923-Oct.	71,321	..	881,270	..	137,179	494,062	2,813,539	474,978	562,195	497,449	1,075,154	955,386	155,848	88,930	117,570	163,652	6,066	392,207
Nov.	65,768	..	865,058	..	157,207	494,062	2,813,539	474,978	562,195	497,449	1,075,154	955,386	155,848	88,930	117,570	163,652	6,066	392,207
Dec.	64,115	..	1,045,904	..	132,330	373,745	3,113,874	367,928	559,848	121,848	1,605,870	827,974	155,848	111,116	111,116	163,652	10,159	395,664
1924-Jan.	64,235	3,692	1,045,904	268,389	135,811	624,506	2,699,833	214,810	429,869	82,353	840,007	668,989	116,522	96,818	68,893	179,684	5,880	389,066
Feb.	67,975	3,833	1,081,632	342,496	151,759	332,266	2,918,279	138,821	464,899	160,840	1,103,473	646,074	125,465	112,562	59,027	179,684	5,880	389,066
Mar.	61,103	3,422	1,345,748	271,393	155,043	338,427	2,435,695	120,298	485,799	208,470	1,215,737	746,316	131,907	113,211	69,119	179,684	4,835	331,611
Apr.	62,867	3,184	1,061,325	352,986	162,630	646,874	2,402,041	192,639	480,764	130,348	1,199,262	725,294	136,431	121,381	74,446	163,102	3,282	355,645
May	70,261	3,598	1,281,357	352,986	172,991	657,040	2,350,148	318,581	513,950	153,759	218,874	650,665	136,784	89,535	126,951	163,102	2,939	298,682
June	62,024	4,126	1,074,269	342,709	156,395	479,286	2,322,304	513,524	474,457	153,759	218,874	650,665	136,784	89,535	126,951	163,102	2,939	298,682
July	71,283	4,053	1,159,181	228,114	164,659	601,145	2,301,713	734,014	572,260	327,719	842,485	686,286	134,411	80,429	125,843	165,903	2,158	325,065
Aug.	66,288	4,482	1,006,405	376,079	174,069	818,428	2,967,146	586,403	587,932	193,039	1,023,677	854,668	137,773	..	124,269	165,903	3,868	419,232
Sept.	63,283	4,725	1,179,926	525,109	185,533	726,653	3,184,332	510,353	562,288	325,386	1,213,412	937,358	162,911	..	124,269	165,903	3,868	419,232
Oct.	68,577	5,070	..	..	185,267	771,059	3,551,896	629,053	610,288	471,571	..	937,358	162,911	..	124,269	165,903	3,868	419,232
Nov.	68,151	..	..	..	3,542,683	..	..	..	..	..	..	937,358	162,911	..	124,269	165,903	3,868	419,232

d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Since January, 1922, the value of imports is based on declarations of importers, instead of official evaluations previously used. f Valued at 1921 official rates. g Since January, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." h Period September 1-21. i Old Greece only. j Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." k Period September 1-21. l Official values. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." n Period September 1-21. o Official values. p January to October, 1923, official figures. From November, 1923, provisional figures based on merchants' declarations, which may differ considerably from final figures based on official quarterly valuations. q 15 days. r From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. s Average of 5 months. t Average of first 6 months.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Value.										Quantity (Metric Tons).									
Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.												
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.	Bel-gium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Ger-many.	Greece.	Hun-gary.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Spain.	Swit-zerland.	Brazil.	
1913.....	6,355	152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	..	3,685	h 6,068	..	..	5,041	..	887	661	489	
1918.....	7,366	137,704	75,583	1,966	3,768	135,721	82,450	..	..	2,446	..	..	..	4,04	..	987	661	489	
1919.....	13,172	258,929	111,410	5,062	7,994	191,179	174,219	1,112	326	4,245	1,570	28	..	45	..	703	295	145	
1920.....	8,222	230,720	66,616	3,461	4,447	132,481	140,820	1,472	333	3,539	2,175	77	194	1,435	294	733	295	145	
1921.....	9,850	199,524	63,528	2,817	4,008	153,956	137,719	q 1,722	266	4,285	3,823	87	279	1,623	344	682	367	271	
1922.....	11,088	184,765	75,294	3,575	4,584	165,589	189,203	q 2,203	349	4,577	4,097	107	313	1,612	266	..	558	298	
1923-Sept.	8,869	182,690	71,351	3,210	4,477	82,618	190,503	3,264	457	5,063	3,420	106	350	1,776	204	206	591	281	
Oct.	12,719	222,217	76,341	4,570	5,296	144,545	217,198	2,231	622	4,360	2,915	133	266	1,918	214	226	591	325	
Nov.	13,272	250,979	72,094	3,647	5,011	156,664	228,287	2,327	402	4,945	3,370	158	248	1,775	204	226	591	325	
Dec.	10,328	153,051	66,456	3,653	4,599	177,516	218,832	2,229	529	5,165	2,850	129	340	1,791	189	..	591	352	
1924-Jan.	13,392	234,391	66,468	4,324	5,020	214,210	186,891	2,558	526	5,393	2,663	129	340	1,791	189	..	591	352	
Feb.	11,804	179,645	62,134	3,782	4,675	294,114	153,908	2,629	541	4,395	3,743	138	289	1,615	140	..	591	352	
Mar.	10,845	190,236	86,954	3,599	5,008	311,429	210,546	2,923	533	4,822	2,482	136	383	1,668	220	..	591	352	
April	9,822	192,722	60,203	3,061	5,685	247,618	174,389	2,749	571	4,924	2,550	92	387	1,803	229	..	459	300	
May	12,477	197,497	72,058	3,783	4,955	228,596	214,088	2,489	528	5,485	3,003	132	322	1,660	219	..	506	268	
June	10,737	179,847	66,396	3,462	5,123	173,441	256,499	2,533	496	4,582	3,202	106	371	2,050	249	..	506	383	
July	13,315	216,839	72,631	4,095	4,849	185,471	259,639	2,764	476	5,140	3,123	160	479	2,443	156	..	506	412	
Aug.	11,736	201,389	61,970	4,588	5,832	143,297	260,783	2,911	475	4,457	2,083	164	357	1,482	173	..	669	412	
Sept.	11,511	216,662	63,901	4,621	5,680	142,425	..	2,387	465	4,732	2,934	201	385	1,956	..	..	669	381	
Oct.	..	200,753	68,116	..	6,490	159,200	..	..	543	4,660	3,530	160	..	2,217	..	..	669	381	
Nov.	..	..	..	..	4,741	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	669	381	

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Wool Production—		Gross Value of Wool Sold.	
	New Zealand.		New Zealand.
Bales.	Bales.	£	£
2,041,136	533,000	37,296,723	4,207,367
1,918,002	583,440	46,238,801	7,930,942
1,779,788	586,673	53,305,374	11,623,924

SOUTH AMERICA.

EUROPE.

FAR EAST.

London: Printed for the Proprietors by G. E. HART, St. Clements Press, Ltd., Newspaper Buildings, Portugal street, Kingway, W.C.2, and Published by the Proprietors at Granville House, Arundel street, Strand, W.C.2.



SECURITY - £10,526,191.

Accident Fire Marine.

Head Offices: { 45, DALE STREET, LIVERPOOL.
155, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.

Chief Administration: 7, CHANCERY LANE, W.C.2.

GOVERNOR: F. W. PASCOE RUTTER.

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY LTD.

Established 1867.

Chief Office: 109, Corporation Street, MANCHESTER.

PROGRESS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1919	1920	1921	1923
Premium Income	£924,066	£1,384,933	£1,653,322	£2,052,278
Total Funds	£1,073,160	£1,535,995	£1,922,475	£2,868,372

ASSETS (31st Dec. 1923) - £2,987,160

CLAIMS PAID - - - - £5,378,000

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE Year Ending 31st December, 1923.

Ordinary Life Section.

In this Section the number of Policies issued was 9,501 assuring £1,619,481, at a Yearly Renewal Premium Income of £70,172, the Single Premiums amounting to £9,455. The Premium Income for the year was £884,745 and the Funds were £1,800,411.

Industrial Life Section.

In this Section the Premium Income amounted to £758,635, being an increase of £290,326 over the previous year. The Funds being £703,149. THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE POLICIES ISSUED DURING 1923 WAS 562,265, ASSURING THE SUM OF £10,142,168.

Fire Section.

In this Section the Premium Income amounted to £159,099, which represents an increase of £7,685 compared with the previous year. The claim ratio for the year is 44.03 per cent. of the Premium Income. The Fire Fund now stands at 53.28 per cent. of the Premium Income.

Accident and General Sections.

In these Sections the Premium Income amounted to £249,799. The claim ratio for the year is 42.59 per cent. The combined Fund for the Accident and General Sections now stands at £207,286.

INSURANCE IN 1923.

A Review of Progress and Prospects.

Vol. XCIX.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 1924.

No. 4,220.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
General Results of the Year	3	Fire Insurance—	
Life Assurance—		A Year of Improvement	13
New Business and Expenses	4	The Results in America	14
The Net Earnings from Interest	5	Accident and Miscellaneous Insurance—	
Investments in Government Securities	6	Unfavourable Experience in America	16
Mortality Experience	7	Marine Insurance—	
Valuations and Bonuses Declared	8	Business Under Difficulties	18

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

In the sections devoted to life, fire, accident and miscellaneous and marine insurance we give details concerning the results of last year as shown by the published accounts of the British insurance offices. In this general introduction we shall attempt to bring these results together and show how the leading companies fared when the whole of their operations are considered. Fire insurance was, on the whole, fairly profitable last year, not perhaps very good, yet considerably better than in 1922. The life assurance valuations showed in almost every instance good surpluses, and although, in the case of proprietary companies, the greater part of the life profits go to participating policyholders, contributions to profit and loss were in some cases quite substantial. Accident and employers' liability insurance was overshadowed by the unfavourable situation in the United States, which will be explained elsewhere. Marine insurance has declined from its high estate of the war years, and is now not a fertile source of profit.

It is comparatively simple to arrive at the underwriting results in fire and accident departments. One takes the premiums, the claims paid and outstanding, the expenses and commissions, and makes the generally agreed allowance of 40 per cent. of the premium income as the necessary reserve for unexpired risks. The surplus for a year, in some instances the deficiency, is then reached by a simple calculation. But marine accounts are kept open for two years, and sometimes three years, and no one outside the office of a company knows precisely how an account finally results. For the purpose of our estimate of marine profits we have taken the transfer to profit and loss made by the companies themselves. The proprietors' shares in life profits are also taken at the figure stated in the profit and loss accounts. Some companies carry the whole amount revealed by a valuation to profit and loss, others transfer a portion annually. In the statement which is printed on this page we have taken the companies' figures for marine and life profits and made our own estimate, on the lines described above, for the fire and accident profits or deficiencies.

In the profit and loss accounts of the composite insurance offices there are two main sources of profit and two main items of outlay. The sources of profit are underwriting and net receipts from interest, after deducting interest upon debentures and income-tax. The two principal outlays are British taxes on profits and dividends provided for shareholders. Expenses charged to profit and loss have been deducted from underwriting profits, and the interest receipts include the whole net interest received on funds other than life and capital redemption reserves. The funds other than life and capital redemption reserves, taken as given by us, is available for dividends to net interest, as given by us, is available for dividends to shareholders. The provision for taxes includes in some cases foreign and colonial taxation, not charged to under-

writing—as it ought to be—though as a general rule the items in the third column relate to British income and corporation taxes only.

UNDERWRITING RESULTS, INTEREST, and DIVIDENDS.

Company.	1 Underwriting Profits (net).	2 Interest Receipts (net).	3 Provision for Taxes.	4 Dividends.
Alliance	£ 523,621	£ 324,884	£	£ 542,500
Atlas	135,644	121,542	55,010	143,000
British Dominions	Def 133,419	110,560	Not stated	199,206
Caledonian	83,307	65,536	27,264	49,567
Commercial Union	797,281	743,080	434,942	767,000
Employers' Liability	Def 86,109	290,779	199,424	837,818
General Accident	167,862	159,729	110,879	82,995
Guardian	173,015	127,069	50,029	145,306
Liverpool and London and Globe	372,646	362,720	50,000	369,411
London and Lancashire	744,774	383,113	219,771	376,517
London Assurance	183,524	286,385	70,000	217,876
Motor Union	55,345	74,607	100,000	84,255
North British	511,986	373,694	102,585	325,145
Northern	309,872	248,155	65,046	260,938
Phoenix	418,127	419,144	95,702	467,325
Royal	610,082	968,443	170,000	1,081,975
Royal Exchange	179,883	139,418	63,602	133,537
Scottish Union	151,914	117,949	118,914	115,500
State	37,846	32,795	14,595	30,750
Sun	278,761	162,631	35,804	175,275
Yorkshire	123,244	91,809	23,343	105,928

Some explanation must be given in detail. The Alliance received as an addition to underwriting profits the proprietors' share in a large life surplus. It also received a refund of excess profit duty (less taxes on profits) of £77,331. So that there was a receipt instead of an outlay under "provision for taxes." The Alliance, Scottish Union, and the Yorkshire all celebrated the completion of a hundred years of existence by allotting a centenary bonus to their shareholders. The total draft on general reserve made by the British Dominions company was £650,000. We have taken £150,000 of this as directly applicable to underwriting—the £150,000 carried to marine account. In addition, £200,000 was transferred from general reserve to profit and loss. The further sum of £300,000 taken from general reserve to meet bad debts and exchange losses was not included when we arrived at a net underwriting deficiency of £133,419. The deficiency of the Employers' Liability Corporation was due to losses on workmen's compensation business in the United States. The sum of £227,082 was brought in from the general account. The General Accident Company (of Perth) had to provide £104,172 for losses on exchange, but, as with the British Dominions, we have not charged this sum to underwriting.

It will be observed that the net receipts from interest in Column 2 go a long way to meet the outlay in dividends given in Column 4. It is the established policy of the sound insurance companies to base their dividends upon interest and not on the underwriting results of particular years. The underwriting profits shown in Column 1, less the provision for taxes in Column 3, then become available as additions to the reserves, and are invested so as to produce interest in the future. As the receipts from interest increase, so the dividends paid to shareholders increase. A complete analysis of the results of the year 1923 shows that the companies, taken as a whole, did not earn, net, in underwriting profits less taxes, more than from 4 to 5 per cent. of their premium incomes.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

NEW BUSINESS AND EXPENSES.

A good volume of new business at a moderate price is the desire of every manager of a life assurance office, and the object of his eager search. Every year policies become claims by death and by maturity, and unless there be a constant flow of healthy new lives to take the place of those who die, or who draw their endowment assurances in cash, premium incomes tend to fall—and every manager or actuary hates to see his premium income fall. The old pre-war standards have gone. They were considered good enough in their day, but the bumper year of 1920 set a new standard, a standard beyond pre-war imaginations, and every office now burns to maintain, and if possible surpass, the peak of 1920. That is as regards new business. In another and less desirable sense the bumper year set up a record. Prices were at their highest and most extravagant level, and life office expenses and commissions went up with prices, in spite of most strenuous efforts to hold them back. Since then prices have fallen, and expenses, though they have scarcely fallen in proportion, have come back with them. The year 1923, of which we publish details for some 48 life assurance companies and life departments of composite offices, was as good for new business, and in many instances, better than 1922, and was not much below the peak of 1920. In almost every instance expenses showed a lower ratio to premium income than in 1922, and a substantially lower ratio than in 1920. So that taking the figures all round, the managers and actuaries were successful in getting their good volume of new business at a lower cost than they have been obliged to pay for it in recent years. In both respects, in volume and in reduced cost, the year was favourable.

When we reflect that last year this country was still struggling through the depression in general trade which followed the boom of 1919 and 1920, that all salaries based on the so-called "cost of living" were being reduced, and that the earnings of professional men were on the down grade, it is remarkable that so much money should have been found to invest in life assurance. And it is the more remarkable when we bear in mind that the figures of new business set forth in our tables almost all came from the United Kingdom. The number of British life offices which seek foreign business could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and though several offices do seek life assurance in the Dominions, the efforts in this direction are small in comparison with their competition for the assurance of lives at home. Fire and workmen's compensation premiums are derived to a large extent from the United States, but America plays no part in British life assurance. Taken as a whole, British life assurance is British, and is confined to Great Britain and Ireland. And for this reason its yearly product of new business is not a bad test of the thriftiness of the professional and salaried classes in this country. It is even wider than that. The "ordinary" life departments of the industrial assurance offices are expanding rapidly—the Prudential last year issued policies for over twelve millions at an average of about £160 apiece—and are drawing in not only clerks and shopmen, but the more far-sighted of the weekly wage-earning classes. That is all to the good, for the cost of conducting an "ordinary" life department, with monthly or quarterly payment of premiums, is far less than that of running the best managed industrial office with its weekly collections. Policyholders, too, have the benefit of assuring on the co-operative with-profit scales, and, in these days of life office prosperity, of getting handsome rates of bonus distributions. We shall deal with valuations and bonus distributions in their own place, but it may be said at once that they were excellent, almost without exception. The dreadful days of depreciated assets are for the time over, interest earnings are higher than they were before the war, and though expenses are still much above pre-war levels, they show an admirable tendency to come down. Beyond a doubt, the success of the offices in keeping their new business figures near the peak of 1920—in the days of faith, for bonuses were then in a state of suspended

animation—that success is mainly due to the profitable results of valuations declared during the past two years. In 1920 the survivors of the Great War rushed at life assurance as an Act of Faith; to-day their faith has been made manifest in bonuses. And these young strenuous lives, which have come in during the past four years, have contributed in no small degree to the bonus results. They have assisted to reduce the rate of expenses, and to bring life office rates of mortality far below those of the general population, and much below those of the Nineteenth Century Tables, on which life office calculations are still based.

Company.	Year.	New Business.		Premium Income.	Expenses % of Premiums.
		Policies.	Amount.		
Abstainers.....	1920	2,093	£ 706,687	£ 165,198	25.8
	1922	1,983	574,323	195,369	23.4
	1923	2,049	585,944	209,725	22.2
Alliance.....	1920	4,082	2,613,903	1,168,514	9.9
	1922	2,995	1,826,496	1,185,665	9.9
	1923	3,460	2,058,620	1,210,636	9.9
Atlas.....	1920	2,780	1,972,269	347,891	10.8
	1922	2,022	2,713,243	412,012	12.7
	1923	2,195	2,310,362	431,339	12.2
Britannic (Ordinary).....	1920	15,087	1,943,222	459,397	16.5
	1922	13,786	1,874,317	552,481	16.7
	1923	11,856	1,901,802	614,228	15.6
British General.....	1923	2,306	467,004	51,178	10.0
Caledonian.....	1920	1,912	1,511,889	429,565	14.3
	1922	1,439	1,043,066	445,012	13.9
	1923	1,508	1,180,901	460,874	13.3
Clerical, Medical.....	1919-20	2,089	1,650,996	542,650	16.2
	1921-22	1,835	1,513,355	569,571	17.9
	1922-23	1,561	1,210,964	568,308	15.3
Commercial Union....	1920	7,689	4,222,794	941,878	13.9
	1922	5,868	3,295,308	1,046,951	12.8
	1923	5,758	3,208,911	1,089,960	12.8
Co-operative, Ordinary.....	1923	9,501	1,619,481	878,307	11.2
Eagle, Star, and British Dominions.....	1920	6,099	3,170,234	1,257,774	10.9
	1922	3,255	1,864,483	1,170,716	12.9
	1923	3,338	1,734,296	1,151,612	13.9
Equitable.....	1920	617	576,056	271,634	8.3
	1922	637	600,385	299,941	6.8
	1923	766	605,269	295,379	6.9
Equity and Law.....	1920	579	983,118	377,208	16.7
	1922	466	844,877	392,783	14.7
	1923	473	980,087	408,063	13.9
Friends' Provident....	1920	2,763	1,331,344	325,172	18.3
	1922	2,114	1,235,656	376,282	19.9
	1923	1,811	1,049,759	400,629	19.7
General Life.....	1920	1,370	503,859	197,984	24.8
	1922	939	491,308	195,188	23.7
	1923	892	466,044	197,450	23.9
Gresham.....	1920	6,684	4,061,370	1,104,916	31.6
	1922	4,265	2,118,946	812,620	26.9
	1923	4,000	1,959,269	824,093	23.9
Guardian.....	1920	2,134	1,509,345	413,097	13.1
	1922	1,442	1,109,064	442,047	13.3
	1923	1,429	1,071,727	471,288	13.3
Law Union and Rock ..	1920	3,540	1,595,636	629,041	18.9
	1922	2,512	1,280,227	630,066	17.2
	1923	2,536	1,405,470	686,967	17.1
Legal and General.....	1920	5,252	3,083,942	1,212,516	14.9
	1922	4,690	2,497,344	1,317,950	15.0
	1923	5,141	2,941,868	1,214,333	14.5
Liverpool and London and Globe.....	1920	3,873	1,852,901	464,522	10.0
	1922	2,741	1,374,891	515,319	9.9
	1923	2,914	1,415,681	547,451	10.0
London and Manchester, Ordinary.....	1920-21	10,909	1,014,231	227,828	17.4
	1922-23	13,558	1,130,306	302,113	15.1
	1923-24	13,561	1,155,294	356,117	14.9
London and Scottish.....	1920	2,753	1,408,930	457,796	20.5
	1922	2,973	1,298,650	498,875	20.5
	1923	3,135	1,442,432	490,208	24.2
London Assurance.....	1920	1,643	1,308,997	308,699	21.5
	1922	1,294	1,113,788	349,709	15.8
	1923	1,443	1,251,697	380,123	16.3
*London Life.....	1920	1,644	1,454,204	625,183	7.03
	1922	1,470	1,188,812	707,854	6.05
	1923	1,304	1,625,006	1,132,202	5.4
Marine and General.....	1920	1,184	492,673	207,638	18.4
	1922	705	309,377	211,812	17.4
	1923	853	331,097	215,533	17.0
National Mutual.....	1920	1,011	635,046	256,856	17.9
	1922	702	548,108	274,033	17.1
	1923	756	657,524	287,470	16.7
National Provident....	1919-20	2,311	1,283,635	598,861	13.8
	1921-22	1,905	1,074,343	624,429	12.9
	1922-23	1,878	1,089,503	633,684	13.7
North British.....	1920	10,355	4,810,711	1,449,071	17.5
	1922	6,135	2,832,768	1,555,951	17.1
	1923	6,105	2,925,763	1,580,607	17.3
Northern.....	1920	2,312	1,110,734	356,302	10.3
	1922	1,359	729,810	380,128	10.9
	1923	1,481	807,169	384,952	11.1

Company.	Year.	New Business.		Premium Income.	Expense % of Pre-miums.
		Policies.	Amount.	£	%
Norwich Union	1920	13,572	8,586,010	2,268,056	17.9
	1922	9,820	7,255,538	2,551,067	16.8
	1923	10,388	8,045,956	2,559,361	17.2
Pearl, Ordinary	1920	47,774	7,292,446	2,082,473	14.1
	1922	36,180	6,569,543	2,461,220	12.1
	1923	37,692	7,152,313	2,648,479	11.6
Phoenix	1920	3,622	2,513,378	858,334	17.1
	1922	2,686	1,992,996	938,112	14.0
	1923	2,347	1,863,399	935,745	13.0
Pioneer, Ordinary	1923-24	773	77,750	37,853	12.7
Prov. Mutual	1920	28,214	3,080,551	398,668	21.2
	1922	11,945	1,423,447	542,269	14.4
	1923	15,974	1,680,791	581,511	14.3
Prudential, Ordinary ..	1920	142,163	23,528,225	8,800,749	12.9
	1922	86,541	14,862,074	9,615,590	13.6
	1923	73,831	12,112,425	9,728,511	12.6
Refuge, Ordinary	1920	66,311	7,817,702	2,359,292	13.7
	1922	37,304	4,259,337	2,698,412	14.8
	1923	41,478	4,769,542	2,745,831	15.8
Royal	1920	8,082	4,778,332	1,192,089	17.0
	1922	5,680	3,518,473	1,318,122	14.8
	1923	5,708	3,251,750	1,367,724	13.7
Royal Exchange.....	1920	3,720	2,061,193	527,423	21.1
	1922	2,461	1,455,069	565,514	17.6
	1923	2,466	1,677,915	594,946	17.4
Scottish Amicable	1920	1,809	1,334,777	526,614	14.9
	1922	1,550	1,182,077	575,115	14.3
	1923	1,601	1,227,446	582,920	14.2
Scottish Equitable	1920-21	2,115	1,329,598	560,912	14.6
	1922-23	1,681	1,526,842	578,421	14.1
	1923-24	1,522	1,373,231	578,724	14.1
Scottish Life.....	1920	1,578	1,085,634	337,700	16.6
	1922	1,056	710,143	365,324	15.1
	1923	1,209	876,007	384,759	15.1
Scottish Provident	1920	3,938	2,930,680	930,960	15.8
	1922	3,495	2,299,065	988,008	15.7
	1923	3,601	2,477,038	1,015,861	15.8
Scottish Union	1920	3,335	1,775,708	645,471	18.1
	1922	2,038	1,072,795	642,440	16.1
	1923	2,310	1,272,820	608,115	16.5
Scottish Widows.....	1920	5,603	3,373,789	1,582,659	13.5
	1922	3,341	2,110,253	1,598,339	11.9
	1923	3,756	2,403,079	1,611,920	11.9
Standard	1919-20	3,623	2,510,797	954,591	21.7
	1921-22	3,873	2,023,495	878,713	20.2
	1922-23	3,656	1,977,098	893,774	19.4
Sun Life.....	1920	12,630	5,312,477	1,320,696	19.9
	1922	11,764	5,067,338	1,578,467	19.5
	1923	12,806	5,574,015	1,704,268	18.8
United Kingdom Prov..	1920	5,014	2,002,491	936,871	14.0
	1922	3,975	1,826,307	1,005,242	13.7
	1923	4,691	2,081,979	1,060,887	14.4
Wesleyan and Gen., Ord.	1920	9,390	936,310	357,773	17.8
	1922	5,192	514,398	375,463	17.5
	1923	7,299	700,045	352,825	17.4
Yorkshire	1920	2,350	1,587,781	334,294	14.9
	1922	1,696	1,168,826	380,281	15.4
	1923	1,980	1,310,884	412,191	14.4

* For 1923 the figures include those of the Clergy Mutual.

THE NET EARNINGS FROM INTEREST.

Among the sources whence profits are earned by a life office, none are of greater importance than the margin of net interest actually derived from the funds, over the rate of interest assumed in the calculations made by the actuaries of the office. Suppose, for example, it is assumed in a valuation of liabilities that 3 per cent. net will be earned—a very usual assumption—and the actual rate, after deduction of income-tax, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or more, then there is a margin for profits and bonuses of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or more per annum on the large funds. The lower the valuation rate of interest, and the higher the actual rate, the greater is the source of profit from interest. There are, of course, other factors, but none more important than this. A flow of sound new business at a moderate cost is essential, a low rate of mortality is highly desirable, but provided that full regard be had to the security of investments, no source of profit is more dependable than a substantial margin of interest earnings.

We emphasise this point with some particularity because our analysis of the interest rates of some 48 life offices shows that for last year the net rates were generally higher than in 1922, and nearly 10s per cent. higher than immediately before the war. The heavy writing down of funds during the bad years of depreciated assets had a considerable effect in raising the apparent rate of interest

earned, and as in these more favourable years funds are being revalued, and securities realised at a profit, the apparent rate will tend somewhat to decline. But apart altogether from apparent movements due to the valuation of investments there have been factors powerfully operating to increase the actual yield from interest. Funds have been invested for several years past at rates of interest much higher than was possible with adequate security before the war, and in the course of the past two years reductions in income-tax amounting to 1s 6d in the £ have taken effect. Life offices do not pay on their interest earnings the full rate of tax; they are allowed a rebate in respect of the expenses of management. Nevertheless, the reduction in the standard rate of tax has been a real benefit to them and to their policyholders. This will be seen if one compares in our table the net rates of interest earned in 1920 with those earned last year. Perhaps half of the improvement seen will have been due to the lowered rate of income-tax, and the other half to the general improvement in gross rates at which the funds are coming to be invested. As old investments or loans at pre-war rates have been paid off or realised, the money has been put out again at the higher post-war rates, and all the while new money—the increase in the funds year by year—has come forward for investment.

In 1914 the life offices earned net about 4 per cent. on their funds—taking the mean amount as at the middle of the year. Last year on their mean funds they earned fully on the average $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and some did even better. The net interest earnings now are higher than they ever have been within human memory, and are probably higher than ever in the history of life assurance—except, possibly, in the primitive beginnings of the business more than a century ago. Valuation rates assumed in the calculations, on the other hand, remain pegged at 3 per cent.—in some cases at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—and any tendency that there might have been a few years ago to weaken the basis of valuations has passed away. With net interest earnings as they were during last year an assumed valuation rate of 3 per cent. gives an ample margin both for security and for the earning of profits from interest.

Funds and Interest Yield.

Company.	Year.	Life Funds.	Net Interest.	Yield %.
		£	£	£ s d
Abstainers'	1920	1,277,851	55,349	4 12 3
	1922	1,537,877	71,808	4 17 6
	1923	1,735,135	83,066	5 2 8
Alliance	1920	18,177,744	705,966	3 19 8
	1922	18,648,732	768,569	4 5 3
	1923	18,700,744	820,796	4 7 10
Atlas	1920	3,331,389	115,192	4 3 5
	1922	3,606,797	167,672	5 0 5
	1923	3,862,300	180,856	4 18 7
Britannic, Ordinary	1920	2,438,909	108,361	4 15 5
	1922	3,079,298	144,038	4 18 10
	1923	3,471,830	169,076	5 3 3
British General	1923	225,241	8,975	4 8 9
Caledonian	1920	4,089,502	166,987	4 5 6
	1922	4,398,168	199,538	4 11 9
	1923	4,700,439	220,591	4 17 0
Commercial Union	1920	8,570,993	345,408	4 5 5
	1922	10,511,458	430,297	4 8 1
	1923	10,752,082	483,173	4 12 2
Co-operative, Ordinary	1923	1,800,411	76,279	4 13 2
Clerical, Medical	1919-20	6,439,750	248,986	3 18 4
	1921-22	7,004,253	302,480	4 7 8
	1922-23	7,493,768	336,177	4 14 0
Eagle, Star, and Brit. Dominions	1920	13,225,606	558,815	4 7 1
	1922	13,891,434	622,036	4 12 8
	1923	14,232,922	646,636	4 12 0
Equitable	1920	4,494,538	172,246	3 17 6
	1922	5,381,394	189,367	4 3 10
	1923	5,565,045	199,133	4 5 0
Equity and Law	1920	4,945,275	146,143	*5 2 7
	1922	5,153,336	170,419	*5 4 11
	1923	5,352,369	188,937	*5 2 6
Friends' Provident	1920	3,664,321	141,968	4 2 7
	1922	4,029,269	161,071	4 4 8
	1923	4,260,794	184,383	4 11 0
General Life	1920	2,229,641	81,831	3 15 4
	1922	2,226,350	84,420	4 11 2
	1923	2,147,475	82,519	4 12 10
Gresham	1920	9,842,577	412,018	4 5 3
	1922	6,520,189	279,227	4 7 0
	1923	6,787,475	294,022	4 9 0
Guardian	1920	4,044,664	160,304	4 2 10
	1922	4,547,020	191,026	4 6 4
	1923	4,822,033	231,003	4 14 0

Company.	Year.	Life Funds	Net Interest	Yield %
		£	£	£ s d
Law Union and Rock	1920	8,661,504	377,542	4 10 2
	1922	9,005,577	400,694	4 11 9
	1923	9,217,374	410,098	4 12 1
Legal and General	1920	12,526,553	415,798	5 2 6
	1922	13,737,424	489,440	5 9 8
	1923	14,542,507	539,691	4 11 0
Liverpool and London and Globe	1920	5,203,965	208,388	4 3 7
	1922	5,815,178	219,808	3 18 1
	1923	6,181,793	248,570	4 2 11
London and Manchester, Ord.	1920-21	868,312	35,180	4 13 0
	1922-23	1,352,965	63,422	5 3 8
	1923-24	1,639,215	79,576	5 6 5
London and Scottish	1920	4,336,886	173,745	4 2 9
	1922	4,471,952	184,634	4 2 11
	1923	4,582,536	194,468	4 7 9
London Assurance	1920	2,947,729	124,751	4 5 9
	1922	3,380,986	140,557	4 6 0
	1923	3,659,535	149,961	4 5 2
London Life	1920	6,284,886	244,507	4 0 11
	1922	7,262,732	302,058	4 8 2
	1923	12,874,932	656,104	4 7 5
Marine and General	1920	2,263,987	91,838	4 4 11
	1922	2,453,020	106,329	4 10 6
	1923	2,578,362	115,522	4 11 10
National Mutual	1920	3,155,048	126,384	4 8 9
	1922	3,798,915	155,082	4 12 0
	1923	3,940,268	156,362	4 6 3
National Provident	1919-20	7,573,800	298,247	4 1 3
	1921-22	7,984,327	352,441	4 11 5
	1922-23	8,059,543	360,095	4 11 10
North British	1920	18,124,630	751,303	4 3 5
	1922	20,209,650	884,251	4 10 5
	1923	21,041,741	913,741	4 8 8
Northern	1920	4,706,385	226,796	4 14 3
	1922	5,035,138	214,134	4 8 11
	1923	5,452,637	236,225	4 10 0
Norwich Union	1920	17,065,572	760,018	4 12 4
	1922	19,989,921	931,266	5 1 3
	1923	21,701,022	1,033,694	5 1 8
Pearl, Ordinary	1920	8,711,952	326,453	4 3 9
	1922	12,050,537	536,300	4 15 10
	1923	13,816,372	598,729	4 12 8
Phoenix	1920	11,128,284	455,876	4 3 6
	1922	11,718,965	505,772	4 8 2
	1923	12,136,921	525,838	4 8 8
Pioneer, Ordinary	1923-24	237,601	9,391	5 0 9
Provident Mutual	1920	3,261,214	133,494	4 6 11
	1922	3,931,655	163,868	4 7 8
	1923	4,239,924	187,171	4 11 7
Prudential, Ordinary	1920	58,786,311	2,215,679	3 19 2
	1922	65,683,121	2,790,435	4 7 0
	1923	69,079,634	3,079,501	4 11 5
Refuge, Ordinary	1920	13,568,723	501,392	3 19 2
	1922	16,631,456	732,105	4 12 5
	1923	18,201,037	822,205	4 14 5
Royal	1920	13,348,515	531,426	4 2 8
	1922	14,743,376	595,916	4 2 11
	1923	15,644,489	637,161	4 3 11
Royal Exchange	1920	5,052,187	205,902	4 4 8
	1922	5,602,763	267,723	4 18 8
	1923	6,037,780	295,431	5 1 5
Scottish Amicable	1920	7,124,973	278,062	4 1 8
	1922	7,661,457	321,954	4 7 7
	1923	7,965,171	346,972	4 10 10
Scottish Equitable	1920-21	6,476,573	255,011	4 1 9
	1922-23	6,918,454	296,513	4 9 5
	1923-24	7,030,180	302,562	4 8 8
Scottish Life	1920	3,009,940	126,072	4 7 8
	1922	3,502,450	151,889	4 12 2
	1923	3,762,668	168,891	4 15 2
Scottish Provident	1920	16,681,113	657,460	4 1 5
	1922	17,553,857	717,550	4 5 0
	1923	17,810,858	761,533	4 8 5
Scottish Union	1920	8,474,238	366,620	4 9 7
	1922	8,932,182	415,165	4 14 3
	1923	9,109,582	403,130	4 9 5
Scottish Widows	1920	22,520,643	908,762	4 2 5
	1922	23,411,075	990,398	4 7 7
	1923	24,231,186	1,024,542	4 6 0
Standard	1919-20	13,311,119	622,695	4 15 0
	1921-22	13,513,104	672,939	5 0 2
	1922-23	13,905,385	683,682	4 19 5
Sun Life	1920	12,720,041	496,235	4 0 10
	1922	13,737,547	603,807	4 12 6
	1923	14,593,381	654,570	4 15 8
United Kingdom Provident	1920	10,187,032	426,462	4 1 11
	1922	11,332,223	487,769	4 10 6
	1923	12,976,501	538,616	4 10 8
Wesleyan, Ordinary	1920	2,050,201	80,300	4 4 5
	1922	2,510,796	112,291	4 14 3
	1923	2,683,775	115,024	4 15 8
Yorkshire	1920	3,352,305	135,760	4 5 5
	1922	3,885,351	156,742	4 3 8
	1923	4,266,600	179,431	4 8 0

* Gross yield, excluding funds in reversions.
† For 1923 the figures include those of the Clergy Mutual.

INVESTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

We have introduced into the "Insurance Review" for this year a new feature, namely, a table setting forth the proportion of life funds invested by the offices in British Government securities, and in those of India and the Dominions and Colonies. Before the war a comparatively small amount was invested in this manner. The rates of interest were low, and life offices were under no urgent need to keep their funds in securities which could be realised rapidly. No "run" upon them was possible. No epidemic in the United Kingdom—even influenza in its first manifestations some thirty years ago—could exhaust their normal bank balances. So it came about that life funds were locked up in fixed investments, such as loans and mortgages and long-term debentures, and the few short-term investments available in those days were more sought after for the investment of fire funds upon which there might be a sudden unexpected drain.

But the war changed all that. When the country was calling urgently for money the life offices put practically the whole of their new resources into British Government stocks, both long and short, and though long-term Government securities, with their heavy depreciation at one time, became less desirable, the short-term Treasury bonds and bills continued to be favoured. A short-term gilt-edged security suffers little risk from depreciation; it can be bought or sold quickly and easily, and it yields a satisfactory rate of interest. If we take all the insurance offices in this country of every kind, an investigation shows that they hold upwards of 300 millions of British Government loans. And taking the life offices alone, about 40 per cent. of their total funds are invested in this way, viz., £214 millions out of £537 millions.

When, however, we come to detail, there are to be observed great differences between the practice of some offices and that of others. We had not ourselves realised how great these differences were until we prepared the table printed with this article. In so far as the employment of life funds is concerned, all life offices are required by law to keep them exclusively for their life business, and not to use them in any other way whatsoever. But they are not required to show how they are separately invested. Nevertheless, it is the practice of most composite companies to publish a separate balance-sheet for their life funds, and in our table we have availed ourselves of this practice. We show the life assurance funds by themselves, whenever we have been able to do so—here and there some comparatively small other funds are included, because the investments are not separately stated—and the amount invested in British Government securities, together with the proportion which the securities bear to the total life funds. A column giving the proportion held of Indian and Colonial securities is added.

The differences in practice between the offices are then immediately and rather surprisingly revealed. The average holding in British Government securities is rather more than 40 per cent., yet we have a range from the 62.5 per cent. of the Scottish Amicable to the 8.9 per cent. of the Friends' Provident. As a general rough rule, the larger offices keep a greater proportion of their resources in Government stocks than the smaller offices. For example, the huge Prudential has over 68 millions invested in this way, and a proportion to total funds of 44.7 per cent. It is noticeable that the big and admirably managed Scottish mutual societies specially favour the securities of the British Government. The Scottish Amicable, with its 62.5 per cent., has already been mentioned. Then there is the Scottish Equitable with 54 per cent., the Scottish Widows with 55.8 per cent., and the Scottish Provident with 46.4 per cent. The English mutual societies invest rather less in Government loans than their Scottish rivals. The United Kingdom Provident has 35.6 per cent., the National Mutual 36.9 per cent., the National Provident 34.7 per cent., and the Norwich Union Life 32.1 per cent. Some of the proprietary offices show high percentages. There is the Commercial Union with 51.9 per cent., the Sun Life with 57.2 per cent., and the Standard with 54.6 per cent. The legal offices, with their great opportunities for putting money into well secured mortgages, show comparatively small regard for the securities of the British Government. The proportion of the Legal and General is no higher than

17.4 per cent., and that of the Equity and Law 21.8 per cent. Some of the divergences in practice are most puzzling. Why should the "Old" Equitable have no more than 14.7 per cent. of its funds in Government securities, while the London Life (with the Clergy Mutual) has 37.3 per cent.? We can but give the figures without venturing upon any attempt at explanation.

HOLDINGS IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Companies or Life Departments.	Life Assurance Funds.	British Government Securities.	Indian and Colonial Government Securities.
	£	£	%
Abstainers	1,742,825	681,170	39.1
Alliance	11,069,745	3,729,571	33.7
Atlas	3,862,300	2,659,593	24.5
British	8,349,249	2,285,784	27.4
British General (and Scottish Temperance)	4,247,702	1,478,248	34.8
Caledonian	4,700,439	1,486,387	31.6
Commercial Union	10,752,082	5,579,016	51.9
Co-operative	2,503,561	958,499	38.2
Clerical, Medical	7,701,624	2,886,605	29.6
Eagle, Star, &c.	14,453,422	5,555,045	38.4
Equitable	5,578,758	1,216,767	21.8
Equity and Law	4,538,031	389,447	8.6
Friends' Provident	2,309,508	462,878	19.8
General Life	6,881,361	1,292,999	18.8
Gresham	4,822,033	1,395,683	28.9
Guardian	15,009,854	4,618,179	30.9
Legal and General	4,653,054	1,440,854	31.0
London and Manchester	3,659,535	1,076,192	29.4
London Assurance	12,874,932	4,799,815	37.3
London Life (and Clergy Mutual)	19,574,362	7,005,544	35.8
Marine and General	3,940,268	1,453,137	36.9
National Mutual	8,059,543	2,796,149	34.7
National Provident	21,041,741	6,961,307	33.1
North British	21,701,022	7,956,414	36.6
Norwich Union Life	27,412,760	14,641,123	53.4
Phoenix	12,400,383	3,550,248	28.6
Pioneer	469,160	41,721	8.9
Provident Mutual	4,404,266	884,500	20.1
Prudential	153,614,394	68,648,478	44.7
Refuge	26,904,962	1,995,276	7.4
Royal Exchange	5,258,979	1,384,842	26.5
Scottish Amicable	7,965,171	3,797,483	47.7
Scottish Equitable	7,030,180	3,861,066	54.9
Scottish Life	3,762,668	1,636,066	43.5
Scottish Provident	17,810,858	8,281,201	46.5
Scottish Union	24,597,072	13,732,769	55.8
Scottish Widows	13,944,728	7,732,105	55.5
Standard	16,369,850	9,367,324	57.3
Sun Life	13,276,501	4,723,291	35.6
United Kingdom Provident	5,562,313	3,057,202	54.9
Wesleyan			

* Royal Exchange includes Bank of England stock.

Some important companies, with life departments, have not been included in the above table because they do not publish separate life balance-sheets. For these companies we have taken out the total assurance funds—including fire, marine, accident, and so on—and shown the total amount of Government securities held. The proportions given in this supplementary table are not comparable with those shown above. Fire funds, for instance, of the big composite offices are to a considerable extent invested and deposited abroad—especially in the United States—so that the proportion held of British Government securities to the total assurance funds may be expected to be lower than the proportion invested of the purely life funds.

Company.	Total Assurance Funds.	British Govt. Securities.	Indian and Colonial Govt. Securities.
	£	£	%
Law Union and Rock	10,560,888	4,574,509	43.3
Liverpool and London and Globe	16,319,014	4,188,510	25.6
Northern	12,311,286	5,170,847	42.0
Royal	29,052,846	7,233,972	24.9
Scottish Union	11,624,201	4,563,270	39.3
Yorkshire	7,113,768	1,264,297	17.8

MORTALITY EXPERIENCE.

There are three sources from which life assurance offices and their policyholders draw the profits and bonuses which accrue to them. We leave out of account the appreciation in value of investments and the profit on securities realised, since these improvements in capital are more properly to be regarded as reserves against depreciation or other contingencies than as a means of adding to the divisible surplus. We have already dealt with two sources of profit in this review, and will now pass to the third. Those two are a low rate of expenditure and a margin of interest earnings between the net rate actually realised and the rate assumed at office valuations of liabilities. The third source arises from a mortality experience more favourable than that shown by the life tables used in office calculations.

It is a fact well recognised that the death rates of the

THE LONDON ASSURANCE

(INCORPORATED A.D. 1720)

1, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

Marine Dept.—7, ROYAL EXCHANGE, E.C. 3.

FIRE
MARINE
BURGLARY
WORKMEN'S
COMPENSATION
PUBLIC
LIABILITY
PLATE GLASS



LIFE
ACCIDENT
MOTOR
LIVE STOCK
FIDELITY AND
GOVERNMENT
BONDS, &c., BOILER
ENGINEERING, &c.

ASSETS EXCEED £10,000,000.

Third Century of Active Business.

West End Branch: TRAFALGAR HOUSE, 11, WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.1.
BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. APPLICATIONS FOR AGENCIES INVITED.

general population of the United Kingdom at the several age groups are steadily improving. And there can scarcely be a doubt that the death rates of assured lives, carefully "vetted" and selected at the start of assurance, are also steadily improving. The most recent life tables employed by actuaries are drawn up from the experience of the British offices up to the year 1893. That experience relates, therefore, to the last century, and does not take account of any subsequent improvement in the health and longevity of the assured classes. Until a full investigation is made—as full as that which has recently been made into the lives of annuitants—it is not possible to say definitely how much longer-lived the customers of assurance offices are now than they were in the nineteenth century. But the reports of the companies, issued year by year, afford some indication that an improvement has taken place, and that it materially contributes to the valuation surpluses and to the divisible profits. The claims paid, claims arising from death, are almost always by a long way within the amounts allowed for by calculation from the British offices' tables. Of course, a large flow of new entrants, and an increase in medical skill in spotting under-average lives, may have much to do with keeping the death claims within the "expectation." An accurate analysis of the various factors at work, and their contributions to the apparent death rate, cannot be made, except perhaps by the actuaries of individual offices from the data before them. All that we can do is to give the results as announced, and leave the figures to speak for themselves. Their language is certainly significant.

ABSTAINERS' AND GENERAL.—This office states that, excluding war casualties, its mortality experience during the past 40 years has been 44.2 per cent. of the rates given in the tables.

ALLIANCE.—During the five years ended last December the claims paid at death were 74 per cent. of the amounts expected.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL.—During the year ended June, 1923, the death claims were 58 per cent. of the amounts allowed for by the tables.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT.—This office gives the average mortality for the past four years at 60 per cent. of the expectation, and the rate for 1923 as 66 per cent.

GENERAL LIFE.—Mortality during 1923 71 per cent. of that allowed for.

LEGAL AND GENERAL.—The death claims of this office in 1923 in amount were 62.9 per cent. of that expected.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT.—Last year's claims paid at death were 70 per cent. of the amount allowed for.

NORWICH UNION LIFE.—The corresponding percentage for this office was 66.9 per cent.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE.—The percentage of actual death claims to claims expected is given as approximately 72 per cent.

SCOTTISH LIFE.—The mortality was 64.7 per cent. of the amount shown by the tables.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT.—The death claims paid last year were less than 72 per cent. of the amounts expected.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS'.—The death claims in 1923 were 64 per cent. of the expectation.

UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDENT.—In the temperance section the death claims paid last year were 48.8 per cent., and in the general section 82.8 per cent., of the amounts allowed for by the tables. For both sections taken together the mortality rate worked out at 62.5 per cent. of that expected.

VALUATIONS AND BONUSES DECLARED.

Since the turning point of 1920 the valuations of the life offices have become progressively more favourable, and those which fell to be made at the end of last year showed results which were excellent, almost without exception. Many of the offices which made bonus declarations had been obliged to carry forward their surpluses five and three years earlier. The revaluation and realisation of securities played some part in producing the surpluses, but the general policy has been to provide in the carryforward for capital improvements of this kind and to treat the appreciation of investments as a provision against

future contingencies rather than as cake to be cut up in the present.

The general valuation rate of interest assumed has been 3 per cent., a perfectly sound rate under present circumstances, when, as we have shown in a previous article, the net rate of interest actually produced by the funds often exceeds $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Those offices which adopted $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. several years ago—some as long as 30 years ago—stick to it, and one or two have come down from 3 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but there is hardly any good reason now why the 3 per cent. offices should make a change. If their actuaries desire to tuck away reserves above those shown by the 3 per cent. valuation of liabilities, they can always do so without difficulty. The once standard period of five years between valuations tends to disappear. Many of five years between valuations, and others are coming down to three years, and others are obviously preparing the way for annual distributions. One English mutual office, the National Mutual, has definitely announced its intention to adopt annual distributions. The London Life has done this as long as we can remember, and all (except one) of the industrial life offices—with their large ordinary life departments—value and distribute bonuses every year. There is no difficulty about making annual valuations, and no serious expense once the machinery of continuous valuation has been properly organised.

The rates of bonuses declared have been generally higher than those which used to be considered satisfactory. Those offices which withheld distributions during the years of depreciation have been naturally anxious to compensate their long suffering policyholders with higher rates of bonus; the shortening of valuation periods has also been due to the same desire. The Alliance's compound bonus for the past five years is 34s per cent. per annum, against 30s per cent. per annum in 1913. The Liverpool and London and Globe has maintained the simple bonus of 35s per cent. per annum which it managed to keep up all through the war—the bonus has been continuous since 1875. The National Mutual declared a compound bonus for the five years at the rate of

42s per cent. per annum, as against the pre-war rate of 36s. The Northern, which suspended its distributions in 1920 and 1915, declared a simple bonus of 55s per cent. per annum for three years as against the 31s per cent. per annum of 1905 and 1910. The Scottish Provident, which has a special system of its own not comparable with the ordinary with-profit life assurance, showed very good results, of which details are given elsewhere. The Scottish Widows' Fund made a special distribution of compound bonuses for the five years at 40s per cent. per annum, as compared with 34s per cent. per annum before the war. The Standard's simple bonus was at the rate of 35s per cent. per annum for three years, as against 30s. The United Kingdom Provident, which valued after three years, made a graded distribution under which policies whose bonuses had been suspended derived special advantages. The Yorkshire, making a valuation after four years instead of the usual five, put up its reversionary rates of bonus by 6s per cent. per annum.

The offices with annual valuations and distributions all increased their rates of bonus. The London Life raised its progressive percentages rates of reduction of premium by two instead of the customary one, and the compound reversionary bonus was maintained at 35s per cent. per annum. The simple reversionary bonus of the Britannic was 36s per cent. for the year, against 30s per cent. for 1922. The London and Manchester's simple bonus was 38s per cent. for 1923-24, as compared with 32s per cent. for the previous year. The Pearl's simple reversionary bonus was at the rate of 36s per cent. for last year, against 30s; and that of the Prudential was 40s per cent., as compared with 32s per cent. for 1922. The simple reversionary bonus of the Refuge was 38s per cent., as compared with 32s, and that of the Wesleyan and General was 36s against 30s.

It will be seen from our summaries of the valuation results that the present-day tendency is for interim bonuses, payable on claims during a valuation period, to be fixed at the same rates as those rates of bonus declared at general distributions. There never was any sound

ATLAS ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

HEAD OFFICE: 92 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.2.



ESTABD 1808

INSURANCE BUSINESS OF EVERY KIND TRANSACTED.

INTERIM BONUS ON WITH PROFIT LIFE POLICIES INCREASED TO 36/- PER £100 PER ANNUM CALCULATED ON SUM ASSURED AND EXISTING BONUS.

RESOURCES OF THE COMPANY EXCEED NINE MILLION POUNDS.



CAPITAL - - £1,000,000.
Subscribed, £828,000. Paid up, £414,000.

Bankers: BANK OF LIVERPOOL and MARTINS LTD.

DIRECTORS:

SIR ALFRED READ (Chairman).
J. W. PEARSON (Vice-Chairman).
BERNARD BARTON, J.P. SIR HECTOR MACNEAL, K.B.E.
SIR CHARLES NALL-CAIN, BART. E. REDMAYNE JONES.
MAJOR A. S. COLLARD, C.B.E., J.P. HENRY WILLIAMS.
SIDNEY LEETHAM.

London Underwriter:

S. B. WATSON.

Fire Manager:

P. H. EXELL.

Accident Manager:

DOUGLAS LAWSON.

General Manager and Secretary: JOHN COCHRANE.

LONDON:

Fire, Accident and General Offices:
7, ANGEL COURT, E.C.2.

Marine Underwriting Office: 14, ROYAL EXCHANGE

HEAD OFFICE:

BROWN'S BUILDINGS, EXCHANGE, LIVERPOOL.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

FIRE LIFE ACCIDENT ANNUITIES BURGLARY MARINE

Funds - £29,522,000

CHIEF OFFICES:

LONDON: 61 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
EDINBURGH: 64 PRINCES STREET.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE

Incorporated A.D. 1720.

Fire, Life, Sea, Accident,
Motor Car, Plate Glass,
Burglary, Third Party,
Employers' Liability,
Lift, Boiler, Machinery,
Annuities, Live Stock,
Trustee and Executor.

FIDELITY GUARANTEES.

Head Office—ROYAL EXCHANGE, E.C.3.

West End Branch—44, PALL MALL, S.W.1.

reason, no reason at all except custom, why they should have been declared and paid at lower rates. This levelling up of the interim or intermediate rates of bonus, and the shortening of the valuation periods, are both parts of a progress towards annual valuations and distributions.

ABSTAINERS' AND GENERAL.—A valuation in the ordinary life department was made for the three years ended December 31st last, with the OM table for policies of £50 and upwards, with interest at 3 and 3½ per cent. The life funds of £1,735,135 showed a surplus of £143,468, and the total surplus for the three years was £145,863. A profit of £59,336 was shown on revaluation of securities. The sum of £101,030 was allotted to policyholders (reversionary bonuses of 30s per cent. per annum on sums assured for 1921, 1922, and 1923), £5,320 to the shareholders, £10,000 to staff pension fund, and £27,229 carried forward.

ALLIANCE.—A valuation for the five years to December 31st was made by the OM table at 3 per cent. interest, and the reserves were strengthened in several ways. The life and annuity funds of £18,700,744 showed an available surplus of £1,412,956, exclusive of interim bonuses paid of £107,409. The sum of £970,011 was allotted to policyholders, and £170,469 to the shareholders, £272,476 being carried forward. A compound reversionary bonus at the rate of 34s per cent. per annum for the five years was declared on new series policies. At the end of 1918 the whole surplus was carried forward undivided, and five years earlier the bonus declared was at the rate of 30s per cent. per annum.

BRITANNIC.—The annual valuation in the ordinary life department was made by the OM table at 3 per cent., and in the industrial life department by the English Life Table, No. 6, at 3½ per cent. There was a surplus of £273,786, of which £150,673 was allotted to with-profit policyholders (ordinary branch) and shareholders. This allowed of a reversionary bonus of 36s per cent. for the year, as compared with 30s for 1922, 26s for 1921, and 24s for 1919 and 1920.

BRITISH GENERAL.—A valuation for the five years ended

December 31st at 3 per cent. showed a surplus of £20,077 on funds of £225,241. The sum of £13,690 was allotted to policyholders, £1,521 to shareholders, and £4,866 carried forward. A compound reversionary bonus was declared of 32s per cent. per annum, as compared with 30s five years before.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.—A valuation for the five years to December 31st last was made by the OM and OM (5) tables at 2½ per cent. interest. Annuities were valued at 2½ per cent. A reversionary bonus of 35s per cent. per annum was declared, £313,361 being carried forward, and £100,000 carried to the shareholders' account. The rate of interim bonus for the current five years was raised from 30s to 35s per cent. per annum. The company has maintained a uniform bonus at the rate of 35s per cent. per annum at each valuation since 1875.

LONDON LIFE.—The annual valuation by the OM (5) table at 3 per cent. interest allowed the rates of reduction of premium to be increased by two instead of by one as in recent years. For the year beginning July 1, 1924, these rates of reduction range from the equivalent of 131 per cent. for the First Series to 52 per cent. for the Eighteenth Series. For the reversionary bonus class the bonus was 35s per cent. on sums assured and existing bonuses, the same rate as declared in each year since the system began in 1914. A profit of £41,897 was shown on realisation and revaluation of securities.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER.—The annual valuation for the year ended March 24th last was made by the ordinary life branch of the OM table at 3 per cent., and in the industrial branch by the English Life Table No. 6 at 3 per cent. There was a surplus of £175,561. The with-profit policies in the ordinary branch were allotted a reversionary bonus on sums assured of 38s per cent. for the year, as compared with 32s per cent. for 1922-23, 26s per cent. in 1921-22, and 24s per cent. in 1919-20 and 1920-21.

NATIONAL MUTUAL.—A valuation for the five years ended December 31st was made by the OM table, with 3 per cent. interest. The funds of £3,940,268 showed a

surplus of £912,360. The balance of profit on securities realised or revalued in 1923 was £42,430. A compound reversionary bonus was declared at the rate of 42s per cent. per annum, £468,531 being carried forward. An interim bonus of 42s was declared in respect of 1924, and it was decided to make annual distributions of surplus in future. Five years ago the surplus was carried forward undivided.

NORTHERN.—A valuation for the three years ended December 31st was made by the OM table at 3 per cent. interest. The funds of the participation branch amounted to £3,760,204 and the surplus to £376,502. A profit was made on securities realised of £107,020. A reversionary bonus on sums assured of 55s per cent. was declared for the three years, carrying forward £9,547. The interim bonuses in respect of 1924 and 1925 were increased from 30s to 40s per cent. At the valuations made three years ago and eight years ago the surpluses were carried forward.

PEARL.—The annual valuation for 1923 of the ordinary and industrial life departments showed a surplus of £745,159, including £116,423 brought forward. The sum of £279,788 was distributed among the policyholders in the ordinary branch and £170,150 among the ordinary shareholders. The reversionary bonus for the year was at the rate of 36s per cent. on sums assured, as compared with 30s per cent. for 1922, 26s per cent. for 1921, and 20s per cent. for 1920.

PIONEER.—The valuation for the year ended March 31, 1924, was made by the HM table for the ordinary branch and by the English Life Table No. 8 for the industrial branch, at 3½ per cent. interest in both cases. The reserves were also strengthened. The ordinary branch funds of £237,602 showed a surplus of £2,934, and the industrial branch funds of £191,070 a surplus of £506. These surpluses were carried forward. No with-profit policies are issued.

PRUDENTIAL.—The annual valuation for 1923 in the ordinary life branch was made by the HM table at 3 per cent. interest. The ordinary funds of £69,753,108 showed

a surplus of £2,428,648. The industrial life branch was valued by the English Life Table No. 8 at 3 per cent. interest. The industrial life funds of £80,763,928 showed a surplus of £2,534,013. In the ordinary branch £1,576,022 was allotted in bonuses to policyholders, £500,000 was carried to investment reserve (making it £3,000,000), £173,474 was transferred to profit and loss, and £179,152 carried forward. The reversionary bonus to ordinary life policyholders for 1923 was at the rate of 40s per cent. on sums assured, as compared with 32s per cent. for 1922 and 26s per cent. for 1921. Of the industrial branch surplus £906,650 was set aside to provide a bonus for industrial life policyholders, £500,000 was added to the investment reserve (making it £2,250,000), £751,526 was transferred to profit and loss, £227,642 reserved for a bonus to members of the outdoor staff, and £148,195 carried forward. A contingent reversionary bonus (vesting after 15 years) of 25s per cent. on sums assured was added to all industrial policies which were issued during 1923 and in force on December 31st. The ratio of expenses to premiums in the industrial branch was 29.74 per cent. in 1923, as compared with 32.12 per cent. in 1922, 36.92 per cent. in 1921, and 40.5 per cent. in 1920.

REFUGE.—The annual valuation for 1923 in the ordinary branch was made by the HM table at 3 per cent. interest. The ordinary funds of £18,201,037 showed a surplus of £1,192,398, after transferring £25,000 to the staff pension fund and including £466,050 brought forward. The sum of £652,967 was allotted to ordinary policyholders and shareholders, and £539,430 carried forward. The reversionary bonus for 1923 was at the rate of 38s per cent. on sums assured, as compared with 32s per cent. for 1922 and 28s per cent. for 1921. The industrial life branch was valued by the English Life Table No. 3 at 3 per cent. interest. The industrial fund was £6,803,925 and the surplus £125,535, after transferring £100,000 to investment reserve fund (making it £275,000), £25,000 to the staff pension fund, and adding £250,000 to the special reserve for the future

THE NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

ISSUES THE "SIXTY POLICY"

which for a small annual payment gives the option of providing for your own old age or for your dependents at your death.

Full particulars will be forwarded,
post free, on application to:—
48, GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.3

"Straws show which way the wind blows"

and the recent Valuation of the STANDARD shows what WITH PROFIT Policyholders may expect in the future

- (1) The Assets (£7,000,000 of which are in British Government Securities) have been valued on the strictest basis. In 1920 they were written down to the very low prices then prevailing. They have not been written up since. There is thus a large margin of security.
- (2) The Liabilities were valued on the assumption that interest at only 2½ per cent. will be earned in future. Actually the net rate of interest earned is over 5 per cent. There is thus a margin of interest of over 2½ per cent. on £14,000,000 of Funds to provide future bonuses.

Despite these stringent methods, a bonus of 35/- per cent. per annum has been declared for the triennium ending 15th November last.

An interim bonus of 35/- per cent. per annum for all policies becoming claims before 1926. A balance of £138,000 carried forward.

These are straws that show which way the Wind of Prosperity blows for the Standard. If you are contemplating a Life Policy set your sails to the favouring wind and effect it with—

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

(Established 1825.)

Write for Explanatory Leaflet "B.F.S."

Head Office: - 3, George Street, EDINBURGH.
LONDON - - - 110 CANNON ST., E.C.4, and
DUBLIN - - - 15a PALL MALL, S.W.1.
- 59 DAWSON STREET.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

LONDON & SCOTTISH ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED

LIFE ACCIDENT FIRE MARINE

Total Funds & Assets £6,500,000

Head Office:

66 & 67, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.3

Branches throughout the Country.

General Manager: WM. JENEAS MACKAY.

Prospectuses and all information may be had on application.

SECURITY

IS A MATTER OF
SELECTION
—AND BY—
SELECTING THE

BRITISH GENERAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR ANY KIND
OF INSURANCE
—YOU SECURE—

THE BEST POLICY
ON THE MOST
ADVANTAGEOUS TERMS

Send To-day for Quotations.

BRITISH GENERAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

66, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.2.
Managing Director: Norman M. Walker, F.C.J.I.

strengthening of the valuation basis (making that reserve £600,000). The sum of £12,203 was allocated to the shareholders.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT.—The valuation for the five years ended December 31st was made by the OM table at 3 per cent. interest. The sum of £264,710 was written off the investments and met by transferring £300,000 from the investment reserve fund, leaving £300,000 in that fund. The fund (exclusive of the investment reserve) was £17,510,858, and the surplus £1,662,772. The surplus was apportioned: £1,409,683 to the common fund and £253,089 to the special endowment assurance fund. The sum of £1,093,039 was divisible in the common fund, and policies participating for the first time were allotted reversionary additions at the rate of 28s per cent. in respect of each complete year of their duration (at full tabular rates), excluding the war years 1914-1918, and policies which had previously participated were allotted reversionary additions at the rate of 30s per cent. in respect of each completed year since the previous investigation—December 31, 1918. The sum of £242,023 was divided among endowment assurance policyholders, and provided a compound reversionary bonus at the rate of 38s per cent. per annum for the five years to December 31st last. At the previous valuation, five years ago, the surplus was carried forward.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND.—A valuation for the five years ended December 31st last was made by the OM and OM (5) tables, with 3 per cent. interest. The life fund of £24,231,186 showed a surplus of £2,626,126, exclusive of the reserve fund of £350,000. The sum of £2,564,000 was allotted to provide a compound reversionary bonus at the special rate of 40s per cent. per annum for the five years 1919-23, as some compensation for the absence of a bonus during the war years 1914-18. The rate of interim bonus during the current five years was increased to 35s per cent. per annum. The pre-war bonus was at the rate of 34s per cent. per annum.

STANDARD.—A valuation for the three years ended November 15th last was made by the OM and OM (5) tables at 2½ per cent. interest, with net premiums at 3

per cent. The funds of £13,905,385 showed a surplus of £711,321. The sum of £494,142 was allotted to policyholders, £78,783 to shareholders, and £138,396 carried forward. A reversionary bonus at the rate of 35s per cent. per annum was declared for the three years. The interim bonus for the current three years will be at the same rate.

UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDENT.—A valuation for the three years ended December 31st was made by the OM and OM (5) tables at 2½ per cent. interest. The balance of profit on securities realised and revalued was £1,198,479, of which £300,000 was carried to investment contingency reserve. The funds of £12,976,501 showed a surplus of £1,578,511, which was increased by interim bonuses to £1,611,654. The sum of £1,417,689 was allotted to policyholders and £160,822 carried forward. The bonus rates per cent. per annum on whole life policies effected since December 31, 1920, were 38s in the temperance section and 35s in the general section; on endowment assurances: 37s in the temperance section (where the original term was 25 years and more), and 35s in the rest of the temperance section and in the general section. Interim bonuses for the current three years were at the same rates. Higher rates of bonus were declared in respect of policies in force in 1920 and in 1919 and earlier. No distribution was made at the valuation for the five years ended December 31, 1920.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL.—The annual valuation for 1923 was made in the ordinary life department by the OM table at 3 and 3½ per cent., and in the industrial life department by the English Life No. 6 table at 3½ per cent. The funds of £2,693,752 in the ordinary department showed a surplus of £100,774, and those of £2,709,706 in the industrial department showed a surplus of £21,933. The sum of £60,005 was divided among ordinary life policyholders, and allowed a reversionary bonus of 36s per cent. to be declared for the year. Bonuses do not vest until a policy has been two complete years in force. The rate of bonus was 30s per cent. for 1922, 24s per cent. for 1921, and 20s per cent. for 1919 and 1920.

YORKSHIRE.—A valuation for the four years ended

July 12, 1924.]

December 31 was made by the OM and OM (5) tables at 2½ per cent., in place of 3 per cent., as formerly. The funds of £4,266,600 showed a surplus of £307,208. The sum of £213,300 was allotted to policyholders, £23,700 to shareholders, and £70,208 carried forward. There was an increase in the reversionary bonus of 6s per cent. per annum on the scale allotted at the valuations of 1915 and 1920.

FIRE INSURANCE.

A YEAR OF IMPROVEMENT.

The world-wide operations of the British fire insurance offices worked out a good deal more satisfactorily last year than in 1922. This was principally due to the improvement in the conditions in the United States, from which many of the larger companies derive the bulk of their premium incomes. That home business also contributed is shown from the results of the Sun and of the Alliance, especially of the latter company, which withdrew from America several years ago. There was a heavy loss in the Victoria Docks, London, at a tobacco fire which is computed to have cost £1,000,000, but the risks were well spread. We will deal with the United States figures by themselves; they were much better than in 1922. The almost swept these two great cities off the map. The British and American fire offices which had interests in Japan, directly and indirectly by reinsurance, were protected by the earthquake-fire clauses in their contracts. Some losses were incurred on special risks at rates covering the earthquake hazard, but, generally, the earthquake fire losses did not involve liability to pay. Nevertheless, as an act of grace, the British and American companies decided last month to return a full year's premium under all policies affected by the disaster.

The underwriting results given below for the years 1920, 1922, and 1923 have been calculated upon a uniform system. The surplus or deficiency, as shown, of a year's working has been arrived at after deducting the claims paid and outstanding and the expenses from the premiums and then allowing for the increase or decrease in the liability for unexpired risks on the basis of 40 per cent. of the premiums. This is a recognised method which we have applied to the total business, and also in a separate table to the United States business.

The single company with the largest premium income of over seven millions is now the Commercial Union. For, although the share capital of the Liverpool and London and Globe is owned by the Royal, the two "fused" companies work as distinct entities, and publish separate accounts. The largest amount of profit for last year was shown by the Royal with £563,578, or 8.4 per cent. of the premiums. On the other hand, the Liverpool and London and Globe earned £238,154, or 5 per cent. of the premiums. The best result shown by a world-wide office was the £404,906, or 13.4 per cent., of the London and Lancashire, which also had the best result in the United States. The actual highest rate of profit was the £285,934, or 15.2 per cent., of the Alliance, which depends more upon its very fine home business than upon foreign adventures. Other good results were those of the Sun, with a surplus of £276,285, or 11.9 per cent., the North British with £344,588, or 8.8 per cent., and the Commercial Union with £525,283, or 7.4 per cent. The Guardian, which keeps away from the United States, had a profit of £99,228, or 11 per cent. The total fire premium income of the British offices was about 48 millions, and the surplus for 1923 some 3½ millions, or nearly 7 per cent. of the premiums. It will be observed that the ratios of claims to premiums were in many cases lower in 1923 than in 1922, and the ratio of expenses to premiums was also lower. The growth of expenses during the spacious years of the war has caused much anxiety since, and any reduction is of much importance to the offices as profit-earning concerns.

GRESHAM LIFE OFFICE

Extract from the 75th Report of the Directors on the operations of the Society for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1923.

POLICIES ISSUED ... 4,000 for £2,091,438
NEW ANNUAL PREMIUMS (Net) ... £93,263

Founded in the first half of the last century, the GRESHAM has paid to policy holders in Claims & Bonuses £41,000,000.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

1. Double Benefit Policies.
2. Endowment Assurances with guaranteed Premium reductions and Options at maturity.
3. Pension Policies with Optional Pension Age.
4. Immediate Annuities with Return of Purchase Money.
5. Children's Educational Policies.
6. Life Assurance with or without Medical Examination.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, Limited,
188-190, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

ALEX. LAWSON,
General Manager & Secretary.

76th Year THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

A GREAT RECORD FOR 1923.

Business in Force...	£84,746,974	Increase £10,572,756
Total New Business		
Paid for in Year	£16,269,046	Increase £2,425,556
Assets	£19,388,224	Increase £1,560,506
Surplus Earned during Year	£578,199	

THIS IS THE LARGEST ANNUAL SURPLUS IN THE HISTORY OF THE COMPANY.

The rate of interest earned during the year was over 6 per cent.

The Company has not only maintained, but has increased the bonuses to Policyholders since 1914, and at 31st December, 1923, carried forward an undivided Surplus of £1,782,925.

The Company issues most liberal Policy and Annuity Contracts, and fullest particulars will be furnished on application.

HEAD OFFICE :—
**2, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE
LONDON, S.W.1**
J. R. WANDLESS, F.I.A. MANAGER

THE LEGAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Head Office:
LEGAL INSURANCE BUILDING,
231, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Directors:
Sir JOHN FIELD BEALE, K.B.E., Chairman.
JOHN S. FOLLETT, J.P., Barrister-at-Law, Deputy-Chairman.
J. FARIE ANDERSON.
J. J. ATKINSON.
HAROLD G. BROWN.
GEOFFREY M. GATHORNE-HARDY.
W. J. HALSBY, O.B.E.
MAJOR J. W. HILLS.
JOHN C. HOLMES.
Sir ARTHUR H. MARSHALL, K.B.E.
ROBERT M'CONNELL.
THOMAS MEARES.
EDWD. HARROW RYDE.
H. A. SANDERS.
FRANCIS J. WELD.
BASIL H. WILKINSON.
THOMAS WOODSEND.

FIRE.

PROFITS.

ACCIDENT.

WRITE FOR PARTICULARS.

JOHN M. EWING, General Manager.



ALL CLASSES OF
INSURANCE & ASSURANCE BUSINESS TRANSACTED
Annuities—Boiler—Burglary—Contingency—Disease and Sickness
—Engine Insurance—Employers' Liability—Electrical and other
Machinery—Fidelity Guarantee—Fire—Gas Plants—Indemnity—
Leasehold Redemption—Life—Lifts—Live Stock—Loss of Profits
—Marine—Marriage—Motor Car—Provision for Children—
Personal Accident—Plate Glass—Public Liability—Securities in
Transit—Sprinkler Leakage—Tractor.

THE "ALL-IN" POLICY
for Householders and House-owners.
THE "ALL-IN" LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.
SPECIAL INSURANCES FOR FARMERS.
"PLUVIUS" WEATHER POLICIES.

	Pre- miums.	Claims.	Ex- penses.	Underwriting Surplus or Deficit.
Alliance—	£	%	%	£
1920	1,945,110	40.9	45.3	176,101
1922	1,908,611	46.8	43.9	196,754
1923	1,877,392	41.5	43.9	285,934
Atlas—				
1920	2,339,761	41.8	41.9	206,882
1922	2,136,188	50.4	43.4	128,158
1923	2,271,494	50.2	42.3	115,842
Brit. Dominions—				
1923	1,452,558	62.0	38.0	Def. 61,141
Caledonian—				
1920	920,209	49.9	36.5	38,118
1922	767,951	61.0	38.9	31,988
1923	880,853	49.8	38.7	55,527
Commercial Union—				
1920	6,708,182	49.9	38.7	490,360
1922	6,742,172	49.1	40.6	442,856
1923	7,084,093	51.5	39.1	525,283
Guardian—				
1920	1,139,114	43.2	37.1	176,633
1922	964,199	54.0	42.9	49,090
1923	898,324	48.0	44.5	99,228
Liverpool and London and Globe—				
1920	5,022,270	49.1	40.7	326,295
1922	4,230,020	60.0	42.4	Def. 32,821
1923	4,761,038	49.7	40.8	238,154
London and Lancashire—				
1920	3,668,249	40.9	37.8	621,677
1922	2,904,408	51.1	39.3	320,574
1923	3,015,995	45.9	39.2	404,906
London Assurance—				
1920	1,603,063	46.1	41.3	106,657
1922	1,480,153	51.4	45.3	82,399
1923	1,601,505	46.4	45.5	80,745
North British—				
1920	4,171,720	46.0	38.3	445,720
1922	3,746,353	49.0	41.1	282,471
1923	3,902,031	49.6	39.9	344,588
Northern—				
1920	2,851,011	47.1	39.1	68,706
1922	2,384,138	56.7	42.9	110,967
1923	2,533,300	54.8	41.4	34,528
Phoenix—				
1920	5,171,578	44.6	41.4	328,321
1922	4,747,557	57.3	42.2	18,337
1923	5,478,432	47.8	40.5	348,859
Royal—				
1920	7,074,558	48.2	39.0	509,796
1922	6,427,122	53.2	40.8	382,480
1923	6,709,350	48.9	40.9	563,578

THE RESULTS IN AMERICA.

The dominating factor in the fire insurance year with most British offices is the working out of their American experience. They operate in the United States chiefly through subsidiary companies. The rates of premiums are some five times higher on the average than in this country, and the losses very often more than correspond with the magnitude of the premiums. Last year the general experience was fairly good, a great deal better than in 1922. The ratio of claims to premiums was, on the average, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ points less, and the ratio of expenses to premiums was about one point less. This improvement of $5\frac{1}{2}$ points, when adjustments are made for the increase in unexpired risks (at 40 per cent.) due to an increase of over four millions sterling in the premium incomes, brought out a profit from America of about £1,300,000, or slightly more than 4 per cent. of the premiums. These

figures show how fine a margin there is between a profit and a loss on the gigantic United States business of British companies. In 1922 there was, on the average, no profit, just a balance between incomings, outgoings, and liabilities.

In the detailed results as given below, the dollar has been converted into sterling at 4s 2d, a formal rate so that the results of one year may be compared with those of another. This rate, of course, brings out amounts in sterling which are higher than those of the exact equivalent at current exchange. The results, as they almost always are in America, were patchy. Of the companies included in our table, three show deficits on the year, all the others made a profit. In 1922 six of the companies had deficits. The largest amount of profit was made last year by the Royal group—not including the Liverpool and London and Globe—with £393,049, or 7.2 per cent. of the premium income. The highest rate of profit was shown by the London and Lancashire, with £181,613, or 11.3 per cent. The London Assurance did very well with a surplus of £106,373, or 11 per cent. The North British had a profit of £243,650, or 6.1 per cent., and the Commercial Union a profit of £209,058, or 3.9 per cent. It is instructive to read the American results of what we may call the international fire offices alongside the total results. For influence of America will then be very clearly seen. For example, the London and Lancashire, which did best in America, also had the best world-wide figures, and the Northern, whose experience last year in the United States was less fortunate—its surplus was £19,106, or 1.3 per cent.—had a lower rate of profit on its whole business than any of the big companies of its own class. The British Dominions, whose deficiency in America was £109,971, had a deficit on its total fire business of £61,141.

	Pre- miums.	Claims.	Ex- penses.	Underwriting Surplus or Deficit.
Atlas—	£	%	%	£
1922	866,095	57.6	45.5	Def. 50,144
1923	1,026,989	55.0	44.5	Def. 10,380
British Dominions—				
1922	947,791	68.5	38.3	Def. 59,451
1923	1,301,234	61.4	36.2	Def. 109,971
Caledonian—				
1922	624,179	53.2	39.6	3,705
1923	725,517	46.1	42.3	43,601
Commercial Union Group—				
1922	4,644,091	53.5	43.7	7,407
1923	5,314,826	48.2	42.8	209,058
Liverpool & London & Globe Group—				
1922	2,797,007	60.6	45.9	Def. 249,183
1923	3,294,465	50.3	40.7	96,351
London Assurance—				
1922	710,702	50.2	46.1	55,239
1923	968,395	41.0	45.1	106,373
London and Lancashire Group—				
1922	1,454,472	49.6	45.9	71,987
1923	1,602,307	40.6	44.4	181,613
North British Group—				
1922	3,750,773	49.6	42.1	137,570
1923	4,023,067	47.6	43.6	243,650
Northern—				
1922	1,180,169	57.4	44.6	Def. 35,941
1923	1,471,338	52.5	42.2	19,106
Phoenix Group—				
1922	2,165,047	50.6	45.9	87,522
1923	2,831,577	43.5	46.7	95,660
Royal Group—				
1922	5,290,550	51.7	44.4	118,183
1923	5,619,763	46.9	43.8	393,049
Royal Exchange—				
1922	552,318	55.7	43.0	Def. 6,114
1923	600,048	52.0	45.2	19,788
Scottish Union—				
1922	759,360	51.9	44.9	23,811
1923	824,826	46.5	44.9	44,852
State—				
1922	96,751	46.7	64.7	Def. 18,906
1923	145,816	46.7	55.1	Def. 22,322
Sun—				
1922	942,473	52.1	45.7	Def. 2,535
1923	1,085,845	41.7	47.3	65,010
Yorkshire—				
1922	367,628	56.6	45.5	19,362
1923	422,676	46.8	43.1	30,669

SCOTTISH AMICABLE

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Established 1826.

Funds exceed £8,000,000

A MUTUAL PROFIT-SHARING OFFICE. An Unbroken Record of High Compound Bonus Declarations.

The Society since its formation in 1826 has a continuous record of high Bonus rates, unbroken by the war.

Throughout that long period of nearly 100 years a Bonus has been declared at each of the periodic investigations, and on no occasion has the rate fallen below 30s. % compound. This was the rate declared for the latest quinquennial period ending 31st December, 1920, which included nearly 3 years of war; and for the preceding 20 years the rate was 35s. % compound.

Head Office:

35 ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW.

London Office:

17 TOKENHOUSE YARD, E.C.2.

THE LONDON GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

MORTGAGE LOANS

AND

INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

A System of House Purchase by Easy Payments

The Company has paid in claims over £1,000,000, and has advanced to Policy and Certificate holders for purchase of property over Half-a-Million Pounds.

Prospectuses and full particulars on application to any of the Company's Representatives, or to the

HEAD OFFICES:

City House, 158-160, City Road, London, E.C.1

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

ALL CLASSES OF LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THREE EXCELLENT POINTS

revealed by the Accounts of the "BRITANNIC":—

1. Steady growth of Premium Income year by year, indicating Public Confidence.
2. Steady growth of Funds year by year, indicating Careful Management and making for great security.
3. At the last Valuation a Reversionary Bonus of 36/- per cent. was declared, indicating an improvement on the best pre-war rate.

Prospectuses and explanatory Leaflets may be obtained from any of the Company's Representatives, or from

CHIEF OFFICES:

BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM

Why can the "Pearl" offer you a better investment?

THREE REASONS:

Its management is a triumph of efficiency and economy.

EXPENSES, 1923, 11.67%

Skill in the control of its investments gives high interest with perfect security.

NET INTEREST YIELD, 1923, £4 14 9

The Reserves are ample and Profits are divided ANNUALLY.

PEARL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1

Assets - - £30,000,000

FIRE RESERVES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Another point which it is of interest to bring out is the extent of the reserves against fire risks maintained by the British offices and their subsidiaries in America. The State insurance laws are most strict, and the legal reserves against current liabilities are on a much higher scale than the 40 per cent. of the premiums which, as has been proved by experience, actually measures the liability. The companies keep not only the legal reserves—which cannot be withdrawn until the liabilities to which they relate run off—but also large surplus reserves to meet the conflagration hazard. These surplus reserves could be withdrawn from America in case of need, though the occasion for their employment is more likely to occur in the United States than elsewhere. It will be observed that the total American reserves of the larger companies range from about 130 to 220 per cent. of the premium income. The legal reserves of British and kindred companies amount to about 29½ millions sterling, and the surplus reserves to 20½ millions, making the total reserves in America 50 millions sterling, or 148 per cent. of the premium income. In practice these reserves yield some two millions a year net from interest available for dividends payable on this side, and to that extent rank among the “invisible exports” of Great Britain.

Company (including Subsidiaries).	Net Premiums.	Legal Reserve for Unexpired Risks.	Surplus Reserves.	Total Reserves % of Premiums.
Atlas	£ 1,026,989	£ 934,067	£ 510,348	140.6
British Dominions	1,301,234	786,406	193,822	75.3
Caledonian	725,517	613,699	351,940	133.1
Commercial Union	5,314,826	4,481,167	2,710,460	135.3
London	968,395	784,014	663,361	149.5
London and Lancashire	1,602,307	1,639,063	1,836,666	220.7
Northern	1,471,338	1,239,422	748,193	139.2
North British	4,023,067	3,893,524	2,899,191	168.8
Phoenix	2,831,577	2,498,782	1,907,667	155.6
Royal (inc. L. & L. and Globe) ..	8,914,228	8,067,824	5,066,734	147.3
Royal Exchange	500,048	574,189	396,186	161.7
Scottish Union	824,826	859,918	997,902	229.2
State	145,916	130,294	127,682	176.8
Sum	1,085,845	1,035,080	610,046	151.5
Yorkshire	422,676	318,172	287,374	143.3

ACCIDENT AND MISCELLANEOUS INSURANCE.

UNFAVOURABLE EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA.

The accident and miscellaneous categories of insurance—which include personal accident, workmen's compensation, both in this country and in the United States, motor-car insurance, burglary, public liability, plate-glass, and almost numberless other sections—now form a very considerable part of the operations of the composite insurance offices. Most of these once subsidiary branches were started experimentally by small specialist companies, which, after many failures, achieved success and became absorbed by the big companies. The Ocean Accident and Guarantee passed to the Commercial Union, the Railway Passengers to the North British, the London Guarantee and Accident to the Phoenix, and so on. In addition to absorbing specialist companies, the composite offices launched out for themselves. Two only of the major specialist offices—the Employers' Liability and the General Accident (of Perth)—avoided or escaped absorption, and of these the Employers' Liability Corporation has itself become a large composite office with life and marine subsidiary companies. Accident and miscellaneous insurance, so far from being the Cinderella which it once was regarded, is now conducted almost on the scale of fire insurance itself.

Just as the United States dominate fire insurance, so the United States dominate the fortunes of those British accident departments which conduct workmen's compensation business there on the grand scale. The principal companies which are concerned in American work-

July 12, 1924.]

men's compensation risks are the Employers' Liability, the Ocean Accident (Commercial Union), the London Guarantee and Accident (Phoenix), the General Accident, the Liverpool and London and Globe, and the Royal. The American subsidiary of the London and Lancashire is comparatively small. The United States business of the Employers' Liability last year exceeded 20 million dollars of premium income, that of the Ocean was 13.8 millions, of the London Guarantee and Accident 16.4 millions, of the General Accident 11.7 millions, and of the Royal 13.2 London and Globe 15 millions, and conducted under what millions. Business so large, and conducted under what were unfavourable conditions, could not but gravely influence the total results of these offices.

In the United States the rates charged for insuring workmen's compensation business are not fixed by the companies as they are in this country. The method of fixing them was so clearly explained by the chairman of the Employers' Liability Corporation at the general meeting in March last, that we append an extract from his speech:—

“The combined experiences of all the companies transacting this business is considered by the National Council on Compensation Insurance, of which all companies are members, and, when they have arrived at their conclusions, the rates so agreed upon are submitted for confirmation to the respective Insurance Departments or State Boards, and, until that approval is given, they are not effective, and cannot be acted upon by any of the companies.

“The collation of these statistics is naturally delayed, and they are not available until a period considerably later than the period on which they are based, and, that being the case, as in the present instance, if the period on which they are based is one of great prosperity and is

succeeded by a period of unusual trade depression, by the time that the rates based on those statistics become effective they are not true rates for the existing conditions of the business. That is what has happened in this case. The last authorised rates became effective in 1921, and were based upon the figures of a period of great industrial prosperity, 1918-20. By the time they had come into operation in 1921 the break of that prosperity had occurred, and conditions of trade and industry were such that the rates so ordered were quite inadequate to the risks to be insured. This is a condition of things that, under their present system, must be anticipated, and, of course, the converse will be equally true, that rates based upon a period of depression succeeded by a period of great prosperity will result in considerable profits to the companies.

“A revision of rates has taken place in 1923, which is based upon experience more relative to the present situation, and new rates will become operative in practically all the States at various dates from January to July in the current year. Some States have already published and made operative the new rates, and in all those cases very substantial increases of rates have been authorised. Assuming that similar increases are made in those yet to be published, we can look forward with confidence to a considerable and increasing improvement in 1924.”

Bearing, then, in mind that the British companies, with a large workmen's compensation business in America, were working during last year on rates of premium which had not yet been revised, we should expect to find the results of their whole accident and miscellaneous business seriously affected. And this is just what we do find, as may be seen from our table giving the underwriting surpluses or deficits for last year. The Commercial Union,

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1864

Chief Office:
OXFORD STREET
MANCHESTER

(For the Year ending December 31st, 1923)
ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS

£7,500,000

ASSETS EXCEED

£26,000,000

CLAIMS PAID EXCEED

£40,000,000

Assicurazioni Generali

ESTABLISHED 1831.

TRIESTE VENICE
ROME

Capital Subscribed and Fully Paid up
It. Lire 40,000,000

Assets (as of December 31st, 1923)
It. Lire 641,861,548.32

The Company has executed a Trust Deed under which British Trustee Securities to the amount of £100,000 are held by British Trustees and deposited at the Bank of England for the exclusive benefit of those effecting insurances or reinsurances with this Company in the United Kingdom. A copy of the Trust Deed can be seen at the Company's Office.

LONDON BRANCH—

73, CORNHILL
(Underwriting Room)

1, Newman's Court
(Claims, Policies & Accounts)

Telegrams: Assicurati.
Telephone: Avenue 1525.

Manager and Underwriter,
THEODORE FRITSCH

London & Manchester Assurance Company, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Allied with National Amalgamated Approved Society
for National (Health) Insurance.

CHIEF OFFICE:
50, FINSBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.2.

YEARLY PREMIUM INCOME EXCEEDS
£1,600,000.

FUNDS EXCEED
£4,500,000.

ORDINARY AND INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS
TRANSACTIONED.

LIFE AND ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES
AND ANNUITIES.

CLAIMS PAID EXCEED
£7,500,000.

PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

AMPLE SECURITY FOR POLICYHOLDERS.

THE UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE & GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

Chairman: THE RT. HON. WALTER RUNCIMAN.

For the period 1921-1923, Bonuses have been allotted at the rate of from 35/- to 38/- per cent. per annum on Sum Assured and existing Bonuses, with further compound additions of 16/- per cent. per annum on policies five or more years in force.

Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum only is taken credit for in the Valuation, and this ensures, in so far as it is possible, a continuance of good Bonus results.

Write for particulars of:

THE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT SCHEME, which enables a parent to provide for his child's education, whether he be alive or dead when the period of education is entered upon.

CHILDREN'S DEFERRED ASSURANCES, carrying a number of valuable Assurance options at ages 21 or 25.

HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME, which enables persons to buy their own houses, and in the event of death, to leave them free from debt.

Address: 196, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2

on its enormous premium income of over seven millions, made a surplus of £149,736, or 2.1 per cent. The Employers' Liability, which operates the largest American business both actually and relatively to its total premium income, had a deficiency of £228,679, or 4.9 per cent. of its premiums. The General Accident was fortunate in coming out with a surplus of £117,258, or 2.8 per cent. The Liverpool and London and Globe got home with a small surplus of £70,108, or 1.8 per cent., and its big brother the Royal did a little better with a surplus of £136,865, or 3.2 per cent. The Phoenix, whose volume of American risks was second only to that of the Employers' Liability, came out with a deficiency of £70,740, or 1.1 per cent. of its premium income. On the other hand, the London and Lancashire, whose American business was comparatively small, did very well with a surplus of £188,922, or 12.2 per cent.

On accident, motor car, and other insurances outside the United States fairly good results were achieved on the whole, and very good results by some offices. The Railway Passengers (North British), a pioneer in personal accident insurance, made a surplus of £122,858, or 13.7 per cent., and the Northern, which has absorbed several accident and miscellaneous companies, achieved a surplus of £128,043, or 13.1 per cent. The Guardian, with its useful subsidiaries, made a profit of £71,094, or 14.9 per cent., and the Scottish Union was relatively the most successful of all, with a surplus of £25,009, or 20 per cent. of its premium income. In the companies' accounts accident business at home and abroad is given separately, but there is no category for the large motor-car insurance premiums which are merged in the general account. The only indication of the working out of motor-car risks is the experience of the Motor Union Insurance Company, which made a surplus of £47,126, or 4.1 per cent., on its premium income of £1,149,000. That income included, however, a good deal of fire and other classes of insurance.

UNDERWRITING RESULTS FOR 1923.

	Premiums.	Claims.	Expenses.	Underwriting Surplus or Deficit.
	£	%	%	£
Alliance	602,225	45.1	42.3	56,146
Atlas	280,144	53.9	40.7	5,864
British Dominions	1,117,226	46.1	45.9	82,723
Caledonian	313,091	47.8	39.4	22,780
Commercial Union (inc. Ocean Acc.)	7,047,450	56.5	38.9	149,736
Employers' Liability	4,687,826	69.0	34.3	Def. 228,679
General Accident	4,184,210	57.3	33.3	117,258
Guardian	475,238	40.9	44.0	71,094
Liverpool and London and Globe	3,862,664	56.4	37.1	70,108
London and Lancashire	1,544,766	44.5	40.7	188,922
London	286,234	44.9	47.0	Def. 8,360
Motor Union	1,149,354	49.3	44.3	47,126
North British (Railway Passengers)	895,542	46.0	39.6	122,858
Northern	974,202	41.7	42.3	128,043
Phoenix (inc. London Guar. & Acc.)	6,157,389	58.1	38.0	Def. 70,740
Royal	4,255,476	48.0	40.9	136,865
Royal Exchange	726,986	46.8	41.9	56,610
Scottish Union	124,974	39.8	39.9	25,009
Sun	602,451	44.6	44.8	Def. 17,524
Yorkshire	866,749	49.6	40.2	87,171

MARINE INSURANCE.

BUSINESS UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

DURING the war marine insurance business expanded enormously, as was to be expected, and large profits were made. The market expanded with the demands upon it, and many companies were tempted to set up, or to develop actively, marine departments. When the war came to an end, and shipping, after the boom years, fell upon evil days, the demand for marine insurance contracted faster than the artificially swollen market could accommodate itself to the new conditions. Thence followed severe competition, and a cutting of both hull and cargo rates to the bone. There has been much adjustment since, but the available market is still larger than the business seeking its services. Profits are difficult to come by, and require for their realisation very great care and skill in underwriting.

The results of marine companies cannot be presented so readily as those of fire and accident insurance. The nature of the business done varies greatly. An allowance for unexpired risks on cargo insurance would be quite inadequate for a corresponding amount of time insurance on hulls. The companies and marine departments have, therefore, to be regarded as individualist, and their officers as alone conversant with the precise kind of risks underwritten. We have to take their figures as they are presented, and not seek too curiously to look behind them.

We give below the underwriting results of six companies which issue accounts on the Liverpool form. It is a good method. Accounts are kept open for two years, and then an estimate is made of the amount still required to liquidate the account. The balance of premiums, after meeting expenses, is the underwriting profit or loss. Five years have been taken, and the latest completed year is, of course, 1922, which was not closed until December last. All these companies, except the Sea, are owned by composite offices. The figures of premiums show how great was the contraction after the post-war boom, and how difficult profits have been to make since. As a rule the account for 1922 shows some improvement, though not much. There were, however, no declared deficits.

	Account.	Premiums.	Claims & Suspense.	Expenses.	Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
British and Foreign	1914	495,343	356,494	52,078	106,771
	1918	1,055,052	817,859	107,801	129,352
	1920	1,237,914	1,067,346	156,866	13,702
	1921	827,477	630,540	141,135	55,801
	1922	619,964	448,805	130,566	40,591
Indemnity	1914	617,734	490,867	22,187	104,680
	1918	2,724,299	2,305,262	30,089	388,948
	1920	2,297,340	2,464,990	32,350	Def. 200,000
	1921	1,206,315	1,139,764	34,440	32,121
	1922	941,830	834,195	35,119	72,516
Merchants'	1914	264,483	184,022	17,794	52,667
	1918	525,303	458,212	23,860	43,431
	1920	587,075	545,257	41,818	None
	1921	423,373	353,723	47,800	21,850
	1922	464,476	418,284	46,192	None
Ocean	1914	309,712	232,124	19,994	57,794
	1918	760,855	651,969	28,686	80,200
	1920	760,178	901,793	35,511	Def. 177,126
	1921	358,435	474,490	33,945	Def. 186,000
	1922	339,544	306,460	33,084	None

July 12, 1924.]

	Account.	Premiums.	Claims & Suspense.	Expenses.	Surplus or Deficit.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sea	1914	468,795	364,156	25,836	80,803
	1918	1,234,060	993,473	40,938	199,649
	1920	954,959	901,260	55,550	1,672
	1921	501,760	440,504	49,553	11,603
	1922	416,775	348,842	41,773	26,219
World	1914	244,073	191,222	11,947	40,904
	1918	671,784	424,355	7,828	239,601
	1920	435,475	352,713	6,239	76,523
	1921	254,106	222,410	6,383	25,313
	1922	194,520	159,753	5,983	28,784

The other marine companies, which are all departments of composite offices, present their figures as for fire insurance, but do not as a rule make a public estimate of their unexpired risks. We have been informed that in some instances the fire and accident allowance of 40 per cent. of the premiums is adequate, but we cannot apply that convenient system generally. It is not accepted for marine risks as it is for fire and accident and miscellaneous risks. What we have done, therefore, is to set forth the premiums, claims, and expenses over a series of years, and to leave the figures to emphasise their own moral. The very low claim ratio of the Commercial Union will at once be noticed, and also the comparatively small expansion during the war. The marine department of this company has for 30 years or more been strikingly successful in its underwriting. Over the eight years the claims and expenses of the Commercial Union taken together were no more than 73.1 per cent. of the premiums. The percentage of the other companies runs into the eighties, and the British Dominions over eight years has had a claims and expense ratio of 91.4 per cent. Next to the Commercial Union comes the London Assurance, with 82.7 per cent., then the Maritime (Scottish Union) with 82.9 per cent., and then the London and Lancashire (which owns the Marine and the Standard) with 83.5 per cent. The Alliance shows 84.1 per cent., the Royal Exchange 85.7 per cent., and the Liverpool and London and Globe (Thames and Mersey) 87.6 per cent.

	Premiums.	Claims.	Expenses.
	£	£	£
Alliance	1,304,653	903,701	98,970
1916	2,083,944	1,054,697	115,918
1917	1,628,583	1,013,603	137,512
1918	1,183,123	713,936	129,163
1919	1,352,414	855,452	123,620
1920	550,819	592,796	96,518
1921	509,551	395,046	95,645
1922	494,752		
1923	9,108,239	6,701,437	952,967
		= 73.6 %	= 10.5 %

Year.	Premiums.	Claims.	Expenses.
	£	£	£
British Dominions—	1,514,516	1,007,767	176,973
1916	1,909,732	1,287,050	170,522
1917	1,675,908	1,104,854	353,155
1918	1,543,404	869,157	414,872
1919	1,175,112	1,174,391	167,664
1920	453,716	743,673	75,763
1921	664,004	407,155	75,201
1922	643,191	641,131	93,424
1923	9,579,643	7,235,178	1,527,574
		= 75.5 %	= 15.9 %
Commercial Union—	946,548	622,978	83,702
1916	892,771	595,590	98,453
1917	821,279	328,444	113,826
1918	855,924	269,331	138,475
1919	987,850	561,193	183,115
1920	270,646	354,118	124,058
1921	388,388	208,514	94,075
1922	424,597	218,268	94,118
1923	5,587,963	3,158,436	929,822
		= 56.5 %	= 15.9 %
Liverpool and London and Globe—	640,472	493,507	43,046
1916	809,065	556,038	28,179
1917	742,609	552,458	32,833
1918	716,968	483,450	43,602
1919	812,650	656,394	54,907
1920	377,016	530,764	57,589
1921	353,688	357,016	60,460
1922	340,712	257,973	44,744
1923	4,793,180	3,887,600	364,360
		= 80.1 %	= 7.6 %
London and Lancashire—	489,133	308,957	17,062
1916	551,001	350,847	50,527
1917	2,910,720	1,306,813	258,507
1918	2,201,893	1,016,890	226,134
1919	2,669,515	1,839,442	225,495
1920	1,383,306	1,914,004	173,180
1921	1,144,399	1,041,736	124,123
1922	1,209,124	895,031	135,121
1923	12,559,091	9,271,720	1,214,089
		= 73.8 %	= 9.7 %
London Assurance—	1,157,702	563,724	97,697
1916	1,743,929	1,048,268	141,688
1917	1,213,551	766,919	165,736
1918	860,588	690,864	180,189
1919	1,219,825	1,016,160	201,500
1920	678,232	707,398	149,044
1921	869,279	541,173	148,682
1922	944,601	588,306	185,154
1923	8,687,707	5,922,812	1,269,679
		= 68.2 %	= 14.5 %
Maritime (Scottish Union)—	707,831	380,715	61,218
1916	922,008	614,717	56,351
1917	816,574	475,655	78,660
1918	374,866	272,394	85,449
1919	563,991	345,793	74,833
1920	307,492	301,519	60,230
1921	300,484	269,620	55,417
1922	289,603		
1923	4,282,849	3,023,944	628,287
		= 70.6 %	= 12.3 %
Royal Exchange—	1,331,913	800,932	60,558
1916	1,799,401	1,374,619	65,302
1917	1,250,498	824,822	68,434
1918	955,218	529,316	96,989
1919	1,070,952	746,386	127,803
1920	248,364	649,330	108,343
1921	369,068	373,283	88,056
1922	517,806	445,535	99,513
1923	7,543,220	5,747,643	714,998
		= 76.2 %	= 9.5 %

Australian Mutual Provident Society

(A.M.P.)

Established 1849.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Remarkable Figures.—Ordinary Department.

NET NEW BUSINESS.—26,424 Policies Assuring £12,045,573, with Annual Premiums of £379,991.

DEATH CLAIMS.—£1,521,633, including Bonus Additions of £523,867. This is only 54 per cent. of the "Expected."

MATURITY CLAIMS.—£1,203,128, including Bonus Additions of £317,962.

ACCUMULATED FUNDS (including Industrial) have increased by £2,829,924 and amount to £52,278,099.

WAR AND REPATRIATION LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS total over £14,440,000.

THE DIVISIBLE SURPLUS (after strengthening the Reserves by the application of £225,000), is £1,987,289, which represents a return of 50.9 per cent. of the premiums received under participating policies. The corresponding Reversionary Additions amount to about £3,350,000.

THE VALUATION (on a Pure Premium Basis) has been made at 3 per cent.

THE EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST (after deducting Income Tax) was £5 9s. 1d. per cent. There is therefore an Interest Margin of nearly 2½ per cent.

THE EXPENSE RATE (excluding Taxes) was 14.4 per cent. of the Premium Income. This is only about two-thirds of the provision for expenses included in the Premiums.

THE TOTAL ASSURANCES issued in 75 years amount to £240,039,261, of which £129,524,206, or 51.0 per cent., are still in force.

LONDON OFFICE: 73-76, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.
W. C. FISHER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

NORWICH UNION FIRE OFFICE

FOUNDED 1797.

Head Offices: NORWICH and 50, FLEET ST., E.C.4
FIRE · ACCIDENT · MARINE

Sickness. Employer's Liability. Third Party. Fidelity. Burglary. Plate Glass. Property Owners. Hailstorm. Motor. Loss of Profits following Fire. Live Stock. Engine, Boiler, and Electrical Machinery.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

LOSSES PAID EXCEED - - - £47,000,000

General Manager: R. Y. SKETCH.



ECONOMY

No trade can be carried on without EXPENSE, but ECONOMY in expenses combined with increase in business results in LARGER PROFITS.

The constant endeavour of
THE
PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE Co., Ltd.

is to effect economies at every opportunity
and in every possible way; this results in

BIGGER BONUSSES for POLICYHOLDERS PARTICIPATING in PROFITS

Are YOU benefiting by the success of the PRUDENTIAL? If not, consult the nearest representative, or write direct to:—

Chief Office: HOLBORN BARS, E.C.1

BECOME A PRUDENTIAL POLICYHOLDER

Here's a House For You!

IT is the natural desire of every man to possess his own house. Under the Society's House Purchase Scheme a purchaser need only possess one-fifth of the value of the desired property, and can acquire it under a plan which spreads the cost over a period of years. Every detail has been thought out to the best advantage of the man who desires to become his own landlord; and among the other attractive features of the scheme it is arranged that if the purchaser dies the house immediately becomes the absolute property of his representative, free from further expense of any kind.

For further particulars apply to

A. L. HUNT, F.S.S., F.C.I.I., General Manager.

Wesleyan & General Assurance Society
STEELHOUSE LANE, BIRMINGHAM.

The Economist **BANKING SUPPLEMENT.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1924.

[No. 4,233.]

Vol. XCIX.]

CENTENARY 1924.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Assets exceed £25,000,000.

DIRECTORS:

CHARLES EDWARD BARNETT, Esq., <i>Chairman.</i>	C. SHIRREFF HILTON, Esq.
SIR IAN HEATHCOAT AMORY, BART., C.B.E.	W. DOURO HOARE, Esq., C.B.E.
RIGHT HON. LORD BEARSTED, LL.D.	R. M. HOLLAND-MARTIN, Esq., C.B.
FREDERICK CAVENDISH BENTINCK, Esq.	SIR CHRISTOPHER T. NEEDHAM.
ALFRED FOWELL BUXTON, Esq.	CECIL FRANCIS PARR, Esq.
JOHN CATOR, Esq.	THE HON. GERALD BERKELEY PORTMAN.
LORD DALMENY, D.S.O., M.C.	LIONEL N. DE ROTHSCHILD, Esq., O.B.E.
MAJOR GERALD M. A. ELLIS.	H. MELVILL SIMONS, Esq.
FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Esq.	HENRY ALEXANDER TROTTER, Esq.
THE MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON, M.P.	RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF VERULAM.

THE ALLIANCE grants INSURANCES OF ALL KINDS:—
LIFE (with and without Profits). Assurances with **Disability**
Benefits. **Estate Duty Policies.** **Group Life**
Assurances. **Children's Deferred Assurances and**
Educational Endowments. **Annuities.**

SINKING FUND and CAPITAL REDEMPTION.
FIRE.

MARINE.

BURGLARY and THEFT.

ACCIDENTS of all Kinds: Personal Accident and Disease,
 Motor Car, Motor Cycle, Third Party, Drivers' Risks, Lift,
 Plate Glass, Workmen's Compensation, with Special Policies
 for Domestic Servants.

FIDELITY GUARANTEE.

LIVE STOCK.

BOILER and MACHINERY INSURANCE and INSPECTION.

COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES FOR BUILDINGS OR CONTENTS OF DWELLING HOUSES.

THE COMPANY IS EMPOWERED TO ACT AS EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE.

Particulars of any of the above will be sent on request.

O. Morgan Owen, General Manager.



Hambros Bank

Limited

Bankers.

Correspondents in all parts of the World.
Home and Foreign Banking of all descriptions.
Forward exchange rates quoted against future contracts.
Accounts maintained in all the Principal Foreign Currencies.

Bishopsgate Office (Temporary Address):
3a, LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, E.C.2.
Phone: London Wall 5290.

West End Office:
NORWAY HOUSE, COCKSPUR ST., S.W.1.
Phone: Regent 3471.

Head Office and Foreign Exchange Department:
70, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2
Telephone: LONDON WALL 7707.

The Economist Banking Supplement

A SURVEY OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING

Vol. XCIX.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1924.

[No. 4,233.]

CONTENTS.

The English Bank Figures	4
Bank Profits and Shares	6
Irish Free State Banks	7
African Banks	8
Indian Banks	9
Australasian Banks	11
Canadian Banks	12
Foreign Banks with London Offices and British Banks Trading Overseas ..	13
German Banks	15
Colonial Joint Stock Banks with London Offices	16

COLONIAL BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

(1) IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.		National Bank of Australasia, L.	36
Bank of Ireland	20	National Bank of New Zealand, Limited	36
The Hibernian Bank, Limited ..	20	Queensland National Bank, Lim.	38
Munster and Leinster Bank, Lim.	22	Royal Bank of Australia, Limited	38
The National Bank, Limited ..	22	Union Bank of Australia, Limited	40
Provincial Bank of Ireland, Lim.	22		
Royal Bank of Ireland	24		
(2) AFRICAN BANKS.		(4) CANADIAN BANKS.	
Bank of British West Africa, L.	24	Bank of Montreal	40
National Bank of South Africa, L.	26	Bank of Nova Scotia	40
Netherlands Bank of South Africa	26	Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	42
Standard Bank of South Africa, L.	26	Colonial Bank	42
(3) AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.		Dominion Bank	42
Australian Bank of Commerce, L.	28	Royal Bank of Canada	44
Bank of Adelaide	28	Union Bank of Canada	44
Bank of Australasia	30		
Bank of New South Wales	30	(5) INDIAN BANKS.	
Bank of New Zealand	32	Chartered Bank of India, Aus-	46
Bank of Victoria, Limited	32	tralia, and China	46
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	32	Eastern Bank, Limited	46
Commercial Bank of Australia, L.	34	Mercantile Bank of India, Lim.	48
Commercial Banking Company	34	National Bank of India, Limited	48
of Sydney, Limited	34	Imperial Bank of India	48
English, Scottish, and Australian	34	The P. and O. Banking Corpora-	46
Bank, Limited	34	tion, Limited	46

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Bank of England	50	Manchester and County Bank, Limited	52
Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited	50	Midland Bank, Limited	54
Baker, Duncombe, and Co., Lim.	50	National Provincial Bank, Lim.	54
Barelay Bank, Limited	50	Westminster Bank, Limited ..	54
District Bank, Limited	50	Williams, Deacon's Bank, Lim.	56
Coutts and Co.	52	Yorkshire Penny Bank, Limited	56
Grindlay and Co., Limited	52		
Glyn, Mills, and Co.	52	PRIVATE BANKS.	
Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited	52	Charles Hoare and Co.	56
Lloyds Bank, Limited	52	LONDON DISCOUNT COMPANIES.	
		Alexanders Discount Co., Lim.	56

LATEST BALANCE-SHEETS OF FOREIGN BANKS HAVING LONDON OFFICES AND OF BRITISH BANKS TRADING ABROAD.

Anglo-Austrian Bank, Limited ..	58	Crédit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie	66
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited ..	58	Credito Italiano	66
Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd.	58	Crédit Lyonnais	66
Banca Commerciale Italiana ..	58	Equitable Trust Co. of New York	66
Bank of Athens	58	Farmers' Loan and Trust Co.	66
Banco de Bilbao	60	Guaranty Trust Co. of New York	66
Banco de Chile	60	Hambros Bank, Limited	66
Banco di Roma	60	Hongkong & Shanghai Bkg. Corp.	68
Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata	62	Imperial Bank of Persia	68
Banco Nacional Ultramarino ..	62	Imperial Ottoman Bank	66
Bank of Roumania, Limited	62	International Banking Corpora-	68
Bank of Taiwan, Limited	62	tion	68
Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger ..	62	Ionian Bank, Limited	68
Banque du Congo Belge	62	Italo-Belgian Bank	70
Banque Nationale de Credit ..	62	Mitsubishi Bank, Limited	70
British Italian Banking Corpora-	62	Moscow Narodny Bank, Lim.	70
tion, Limited	62	National Bank of Egypt	70
British Bk. for Foreign Trade, L.	62	National City Bank of New York	72
Bank, Limited	62	Société Belge de Crédit Industriel et Commercial et de Depots ..	72
British Bk. of South America, L.	62	Société Générale	72
British Overseas Bank, Limited ..	64	Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commercial ..	72
British Trade Corporation	64	Sumitomo Bank, Limited	74
Commercial Bank of the Near East, Limited	64	Swiss Bank Corporation	74
Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited	64	Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited	74
Com. Nat. d'Escompte de Paris	64		

BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY, LONDON.

FOUNDERS COURT, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.
OFFICE FOR TRAVELLERS:
123, PALL MALL, S.W.1
ESTABLISHED 1810.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS
& CONSIGNMENTS.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
CABLE TRANSFERS.
FOREIGN COLLECTIONS.
TRAVELLING CREDITS.
SECURITIES PURCHASED & SOLD.
DIVIDENDS COLLECTED.
COUPONS PURCHASED.
DEPOSIT and CURRENT
ACCOUNTS OPENED.
AGENTS and CORRESPONDENTS
ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BROWN BROTHERS & COMPANY, NEW YORK.
59, Wall Street.

PHILADELPHIA. 4th and Chestnut Streets.
BALTIMORE. (Alexr. Brown & Sons.)
BOSTON. 60, State Street.
ESTABLISHED 1800.

THE ENGLISH BANK FIGURES.

NOT much light is usually thrown on monetary problems by the figures of such of our home banks as publish them at the end of the June half-year, but in so far as light is provided by those that are included in this banking number, they chiefly illustrate once more the almost malicious obstinacy with which the movements of bank deposits refuse to contract and expand in accordance with the dictates of fashionable theory. Reviewing them a year ago, the *Economist* of October 20, 1923, said: "We pointed out a year ago that the small decrease in deposits then recorded had been brought about in a year in which a rapid reduction had taken place in Bank rate—from 6 to 3½ per cent.—thus seeming to suggest caution in accepting the doctrine that movements in the official rate can be counted on to produce a prompt effect on the volume of banking credit. According to this theory, the lower Bank rate should have been expected to stimulate expansion of credit, whereas it had been accompanied by slight contraction. During the year that we are now reviewing the theory has been contradicted with equal emphasis, though in a different way. Bank rate was again reduced, from 3½ to 3 per cent., in July, 1922, and remained throughout the rest of the year at this low level, but deposits instead of expanding were contracted by £115 millions. These facts, taken with the previous record, which showed deposits continuing to expand long after the 1919 and 1920 rises in Bank rate had, if the theory so eloquently expounded by Prof. Cassel and Mr Hawtrey were to be relied on literally, demanded their contraction, seem to justify the scepticism with which it is usually received by practical bankers." And now comes yet another year wrongheadedly persisting in showing how cautiously we must receive the theory that a rise in Bank rate can be counted on to contract credit, and a fall to expand it. For Bank rate, as everyone will remember, was raised on July 5, 1923, from 3 to 4 per cent., and the movement was severely criticised by believers in the above-mentioned theory, on the ground that it would tend to contract banking credit, lower the prices of commodities, and increase depression and unemployment. Yet, in fact, bank deposits, with their tiresome refusal to endorse the theories of distinguished economists, have insisted in marking a slight expansion, while prices of commodities, as measured by our Index Number, went up from 4301 in June, 1923, to 4531 in June, 1924, and the unemployment percentage, which was 11.1 when Bank rate went up, was 7.2 for June, 1924. Another theory that the figures, for what they are worth, decline to endorse is the interesting one put forward by Mr McKenna, who in January, 1923, charged the Government with producing deflation "effected in pursuance of a declared policy" by redeeming Treasury bills. This doctrine seems to imply that the bankers, when the total of Treasury bills is reduced, have no power of replacing them by other assets, and that contraction of deposits is thus forced upon them. In fact, the expansion of £12 millions in bank deposits shown in the year to June 30th was accompanied by a reduction of £24 millions in the aggregate of outstanding Treasury bills, so that if the banks were holders of the Treasury bills that were "dropped"—as we shall find reason to guess when we come to analyse the figures more closely—they have evidently found a good deal more than a substitute for them. Our usual table, then, of the growth or contraction of deposits since the war period is brought up to date, as follows:—

INCREASE OR DECREASE IN DEPOSITS.	
	Million £
June 30, 1915	+ 197.2
" 1916	+ 44.5
" 1917	+ 81.1
" 1918	+ 282.5
" 1919	+ 406.2
" 1920	+ 103.4
" 1921	+ 20.3
" 1922	- 27.9
" 1923	- 113.9
" 1924	+ 11.9
	+1,005.3

Looking now more closely at the figures of the aggregate balance-sheet that is appended, we find that on the liabilities side there are, besides the already mentioned increase of approximately £12 millions in the deposits, increases of £3.2 millions in capital and reserves, and of £9.8 millions in acceptances and endorsements. Both these movements are satisfactory. The small proportion of capital and reserves to the total figures of the balance-sheets has long been recognised as a feature of our banking which might be improved, and the increase in acceptances, following an expansion in this item of £20 millions a year ago, confirms the view that we then took, that it might be very cautiously hailed as one of the indications that trade depression was by no means as acute as the unemployment figures and the general complaints of trade industry would seem to show. The same hopeful conclusion may perhaps be drawn from the movements of the assets, investments having declined by £12 millions—perhaps owing to the decrease in Treasury bills, although most banks include these in the "bills discounted" item—while loans, discounts and advances have expanded by £9½ millions. These movements are not large in view of the totals involved, but as far as they go, they show that the banks are acting less as investors on their own account, and more as performers of their proper function—of financing other people's enterprise. The increase of £16½ millions in cash in hand and at the Bank of England is an interesting feature when viewed in connection with the stringency that has lately been an almost chronic feature in the history of the money market, and has been so helpful in enabling the Bank of England to make its official rate so nearly effective that the advance in it—which was in some quarters regarded as likely in the early autumn—has so far been avoided. The Bank return figures and comparison are, as usual, of little service as a guide in this game of monetary guesswork, owing to the difference of the dates on which it, being a weekly exhibit, necessarily tells its tale. This year it was made up on July 2, last year on June 27, so that this year the figures were one day nearer to those of June 30th:—

BANK OF ENGLAND. (Million £'s.)	
	Comparison with
July 2, 1924.	July 1, 1914, July 2, 1915, June 30, 1920, June 29, 1921, June 28, 1922, June 27, 1923.
Rest	+ 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1 + 0.1
Public deposits	+ 5.2 + 3.5 - 3.9 - 3.9 - 3.9 - 3.9
Other deposits	+ 86.4 - 30.0 - 36.0 - 36.0 - 36.0 - 36.0
Govt. securities	+ 41.2 - 46.5 - 37.9 - 37.9 - 37.9 - 37.9
Other securities	+ 45.7 + 11.9 + 37.2 + 37.2 + 37.2 + 37.2
Notes issued	+ 89.3 + 41.3 + 10.8 + 10.8 + 10.8 + 10.8
Total coin and bullion	+ 128.3 + 88.2 + 59.7 + 59.7 + 59.7 + 59.7
Note circulation	+ 127.8 + 98.1 + 47.9 + 47.9 + 47.9 + 47.9
Gold and silver in banking dept.	+ 1.8 + 0.2 - 0.3 - 0.3 - 0.3 - 0.3
Reserve	+ 20.2 - 8.6 - 6.9 - 6.9 - 6.9 - 6.9
Proportion	+ 138% - 263% - 3% + 44% + 44% - 54% - 4%

This fact may possibly account for a considerable part of the increase of £24 millions shown both in the securities and in the deposits, though not, of course, for anything like the whole of it. But, as we have often been obliged to point out, there are so many cross-currents in the Bank of England's Government and Other securities that inferences drawn from their movements are a matter of interesting and hazardous speculation. On the whole, however, it may certainly be said that the figures of the chief English banks show an improved position, and one which will enable them, if trade revives as we hope, to continue the expansion in trade financing which may perhaps be detected from the balance-sheet movements that took place in the year ended on June 30th.

(In Million £.)

June 30.	Capital and Reserves.										Acceptances and Endorsements.										Deposits (including Undivided Profits, &c.).										Total Liabilities.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	1914.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1914.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1914.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s	£	s																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Barclays	10.8	15.7	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	10.8	15.7	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4	11.4	17.4	30.4	35.1	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2	36.2																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
Lloyds	11.1	18.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	11.1	18.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	24.1	11.5	18.5	24.5	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1	31.1

BANK PROFITS AND SHARES.

NEITHER in foreign and Colonial nor in home banking has there during the past two years been any serious change likely to alter the market position or prospects of the leading bank shares. Dividends have not in many cases been varied, and though on the whole profits are well maintained, there is little difference in the prices and yields of most of the shares in which English investors are interested. At the same time if holders of banking shares have no special cause for jubilation at the recent course of the market, they may congratulate themselves that most of the shares held by them have proved themselves in difficult troubled times an eminently steady and sound investment, and at the present time there are few markets which can offer a better yield on so satisfactory a security. In our first table we set out figures drawn from the tables in this banking section, which show the net profits made and the percentage of dividends paid by a number of banks doing business in the Dominions and in South America:—

Name of Bank.	Year Ended.	Whole Year's Net Profits and Dividends.				
		1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Bank of Australia	Oct. 31	573,051	588,389	620,105	618,559	£
Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	469,045	827,255	682,043	553,639	735,832
Bank of New South Wales	Mar. 31	606,644	752,566	708,619	771,102	851,514
English, Scottish, and Australian	June 30	170,179	267,975	245,475	470,847	£
National Bank of Australasia	Mar. 31	299,781	336,610	350,168	449,178	498,168
National Bank of New Zealand	Mar. 31	256,299	326,822	212,726	228,747	243,935
Union Bank of Australia	Feb. 28	458,102	516,341	536,261	552,894	550,292
Chartered Bank of India	Dec. 31	447,347	676,771	780,069	789,531	782,707
Eastern Bank	Dec. 31	202,645	202,645	202,645	202,645	202,645
Bank of Montreal	Oct. 31	806,799	789,369	951,333	899,283	£
Canadian Bank of Commerce	Nov. 30	679,365	640,302	616,939	598,648	£
Royal Bank of Canada	Nov. 30	850,730	807,567	791,694	781,863	£
Union Bank of Canada	Nov. 30	320,768	268,478	225,212	206,686	£
Colonial Bank	June 30	175,236	155,837	121,151	95,745	£
Hong Kong and Shanghai	Dec. 31	£1,687,164	£1,448,942	£1,397,751	£1,293,404	£1,333,661
Imperial Bank of Persia	Sept. 20	76,242	82,904	86,766	85,923	49,908
National Bank of India	Dec. 31	452,169	553,398	555,063	535,160	534,799
Anglo-South American	June 30	949,156	693,175	644,138	436,256	425,907
Bank of British West Africa	Mar. 31	125,147	139,803	105,935	100,574	95,990
National Bank of South Africa	Mar. 31	515,478	338,881	116,437	Dr 919,689	202,991
Standard Bank of South Africa	Dec. 31	634,075	759,377	502,313	388,825	456,397

† Free of income-tax. (b) Accounts for 15 months to March 31, 1921. (c) For half-year.

It will be seen from these figures that Australasian banking continues to enjoy a very considerable degree of prosperity, the latest profits for the most part being higher than those previously recorded, though the rate of dividend has not been altered. These banks, in fact, are very conservative in their dividend policy, and maintain the same rate in spite of the fact that many of them are making higher profits now than at any recent period. Eastern banks have been continuing at about the same level of profit, and there are no dividend changes to note among them. The Canadian banking figures—the latest available—are not so satisfactory, and the Canadian banker has been having a rather more difficult time since the war than his brother in Australia and New Zealand. The Anglo-South American Bank, which varies its rate of dividend more than most, has maintained last year's rate of 10 per cent., though profits have fallen a little. African banks are

recovering, the Standard Bank's profits being nearly £70,000 higher, while the dividend remains the same, and the National Bank's appalling loss of the previous year being followed by a profit of just over £200,000. There is still no dividend for the shareholders, the directors mainly aiming at the restoration of reserves as their first goal.

In the following tables we set out a comparison of the prices and yields of a number of overseas bank shares and a few English shares. It must be remembered that developments occurring after the appearance of the latest reports are, in a number of cases, reflected in the movements of share quotations which we give in the following table:—

Share.	Amount of Share.	Paid up.	Price July 30, 1914.	Price Sept. 28, 1923.	Price Sept. 30, 1924.	Yield %
Bank of England	Stock	£	247½	256½	259½	4½
Barclays, "A"	4	1	..	84	77½	5½
Do "B"	1	1	..	24½	22½	5½
Lloyds	5	1	..	54	52½	5½
Midland	12	2½	..	88	84	5½
National Provincial	20	4	..	11½	10½	6½
Westminster	20	5	..	17½	17½	5½
Bank of Australasia	5	5	118½ (k)	13½	13½	5½
Bank of New Zealand	1	1	10½ (b)	2½	2½	4½
Bank of New South Wales	20	20	43½	40	40	4½
English, Scottish, & Austr'n	5	2½	193½ (f)	5½	6½	4½
National Bk. of Australasia	8	5	6½	8	7½	6½
National Bk. of N. Zealand	7½	2½	5½	6½	6½	5½
Union Bank of Australia	15	5	..	15	15	5
Bank of Montreal	£100	£100	..	£50	£55	6½
Canadian Bank of Commerce	£100	£100	..	£41½	£42½	6½
Royal Bank of Canada	£100	£100	..	£46½	£46	6½
Union Bank of Canada	£100	£100	..	£23½	£22½	7½
Colonial Bank	20	6	5½	6½	6½	7½
Chartered Bank of India, &c.	5	5	65 (h)	19	19½	5½
Eastern Bank	10	5	5 (c)	5½	6½	7½
Hongkong and Shanghai	£125	£125	£80	£124	£131	6½
Imperial Bank of Persia	64	64	7½	6½	7½	5½
National Bank of India	25	12½	41	4½	45	5½
Anglo-South American	10	5	7½	7½	7½	6½
Bank of London & S. Amer.	5	5	..	..	7½	..
Bank of British West Africa	10	4	7	4½	3½	5½
National Bank of S. Africa	10	10	11½	6	6	Nil
Standard Bank of S. Africa	20	10	11½	11	11	6½

† Free of tax. (b) £64 shares fully paid. (c) £10 with £4 paid. (k) £40 fully paid shares. (f) £20 shares fully paid. (h) £25 shares with £12½ paid. * Allowing for rate of exchange.

There is little change here in the yields, the comparative advantages of which the reader may judge from the tables. There is one advantage in bank shares to which special attention may be called, and that is the steadiness of bank shareholders, who hold the securities for the most part as long-term investments, and so insure a level market very satisfactory for the quiet investor. A recent offer of an Australian bank to its shareholders was an excellent illustration of the strength and loyalty of a bank's shareholders. For the benefit of those investors who are frightened at the uncalled liability on bank shares we append a table showing a few shares on which there is little or no uncalled liability:—

Bank.	Denomination.	Amount Paid Up	Price Sept. 29, 1922.	Price Sept. 28, 1923.	Price Sept. 30, 1924.	Yield %
Anglo-South American	£	10	5	9½	7½	7½
Australian Bank of Commerce	1	1	1	1½	1½	6½
Bank of New Zealand	1	1	1	1½	1½	5½
Barclays, "A"	1	1	1	2½	3½	4½
Do "B"	1	1	1	2½	2½	5½
British Overseas, "A" and	1	1	1	2½	2½	5½
Lloyds	5	1	1	5½	5½	6½
Midland	2½	2½	2½	3	2½	5½
Munster and Leinster	5	5	5	9½	9½	4½
National Bank of S. Africa	10	10	10	7½	6½	5½
Westminster	1	1	1	2½	2½	5½
Williams, Deacon's, "A"	5	1	1	2½	2½	5½
Do "B"	1	1	1	2½	2½	5½

IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

In our Banking Number of May 3rd last we eliminated from the table summarising the accounts of the joint-stock banks of the United Kingdom the figures of the six Irish Free State banks. We now include them with the banks operating in the Dominions. The six Irish Free State banks so included are the Bank of Ireland, Hibernian Bank, Munster and Leinster Bank, National Bank, Provincial Bank of Ireland, and Royal Bank of Ireland. From the table below it will be seen that there has been a substantial increase in profits.

IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

	Year Ended.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Pre-mises.	Staff Funds.	Carried Forward.	Profit and Dividend, Previous Year.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	Dec. 31	519,620	332,308	16	200,000	..	+ 17,312	539,943
Hibernian Bank	June 30	109,959	50,000	10 (a)	29,609	10,000	+ 10,350	107,421
Munster and Leinster Bank	June 30	194,609	75,833	20	100,000	20,000	+ 1,224	182,637
National Bank	June 30	368,978	162,381	12 (b)	155,000	50,000	+ 303	292,514
Provincial Bank of Ireland	June 30	127,145	59,507	12 (c)	50,000	17,500	+ 188	117,193
Royal Bank of Ireland	Aug. 31	78,888	28,026	10	54,000	..	+ 1,363	67,268
		1,426,599	702,954	..	598,609	97,500	+ 27,636	1,800,977

(a) 4½ per cent., free of tax.

(b) 5 per cent., free of tax.

(c) 5½ per cent., free of tax.

In three cases the dividend for the first half-year was paid free of income-tax, but agreement having been reached as to the amount of tax for which the banks were liable, both to the British and Irish Free State Governments, the old practice of paying dividends less tax has been resumed. The Royal Bank of Ireland, it may be recalled, purchased, some twelve months ago from the Belfast Banking, the latter's 20 branches in the Irish Free State. At the annual meeting in October of last year, the chairman of the Royal Bank said that they had the services and advice of Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Co. during the negotiations, and that the latter's report stated that, "taking all the circumstances into consideration, in our opinion the arrangement which you have made with this bank may be considered eminently satisfactory, and the additional business which may be expected to accrue to you as the result of the acquisition should add materially to the strength and prestige of your bank, and at the same time largely increase its earning capacity." At the meeting held a fortnight ago, the chairman was

able to report that "the results have fully come up to our anticipation."

The balance-sheet figures are set out in historical tables for each bank on later pages, and the latest figures for all the groups will also be found summarised in a large table. The statement appended gives the aggregate balance-sheet figures for the six Free State banks for the past two years, and of all the Irish banks for a number of preceding years. This shows that there was a slight increase in the note circulation, but a decline in deposits, the latter being common to all the banks.

All items on the credit side have declined, but it is interesting to compare the proportion of assets held in the form of investments, a large proportion of which are Government securities, with the ratio of all the Irish banks before the war. In 1913, for example, the proportion of assets in investments was 26.3 per cent., and in discounts and advances 53.5 per cent. The latest figures show that these proportions have changed to 42.6 and 40.3 per cent. respectively.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS OF IRELAND.

Year.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand & Money at Call & Short Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.	
		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		
1890..	9	466	10,374,000	18.5	38,521,000	68.8	6,642,000	11.8	56,132,000	9,086,000	16.1	17,144,000	32.2	28,791,000	51.0
1895..	9	496	10,300,000	16.5	44,890,000	72.0	6,143,000	9.9	61,663,000	11,253,000	18.3	17,984,000	29.1	31,192,000	50.6
1900..	9	548	10,894,000	16.0	49,449,000	72.8	6,706,000	9.9	67,988,000	11,697,000	17.2	17,719,000	26.1	37,464,000	55.0
1905..	9	627	11,820,000	15.7	58,556,000	74.4	5,986,000	8.3	71,967,000	10,896,000	14.4	18,981,000	26.3	41,868,000	57.7
1910..	9	668	11,475,000	13.9	63,508,000	76.0	7,311,000	8.8	82,150,000	13,762,000	16.7	23,315,000	28.2	44,127,000	53.7
1915..	9	679	11,448,000	13.4	65,466,000	77.0	7,058,000	8.3	85,014,000	14,516,000	17.0	24,362,000	28.5	44,991,000	52.7
1919..	9	688	11,164,000	12.9	66,901,000	77.1	7,228,000	8.4	86,368,000	14,080,000	16.3	24,026,000	27.8	47,161,000	54.7
1913..	9	710	11,095,000	12.9	70,687,000	77.9	8,074,000	8.9	90,905,000	17,139,000	19.0	23,935,000	26.3	48,800,000	53.5
1918..	9	693	11,308,000	11.5	74,501,000	78.3	10,918,000	11.2	97,809,000	22,382,000	22.9	25,970,000	26.6	48,149,000	49.9
1914..	9	703	11,018,000	10.5	77,722,000	74.0	15,000,000	14.3	104,799,000	23,318,000	22.2	35,330,000	33.6	44,706,000	42.6
1916..	9	708	10,844,000	9.4	83,746,000	73.8	19,113,000	16.6	115,305,000	33,561,000	28.3	38,148,000	33.2	43,972,000	37.2
1916..	9	708	10,844,000	9.4	83,746,000	73.8	32,336,000	16.6	134,515,000	40,083,000	29.8	42,113,000	31.4	50,622,000	37.5
1917..	9	778	11,363,000	5.4	99,810,000	74.9	80,896,000	17.6	175,739,000	56,813,000	31.8	65,807,000	37.2	51,998,000	29.6
1918..	9	848	11,887,000	6.7	181,610,000	74.9	80,896,000	17.6	209,632,000	55,090,000	26.3	77,242,000	37.0	75,803,000	36.0
1919..	9	869	12,823,000	6.1	166,231,000	79.2	29,054,000	13.9	240,391,000	46,698,000	19.4	80,959,000	33.5	109,623,000	45.5
1920..	9	913	12,899,000	5.4	200,441,000	83.2	24,717,000	10.3	246,881,000	42,887,000	17.4	81,670,000	33.0	119,275,000	44.1
1921..	9	947	13,154,000	5.3	212,860,000	86.1	19,082,000	7.7	246,881,000	42,887,000	17.4	81,670,000	33.0	119,275,000	44.1
1922..	9	986	13,779,000	5.7	209,777,000	86.0	17,321,000	7.1	242,199,000	81,834,000	33.8	103,019,000	42.5	104,554,000	43.1
1923..	6*	719	10,499,000	5.9	153,091,000	86.6	12,882,000	7.0	176,608,000	23,660,500	13.4	79,797,500	45.1	70,982,000	40.2
1923..	6*	719	10,039,000	6.4	149,695,000	86.4	11,688,000	6.7	173,392,000	27,192,000	15.7	73,788,000	42.6	69,885,000	40.3
1924..	6*	764	11,159,000	6.5	147,105,000	86.0	12,035,000	7.0	171,164,000	24,510,000	14.3	72,053,000	42.1	72,158,000	42.2

* Irish Free State.

AFRICAN BANKS.

THE number of banks whose accounts are summarised under the heading of African banks has been reduced this year from six to four, by the return of the two banks operating in Egypt from the Colonial to the foreign category. Of the four banks remaining, the two of greatest importance are the National Bank of South Africa and the Standard Bank of South Africa. The third is a comparatively small Dutch bank, the Netherlands Bank of South Africa, with head office in Amsterdam, while the fourth is the Bank of British West Africa, which carries on, amongst other functions, the banking business of the Governments of the Colonies of the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, and Nigeria. From the table appended, which summarises the main items of the balance-sheet, it will be seen that there has been a further dwindling in the note circulation to less than one million, this being the result of the operation of the Currency and Banking Act of 1920, under which the right to issue notes passed on June 30, 1922, from the commercial banks to the South African Reserve Bank. The amounts of Union notes outstanding on June 30th last were paid over to the Reserve Bank, and the item will not appear in future balance-sheets, except as regards notes issued outside the Union. The Reserve Bank, constituted under the Act, was given the sole right of issue of currency notes for a period of 25 years, and this was to be its principal function. The Act also provided that every South African Bank must hold stock in the Reserve Bank to the equivalent of 5 per cent. of its own capital, and must deposit large reserves with it. In respect to demand liabilities, 10 per cent. of the total was to be provided, and in the case of time liabilities, including interest-bearing deposits, the proportion is 3 per cent. After

of July, Mr Stanley Christopherson, the chairman, referred to an important change which had been made in the constitution of the directorate of the Reserve Bank. "The Government, for reasons which, no doubt, seem good to them, decided to depart from the American precedent, and to make the bank representatives no longer eligible to retain their seats on this board." He added that he and his colleagues were strongly opposed to the change, but the Government decided in favour of it, and, "needless to say, we accepted readily their decision." Mr Christopherson also touched upon the possibility of the formation by the new South African Government of a State Bank. Among certain sections there has for some time past been a constant complaint that in the matter of credit facilities the existing commercial banks are deliberately withholding accommodation. Both Mr Christopherson and Mr Lusk, chairman of the National Bank of South Africa, flatly repudiated these contentions, the latter specifically stating that "since I was appointed, 2½ years ago, to the chairmanship of the National Bank I have not known of a single case in which we have declined business that satisfied the well-understood tests of sound and prudent banking. I am confident, too, that the experience of our competitors is precisely the same." Mr Christopherson also said emphatically that "given security and a good reason for a loan, 99 out of every 100 will obtain accommodation, but I say equally emphatically that we are not going to be stampeded into undesirable advances by criticism from whatever quarter." As regards profits, the year ended March 31st last has proved to have been very much more favourable than its two predecessors, in spite of a continuance of depressed trade and unfavourable agricultural conditions.

	Year Ended.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Pre-mises.	Staff Funds.	Carried Forward.	Profit and Dividend for Preceding Year.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of British West Africa, Lim	Mar. 31	95,990	60,000	25,000	10,000	..	+ 990	100,574
National Bk. of South Africa, Lim	Mar. 31	203,991	..	150,000	..	50,000	+ 3,991	Dr 919,639
Netherlands Bk. of South Africa	Dec. 31	21,813	12,000	10,417	..	..	604	23,965
Standard of South Africa, Lim.	Mar. 31	456,897	312,083	..	50,000	100,000	5,686	338,822
Total		778,191	384,083	185,417	60,000	150,000	1,909	Dr 406,325

the first three years the proportion of reserve against demand liabilities was to be increased to 13 per cent. The Reserve Bank is not intended to compete in any manner with the commercial banks, and its dividend is limited to 10 per cent. While there is an embargo on the export of gold from South Africa, however, or so long as gold certificates are inconvertible, it may not pay a dividend of more than 6 per cent. per annum, and all excess profits during that time must be placed to a special fund for strengthening the gold reserve of the bank. When the reserve fund is equal to the paid-up capital, the net profit, after payment of 10 per cent. dividend, is to go to the Government. The note issue has to be secured by at least 40 per cent. in gold, and as to the remainder by commercial paper or trade bills, and by a first charge on all the assets of the bank. In June last an amending Act was passed providing, *inter alia*, for the extension for two years—i.e., until June, 1925—of the inconvertibility of gold certificates and the alteration (which remains in force for five years) of cover that may be held by the Reserve Bank for its note issue, British and Union Treasury bills being allowed to be taken as security. At the annual meeting of the Standard Bank of South Africa, held at the end

The net profits of the Standard Bank, it will be seen, expanded by £67,600, while the National Bank turned a loss of £919,700 into a profit of £204,000. No dividend is paid by the latter, in order that profits may be conserved until the reserves have reached adequate dimensions. Twelve months ago the provisions necessary for replenishing reserves against bad and doubtful debts absorbed not only the whole of the reserve fund of a million sterling, but involved the writing down of the paid-up capital from £10 to £7 a share. There was some discussion on the question of the reductions in capital at last year's annual meeting, and in August last the chairman again referred to the matter. He said that the conditions at present were not favourable for the raising of additional capital on terms which the directors would be prepared to recommend. In London, which would be the most likely source of supply, the bank already had large cash balances, which were earning a somewhat limited return and were immobile owing to the prevailing trade and exchange situation. To raise additional capital in London would, therefore, be unprofitable. Thanks to the reserve bank system, the means of supplementing the bank's ordinary resources was at hand in the shape of rediscounts of

trade paper and Treasury bills, and full advantage was taken of this source of supply, with the result that the bank had experienced no difficulty whatever in meeting the needs of clients and in financing all sound business that came in its way.

The balance-sheet totals of the National Bank show a contraction of £10 millions, but this is largely due to exclusion of bills rediscounted, now shown as a contingent liability, and of the decline, according to the chairman's statement, only some £4 millions, or 7 per cent. of the aggregate, was due to general trade contraction. Deposits are down by £5½ millions, and loans and advances by a similar amount. The changes in the Standard Bank balance-sheet are smaller, de-

posits being down by less than half-a-million, while discounts and advances have declined by £2½ millions.

The profits of the Bank of British West Africa declined by £4,600, but deposits show an increase of over £700,000, while loans and advances expanded by nearly a million, cash representing nearly 22 per cent. of deposit liabilities. In reviewing the trade statistics of the West African Colonies, the chairman pointed out at the annual meeting that "notwithstanding the improvement in value of certain products and the increase in total quantities of produce exported, the West African native was worse off, as he had to pay a relatively much higher price for the goods he bought, and the exporters and manufacturers in this country suffered in consequence of the falling off in demand."

AFRICAN BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Brnchs.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£	%	£	%	£	%	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
1890..	2	90	2,005,800	12.0	1,081,300	6.5	10,408,600	62.4	16,672,400	3,887,700	23.3	1,582,300	9.5	0,920,700	65.4
1900..	5	165	4,684,000	13.3	1,852,200	5.2	24,424,900	69.0	35,306,300	11,511,900	32.6	4,092,200	11.6	118,559,700	52.5
1903..	8	363	8,480,500	13.4	2,038,000	3.2	45,858,400	71.2	64,277,900	16,206,600	25.1	8,805,700	13.4	36,549,000	56.8
1910..	9	444	8,289,700	13.4	2,035,300	3.3	43,628,800	71.2	61,144,200	17,755,900	29.0	6,374,400	10.4	30,509,200	49.9
1913..	7	492	8,556,100	12.3	2,387,100	3.4	49,130,700	70.5	69,634,300	14,578,300	21.0	5,085,600	7.3	41,751,600	60.0
1914..	7	502	8,935,075	12.3	2,348,113	3.2	50,145,773	70.2	71,258,988	15,693,005	22.0	5,170,950	7.3	41,670,760	58.5
1915..	6	488	8,709,895	12.0	2,619,300	3.6	58,140,570	73.6	72,214,499	19,919,467	27.5	5,912,468	8.2	38,944,792	53.8
1916..	7	547	14,117,683	13.9	2,798,584	2.7	73,560,990	72.2	101,850,210	20,869,809	20.0	14,494,301	14.2	57,253,126	56.3
1916..	7	547	14,117,683	13.9	2,798,584	3.1	90,325,713	74.2	122,199,396	23,793,758	19.5	18,849,944	15.5	68,344,346	56.1
1917..	7	588	14,503,493	11.9	3,796,769	3.5	108,783,064	75.0	145,190,299	28,384,561	19.5	19,856,968	13.6	84,415,701	58.0
1918..	7	704	15,023,804	10.4	5,103,119	3.5	143,161,850	76.0	188,192,568	33,665,999	17.8	27,650,096	14.6	108,133,879	57.3
1919..	7	790	15,795,555	8.4	6,639,531	3.6	189,892,101	76.0	249,256,327	46,066,481	18.5	37,267,885	14.9	139,946,510	56.0
1920..	7	873	17,046,427	6.8	8,988,619	4.4	151,698,145	71.8	311,874,720	55,568,723	16.8	20,852,477	9.9	126,626,573	60.0
1921..	6	379	17,375,721	8.5	9,244,449	4.4	151,698,145	71.0	180,687,942	37,851,939	20.9	19,877,552	10.7	99,519,411	55.0
1922..	6	893	17,620,100	9.7	8,706,569	4.8	128,532,959	74.3	171,380,264	29,845,362	17.2	29,847,989	17.4	91,226,581	53.3
1923..	6	857	16,684,960	9.7	1,281,777	0.7	127,608,097	74.3	171,380,264	29,845,362	17.2	29,847,989	17.4	91,226,581	53.3
1928..	4	812	10,002,152	7.6	1,281,777	0.9	95,457,147	72.9	131,045,290	23,949,679	18.3	14,329,448	10.9	73,106,390	55.8
1924..	4	675	9,101,413	7.6	992,511	0.8	90,165,360	75.7	119,310,068	23,724,032	19.9	12,999,285	10.9	62,316,584	53.2

INDIAN BANKS.

IN many respects the year 1923 was one of disappointment for Indian banking institutions. Trade was very slack during the early months, and although an improvement took place towards the close of the period, and has been continued since, the Indian banks did little more than mark time. It is, however, significant that the remarks of the chairmen of the exchange banks with offices in London all incline towards a hopeful view. The outlook for improved trade in India, which forms the main text of the speeches, has to a large extent been realised. Stocks have been reduced and the accumulations of the "boom" years distributed, leaving markets in a favourable position to accept new business.

Another favourable aspect of the general situation has been the recovery of the country from the depression of previous years. The Budget for 1923-24 has been virtually balanced, and that for 1924-25 is expected to show a surplus of over three crores of rupees, and to permit of a reduction in the salt duty. A good monsoon and economies in administration have contributed to this encouraging result, which makes the necessity of an external loan this year a remote contingency.

One of the landmarks of the period since that covered by the reports has been the successful appearance of the new India Rupee Loan, issued in long-term bonds repayable at par in 1945-1955, and in short-term bonds repayable in 1933. Both classes of security bear interest at 5 per cent., free of Indian income-tax.

The resumption of the sale of India Council remittances after a lapse of seven months is a further indication of the revival of Indian trade. India drafts were last allotted in February, subsequent offerings meeting with no response. The favourable trade balance has been coupled with a sharp rise in the value of the rupee, which is now well over 1s 6d, against a

highest point of 1s 5 9/32d during 1923. The heavy demands of India for South African gold, which for several months past has been shipped from Durban direct, affords corroborative evidence of growing prosperity in India.

How far the movement has been assisted by the improved financial organisation brought about by the formation of the Imperial Bank of India, through the amalgamation of the three Presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, it is at this stage impossible to say. The amalgamation, which took place in 1920-21, removed many of the limitations which handicapped the Presidency Banks as separate concerns, with respect to the granting of loans and business in exchange, and facilitated economies of administration. The Imperial Bank was made the Government's banker, and entrusted with the management of the public debt. It is under an obligation to open 100 new branches by 1926. The latest report, which covers the half-year to June 30th, shows that 70 have already been opened, and that eight more are shortly to start business.

Net profits for the half-year amounted to Rs. 78,81,700, as compared with Rs. 76,01,175 in the corresponding period of 1923. The dividend of 16 per cent. was maintained as before. The main point of the directors' remarks relates to the strong demand for money during the half-year. Considerable pressure was experienced until well into June. The half-year opened with the Bank rate at 7 per cent. It rose to 9 per cent. on February 14th, and was reduced by successive stages to 6 per cent on June 19th, and is 5 per cent. at the present time. Owing to the monetary stringency, it soon became necessary to put into operation the Indian Paper Currency Act, passed in the summer of 1923. The object of the Act is to enable the Government of India to lend from the Paper Currency Reserve to the Imperial Bank in times of stress. As the additional currency issued to meet legiti-

mate trade demands returns to the Imperial Bank, it is retired, so that no permanent addition to the circulation takes place. The Bank found it necessary to borrow from the Paper Currency Reserve against trade bills to the full extent of the 12 crores of rupees sanctioned under the Act. The loans were not fully paid off until June 21st.

From the summarised accounts of the four exchange banks given below, it will be seen that net profits for the year 1923 show an aggregate decline of £14,386. Dividends have, however, been maintained at the previous year's levels, and the decline in earnings is on a smaller scale than was the case a year ago. Comparisons of dividends and profits for 1923 and 1922, and details of the past year's appropriations, are given below:—

	Year Ended.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserve, &c.	Premises.	Staff Funds.	Carried Forward	Profit and Dividend for Preceding Year.
		£	£	%	£	£	£	£
Chartered of India, Aust., & China	Dec. 31	782,707	607,500	20½	100,000	50,000	25,000	789,531
Eastern Bank, Limited	Dec. 31	121,847	90,000	9	20,000	10,000	207	130,320
Mercantile Bank of India, Lim.	Dec. 31	258,706	168,000	16	50,000	20,000	1,847	267,494
National Bank of India, Limited	Dec. 31	534,799	400,000	20*	50,000	20,000	5,706	585,160
Total		1,698,059	1,265,500	..	220,000	100,000	65,000 + 47,569	1,712,445

* Free of tax.

A comparison of the main figures of the exchange banks, which are concerned with the finance of trade at the great ports, is afforded by the second table, which gives the aggregate figures of the main items of the balance-sheets as at December 31st. It gives evidence of the difficulties of trade during the period. Tendencies referred to in a similar article a year ago have been continued and accentuated. The main features demanding notice are the contraction in deposits from £93 millions to £90 millions, and the sharp drop in discounts and advances from nearly £76 millions to £62 millions. The relative decline in the latter, representing over nine points in the ratio to liabilities, is, indeed, not paralleled since the early years of the war. In conjunction with this movement there has been an increased disposition towards greater liquidity of assets. Thus, cash in hand, at call, and short notice has increased from about £15 millions to £17 millions. Investments have risen from £28 millions to £36 millions, illustrating the tendency towards a greater utilisation of banking funds in the purchase of stocks, owing to the falling off in the demand for credit by industry. Some part of the decline in discounts and advances is no doubt due to the liquidation of old advances. Although, in accordance with sound banking practice, a strong liquid position is desirable, the feeling that a larger proportion of the resources

should be invested in the business has been expressed. Some of the changes are due to altered methods. Thus it was pointed out by the chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India that the large reduction in the amount standing against bills receivable is explained by the fact that on December 31, 1922, the bank held about a million of Indian Treasury bills in India, and none at December 31, 1923, the funds being then otherwise employed. It is now largely the custom of merchants in India to draw against their shipments by telegraphic transfers rather than by bills of exchange. In the case of the National Bank of India, the reduction of bills was accounted for by the conversion of a great part of the holding of Indian and British Government Treasury bills into short-dated securities. Such movements tend to obscure the deductions that would other-

wise be drawn from balance-sheet alterations.

Two instances of difficulties in the Indian banking world came to a head during the year in the failure of the Alliance Bank of Simla and the absorption of the Tata Industrial Bank by the Central Bank of India. The liquidation of the Alliance Bank was undertaken by the Imperial Bank, and the outcome has shown that its difficulties were, in the main, rather local and particular than indicative of any fundamental defect in the Indian banking system as a whole. The present year has been happily free from any such contretemps. The Japanese earthquake in September, 1923, and the civil war in China, which still continues on an intensified scale, were factors which affected the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, whose interests are concerned with these countries as well as with India. The bank chairmen take the view that the political troubles in India should not be regarded too seriously. India is claimed to be sound at heart and loyal, despite the occasional blasts of hot air which at times cause an overheated atmosphere in the council chambers of that country. The general position of business in the East is regarded as in a far healthier state than it was 18 months or two years ago; and the Indian banks as a whole stand in a position fully prepared to meet the increased demands of trade when the hoped-for revival becomes an accomplished fact.

INDIAN BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand, Money at Call and Short Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890..	5	50	4,347,200	12.1	1,241,000	3.4	17,964,400	50.0	36,003,400	4,321,200	12.0	2,990,500	8.1	27,541,800	76.5
1900..	5	54	3,186,800	10.5	699,800	2.3	18,084,800	58.5	30,307,600	4,704,900	15.5	2,794,600	8.2	22,147,800	72.5
1905..	4	63	3,735,100	10.6	639,100	1.8	23,473,900	66.5	35,268,500	6,507,100	18.4	3,119,500	8.8	28,684,900	69.6
1910..	5	87	6,100,000	12.9	515,600	1.1	34,547,000	72.9	47,339,600	8,312,800	17.6	4,139,400	8.7	32,101,200	67.8
1915..	6	104	7,219,100	11.5	811,273	1.3	43,470,800	69.2	62,671,800	10,922,800	17.3	4,080,600	6.5	43,745,100	69.8
1914..	5	87	6,801,125	11.3	913,341	1.5	41,494,040	68.3	60,568,684	10,358,968	16.6	4,418,116	7.8	41,810,903	68.2
1915..	5	89	7,252,278	12.2	1,043,994	1.7	42,892,465	71.9	59,791,379	13,549,144	22.6	6,877,868	11.2	35,511,553	59.5
1916..	5	91	7,923,485	11.1	1,085,514	1.6	48,782,482	73.8	66,017,462	12,512,987	18.9	8,002,085	12.1	42,085,918	59.6
1917..	4	88	7,067,380	9.5	1,123,096	1.5	54,574,879	78.0	74,600,088	13,914,932	18.6	7,188,799	9.6	49,652,061	68.8
1918..	4	88	7,232,421	8.5	1,053,421	1.2	67,589,786	79.0	85,496,536	20,522,964	24.0	7,778,811	9.1	52,768,685	61.8
1919..	4	88	8,502,500	8.0	1,698,651	1.6	81,732,355	76.4	108,658,900	17,201,525	16.2	8,985,387	8.4	76,583,126	71.8
1920..	4	93	10,844,649	6.7	1,943,595	1.1	122,686,907	75.7	162,191,567	32,757,956	20.2	18,471,830	11.2	107,117,466	66.0
1921..	4	94	14,171,476	8.9	2,995,124	1.9	118,352,568	74.1	159,492,420	28,521,284	17.9	10,424,084	6.5	108,740,328	68.0
1922..	4	94	14,566,844	11.1	2,211,811	1.7	95,872,984	78.1	130,327,461	19,217,807	14.7	19,862,627	14.8	82,467,586	68.1
1923..	4	97	14,850,000	11.7	2,854,045	1.9	93,221,899	78.5	126,410,917	15,600,241	12.3	27,985,064	22.0	76,787,187	69.8
1924..	4	104	15,120,000	12.2	2,589,875	2.1	90,619,019	73.8	123,728,818	18,978,419	15.7	35,948,679	29.1	69,429,849	56.5

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

THE most important event in recent Australian banking history was the introduction in the House of Representatives in June, by Dr Earle Page, the Commonwealth Treasurer, of the Commonwealth Bank Bill. The main features of the Bill, which was passed by both Houses in August, were summarised by our Melbourne correspondent in the *Economist* of August 2nd (p.193). It provides *inter alia* for the appointment of a board of directors, to control not only the general business, but also the note issue, for the issue of capital, for a board to fix and publish its discount rate, and introduces a compulsory system of settlement of balances between other banks, through the Commonwealth Bank. These amendments to the Commonwealth Bank Act are proposed "for improving the efficiency of the Commonwealth Bank and making it a Central Bank." The Commonwealth Bank started without any capital, and has accumulated profits amounting to about £4½ millions. It is proposed to capitalise £4 millions of these profits, to authorise the Treasurer to raise £6 millions by way of loans, and to hand over the proceeds to the Commonwealth Bank as additional capital. It is not proposed to interfere with the authority already included in the Commonwealth Bank Act, under which the bank may issue debentures up to £10 millions. The section which appears to have aroused most discussion in the banking world was that relating to bank settlements, which required the banks to "settle balances as between themselves by cheques drawn on the Commonwealth Bank." In his speech introducing the Bill, Dr Earle Page claimed that this "will necessitate the keeping by each bank of some funds with the Commonwealth Bank, and will tend to strengthen the central system. There is to be no compulsion as to the amount to be kept by any bank at credit with the Commonwealth Bank, but it is hoped that confidence in the new management will bring about the voluntary placing of considerable credits with the Commonwealth Bank, just as is the case with the Bank of England, which holds practically all the cash reserves of the ordinary banks, and which, in the true sense of the term, is a bankers' bank." This provision is to be brought into operation when proclaimed by the Commonwealth Government instead of on January 31, 1925, a slight interval being allowed for the banks to make necessary arrangements. The provision, however, is not considered likely to lead to large balances being kept with the Commonwealth Bank by the ordinary banks.

The board of directors is to consist of the Governor of the Bank, the Secretary to the Treasury, and six persons who are or have been actively engaged in agriculture, commerce, finance, or industry. The original proposal that two of the directors should be appointed on account of knowledge of currency has been dropped. Any decision of the board respecting the note issue requires six votes out of the full eight if all directors are present, or five votes if any of the directors are absent. Our Melbourne correspondent writes that an amendment was proposed to the effect that Australian notes should not be issued to the general banking department of the Commonwealth Bank by the issue of the Treasury without the approval of the Government, but after amendment was supported by the House of Representatives. The position now is that the board can apply to itself for notes for the purposes of the general banking department, and will thus be in a dual position without further check upon its decision. The object of the proposed amendment was to ensure that the Commonwealth Bank should not use the note issue as a means of competition against the ordinary banks, or as a means of inflation.

A new section inserted in the Bill provides that the board may issue Australian notes to the Commonwealth

Bank or to other banks in Australia in exchange for money or securities lodged with the London branch of the Commonwealth Bank. This does not really go beyond existing law, which, however, it renders more specific in application and frees from ambiguity. The section was inserted in the Senate, and was accepted by the House of Representatives by a majority of one. If availed of by the board in administration, it will enable additional notes to be issued in Australia at certain times of the year to meet seasonal requirements against liquid assets in London. The legal requirement of a 25 per cent. gold reserve at least against the total issue is not modified. The note return as at July 28th shows a total issue of £56,890,225, of which £34,227,989 is held by the banks (including the general banking department of the Commonwealth Bank), and £22,662,236 is in the hands of the public, the gold reserve being £24,280,959, or 42.68 per cent. of the total issue.

Turning to the question of general banking conditions, we give in the following table a picture of the visible trade balances year by year since the beginning of the war:—

	(Million £'s.)		—Excess of—	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
1914-15....	64.4	60.6	3.8	..
1915-16....	77.7	74.8	2.9	..
1916-17....	76.2	97.9	..	21.7
1917-18....	62.3	81.4	..	19.1
1918-19....	102.3	113.9	..	11.6
1919-20....	99.0	149.8	..	50.8
1920-21....	163.8	132.2	31.6	..
1921-22....	103.0	127.8	..	24.8
1922-23....	131.8	117.9	13.9	..
1923-24....	140.6	119.6	21.0	..

In considering these figures some allowance has to be made for the fact that the British Government paid for wool some considerable time before it was shipped, and also for the supplementary payments received in respect of the Australian wool growers' half share in profits on resales. Other items to be taken into account in considering the balance of payments are the annual remittance to be made for interest on British capital invested in Australia, publicly and privately, and on the other side fresh public borrowings and private investments of British capital in Australia. In his speech introducing the Commonwealth Bank Bill in June, Dr Earle Page said: "Because Australian exports (visible and invisible) have been in excess, the Australian banks have accumulated in London much more money than they need there, and, consequently, exchange rates are favourable to the importer and unfavourable to the exporter. Money in London can be transferred to Australia only at considerable cost, and that has induced Governments and others locally to borrow moneys which might have been obtained in London. Both because so much of the assets of the banks are in London and because Governments are forced to borrow in Australia, money here is very tight." The accumulation of balances in London is put in some quarters as high as £50 millions, but an authoritative article in the *Times* Trade Supplement of September 20th disputes the statement that there is a large surplus of funds here, and figures are produced which show that the surpluses of exports in the war years have been cancelled by excesses of imports since the war, due allowance being made for borrowings and interest payment. The writer of this article claims that the cause of the present breakdown in the matter of the exchanges is to be found rather in the shortage of currency in Australia, and that one of the remedies, which has been practically agreed to in Australia, is the curtailment of the flow of imports by reducing remitting funds to Australia as acute as ever, and on Tuesday of last week the Associated Australian Banks in London raised the price of cable transfers on Australia from 55s to 60s per cent. The principal reason for this fresh rise in the value of the Australian pound is an aggravation of the currency

generally, are better than in Australia. For the last financial year the Treasury was able to show a surplus, and the general improvement in conditions is reflected in the banking figures, deposits exceeding advances by a larger margin than in the preceding year, while both have increased.

* Free of tax.

The paid-up capital of the 14 banks has increased by £2,700,000, and the reserves by nearly £1,800,000. The features of the table below, which summarises the main balance-sheet items, are the shrinkage of nearly a million in the notes in circulation, and the increase of £19 millions in discounts and advances.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Brnchs.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890..	19	1,538	24,424,100	18.2	4,821,800	2.6	138,065,900	74.7	184,931,200	26,919,000	14.6	6,806,100	3.7	145,535,900	78.7
1900..	16	1,398	30,307,100	13.1	4,348,700	2.8	107,409,600	68.4	157,299,500	33,165,500	21.1	12,831,900	8.2	102,820,200	66.8
1905..	16	1,456	27,946,400	17.6	4,247,500	2.7	119,619,900	71.7	166,453,600	43,321,400	26.3	12,584,100	7.5	103,391,100	64.2
1910..	17	1,965	33,612,800	16.3	5,198,100	2.4	152,985,400	71.9	212,615,200	54,575,000	25.8	17,105,000	8.1	132,965,900	62.5
1913..	17	2,186	38,293,700	16.3	2,093,900	0.9	170,256,600	72.6	234,100,000	66,889,400	28.8	13,687,600	5.3	146,297,600	62.5
1914..	18	2,273	42,272,449	16.6	2,040,542	0.8	185,298,136	72.9	254,338,301	73,909,526	29.0	13,406,361	7.6	153,460,596	60.5
1915..	18	2,294	43,470,675	16.6	3,187,696	1.2	192,079,083	73.1	262,167,311	73,197,043	30.1	22,208,945	8.5	153,402,635	58.3
1916..	18	2,297	44,004,748	16.8	3,640,936	1.3	199,115,161	73.8	279,112,667	73,999,234	26.1	29,359,730	10.5	167,071,064	60.4
1917..	17	2,259	44,626,507	15.6	5,367,245	1.9	209,781,668	73.0	286,793,212	78,724,117	27.4	36,862,156	12.8	162,488,312	56.0
1918..	17	2,236	45,340,848	14.5	6,624,311	2.1	229,819,071	73.5	312,496,436	79,444,434	25.4	46,950,137	15.0	177,898,316	56.3
1919..	16	2,906	46,908,563	14.0	7,564,883	2.3	245,068,562	73.5	334,012,342	73,019,515	21.6	43,941,932	13.2	208,944,051	62.8
1920..	16	2,398	51,248,171	13.4	8,511,692	2.2	281,477,007	73.4	383,470,269	83,138,890	23.2	68,481,168	17.8	214,736,390	56.0
1921..	15	2,364	53,931,389	14.1	7,854,756	2.1	273,364,790	71.8	321,546,279	81,024,813	21.3	39,911,344	10.5	251,737,800	66.0
1922..	14	2,495	58,731,923	15.3	8,029,220	2.1	278,162,328	72.5	384,576,016	89,307,662	23.3	23,400,133	10.0	247,031,583	64.0
1923..	14	2,585	61,593,404	15.3	7,928,290	2.0	296,565,646	73.4	404,606,678	85,877,405	21.2	46,722,824	11.6	261,925,689	64.9
1924..	14	2,633	56,098,630	16.8	6,973,808	1.7	304,880,617	73.0	417,885,511	85,007,837	20.4	41,379,111	9.9	280,193,286	67.1

considerations of safety, but not so hampered as to prevent fair profits under prudent direction." In other words, the quack remedies of credit and currency cranks and alarmists were rejected; the main features of the existing system were upheld; and it came to be realised that even the most rigid and exacting system would not have prevented the banking troubles in Canada last year. The reverberations of these troubles have not yet wholly died away, and the Home Bank trouble has been the subject of long and exhaustive inquiry. The great banks of long tradition and prestige appear to have benefited in this way—that the alarm caused among depositors tended to drive deposits from the small to the large institutions. Evidence of this is afforded by the growth in the deposits of the three largest banks, which can be traced in the individual balance-sheet statements on a later page. But there is another side to the picture. For instance, Sir Vincent Meredith, in the speech just quoted, attributed a fall in profits chiefly to the fact that he and his directors "felt that, in view of the possibility of untoward developments in the banking world, our cash reserves should be kept exceptionally strong to enable us to lend aid if and when called upon to do so." Of special interest are

But it was not merely the domestic troubles in the banking world which made 1923 what one authority described as "probably as trying a year for Canadian bankers as any year since 1867." In addition to the obstacles of high living costs, heavy taxation, the poverty of European customers, the insufficient recovery of world trade, and an unbalanced Budget (including railways)—obstacles common to many other countries—Canada has been suffering from the population question, anxiety being caused by the large exodus to the United States, which was great enough to outweigh altogether an improve-

Of the current year as affecting banking results, it is too early as yet to speak with definiteness, for much depends upon the harvesting. The crops have passed through vicissitudes, reflected in widely varying estimates at various dates, but it is clear that the total yield of cereals will fall very far short of last year's high figures. Nor have industrial conditions shown much improvement. Canada, like the mother country, looks for the approach of better times when the new *régime* in Europe begins to produce an increase in world trade activity. As regards her greatest banks, satisfaction may be derived from their passage safe and sound through the many difficulties of recent years.

	Year Ended.	Net Profit.	Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	Pre-mises.	Staff Funds.	Carried Forward.	Profit and Dividend for Preceding Year.	
		£	£	%	£	£	£	£	£	%
Bank of Montreal	Oct. 31	899,283	763,000	14	106,130	10,000	..	+ 20,153	961,938	14
Bank of Nova Scotia	Dec. 31	420,907	820,000	16	20,000	50,000	15,000	+ 15,907	424,536	16
Canadian Bank of Commerce ..	Nov. 30	598,648	400,685	12	71,918	71,918	36,017	+ 18,110	616,939	13
Colonial Bank	June 30	97,878	69,450	8	30,000	..	..	+ 1,772	95,745	8
Dominion Bank	Dec. 31	225,874	156,000	13	32,432	15,000	9,000	+ 13,442	208,536	13
Royal Bank of Canada	Nov. 30	781,863	571,200	14	95,000	80,000	20,000	+ 15,663	791,694	14
Union Bank of Canada	Nov. 30	206,686	144,000	9	27,524	..	2,000	+ 83,162	226,212	10
Total		3,230,989	2,424,335	..	983,004	226,918	92,017	+ 114,665	3,309,995	..

CANADIAN BANKS															
Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities	Notes.	% of Liabilities	Deposits.	% of Liabilities	Total Assets or Liabilities.	Cash in Hand, Money at Call and Short Notice.	% of Liabilities	Investments.	% of Liabilities	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1900..	4	75	6,907,100	31.3	1,934,700	8.6	9,182,400	41.3	22,200,300	3,510,900	15.8	1,417,500	6.4	17,128,600	77.1
1900..	4	95	6,579,100	31.8	2,448,500	8.0	17,584,600	52.6	30,544,200	4,567,900	14.9	2,096,600	6.9	23,488,000	77.0
1905..	4	254	9,541,500	16.2	4,221,500	7.2	40,706,900	62.6	58,981,200	18,677,200	31.8	4,814,500	8.2	34,721,100	58.6
1910..	5	590	13,132,300	12.1	6,670,700	6.7	83,600,500	72.4	107,995,700	42,605,600	39.5	9,799,100	9.1	54,369,400	50.3
1913..	5	1,388	28,302,000	12.6	12,198,900	6.5	142,975,500	77.6	184,190,100	56,844,700	30.9	13,029,700	7.1	109,771,800	59.7
1914..	7	1,449	23,727,827	12.3	11,799,529	6.1	145,100,357	75.0	190,851,619	64,486,302	33.4	14,207,689	7.4	104,490,566	54.0
1915..	7	1,473	28,730,164	12.3	12,034,445	6.3	145,911,275	75.8	192,384,515	64,458,514	33.5	14,516,943	7.5	108,977,449	52.4
1916..	7	1,439	28,780,165	10.2	13,838,332	6.2	177,079,956	76.3	229,077,555	96,972,044	43.0	17,941,791	8.0	101,399,677	45.5
1917..	7	1,491	28,818,164	9.6	16,696,710	6.7	199,285,979	80.2	248,273,628	99,818,860	40.2	18,023,861	8.3	107,218,296	43.1
1918..	7	1,501	24,462,161	8.2	22,378,690	7.5	236,591,386	79.1	297,736,149	109,679,564	36.6	50,673,767	16.9	125,938,865	42.1
1919..	6	1,681	25,605,517	7.5	27,727,931	8.1	271,203,010	79.1	343,058,311	111,225,247	32.3	60,021,789	17.5	187,810,276	46.0
1920..	8	2,653	36,524,347	7.5	35,302,963	7.2	326,047,299	79.1	487,330,996	149,427,464	30.5	73,768,170	15.2	242,618,387	49.8
1921..	8	2,734	39,247,939	8.2	33,519,151	7.0	344,088,345	80.7	477,358,871	167,416,626	36.0	62,812,744	11.1	238,425,264	49.8
1922..	7	2,724	37,564,884	8.0	25,820,491	6.0	344,088,345	80.7	426,289,292	150,734,764	35.3	60,518,770	11.8	209,386,821	49.0
1923..	7	2,606	37,794,884	9.0	24,882,513	5.9	334,606,154	79.5	419,597,282	152,142,522	36.2	53,558,759	12.7	197,246,623	47.0
1924..	7	2,649	38,929,178	8.8	25,965,568	5.9	352,144,276	79.4	443,436,332	144,669,111	32.6	72,210,490	16.3	201,044,015	45.4

FOREIGN BANKS WITH LONDON BRANCHES

No review of British banking can be considered complete without taking into consideration all those banking undertakings trading overseas which have offices in London. These may be roughly grouped into two sections, namely, British banks, with headquarters either at home or abroad, and foreign institutions with branch offices in London.

It is, of course, very difficult to draw a distinct line between the various British banks operating abroad, but in our first table will be found a little group of companies including a few concerns of comparatively recent growth, together with some dating back before the war.

The expansion of the business of the British Italian Banking Corporation is well illustrated in figures given by Mr Beaumont Pease, at the general meeting of the company; in the clearing accounts with its bankers an extraordinary growth in turnover is recorded, starting from approximately £4 millions in 1917 to £57½ millions in 1923. Liquid resources at December 31, 1923, are stated to be £1,586,177, as against £1,162,083 on December 31, 1922. To those seeking statistics on the measure of trade between Italy and this country, we recommend them to read the chairman's speech, to which we have already referred. The British Overseas Bank now has new articles of association, and although some of the powerful banks which

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.	
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
British Italian Corporation.....	£ 1,233,418	£ 1,233,418	£ 1,336,636	£ 1,466,812	£ 745,913	£ 619,319	£ 174,111	£ 256,586	£ 1,678,021	£ 1,868,571
British Overseas Bank.....	2,020,000	2,045,000	1,511,511	1,712,067	1,908,581	2,134,345	378,523	377,348	1,011,480	947,882
British Trade Corporation	1,499,569	1,825,000	1,224,951	969,499	463,419	487,051	1,048,697	969,300	1,144,678	742,130
Hambros Bank.....	2,050,000	2,050,000	13,513,195	12,292,946	3,141,661	4,039,292	4,850,598	1,953,357	7,466,487	8,240,767
P. and O. Banking Corporation	2,709,160	2,729,160	10,360,705	9,491,219	4,892,647	8,418,134	1,593,405	1,424,408	12,015,479	10,477,404
	9,512,147	9,882,578	27,946,908	25,932,543	11,155,231	10,648,141	8,045,337	4,980,999	23,906,096	22,266,704

helped in its formation are no longer shareholders, the chairman was able to assure shareholders that they will not lose by anything that had been done. Perhaps it is also worth while here to draw attention to the steady development of the Anglo-Austrian Bank. Acceptances have grown slowly, but steadily. The chairman in August last pointed out that great care was being taken in the selection of business, which was strictly limited to transactions genuinely reflecting the movement of commodities.

We still consider it unwise to produce our table of Continental banks with currencies reduced to sterling for comparative purposes, on account of the fluctuations in foreign currency, and of the inadvisability of employing the pre-war par of exchange. The detailed balance-sheets, however, of all the leading Continental banks will be found on later pages in their respective currencies. The Société Générale Pour Favoriser, &c., reports that advances on guarantees at 272,089,500f have increased nearly 70 million francs, and cheque accounts have advanced from 1,233,631,000f to 1,272,933,432.01f, being 39,302,428.89f more. But "les dépôts à l'échéance fixe" have decreased from 122,499,000f to 101,711,100f, being 20,737,900f lower. "Les acceptations à payer" show an increase of 27,946,689.40f (103,258,485.37f compared with 75,311,795.97f), and the sundry current accounts show one of 236,438,838.99f (3,999,377,907.86f compared with 3,762,939,068.87f). The net amount of the profit and loss account is 28,482,402.55f. Compared with last year's figure, this is an increase of 2,942,449.81f. The sum brought forward from 1922 was 5,255,657.02f, which, added to the year's profits, makes the total 33,708,059.57f.

The Crédit Lyonnais, in its annual report, reviewing the progress of its offices abroad, says that in Algeria the year has been a very good one, and farmers were able to pay back a considerable amount of their loans, profits on corn, barley, oats, and tobacco being better than in 1922. The wine trade, too, has been good, and high prices were realised. In Tunis the harvest has been a good one, but olives showed a loss, although on the other side the wine trade has been very satisfactory for both producers and merchants. At Geneva the economic situation still depends upon the exchange, which makes export difficult, and hinders the hotel industry. The development of the Geneva Agency is not all that could be desired, but conditions at the Tunis offices have improved. The report of the third of the big three French banks, the Comptoir National D'Escompte de Paris, shows that deposits have risen to 2,413 million francs, an increase of 181½ millions. Acceptances amount to 120,922,069f, having increased 35,893,891f. Reserves total 72,429,579f.

In dealing with the British Italian Banking Corporation, we have already referred to conditions in the Italian banking world. But a review of foreign banking progress would be incomplete without mention of the two powerful Italian banks, the Banca Commerciale

Italiana and the Credito Italiano. In the report of the former concern developments are foreshadowed in Jugoslavia, with a branch at Fiume. Its branch at Constantinople is strenuously carrying on its work. Moreover, the intention is expressed of establishing branches in Egypt. This institution claims credit for handling "the largest foreign transaction ever financed with Italian means." This was the Polish loan of 400 million lire. The many associated concerns connected with the Banca Commerciale Italiana operating in other countries have given good results. The "general movement" of the accounts of the Credito Italiano for the year ended December 31, 1923, showed 522 milliards, as against 432 in 1922 and 385 milliards in 1921. Savings and current accounts increased from 836½ million lire to approximately 918½ millions, and customers' credit balances from 3,086½ millions to 3,213½ millions. The total money deposited amounted to 4,132 millions. Cash and Treasury bills were 2,732½, as compared with about 3,011½ at the end of 1922. Customers' debit balances stood at 1,488½ millions, as against 1,136½ millions in the previous accounts. In its report it is stated that the Paris and Berlin branches of the Credito Italiano have fulfilled expectations, and that participation in banking institutions abroad have shown satisfactory results.

The directors of the Société Belge de Crédit Industriel state that, in spite of the unfavourable circumstances, profits are 343,654f more than last year. These amount to 1,125,266f (781,611f in 1922). "Account-currents" and deposits together amount to 54,628,000f. On the other side of the balance-sheet assets comfortably cover this item. Turning to the accounts of the Ionian Bank, figures for the year ended December last showed a profit of £428,606; this is after making provision for bad and doubtful debts. The corresponding figure for 1922 is £465,245, but the profit is larger for 1923, for the reason that before showing the profit for that staff, instead of taking it, as on previous occasions, from the amount brought forward. Current and deposit accounts show a drop from the previous year—the difference being some £2,000,000. Acceptances, standing at upwards of £3,000,000, compare with £1,600,000 a year ago; this is mainly owing to the greater extent of acceptances for the cotton trade.

General and political conditions have been unfavourable for the Imperial Ottoman Bank. In its Constantinople office, and a large number of branches in Anatolia, results have been affected in consequence, but in other parts—notably Adana—its branches have shared in a progressive commercial movement. The larger holding of Government securities by the National Bank of Egypt mainly consists of short-term bonds. These bonds, it is pointed out, can be readily liquidated in case of need, and do not involve the risk of depreciation inherent to longer-dated securities. The total of advances does not show much variation. Foreign bills, which, almost without

* exception, represent exports of cotton, are again larger than the preceding year, owing in part to the higher price of cotton, and also to an expansion of the bank's

business in Alexandria. Our next table reflects the trend of banking operations in Asia:—

ASIATIC BANKS.

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash.		Investments.		Discounts, Loans, and Credits.	
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Bank of Taiwan.....	£ 6,466,843	£ 7,298,000	£ 22,524,087	£ 25,273,860	£ 3,146,482	£ 3,583,160	£ 6,323,069	£ 8,876,272	£ 55,684,521	£ 39,908,201
Imperial Bank of Persia....	990,000	1,040,000	3,996,064	4,165,429	2,744,508	2,972,083	1,810,895	1,646,325	1,746,551	2,359,117
Imperial Ottoman	6,250,000	6,250,000	13,187,206	14,112,791	5,444,068	6,500,529	4,309,091	3,345,628	9,133,138	11,676,101
Hong Kong and Shanghai ..	9,376,303	9,668,490	55,988,984	58,520,771	9,901,731	10,948,636	11,481,749	12,844,808	25,464,482	27,915,022
Sumitomo Bank	7,310,000	6,930,000	33,391,945	34,405,939	4,883,856	4,672,396	6,784,762	9,073,089	30,762,680	27,331,068
Yokohama Specie	16,713,664	17,713,326	47,361,646	50,808,667	8,644,615	7,992,119	19,933,568	18,854,155	25,912,058	36,685,344
	47,106,810	48,899,816	176,449,332	187,287,457	31,765,260	36,668,923	50,643,134	54,640,227	148,653,430	145,869,853

The items in the balance-sheet of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation call for little comment. The rate of exchange at which the sterling assets and liabilities are converted into dollars, and the silver assets into sterling, is about 4½ per cent. over the rate of last year, so a comparison between their totals and those of the previous year is easier than usual. The total sterling is over £4 millions higher, and the total dollars is over \$8 millions higher than in the previous 12 months. Notes in circulation have increased by over \$8 millions, a rather inconvenient but gratifying tribute to the popularity of its notes among the Chinese of Hongkong and China. Silver deposits have increased normally, but in view of the difficulty of securing employment for its resources and of the cheapness of money in London, the bank has not cared to compete for deposits in currencies based on sterling at the rates of interest paid by some of its neighbours. The accounts of the Imperial Bank of Persia reflect a reasonably good liquid position. There is an increase of nearly £130,000 in note circulation,

but on the assets side this amount is amply safeguarded.

The most important matter which reveals itself for notice in South American banking topics is the report and accounts of the Banco Espanol del Rio de la Plata, which appears to be extricating itself satisfactorily from its recent difficulties. The net profit of the Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, for the year ended June 30, 1924, was £425,907 (against £436,256 in the previous year), while £337,661 was brought forward, making a total of £763,568. It is proposed to pay a final dividend on October 27th of 5 per cent., less tax, making a total distribution for the year of 10 per cent. (the same as in previous year). The sum of £25,000 is again added to the staff pension fund, £50,000 is applied in reduction of bank premises account (as against nil last year), and the balance of £350,100 is carried forward. In view of the amalgamation of the London and River Plate Bank, Limited, and London and Brazilian Bank, Limited, it is not possible to publish figures, but we are informed that the first balance-sheet of the combined banks under the new title will be published in December next.

GERMAN BANKING.

(BY OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

The condition of German banks has been likened to the Humbert Sage Safe mystery, to be revealed only by the publication of gold mark balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts. The only distinction is that uncertainty replaces fraud. The gold mark balance-sheets already published by industrial concerns throw no light on the matter, owing to the important difference that real estate and plant, the main assets of industry, were not necessarily reduced, and were often increased, and that value as a result of the currency depreciation, and that industry got rid of most of its long-term debts, whereas the chief asset of banks was their liquid capital, which was bound to depreciate with the currency. As only two important commercial banks have so far issued gold mark balance-sheets, the mystery is not yet fully cleared up; but it is already plain that the banks lost heavily in the past ten years. Hence while industrial companies, though they drastically scale down their capital as inflated since the war, are mostly fixing their new gold capital higher than that of 1913, the banks will start their new careers with much smaller than pre-war capitals. The two commercial banks referred to are the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft and the Barmer Bankverein. The balance-sheets of both (and that of the Prussian State Bank—Seehandlung—which, however, has a status of its own) show that their capital has largely disappeared. The measure of disappear-

ance varies in different cases, according to the success with which the banks, by means of exchange and other operations, managed to escape part of the consequences of the depreciation.

The condition of the banks improved greatly after the currency stabilisation of November, 1923, owing to the new security given against depreciation; deposits rapidly increased, and with them the banks' credit operations. It is estimated that by the end of March deposits had doubled. A good deal of foreign money came in. After the credit crisis, signalled by the Reichsbank's rationing of bill discounts from April 7th onwards, deposits again declined, owing to the urgent need of money for business. Large profits were made through the great disparity between interest rates for deposits and loans. Profits from bourse transactions were at first small, but increased enormously after June, the volume of transactions in parts of July and August being ten times as great as in June. For deposits the commercial banks had to compete with the savings banks, which offered, sometimes recklessly, rates 100 or even 200 per cent. higher. The banks gained by heavy reductions of their staffs, and this process will go further owing to the impending abolition of most of the burdensome exchange restrictions. The increase of confidence by

Continued on page 18.

COLONIAL JOINT STOCK BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES.

IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name of Bank.	Date.	No. of Branches and Sub-branches.	Capital Subscribed.	Unutilised Capital. Callable.	Unutilised Capital. Reserved.	Capital Paid-up.	Reserve Fund.	Un-divided Profits.
1 Bank of Ireland (capital £3,000,000. Irish)	Dec 31	84	2,769,231	(?)	(?)	2,769,231	1,000,000	255,958
2 Hibernian Bank	Dec 31	61	2,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	545,000	58,081
3 Munster and Leinster Bank	Dec 31	186	1,000,000	200,000	400,000	500,000	1,050,000	82,345
4 National Bank	Dec 31	258	7,500,000	1,000,000	5,000,000	1,500,000	1,150,000	210,415
5 Provincial Bank of Ireland	Dec 31	192	4,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	510,000	530,000	72,223
6 Royal Bank of Ireland	Aug 31	43	1,500,000	300,000	900,000	300,000	175,000	23,093
Totals		764	18,819,231	3,500,000	9,340,000	6,109,231	5,050,000	702,125

AFRICAN BANKS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name of Bank.	Date.	No. of Branches and Sub-branches.	Capital Subscribed.	Unutilised Capital. Callable.	Unutilised Capital. Reserved.	Capital Paid-up.	Reserve Fund.	Un-divided Profits.
1 Bank of British West Africa, Lim. Mar 31	52	2,000,000	300,000	1,500,000	1,200,000	400,000	71,680	1,000,804
2 National Bank of South Africa, L. Mar 31	280	2,075,500	Nil	Nil	2,075,500	400,000	228,127	8,743,616
3 Netherlands Bank of South Africa Dec 31	18	240,000	Nil	Nil	240,000	63,413	23,132	4,422
4 Standard of South Africa, L. Mar 31	325	8,916,660	6,687,495	Nil	2,229,165	2,893,332	368,322	601,334
Totals		675	14,232,160	6,987,495	1,500,000	5,744,665	3,356,748	691,261

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name of Bank.	Date.	No. of Branches and Sub-branches.	Capital Subscribed.	Unutilised Capital. Callable.	Unutilised Capital. Reserved.	Capital Paid-up.	Reserve Fund.	Un-divided Profits.
Commonwealth Bank of Australia Dec 31	76	..	..	..	..	4,529,330	..	Contingent Liabilities.
1 Australian Bank of Commerce, L. Jne 30	143	1,200,000	Nil	Nil	1,200,000	1,245,116	370,000	91,518
2 Bank of Adelaide, Limited	Mar 31	103	875,000	Nil	875,000	720,000	101,774	7,073
3 Bank of Australasia	Oct 15	209	4,000,000	Nil	4,000,000	3,625,000	880,428	423,686
4 Bank of New South Wales	Mar 31	366	6,000,000	Nil	6,000,000	3,900,000	468,169	695,702
5 Bank of New Zealand	Mar 31	217	1,500,000	Nil	Nil	5,029,989	2,254,453	1,265,367
Do Prof. 4% Guaranteed Stock	Jne 30	119	2,122,500	1,061,250	Nil	1,478,010	700,000	151,668
6 Bank of Victoria, Limited	Jne 30	233	6,500,000	Nil	3,000,000	3,478,288	2,850,000	382,928
Do Prof. Shares	Jne 30	251	553,224	70,645	Nil	2,626,929	350,000	138,668
7 Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Jne 30	251	2,117,350	Nil	Nil	2,117,350	1,500,000	1,483,150	496,918
8 Commercial Bank of Australia, L. Jne 30	355	2,340,466	Nil	Nil	2,340,466	1,483,150	496,918	1,287
9 English, Scottish, and Australian Jne 30	292	4,537,500	1,312,500	Nil	3,225,000	2,040,000	269,592	48,312
10 National Bank of Australasia, Lim. Mar 31	53	3,750,000	2,500,000	Nil	1,250,000	1,250,000	294,502	936,541
11 National Bank of New Zealand, L. Jne 30	91	1,200,000	Nil	Nil	1,150,048	587,512	74,048	..
12 Queensland National Bank, Lim. Jne 30	9	1,560,000	810,000	Nil	750,000	540,000	98,502	840
13 Royal Bank of Australia, Limited. Mar 31	192	9,000,000	Nil	6,000,000	3,000,000	3,450,000	315,003	674,610
14 Union Bank of Australia, Limited Feb 29	..	2,633	54,229,755	7,254,395	19,875,000	12,238,515	23,860,115	4,524,105
Total (excluding Commonwealth Bank) ..		2,633	54,229,755	7,254,395	19,875,000	12,238,515	23,860,115	4,524,105

CANADIAN AND WEST INDIAN BANKS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name of Bank.	Date.	No. of Branches and Sub-branches.	Capital Subscribed.	Unutilised Capital. Callable.	Unutilised Capital. Reserved.	Capital Paid-up.	Reserve Fund.	Un-divided Profits.
1 Bank of Montreal	Apr 29	542	5,450,000	Nil	5,450,000	5,450,000	361,239	7,544,643
2 Bank of Nova Scotia	Dec 31	304	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	3,000,000	130,702	8,014,865
3 Canadian Bank of Commerce	Jan 31	623	4,109,589	Nil	4,109,589	4,109,589	782,299	5,162,269
4 Colonial Bank	Jne 30	51	3,000,000	600,000	1,500,000	600,000	74,683	609,804
5 Dominion Bank	Jne 30	118	1,300,000	Nil	1,200,000	1,400,000	217,920	1,417,147
6 Royal Bank of Canada	Nov 30	670	4,080,000	Nil	4,080,000	4,080,000	423,823	6,245,208
7 Union Bank of Canada	Nov 30	340	1,600,000	Nil	1,600,000	350,000	56,647	2,071,530
Totals		2,649	21,439,589	600,000	19,939,589	19,939,589	2,086,313	25,965,566

INDIAN BANKS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Name of Bank.	Date.	No. of Branches and Sub-branches.	Capital Subscribed.	Unutilised Capital. Callable.	Unutilised Capital. Reserved.	Capital Paid-up.	Reserve Fund.	Un-divided Profits.
1 Chartered of India, Aust., and China Dec 31	41	3,000,000	Nil	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,800,000	794,908	2,276,128
2 Eastern Bank, Limited	Dec 31	11	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	1,000,000	113,345	2,659,287
3 Mercantile Bank of India, Lim. Dec 31	22	750,000	187,500	187,500	105,000	1,250,000	241,811	293,747
Do B Shares	Dec 31	300,000	Nil	Nil	1,000,000	1,250,000	241,811	293,747
Do C Shares	Dec 31	4,000,000	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	2,700,000	494,058	1,114,954
4 National Bank of India, Limited ..	Dec 31	28	4,000,000	2,000,000	Nil	2,000,000	494,058	1,114,954
Totals		102	10,800,000	2,375,000	5,375,000	7,050,000	8,070,000	1,644,122

COLONIAL JOINT STOCK BANKS WITH LONDON OFFICES.

IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Miscellaneous Liabilities.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Short Notice.	Investments.	Bills Discounted or Purchased (when shown separately).	Bills, Loans, and Advances.	Premises and Sundries (including Cover for Acceptances).	Total Assets.	Name of Bank.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
10,304	43,790,302	55,812,603	5,225,774	5,167,889	27,580,525	3,099,000	14,140,224	609,191	Bank of Ireland.
..	13,744,588	14,857,973	839,295	6,900,982	6,900,982	1,816,452	12,496,288	204,335	Hibernian Bank.
..	26,566,182	28,198,527	2,015,975	1,020,902	10,583,060	1,816,452	12,496,288	310,850	Munster and Lns.
..	39,731,141	45,682,022	4,481,622	3,440,591	17,574,712	2,778,364	16,485,498	901,235	National.
..	15,950,726	18,802,798	1,231,528	570,000	7,418,404	2,797,334	6,592,674	192,358	Provincial Bank of Ireland.
..	7,921,867	7,819,960	516,662	..	2,039,955	396,471	4,641,872	225,000	Do New.
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Royal Bank of Ireland.
10,304	147,104,806	171,163,888	14,310,856	10,199,382	72,052,638	10,888,121	61,269,417	2,443,469	Totals.

AFRICAN BANKS.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Miscellaneous Liabilities.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Short Notice.	Investments.	Bills Discounted or Purchased (when shown separately).	Bills, Loans, and Advances.	Premises and Sundries (including Cover for Acceptances).	Total Assets.	Name of Bank.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
306,098	6,540,011	9,528,439	1,436,440	2,113,415	6,584,853	2,482,727	2,981,131	1,417,009	Bk. Brit. W. A.
53,495	33,967,278	45,454,771	9,643,236	6,584,853	2,482,727	16,171,072	8,458,441	45,454,771	Nat. Bk. of S.A.
83,201	1,140,022	1,746,469	299,942	5,103,817	451,214	645,673	251,108	1,746,469	Neth. B. of S.A.
..	48,518,019	62,580,335	7,131,399	3,100,000	6,168,956	31,931,857	9,143,806	62,580,335	Standard of S.A.
443,694	90,165,360	119,310,068	18,510,617	5,213,415	12,999,238	11,586,651	51,729,733	19,270,364	Totals.

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Miscellaneous Liabilities.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Short Notice.	Investments.	Bills Discounted or Purchased (when shown separately).	Bills, Loans, and Advances.	Premises and Sundries (including Cover for Acceptances).	Total Assets.	Name of Bank.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1,029,877	72,986,001	73,545,208	1,238,159	9,720,000	39,726,985	..	13,958,397	901,667	Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
1,250,361	10,312,440	11,499,435	1,825,475	737,477	355,392	..	11,142,580	438,511	Australian Bank of Commerce, L.
413,402	6,143,317	8,260,566	1,627,277	978,298	709,794	..	4,686,169	259,028	Bank of Adelaide, Limited.
1,698,474	27,352,162	39,479,749	6,392,978	100,000	2,874,605	..	30,081,860	30,306	Bank of Australasia.
1,747,919	55,043,478	78,209,080	13,981,507	9,681,388	9,585,558	..	41,801,806	3,208,321	Bank of New South Wales.
1,368,426	30,501,720	46,855,761	7,400,509	1,100,408	11,815,292	1,341,191	24,482,182	716,179	Bank of New Zealand.
739,765	11,245,760	14,841,743	2,260,934	857,496	1,115,764	..	9,664,253	943,296	Bank of Victoria.
1,246,139	33,594,177	41,288,435	3,880,274	2,135,000	3,324,496	500,000	25,693,665	955,000	Commercial Bank of Australia, L.
1,089,361	17,459,054	22,298,913	3,394,044	670,000	1,818,697	..	15,813,751	1,102,421	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney.
1,755,056	25,202,780	32,779,687	4,972,780	1,771,691	1,329,148	..	23,909,510	796,558	English, Scottish, and Australian.
412,334	31,213,989	38,209,227	5,624,446	..	2,452,631	..	29,178,106	954,044	National Bank of Australasia, Lim.
1,701,313	11,442,154	16,884,510	1,436,528	..	2,173,086	786,181	12,096,485	332,230	National Bank of New Zealand, L.
487,656	7,729,732	13,120,665	1,729,544	185,000	1,472,417	..	9,168,064	565,640	Queensland National Bank, Lim.
298,349	4,771,835	6,764,445	1,074,244	18,453	202,231	..	5,009,098	460,419	Royal Bank of Australia, Limited.
116,663	32,838,019	44,393,295	5,672,086	790,000	2,200,000	..	35,338,335	392,874	Union Bank of Australia, Limited.
924,218	304,880,617	417,885,511	66,072,626	19,025,211	41,372,111	2,627,372	277,565,864	11,215,327	Totals (excluding Commonwealth Bank).

CANADIAN AND WEST INDIAN BANKS.

CANADIAN BANKS										
1,443,626	114,737,305	135,986,813	27,099,401	26,148,700	25,714,731	..	52,003,092	5,020,889	135,986,813	Bank of Mont.
574,059	34,958,340	45,577,960	10,980,188	5,620,471	7,445,618	..	16,707,102	2,518,581	45,577,960	Bk. of N. Scotia
1,242,955	73,951,472	91,358,173	15,068,609	10,509,658	13,455,000	..	49,802,830	5,522,046	94,358,173	Can. Bk. of Cmr.
610,546	7,443,029	8,093,575	542,197	471,574	2,255,139	..	6,151,600	1,172,978	10,593,488	Colonial.
689,157	17,663,027	23,587,251	5,027,389	1,265,532	4,668,731	..	10,796,134	1,829,465	23,587,251	Dominion Bnk
576,727	84,266,853	107,671,711	26,326,507	9,274,515	11,024,073	..	52,944,594	8,102,022	107,671,711	R. Bk. of Canada
417,509	19,124,250	25,659,936	4,035,202	2,198,138	5,347,198	..	12,638,663	1,445,735	25,659,936	Union of Can.
			89,079,493	55,489,618	72,210,490	..	201,044,015	25,611,716	443,435,932	Total.
554,573	352,144,276	443,435,932								

Continued from page 15.

depositors is shown by the fact that in Berlin savings bank deposits increased sevenfold in the half-year, and that by August deposits in all savings banks had risen from practically nothing to one milliard gold marks. The commercial banks' coming half-yearly reports (the first since the war) will show, it is expected, large profits. The Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, which paid 1 per cent. in gold for 1923, promises a dividend for 1924.

The banks' reports for December 31, 1923, have mostly only a historical value, as recording the last throes of the inflation. Both balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts were compiled in paper marks, and were usually introduced by the statement that they revealed nothing, and were issued merely in order to comply with legal requirements. No dividends (with the above exception) were declared. Owing to difficulty in valuation, important assets, such as buildings and interests in other concerns, were written down to nominal sums; and from some balance-sheets the paper mark capital and reserves, being insignificant beside the other swollen totals, were omitted altogether. The deposits of the seven leading banks had shrunk to about 19 per cent. of their total of 1913, this despite the fact that six weeks of stable currency had somewhat improved matters. Reckoning paper marks at their fixed exchange of one billion paper marks to one gold mark, the comparison is:—

(In Millions of Gold Marks.)

	1913.	1923.
Deutsche Bank	1,873.8	349.3
Disconto-Gesellschaft	1,148.6	213.1
Darmstädter und National	936.0	207.5
Dresdner	1,195.1	193.8
Commerz und Privat	486.6	153.2
Berlin. Handelsgesellschaft	296.8	24.5
Mitteldeutsche Credit	131.0	20.4
	6,067.9	1,161.8

Profits for 1923 were devoted to making good partly "substance loss," i.e., shrinkage in gold value of the banks' own resources. The main part of the losses seem to have been suffered while the paper mark was relatively high, up to the 1,000 marks to the dollar, before the banks fully realised the meaning of the depreciation process. Afterwards by investments in exchange, by charging interest high enough to cover the "depreciation risk," and, finally, by valorisation of credits, the banks stopped or reduced their depreciation losses. The last paper mark balance-sheets (for December, 1923) showed, as compared with 1913, great changes between the ratio of the various assets and liabilities. Thus the Deutsche Bank's percentages were as follows:—

ASSETS.			
	1913.	1923.	
Cash	5.6	10.4	
Correspondents	2.0	37.0	
Discounts	27.8	3.3	
Debtors	48.4	48.2	
Other	14.9	1.1	
LIABILITIES.			
Capital and reserves	13.9	..	
Creditors	70.4	99.9	
Net profits	1.5	..	
Other	14.2	..	

Of liabilities, practically only deposits remained. Of assets, in 1913 seven-tenths were lent to industry and trade. In 1920 bills alone amounted to seven-tenths, but here Treasury bills played the chief rôle. At the end of 1923 Treasury bill investments had disappeared, and commercial bills had shrunk to one-thirtieth of the whole. The item correspondents, containing creditors' money in so far as they were in exchange, and the banks' own exchange, increased enormously. It is stated that at the close of 1923 60 per cent. of the deposits of one leading bank were in exchange.

The gold balance-sheets, as far as they have appeared, indicate that the banks would to-day be much better off had they closed their doors in 1914, and protected their own capital by investing it in non-depreciable securities. This is best shown by the gold balance-sheet compiled for January 1, 1924, of the Handels-gesellschaft. This bank, alone among the principal banks, did not increase its pre-war capital of 110,000,000 marks. The gold mark balance total is 59,949,912 gold marks, against 550,952,351 marks in 1913. With the exception of correspondents, swollen by exchange accounts, all assets enormously decreased: discounts from 103,914,000 marks to 2,587,000 marks; investments and interests in other concerns from approximately 95 million marks to 13 million marks; debtors from 232 million marks to 15 million marks; cash from 20 millions to 1 million marks. Probably some assets are undervalued; the value of buildings, for instance, is reduced to little more than half; and, as most companies have not yet issued their gold balance-sheets, investments and interests are necessarily conservatively valued. But the main change is the disappearance of a great part of the bank's capital, so that though on the liabilities side creditors are reduced from 297 to 32 millions, the balance had to be restored by reducing capital from 110 to 22 millions, and reserves from 34½ to 5 millions. The capital scaling down is at the rate of 5 to 1. The Barmer Bankverein's gold balance-sheet shows the same process, though the shrinkage of totals is less extreme. The capital and reserve of this bank in 1913 totalled 116 million marks. To-day the net property of the bank is estimated at 31 million gold marks, of which 21 millions are fixed as capital, and 10 millions as reserve. This bank repeatedly increased its capital, and the scaling down is correspondingly severe, being to one 20 gold mark share to be issued for every 1,200 mark share. The Prussian State Bank has been obliged to reduce its capital from 560 million marks to 10 million gold marks, and reserves from 318 million marks to 10 million gold marks. The four "D" banks stand between the Handelsgesellschaft, with its unwatered capital, and the Barmer Verein, with its heavily watered capital. Their capital has been increased from 780 to 4,100 millions, and it is believed that the scaling down ratio will be around 10 or 8 to 1. These banks' new balance-sheets will probably not be issued until near the end of November. The Deutsche Bank, in a recent report, protested against the scaling down of industrial companies' capitals as being too drastic. The companies, said the report, were discounting a bad future, which is not certain to come, whereas the intent of the Gold Balance law was merely that the past should be cleared up.

On the Bourse bank stocks shared in the general recovery of last summer, and have since receded with other stocks. Quotations in gold marks per 100 marks nominal before the war, at the end of last year, and in September last were:—

	June 30, 1914.	December 12, 1923.	September 9, 1924.
Deutsche	234	14.90	1924
Disconto	183.10	20.90	10.50
Dresdner	146.90	8.10	12.10
Darmstädter	115.50	..	6.75
National	108.40	11.90	9.37
Berl. Handelsges.	149.00	66.10	26.00
Mitteldeutsche ..	115.25	3.40	1.70

The stocks of many banks are quoted around 1 gold mark per 100 nominal. In general the quotations are determined by the extent of capital watering, and, therefore, the probable measure of scaling down. In the relations of the banks, taken place. The Stinnes interests have acquired an interest in the Barmer Bankverein. The "com-munity of German Mortgage Banks" has been extended. The Berlin financial concern, J. Michael and Co., which is a powerful factor in the money market, has acquired interests in the Mitteldeutsche Creditbank and the Deutsche Vereinsbank of Frankfurt-on-Main. The liquidation of the small banks founded in the inflation period has apparently come to an end.

BARCLAYS BANK

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

and over 1,750 Branches in England and Wales, and Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the World.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Chairman.
Sir HERBERT HAMBLING, Bart., Deputy-Chairman.
EDMUND HENRY PARKER, Vice-Chairman.

GENERAL MANAGERS:
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE. ROBERT WILLIAM STREET. JOHN CAULCUTT.

Authorised Capital	£20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital	£15,592,372
Reserve Fund	£8,250,000
Deposits (30th June, 1924)	£295,698,105

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

FOREIGN BRANCHES:—

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH: 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.
WEST END (LONDON): 1, Pall Mall East. LIVERPOOL: 45, Castle Street. BRADFORD: 13, Market Street. MANCHESTER: 94, Portland Street.

Affiliated Banks:

BARCLAYS BANK (OVERSEAS) LIMITED: Principal Office, PARIS.
THE BRITISH LINEN BANK: Head Office, EDINBURGH. 181 Branches in Scotland.
THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER LIMITED: Head Office, MANCHESTER.
156 Branches in Lancashire, Cheshire, and the West Riding of Yorkshire.
THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK LIMITED: Head Office, 37-39, KING WILLIAM ST., LONDON, E.C.4.
Branches in Egypt and Palestine. Also at Gibraltar, Malta and Khartoum.

BARCLAYS BANK (Overseas)

LIMITED.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED ON BRITISH BANKING LINES.

Affiliated to
BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

PARIS—33, RUE DU IV. SEPTEMBRE.
Bordeaux—4, Rue Esprit des Lois. Lyons—1, Rue de la Republique.
Boulogne—61, Rue Victor Hugo. Marseilles—5, Rue Cannebiere.
Havre—9, Quai George V. Rouen—7, Rue Jeanne d'Arc.
Le Touquet Paris-Plage ... (Open during the Season.)
Aix-les-Bains—13, Place Carnot.

THE RIVIERA:

Cannes—7, Rue du Marechal Foch. Monte Carlo—1, Boulevard des Moulins.
Mentone—1, Avenue Felix-Faure. Nice—4, Avenue Georges Clemenceau.

ALGERIA:

Oran—15, Rue Alsace-Lorraine.
Algiers—6, Rue de la Liberte.
COLOGNE—2, Komödienstrasse.

LONDON—54, Lombard Street, E.C.3.
West End Agency—1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1.

The Bank is specially organised to provide banking facilities for trade between Great Britain and France and their respective Overseas Possessions.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

COLONIAL BANKS WITH OFFICES IN LONDON.

(1) IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

BANK OF IRELAND.

ESTABLISHED 1783.

CAPITAL.				Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.						
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.		Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
£	£	£	£	£		£		£	%	£	£
2,769,231				7,393,800	1911..	345,214	1.57	293,884	11.4	46,000	20,375
					1912..	372,944	1.72	260,769	10	110,000	22,570
					1913..	398,233	1.79	260,769	10	137,000	23,033
					1914..	378,784	1.49	255,577	10	120,000	23,240
					1915..	420,830	1.35	240,000	10	180,000	25,071
					1916..	390,863	1.26	214,615	10	175,000	26,319
					1917..	423,429	1.01	216,635	11	200,000	42,056
					1918..	435,984	1.05	232,615	12	220,000	41,548
					1919..	479,802	1.07	232,615	12	250,000	38,535
					1920..	546,540	0.97	252,000	13	310,000	42,460
					1921..	513,156	1.01	265,846	13	260,000	43,626
					1922..	533,913	0.98	332,308	16	260,000	51,772
					1923..	549,620				200,000	69,034

Stock is fully paid, but the liability of holders for debts of the Bank has not been decided. Price September 30th, 1923.

Authorised Note issue, £3,738,428.

LIABILITIES.												ASSETS.											
Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent. of Profit and Loss.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Dis- counts and Ad- vances.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.				
		£			£		£		£			£		£									
1890....	58	3,803,231	23.6	164,558	1.0	2,713,594	16.9	9,403,640	67.5	16,085,023	1,179,660	7.3	162,483	1.0	9,208,194	57.3	5,435,538	33.8	99,148	0.6			
1895....	59	3,803,231	22.0	154,736	0.9	2,496,959	14.4	10,816,780	62.7	17,271,706	1,206,471	7.0	1,087,478	6.3	9,225,166	53.4	5,643,223	32.8	109,368	0.6			
1900....	73	3,803,231	20.8	180,322	1.0	2,768,068	15.2	11,498,960	63.0	18,250,581	1,145,271	6.3	439,784	2.4	8,504,009	46.6	8,058,630	44.1	102,887	0.6			
1905....	66	3,803,231	20.9	172,830	1.0	2,420,862	13.1	12,032,376	65.3	18,429,299	1,101,017	5.8	684,767	3.7	8,139,595	44.3	8,398,347	45.6	105,573	0.6			
1906*	91	3,803,231	20.3	177,977	1.0	2,578,086	13.7	12,205,209	65.0	18,764,507	1,240,369	6.6	551,625	3.0	8,096,171	43.1	8,766,101	46.7	110,237	0.6			
1907*	92	3,803,231	19.5	179,650	1.0	2,699,580	13.6	13,048,213	66.1	19,730,674	1,492,307	7.6	738,939	3.7	8,040,455	40.7	9,346,272	47.4	112,701	0.6			
1908*	92	3,803,231	18.5	179,809	0.9	2,703,209	13.2	13,826,750	67.4	20,512,999	1,625,618	8.0	902,906	4.4	8,122,489	40.0	9,643,139	47.0	118,847	0.6			
1909*	96	3,803,231	18.4	180,451	1.0	2,817,802	13.6	13,812,548	67.0	20,614,032	1,533,109	7.5	1,274,376	6.0	9,250,187	44.9	9,435,620	41.0	120,240	0.6			
1910*	99	3,789,231	18.0	177,527	0.8	3,000,309	14.2	14,095,663	67.0	21,070,730	1,668,565	7.9	1,161,531	5.5	8,953,778	42.5	9,163,248	43.5	125,608	0.6			
1911*	99	3,725,231	17.0	163,818	0.7	2,954,607	13.5	15,093,003	68.8	21,907,655	1,706,018	7.9	1,308,869	5.9	9,510,927	43.4	9,255,622	42.2	125,608	0.6			
1912*	103	3,654,231	16.9	152,955	0.7	3,046,784	13.9	14,758,329	68.5	21,612,596	1,699,736	7.8	1,303,437	6.0	9,125,842	42.2	9,348,335	43.4	125,608	0.6			
1913...	69	3,519,231	15.8	153,418	0.7	3,350,545	15.1	15,233,406	68.4	22,296,600	1,748,321	7.9	1,674,434	7.5	9,106,927	41.1	9,581,809	42.8	145,109	0.7			
1914...	69	3,579,231	14.2	149,721	0.6	5,087,564	20.2	16,360,317	65.0	21,776,833	3,781,743	15.0	1,715,066	6.8	10,488,207	41.6	9,045,595	36.0	146,262	0.6			
1915...	69	3,569,231	12.4	141,032	0.5	7,415,588	27.4	16,096,685	59.7	27,022,536	4,786,614	17.6	1,940,511	7.2	11,833,121	44.1	8,079,830	29.7	382,390	1.4			
1916...	70	3,269,231	11.3	130,165	0.5	9,693,951	33.4	15,899,049	54.8	28,992,396	7,116,765	24.5	2,633,388	9.1	11,308,468	39.0	7,791,103	23.1	389,133	1.2			
1917...	72	3,469,231	10.3	145,902	0.4	11,925,615	35.3	18,297,441	54.0	33,838,185	9,536,531	28.2	2,349,665	6.9	13,771,757	40.6	7,543,761	26.1	390,014	1.3			
1918...	74	3,689,231	8.5	157,655	0.4	16,290,539	37.5	25,299,556	53.6	43,436,780	14,069,938	32.4	1,934,800	4.6	18,943,495	43.6	8,061,640	18.5	386,847	0.9			
1919...	76	3,739,231	8.2	154,842	0.3	13,310,164	29.1	28,542,825	62.4	45,747,062	10,951,483	23.9	2,045,999	4.5	20,827,430	45.5	11,512,633	25.3	386,847	0.9			
1920...	78	3,739,231	7.3	158,767	0.3	10,926,457	21.4	36,355,856	71.0	51,180,311	8,602,365	16.8	820,740	1.6	23,476,885	45.9	17,825,805	34.8	454,517	0.9			
1921...	82	3,909,231	7.3	179,318	0.3	8,905,340	16.8	40,018,828	75.5	53,012,717	6,442,833	12.2	1,932,272	3.8	25,250,523	47.6	18,801,292	35.4	525,777	1.0			
1922...	82	4,469,231	7.8	197,107	0.4	7,637,285	14.4	41,026,130	77.4	53,029,753	4,709,438	8.9	1,930,079	3.6	30,370,059	57.3	15,474,095	29.2	576,022	1.1			
1923...	84	4,569,231	7.8	255,958	0.5	7,407,112	13.3	43,790,302	78.4	55,822,602	5,225,771	9.4	5,167,889	9.3	27,580,525	49.3	17,239,224	30.7	609,191	1.1			

* In these years agencies have been included.

THE HIBERNIAN BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

CAPITAL.				Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.						
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.		Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
£	£	£	£	£		£		£	%	£	£
2,000,000	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	775,000	1911..	47,870	1.03	30,000	6.3	18,000	3,318
					1912..	48,671	1.02	30,000	6.2	18,500	3,490
					1913..	49,182	1.03	30,000	6.1	20,000	2,672
					1914..	48,549	0.92	30,000	6.2	15,000	3,021
					1915..	48,233	0.92	30,000	6.2	17,500	3,751
					1916..	50,124	0.84	30,000	6.0	14,500	9,379
					1917..	59,208	0.61	32,500	6.1	21,000	10,887
					1918..	62,105	0.63	35,000	7.0	27,500	9,642
					1919..	69,604	0.56	40,000	8.0	20,000	17,226
					1920..	82,992	0.55	40,000	8.0	45,000	15,288
					1921..	90,021	0.53	45,000	9.0	47,500	12,809
					1922..	107,422	0.64	47,500	9.4	58,502	14,229
					1923..	109,959	0.74	50,000	10.0	49,009	25,081

* Free of income-tax.

LIABILITIES.												ASSETS.											
Year Ended Dec. 31.	Num- ber of Branches.	Capital and Re- serves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Staff Fund.	Per Cent.	Re- bate.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Ac- counts, &c.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Bills Dis- counted.	Per Cent.	Loans and Ad- vances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Furniture.	Per Cent.	
1890...	35	£ 500,000	22.3	£ 17,983	0.8	£ 606	0.1	£ 5,289	0.2	£ 1,716,111	76.6	£ 2,239,988	£ 432,345	19.2	£ 252,925	11.3	£ 677,351	30.2	£ 754,423	33.6	£ 122,944	5.7	
1895...	39	500,000	18.3	31,652	1.2	2,245	0.1	7,770	0.3	2,192,394	80.1	2,734,061	251,441	9.2	312,740	11.5	882,026	32.3	1,065,523	38.9	222,331	8.1	
1900...	40	590,000	16.3	23,843	0.7	7,785	0.2	8,890	0.3	2,927,548	82.5	3,558,066	370,566	10.4	401,350	11.3	1,026,513	28.9	1,632,642	45.8	126,995	3.6	
1905...	44	650,000	15.4	26,023	0.6	18,783	0.5	9,589	0.2	3,509,195	83.3	4,213,590	192,370	4.5	695,439	16.5	1,085,809	25.8	2,122,642	50.4	117,330	2.8	
1906...	44	642,500	15.2	22,564	0.5	20,582	0.5	8,232	0.2	3,529,162	83.6	4,223,040	210,280	4.9	767,170	18.1	997,856	23.6	2,104,334	50.0	143,400	3.4	
1907...	44	655,000	15.5	24,481	0.6	22,454	0.6	7,085	0.2	3,509,677	83.1	4,218,697	201,982	4.7	767,170	18.2	892,776	21.1	2,215,871	52.7	140,898	3.3	
1908...	44	660,000	15.6	24,826	0.6	24,228	0.6	7,899	0.2	3,502,062	83.0	4,219,015	312,813	7.4	810,062	19.2	873,927	20.7	2,067,627	49.0	154,586	3.7	
1909...	45	677,500	15.5	22,148	0.5	26,186	0.6	7,348	0.2	3,656,851	83.2	4,390,033	334,490	7.6	1,023,706	23.3	819,194	18.7	2,056,304	46.8	156,359	3.7	
1910...	45	692,500	15.3	19,547	0.4	27,185	0.6	7,326	0.2	3,775,854	83.5	4,522,413	279,451	8.2	1,173,380	26.0	800,581	17.7	2,102,322	46.4	166,679	3.8	
1911...	45	707,500	15.2	20,318	0.4	29,257	0.6	7,688	0.2	3,903,886	83.6	4,668,649	199,159	4.3	1,301,129	27.9	795,466	17.0	2,208,467	47.4	164,428	3.7	
1912...	48	675,000	14.1	18,490	0.4	31,411	0.7	7,197	0.2	4,061,533	84.6	4,793,631	223,527	4.7	1,204,764	25.1	789,101	16.4	2,134,274	50.9	141,583	2.9	
1913...	48	695,000	14.1	17,672	0.4	32,605	0.7	7,218	0.1	4,105,459	84.7	4,917,564	288,573	7.9	1,237,232	25.1	780,193	15.9	2,201,751	47.8	162,205	3.4	
1914...	48	710,000	13.5	18,021	0.3	34,852	0.7	6,293	0.1	4,150,609	85.7	5,225,935	675,971	12.9	1,475,585	28.1	704,826	15.4	2,218,013	43.4	164,545	3.3	
1915...	48	612,500	11.7	18,754	0.4	36,541	0.7	5,872	0.1	4,552,239	87.1	5,981,974	1,503,864	25.2	1,289,765	24.4	660,738	12.6	2,210,821	43.4	164,545	3.3	
1916...	48	625,000	10.5	25,379	0.4	37,782	0.6	7,176	0.1	5,252,239	87.1	6,784,955	1,127,868	20.0	1,478,102	24.7	618,505	10.3	2,185,084	42.6	181,402	3.3	
1917...	51	635,000	8.4	27,587	0.4	39,251	0.5	7,620	0.1	5,875,927	90.6	7,584,955	1,120,497	11.5	1,567,791	35.4	531,974	7.0	2,106,192	27.7	136,419	3.0	
1918...	52	640,000	6.6	27,194	0.3	40,705	0.5	5,674	...	11,607,492	94.0	12,352,652	1,485,146	12.0	1,608,880	56.4	577,438	5.9	2,418,645	24.8	141,402	3.0	
1919...	53	660,000	5.4	37,538	0.3	42,193	0.3	12,422	0.1	14,236,307	94.9	15,007,710	2,743,437	18.2	5,882,480	39.1	700,000	5.7	1,944,107	31.8	184,519	3.1	
1920...	56	680,000	4.5	55,288	0.2	44,693	0.3	12,792	0.1	16,181,223	95.5	16,944,324	1,692,769	10.0	7,751,350	45.8	1,750,000	5.0	1,544,542	36.5	188,251	3.1	
1921...	58	710,000	4.2	40,309	0.2	...	...	8,772	0.1	15,937,467	94.3	16,890,468	1,710,046	10.1	1,172,352	54.2	1,500,000	8.9	5,760,489	33.9	193,356	3.1	
1922...	61	1,045,000	7.0	58,081	0.4	...	...	10,304	0.1	11,744,588	92.5	14,857,973	839,295	5.7	6,900,982	46.4	...	...	6,912,861	34.6	204,835	3.1	
* Treasurer Bills.												* Includes Discounts.											
...												... Ending Agencies											

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

1885—Assets of Munster Bank, Limited, acquired.

CAPITAL					Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS										Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserve Fund.	Per Share.		Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Rate.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	1910	49,970	0.80	28,000	14	20,000	10.845					
1,000,000	400,000	600,000	900,000	1,375,000	1911	50,844	0.79	28,000	14	20,000	13,689						
					1912	52,503	0.78	30,133	16	20,000	16,060						
					1913	54,071	0.74	30,133	16	27,000	12,997						
					1914	56,407	0.72	29,533	16	25,000	14,871						
					1915	58,385	0.78	27,933	16	35,000	15,325						
					1916	60,279	0.63	24,800	16	35,000	15,802						
					1917	72,095	0.59	24,750	16	45,000	18,147						
					1918	94,179	0.57	24,925	17	70,000	17,401						
					1919	123,834	0.56	42,000	20	75,000	24,235						
					1920	152,328	0.55	56,000	20	90,000	30,562						
					1921	172,832	0.55	56,000	20	110,000	37,394						
					1922	182,637	0.57	59,000	20	120,000	41,032						
					1924	194,609	0.69	75,813	20	120,000	44,012						

* Free of income-tax.

CAPITAL					Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS										Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserve Fund.	Per Share.		Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Rate.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	1911	183,761	1.07	148,312	10	37,000	20,502					
7,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	5,000,000	2,925,000	1912	193,932	1.13	141,250	10	50,000	25,184						
					1913	188,556	1.04	141,250	10	50,000	20,491						
					1914	207,485	1.06	138,438	10	65,000	24,538						
					1915	258,957	1.21	130,001	10	130,000	24,494						
					1916	183,885	0.81	116,250	10	130,000	24,494						
					1917	224,988	0.84	112,250	10	70,000	21,129						
					1918	273,746	0.80	128,250	10	110,000	23,617						
					1919	243,677	0.58	126,000	12	145,000	24,113						
					1920	266,924	0.55	126,000	12	115,000	26,790						
					1921	265,890	0.53	126,000	12	140,000	27,714						
					1922	292,514	0.60	132,750	12	160,000	27,604						
					1924	366,978	0.80	162,281	12	205,000	28,134						

Authorised note issue, £852,269.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED.												
ESTABLISHED 1st August, 1825. Registered under Limited Liability Acts, 10th July, 1882.												
CAPITAL				Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.						Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.		Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Rate. %			
£	£	£	£	£	1911.	94,668	1.26	64,181	12	30,114	14,396	
Old 4,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	900,000	1912.	97,464	1.26	63,562	12	35,000	13,298	
					1913.	106,141	1.37	63,562	12	42,000	13,877	
New 80,000	40,000	Nil.	40,000	68,250	1914.	104,463	1.17	62,297	12	35,000	21,043	
					1915.	112,550	1.20	58,500	12	63,000	12,093	
					1916.	106,560	1.06	52,313	12	63,000	15,340	
					1917.	112,273	0.95	50,625	12	51,000	18,985	
					1918.	133,777	0.89	51,941	12	58,000	17,721	
					1919.	123,424	0.68	51,030	13	47,000	15,825	
Old £100	£12 10s	£37 10s	£50	£22½	1920.	124,984	0.61	51,030	13	42,000	24,780	
					1921.	100,112	0.48	51,030	13	55,000		
New £20	£10	Nil.	£10	£17½	1922.	117,193	0.57	53,764	13	25,000		

Continued on page 24.

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK

OF NEW YORK

AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

34-36, Bishopsgate, E. C. 2, LONDON

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK

TOTAL RESOURCES MORE THAN \$1,000,000,000

Head Office: 55, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Other New York City Offices:

FIFTH AVE. AT 28TH ST.	MADISON AVE. AT 42ND ST.	BOWERY AT BOND ST.
57TH ST. AT SEVENTH AVE.	72ND ST. AT BROADWAY.	
Foreign Branches:		
ARGENTINA	CHILE	ENGLAND
BUENOS AIRES	SANTIAGO	LONDON
ROSARIO	VALPARAISO	CITY BRANCH
BELGIUM	ANTWERP	WEST END BRANCH
BRUSSELS	CUBA	URUGUAY
BRANCHES IN	HAVANA AND ALL	MONTEVIDEO
PRINCIPAL CITIES	ON THE ISLAND	VENEZUELA
SAO PAULO	GENOA	CARACAS

Affiliate: THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK (FRANCE).

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION

[OWNED BY THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK]

TOTAL RESOURCES MORE THAN \$100,000,000

Head Office: 60, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Branches:

CHINA	INDIA	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
CANTON	BOMBAY	CEBU	SANTO DOMINGO CITY
HANKOW	CALCUTTA	MANILA	AND OTHER
HARBIN	RANGOON	SPAIN	PRINCIPAL CITIES
HONGKONG	BARCELONA	REPUBLIC OF PANAMA	
PEKING	MADRID	COLON	
SHANGHAI	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS	PANAMA	
TIENSIN	SINGAPORE		
ENGLAND	CALIFORNIA		
LONDON	SAN FRANCISCO		
	JAVA		
	BATAVIA		

THE National City Bank of New York and the International Banking Corporation are equipped to supply every banking facility for international trade, including the sale of commercial letters of credit for use in any part of the world, and the purchase and sale of exchange.

The National City Bank also offers highly developed trust services for individuals, corporations, estates, and for insurance companies and like institutions. It acts as executor and trustee of estates, custodian of securities, agent in the management of property, and as fiscal agent for foreign governments and foreign corporations.

INVESTMENTS

THE NATIONAL CITY COMPANY

[Affiliated with THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK]

Head Office: 55, WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Foreign Offices: LONDON, GENEVA, TOKIO. Canadian Offices: MONTREAL, TORONTO.

THE National City Company, through its offices and affiliations in the United States and abroad, offers a world-wide investment service to those interested in Dollar Securities. The London Office at 34, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, has an extensive Statistical Department, and is in daily cable communication with New York.

LONDON OFFICE: 34, Bishopsgate, E.C.2

Provincial Bank of Ireland, Limited—Continued from page 22.

Year Ended Dec. 31.		Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
			Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts	Per Cent.	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.		Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances including Treasury Bills.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.		
1890.	57		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$				
1895.	61		714,000	12.5	33,154	0.6	850,406	14.8	4,138,053	72.1	5,735,613	47.4	367	8.3	776,109	13.5	1,400,782	24.4	2,911,658	51.3			
1895.	61		765,000	12.7	35,172	0.5	739,770	12.2	4,599,153	74.6	6,049,995	48.6	913	8.1	802,543	13.5	1,870,384	30.9	2,759,044	45.6			
1900.	70		848,000	13.2	45,160	0.7	773,844	12.1	4,742,902	74.0	6,415,965	47.2	754	7.4	915,000	14.2	1,500,484	23.4	3,425,327	53.4			
1905.	74		906,000	13.6	45,572	0.7	700,524	10.7	4,928,910	75.0	6,580,006	34.9	104	5.3	525,000	8.0	1,804,159	27.4	3,787,747	57.6			
1910.	84		900,000	12.3	46,423	0.6	737,628	10.1	5,608,973	77.0	7,293,024	35.8	470	5.0	529,062	7.2	2,327,788	32.0	3,970,751	54.4			
1911.	84		910,000	12.2	46,177	0.6	708,821	9.5	5,807,197	77.7	7,472,965	400,893	5.4	510,000	6.8	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1912.	85		915,000	11.9	45,079	0.6	718,852	9.3	6,031,978	78.2	7,710,909	447,460	5.8	245,000	3.2	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1913.	88		900,000	11.1	45,658	0.6	790,330	9.7	6,427,172	78.6	8,163,360	680,546	8.3	475,000	5.8	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1914.	90		915,000	10.3	51,629	0.6	1,151,927	13.0	6,752,422	76.1	8,870,978	1,045,881	11.8	439,900	4.9	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1915.	90		915,000	9.8	40,359	0.4	1,655,355	17.7	6,757,577	72.1	9,368,221	1,205,704	12.9	791,600	8.5	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1916.	90		870,000	8.7	40,653	0.4	1,658,755	16.4	7,467,207	74.5	11,006,615	1,365,756	13.6	833,000	8.3	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1917.	109		915,000	7.7	44,301	0.4	1,717,577	14.5	9,168,958	77.4	11,845,836	1,435,938	12.3	622,500	6.3	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1918.	114		955,000	6.3	43,243	0.3	2,264,951	15.0	11,816,699	78.4	15,079,893	2,120,873	14.0	915,270	6.3	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1919.	120		975,000	5.4	41,340	0.2	2,305,557	12.8	14,802,721	81.6	18,124,618	2,314,460	12.7	1,105,000	6.1	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1920.	129		990,000	4.9	50,295	0.2	2,058,590	10.2	17,110,155	84.7	20,209,140	2,122,742	10.5	1,560,000	7.7	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1921.	131		1,005,000	4.8	74,377	0.4	1,598,622	9.3	17,830,594	85.5	20,328,593	1,988,272	9.5	1,085,000	5.2	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1922.	131		1,040,000	5.0	69,628	0.3	1,970,232	9.5	17,970,430	85.2	20,450,230	1,626,735	7.9	1,070,000	5.2	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
1924.	132		1,070,000	5.7	72,233	0.4	1,709,839	9.1	15,950,726	84.8	18,802,798	1,251,527	6.6	570,000	3.0	2,456,825	31.9	4,461,624	57.8				
June 30.																							
1924.																							

June 30.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

CAPITAL.					Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.					Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Value.		Year Ended Aug. 31.	Net Profit.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Rate.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	1910	36,120	1.55	36,000	12	15,055	13,237
1,500,000	300,000	300,000	900,000	420,000	1911	36,257	1.47	31,075	11	5,000	13,237	13,237
					1912	37,149	1.50	29,662	10.4	7,500	13,237	13,237
					1913	38,038	1.58	28,250	10	11,000	13,237	13,237
					1914	42,187	1.55	28,188	10	10,000	13,237	13,237
					1915	37,576	1.46	26,750	10	15,000	13,237	13,237
					1916	28,686	1.08	23,875	10	14,000	13,237	13,237
					1917	36,367	1.02	21,875	10	11,000	13,237	13,237
					1918	45,159	1.22	16,800	8	30,309	13,237	13,237
					1919	50,165	1.02	16,800	8	31,003	13,237	13,237
					1920	54,011	1.03	18,900	9	32,299	13,237	13,237
					1921	67,268	0.83	22,500	10	32,001	13,237	13,237
					1922	78,388	1.00	23,025	10	43,019	13,237	13,237
					1923						13,237	13,237
					1924						13,237	13,237

Year Ended Aug. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.						Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un-divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Staff Fund.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, and at Bank, and at Call.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted.	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.
1890	7	500,000	21.6	34,165	1.5	11,707	0.5	1,754,659	75.6	2,318,269	187,371	8.0	766,977	53.1	602,066	26.0	730,264	31.5
1895	7	500,000	20.4	31,725	1.3	16,162	0.7	1,898,264	77.1	2,548,971	328,151	13.3	1,080,267	44.0	310,799	12.6	711,294	29.0
1900	7	500,000	19.8	40,776	1.6	22,539	0.9	2,024,143	76.5	2,531,722	301,536	8.0	1,052,178	41.6	289,101	11.4	965,114	38.1
1905	10	500,000	20.5	33,742	1.4	28,866	1.2	1,869,156	76.5	2,441,229	149,238	6.1	902,615	37.0	250,432	10.2	1,118,944	45.4
1910	11	500,000	21.2	32,555	1.4	31,843	1.4	1,781,988	75.6	2,356,414	185,793	7.9	892,615	37.9	201,943	8.5	1,055,426	44.3
1915	11	511,000	20.0	38,301	1.5	29,024	1.1	1,972,768	77.3	2,594,672	131,066	5.1	888,555	34.6	189,001	7.4	1,315,086	51.7
1916	12	531,000	20.4	37,089	1.4	27,861	1.1	1,932,014	77.1	2,559,872	202,833	7.9	878,555	34.0	180,022	7.2	1,292,095	49.9
1917	12	531,000	19.6	41,713	1.5	25,151	0.9	2,111,600	77.9	2,714,769	131,416	5.1	1,116,917	41.0	197,266	7.2	1,238,432	45.9
1918	12	400,000	15.9	38,601	1.5	23,794	0.9	2,104,003	81.7	2,575,446	263,974	10.2	1,116,917	41.0	197,266	7.2	1,238,432	45.9
1919	12	412,500	15.5	33,100	1.2	22,611	0.8	2,664,671	82.3	3,190,398	319,912	12.0	845,544	31.7	128,492	4.8	1,447,428	44.7
1920	12	422,500	12.0	33,667	0.9	20,532	0.6	3,056,361	86.5	3,534,860	517,893	14.6	1,635,444	46.3	104,179	3.0	1,338,773	50.5
1921	12	363,500	9.7	14,793	0.4	23,560	0.6	3,338,435	89.3	3,739,788	278,793	7.5	1,719,838	46.0	114,180	3.0	1,584,144	42.5
1922	12	380,000	8.1	15,284	0.3	23,383	0.5	4,285,371	91.1	4,704,037	161,257	3.4	1,619,881	34.4	112,499	2.4	2,768,081	58.9
1923	19	400,000	8.1	15,494	0.3	23,383	0.5	4,599,409	91.1	4,599,409	279,089	6.0	1,574,549	31.8	108,972	2.2	2,913,193	58.9
1924	43	450,000	5.5	21,205	0.3	...	...	7,625,983	94.2	8,097,188	928,164	11.5	1,558,190	31.6	117,219	2.2	3,138,185	60.1
1924	43	475,000	6.1	23,093	0.3	...	...	7,321,867	93.6	7,819,960	516,662	6.6	2,019,955	26.1	396,471	5.0	4,641,872	59.4

(2) AFRICAN BANKS.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

REGISTERED 1894.

CAPITAL.					Market Value.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.					Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Value.		Year Ended March 31.	Net Profit.	Dividend.	To Reserves, &c.	Rate.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	1914	60,801	9.4	24,250	15.5	9,600	15,417
3,000,000	1,200,000	300,000	1,500,000	1,125,000	1916	59,276	8	22,000	15.4	18,177	15,417	15,417
					1917	61,760	8	22,000	15.4	18,177	15,417	15,417
					1918	71,514	8	22,000	15.4	18,177	15,417	15,417
					1919	83,767	9	30,500	15.4	22,680	15,417	15,417
					1920	125,147	10	46,250	15.4	30,377	15,417	15,417
					1921	139,803	8	40,000	15.4	50,180	15,417	15,417
					1922	105,935	6	50,000	15.4	34,116	15,417	15,417
					1923	100,574	5	40,000	15.4	34,690	15,417	15,417
					1924	95,990	5	35,000	15.4	35,680	15,417	15,417

In August, 1920, 200,000 new shares of £10 each, of which 100,000 (£4 paid), were allotted in equal proportions to the Westminster Bank, Limited, the National Provincial Bank, Limited, and the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

Year Ended March 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES.										Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS.									
		Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Un- divided Profits.	Per Cent.	Bills for Collection and Lia- bility on Acceptance's	Per Cent.	Drafts Issued and Rebate.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.		Cash in Hand, at Bankers, and in Transit.	Per Cent.	Invest- ments.	Per Cent.	Bills of Ex- change.	Per Cent.	Loans, Advances, and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Premises, Cover for Acceptance's and Bills.	Per Cent.
1900 . .	9	£ 43,560	15.0	£ 2,433	0.8	£ . . .	..	£ 27,838	9.6	£ 217,092	74.6	£ 290,923	£ 106,606	36.6	£ 22,765	7.8	£ 102,293	35.2	£ 57,748	19.9	£ 1,512	..
1905 . .	11	88,000	11.2	4,255	0.6	63,855	8.1	88,442	11.3	541,262	68.8	785,814	256,699	32.7	121,813	15.5	213,487	27.2	113,204	14.5	80,615	10.1
1910 . .	30	280,000	17.2	10,697	0.7	149,146	9.2	111,562	6.8	1,074,793	66.1	1,626,198	302,449	18.6	276,448	17.0	563,546	34.6	297,375	18.3	186,380	11.5
1913 . .	27	408,000	15.6	21,329	0.8	237,782	8.9	187,323	7.0	1,805,798	67.9	2,660,232	672,083	25.2	349,116	13.1	754,255	28.3	592,683	22.5	291,825	11.2
1914 . .	29	587,000	18.4	31,260	1.0	309,338	9.8	197,377	6.3	2,025,527	64.3	3,150,842	830,596	26.5	419,159	13.2	955,626	30.6	566,321	18.0	369,140	12.7
1915 . .	31	550,000	17.0	26,141	0.9	262,589	5.0	228,804	7.1	2,267,716	70.1	3,325,250	1,161,397	34.9	527,520	16.2	1,067,089	33.8	706,741	21.9	322,503	10.4
1916 . .	34	550,000	15.4	35,417	1.0	164,781	4.6	317,752	8.8	2,523,090	70.2	3,591,040	1,020,712	28.5	1,064,101	15.5	638,299	17.7	638,398	17.7	332,570	10.4
1917 . .	38	780,000	18.0	36,717	0.9	227,244	5.3	205,311	4.7	3,068,575	71.2	4,332,307	1,124,775	26.5	498,719	11.5	1,354,186	29.3	1,109,570	25.4	337,067	9.4
1918 . .	41	817,500	12.6	47,713	0.7	712,974	11.1	215,283	3.5	4,683,687	72.3	6,462,157	1,127,144	17.4	925,528	14.3	1,531,835	23.6	1,244,504	19.2	833,151	12.7
1919 . .	41	830,000	9.2	54,580	0.6	1,238,591	13.8	387,599	4.3	6,489,248	72.1	9,000,018	1,667,565	18.6	1,026,821	11.4	2,119,803	24.6	2,705,768	30.1	1,379,061	15.1
1920 . .	47	1,200,000	7.3	76,377	0.6	2,895,706	21.4	638,080	4.7	8,018,670	59.7	13,475,636	2,391,334	17.9	791,553	4.8	4,940,678	29.9	3,693,686	27.7	1,814,151	13.5
1921 . .	50	1,225,000	13.5	98,180	0.8	2,437,625	19.8	574,506	4.7	7,602,564	61.9	12,294,811	2,532,166	18.8	850,524	6.3	3,202,317	23.7	2,196,248	16.8	1,168,048	8.8
1922 . .	51	1,600,000	13.0	70,116	0.6	2,447,625	19.8	574,506	4.7	7,602,564	61.9	12,294,811	2,532,166	18.8	850,524	6.3	3,202,317	23.7	2,196,248	16.8	1,168,048	8.8
1923 . .	52	1,600,000	17.3	70,690	0.8	1,238,591	13.8	541,607	5.9	8,232,332	62.7	9,273,651	1,488,875	16.1	1,195,839	12.8	2,911,321	26.1	2,028,409	21.9	1,649,183	12.5
1924 . .	52	1,600,000	16.8	71,680	0.8	1,009,804	10.6	306,998	3.2	6,540,011	68.6	9,528,493	1,436,440	15.1	1,211,186	12.7	2,482,727	26.1	1,647,009	12.5	1,477,009	9.4